

The official newspaper of Leeds University



# Bitter off elsewhere?

#### Gryphon study finds Old Bar and Terrace to be more expensive than local pubs and surrounding red brick universities

**Dominic Johnson Newspaper Associate Editor** 

After conducting an investigation into the price of alcohol at different universities and local pubs, The Gryphon concludes that LUU is more expensive than similar student outlets and unions across the country.

The study revealed that Leeds University's Student Union Bars are more expensive than those at Manchester, Liverpool, York, and Leeds Beckett. The price of a pint of Carlsberg and a single Vodka coke were used to compare price, with LUU charging £2.60 and £2.65 respectively. Other Northern student unions charge substantially less, with a double vodka coke at Northumbria costing around the same as a single at Leeds.

Away from Student Union equivalents, the Union also ranked low in comparison to the pubs surrounding campus. Both Terrace and Old Bar were more expensive than The Fenton, The Royal Park, and Brudenell Social Club.

The question of affordability has led to some students deciding not to use the Union as a place to drink. "Where is the incentive to go to Old Bar or Terrace when you can go to surrounding pubs for less?" asked William Pickworth, a second year Politics and Parliamentary Studies student.

However, a number of students at Old Bar who spoke to The Gryphon felt that the venue offered fair value for money. Jonathan Wrights, a History student at Leeds said: "It is quite annoying, but I think Leeds is seen as not too expensive compared to places down South. It's not pushing it but it could be cheaper."

Union Affairs Officer Jack Palmer responded to the study, stating: "LUU has a Responsible Retailing Policy which sets out guidelines on our pricing, marketing and serving of alcoholic

drinks; this means we will never serve an alcoholic drink for less than £1.50 and never sell a unit of alcohol for less than £1.

"However, we have a commitment to delivering an experience to students which is good value for money; we ensure the environment in which students drink is more entertaining, inclusive and safe. We maintain competitive prices at popular events like Fruity and we also seek out partnerships with local producers to bring independent Yorkshire breweries to our bars."

Such guidelines contrast to the deals now offered at establishments such as the Hyde Park Pub, offering customers £1.50 pints for a small entry fee on a Wednesday.

At other universities, there is the additional offer of college and accommodation bars, as well as the main student union. At the University

#### Greggs in the Union?

Better Union forum to debate bringing the franchise to LUU



In The Middle with Loyle Carner We caught up with the up and coming British rapper



#### Problems with the SWP

Rape apology accusations linger despite Trump protests

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#### **Bongo Spills the Beans**

We speak to the man behind the bingo night taking the UK by storm



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**Audio Expansion:** 

#### Mondays, 12pm, LSR

Catch the new radio show from *The Gryphon*, GryphOn Air, every Monday at 12pm on Leeds Student Radio!

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# Charge of the Pint Brigade

We recorded the cost of a pint of Carrlsberg at student unions across the country:



Continued from front page

of Manchester, the main student union. At the University of Manchester, the main student accommodation premises, Owen's Park, houses Squirrels bar, which serves £1.90 Carlsbergs and £1.50 singles. Manchester student Rose Mills emphasises the importance of having a student bar at the most affordable in the area: "The affordability allows everyone to let off steam without worrying about being over budget.

There's no discrepancy in class, anyone who wants to socialise in such a setting is able to. The only reason for not going out is usually money, and the prices at Squirrels eliminate this."

Old Bar and Terrace offer discounted drinks from 5-7pm each evening, with Old Bar having reopened at the start of last term to widespread agreement that it has retained its charm.

There is a fine line between pricing drinks so expensively that students decide to drink at home instead, and too cheaply that alcohol is abused. Whether the union has achieved this balance is debatable.

Look out for The Gryphon's 'History of the Otley Run' feature later this month.

The average pint came out at £2.40

### THE OTLEY RUN

We all know the Otley Run can be a bank breaker, so here's a run down of some of the most popular stops and their price tags.

PUBS	CARLSBERG	STRONGBOW	SINGLE
THE FENTON	£2.00	£2.50	£2.70
SKYRACK	£2.50	£3.30	£3.90
ROYAL PARK PUB	£2.55	£3.10	-
ORIGINAL OAK	£2.60	£3.55	£3.15
HEADINGLEY TAPS	£2.60	£3.45	£3.15
HYDE PARK PUB	£2.65	£3.20	£3.10
ARC	£2.95	£3.85	£3.85

#### **Editor of the Week**



Becky Nolan Head of Design

Becky was a great help this week in terms of providing the designside of our front page feature, coming back in on deadline day and thoroughly improving the final copy! thegryphon.co.uk News

# Students use sex to pay for degrees

A recent survey has looked into the quirky methods students resort to when their loan isn't enough

A recent survey carried out by Voucher Codes Pro found that British students are resorting to all sorts of quirky ways to help them raise money to help fund their degree, including the sex industry, acquiring a "sugar daddy" or "mummy" and taking part in medical experiments.

As The Gryphon reported in November 2016, Natwest's student living index established that university costs are higher than before. With the abolition of maintenance grants and housing prices rising significantly, further strains have been placed on students to look to alternative forms of income.

The survey carried out by Voucher Codes Pro was part of an ongoing study into the ways in which British students fund their way through university. The study's respondents consisted of 2,415 Britons who were aged 18+ and had completed an undergraduate degree within the past two years.

When asked how they managed financially when money was tight, one of the top responses was "resorting to unusual or quirky money-making methods". These unusual methods included writing assignments for other students, selling handmade art/crafts

Jangira Lewis items, offering a taxi service using their own vehicle and taking up gambling.

> George Charles, spokesperson for Voucher Codes Pro, commented that "with tuition fees in the UK at the highest they've ever been, the results of this survey are incredibly shocking. Students shouldn't have to resort to such extreme measures in order to get through their course. Having a second job just isn't feasible for some students, especially those that also have to pick up work experience. Student loans are meanstested and are based largely upon the income of your parents - if they earn a good salary, they're expected to help finance your degree which isn't the case."

> The on going study further illuminates how desperate students are to ensure they graduate with a degree in the hope of maximising their career possibilities. The fact that students have to resort to alternative methods such as selling sex and undergoing medical experiments is an indictment of a loans system which often presumes parental fiscal support, revealing just how vulnerable students can be when such help is unavailable.

# Should we get a Greggs in the union?



**Polly Hatcher** 

At the most recent Better Union Forum Sam Miller, a second year Politics, Philosophy and Economics student, suggested that a Greggs franchise should be introduced to the Union building.

Greggs is hugely popular in Leeds. There are already 12 stores and last year, many took part in an Otley Run of these shops where they had to buy a baked good in every shop in one day.

When he proposed the idea, he said "Greggs provides delicious food at affordable prices. Students love Greggs, and hate how unaffordable the union can be at lunch time (£2.95 for a pasty?! eeek). Having a Greggs franchise in the union building would really help Leeds students love their time at Leeds."

However, after being shown the economics he said "I would like to say I've actually asked for the motion to be withdrawn from the forum - turns out they costed it and it's a terrible idea financially. I mean, sure it could happen, and maybe I should let students decide, but also if Essentials closed that'd be on me and who wants to be

Other suggestions at the forum included one from Jamie Ali, the LUU Community Officer, who asked 'should LUU do more to lobby landlords to provide more flexible housing contracts?"

# LUU's LGBTQ+ Month wages war on damaging norms

Sarah Berry

The 2017 incarnation of LGBT History Month has already marked itself out with the inauguration of Leeds University Union's first women centred queer dance party, Scissors, ahead of a packed programme of events.

On Wednesday, Pyramid cafe held a pre-party for the new club night featuring a vibrant mix of spoken word performances and cabaret before reopening for the main event featuring the likes of DJ producer NikNak, Tami Pein and Karis, the founder of underground party WhyNot?

Speaking of her aims for Scissors, which seeks to displace the LGBTQ+ scene's focus on white, gay, slim, and able-bodied men, and for the month's schedule of events more broadly, Equality and Diversity Officer Emma Healey signalled her innovative focus upon intersectional challenge above the usual historicisation:

"It's too often that our validity as LGBTQ+ people revolves around the "norm." This month aims to challenge this notion - to establish ourselves as varied and complex people who seek to not be defined solely by our sexuality or gender identity."

While the chosen themes for this year are Citizenship, PSHE and Law (2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of male homosexuality in England and Wales), Healey aims to tackle the ideas and expectations which are heaped upon those within the LGBTQ+ community, and which often essentialise LGBTQ identities. The Union's use of "+" seeks to avoid reducing people to solely being conceived of within an LGBTQ frame.

The Union's campaign aims to expose "the assumption that to be LGBTQ+ is incompatible with faith, the pressure that is put on people to be 'out' even when that may cause harm, the lack of recognition of different cultural understandings of homosexuality and gender, the absence of LGBTQ+ spaces that are targeted at women, the erasure of bisexuality, and the pervasive notion of disabled people as non-sexual."

Building on Scissors' provision of a women-centred space, the next event on the calendar is Speak Up Presents: Rowan Ellis, a discussion and Q&A on LGBT representation in pop culture (Tuesday the 7th in Function)

Three further panel discussions have been planned to meet Healey's stated aims: "LGBTQ+ and Coming Out" on Thursday the 16th, "Trans People of Colour" (followed by a Trans only space with arts, crafts and refreshments) on Wednesday the 22nd and "LGBTQ+ and Faith" rounding off proceedings on the 27th.

Previous panels have been good humoured, edifying and engaging, but for those wishing to become more aware of Trans issues, a 'Gendered Intelligence Workshop' will run on the 22nd for anyone who is keen to be more trans inclusive and supportive.

Entertainment will be provided in the shape of a screening of Sins Invalid next Saturday (the 11th of February), a performance project film which explores the intersectionality of disability and sexuality, along with an LGBT comedy night on the 21st. Mae Martin, Mawaan Rizwan and Avery Addison will provide the laughs in return for the nominal sum of £7 for a student ticket.

Full details of all of the events, including times and locations, are available on the LUU website.

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# Campus Watch

#### Northumbria University

Miscalculation results in administration of "life threatening" doses of caffeine

Northumbria University has been fined £400,000 after staff miscalculated an experiment, resulting in two students being rushed to intensive care. Alex Rossetta and Luke Parkin, both science students, were put on dialysis after being given 30g of caffeine, 10 times more than the dose they were supposed to be given.

The students had volunteered to take part in the experiment, which was designed to measure the effect of caffeine on exercise.

The court heard that staff were meant to give 0.3g of caffeine but, when calculating measurements on their mobile phones, a staff member put the decimal point in the wrong place resulting in catastrophic error.

Adam Farrar, the prosecutor in the case, said: "the staff were not experienced or competent enough". He stated that they hadn't even taken out a risk assessment, which is a procedure that should be carried out alongside any experiment to ensure safety.

The severity of this case is shown in reported figures, which show how people have died after consuming 18g of caffeine, 12g less than what the two students consumed. Luckily both students have fully recovered and the University have apologised stating they are "deeply, genuinely sorry" for what happened. The University wished to "emphasise that they take the welfare of their students and staff seriously".

#### **William Marriott**

# Strathclyde University Racial attacks against the university's student president

Raj Jeyaraj, the Student President of Strathclyde University in Scotland, has been subject to verbal abuse and threats of violence from anonymous members of the public via email.

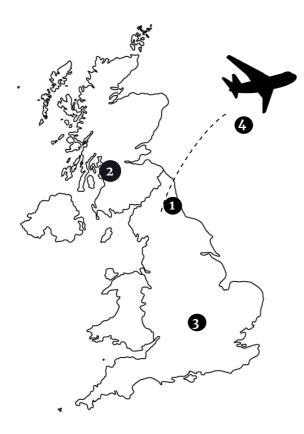
Raj is Malaysian-born and is the first international student president at Strathclyde University. Since his election in June he has faced a bombardment of hate mail with regards to his race and the fact that he has a disability following a car crash in 2009.

The 25-year-old stated that: "They come from these anonymous email websites. They say I deserved to lose my arm, they want to cut off my other arm... It's easy some times to say that haters are going to hate but there is denial about the extent of the problem."

Despite the tirade of abuse Raj is adamant that he wants to continue in his position and raise awareness against racism and threatening behaviour towards other students.

A spokeswoman from Strathclyde University said: "The University has a zero tolerance to discrimination of any kind, including racism, and we do all in our power to deal with it head-on when it is brought to our attention, as well as supporting anyone who may experience discrimination."

#### **Bethany Bartley-Jeacock**



#### University of Oxford

A new £115 million diabetes research centre will be opened at the university

A new diabetes research centre is to be opened at Oxford University by Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk. The company's £115m investment and their promise of 10 years of continued funding comes in spite of Brexit and the many "uncertainties" the vote has produced.

Novo Nordisk has been a specialist in diabetes medication for 90 years and the Oxford research centre will be the company's second in Europe and its fifth worldwide. The unusual decision to locate the centre within a university is seen as a valuable opportunity to unite industry and academia in the fight against diabetes.

By integrating 100 Novo Nordisk scientists with the 2,500 people already employed on Oxford's biomedical campus, Sir John Bell, Oxford's Professor of Medicine, anticipates a daily sharing of "knowledge and insights that will potentially produce new medicines for people living with Type 2 diabetes and its complications."

The investment is a sign of a revival of drug discovery research in the UK after a decade of decline. Furthermore, the partnership between Novo Nordisk and Oxford represents of a shift in corporate research away from in-house labs towards collaborative and outsourced research, which UK universities are greatly benefitting from.

#### Mariana Avelino



#### Pennsylvania University

Study finds that fat-shaming makes people's health worse

According to new research, fat-shaming people into losing weight has the opposite effect, leading to comfort eating and even an increased risk of cardiovascular and metabolic disease.

Professor Rebecca Pearl at the University, said: "There is a common misconception that stigma might help motivate individuals with obesity to lose weight and improve their health".

Those who have a negative impression of their size were three times more likely to have a metabolic syndrome and six times more likely to have high triglycerides, or blood fats, indicating a vicious cycle of low self image and health problems.

She called body shaming a "pervasive form of prejudice" often found in cyber bullying. People who are battling obesity are too often stereotyped as lazy, incompetent, and lack willpower and many people "internalise [these] negative stereotypes and can ultimately lead to depression.

Dr Pearl highlighted the need to treat patients with respect in the clinical environment as well as in society more widely, emphasising the need to discuss weight with sensitivity and without judgement and freely giving support and encouragement to those who struggle with weight management.

#### **Amy Crawford**

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# Universities across the world will be impacted by Trump's 'Muslim ban'

Ben Sledge

President Trump has recently enacted a ban stopping people from entering the USA if they hold an Iranian, Iraqi, Libyan, Somalian, Sudanese, Syrian or Yemeni passport. This also applies to dual-nationality travellers or those with valid visas. Despite global opposition, Trump has not wavered in his support for the 90-day ban. Prominent universities and academics from all over the world have published statements, both supporting travellers from the predominantly Muslim countries and attacking the ban.

Speaking on behalf of the 97 member universities, Universities Canada stated that they were "deeply concerned" at the idea of holding people from the seven aforementioned countries in limbo at US airports, or stopping them from boarding planes in the first place. They also felt that President Trump's actions impeded "the values of diversity, inclusion and openness" that create a healthy society, and welcomed students of any nationality to their universities.

In an official statement, the President of the University Of Notre Dame, Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., commented on Trump's lack of compassion for refugees, and made sure to "respectfully urge the president to rescind this order."

At the University of Warwick, Oz Hassan said that the bill "has caused great alarm" and "shows Trump's lack of understanding on a wide range of



domestic and foreign policy issues".

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, was more scathing, complaining that the Bill is "an affront to one of the most fundamental human freedoms", and "endangers the lives of people who have fled conflict". This is especially poignant as refugees rely on powerful countries such as America as a safe haven.

Professor Anton Muscatelli, the Principal of the University of Glasgow, had specific concern 'for the safety and well-being' of one of his veterinary students holidaying in Costa Rica and requiring a connecting flight in the USA, as she travels on an Iranian passport and is therefore unable to return to university in time for the start of the semester.

The world's progressive thinkers and academics are in agreement that President Trump's actions are profoundly wrong and inhumane, and universities worldwide are unanimous in their support for travellers from the 7 restricted countries in addition to refugees stopped from entering the USA.

# Women's only gym hour to launch

The proposal to hold a women's only weekly gym session at The Edge was passed at the Better University forum and will allow many to exercise comfortably

**Bethany Donkin and Polly Hatcher** 

This Sunday a women's only weekly gym session will begin a three month trial at The Edge. The sessions aim to provide a more suitable space for women from different faiths to exercise confidently and without sacrificing their modesty.

The idea was proposed to the Better Union Forum by Namrah Shahid, where it was voted through by 13 of the 14 members of the panel.

Shahid has worked since October to ensure that women of all backgrounds and faiths have access to a private space in which to exercise. She is also an NUS delegate for women at the National Conference and an Islamic Society committee member.

Namrah said: "I've always been thankful for the women's only swim sessions at The Edge but last year I started running outside because I could be fully covered up (with a headscarf), but in the lead up to races I have been wanting to train indoors but it's hard to exercise in an enclosed space whilst fully covered.

"I want to go in full liberty, I want to wear my shorts, I want to be able to have my hair out and be able to exercise comfortably."

She wants to ensure that all women within the University and the wider community feel welcome

and the sessions are open to everyone that identifies as a woman. The sessions will be run by female instructors and even the receptionist will be a woman.

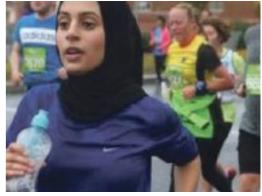
Namrah wants to get many groups involved. She said "I have reached out to cultural and faith societies and Asian societies as participation in sport and exercise is lacking in these groups. This is often due to issues around modesty and exercising. Exercising can often be seen as an immodest thing to do as it involves a lot of movement of your body.

"There's also a lack of modest sports wear on the market which puts women off exercising.

"I stick to tracksuit bottoms and long sleeve sports tops. I have a few running head scarves, they make you look like a bit of an egghead but do the job. They're made out of the breathable lycra material so it's nice on your head and aren't any pins so it's comfortable."

Safety and comfort were key motivations for Sahid's proposal: "It can be dangerous to exercise in a scarf as you lose heat from your head and when your head is covered that is dangerous and uncomfortable. Imagine exercising in your work shoes – it doesn't make sense!"

Rebecca Mitzy, a fourth year Chemistry Masters student and has been promoting the hour to the Jewish Society. For her, the hour is very important.



She said "As an orthodox Jewish girl, I can't wear exercise clothes in front of men because of modesty reasons. With there being over 1000 Jews at the University of Leeds, this initiative is a great way to ensure that we can also exercise. Whether it is for religious reasons or for comfort, I'm very excited to run on a treadmill or even use weights in a totally comfortable, all female environment."

Classes begin on Sunday 5th February at The Edge sports centre. The Edge will open earlier to accommodate the sessions, which will take place at 7:30-8.30am and will be free for Edge members and £7 for for Leeds University students and staff.

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# Girl Gang collective hits Leeds' streets

Creative arts initiative launches in Leeds with good vibes, girl power and community values

Rabeeah Moeen

Following its success in Sheffield and Manchester, a non-profit volunteer community aiming to support and celebrate female creatives has now arrived in Leeds.

Girl Gang is a community which was originally created in 2015 in Sheffield. It began with a Mean Girls movie screening for women looking for an inclusive safe space in which to promote themselves, their work and relevant events. Now an award winning collective, the organisers have set their sights on Leeds.

The volunteer, non-profit organisation aims to promote its values through community-led events, including exhibitions, parties, social networking, cinema screenings and club nights.

Girl Gang Leeds' Sela Bar Leeds launch is a free party promising "Girl power, pizza [and] good vibes". It will showcase female DJ talent in the form of Vanhessa Fruits and Emily Marlow, alongside a craft and arts fair with all-female stallholders and a charity raffle. Founder Kaz Scattergood explained that it will be "about women supporting each other, celebrating each other's successes and giving creative people a platform."

Scattergood stressed that Girl Gang is keen to support local artists, and will be using the existing Leeds community to build upon their inclusive network. She said: "it's nice that groups can recognise each other's strengths."

Sela Bar manager Emily Cullen echoed her comments, saying it will be "great" to hold the launch party at Sela Bar and citing the importance of gatherings for creative people across the city.

The ten-point manifesto created by Girl Gang founders at its inception highlights inclusivity alongside the importance of female friendship and support, skill-sharing, confidence and the breaking of social boundaries. The initiative has an active social media presence in accordance with its aim for a non-hierarchical mode of organisation and desire to engage with and bring together people of all different ages and backgrounds.

Scattergood emphasised intersectional approach the community is taking,

aware that initiatives like this often lean towards straight, white members: "it's important to us that we're intersectional, and representative of all genders, ethnicities, and sexualities."

She wants the community to be involved with Pride, as well as the number of other events they are planning to host so far in Leeds. These include a networking session with women on Sunday 12 February at Hyde Park Book Club and an arts and crafts fair on Sunday 5th March in celebration of International Women's



Encouragingly, it seems that Leeds is ready to take up Girl Gang's aims. The manager of Nation of Shopkeepers, Jeremy Arblaster, is keen to have the team on board. Many will agree with his comment that Girl represents "the positivity that 2017 needs."

The Sela Bar launch party will take place on February 17th. The event is free and tickets are not required, but attendees are encouraged to bring sanitary products to be donate to the homeless.

# University's SABRE to revolutionise medicine

New medical scanner promises new insights into the human body and advances in disease diagnosis

A new £6.8 Million medical imaging centre has just opened at Leeds General Infirmary as part of a University of Leeds research initiative funded by the British Heart Foundation, Arthritis Research UK and the Medical Research Council (MRC).

Following a year of research, the new technique known as SABRE (Signal Amplification by Reversible Exchange), was developed by scientists and experts at the University of York and Hull York Medical school. The centre will use the new quicker and more precise technique to diagnose and treat patients with suspected cancers, heart and musculoskeletal diseases.

SABRE will work alongside current MRI scans, increasing MRI signals by more than 200,000 times. By altering naturally occurring drugs or substances in the body, without changing their molecular structure, the new method is very quick, effective and safe for the use on patients.

The benefits of more accurate scanning techniques are clear, with Cancer Research UK claiming that "late detection of cancer can reduce chances of survival by about half". The new imaging centre will give a more precise insight into the patient's internal health issues

**Camille Hanotte** in order to diagnose and treat patients as quickly as possible.

> The new technique will also allow medical practitioners to clearly pinpoint health problems in patients, increasing the effectivity of drugs developed to treat patients who have been scanned using SABRE.

As Professor Sven Plein, Research Team Leader at the University of Leeds, School of Medicine, said: "This is a great example of bench to bedside research that we hope will have a profoundly positive impact on the lives of patients".

Ultimately, the Yorkshire developed technique aims to be used across the UK and globally to revolutionize the lives of patients, with a view to providing a low cost, effective alternative to current medical scanning methods.

The School of Medicine is not alone in receiving large scale investment and world leading innovation. £17m worth of equipment is to be installed in the Astbury Centre, allowing molecular biologists to further study

bacteria, viruses, and the macromolecules that dictate the life and health of our cells.

The University anticipates that their new equipment will be sought after by researchers in Europe and





# Take action on climate change through entrepreneurship

We accept applications from 5th December until 15th February 2017 Take action, join the Climate-KIC Journey: Europe's largest summer school for climate innovation and entrepreneurship



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# **Views**

# Should it be compulsory that lectures are recorded?



#### Yes

# **Edmund Goldrick**

A lot of my position on this stems from the fact that it works in my home university, the Australian National University, so why not here? There may be areas where laws and circumstances are different and negate my points in which case I'm happy to be corrected. And yes, this would also mean that attending lectures would be non-compulsory.

My reasons in favour involve equity of access, convenience, and the self-interest of the university. Mostly, my convictions on equity are personal. A close friend of mine is trying to study but has an auto-immune disease. This means that she is unable to attend lectures for weeks or months at a time. On the occasions she does manage to attend, she will immediately leave if anyone in the lecture or seminar is clearly contagious, as it just isn't worth the risk. Without recorded lectures it would not be feasible for her to graduate. There are similar equity issues for anyone who has other financial commitments that require employment during university hours,

or anyone who has sudden illness or personal tragedy befall them. Recorded lectures will make the difference between catching up and having to repeat. That's six to twelve months of someone's life and career at stake.

Whilst lecture capture may prove to be an enabler for hungover students to skip lectures, this isn't fair to the circumstances that affect some students' lives. Firstly, they're paying for a service, and if they don't want to attend then, as an adult, that's their choice. Secondly, speaking from experience, good lecturers will still have high turnouts as students will want to attend in person because their lectures are fun and engaging; so it's also a good mechanism for monitoring a lecturer's performance.

To illustrate the convenience, there's a man in one of my ANU classes who studies part-time. He works a 9–5, pops in for the seminars during his lunch break, and watches lectures at the weekend. That's brilliant. Someone who would have otherwise have had to give

up his livelihood to study can fit it into his schedule. University should not just be for young people with no other commitments.

This also shows how it's in the interest of the university. If more part-time students who study primarily online can be drawn in, then that brings more paying students, but with less stress placed on facilities. They might even pass on some of those gains to students.

The worry of recordings being used against lecturers is a fair one, but copyright protection should be sufficient. What lecturers say can – and already does – get used against them. So, in regards to lecture capture, threat of expulsion for violating copyright law would be a good deterrent.

Lastly, with the cancelling of the check in system, I imagine significant IT resources will have been freed up.

#### No

Lecture capture: at best, a useful revision tool; at its worst, a disincentive to participate in an educational process for which you pay (at least) £9,000 per year. Though there would be advantages to a blanket policy of lecture capture, these advantages would be considerably outweighed by the possible disadvantages of such a policy.

Firstly, the wholesale adoption of lecture capture would force lecturers to do something which some of them do not want to do. Do we really want to learn in an environment in which professors feel their academic freedom and integrity is constrained? At the very least, academics may feel unhappy about such a policy, which could lead to a decline in the quality of teaching. Alternatively, academics may even reconsider whether they are operating and researching in a suitable environment for themselves, if such an environment fosters a feeling of compulsion rather than choice.

Furthermore, the adoption of a mandatory policy regarding lecture capture is not only harmful to staff, but to students. As can be seen by the amount of students turning up to lectures which will later be available on the VLE, lecture capture has a negative impact on student attendance. It may be argued that lecture capture allows students to access the same information other students receive directly in lectures, yet this is not the case. Academic staff have repeatedly stated during lectures that watching lectures at home and attending lectures in a lecture theatre are different experiences. That is to say, if you don't attend a lecture you will miss out on valuable discussion with your peers, which can only have a positive impact on your education. Remember, this is your education. You should be making the most of it. This must involve attending lectures.

On a more philosophical note, the adoption of lecture capture as a compulsory blanket policy for all

### Nathan Olsen

lectures would only serve to demonstrate the further commodification of education. As students, we pay money to learn (and this amount of money will probably increase with the government's abolition of a cap on tuition fees). This already indicates that we are not engaging in an educational experience, but rather buying into the dominant capitalist culture which obliges us to go to university, get a job, and contribute to the economy. How would lecture capture change this? The widespread adoption of lecture capture would further alienate us from our fellow students and academic staff, thus making a university degree the mark of an atomised individual.

In summary, not all lectures should be recorded using lecture capture. Why? Lecture capture degrades academic staff and their research, devalues the education of students and alienates us from our fellow human-beings.

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## The LGBT community: our foundations and growth

**BA English Literature** 

I am an LGBT individual, and, as I write this, we are teetering on the edge of this year's LGBT History Month. At this time of year, I find it important to acknowledge that there are issues to be confronted if our already strong community is to continue to grow. For example, as well as the obvious issues of homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia, there are also glaring problems of racial, ableist, and other such prejudices being targeted at already vulnerable LGBT people, coming not only from outside but also from within the confines of the initialism.

However, the attempts I've seen to bridge these gaps between us are not only encouraging, but exciting. Our very own University Union leads by impressive example. The events that will be taking place throughout February are kicked off with a womencentric club night, and include diverse panels, workshops, and performance nights, which tackle some of those issues that most threaten to divide us. Crucially though, these events contain at their core a celebration of the past and enduring spirit of our community. The significance of this is that, while it is most certainly important to recognise and combat the intra-community issues that we face, it is

Aiden Alexander Wynn similarly important that we acknowledge the power that the LGBT community has to support, to guide, and to empower.

> An example that makes my heart heavy to bring up, but that so perfectly encapsulates these wonders of community, is the response to the Pulse nightclub

> > These acts of kindness and connections are ones that carry with them a sense of defiance and solidarity,

shooting in Orlando last year. After this horrific event had occurred, an almost overwhelming outpouring of support and generosity manifested in countless forms. Memorials took place all around the world, millions of dollars were donated to the victims and their families, and there was a swell of solidarity so huge that it would have taken the most hardened heart to not have been moved.

These acts of kindness and connections are ones that carry with them a sense of defiance and solidarity, and which say to our oppressors: "we have fought to be here, and we will fight again". But that's not all; these acts speak to those in the community who are most disillusioned or vulnerable, and act as

> "We have fought to be here, and we will fight again".

a reminder that, despite our differences, we stand together.

Our community ties have been firmly cemented since the throwing of the brick that initiated the Stonewall Riots. Since then, many more pieces of our structure have joined that first brick, and have helped to build our community up on its foundations of strength and compassion. Admittedly, there are parts of this structure that sometimes threaten to crumble; but we are made of strong stuff. This LGBT History Month, remember that we are a community that exists despite the odds, made up of some of the most brave individuals. The more that we grow and learn and improve, the closer we will get to ensuring that no LGBT person really has to be alone.

# Trump: the accidental fascist?

**BA Philosophy** 

Copies of 1984 have sold out on Amazon in recent weeks, and you do not need to be Sherlock to figure out why that might be. For the American far-right, and the Trump administration which represents it, the world is the way they say it is. That is true even, or perhaps especially, when the established facts disagree with them. This trend culminated in a key Trump spokesperson, Kellyanne Conway, coining the phrase "alternative facts."

The phrase immediately calls to mind Orwell's infamous book about a totalitarian fascist state. To draw parallels between Big Brother and Trump, however, is to give the man far more credit than he deserves.

Michael Everritt was plain for all to see that it was little more than it is that there are actual professional wrestlers better a knee-jerk reaction. Trump himself is notoriously thin skinned, often taking to Twitter late at night to snap back at even the slightest perceived insult.

> Trump is, by all accounts, a man who tends to trust his instincts. A far cry, then, from such master manipulators as General Franco and Mussolini. If Trump is a fascist, then he has seemingly become so without realising it. For one thing, the man has been politically liberal for most of his life. It was only when he needed the support of grassroots Republicans that he suddenly decided he was right-wing.

> It is equally doubtful that he even planned to become president. If he had, he would surely have devoted time to acquiring political experience rather than perusing a career as a reality TV star. The scary part is not that a member of the WWE Hall of Fame is now president,

qualified for the role. His fellow Hall of Famer, Jesse "The Body" Ventura, was Governor of Minnesota.

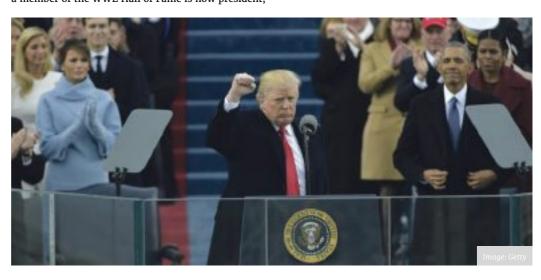
We are facing a dystopian future, but it is not of the kind depicted in 1984. That administration cared little for the "proles" that made up the bulk of the population, and sought to manipulate the middle classes instead. Trump, in contrast, is a populist strongman who knows how to work a crowd. He rose to power not by suppressing people's emotions, but by working them up into a frenzy. If he is a fascist, racist, or hostile to the free press, it is only because his supporters want him to be.

There is a case to be made for calling Donald Trump a fascist but, if he is, then it is not by design. That thought, in itself, is frightening.

If Trump is a fascist, then he has seemingly become so without realising it.

The administration in 1984 is so frightening because of its cold, calculated efficiency. It effectively controls the flow of information, to the point where people do not know with certainty what year it actually is.

Contrast this with the mess that the Trump administration has made over the disputed inauguration attendance figures. Press Secretary Sean Spicer delivered the blatant lie that Trump drew "the largest audience ever to witness an inauguration". That lie was delivered with such desperation, it



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# Why not try being vegetarian?

Will Maylunn BA Philosophy

"The question is not, 'Can they reason?' nor, 'Can they talk?' but, 'Can they suffer?'"

Contrary to stereotypes, I don't make a big deal about the fact that I'm vegetarian, but whenever anyone finds out they always ask why. For most people the idea of being vegetarian never occurs to them. Our lives are full of work, friends and hobbies so perhaps they never really give it a thought, especially growing up in a family where meat is the main feature of most meals. And, fair enough, I didn't think about it for most of my life. This is why (again, contrary to stereotypes) I certainly don't judge people for eating non-human animals when they haven't even considered it. But we need to start thinking about if we actually have any good reasons for eating meat.

When we properly think about what happens, we know that by eating meat we cause non-human animals pain and suffering – no one reading this is likely to actually believe that it doesn't, when they think about it. So why do we eat meat if it causes this suffering?

It's tasty! We enjoy it, so why not? The problem is that our tastes cannot genuinely be worth the intense suffering it brings. In any case, I was worried about taste when I stopped eating meat, so at the beginning I tried loads of veggie food expecting to find it at best bearable, at worst vile. There's some that I'm

But they aren't humans. They aren't as clever as us and aren't as cute as golden retriever puppies. So do we really need to care about them? I think this asks the wrong question.

not that bothered by, but the vast majority is lovely. Bean burgers are now one of my favourite foods ever! But perhaps you're very strongly set on the tastes of meat. Cauldron sausages honestly taste like sausages, Quorn mince tastes just like beef mince and – best of all – Quorn "Southern Fried Nuggets" taste exactly

like southern fried chicken! Taste simply cannot be a reason to inflict pain on non-human animals, especially as we can get lovely tastes from meat-free products.

It's easier to eat meat though, isn't it? Actually most veggie food is very quick to prepare; I spend far less time in the kitchen now. Also, pretty much every restaurant in the UK has veggie options (which are cheaper), so it's never been easier to be vegetarian. Nando's, famous for its chicken, surprised me with how great their veggie options are!

But they aren't humans. They aren't as clever as us and aren't as cute as golden retriever puppies. So do we really need to care about them? I think this asks the wrong question. To quote the philosopher Bentham: "The question is not, 'Can they reason?" nor, 'Can they talk?" but, 'Can they suffer?""

It's understandable we eat meat when we haven't even considered not eating it. However, when we actually think about it, it seems there aren't any reasons that justify the intense suffering to non-human animals. Why not go meat-free for a week and see how it goes?

# How do you like your democracy, whipped?

**Jasper Clow** BA English and French

It seems that, on January 19th, Jeremy Corbyn awoke feeling that he had entirely too much support from what is left of the Labour party and that his shadow cabinet was simply held together too well. He set about righting these wrongs by announcing that he will impose a three-line whip on his MPs next week, forcing them to vote in favour of triggering Article 50.

A supposed show of strength from Corbyn should be welcomed, given that his leadership has previously been characterised by a distinct lack of such conviction. However, this token display of pragmatism is taking completely the wrong shape. Had he committed himself and the Labour Party to the Remain campaign with similar force, he may not need to whip his party in the first place.

Instead Corbyn has chosen to strip his MPs and their constituents of any choice, leaving him looking like a bizarre cross between Michael Foot and Frank Underwood.

The shadow minister for early years, Tulip Siddiq, and shadow secretary for Wales, Jo Stevens, were the first to get up from the frontbench following the decision, with Siddiq writing "I feel that the most effective way for me to counter Theresa May's hard Brexit is from the back benches". Both MPs cited, above all, the views held in their constituencies as the reason behind their resignations. It begs the question, how will the Labour leader reconcile the beliefs of his own constituents given that over 75% of them voted to remain in the European Union?

Corbyn is no stranger to the party whip, having defied it an impressive 428 times. Nonetheless he now finds himself on an increasingly lonely front bench in the ironic position of being the one doing the whipping.

In an effort to show that he is grown up enough to accept the referendum result, Jeremy Corbyn has driven a wedge into the centre of his party and alienated members of a shadow cabinet that should really be fitted with a revolving door. Would his vote alone not be evidence that he respects the wishes of little over half the voters? By forcefully supplementing it with that of his party he undermines their ability to properly represent their constituents.

Allowing each MP to vote independently would demonstrate the diversity of views held towards Europe within the Labour Party, as well as removing another opportunity for his critics to defy him. Ultimately, it would not have even affected the result, due to a Conservative majority and the number of MPs who committed to their leader.

So through imposing a three line whip, Jeremy Corbyn undermines his colleagues, the views of his constituents, and the notion of democracy within his party. But, most importantly, he undermines everything for which he previously stood for.

It saddens me deeply to see the Labour Party pulled further apart for the sake of their leader's stiff upper lip.



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# In The Middle

Issue 10 03.02.17



# Female Revolution

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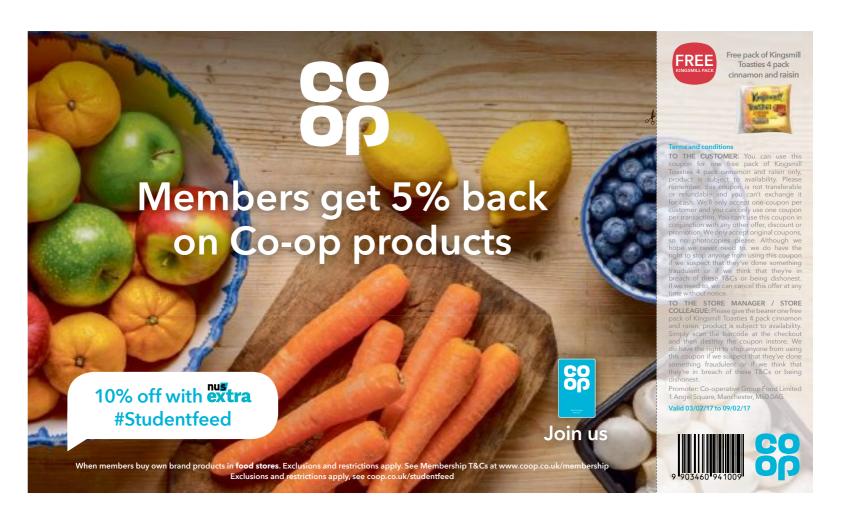
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**Cover Photo** Women's March on Washington Shannon Stapleton/Reuters



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# The women who shaped music and the music that shaped women

## In light of the recent worldwide Women's March, Katie O'Kelly explores music as a platform for women to smash the patriarchy.

"Where are the women telling

you to fuck the patriarchy,

stop starving yourself and

that you're defined by your

brain, not your boyfriend?"

January saw some extraordinary demonstrations of female power, with various women's marches taking place across the globe. At a time when Donald Trump, a man who has shown little respect for women or our rights, has become 'leader of the free world', it's important now more than ever to remember the women who fought before us. For centuries women have fought to have their voices heard and change the perception of what it is to be a 'woman'. Music became a gateway for women to explore their sexuality and challenge notions of patriarchy.

Some of the earliest examples of women who had a profound influence on the music industry are female jazz singers of the 20th century. A woman's place, and particularly a black woman's place, was strictly subordinate in this society and

a career was still virtually unheard of. In addition to this, many of the most successful of these women came from incredibly underprivileged backgrounds. Ella Fitzgerald was from one of the poorest neighbourhoods in New York and spent time in an orphanage and on the streets. In spite of her incredibly challenging beginnings, she would become one of the most influential women in the history of the music industry. Women were finally recognised as more than a pretty picture, but as real, talented musicians.

Their voices were powerful and sexy, breaking the stereotype of what a woman should sound like. These women demanded attention and respect, yet many of them still experienced sexism and abuse in their personal lives: a sad fact of the era they lived in.

Later in the century came a new wave of rebellion. In the 1970s, aggressive, unapologetic and loud, punk rock fit right into the male dominion. When we think of punk our minds turn pretty quickly to Sid Vicious, Paul Weller or Joe Strummer, but we shouldn't forget the women who were so integral to this movement. Women like Viv Albertine rejected stereotypes and took control of their careers and their lives. They revolutionised womanhood. Punk was all about breaking boundaries, and who had more boundaries to break than women? Like those of the jazz era, these women weren't about to let any personal situation get in the way of their career. Chrissie Hynde put it brilliantly when she said "I was a single mum with two kids. What else was I going to do? It was either be in a band or be a waitress." They were inspirational without trying to be. They created female role

models in the male-dominated world of rock and roll.

Nowadays, it's easy two find these role models in the alternative movement, with inspirational women like Haim, whose music expresses a modern femininity or Lauren Mayberry of Chvrches, who is openly outspoken about her feminist activism. However, with artists like Haim, Lauran Mayberry and Ellie Rowsell. leader singer of Wolf Alice, shattering traditional ideas of femininity by redefining the image of what it means to be a front (wo)man, we are seeing a shunning of female stereotypes specifically within the alternative music scene.

However, within the mainstream, it feels like we've taken a step backwards. When Madonna started dressing in an overtly sexual way, it was because it was

controversial, thus making a statement about the restrictive nature between femininity, sexuality and, particularly, age. It currently seems as though bikini-clad female popstars rolling around in sand is the easiest way to guarantee high view ratings on YouTube.

Female empowerment has become a buzzword, but these videos don't feel empowering. Little Mix might throw a few insults at their exes but, in many of their videos, it feels

like we're waiting for the overtly-sexualised slutty pillow fight to start. Taylor Swift may claim to be a great role model, but the majority of her songs are about men, leading us to believe that the legitimacy of female happiness is based on the stability of our relationships with men. Maybe we need a Bechdel Test for pop songs to help us figure out whether we are supposed to feel empowered or not.

Where are the rule breakers? Where are the women telling you to fuck the patriarchy, stop starving yourself and reminding you that you're defined by your brain, not your boyfriend? Nowadays in the mainstream music scene, they seem few and far between. So, I suppose, for now we'll have to focus on remembering the ground-breaking women of decades before us as we wait for the next wave of female revolutionaries.

Katie O'Kelly

## Fresh Beats

#### A Shadow In Time by William Basinski

Capturing life is hard in any medium, instrumental music particularly so. Words give us the freedom to jump forwards and backwards, to zoom in and zoom out. Music is often too tied to its inherent temporality to use the same strategies.

William Basinksi has long used techniques for getting around this. He is most well-known for creating short loops on tape, then recording them playing while exposed to air, documenting the slight changes that come with their deterioration. Each loop is one musical idea, one life, being imperceptibly changed by its environment, and changing its environment imperceptibly. Moment to moment we often struggle to acknowledge how we change, but look back far enough and ourselves become unrecognisable.

'For David Robert Jones' was created using this technique. The track opens with an already washed out loop, rising and falling steadily. A quarter of the way through it is joined by a looped guitar line, fragile but assertive, by the end of the piece it has

become one continuous guitar solo. You can fit a narrative to the track – it begs us to! This is when Bowie's own guitar started to publically sound. The two loops dance around each other playfully, but they are fundamentally distinct – Bowie's private life was kept as separate as possible from his public one – but even his was just one life.

Where 'For David' was an investigation of the short form, track two, a 'A Shadow in Time', is long form. Death leaves behind our absence, a shadow of what we were. Beautiful, fuzzy, dense and disruptive, the ambient drones of *A Shadow in Time* powerfully capture this. The piece expands to the point of being almost unbearable, and then shrinks all way back down. Slowly a wistful piano line emerges.

A final elegy, for a friend.

Daoud Al-Janabi

Rating:



#### The Pace of the Passing by Toothless

Ed Nash, bassist of Bombay Bicycle Club, has stepped into a new direction while paying homage to his band's roots in this new solo project. The album moves in waves, beginning with the ethereal track 'Charon', before transforming into an energetic cluster of indie rock, triggered by the fast-paced 'Sisyphus'.

The album carries a timbre that makes Toothless' Bombay Bicycle Club origins clear, from the distorted bass easily recognised from *I Had The Blues But I Shook Them Loose*, to the drum contribution from Bombay's Suren de Saram, bringing a strong energy to the record.

The features on the album are fitting and bring a new side to each song. Tom Fleming brings a darkness that makes an otherwise weak song, 'The Midas Touch', flourish. Liz Lawrence, backing singer for Bombay Bicycle Club on their latest album cycle, contributes beautifully to the highlight of the album 'Party For Two'. The punch of this song perfectly juxtaposes the more serene moments of the album, such as 'Terra' and 'The Sun's Midlife Crisis', with

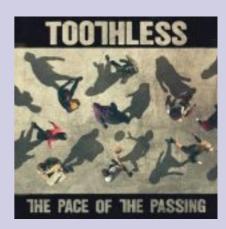
the former's sampled breathing building an eerie yet encompassing atmosphere. 'You Thought I Was Your Friend (I Want To Hurt You)' is a strong track, slightly ambient yet driving in its execution.

The Pace of the Passing holds a weak lyricism that leaves something to be desired, although the direct nature of this can bring more attention to the musicality in songs such as 'The Midas Touch'. There is an unmistakable likeness to Bombay Bicycle Club's work, which, if anything, highlights Nash's innovation in consistently producing seamless work.

The album isn't particularly experimental or ground-breaking, but it stands as a strong body of music that is worth the listen for any fans of Bombay Bicycle Club.

**Isobel Moloney** 

Rating:



#### Nearer To The Wild Heart of Life by Japandroids

Near To The Wild Heart of Life is Japandroids fourth studio album. This band from Vancouver allows their Canadian heritage to shine proudly in its lyrics, like a less cheesy version of Robin Sparkles. This album has a slightly 90's vibe, with its style of guitar and drum playing but has a Wombats vibe going too. It's a great mix and is a must-listen for any indie music fan.

The eponymous track is a perfect introduction to what the rest of the album has to offer, with its fast paced tempo and indie-pop vibe, and a sprinkle of Canadian accent shining through. Considering the song is about getting fired up I'd say that it does just that for the rest of the album. 'North East South West' then blends in some acoustic, which goes well with the soothing but strong vocals, and the steam from the last song isn't gone either.

Here the talk of Canada and Vancouver comes in, and it's nice to have this sort of thing done in a song,

a bit like Sonic Highways but easier to understand. 'I'm Sorry For Not Finding You Sooner' has a riff very similar to Boston's More than a Feeling, which got me very excited. However it then feels static and the vocals are drowned out and fuzzy. To me this was a little experiment that didn't work out well.

'Arc of Bar' doesn't just stand apart for it's length (seven and a half minutes), it also uses some sort of synth pop along with the guitar to create a unique sound. Here the vocals are better, but just feel not as inspired as earlier tracks, forgettable.

Although the album is good, it stagnates a bit in the middle.

Will Nelson







# Dominic Johnson caught up with Loyle Carner to talk crowds, collaboration and his cooking project. Chili Con Carner.

**"If** I can get up on stage

and tell a crowd some of my

deepest darkest shit, then

people should be able to chat

[...] about theirs"

"People don't know everything about me!" laughs Loyle Carner, "It's almost a bit too late to worry about it anyway". Speaking to the 22-year-old rapper less than a week before his much-anticipated debut album Yesterday's Gone drops, it certainly is too late to worry about the emotional detail of his lyrics. Regardless, the effect of this introspective and deeply personal form of rap is part of the reason why Carner is fast becoming one of the biggest names, in UK hip-hop.

Carner comes to Belgrave Music Hall in Leeds on 8th February, performing to a sold out crowd. "It's rowdier up there", Loyle remarks on the difference between crowds in the north and south. Yet audiences remain diverse throughout the country, with crowds reflecting the popularity of Carner's soulful and laidback music. "It's an eclectic mix; there are seventy-year-olds, those in love with 6 Music, and people you just wouldn't expect".

Despite this growing acclaim, he has had to put up with journalism that has not been entirely fair in the early stages of his career. A few publications have failed to depict the rapper and his music accurately; a *Guardian* reviewer described him as the 'sentimental face of grime'. "It's just lazy journalism", explains Carner, describing it as part of an attempt to produce a "captivating headline" to attract readers.

Aside from these crude assessments, favourable reception to his album has been widespread. From the first listening of Yesterday's Gone, it's easy to appreciate the synthesis between Carner's lyrics and long-term producer Rebel Clef's boom bap beats. We talk about the extent to which Clef has been a creative influence on his music: "Massively, especially in the early days when we were really finding our feet. I learnt a lot from him and he taught me a lot about hip-hop".

The importance of Rebel Clef to Loyle cannot be understated, yet profiles of Carner in newspapers and magazines have often missed this. Some journalists attempt to unpack and reveal the man behind the music, but they often ignore this musical partnership that makes for such enjoyable listening.

Away from the growing acclaim in the music world, Carner's work outside of rap is incredibly important and close to home. His cooking project, Chilli Con

Carner, teaches cooking skills to young people with ADHD. As someone with ADHD himself, Carner underlines the importance of cooking as an activity that brought him pleasure: "I used to be a bit of a hot head when I was younger, but the kinetic energy and instant gratification [of cooking] really chilled me out".

Loyle explains, "I wanted to go into culinary school, that was my dream". Critiquing the ignorance surrounding ADHD, Carner seeks to "shed the stereotype, getting teachers engaged with its existence, rather than just viewing a child as simply badly behaved".

The album does not shy away from raising awareness either: the song 'Sun Of Jean' ends with a heartfelt poem read by Loyle's mother about her incredibly

active and creative son. "A two-foot tale of trouble... He used to draw on anything... and now he draws with words". The song, and album, show the family connection that flows throughout Carner's lyrics, epitomised by the album artwork. "It's an extended family photo, [picturing] everybody who had an impact".

The album, which has debuted at 14 in the charts, displays a reference to the musical work of his late

father in its title. "My dad made an album with a song called 'Yesterday's Gone' which my mum only found after he passed. I listened to the song a few months later and it resonated with me in many ways, and it made sense to pay homage".

We end our conversation on the topic of his lyrics and their impact: "Hopefully my music pushes more people to get how they're feeling out in the open. If I can get up on stage and tell a crowd some of my deepest, darkest shit, then people should be able to chat to their mum or their mates about theirs. It's not scary at all and it's not a bad thing."

It's this candid self-reflection that dominates the lyrics of *Yesterday's Gone*, with the humbleness and honesty of their author so evident when he speaks. For one of the most pensive voices in UK rap, the future is deservedly bright.

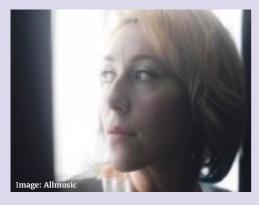
**Dominic Johnson** 

# Gig Roundup

#### Beach Slang @ Brudenell. 25/1/17



# Martha Wainwright @ City Varieties, 27/1/17



#### Ramin Karimloo, City Varieties 23/01/17



With its low ceiling and pool tables, the Brudenell Games Room captures that working men's club vibe and it was the perfect setting for the hotly anticipated return of Beach Slang. Support came from Aerial Salad, a Manchester band with thundering guitars and screaming vocals.

There was tangible excitement in the room as Beach Slang arrived onstage. Frontman, founder and heart of the band James Alex looked quite the character in his ruffle shirt and bow tie and his friendly rapport with the audience was the highlight of the night. Alcohol, he claimed, had rendered him "wildly outgoing." Alex's excitement was contagious as he explained how stoked he was to be in Leeds after being inspired by The Who's Live at Leeds performance. The frontman was a natural performer, theatrically strumming his guitar and working the crowd.

It's rare that bands achieve such a sense of camaraderie with the crowd. Beach Slang's previous tour managers mingled with the audience and it was clear that everybody was genuinely buzzed to be at the Philadelphia rocker's show. Highlights

Martha Wainwright is exceptional in the world of music. Performing since childhood with her parents Loudon Wainwright and Kate McGarrigle, there was undoubtedly a pressure for Martha to pursue a musical career. In the twelve short years since the release of her eponymous debut album, she has cemented her place in the Wainwright dynasty, defiantly holding her own with her father, mother and brother Rufus.

As proof of her strength of character, Wainwright strides onstage at City Varieties in a grey boilersuit, accessorised with an ovaries necklace, showing solidarity with the recent worldwide Women's March. She takes her battle stance, legs apart and firmly rooted in the floor.

As soon as the first song starts, the audience are hushed by her powerful presence and even more powerful voice. On record, Wainwright's voice is versatile and unique. In a live setting, it is commanding, controlled, and her primary weapon. As she croons songs from her most recent album, Goodnight City, she simultaneously reveals her vulnerability and defends it, building glass walls

Of all the genre-fusions that have infiltrated the circuit over the years, Bluegrass and Broadway might be the most unorthodox. However, when Ramin Karimloo and The Broadgrass Band arrived in Leeds for the Yorkshire leg of their UK tour, it took less than an hour to convince the waiting crowd that it was a match made in heaven. If anyone could make such wildly divergent styles comfortable bedfellows it was Ramin Karimloo, whose Tony nomination for 'Best Actor In A Musical' proves he can pretty much do anything.

Before Ramin, Rob Richings' laid back folksy ballads perfectly set the tone for the evening. Though the polar opposite of Ramin's theatre stylings, the set's simple melodies and quintessentially English nature kept the audience onside throughout, allowing a politically charged finale dedicated to Syrian refugees to feel inviting and authentic. His easy charm and sparse instrumentation was an instant win from start to finish.

Ramin was incandescent. Despite the presence of only a violin, cello, box drum and guitar, the musical

came from punky singles such as 'Punks in a Disco Bar' and 'Dirty Cigarettes.' However, tracks that showcased Beach Slang's softer side, such as 'Porno Love,' fell short onstage as the band struggled to contain their energy on the slower numbers.

After closing the set with the electric 'Atom Bomb,' Alex returned by himself to deliver a fantastic cover of The Replacement's 'Alex Chilton' and fan favourite 'Too Late to Die Young.' The whole band arrived for an informal encore that was kick-started by an impromptu rendition of 'Wonderwall.'

Their comic interaction with the audience grew throughout the show and after an alternative cover of a Pixies classic, Beach Slang left the stage declaring that they were truly in love with our city of Leeds.

Lucy Milburn

Rating:

around her most sensitive subject matter. On those songs written about her children, she quips, "it's nice to have a nice subject to talk about in songs"; this vague and yet gently revealing statement is characteristic of Wainwright's music: she wants you to see, but not too much.

Wainwright graced us with performances of some songs from her first album: 'G.P.T', 'These Flowers' and 'When The Day Is Short' to name a few, although 'Bloody Motherfucking Asshole' was noticeably lacking. For her encore, she sang Leonard Cohen's 'Chelsea Hotel #2' and her mother's song 'Proserpina', both heartfelt renditions that provided the perfect ending to a fairly perfect set. With the final two songs, it becme clear that Wainwright is truly one of the last troubadours, of the ilk of Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen, the last of those musicians that wear their hearts on their sleeves for a living and sing their thoughts with an acoustic guitar.

Jemima Skala

Rating:



theatre tracks felt huge and operatic. 'Bring Him Home' from Les Mis was the perfect ode to one of his most iconic roles. Undoubtedly though, no matter the genre of the song, what stood out most were the vocals. What was soft and lilting for 'Hushabye Mountain' was deep and soaring for 'Oh What A Beautiful Morning'. When the time came for him to reference perhaps his most iconic role, the full force of his classical training came into play. When the opening chords of 'Til I Hear You Sing' from Love Never Dies rang out across the crowd, the silence was absolute. Without the mask or the cloak, with only the barest accompaniment, the famed Phantom of the opera house was standing on stage, conjured into being by voice alone.

The skill was undeniable, proving that you can take a man out of the West End, but you can never take the West End out of the man.

Rhiannon-Skye Boden

Rating:



# Bongo Spills the Beans

Bongos Bingo is no ordinary bingo night — there's table dancing, glowstick raves and Henry Hoovers for a start. With the sell out event now back at Canal Mills every Wednesday, Jessica Murray chatted to the main man himself, Jonny Bongo, about the event's runaway success...



2017 threw many unexpected things at us and one thing that no one saw coming was the resurgence of bingo. I, along with many others, thought the game was confined to the dingy bingo halls of Gala and Mecca frequented by grandmas. But Jonny Bongo had other ideas. Along with business partner Josh Burke, they've created Bongos Bingo, a bingo rave full of debauchery, dancing and ... dildos. It's revolutionising UK nightlife and has given a new lease of life to the game. The event is not even two years old, and already packs out venues across seven UK cities, and is soon to launch in London.

When I caught up with Jonny Bongo, co-founder, bingo caller and DJ of the event, he seemed genuinely surprised at how quickly the night had become so popular. "From when we started, to where we are now, it's become a proper a show, and we never expected it at all. It's mental; tickets sell out in 5–10 minutes now. It's very humbling."

The concept of the night was conceived back in Liverpool, where Josh ran a club night, and Jonny ran a pub quiz with a twist. The guys joined forces, and Bongos Bingo was born. "One of the big things is the prizes; even though you can win money we also give away mad stuff like Coco Pops, a 23-inch dildo and a Henry

"The event may be held at Canal Mills, but there's nothing edgy about the Vengaboys and Henry Hoovers" Hoover." And this really gets at the heart of why the night is so popular; the guys aren't out to make money or rip people off, they just want the audience to have a good time. "The one thing I care about is that people enjoy the event. It's never been a money-grabbing event. The money from your ticket goes back in to prize money and prizes."

If you've yet to experience the thrill of a night at Bongos Bingo, Jonny claims it's an atmosphere that's almost impossible to describe. "You kind of have to see it to believe it; I know that sounds really cheesy. People really do take it seriously, one minute everyone is up on the benches dancing to Vengaboys, and the next minute when the next number is coming out, you could literally hear a pin drop. We always give away a giant pink fluffy unicorn, and that is the most sought after prize. People sometimes concentrate more for a unicorn, than £200-£300." It's a mixture of serious bingo playing and absolutely bonkers entertainment; the night is interspersed with dance offs, a 20-minute full on rave with glowsticks, and the occasional special guest – David Hasselhoff and Fatman Scoop have

previously featured. It's an event where you have to expect the unexpected, and you absolutely have to get involved. There's no sitting on the sidelines here. Arguably, it's the immersive and interactive element of the night which has led to its success. As Jonny explains, "If you go and play bingo in a traditional bingo hall it's boring, and especially if you don't win it feels like a bit of a waste of time. On the other end of the spectrum, if you go to a club night where it's four hours, you can't really talk to your mates, and it's quite monotonous. So we come in the middle; it's still a mad night out, you're dancing up on the tables, but you're also, again it sounds cheesy, but you've got an activity to do." With claims that the younger generation are increasingly rejecting typical club nights in favour of special, one-off immersive events, Bongos Bingo taps in to the market well, and does it in a carefree, unpretentious style. The event may be held at Canal Mills, but there's nothing edgy about the Vengaboys and Henry Hoovers. "I think club nights are in decline, and I think people don't settle for average now."

Jonny has become almost as famous as Bongos Bingo itself; his Northern Irish lilt and often ruthless audience interaction being an integral part of the night. "People get a lot of abuse if they don't concentrate or make false calls, because it is serious bingo at the end of the day. So a lot of people get called dickheads." And his favourite bingo call? "A meal for two with beautiful view – that's 69."

I've often wondered who you're supposed to concentrate on playing bingo six pints in to the night, and it turns out that a lot of people don't. "It's a marathon not a sprint, and as the night progresses the prizes get better". So basically, pace yourself and you could be in with a chance of winning the big bucks, but get too drunk and you'll be bundled in to the back of a taxi with only a fluffy pink unicorn to keep you company.

The event has been such as success that the team are in talks about taking the event to Dubai and Australia, and after Parklife and Creamfields last year, Bongos Bingo will be hitting Snowbombing in April. And with the event's second birthday coming up in the next few months, Jonny and the team have a big extravaganza up their sleeves.

So if you haven't already had a shot at winning that oh-so-coveted fluffy unicorn at a Bongos Bingo night yet, you're missing out. Before you buy your ticket, here are Jonny's words of advice for first-time bingo-players. "Keep your eye on your books at all times, and just don't be a dickhead."

Jessica Murray



# Folk Acid and Moral Ravers

Milly Whyman gives a retrospective look at the rise and fall of the Acid House movement and government hysteria over youth culture...

Acid House rose to prominence in the 1960s to the 1980s from the clubs of Chicago, characterised by the 'squelchy' sounds of the emerging bass synthesiser, the 'Roland TB-303 Bass Line'. By the late 1980s the sound had travelled to Ibiza, where DJ's Alredo Fiorillio and Jose Padilla were spreading the genre in the sun and warmth of clubs like Amnesia and Pacha. Here it was found by a group of small time DJs and business opportunists, Paul Oakenfold, Danny Rampling, Nicky Holloway and Johnny Walker, in search of the best parties and new scene. Excited by the new style of music and a newfound ecstasy culture, they brought the sound back to club nights in South London hotspots. The plan was to reinvent the carefree, trendy, ecstatic Ibiza holiday and turn it into something that could inspire Thatcher's mundane, individualist Britain. The revolution into a new culture had begun.

"The plan was to reinvent the carefree, trendy, ecstatic Ibiza holiday and turn it into something that could inspire Thatcher's mundane, individualist Britain."

What followed was the explosion of a music scene into a rave culture. In Manchester, Ibiza nights at The Hacienda became a hub for acid house ravers who travelled across the county for the 'Madchester' experience. Clubbing attire changed from suits to dungarees, as ravers strayed from identifying with the clothing of a white-collar worker and took to colourful baggy sweatshirts, Doc Martens and Levi 501's. In London, Shoom was the first club to don the yellow smiley face logo that became a sign of membership to this acid house community. The Trip, a house night at the Astoria, was also filled with acid house enthusiasts in outlandish clothing, with club-goers spilling onto the streets at the end of the night, still reeling from the deep baselines and electronic beats.

The popularity of Acid House was not complete without the presence of recreational drugs, and open drug taking became standard at these events. The empty industrial spaces of factories and fields, themselves a product of Thatcher's Britain, became the perfect setting to escape with the help of psychedelics. The dark side of the culture bears mentioning here. In 1989 16-year-old Claire Leighton collapsed and died as a result of taking ecstasy at the Hacienda. This was the first ecstasy death in the UK. In 1995 Leah Betts died after taking an ecstasy pill and then drinking seven litres of water in a 90-minute period. The Hacienda couldn't shake the presence of violence, drug dealers and gangs. The club closed in 1997. What was meant to be the 'Second Summer of Love', with dancing, good music and wacky clothes materialised into something more sinister.



Just like how mods and rockers became folk devils of the 1960's youth generation, shown as violent gangs who couldn't help but fight with each other, acid house fell victim to demonisation and moral panic. When people starting dying of ecstasy, Acid House couldn't be seen as a fun new craze anymore; it lost itself to negative exposure. Ravers were labelled 'Drug Crazed New Hippies.' Police cracked down on clubs and raves and 1971's Misuse of Drugs Act attempted to put a stop to usage. The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act contained a whole section on control of raves. This 1994 act is where hysteria is most obvious. A rave was defined, by law, as a gathering in open land or air with music that is 'predominantly characterised by the emission of a succession of repetitive beats.' This was an almost comical attack on an alternative culture. How could government's fears over a scene mean that its musical genre could be pin pointed by law and directly attacked?

As we all now know, young people would fight back. The Reclaim The Streets collective picked up speed. Raves became a point of political resistance, where young people were battling over their rights to use public space. Such spaces were occupied and 'free parties' were put on, taking inspiration from 'Stop the City' protests of the 1980s. Musicians also joined the resistance. The Prodigy's 'Their Law' was a direct response to the bill. Lyrics include 'what we're dealing with here is a total lack of respect for the law' 'Fuck 'em and their law.' The booklet for their 1994 album said, "How can the government stop young

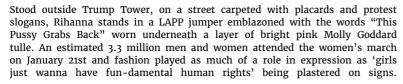
people having a good time? Fight this bollocks." The Streets classic 'Weak Become Heroes' from Original Pirate Material contains the lyric 'and to the government I stick my middle finger up with regards to the Criminal Justice Bill.' In short, government hysteria over youth culture made this culture more profound, and much cooler. Just as the 1960's repeated itself in the late 1980's with Acid House, what will the moral panic over the new generation of young people be? With the closure of Fabric in 2016 after its licence was revoked following high profile drug related deaths, could there be a growing public panic over recent clubbing culture? History seemed to repeat itself as the club's closure sparked a 'Save Fabric' social media campaign, and the club reopened in January 2017 to a sell out event. Perhaps the irony of panic over club and youth culture is that, in an attempt to crack down, culture is strengthened and becomes a movement rather than a craze. It would be wrong to disregard drug deaths and assume there is no problem: there is. But those fighting for the reopening of Fabric in 2017 are the same people fighting for the right to hold raves in the 1980's. Club culture and music is cyclical. It will come around again and needs to, for life is quite boring without the next best, forbidden thing around the corner.

Milly Whyman



# Fashion Trumps Hate

#### "Fashion should always be looked to in protest"



Historically, fashion has been used as a tool in protest by acting as a unifying force to create a powerful image. Suffragettes used fashion to escape the image of the dangerously politicised woman who wore masculine clothes, by conforming to early twentieth century feminine fashion and dressing smartly for the cause. Sylvia Pankhurst once said that suffragettes 'spend more money on clothes than they can comfortably afford, rather than run the risk of being considered outré, and doing harm to the cause'. Another example would be the black berets and leather jackets worn by the Black Panther Party, as decided upon by founders Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton. The late-noughties 'slutwalks' protesting against rape culture also saw fashion unifying protestors many of whom stripped down to their underwear to illustrate that what they wore didn't mean they were 'asking for it'.

At this most recent protest, where an estimated half a million people marched on Washington alone, fashion again succeeded in creating a powerful image by means of the 'Pussyhat Project' founded by LA based Krista Suh and Jayna Zweiman. Following the release of some sexist comments Trump made back in 2005, the project was born.



The initial aim was to create headwear to keep LA campaigners warm in the Washington climate but the design of a pink hat with cat ears became about reclaiming the term 'pussy' and uniformly showing defiance against the man who would somehow hold the presidency. A national campaign was started to knit and sew the hats and send them to marchers. It became inclusive of those unable to march and even spread beyond the US with the pattern being readily available across the world. Founder Krista Suh saw the project as having a 'dual function'. Speaking to the LA Times she said, "People there could have it to make a unified statement and people at home who couldn't go could be part of it and represent themselves there."

Current fashion is certainly fuelling the rebellion. How many times have you recently scrolled past an image of Maria Grazia Chirui for Dior's 'we should all be feminists' slogan tee on Instagram? Vetements can always be looked to for the image of the rebel as can Balenciaga with an increasing sense of realness shown at Demna Gvasalia's most recent men's collection in Paris.

Fashion should always be looked to in protest. The clearest form of expression, it can unify a crowd and send a message with clarity. The history of fashion and protest is long and as history begins to repeat itself with a political resurgence of the right, we should utilise our fashion choices. As stated on the Pussyhat project website at the moment, this is a movement not just a moment.

Victoria Copeland

# Top Picks - Couture Fashion Week



I love how this look from Valentino gives feminine fluidity to a typically androgynous shape. The clean lines and intricate detailing of the mesh shirt are a fresh twist on the Grecian draping.



Futuristic patterns and colours were a key trend at Couture Week, and this Chanel suit is the best example. I love the elaborate beading and 80s power suit silhouette.



Schiaparelli's couture collection was bursting with vibrant colour and this piece was a stand-out. The fluted sleeves update the simple silhouette and I love the Mondrian-esque patchwork patterns.

# Fashion and the First Lady

Off the back of Trump's inauguration and the subsequent departure of the Obama's from The White House, we could be forgiven for thinking that the release of blockbuster film Jackie, starring Natalie Portman, was timed to fuel political outrage further. The film chronicles the life of Jackie Kennedy during her time as First Lady from 1961 to her husband's death in 1963. As one of the most iconic first ladies of all time, Jackie was a popular media figure, one which Michelle Obama has often been paralleled to. But what made these first ladies so popular in the public's eyes? In times of hardship, both strong women remained resilient, calm and determined. As public figures, their impeccable style, unfaltering demeanour and eloquent public speech arguably elevated their husband's careers even further. The In the Middle fashion team have got our three favourite looks from our two favourite first ladies.

#### Jackie

Maiden Name: Jaqueline Lee Bouvier

Born: July 28th, 1929

First lady term: January 20th 1961 - November

22nd 1963

Political party: Democratic

Education: French literature, George

Washington University USA

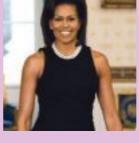
"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all"

Jackie Kennedy is most famed for her iconic 'Pill Box' hats, worn in the same colour as a perfectly tailored pencil skirt and blazer suit. Most famously, Jackie is known for a Pink Chanel suit, pictured here as she stepped off the plane in Dallas, Texas just hours before her husband's assassination. The suit became somewhat a symbol of her strength following the shooting of John F. Kennedy in November 1963, when she refused to take it off despite it being bloodstained. The actions symbolise a distinct message to the Kennedy's critics, especially given the turbulence of the 1960s - America will not be broken, the government will not be pulled down.

In other looks Jackie Kennedy was every ounce the image of a modern American woman. Pictured in a gingham blouse, tailored shorts and a floppy hat at the Kennedy compound in Massachusetts, we still feel inspired by this Holiday look.

In the work place, Kennedy is pictured here in cigarette pants, a jumper and a necktie. Sporting her famous bouncing bob cut, Kennedy appears confident and happy at work as a writer, her first job and first love.









#### Michelle

Maiden Name: Michelle LaVaughn Robinson

Born: January 17th, 1964

First lady term: January 20th 2009 – January 20th 2017

Political Party: Democratic

Education: Princeton University and Harvard

"You don't have to be somebody different to be important. You're important in your own

A twice Ivy League Graduate, mother and lawyer Michelle Obama is the ultimate 21st century woman. Known best for speaking out in support of LGBT rights, improved race relations, the importance of nutrition, poverty aid and the education, the former first lady became a role model for women the world over. Outside of her own career, and her duties as first lady, we know her from James Cordon's carpool Karaoke, many best dressed lists and the cover of Voque.

These are our top three looks that we feel sum up Michelle's time as first lady. Pictured in a high neck, A-line dress, complete with pearls, Michelle can be equated to a modern day Audrey Hepburn in Breakfast at Tiffany's. The connotations of class and style typically associated with the movie exude from Michelle, placing her as one of favourite modern fashion icons.

Whilst appearing on *The Voice US*, Michelle is pictured in a straight legged trouser suit, cinched at the waist by a black belt and blazer, classic and chic. In our final image, we've chosen her gown by Naeem Khan at the Nordic state dinner in 2016. Michelle looks simply effortless in this Bardot number whilst accompanying her husband... Barack who?!

**Meg Painter** 

# **Chasing Catwalks**

This Milan fashion week menswear show saw YouTubers and "social media influencers" alike not just on the elusive front row but strutting down the runway alongside models. Specifically Dolce and Gabbana invited a host of millennial "influencers" and celebrity offspring that the fashion duo dubbed favourably as the "DG Princes".

Social media or millennial influencers are so-called real people, who make content - that often being photos, videos or tweets about themselves - and gain a large following, "influencing" in some cases millions. Where Keeping up with the Kardashians, Big Brother, Made in Chelsea and even Myspace musicians blurred the line between the celebs and 'real' people, Youtubers and Instagrammers have followed. Naturally, it only makes sense for the new social media millennials to follow reality stars such as Kendall Jenner onto the runway

The epitome of the influencer is Vine sensation Cameron Dallas, with a worldwide following that shows itself in over 17 million followers on Instagram, over 5 million on Youtube and his own Netflix TV show Chasing Cameron - that you need to guilty-pleasure watch right now. If you're still not convinced, he won the award for "Social Media King" at the Teen Choice Awards last year. In terms of fashion, Dallas markets himself as a model, taking artsy shots on his Instagram that helped shoot him to fame. This January, Dallas lead the runway at the D&G show, and if it wasn't clear enough who was boss - he wore a crown on the final walk on. He first became fash-pals with D&G back in September, when he attended their Spring Summer 2017 Ready-to-Wear show

It seems like catwalks these days are more often strutted by reality TV stars and social media sensations than models. Lynsey Rose Key explores the rise in these 'real people'...

and frequently posts photos of himself with the designer duo on Instagram. Tapping into the large audiences that the social media influencers have can only be a good thing for brands, and it's also connectin the younger and thus perhaps newest audiences, keeping brands as relevant as possible. It also serves to make the influencers themselves feel more legitimate; on his TV show Dallas states: "They're shedding a light on social media and what the power is; two years ago they wanted nothing to do with us, but now we're literally the biggest part of their show".

Yet perhaps the most interesting and eyebrow-raising aspect is suggesting that the chosen millennials were #realpeople on the catwalk. Yes, in post-truth, over Photoshopped times we're craving authenticity, people, brands and a lifestyle that seem real. Seeing a person everyday on your social media feed makes you feel like you know them and what they're really like. However, if reality shows, filtered Instagram shots and deleted tweets have taught us anything, it's that there's not a lot of realness online, and how can there be with all the tools easily available to edit ourselves? Sure, in the constant debate over unattainable size zero figures; the "real" Youtuber is a get-out-of-jail-free card. They're beautiful and often wealthy, but because they started at home behind a camera they're just like you and me. But if anything it only reinstates that as an audience we're told we want something real, but not too real.

Lynsey Rose Kay



### After 25 years, *Vogue* editor-in-chief Alexandra Shulman steps down. Tessa Jones looks back on her career highlights...

After 25 years and a day on her throne, the Queen of *Vogue* magazine, Alexandra Shulman, announced her resignation on 25th January 2017. She is the longest serving editor-in-chief, and has massively shaped and had an impact on the fashion industry during her time at *Vogue*. Shulman started her journalistic career at *The Tatler* in 1982, and within eight years had moved on to GQ where she increased their sales by 30%. Her true calling though, was realised in 1992 where she got the much desired position at *Vogue*. This, however, was not without the scrutiny of the public, as it was questioned whether she had the experience or the 'look' to be editor of the Holy Grail of fashion, with *The New York Times* stating that 'she could be better acquainted with a hairbrush'. Of course, this negativity was all in vain as Shulman excelled in her role, with *Vogue*'s circulation increasing by 12% under her editorship, according to *The Guardian*. Despite this, she saw herself as a 'journalist' and not a 'fashion editor', coming into *Vogue* with limited knowledge of fashion yet displaying an ability to thrive in whatever she set her mind to.

Her growing platform in fashion was not wasted; using it for prevalent issues in the sector, particularly in regard to eating disorders and the size of models. After noting that anorexia was a 'huge problem', Shulman debated the concern of sample sizes sent in by designers, which she described as 'miniscule'. The models needed to have 'jutting bones' in order to fit such clothes, and thus *Vogue* were limited on what models could be used for their covers, those of which were often unhealthily slim. In 2009, she wrote an open letter to designers to appeal for bigger sizes; using her status to move the industry in a new, much desired, direction. Furthermore, under the lead of Shulman, *Vogue* refused to feature articles on the topics of dieting and cosmetic surgery, not wanting to be culpable of promoting such matters to society. Shulman's final cover, the January 2017 issue, featured plus–size model, Ashley Graham. With this being her final ever cover, this could insinuate Shulman's hopes for the path that Vogue should continue to take in the legacy that she has left. In 2004, she was awarded an OBE for her contributions and devotions to the fashion industry, and was named one of the 100 most powerful women in the UK by Woman's Hour on BBC Radio 4 in February 2013.

Tessa Iones



#### Alexandra Shulman's twenty-fiveyear reign has comprised of some of the most iconic British Vogue covers to date:



March 1993: Kate Moss' first ever Vogue cover, aged only 19. Since then she has appeared on the cover of British Vogue alone over 35 times!



October 1997: In memorial of Princess Diana – a suitable tribute to an icon who followed the Vogue fashions.



December 2000: The Gold Issue, one of the most iconic covers with the silhouette of, who else, Kate Moss.



June 2016: A very British edition with the naturally beautiful Kate Middleton.



January 2017: Shulman's final issue using plussize model Ashley Graham.

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#### With many heralding this as Natalie Portman's finest performance to date, *In The Middle* takes a look at the much-hyped Oscar-contender. *Jackie...*

Jackie is no ordinary biopic. It shares very little with stories like The Imitation Game, The Theory of Everything, or Lincoln. This film achieves what many of those do not; it paints a textured portrait of a real life character without constantly slipping into caricature. The filmmaker's next film, Naruda, is also a biopic and once more it looks daring, inventive, and unique.

Jackie follows the story of Jacqueline Kennedy in the days after her husband's death – how she copes with his death, how she seeks to honour him, how she comes out of her shell, and the performance she'd learnt to adopt as the first lady. The film is very well directed; it looks like it was shot on the same degraded 35mm stock as the very fine Carol. However it's actually shot in 1.66:1; like putting a needle drop sound effect on a CD, it creates a vintage feel. It also means that the spliced in old footage, with Natalie Portman digitally inserted, looks really organic. Although the supporting performances from John Hurt and Peter Sarsgaard are fine – maybe the best being from Billy Crudup – they are only supporting performances. This is really the Natalie Portman show and she carries off the character of Jackie Kennedy with some gusto. She has that imposing quality of Daniel Day Lewis in There Will Be Blood but much more nuanced and sympathetic.

If I had one complaint, it would be that every now and then, due to the screenplay bouncing around time and space like Billy Pilgrim in Slaughterhouse-Five, the film feels detached, and drags in places. However, this doesn't stop Jackie being a touching, well made biopic and Portman's best performance since Black Swan. If she doesn't win the Oscar, I'll be very surprised.

Rating:

James Selway



# Is Shyamalan's latest thriller a return to form, or yet another lacklustre flop for the king of plot-twists? In The Middle reviews Split to see how it measures up...

At first I was extremely wary of this film. Anything which negatively dramatises the effects of mental illnesses or disorders is something I find uncomfortable to approach. Fortunately, Shyamalan's portrayal of Dissociative Identity Disorder is initially empathetic enough to dodge the typical label of stigmaticignorance. The overtly exaggerated elements he attaches to the disorder alleviates any confusion as to whether or not this is a thriller or an informative guide on the real day-to-day effects of the disorder. Surprisingly, I found myself extremely enjoying the film.

While the usual teeth-gritting suspense motifs

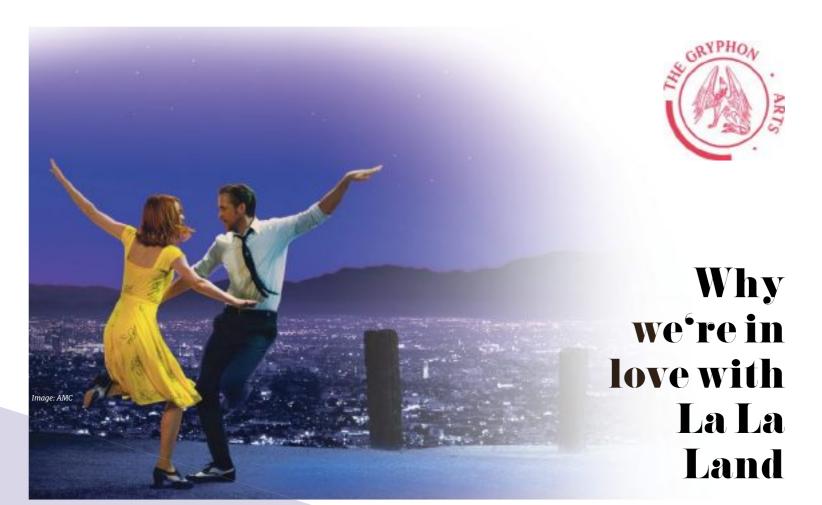
of the classic thriller genre make themselves known, it is Shyamalan's careful and persuasive amalgamation of psychological themes with the superficial portrayal of reality that truly makes this piece as successful as it is intriguing.

Flickering between personalities like the on-off of a sporadic lightbulb, James McAvoy's enthralling performance is a far cry from that of the loveable Narnian half-breed we tend to associate him with. Meanwhile, Gioulakis' dark and bewitching cinematography has as much of a captivating hold on us as Dennis wields over his female prisoners.

Although this grip is loosened slightly by the introduction of the jarring supernatural themes towards the final ten minutes, it would be unfair to suggest that this film is not an invigoratingly unique horror wherein the majority of its terror lies in Shyamalan's unsettled portrayal of reality. Without a doubt, *Split* is definitely one to watch over, and over, and over again.

Rating:

**Emily Moscrop** 



#### As controversy abounds surrounding La La Land's record-breaking 14 Oscar nominations, In The Middle discusses whether the film really is worth the hype...

"In reality America

wasn't great then and

nor is it now, but the

point is that we can

pretend on film"

This year's Oscar nominations are in and it's official - everyone is gaga for La La Land. Hollywood has a habit of naval-gazing, which means the film's story of a struggling actress and multiple classic Hollywood references boosts its chances of netting best picture. You might wonder if perhaps it would be better deserved by something more hard-hitting, like Hidden Figures, Moonlight or Manchester by The Sea, and perhaps you'd be justified. But allow me to fight La La Land's corner first.

We're so used to seeing movies which have something serious to say about society, every frame drained of colour like a low saturation Instagram filter,

colours, a nod to the technicolour classics it riffs on, but also provides a bright splash of colour amongst the drudgery of 'everyday life'. Even when the film dips into painful realism, the cinematography adds an enjoyable glamour to the screen, keeping up the haze of romance.

As with the colour palette, La La Land wears its influences on its sleeve. If you're into your films, you might catch 1964's French musical Umbrellas of Cherbourg in the bright spots of colour, the change of season calling cards, and in

the bittersweet ending. There are almost frame to frame match-ups to Singin' In The Rain and An American In Paris - watch out especially in the epilogue - as well as straight up references to the classic romance Casablanca and screwballcomedy Bringing Up Baby. Hollywood's fascination with film noir gets a look-in with 1946's The Killers (catch the poster in Mia's apartment) and watching over Mia's bed is a huge poster of It Girl and three time Oscar winner Ingrid Bergman.

All the classic movies alluded to were either made in the inter-war years, or in the years after WW2. The real world then certainly wasn't picture-perfect, but the explosion of Hollywood and the many stars it created provided escapism. Screw-ball comedies and musicals to make you laugh; grand stories about the endurance 'of love; thrillers about spies, and jewellery thieves. All were designed to boost public morale in these years of hardship and uncertainty. It's no surprise then, considering our current political climate, that Chazelle is dragging the classic Hollywood musical romance back to the twenty-first century. It's hard not to think now is about the

time we could all do with a little escapism. Chazelle seems to have taken Trump's rallying cry 'Make America Great Again' to heart, but instead of sending us back fifty years in terms of civil rights, Chazelle's dropped us off at a period in history where the glitz and glamour and just plain fun of Hollywood were the greatest thing America had to offer. In reality America wasn't great then and nor is it now, but the point is that we can pretend on film, perhaps the only outlet left for us to do so.

But Chazelle isn't trying to put stars in our eyes entirely. He gives us Gosling and Stone and makes them mimic Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, but their in an attempt to mimic real life. La La Land revels in bright block primary movements are a little stiff and too simple. Chazelle is quoted as saying Gosling

> and Stone are perhaps our nearest thing to the old power couple, but they're a purposefully poor imitation of it. Seb and Mia aren't yet stars, and this is all reflected in the wistful mumbling song numbers and the rough dance steps. The sweeping romance is still there too, but it's a little sour. The film's resolution is quiet, rather than the final heady whirl of the old classics.

> Mia and Seb's dreams are achieved through sacrifice and hardwork, and yet they still don't quite live up to expectation

- but such is life. La La Land touches on so many of these important lessons - art vs commerciality, hope in the face of failure, and what success really looks like. In both Mia's acting and Seb's music we learn art needs passion and ambition. Mia and Seb can't coast along in their nostalgia forever, and nor does the film.

That's not to say the film isn't without faults. To have Seb, a white man, portrayed as jazz's apparent last foot-soldier, can make you wince if you think too hard about it. But the film doesn't entirely condemn John Legend's Keith either, who's willing to do what Seb isn't and bring jazz to a wider audience. I've heard that people were disappointed in the ending too, and maybe they've got a point - surely artistic success and lasting relationships aren't completely incompatible? But if we take the high rates of celebrity divorce into account, maybe there's hope for Mia and Seb. La La Land 2 anyone? I'm in.

**Heather Nash** 

# The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

# As the landmark production prepares to embark on its farewell tour, Jessica Newgas looks back on a wonderfully unique piece of theatre.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in The Night-Time was one of the first plays that opened my eyes to theatre and has left me wide-eyed and wanting more ever since. The exciting news is that this electric piece of storytelling will grace the stage of Leeds' Grand Theatre, and if you love to be inspired and moved, or want to see something vibrant and true, then this is not one to let slip through your fingers.

The National Theatre has been lighting up stages with this spectacle since 2012, and it deserves the awards and sell-outs that it consistently receives. Of course there is the core of the play, Mark Haddon's book of the same name that has been seamlessly adapted by Simon Stephens.

The story follows Christopher Boone, a boy whose Asperger syndrome makes the world an even more confusing place than it is for most. One of the play's greatest achievements is its honest and totally believable representation of Christopher. Through listening to monologues where he explains the workings of his extraordinary brain and watching intently as he engages with the world around him, we are able to begin to understand Christopher. Despite seeing things differently, Christopher is not presented like a maths problem that's impossible to solve, but as a young person just trying to make sense of things and find his way, something we can all relate to.



"A demonstration of what theatre can achieve when light, sound and mechanical contortions of the stage work together"

Through the medium of theatre, the world through Christopher's eyes is brought to life; and what a view it is. The technical range of theatre is flaunted; we are plunged straight into the centre of Christopher's life as he leads us, not only on a journey through his own wonderings, but also on another journey that he never expected. With each scene more visually spectacular than the next, director Marianne Elliott builds a world that appears just as overwhelming to us as it is to Christopher. A demonstration of what theatre can achieve when light, sound and mechanical contortions of the stage work together, *A Curious Incident* is a thrilling sensory experience.

But it is not just the technical brilliance of this show or the absorbing storytelling that sets this play out from the crowd; it is the subject matter that is so expertly tackles. Theatre forces us to look at what is put in front of us and to engage. Haddon hands us a tool to allow us to see into the life and mind of somebody like Christopher and Elliott sits us down in the dark and shows us a character and a life that will leave us enthralled by a journey that most people complete everyday. This is the beauty of theatre, the empathy it has the potential to provoke and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* is a visual masterpiece and an insightful presentation of what it's like to move through our fast–paced world for someone like Christopher. But, most importantly, Christopher is not pitied but applauded. He is not lacking, but brilliant.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time will be showing at Leeds Grand Theatre from 28th February to 4th March.

Jessica Newgas



# Stewart Mason: Education, Collection, Exhibition

Catherine Doucette discusses the artist who revolutionised Arts education in the UK...

The seminar at the Henry Moore Institute, Stewart Mason: Education, Collection, Exhibition, featured three scholarly speakers who discussed the educational and artistic significance of Stewart Mason, an advocate for arts education and key figure in the City Sculpture Project. Dr Peter Cunningham (Cambridge University) focused his presentation on Mason's contribution to education, Professor Alison Yarrington (Loughborough University) presented on the importance of Mason's collection and his role as a collector, while Dr Jeremy Howard concluded the seminar with a discussion regarding the exhibitions of Mason's collection.

The featured presentation was rooted in the belief that Stewart Mason created a retrospective golden age for art education. With the development of the new curriculum in the UK in the late 1900s, the encouraged appreciation of the arts was underscored in the reforming education of this period. Mason promoted the philosophy of education as the way teacher's work with children, rather than what teachers teach children in the classroom. This new philosophy of education influenced schools, particularly those in Leicestershire, to focus on creativity and activity across the school curriculum in order for a child to

create and grow individually. The exhibition of Mason's profound collection of contemporary works in schools thus acted as a bond between academic subjects and visual creativity – an integral part of the general education which emphasizes the significance of creativity and art in the classroom.

The conversation of these three scholars regarding Stewart Mason is a microcosm of the larger role of art education in the present day. Museums are focusing their exhibitions and galleries to suit the interests and edification of their audience. Through interpretive activities such as lectures, guided tours, and family activities, museums provide an engaging means of educating an audience about the art of both past and modern cultures. Furthermore, to expose school children to works of art, museums are referencing Mason's philosophy by designing tours and education activities for school groups to learn about the museum's collection. The growing emphasis on the relationship between art and education is becoming an integral part of the education and general experience of children in today's modern culture.

**Catherine Doucette** 

# Review: Dare Devil Rides to Jarama

Racing into The Carriageworks, Communism meets motorbikes in Neil Gore's latest play...

Resuming their tour, Townsend Productions' latest offering, Dare Devil Rides to Jarama, took to The Carriageworks stage in front of a compact yet committed audience. Townsend are a company committed to taking innovative, engaging theatre to diverse and often distant audiences, shouting their political message with real artistic clarity. This reputation is in evidence tonight, as the audience clap, sing and literally rattle along to a play whose message is clear: stand up for what you believe in, just like the company who are making this show.

Despite the title's allusion to one of the Spanish Civil War's bloodiest battle grounds, *Dare Devil Rides to Jarama* is a play with a British heart; and a Northern heart at that. Our protagonist is Clem Beckett (David Heywood), a real-life character whose story has like many with anti-establishment politics – been left out of the history books. Born in Oldham but adopted by Sheffield, Beckett made his name on the motorcycle tracks of Britain as one of the most fearless and skilful riders on the circuit. His main



# The Stage is Set! New Coffee Bar Opens

Charlie Green talked to brothers Matthew and Martyn Jakeman, the proprietors of the speciality coffee bar Stage Espresso & Brewbar which recently opened on Great George Street.

#### Where did the idea for the venture come from? How long has it been in the works?

Basically, we've both always enjoyed coffee; we've always been quite passionate about it. About three years ago, we did our barista training just out of interest and it just grew from there. It started off as more of a drunken idea; we were sat having a few pints and thought it'd be a good idea to open a coffee shop. I (Martyn) moved up to Leeds about two years ago, and since then we've been able to push forward with it all.

#### What made you decide to open the coffee bar in Leeds?

It has a really nice independent scene; everyone likes to buy locally-produced goods and get out the way of the chains. I (Matthew) spent my time at uni here and I loved the city, so I've been here five years now, and over that time, Leeds has just gotten better and better; it has more bars, more restaurants and it's really starting to see much more of a quality-driven market.

#### Could you tell us a bit more about the coffee bar and the kind of produce you're selling?

Our main focus is speciality coffee. We're having our coffee supplied by a company called Union Hand-Roasted; they're based down near London and they're one of the pioneers in speciality coffee in this country. They've been around for 15 years I think, and they have a really good relationship with farmers all over the world and help them improve what they're doing. For us, their company philosophy fits in with what we're about. The main focus is the coffee but we'll be doing small

food bits for breakfast and for lunch. What we want to do further down the line is eventually hosting a bit of live music and some film nights to make it more of a social venue instead of just a coffee shop. We're also looking at other roasters as well and thinking of doing cupping events. So people could come down, pay a small price for a ticket and try a range of different coffees to really show what difference there is in coffee. I think more and more now people are realising that it can be more of a speciality, much like wine is, and much like the Craft Beer revolution that's happened.

#### It's great to see independent ventures opening in Leeds, but are you worried about certain chains like Starbucks and Costa?

I think with Starbucks and Costa, it's much more of a brand. We're much more quality focussed. The stuff we're serving will be better-prepared; it's more of a handcrafted drink. Particularly in the area that we've set up in, there are none of the big-brand coffee shops around here; they're all down in the city. There are a few independent coffee shops opened around here now, and it's great to see the streets of Leeds developing a lot more of an independent scene to it.

#### What would you say sets your coffee shop apart from the others?

We're mainly focussing on single-origin coffees, so instead of buying a blend, every coffee we serve will be from one farm and one producer, which gives so much variation in taste and potential. The plan is to have guest espressos and brews, so we'll have two or three different coffees on at one time, and have different methods of making it to show what difference it can have.





# Countryside Trips to Cure Your City Claustrophobia...

With exams finally out of the way and the end of January in sight, now is the perfect time to get a much needed change of scenery before Laidlaw pulls you back into its clutches. As much as you may or may not be enjoying your self-pity party, you'll feel much more prepared to face semester two once you've burst your Leeds bubble with a little day trip to one of these destinations:

#### Ilkley

A classic to start the list, Ilkley is a much loved destination by many Leeds students. Nestled at the foot of the Yorkshire moors, Ilkley moor is just a 15 minute walk away from the station and boasts beautiful views on a clear day. The best views are arguably from the Cow and Calf rocks, which are part of the most popular walking routes and overlook a pub of the same name. Make sure you're appropriately dressed as the moors are very exposed but don't let this put you off. A coating of snow makes the moors look even more stunning and the fact that you've had to work for your well-earned pint in the Cow and Calf will make it taste even better.

Ilkley town centre has plenty to offer those who are not sold on the idea of a soul cleansing

country ramble. Its residents tend not to be too short of disposable income, meaning that the numerous charity shops are stocked with quality clothes. And of course, no visit to Ilkley is complete without afternoon tea at Betty's Tearooms.

Bring your railcard and an anytime return from Leeds will only cost you £5.60 and take barely half an hour. Alternatively, hop on the X84 bus which also goes through Otley- our second destination on the list.

#### Otley Chevin

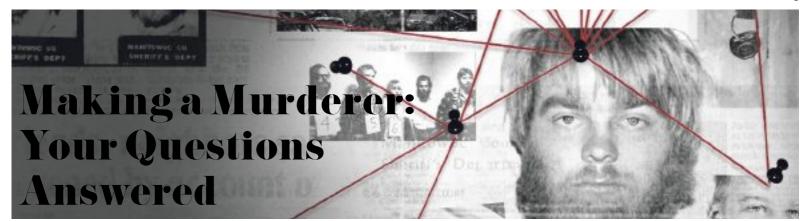
A slightly closer destination than Ilkley, Otley is a market town that is accessible by a 45 minute bus ride (take the X84). The Otley Chevin is on the route for most walks here and again, offers great views. The town itself hosts regular farmers markets with upcoming ones on 26th February and 26th March.



#### Marsden

For those who feel they have exhausted the usual walking destinations (admittedly a somewhat unlikely scenario) and especially those with access to a car, Marsden is a relatively small town which lies just past Huddersfield and is a favourite spot for walkers. The open moors offer a mixture of well-kept and boggier paths, as well as your chance to finally realize your Kate Bush dreams- you can practically hear the song Wuthering Heights reverberating above the hills. Make sure you either have a very good sense of direction or have some kind of navigational device with you (even Google Maps will do just to get your bearings in relation to the town) as it can get foggy pretty quickly.

**Mailies Fleming** 



# It was the Netflix season which had everyone gripped, and last week Making a Murderer attorneys were in Leeds to answer your burning questions...

Even if you didn't avidly follow every episode of Moira Demos and Laura Ricciardi's series *Making a Murderer* like I did, it's impossible to not be familiar with the case of Stephen Avery.

In style with the nature of the documentary the evening hosted at Leeds Town Hall last Thursday allowed members of the public to ask their own questions to Stephen Avery's defence attorneys Dean Strang and Jerry Buting. For many people the following of the case became somewhat of an obsession and I remember well the feelings of excitement, anticipation and trepidation experienced before and after every new development. Being able to sit in a room with two of the men so essential to the case was a unique and stimulating experience, and helped to satisfy some of my desire to address all my unanswered questions. The line of questioning was broadly split into two main categories; questions regarding specific details of the case and questions regarding its wider nature and impact. There was a real sense of being given insider knowledge and although admittedly I became a little lost on some of the forensic technicalities it was fascinating to hear the inner details of the case being discussed by experts.

The unique nature of *Making a Murderer* meant that it caused a certain amount of controversy specifically regarding the portrayal of the case, with critics arguing that it was intrinsically biased. Strang and Buting spent some time discussing this and argued convincingly that the facts from both sides of the case were presented, but the lack of cooperation from the prosecution meant it was only possible to build 3D personalities of the defence team and Avery family. For this reason, the personal attachment many viewers experienced was directed in favour of Avery and his family.

This brings to the forefront another key point of discussion; whether the line between the public and the private has become too blurred and as a result whether those involved in the case were exploited. This question was discussed with the sensitivity it warranted and really got to the heart of what Strang and Buting were trying to convey. Whilst completely acknowledging the tragedy of the case, its

documentation has highlighted the shocking failures of the criminal justice system and has allowed there to be a world-wide discussion on these issues. To quote Avery; "the poor never get justice", and it is from the following of this one case that claims such as these are being given a platform for discussion and the possibility of change is being realised.

I went to this talk expecting to satisfy some of my own curiosities regarding Stephen Avery's case and by the end of the evening I had a much deeper understanding of the many issues attached to the criminal justice system. Despite the macabre subject matter of the evening I left feeling positive and encouraged by the fact that people are not willing to simply accept injustices when they are encountered. The passion of Strang and Buting was evident and their concluding thoughts resonated with me, we have the justice we demand or tolerate and therefore everyone is responsible for upholding it.

# 99 problems but a sit(uation comedy) ain't one...

#### No. 10 - Ballot Monkeys (2015)

Following Labour, Conservative, Lib Dems and UKIP as they campaign for success in the general election on their respective buses, this *The Thick of It*-esque series offers a refreshing response to the current political landscape. Episodes were broadcast within hours of writing and production to ensure the most up to date topical references. The series was also followed by the equally hilarious *Power Monkeys* which depicts the events leading up to the EU referendum.



#### No. 5 - Phoenix Nights (2001)

overlooked...

Depicting a Bolton-based working men's club owned by Brian Potter (Peter Kay), we see the trials and tribulations of the dodgy dealer attempting to make Phoenix Nights the best drinking establishment in Greater Manchester. Gritty and intricately sardonic, this comedy reflects the importance of surreal realism alongside the turn of the century.

There have been countless lists ranking the

UK's creme de la creme of the sitcom world. But after The Radio Times ranked Mrs Brown's

Boys as the 'Best Sitcom of the 21st Century', Ellie Montgomery felt that justice must be

served to those comedy classics which often get



#### No. 9 - Wild West (2002)

Dawn French and Catherine Tate play lesbian lovers, need I say more? This quirky sitcom depicts community life in a small seaside town in the West Country. The black comedy exposes the important and intimate relationships which exist amongst those who reject city living, often exploring the insecurities and selfishness which accompanies human nature. Heart-warming and ultimately impossible not to enjoy, this show deserves more recognition.



#### No. 4 - Getting On (2009)

Written and starring Jo Brand, Joanna Scanlan and Vicki Pepperdine, this dark and often difficult to watch comedy addresses issues faced by both the NHS and the elderly. Set on a geriatric ward in a busy London hospital, the cast explores the difficult relationships that exist between patients, nurses and doctors which are often tarnished by systems of social class and unjust stereotyping.



#### No. 8 - Twenty Twelve (2011)

A mockumentary following the struggles of the Olympic planning committee as they attempt to make the ever drawing nearer event at least a partial success. The series offers a painfully accurate insight into the ridiculousness of corporate organisation through an eclectic mix of disgustingly incompetent characters. The hilarious contrast of Jessica Hynes' farcical performance as Head of Brand, Siobhan Sharpe, and David Tennant's sardonic narration is just one of the many highlights of this programme.



#### No. 3 - The Mighty Boosh (2003)

This weirdly wonderful world is full of psychedeic colours, an atmosphere in which modernity collides with fairy-tale. Although this programme has definitely reached cult status, there are few sitcom countdowns which would bother with granting it the acknowledgment it is entitled to.



#### No. 7 - The League of Gentlemen (1999)

Before Mark Gatiss' dizzying heights as the cocreator of *Sherlock*, he co-wrote and co-starred in this disturbing yet hilarious black comedy alongside Steve Pemberton, Reece Shearsmith and Jeremy Dyson. Set in the terrifying town of 'Royson Vasey' in which Roy 'Chubby' Brown is inexplicably mayor, this series invokes delight and horror in equal measure.



#### No. 2 - Black Books (2000)

Focusing on the hedonistic lifestyles of three people taking refuge in an independent bookshop in order to avoid civilised society, Dylan Moran satirises the desire to remain averse to modern living. In this universe, the bleak misanthropy of Bernard Black (Dylan Moran) is accompanied by outstanding performances from Bill Bailey and Tamsin Greig, making this a vital comedy which deserves appreciation.



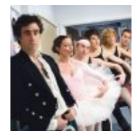
#### No. 6 – Knowing Me, Knowing You with Alan Partridge (1994)

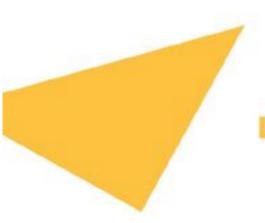
The prequel to *I'm Alan Partridge*, features an Alan before his chat show was axed yet he's just as offensive and oblivious as ever. Rebecca Front's reoccurring appearances as various guests is both faultless and extremely funny. The intentionally shoddy aesthetics alongside Steve Coogan's calculated inadequacy as Alan illustrates the witty perfection of this show. As it is often overlooked in favour of the subsequent production of *I'm Alan Partridge*, it is a vital, and in my opinion superior, addition to the list of comedy greats.



#### No. 1 - Green Wing (2004)

This surrealist hospital sitcom is one of the most perfectly executed comedies to emerge within the 21st century. An absolutely stellar cast including Mark Heap, Michelle Gomez, Stephen Mangan, Olivia Colman and Pippa Haywood (to name just a few!) propels this unique and innovative series to the number one spot on this list. Intertwining the realities of hospital life with the totally bizarre, audiences can see a woman giving birth to a lion, as well as an anaesthetist taking an ambulance for a joy ride.





SHAWA.

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# What I Learned from my First Break-up

We've all been there; those first few days of a break up where all you want to do is eat ice cream and cry while listening to Adele. This week we've got some anonymous advice on how to deal with those first post-bae days..

Your social media image is the least important thing in the world: I adored posting photos of me and my boyfriend on Instagram, Facebook, and just about anywhere else it was possible to do so. I liked showing the world how happy we were. Now, I see couples doing the same and it cuts me inside, knowing I can't post those photos anymore. But who the hell cares about photos I share? My followers don't get to share the memories behind the photo, and they would never understand the true feelings in our relationship, and why should they? Some things are best kept private.

Your first heartbreak is your worst: I say this, but as it says in the title, this is my first heartbreak. What I mean is, I'm praying your first heartbreak is the worst (people have been telling me it is!), because there is no way in hell I could go through this again.

Communication is the most important thing in the world: Communication with my ex is now even more special and important than ever, as I need to know he's ok. Communication with my friends is vital. It was hard talking to them about it at first because it was like admitting it was true. But unless I tell them I'm not okay, they won't know.

Maybe losing weight isn't all it cracked up to be: I admit it, one of my first thoughts after the immediate break up was, 'Oh well maybe I'll lose weight as I feel too sick to eat!' I did. For five days I didn't eat breakfast or lunch, and if you know me, you'll know just how special breakfast is to me. Chocolate is a huge part of my life, but I couldn't even get that past my lips. The feeling that I was going to throw up almost 24/7 was absolute hell. I became weak and even more tired than usual. I'm thankful I managed to pull myself out of that stage before I got worse.

Family is number one, always: Of course, I always knew this, but this experience has reaffirmed it. My mum has been my rock and my only constant. My little brothers gave me a cuddle in bed and made me laugh. My dad took me on a hike to get the fresh air I needed. Family are there when everything fails, and I'll never let anything or anyone come before them again.

You cannot drink your troubles away: Believe me I've tried. Each drop makes each problem worse. Each drop makes your head heavier, your heart more broken. You start to remember every little thing that has happened, things that you can block out when you're sober.

**Nothing lasts forever:** I'm not saying I'd planned our future... apart from the names of our three children (I kid, I kid). But you never think something so precious and perfect is going to end.

I am a hell of a lot stronger than I thought I was: In the past, considering a breakup was like looking into a black hole of nothingness. Now? I see myself growing stronger, keeping busy with writing and the gym, and generally growing as an independent person. I am no longer defined by some guy.

It's okay not to be okay: If I'm honest with myself, I don't think I've allowed myself enough time to cry yet. I've dragged myself out to Wetherspoons and even been clothes shopping. But come on, it's perfectly natural that all you want to do is lie in bed with ice cream! The distractions are starting to work better as time passes – it's only been a week! I'm not going to judge myself for not getting out of bed all day or for going to uni in joggers and a pyjama top.

## The Australian Invasion

With new exchange students arriving in Leeds for the semester, Edmund gives us a satrical insight into what life would be like in Britain if we were taken over by Australians...



Another semester, another wave of Australian exchange students. This time though, things might be different. As Britain tries to negotiate trade deals outside of Europe, including with Australia, it is starting to realise that it isn't holding many cards. Basically, Australia is angling for relaxed immigration from Australia to Britain. I thought it high time for a good old fashioned immigration scare campaign. Many of you may not be aware, but there used to a far greater number of Australians frittering about England than there

are now. Circa early 2000's, and Shephard's Bush was not the gentrified London suburb it is now, it was a hub for Australians who wanted an easy base for staggering around Europe. The situation was so severe, that for many years, Australia's football team would hold its home friendly matches in Fulham. Go watch the footage from the wonderful England 1–3 Australia in 2003. The stands are packed with marauding Australians, and mind you this was before football was very popular in Australia.

Now I'm not saying it will be like this again, I'm saying it will much worse. Australian shopping conglomerate Westfield has already sunk its claws in. Soon your shopping space will be tiled over with samey white panels, the rents will be spiked and all those quirky English shops with very tight profit margins will be closed as we rob the wealth from your country. Cumberland sausages will be no more. The warehouse group Bunnings is soon to open in England, and with it will come a new age of Aussie snags. If the temperature climbs to the mid 30's your first thought will be to go outside and cook red meat on the barbeque.

People who drink of the false beer Fosters (brewed in Manchester) will be cast off in prison ships. Carling will be drained in the streets; you will drink VB and Carlton. Marmite will be replaced by Vegemite, your array of charming biscuits will be supplanted by a bunch of samey sugar filled monstrosities. Think your railways are bad? Think again, they're just not Aussie enough. We're going to dig them up and change the size of the gauges from county to county; you'll have to stop at the border just to go from Yorkshire to Lancashire. You will call 'flip-flops' thongs and you will forget all popular music. You will listen to AC/DC, INXS, Guy Sebastian and Shannon Noll.

We've all but annexed you out of Eurovision, now we'll take your place in the EU. The night is dark and full of Australians. You made one too many convict jokes England, and now we're coming for you.

**Edmund Goldrick** 

# 8 Reasons Why I Hate Listicles

Ever find yourself trapped in a never ending hole of clickbait articles? Don't worry - Bradley's here with one more to help you pass the time





With the tenacity and invasiveness of a tourist club rep, listicles can be found around every one of the internet's metaphorical corners. They promise you exciting yet digestible information. But just like that clubbing pack you bought on a beach in Magaluf only contained a wristband for three failing venues and a wifebeater inscribed "keep the beaches clean and the sex dirty," so too will you be disappointed by the tacky contents of listicle clickbait.

The thing I hate most about listicles is the fact that I can't help but read and write them. So, like a fresher waking up in their own vomit, the best way to express my disgust is, ironically, to produce exactly that I am disgusted with: more vomit. Accordingly, here is a listicle of the top 8 things I hate about listicles.

They're Addictive: You'll tell yourself you'll have just one listicle before you go to bed. But 40 articles later, you're rocking back and forth at 3am with bloodshot eyes trying to figure out "What possible illuminati member are you?"

**Slide shows:** The day I consent to slideshows is the day my degree inevitably takes me nowhere and I end up in a dingy office cubicle that I leave only to sleep, excrete and watch company PowerPoints on the importance of teamwork. That day is not today.

Nobody asked: Upon noticing a Buzzfeed article in my newsfeed, I can't help feeling that nobody asked which "26 face swaps will make you feel ridiculously uncomfortable" or wondered "Which Ousted Arab Spring Ruler Are You?" or even needs to know "How obsessed with poo are you?" And that's another thing...

**Hyperbole:** Obsessed, ridiculous, awesome, hilarious, the best, the greatest. If these are words you happily apply to lists of actors with firm jaw lines or images of cats stuck in bread, then I dread to think what your reaction might be to the Multiverse Theory or the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

**Side-bar Ads:** You know what, I think Betty from Rumford seems like an alright lass. And for a sixty-year-old to keep her skin in such great condition is only testament to the determination and care for detail she has employed all her long life. Yet it is for this very characteristic that numerous practicing

medics hate her. For she has developed, between knitting and feeding pigeons, a cosmetic super-pill that surpasses all the current scientific boundaries of skin care. I am appalled that the government has not drawn more attention to the selfish bias within the medical community; leaving only flashing, disjointed, sidebar adverts to spread the word that Betty intends to share her scientific breakthrough for only your security code.

**Pop ups:** If I wanted to watch porn, I'd be watching porn.

Ridiculously long lists: This is the correct use of hyperbole. The idea that I have the time to comprehend 28 of "The Most WTF, LOL And OMG Viral Videos Of 2015" is ridiculous. Yet, like any addict, soon you have spent all your time and resources trying to find out what the most WTF, LOL, and OMG videos were. Before you know it, you're failing to meet your rent and within three weeks you're pouring through bins trying to find two AA batteries for your portable phone charger in a desperate attempt to discover what "The 19 Best Autocorrect Fails" were.

**In-text adverts:** A site hosting an ad that intrudes into the very text of an article is like when a friend has a friend you don't like. The one who turns up late to the pub and interjects with suggestions like "let's go get some birds." Assuming they are not a budding ornithologist, all you can do is carry on regardless and hope they go away.

**Bradley Young** 

## Mind Yourself: Songs to Cure the New Year Blues

With the new term starting, you might be worried about the challenges ahead. Martha's here to remind you of all the services on offer at LUU to support you



A new term is starting at Leeds University. This means the start of new modules, perhaps joining new societies and meeting new people. It can however mean facing new, or existing, challenges.

Last week we held Mind Yourself: The Health and Wellbeing Festival at LUU which was a whole day dedicated to improving student wellbeing and allowing our student population to take time to keep their mental health ticking over this term. The day aimed to introduce students to new services, opportunities and activities which could help positively impact their health and wellbeing. For our students that attended

this could have been discovering Gentleman's Yoga or how to utilise The Power of Thought. Or it could have been for them to socialise on the Go Out Get Active walk to the Meanwood Valley Trail. Alternatively it could have been discovering a voluntary opportunity with Hyde Park Source, or how to cook cheap and healthy meals with Honest Edibles. It was about stressing the importance of taking time for yourself to discover what works best to help you boost your health and wellbeing.

At LUU we want to give every student the chance to find something which works for them and allows you to mind yourself. Your health and wellbeing is a priority for us and yourself. Let us help you find your feel good song, activity, service or volunteering opportunity this term and help keep your mental health ticking over.

You can also contact the Student Advice Centre to learn more about the services, activities and opportunities available to you on campus, and further afield in Leeds.

Also check out www.luu.org.uk/ents/ for Advice and Support events in LUU.

Martha Clowes

As part of the Health and Wellbeing Festival we asked students what their 'feel good' song is. Focussing on a song which boosts your mood and motivations is just one of the small everyday ways you can help increase your personal wellbeing. So what is your feel good song? We made a playlist from the song suggestions we received and here is a snippet from our students 'feel good' playlist:

Run Away with Me by Carly Rae Jepson
"It makes me feel butterflies and gives me
bubble-gum eighties teenage vibes"
Ophelia by Lumineers
"Makes me happy and think positively for
exams"
Uptown Funk by Bruno Mars
"Because it reminds me of Fruity"
Shiny Happy People by R.E.M
"It is just happiness in sound form"
Every Teardrop is a Waterfall by Coldplay
"Quite melancholic but ultimately really
empowering and motivating"
Good Life by Kanye West
"It makes me feel excited for my day"
Lovely Day by Bill Withers

## **Firehouse Fitness**

Introducing Rob Mcguigan and Dennis Roebuck, who together founded Firehouse Fitness, Leeds – a successful fitness brand with state of the art gym facilities and some of the best range of fitness equipment. The pair are two serving firefighters, whose passion for fitness began by training their friends and family on their local rugby field with a pair of kettle bells, a piece of rope, and four barrels of water.

The pair have just opened their 2nd facility at Great George Street in Leeds, LS1 3BR. Prior to Firehouse, Rob and Dennis used to run a successful club in Sheffield, and although have left their clubbing days behind, they have moved the high energy elsewhere.

"Well we both shared an interest in fitness. In our spare time we worked on gaining qualifications in personal training, exercise referral, sports conditioning, nutrition and a degree in sport and exercise science. With these qualifications we looked towards building an exercise brand that shows who we are and what we believe in. So both sharing a passion for alternative training like HIIT training, TABATA, calisthenics, gymnastics and functional training we were able to include gym facilities that many users would recognise along with high intensity bootcamp style sessions. We are very much about getting people results. For us our facility is about bringing a community feel to the fitness environment and are completely inclusive of people of all fitness levels".

Firehouse Fitness has two large functional

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training areas, with performance turf, prowler sleds, tyres, and a pull up rig. There are also four designated Olympic lifting platform with racks which are better catered towards performance training. Once you include classes, free weights and resistance and cardio areas you have a facility which thrives by offering users a variety in their workouts.

On top off all this the club will be invite it's members to get involved in charity workout events so don't be surprised if you're roped into doing a 24 hour workout!

With all this going on the club can work with the seasoned fitness enthusiast to the first time exerciser. 1-1 personal trainer sessions work to individual needs, from those that want to fit into their wedding dress or sports conditioning to perform to your full potential. The team at Firehouse fitness are qualified fitness professionals with many operational firefighters, so expect sessions to be fun packed with a firefighter twist.

Fire House Fitness has just introduced a student membership offering flexible no contract memberships along with reduced monthly fees for students with valid IDs.

To find out more you can call Firehouse Fitness on 0113 457 3006, visit www. firehousefitness.co.uk or just pop in to the club and chat to a member of the team. If you want to find out more don't forget to quote the promo code STUDENTFHF, which secures student membership discounts.







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### Problems with the SWP

Eleanor Healing discusses Monday's march against Trump's Muslim Ban and explains the mixed emotions due to the SWP's organisation, in light of their allegations. (trigger warning: rape, sexual abuse)

**Eleanor Healing** 

On Monday evening, I among thousands of other Leeds residents, joined the protest against Trump's Muslim ban in the US. Before I attended however, I couldn't help but see a series of Facebook posts criticising one of the march's co-organisers: the Socialist Worker's Party (the SWP) and the offshoot organisation Stand Up To

The controversy relates to a series of incidents between 2010 and 2013, where a series of rape allegations were brought to light. Rather than getting the police involved, the matters were dealt with by an internal committee. A supposed Kangaroo Court was also set up, where a member was asked inappropriate questions about their sexual past in regard to rape allegations they had brought forward. Despite the march having other co-organisers who were not involved with a rape allegations scandal, I'm sure many of the Leeds citizens attending the march were not aware of this. This is a crying shame for wellmeaning activists who want to stand up for what they believe in: they may unwittingly be supporting a problematic group.

So can we separate an organisation from the crimes of its organisers? An art piece from the crimes of its artist? Personally, I feel very uncomfortable doing so. In the same way I can no longer watch Roman Polanski films, I am now uncomfortable about supporting the SWP and their sister organisations, despite considering myself a Socialist and taking a strong stance against racism.

This matter has a more personal meaning to me too, far beyond my moral compass and human decency. As a survivor of sexual assault abuse myself, I found the whole story about

Last week, the Union Exec rejected the SWP and their Stand Up To Racism sister organisation from campaigning on campus. Again, their reasoning was the poorly handled rape allegations and some further accusations of anti-Semitism in the organisation. I applaud the Exec for taking a strong stance against this. I also applaud the claimants for being so brave as to take on this organisation at the risk of becoming triggered and re-traumatised by their ordeal. When your abuser is in a position of power, it's so much harder to take them down, because your voice has less weight. Their voice will be believed above yours. Not all of us can face our abusers or even seek justice. I never could, and I never will.



This is a difficult issue. And although the Monday evening protest was for me, difficult to separate from the co-organiser, I marched on. I refused to take any associated leaflets or papers. I refused to take a placard or banner bearing the logo. I may get criticism for rejecting a banner decrying racism and insulting Trump when I'm at a march to do just that, but I had to distance myself from rape apology and refusal to handle these cases properly. Rape apology has long been triggering for me. In my first and second years of university, I can't count the number of times I heard problematic statements about rape and abuse, or questioning of how valid survivors' statements. This happened at pre-drinks and parties alike, and the statements came from friends and from strangers. I kept my mouth shut, not wanting to reveal my own trauma, but after each instance I'd hide away in my room in floods of tears. The SWP's poor handling of rape allegations, and the alleged questions posed to a survivor are no different. I know many survivors will also feel this way.

I've long been sceptical of some of SWP's actions. At the Leeds Black Lives Matter march

Black Lives Matter, a Muslim councillor for the area, a local teacher, LGBT+ activists...these were the people I was proud to march with

in the summer, a friend and I saw SWP members handing out their papers. When my friend and I told them that this march wasn't about them, it was about the safety of black people, a (white) member said rather aggressively "The black lives matter movement came from Socialism!" While these were only the words of one person, it must be infuriating for the tireless black activists and campaigners who founded the movement to hear this. Effectively, this is taking credit for black activism and the fight for BAME rights and

Ultimately, I marched on Monday because what Trump is doing is deplorable, and I had to make a stand. The SWP may have been a co-organiser of the march, but speaking and marching that day were members of the Leeds branch of Black Lives Matter, a Muslim councillor for the area, a local teacher, LGBT+ activists and more brilliant activists I ally myself with. These were the people I was proud to march with, not the SWP.

### Can we separate an organisation from the crimes of its organisers?

the Kangaroo Court deeply disturbing. The questions allegedly put to the claimant in the Kangaroo Court, and the brushing under the rug of the other allegations is horrifying. I feel failed as a survivor. Not only this, I feel failed as a Socialist. Socialism is meant to protect and represent those on the bottom rung, and as somebody who has spent years reclaiming my sanity, self-worth and even my ability to enjoy sex, I feel detached from the SWP if that's how they handle cases like this. As far as I'm aware, the SWP have never properly addressed this issue in a way which would put sexual assault survivors and activist's minds at rest. Perhaps with an apology and an immediate dismissal of the guilty, we could move on.

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### **#Slacktivism:** Are we protesting enough?

In world of increasing social injustice and political division, activism is needed more than ever. But is a Tweet or Facebook share enough? Meenakshi Parmar discusses...



#### Meenakshi Parmar

I think it's fair to define myself as a slacktivist. A classic armchair activist. I will sit at my computer and feel affirmation simply by reading a couple of *Guardian* articles. I have often shared photos on Facebook of a protest that I was too hungover to go to. Or have changed my profile picture to show that I'm down with gay rights.

But then I question what it is that I have actually done in terms of promoting or fighting for the causes that I so adamantly support. Recently I attended a Black Lives Matter talk with Bob Brown, the co-founder of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, the revolutionary American black power movement which challenged racism and white supremacy. To hear him speak of the Haitian revolution and the bravery of slaves liberating themselves from their owners, and the relevance that this may have to anti-racist protest today, was nothing short of inspirational.

To believe in something so strongly that you would risk imprisonment, or even putting your own life in jeopardy is something that I, for one, know that I will never come close to experiencing. Settling for something which can be considered as the more convenient option, I use social media as both the means of reading about important issues and the platform through which I both form and express an opinion about them. It could be argued that, particularly for tech-obsessed millennials, the internet is making us a second-hand generation, where picketing and sit-ins have become less attractive in an alluring world of bedrooms, laptops, and information available at the click of a finger.

With most students actively using social media, it comes as little surprise that when a controversial issue comes to the forefront of the world stage, it is through the medium of the internet that many engage with protest. Alongside many of the criticisms levelled against social media and how it comes to shape the lives of millions of impressionable users, slactivism within the popular vocabulary seems to represent something inherently negative. Embedded

in the term are connotations of laziness and ease; the Oxford Dictionary defines slactivism as 'actions performed via the internet in support of a political or social cause but regarded as requiring little time or involvement'.

However, why should people be blamed for taking a genuine interest in world affairs and seeking to change a part of the world that they don't like, whether that be virtually or in reality? The nature of protest is undoubtedly changing, but that shouldn't automatically be interpreted as a negative thing.

According to data from Ipsos Mori, there was only a 43% turnout amongst 18-24 year olds in the 2015 General Election. In numerous studies, it has been shown that younger people are those more likely to engage with social media; it appears that those who engage with social media the most are turning out at the ballot box the least. It's no secret that huge numbers of young people are disillusioned with mainstream politics and politicians. Perhaps it's alienation with the formal political world that has driven young people to throw themselves into online action. In this way, the internet can be seen as a 'safe place' where people believe that they can assert themselves and are less likely to be shot down.

With this interpretation in mind, online activism seems a far cry from the 'slacker' 'not doing enough' stereotypes surrounding it. At the Black Lives Matter talk that I mentioned earlier, when discussing how the movement can progress, the mention of 'bottom up' protest rang loudly around the room. If there is no evolution from the top, there must be revolution from the bottom; plain and simple. Could online activism be the most grassroots, bottom up method of protest there is in the Western world? The internet undoubtedly bring together the masses, people from all kinds of backgrounds and intersectionalities, implying a sense of equality and feeling of belonging that are often denied in many aspects of 'real life'. This was made during early 2011, in the Arab Spring. Thousands took to the streets in countries such as Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Syria. Although these political crises are far from being resolved, the impact of the powerless masses standing against their governmental regimes caught the world's attention. Yes, this was very much down to the bravery of men

and women shouting from the streets. However, through broadcasting these struggles to the rest of the world through Twitter [a means of admirable protest in its own right considering the censorship in some of these countries], the internet provided a dose of democratic spirit that helped garner widespread opposition to the injustices of their oppressive governments.

Conversely, some may point out the limitations of online protest and its capability to affect real change. In discussion with a group of students from the University of Leeds, one student comments: 'Online protest just enables people to be cowards behind their computer screen. The only way that I could imagine it affecting any real change would be if it was mixed with real life action'. Another student shared similar sentiments: 'I think that 'clicktivism' enables more people to be involved with protest than would be without the internet; in this sense it is morally successful, but practically unsuccessful in terms of how it is able to influence government legislation'.

It seems that the success of online activism is largely based upon what motivates the protestor in the first place. If your intentions lie with learning about injustices and spreading the word, then the internet is a brilliant place to start conversations and find out about events. One click, a signature on a petition, and a share of a hashtag can go a long way, particularly when in numbers [the internet is an instrumental force in the mobilisation of the masses]. Yet it seems that the critique of 'slactivism' is applicable when these clicks, signatures and shares amount to that and nothing else. The problem lies with people not following up on their actions, and online campaigns thus becoming fleeting and shortlived. In this case, it seems that what motivates the protestor is merely self-affirmation and a boost to moral esteem. To ensure that this doesn't become the case and that the internet is being used as a force for good, emphasis should be on the combined power of online activism and direct action. This would help to ensure that protest doesn't remain symbolic and on our computer screens.

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### Has Black Mirror come to China?

In world of increasing social injustice and political division, activism is needed more than ever. But is a Tweet or Facebook share enough? Meenakshi Parmar discusses...

**Mailies Fleming** 

Cast your minds back to the first episode of the new series of Charlie Brooker's dystopian Black Mirror. In 'Nosedive' the protagonist Lacie simpers her way through a perfectly manicured world of perfectly polite people. In this alternate reality, every action is judged and rated by those around her and her average rating is visible to everyone she comes into contact with. Lacie adopts a persona of false niceties in an attempt to improve her ratings but the pressure gets too much- her emotions break through her polished exterior and in no time at all, she finds herself slipping further and further down the five-point rating scale as her freedoms become increasingly restricted.

The thing about Charlie Brooker's imagined world is that, despite seeming extreme, it fits the blueprint of our contemporary world so snugly that it never feels completely inconceivable. 'Nosedive' could not be more relevant after recent reports about the Chinese government's decision to speed up plans for its new social credit system have caused ethical concerns to flare up.

In 2014, the Chinese government released reports about a social credit system that would combine data such as tax payments and adherence to traffic regulations in order to build a profile of trustworthiness for each of its citizens. It would require a kind of national database of each individual's ratings which would bureaucratize almost every aspect of public life; from social security to the labour force to internet usage. According to China Daily "The credit-worthy will be granted conveniences in

education, employment and opening start-ups, while severe wrongdoing will be made public". This system becomes compulsory in 2020

becomes compulsory in 2020.

The reaction of the global press has been understandably incredulous, largely due to the fact that this move by the government coincides with the piloting of eight social rating apps such as Sesame Credit (launched by Alibaba- China's answer to Amazon), which have been described as having "gamified obedience to the State". However, China does not currently have a financial credit rating system as rigorous as those in the West, so efforts to make credit ratings more transparent seem justifiable; especially considering the problems China faces with issues such as fraud and corruption throughout its industrial, healthcare and education systems.

Yet these pilot projects penetrate further than simply analyzing financial credit by combining data from all spheres of an individual's life. For example, an individual's internet activity may be assessed on the basis of whether the user is sharing content that is pro- or anti-state. The fact that the government has given these apps its stamp of approval, whilst the political rhetoric in its own reports maintains a typical sense of ambivalence about the consequences that a social credit system would have, has led many media sources to conflate the two ideas and come to the conclusion that China is embarking on a new form of social engineering. Given China's history of social control, this is a predictable accusation to make, though, admittedly, it is not that far from the truth. If plans go ahead as expected, the publicising of social scores means that people not only have a regulating effect on each other but also on themselves. What is often harder to accept is that these Orwellian forms

of social control already exist in democratic countries. They simply appear on a smaller scale and in a socially accepted format.

Take a moment to consider the apps which you use in everyday life. How about the last time you used an Uber? The simplicity of it means that barely a second thought is spared for the number of stars with which you rate your driver. However, internal charts shared by Business Insider in 2015 leave little room for doubt about the direct implications which driver ratings have on the security of an Uber driver's job. Drivers with an average rating of 4.6 out of 5 or below run the risk of becoming 'deactivated'. Of course, this is all for the purpose of providing excellent customer service and improving safety for Uber's customers and 'partners' alike. In an automated world where instant gratification has become the norm and customers and suppliers both dance to the merciless tune of the markets, there is no room for human error. When the requirement is to give a 100% 'performance' 100% of the time human emotions and short-fallings become inconvenient blips in the system, yet sanctions as a result of mistakes have very real consequences for individuals.

This brings us back to Lacie's performance in Black Mirror. Her interactions with people are not genuine but tactical moves to gain approval and improve her social rating. All the while, the spectre of those who have slipped down the social ladder and lost privileges such as the right to work looms large, pressuring her to keep up her performance. Similarly, China's decision to quantify the trustworthiness of its citizens reeks of irony as it will inevitably weaken authentic relationships and hand totalitarian control to those who decide which citizens are deemed 'trustworthy'.



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### 50 shades of confusion: Article 50

**Julia Constable** 

Following the Brexit judgement last June, there has been much speculation surrounding the mechanics of the UK exiting the European Union and the impact this will have on UK business. Even now, over sixth months after the EU referendum, the UK's exit strategy is unclear and the media confusion surrounding Article 50 has exposed weaknesses in the UK Law and constitutional processes. Clear answers to key questions are obscured by media mayhem. Ultimately, what is Article 50? Why was the



'I have no idea what I am doing'

Britain ever actually leave the EU?

The role of the Article is clear: Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty on the European Union enables a member state to notify the EU that it wishes to exit the Union. In this case, the EU is then obligated to begin negotiating a formal withdrawal agreement with the UK. Currently, members in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords agree that the result of the EU Referendum is a binding democratic wish of the UK people and therefore a majority "leave" vote must be recognised by all members of parliament, as they are representatives of their constituencies. Overall, Brexit will go ahead, it is just a matter of time. Triggering Article 50 would mean the UK finally handing over the divorce papers to the EU, allowing for two years from the date that the Article was triggered for the negotiation process to take place and to make the separation official.

After taking over the Conservative Party leadership in July last year, Theresa May has since expressed her intentions to trigger Article 50 in March 2017. In order to do this, the Prime Minister would have to bypass MPs in the House of Commons and unelected peers in the House of Lords to trigger Brexit by using the royal prerogative. The royal prerogative was a power previously possessed by the sovereign alone, whereby

Supreme Court case last week so significant? Will a monarch requires no parliamentary consent to exercise certain executive powers regarding the governance of the state. Since our constitutional monarchy now devolves these powers to the head of the government, the Prime Minister, Theresa May would have been able to trigger Article 50 without passing a Bill in Parliament. However, as always, the fun doesn't end there....it is possible for parliament to challenge Theresa May's use of this power, especially in unprecedented situations, such as Brexit, which have never been carried out before.

> Last week, a Supreme Court case ruled by a majority of eight Supreme Court Judges to three, that Theresa May could not exercise the powers of the royal prerogative to trigger Article 50, potentially preventing the Prime Minister from starting the Brexit process in March as originally planned. The significance of this court case should not be underestimated: ultimately, the UK does not have a written constitution, therefore the rules for when the royal prerogative may be used are unclear. This confusion has sparked debate regarding the potential for a constitution in the future. However, the immediate implications of this judgement are clear: a parliamentary Bill will be necessary to trigger Brexit. Although the grey area surrounding Article 50 has been clarified, we haven't seen the end of the legal contention surrounding Brexit and have yet to see the full economic consequences of the Referendum result.

### Putting the fag out: The future of smoking

Ask someone standing outside Terrace with a pint in one hand and a cigarette in the other about their smoking habit. The conversation will probably go along these lines: "Are you a smoker?" "No", "You are smoking right now though", "But I'm not a smoker, I'm a social smoker".

This kind of conversation can probably be had with a lot of your friends that smoke as well. It epitomises an attitude towards smoking that has permeated many, especially university students. While 40 years ago, it was acceptable to smoke constantly regardless of occasion, nowadays smoking is often only socially acceptable at times when alcohol is involved. Interestingly, this isn't just a correlation, but has a causal explanation. Scientists at the



Tim Knickmann University of Missouri found that (in mice it should be added) nicotine helps ward off the depressant and reduce drowsiness caused by alcoholic consumption. Additionally, nicotine increase the 'alcohol high' and our desire to drink.

> Looking at the statistics, the heaviest drinking demographic is the same as the highest smoking demographic. Its 16 to 24 year olds. Curiously, the demographic that drinks the most regularly is the complete opposite of the one that smoke the most; high-income individuals drink more regularly, while low-income individuals tend to smoke more.

> The UK has decided to crack down on the 'social' smokers, especially trying to stop young smokers. Most recently, standardised packets have been introduced with shock images and no logo. Cigarette packets must now contain at least 20 cigarettes and self-roll tobacco pouches have to at least contain 30g. Controversially, the amount being spent on massmedia campaigns has been gutted; reduced from £25m in 2009/10 to just £4m in 2016/17.

> Russia has also been in the 'smoking' news recently, by announcing a plan to ban cigarette sales for anyone born in 2015 and after. Although the plan has since been put on hold, it reveals the changing attitude towards smoking.

Amidst all this anti-smoking sentiment, there has been a notable merger in the tobacco market. Following British American Tobaccos (BAT) withdrawal from the US market around 2000, it has now bought up the remainder of Reynolds, where it owned 48% already. This will make it the second largest Tobacco company in the world, overtaking Philip Morris International

and slotting in behind the state owned Chinese Imperial Tobacco Group, which has a monopoly on the largest tobacco market in the world: China.

The United States is also still a very lucrative tobacco market, despite declining smoking rates alike to most other developed countries. The US is so lucrative due to its high packet pricing, which is possible due to the generally high wealth of the consumers. According to the BAT chief executive Nincandro Durante, two packets of cigarettes in the US bring in the same net revenue as six packs from other developed markets or even 13 packs in comparison to emerging markets.

More generally, tobacco companies are looking at alternatives to burning tobacco, now popularizing 'heat-not-burn' products. Philip Morris International for example, has poured more than \$3bn into R&D in this area. The competition with vaping and e-cigarettes is heating up (no pun intended). Conversely, the tobacco companies must prove to regulators that these products will not encourage new smokers by being seen as healthier alternatives.



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### Northern Bloc: Here's the scoop

**Chloe Pryce** 

Now featured as one of 2016's new wave of ice cream makers and amongst the "Fresh Pickings" in *The Sunday Times*' Food Magazine, Northern Bloc has evolved from selling scoops out of a vintage ice cream van at street food and artisan food events into a much larger, successful ice cream producer. The Leeds-based start-up now has an office and manufacturing unit in Armley, and supplies restaurants, theatres and as of recent, 80+ Co-op stores across the north. Luckily for us, their 100% natural ice cream can even be found around campus as two members of the Northern Bloc team are Leeds graduates!



What lifts Northern Bloc above other ice cream producers, such as the global brands Ben & Jerry's, Häagen-Dazs and Carte D'or, is that the ice cream is all natural, free from artificial ingredients, glutenfree and low in fats and sugars. Vegans can even enjoy the 2 sorbets on offer, which are free from any animal products. The recipe has been developed over ten years to create an indulgent - but pure - product. They also believe their competitive advantage arises by virtue of their chef, who scientifically devises each flavour. Ranging from Strawberry & Black Pepper to Raspberry & Sorrel, each maintains a traditional touch, yet embodies an innovative, modern twist. He is described as not only a 'true ice cream expert' but an 'ice cream World Champion' with an inherited expertise from his father and grandfather before him.

My freezer is now entirely full with tubs of it. Having been delivered 10 tubs directly to my door, my flatmates and I did a taste test. Our favourites ranged from Black Treacle to the Strawberry and Black Pepper which had a fruity strawberry flavour with a slightly spicy kick after-taste.

Finally, an ice cream that is equally as delicious as it is natural.



### Are CEOs paid enough?

Nabeel Alhassan

Attracting and retaining the most talented people to work for a business is key to its ongoing success. McKinsey & Company coined the phrase 'the war for talent' back in 1997. Its relevancy today has arguably increased due to the accelerating pace of globalisation over the last 20 years. This applies everywhere, from recruiting top graduates to hiring the best people to lead the business.

Attracting talented CEOs to join is particularly challenging. To set the strategy of a FTSE 350 firm could in practice be the difference in billions of pounds to a company's valuation. After it was announced that Angela Ahrendts, then CEO of Burberry, was leaving the company for a role at Apple - Burberry's stock market value immediately fell by half a billion pounds. To the market, Angela appeared to be providing a lot more value than her received £17 million pay package at Burberry. If the average graduate salary is £20,000, a CEO on £17 million would have been paid 850 times more. This is due to the distinction in talent. There are many fantastic graduates, but how many people are capable of successfully running a multi-billion pound multinational business in a hyper-competitive sector? Investors can rest peacefully in the knowledge that had you or I left a firm after completing its graduate scheme, such a change in value is highly unlikely to

The problem occurs when CEO pay does not match company performance. Angela was widely viewed as being behind Burberry's successful strategic shift into a global luxury brand. However, there are a number of cases where performance and payment are at a mismatch. In 2016, two FTSE 100 companies had their remuneration reports (i.e. executive pay plans) voted down with other firms on the receiving end of investor's openly voicing disapproval. The Investment Association, an entity representing the UK's £5.5 trillion asset management industry, published a report last year stating that rising levels of executive pay over the last 15 years has not been aligned with the FTSE 100 performance. According to the report, executive pay in its current form is failing to act as the tool to incentivise performance.

The High Pay Centre, a think tank set-up to monitor income disparity, calculated the average pay ratio between FTSE 100 CEOs and the average total pay of their employees in 2015 was 129:1. It assumed, the average annual pay of their employees was £28,200. Yet there are many people in the UK who earn much less. So if performance has been patchy at best, why did CEO pay increase by 10% in 2015? In comparison, according to the Office of National Statistics, the average worker saw real wages grow by less than 2%. That wage increase was the highest received since 2008. The income disparity in the US is even more pronounced, with the S&P500 CEO to average worker pay ratio approximately 335:1.

By all means, we should compensate quality people for the positive impact they deliver. But there is a growing sense of injustice that the opaque nature of executive pay rises is not deserved. Is it right that the CEO of BP total pay package rose 20% in 2015, in a year when the company reported record losses? Reform of executive compensation is key, but few are brave enough to take the first step. Afterall, no one wants to lose the war for talent in the unforgiving world of international business.



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# A cup of yoghurt a day, can help keep Cancer away



From Actimel to Yakult, we've all seen those TV adverts proclaiming the benefits of eating yoghurt. Here we take a look at exactly how these tasty pots of bacteria actually help your immune system...

Louise Müller

Did you know that half of the cells you carry around in your body are not actually your own human cells, but those belonging to various kinds of bacteria?

Around 30-40 trillion bacteria (yes that's right, I said trillion) lead a happy life in various locations around your body, predominantly in the gut. The gut microbial flora consists of a multitude of bacterial species, all with different characteristics and abilities.

In the last few years the role of bacteria living in your body, and the gut in particular, has been extensively studied and shown to immensely influence your well-being. As such, the state of your gut's microbial flora has been linked to everything; from cancer and obesity to one's mental health. Most of your gut bacteria reside in the large intestine; the main task of these mini caretakers is to help with the digestion of what you eat throughout the day. Various bacterial species can break down food constituents in differing ways, and it is in this process that a lot of new microsubstances are generated - these substances can be anything from the nutrients we need to keep our own cells happy to molecules that are actually toxic to us. They can affect the local intestinal environment or, alternatively, travel long distances within the blood to impact upon different parts of the body, for example

In a healthy state, your gut contains a diverse range

of bacteria, which together perform daily maintenance tasks, such as ensuring a healthy environment in the gut, providing the body with nutrients and fending off potentially harmful bacteria with the help of the immune system. These are peaceful times, when your tummy is quietly going about its business and you rarely need to pay attention to its behaviour. However, this serene intestinal landscape can easily be disturbed. Different interactions - such as changes in your diet, exercise, alcohol consumption or a heavy course of antibiotics - can favour the growth of certain types of bacteria, reducing the diversity and shifting the balance of substances generated during digestion. Such changes, in turn, can initiate and progress the development of various diseases, including colorectal cancer, type 2 diabetes, obesity and psychological disorders such as depression and schizophrenia. The state of the intestinal flora has also been linked to neurological development during childhood and adolescence, and may be the answer to your rebel behaviour as a teenager.

So how do you take care of these important little housekeepers in your tummy and keep them happy? As mentioned, the well-being of the gut flora is tightly connected to the physiological function of the large intestine and its processing of the foods we consume – what you eat determines the environment for your inner bacterial wizards. For example, eating an abundance of meat causes excess indigested protein to

reach the large intestine, starting a chemical process known as protein putrefaction. When certain bacteria break down protein remnants, toxic compounds are created which damage the intestinal lining. Instead of all that meat, as you have undoubtedly heard a thousand times, what you should eat is wholegrain and fibre. Dietary fibre is difficult to digest, meaning it makes it all the way to the large intestine before your fibre fermenters get to work. This produces large amounts of butyrate, which is an important source of energy for the intestinal cells. Butyrate acts like sweets for these cells, keeping them happy and functional. In contrast, easily digested, refined carbohydrates are instead rapidly converted to glucose and absorbed in the small intestine, resulting in a lack of 'sweets' to keep the cells in the large intestine happy.

This is where the yoghurt comes in. Consuming probiotics (products containing live and beneficial bacteria) has been shown to increase the bacterial diversity in the gut, antagonising any harmful changes to the local environment. The effect of this has been shown in studies which link yoghurt consumption to a reduction in the rates of both depression and cancer. Other foods that contain probiotics include fermented vegetables, such as kimchi and sauerkraut, and real sourdough bread. This is very convenient for those who gravitate towards fashionable food – you can justify eating some of today's biggest food fads while giving your inner bacteria a boost at the same time!

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### **Trump Silences Science**



He's only been in power two weeks, but Trump has already launched an all out assault scientific bodies. We discuss what this could mean for the future of climate change...

Kira Knowles

Although Donald Trump has been in power for just two weeks, he has already stopped two major departments from interacting with the public and the press. These gag orders have been placed on the Department of Agriculture for the US and also the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is imperative that these agencies should be allowed to freely relay information from scientists to the public; they should not face political interference, not least censorship of information.

The consequent effect of these orders is that the public will become less aware of environmental issues, also ensuring that there is less focus of these within the media and news outlets. Climate change is a widely accepted concept that needs to be addressed, particularly by the United States who are the world's second largest carbon dioxide emitter, making the gag orders increasingly worrying. If this is what Trump can achieve within two weeks of his Presidency, who's to say that there will not be even larger changes and the further dismissal of climate change as a myth in the coming weeks?

The EPA has research focused on reducing carbon emissions, however with the gag order in place it has seen its budget for grants and contracts frozen. One of the biggest changes though is the appointment of Director Scott Pruitt. Trump's employment of Pruitt is concerning, as not only is he a climate change denier but he has had run-ins with the organisation before, taking them to court. This has meant that the agency in charge of researching emissions will now find it more difficult to publish the relevant information to the public.

The US Department of Agriculture has also been affected; the department looks into methane emissions, and ways to reduce them, with methane being a key contributor to climate change.

The suppression of their research, and the consequent distribution of its findings, will most certainly result in both departments becoming weaker; lessening their ability to carry out projects that combat climate change. Even though both departments have documents stating their freedom of information to the public, this has not seemed to hold back Trump.

There is even a suggestion, in a letter from the White House Counsel, that the gag orders may be breaking federal law. As stated in the letter, it appears that the Trump administration has broken a number of laws, not least the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act. The letter also asks that the communication blackout should be righted immediately. If Trump can continue to break federal laws, then his beliefs will mean that climate change will be given minimal funding and importance.

There has been a backlash on social media with many employees of the affected departments – as well as NASA and the Department of Interior, Health and Human services – retaliating. The employees have created 'rogue' twitter accounts, resisting Trump's gag orders. These twitter profiles have quickly accumulated followers and reports of 'real news'. Evidence of climate change has been posted with the hope that the information will still reach the people.

The restraining nature of major science-based agencies leaves little doubt that America is regressing to a pre-Obama state, with the monumental signing of the Paris Climate Change Agreement in 2015, seeming like a pipe dream. Donald Trump's anti-science stance means that America – as one of the most influential countries in the world – could prompt other nations to reduce their research into investigating climate change. As a result, the effects of these gag orders could reverberate globally, with climate change pushed aside in favour of 'alternative facts'.

## What's new in science this week?

• New interface allows locked-in people to communicate:

The terrifying prospect of not being able to communicate has become less scary with the advent of a new interface, allowing thoughts to be deciphered. Participants in the tests have been reported as being "happy" despite their condition.

- Humans' oldest known ancestor discovered: You might initially think this is in reference to an ape-like ancestor but we're going even further back than that. Researchers from St John's College, University of Cambridge, have uncovered fossils of a microscopic bag-like sea creature that lived around 540 million years ago.
- Heavily theorised metallic hydrogen becomes

reality:
Theorised nearly a century ago, metallic hydrogen has been created by scientists from Harvard University. Its potential is vast and could answer questions regarding the nature of matter, as well as being a room temperature superconductor.

- Existence of time crystals revealed: When you think of a crystal you'd probably picture a diamond, or semiprecious gem, with a repeating lattice structure. However, research teams from the University of California have shown that some crystals can repeat in time, instead of space, making this the first example of a non-equilibrium form of matter.
- Evidence of holographic universe found: After studying irregularities in the cosmic microwave background radiation, scientists have found evidence of a holographic phase of expansion in the universe's past where space and time weren't well defined. Professor Kostas Skenderis of the University of Southampton explains: "Imagine that everything you see, feel and hear in three dimensions (and your perception of time) in fact emanates from a flat two-dimensional field. The idea is similar to that of ordinary holograms where a three-dimensional image is encoded in a two-dimensional surface, such as in the hologram on a credit card. However, this time, the entire universe is encoded!"



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### Guide Dogs Society: Pet and De-stress

Exam period is a time full of sorrow and anguish. Forced to return from our Christmas holiday early; we sit in our dark university dorms, silently weeping and wondering why we ever considered pursuing higher education. However, if there is one silver lining to exam period, it's the Guide Dogs de-stress room.

Elsa Amri



On the 11th January, the Guide Dogs Society held their first 'Meet the Guide Dogs' event of the year in the Union. For those unfamiliar with the concept, 'Meet the Guide Dogs' is an opportunity for students to, essentially, pet and interact with guide dogs as a way of de-stressing during stressful exam periods. I decided to attend the event, both because it was important to document such a great activity, and also because I would never turn down an opportunity to pet loveable dogs.

In order to participate, students had to purchase tickets to the event, and each ticket provided you with 15-20 minutes of interaction with the guide dogs. This may not sound like a lot of time, but I was surprised to discover that even 10 minutes spent with the dogs was enough time to boost my mood.

Moreover, Guide Dogs Society is partnered with Guide Dogs UK charity, therefore,

all the money from fundraisers goes towards helping improve the living conditions of blind and partially sighted people in Leeds. When you think about what a great cause that is, it makes you realise that the couple of extra pounds you spend are worth it.

Beyond just getting to pet the dogs, I also got to speak with some of the guide dog owners, who were just as lovely. They told us about their guide dogs, how long they've had them, and how much they mean to them. It was amazing to learn more about the experiences they've had with their guide dogs, and it makes you realise just how important guide dogs are to the blind and partially sighted community.

Having to leave the room full of dogs after my session was over was a bitter-sweet ordeal. It was bitter because the dogs were adorable, and disregarding what I mentioned earlier about 10 minutes being enough, I would have gladly spent the entire day with them. However, it was also sweet because Mars, one of the Guide Dogs Society's sponsors, handed out candy bars as people left. Literally sweet. The Guide Dogs Society will be holding the same event sometime around May. If you're looking for a way to calm yourself down whilst you prepare for your exams, and you don't mind supporting a great charity, then I'd suggest you attend the next 'Meet Guide Dogs' event!



### Vegan Delights: Sweet & Savoury Treats

Here are a couple of deliciously sweet and savoury vegan recipes that you can try out next time you're looking for culinary inspiration. Thank you to Hazel and Gloria from the *LUU Veg Society* who suggested these recipes!

Bea Warleta and Elsa Amri



#### Oil-free Raw Avocado Pesto Ingredients:

- 1 avocado
- 2 peeled garlic cloves
- a few tbsps of nutritional yeast
- a large handful of basil leaves
- a handful of peas
- salt and pepper
- little bit of soy cream/water

#### Method:

- 1. You need some kind of food processing item for this, or just very vigorous mashing skills.
- 2. Pop everything into the food processor and let it chop for a while until a not too lumpy mixture is formed
- 3. Taste and adjust as you want (I normally up the nutritional yeast and maybe add more liquid).
- 4. Mix through freshly cooked pasta, or in a salad, on toast, whatever. Go wild!



#### **Choco Chip Vegan Cookies**

#### Ingredients:

- 2/3 cup of oil of choice
- 11/3 cups of sugar of choice (brown sugar is more caramel-y)
  - plenty of vegan chocolate chips
- 2 1/2 cups of plain flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1/2 cup non-dairy milk
- dash of vanilla extract

#### Method:

- 1. Preheat your oven to 175 degrees celsius.
- 2. Mix everything until it's fully mixed and the dough is fairly solid. If it's very squidgy, add a smidge more flour.
- 3. Put the dough on a baking sheet and squash into the right kind of shape you want and make them fairly flat too. Make sure you have plenty of space between the cookies or you'll have square cookies.
- 4. Pop them into your oven for 10-15 minutes make sure you check them. They should be set on top and a bit brown around the edges. These are chewy cookies and normally end up pretty big. If you double the recipe you don't really need to add extra baking powder or bicarbonate of soda.



#### Mousse au Chocolat

#### Ingredients:

- 250g silken tofu
- 150g dark chocolate
- 1 tablespoon rum
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla sugar/extract (optional)

#### Method:

- Blend the tofu and heat up the chocolate. Careful that it doesn't burn.
  - Add the chocolate with the tofu and keep blending.
  - If you want, add some rum or vanilla.
- Put in a bowl and leave overnight in the fridge (essential to the taste!).

Tip: You can use any tofu and add water in the first step until you reach a smooth consistency.



TUESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY, 4-5PM IN LUU ROOM 4

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### Melbourne magic from old rivals

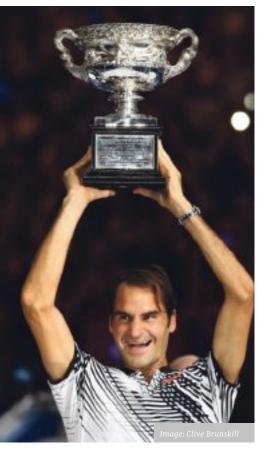
Tennis

Celtic and Rangers. England and Australia. Ali and Frazier. Sport has had more than its fair share of quality rivalries down the years, and on Sunday night in Melbourne, one of the greatest we have ever known was rekindled in truly dramatic style. For a long time many of us had suspected that Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal would never again meet in a Grand Slam final, or perhaps the final of any tennis tournament. All the odds were defied, however, in the first major tournament of the 2017 season, as the big men Sir Andy Murray and Novak Diokovic fell by the wayside while their recent understudies Milos Raonic and Stan Wawrinka both met their demise against the eventual finalists.

The stage was set then for two of the most successful and best loved players in the history of the men's game to come to the fore for what had all the hallmarks of a final showdown. Federer was looking to extend his lead at the top of the table of all-time Slam winners, while Nadal was hoping to make it a first win at the highest level since the French Open of 2014. The fans who lined the stands of the Rod Laver Arena were in full voice, and were not disappointed. From the first serve to the final forehand, this nervethrottling, tense game was a joy to behold. It could just have easily been the 2007 final, both in terms of the contestants and quality. To-and-fro it went, with Federer looking like he had it wrapped up after a clinical third set, before Rafa replied in kind to take

the match all the way. It was nip and tuck stuff in the final set, and right up until the end it looked like it could go either way. As it was, it was the Swiss who took it, requiring a Hawkeye challenge to tip the scales in his favour. That is a perfect representation of how close both this match, and this rivalry have been. We may never see the like in tennis again.

And if the men's game has been about The Big Four, Nadal v Federer and Murray v Djokovic for the last decade, the women's game really has only been about one name. And once again it was the all-conquering Serena Williams who landed the spoils in typically impressive fashion in her corresponding final 24 hours previously. Setting an Open-Era record in the process, Serena beat her older sister Venus to claim her 23rd Grand Slam singles title, and regain the world number one slot from Angelique Kerber. With a straight sets 6-4 6-4 victory she never looked in danger of an upset, and she makes the perfect start to a season where a calendar-year slam looks a distinct possibility. Due credit, too, to the runner-up. At 36, Venus became the oldest Australian Open finalist in the Open Era, and though comprehensively outplayed, looks a sure-fire threat to improve on her current world ranking of number 11 on tour this year. There may have been much talk of the up-and-comers, or the long-time bridesmaids finally having their time in the sun this year, but if it's anything to do with the Williams sisters, and Nadal and Federer for that matter, the old guard remain well and truly the ones



### Dylan needs discipline for England

**Rugby Union** 

#### Scotland vs Ireland

Scotland are coming off of a good Autumn series and their club sides have also been performing well, with Glasgow and Edinburgh both through to the knock out stages of the European Champions and Challenge Cups respectively. Although they have the home advantage, most will still consider themselves the underdogs in the opening match of the tournament. Finn Russell and Stuart Hogg will need to be in top form and provide some magic to unlock the Irish defence, whilst captain Greig Laidlaw will need to slot over any kicking opportunities if there is any chance of victory

Ireland has to be considered the in-form team going into the tournament, with three out of their four clubs still in the European Championship. Their autumn tests were also a huge success, winning against the Southern Hemisphere big three, with a historic win against New Zealand, with their only loss coming in the rematch. The injuries to Jonny Sexton, Peter O'Mahony and Andrew Trimble are certainly blows, but there should be enough squad depth for them to cope.

#### **England vs France**

The reigning Grand Slam Champions come into the event still undefeated under Eddie Jones' new management, but face a host of injuries to their first team players. This will be a real test of the squad depth

**Ryan Wan** at Jones' disposal, and it will allow him to see if these second string players are ready for the international stage. Captain Dylan Hartley will need to make sure he stays disciplined, as England will need him in the set piece.

> France seem rejuvenated under their new coach, Guy Novès, with good performances in autumn; losing narrowly to Australia and New Zealand. However Twickenham is never an easy place to play at and the forward pack will need to win the battle

up front to set up a platform for the rest of their game. Kicking will surely play a factor in whether the French can start their campaign off with a win.

#### Italy vs Wales

Often seen as the easy win of the tournament, they, like Scotland, have shown that they can defeat Southern Hemisphere teams. New coach Conner O'Shea has injected a new lease of life to the Azzurri, especially the kicking game and it certainly showed in the win against South Africa. Italy will have to stay focused for the whole 80 minutes and not give up the game late, as they did against Tonga.

Despite good results in the Autumn series, Wales seem like a team in transition with interim coach Rob Hawley trying to play a more expansive style, whilst Warren Gatland is away dealing with the Lions tour to New Zealand in the summer. Wales should be able to get the win and bonus point despite being away in Rome. George North will certainly need to step up his game and provide some tries if they are to walk away with the maximum points.



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# Valiant effort not enough for volleyball women

Luke Etheridge Women's Volleyball-Leeds 2nd 0-3 Hull 1st

Leeds were left to rue a slow start against Hull in this Northern 3B match, as the away side won in straight sets at the Gryphon Sports Centre on Wednesday evening. However, this was a match which could have gone either way, with the home side showing that they should hope to improve on their current league

Hull started much brighter than Leeds, winning the first five points before good work at the net earned Leeds their first point of the set. Two missed serves in a row gave each side a point, before good pressure from Hull put them into a 12–2 lead, despite good play at the net from Bethany Whitehead. Leeds began to play better towards the end of the first set, before Hull put in some good serves, striking the ball just above the net to take control of the points. It was obvious which team was third in the league and which was eighth, with Hull taking the first set comfortably 25–8.

The second set started much more even, with Hull winning a long rally for an early 2–1 lead. Both sides seem to struggle with serving at the start of this set, which helped Leeds tie the scores, with a great smash by Lara Hudson keeping the scores level. A shot off the net cord helped give Hull a tiny advantage, putting them three points ahead, before a great ground hit

by Pieria Protopapa put the home side back on level terms. Miscommunication gave Hull some more breathing space, before Lara Se utilised her height brilliantly, with a great block at the net putting Leeds back within one. With the scores at 23–22 to the away team, Hull put in two good plays at the net, to take the second set 25–22, and leaving a second successive win for Leeds looking like an impossible task.

Two aces by Se gave Leeds the early lead in the third set, before Hull took six of the next seven points, as they looked to end the set as quickly as possible, taking advantage of a Leeds side who appeared to sense that the set was beyond them. A series of fantastic team plays gave the home team four points in a row, helping to bring the scores level again at 12-12. With Hull finding the corners with the majority of their serves, it was hard for Leeds to gain any momentum for the remainder of the set, with a net cord giving Hull the third set 25-20, ensuring that they went back down the M62 with all three points. While the scoreline gave the impression of a one sided set, Leeds were more than a match for Hull during periods of the second and third sets, with a few lucky deflections arguably being the difference in both sets. With only three fixtures left, and with no relegation worries, Leeds will be able to enjoy the final few matches, and hopefully convert some of their good teamwork into victories, starting with a trip to Sheffield next week.





#### BUCS fixtures 8th February unless stated otherwise

### Full fixtures and results at bucs.org.uk

Badminton Mens 1st vs Strathclyde 1st: 2pm, The Edge

Basketball Mens 1st vs Teeside 1st: 7.30pm, The Edge

Fencing Mens 1st vs Sheffield 1st: 2pm, The Edge

Football Mens 1st vs Leeds Beckett 2nd: 2pm, Lower Pitch, Headingley Campus

Football Womens 1st vs Leeds Beckett 2nd: 2pm, Weetwood

Hockey Mens 2nd vs Mens 3rd: 3.30pm, Weetwood

Hockey Womens 1st vs Northumbria 1st: 5pm, Weetwood

Hockey Womens 4th vs Newcastle 4th: 2pm, Weetwood

Netball Womens 2nd vs Sheffield Hallam 2nd: 5.30pm, Gryphon Sports Centre

Netball Womens 3rd vs Durham 3rd: 3.30pm, Gryphon Sports Centre

Rugby League Mens 1st vs Hull 1st: 1pm, Buslingthorpe Vale Rugby Ground

Squash Womens 2nd vs Durham 2nd: 1pm, Gryphon Sports Centre

Tennis Mens 1st vs Durham 3rd: 1pm, John Charles Centre

Tennis Womens 2nd vs Leeds Beckett 3rd: Saturday 12.30pm, Indoor Courts, Headingley Campus

Volleyball Womens 1st vs Durham 2nd: 7pm, Gryphon Sports Centre 24 | Sport thegryphon.co.uk

### Leeds 60-24 Hull



# Leeds net victory in one-sided encounter

Luke Etheridge Women's Basketball 1st

In one of the most dominant winning displays you are likely to see, Leeds Women's Basketball side comfortably beat Hull 60-24 in their first match of 2017. After winning away against their local Yorkshire rivals 40-28 in October, the home side had the added psychological advantage of knowing that they had already beaten their opponents this season. This was to be a crucial match in the league, as the sides were level on points in 3rd (Leeds) and 4th (Hull) places. Therefore, this was a match both sides needed to win to put pressure on first placed Northumbria and second placed Newcastle.

The fact that this was a local derby only made the match more interesting. The match, as aforementioned, was dominated by Leeds. After winning the tip-off, Leeds were straight on the offensive, trying to get points on the board early on. After a brilliant counter-attack from the number nine, Leeds did take the opening points of the match to lead 2-0; Hull's equaliser to make it 2-2 being the only time in the match that Leeds would not be in the

lead. The referee accidentally setting off the fire alarm did nothing to stop the sustained pressure that Leeds were starting to exert. Five minutes in, and Leeds, in what was to be a recurring theme throughout the encounter, scored a triple to make it 9-2. The home side were running the show from defence to attack and everywhere in between before a brilliant throw made it 11-2. Leeds were, as the score line suggests, dominating the attacks, but it would be unfair to suggest Hull weren't creating opportunities of their own, the major difference was that Leeds were able to convert them into points on the scoreboard and their opponents weren't. The first quarter ended 15-4.

The second quarter started in much the same fashion as Leeds made it 19-6 early on and demonstrated that they were playing as a team, all together, whilst Hull were misplacing passes and, in all honesty, all over the place. An amazing triple throw from Leeds meant they were winning comfortably at 22-6. Then, to make it 30-10, something remarkable occurred; the Gryphons desire for scoring points was epitomised when four Leeds players went for the same rebound, with the other player being the one who took the original shot, showing the

determination to score from all players. The next points that Leeds scored was similar too as four Leeds players ran together in a counter-attacking move which saw Hull's players too tired to track back and defend. Half-time the score read 32-12.

By now the match seemed a foregone conclusion, Leeds were scoring points to make sure the lead was ticking over whilst turning on the style when they wanted to. After scoring a few free throws Leeds scored four points in quick succession to lead 46-19. The last quarter saw Leeds go from 48-19 up to winning the match 60-24. Although the game seemed over well before this quarter Leeds were professional enough to make sure they kept their high performance levels up. Leeds can take a lot of confidence in that they played well as a team, demonstrating the clear strength in depth possessed by the Gryphons. Next up for Leeds is a fixture against bottom of the table Teesside. Leeds can take this performance, and the fact they beat their next opponents 68-28 in the reverse fixture, as good signs that they should come away as victors again. If they play like they did today, they have an extremely good chance.