



THE GRYPHON

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Mental Health Counselling Provision Fails to Match Inflation

Demand has risen since 2009, but the University has overseen a £100,000 cut in real terms.

Daniel Katz

A Freedom of Information request has revealed that, in real terms, the amount that the University has spent on its counselling service has been cut significantly since 2009. In the latest available year of 2014/15, the University spent £512,000 compared to £511,000 in 2009/10. If this spending was matched to inflation, the University should have spent approximately £612,000, representing a funding gap of £100,000.

This is despite the tripling of tuition fees in 2012, a fees increase which

students assumed would be reflected in increased funding in all aspects of their university experience.

This information, discovered by Leeds Labour students, has been commented on by their Co-Chair, Antony Riley, who stated:

"It is time for the University to invest in its students, and not just its buildings. It's fundamentally unjust that tuition fees can rise with inflation but not the critical health provision, essential to student welfare. This is simply not good enough and our society are campaigning for the fair mental health funding that students deserve."

NUS Vice President (Welfare) Izzy Lenga added "mental health issues affect many students, and institutions must be spending more and not less in this area." Leeds University Union's Welfare Officer, Chloe Sparks, added:

"I strongly support the need for increased funding in the University's mental health services and have been actively campaigning on this. I've worked with the University on things like Big White Wall (a free online mental health service), but there's much more to be done so I encourage any students who are passionate about this to come and work with me."

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New Universities Minister Appointed
Following Theresa May's reshuffle of the Cabinet, Jo Johnson has been replaced by Sam Gyimah.

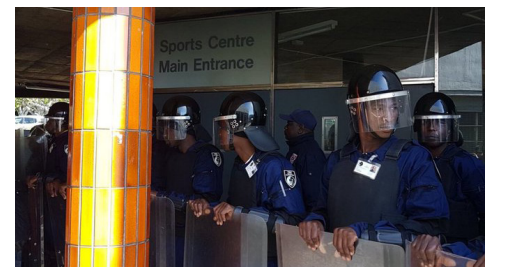
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Fees Must Fall

We take a closer look at the student unrest in Cape Town.

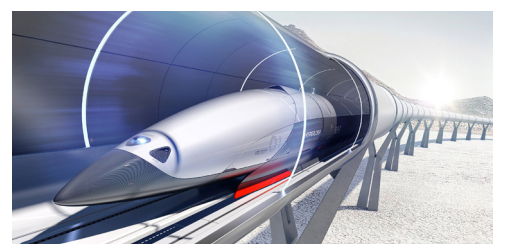
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Keeping You in the (Hyper)Loop

Business investigate what could be the next leap forward in travel innovation, the Hyperloop.

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Phil Neville Appointment Scrutinised
Sport question the decision to appoint Phil Neville as the new England Women's manager.

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Editor of the Week

Carys Norfor

Carys worked herself to the bone to give In the Middle a new look, and she absolutely nailed the task.

Quote of the Week

“It’s not something that interests me”

Oprah Winfrey, when asked if she was planning a bid for the US Presidency

Credits

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Editor’s Letter:



Dear Readers,

I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas break, and that your return to Leeds was something you desired, rather than something you were desperate for.

Now we’re reaching the close of January, you can welcome back with open arms the university lifestyle, having ridden yourselves of those tiresome essays and exams. Instead, you can read what pleases you, the newest copy of *The Gryphon* you hold in your hands, the first of 2018, and the first to feature our new look ‘In the Middle’ supplement. What started with a bit of brainstorming between me and Stasi, our In the Middle associate, blossomed into a full creative vision under the watchful eye of Carys Norfor, one of our Heads of Design. And with blood, sweat, and a lot of tears, as well as Alissa Lad’s ample help, we got a top-knotch magazine over the line.

This January period is perhaps one of the most peculiar periods in the student calendar, and sets the strange tone which characterises term two. Following the lurking sense of panic which lies dormant throughout the Christmas holidays, the burgeoning New Year triggers a catalyst for January submission stress. When this falls away, term two rears its head, and it is a peculiar beast indeed.

Unlike the steady format of first term, second term is curiously punctuated by a month long Easter holiday, which scuppers any real possibility to get yourself into a regular work schedule. Often, you have no deadlines before this break, making it far too easy to procrastinate for an entire term, sleepwalking into a hellish Easter period, before returning for those few weeks of uni purgatory before the exam period.

It has never been my prerogative to convince you to focus away from your work, but if there’s one thing term two is built for, it is to try your hand at something new. Too many students, myself included, try out new hobbies at university far too late, when truly this sleepy second term period is perfect for it. There are over 300 separate societies at LUU, many of these featuring in our packed GIAG schedule. Who knows, if you swing by Pyramid café at 5pm on 5th February, you may even discover a passion for writing, and see your name on these very pages.

Yours Sincerely,

Reece Parker,
Editor-in-Chief
editor@thegryphon.co.uk

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Exec Columns:



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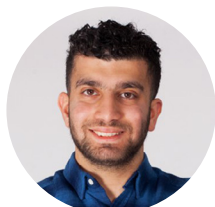
'DO YOU WANT MY JOB!?'

Hopefully that got your attention. That's right folks, it's getting round to that time of year when any student can run in the Leadership Race, the campus election for six fully paid, full time student leaders to spend a year directing a massive charity which aims solely to help students love their time

at Leeds! I've enjoyed my role so much and if you're interested, please get in touch for a chat before nominations close on February 9th.

In the meantime, I've been working with senior staff and the Exec looking at the data you gave us in our 'Express Yourself' survey and beginning to formulate our next 4 year strategic plan for LUU! I've also been involved with

developing a new menu in Terrace and with an NUS group looking at charity governance. Coming up, I'll be involved in recruiting a new student trustee for our board and our 'Better Forums' will be debating your ideas on how LUU can improve your experience at Leeds. Come along or keep an eye out for the outcomes!



Education Officer
Zaki Kaf Al-Ghazal

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#RepsRepsReps! We had our first Education Assembly of the semester earlier this week and it was jam packed! There were two special guests; Mitch Waterman, the Pro Dean for Medicine and Health, and Catherine Lorigan, the Director of Student Operations. They spoke about the Leeds curriculum as well as the huge problems with the number of assessments we have and Saturday exams.

Assessments have always been an issue; both the format (exams) and the period have always been squashed and there's a broad consensus to try and change this. I've been working particularly closely with the university on this and it was a great opportunity for the Reps to question the university and explore how change can be made.

My work on improving personal tuition has been heating up too. Chloe and I have successfully lobbied for a new task and finish group to be set up reviewing personal tuition and the huge discrepancies across schools and faculties. The culture around tuition simply has to change and university stakeholders are beginning to listen. We're optimistic!



Community Officer
George Bissett

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Get ready to throw 2017 in the bin, because we've finally got recycling bins in the union! Help us reduce our environmental impact by separating your rubbish.

This week I've sent an open letter to landlords and letting agents in Leeds who still charge letting fees to urge them to drop this outdated and

exploitative practice. I'll be having further conversations with landlords this term to see about working together to save students money and make renting in the private housing sector fairer and more transparent.

Local Council Elections are coming up in May this year which means plenty of Councillors wanting to keep their jobs.

We saw last year how much power the student vote has in the General Election, so make sure you are registered to vote and considering getting in touch with your local Councillors about any problems you may have with your experience of living in Leeds.



Activities Officer
Jess Bassett

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I bet everyone is glad exam season is over because now is the perfect time to try some new activities! If you didn't make it to Re-Fresher's fair don't worry. We have a massive Give it a Go Program for everyone to try something new over the next few months. Please check out all of the events on our website or pop into the union to pick up one of the snazzy GIAG booklets. With over 226 events I promise you will find

something to try!

I don't know about you but I think it is time for you to get Recognised! I am so excited to announce the launch of a new scheme called Recognise Award at LUU. This is a shoutout to all of our amazing volunteers; committee members, school reps, community reps, welfare reps, lib co's and hall's execs. You all do such amazing work and are so valuable to LUU. Throughout the awards you will

be able to understand and develop your incredible skills through workshops and events, so let us recognise you now! Sign up online or email me if you have any questions at all.



Equality & Diversity Officer
Natasha Mutch-Vidal

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Be inspired, be supported, be the leader. When the student body voted for me, I promised on my manifesto to create more careers opportunities for students from an ethnic minority. I have delivered this promise by creating the Union's first ever leadership conference exclusively for ethnic minority students who make up only 10% of the student body. This conference is called 'Inspire, Lead, Learn' and is taking place on

31st January. We are already nearly at maximum capacity so head to luu.org.uk to sign up! We are inviting inspirational motivational speakers and discussing key issues like institutional racism so don't miss out.

Alongside this I have also been working on fulfilling my commitment to improving the university support for students who are LGBTQ+ or from an ethnic minority who wish

to study abroad. I am going to be working with students to create a set of recommendations and ensure the implementation of this plan as a corepart of the University's strategy to global experiences. If you are interested in helping let me know!



Welfare Officer
Chloe Sparks

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Semester 2 is already super busy and full of exciting work. It's great to be back talking to students who are passionate about welfare issues. I've already attended society and education assemblies, met with my wellbeing reps, other SU Officers in Leeds and with contacts I've made in the University. I'm really looking forward

to all the campaigns and events coming up this term that my exec team have been working on.

What I'm most excited for is the campaigns I'm starting with societies for LGBTQ+ History month and mental health awareness. I'm committed to continue this semester campaigning for well funded support that is inclusive

and accessible to all students. As well as lobbying the University, I've been feeding into LUU's strategic plan the importance of prioritising mental health and proper support services in Leeds. As we start a new year, I can't wait to see what change I can make with students in 2018!



Campus Watch

1 Imperial College London UK university's plan to access EU funds after Brexit

Imperial College London, one of the world's top science institutes, has created a joint maths laboratory in London with the biggest government research body in France, the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS).

It means that Imperial's researchers, or those from other UK institutions working at the new lab, Unite Mixte Internationale (UMI), will have the same funding status as those in France, even after the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

This is the first time that the French government has co-funded such a research unit in the UK – and from the French perspective, this new centre in London will have the same status as a laboratory in France.

The Anglo-French maths centre was planned before the referendum, but it will provide a model of co-operation

and a shared approach to funding which will stretch beyond the UK's exit from the EU.

UMI director Richard Craster, professor of applied mathematics at Imperial, said the project showed a commitment to “strengthening our ties with Europe by improving mobility and giving new opportunities for researchers to exchange ideas.”

Ian White

2 University of Kent Vice Chancellor given a £45,000 pay rise

The retiring vice chancellor of Kent University has been paid £324,000 for her last year in the post, sparking outrage.

The university said the deal was in part “recognition of her sustained high performance.”

A spokesman from the university said the increase in pay was made up of an annual salary increase “in line with the sector average” of just under £20,000, and a one-off bonus of £25,000 to reward her “remarkable leadership attributes.”

Sally Hunt, general secretary of the University College Union, said: “These latest revelations look like further evidence of one rule for the few at the top and another for everyone else.

“Picking up massive pay hikes or bonuses as they retire tell the tale of people massively out of touch with reality on campus and in the wider world.”

She also called for “far greater scrutiny of these types of deals that continue to embarrass our universities.”

Ian White

3 University of Oxford Student disciplined after Stephen Hawking fancy dress costume

An Oxford student has been reprimanded after attending a ‘dress up as your degree party’ dressed as Stephen Hawking.

The student, who arrived at the event sitting on an office chair with wheels, provoked a furious backlash from other students.

The President of LMH's Junior Common Room (JCR), Lana Purcell, said: “We are angry and disappointed that this has happened and have referred the person to the dean”.

A spokesperson added: “Our dean will be speaking to the student to express the college's disappointment and to ask him to reflect on why his behaviour would be seen by many as offensive”.

On the other hand, other students at Oxford felt that the significance of the incident had been exaggerated. One argued that “from talking to people, it has been taken very much in the spirit with which it was intended.

“While maybe not the best choice, for a guy in normal clothes sitting in an office chair, it seems to have been blown a bit out of proportion.”

Ian White

4 University of Nottingham Serial flasher spotted

A serial flasher is on the loose in the area around Nottingham Trent University's campus.

Nottingham Police are urging members of the public to be wary after reports of a white man of large build, in his mid-to-late 40s, exposing himself on Dryden Street.

The street is described as being one of the main walkways home after a night out in the city, and home to both student accommodation and residential properties.

The first incident happened on Sunday, December 3rd, at 7.30pm, with the second occurring last week on Monday, January 15th.

Police also received reports of a man exposing himself on Sunday, December 3rd, at 8.45pm outside the Noel Street tram stop in Hyson Green.

Students have been shocked by the news, with many describing the street as “safe and quiet.”

A spokesperson for the university said that the security team had been informed, and that it was asking students to remain vigilant.

Jonny Chard

5 University of Iowa Christian group in homophobia row with Iowa University

A conservative Christian group, known as Business Leaders in Christ, denied a leadership position to a gay student. The group was founded in 2015 with an aim to educate students on “how to continually keep Christ in the fast-paced business world.”

Marcus Miller was denied a position as vice president due to his sexuality. Supposedly, group leaders must affirm to a statement of faith that ratifies that they “embrace, not reject, their God-given sex.”

As a consequence, the group were no longer registered as an on-campus student organisation. Judge Stephanie M. Rose has set a hearing on request from the group to reinstate its on-campus privileges.

However, spokeswoman Jeneane Beck said on-campus groups must guarantee “that equal opportunity and equal access to membership, programming, facilities and benefits shall be open to all persons.”

The verdict has yet to be decided as the university must “weigh the compelling interests of religious freedom on the one hand and the compelling interest of preventing discrimination on the other hand.”

Sophie Denham

New Universities Minister Appointed

Ian White
News Editor

In Theresa May's January reshuffle of the Cabinet, Universities minister Jo Johnson has been replaced by Sam Gyimah.

Taking a look at what plans Gyimah has for higher education, his appointment could signal, most prominently, a move to reduce tuition fees, a policy which both Johnson and the former education secretary Justine Greening were opposed to. Since his appointment, Gyimah has confirmed he will oversee a review of the current system.

Speaking at Queen Mary University of London, he said: "If you look back at the 2012 reforms when this current fee regime was introduced, I think it is right that we go back and see how it works across the system."

The government think that reform of the fees system can help them win over younger voters, who overwhelmingly backed Labour at last year's general election.

However, Gyimah has ruled out a total abolition of fees as promised by Labour. "Whatever Comrade Corbyn says, I don't think we will go back to an era where students do not contribute in any way to their fees."

The role of Universities Minister is generally considered relatively straightforward. However, the debates over tuition fees, vice chancellor's pay, no-platforming policies and the recent controversy surrounding Toby Young mean that Gyimah's job will be anything but simple.

Gyimah has also been criticised for his role in obstructing the passage of a law intended to pardon gay men and women convicted before the legalisation of homosexuality in 1967.

The bill, named after the mathematician Alan Turing who was charged with 'gross indecency' in 1952, was being debated in parliament back in 2016. However, Gyimah spoke for over 25 minutes so that the time limit for a vote on the Turing Bill expired. The proposed law would have automatically pardoned all individuals convicted under obsolete laws relating to so-called 'sexual indecency'.

The government has since passed a similar law, but those convicted can only be pardoned if they apply to the Home Office. In practice very few pardons have been issued.

It is still early days for the new Universities Minister, too early to say with any confidence what his approach might be. But it's safe to say that the task facing Gyimah will be a challenging one, and his central role in blocking the passage of the Turing Bill could come back to haunt him.



Image: The Times

Contactless Payments on Leeds Buses

Aysha Zaheer

Leeds buses have moved with the times by accepting contactless payments on their buses.

The contactless technology was introduced onto the buses on Thursday 18th of January. The reason behind its introduction was to reduce the time it took people to board buses in the morning.

Along with the time saving advantages the new technology offers, it will also be more convenient for those using the bus as they will be able to pay using a contactless card or mobile phone.

The cards which can be used include Visa, Mastercard or Maestro cards with the contactless payment sign on them. Moreover, phones containing Apple Pay, Android Pay and Samsung Pay will also work if trying to purchase a ticket using the contactless technology.

The normal limit of £30 set by banks will still apply.

Commercial director of First West Yorkshire Martin Hirst commented on the introduction of the new technology.

"The introduction of contactless payments across our entire West

Yorkshire fleet means that customers can now switch from paying with cash to using their card or mobile and it's pleasing to see that customers have already started to make the switch away from cash.

"Customers who switch from using cash to contactless will really help us in our aim to speed up bus boarding times and so I'd encourage anyone who has not tried our new contactless payment option yet to give it a go as soon as possible."



Image: Park Life

Government Urged to "Give North a Fair Deal on Transport"

Ian White
News Editor

Analysis by a leading think tank has shown that infrastructure spending in Yorkshire is lower than any other region and has urged the government to do more to increase transport spending across the North of England.

According to a hard hitting report by IPPR North, transport spending in Yorkshire and the Humber amounts to £844 per person. For London the figure is over £4,000.

Senior Research Fellow at IPPR North, Luke Raikes, said: "London is still set to receive almost three times more transport investment per person than the North. This is indefensible.

"The North has been underfunded in comparison to London for decades, and our figures demonstrate that ministers have failed to redress this imbalance. This failure will continue to hold back the North and the country until the government acts.

"Instead of disputing the figures the government needs to invest in the big, transformative projects being developed in the North such as Northern Powerhouse Rail."

The Department for Transport have disputed the figures, describing them as "completely misleading".

"Our analysis of planned central government transport investment shows that the spending for the North will receive more investment per person (£1,039) than the South (£1,029)."

Responding to the criticism, Mr Raikes said: "We stand by our figures and methodology but ultimately the general public will need to decide who is misleading whom."

Universities Face Decline in Applications

Christy Bucklow

Universities are facing a drop in applications this year.

Hopeful students had until 6pm on Sunday 21st January to submit their UCAS applications. The number of students submitting applications ahead of the deadline was down by 5%.

There could be a number of reasons for the drop in applications, primarily the large costs involved. Brexit could also be another factor, as universities have felt its impact.

The number of EU students choosing to study in the UK has continued to fall in the uncertainty. Russell Group Head of Policy, Sarah Stevens, called for the government to provide more clarity on the position of EU students studying in the UK, as currently only a funding commitment is in place for degrees beginning in September.

Stevens said: "In particular, they should confirm at the earliest opportunity the fee rate and other financial support EU undergraduates and postgraduates might be eligible for from 2019/20 onwards as well as arrangements to stay for further study or work after graduation."

There has also been a change in the funding of several university courses. Nursing, for example, along with midwifery, no longer receive NHS bursaries, resulting in a drop in applications for the healthcare degrees.

WonkHE, a university data analysis website, stated some universities were facing a drop of at least 20% in applications. This could have a potential negative impact on overall university funding, as they rely on tuition fees paid by students.



“The number of EU students choosing to study in the UK has continued to fall in the uncertainty”

What's the Office For Students Actually For?

Ian White and Rabeeah Moeen
News Editor

The Office for Students (OfS) has been in the news a lot lately, mostly for all the wrong reasons, but what is the intended purpose of this new body?

The government intends the OfS to be a body which regulates the higher education marketplace which combines the old HEFCE and the Office for Fair Access. It will have the power to grant the university titles and the power to award degrees.

With many new private higher education institutions being set up in recent years, the OfS is intended to both encourage and regulate increased diversification in higher education. It will also have some powers over funding, apart from research grants.

It's other responsibilities include the administration of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), which grades the quality of teaching at universities which opt in.

More controversially, it will also try to ensure that universities give freedom of speech to controversial speakers following Jo Johnson's criticism of 'no platforming' policies and 'safe spaces' on campus.

However, the body has been dogged by controversy due to the makeup of

its board. Toby Young's well publicised and short lived tenure on the board (he only lasted 8 days before resigning) has tarnished the reputation of the OfS even before it comes into force in April.

It has also been criticised for only having one student on its board, engineering student Ruth Carlson. The NUS expressed fury at its exclusion from the board despite the appointment of several members who have no experience in or links with higher education.

The Labour peer Andrew Adonis has criticised the priorities of the OfS. Writing in The Guardian he argued that, "controversy over 'shocking' speakers on campus is age-old. But compared with the crisis of student finance, and deep concern about top management pay and the value for money of student courses, this pales into insignificance."

The Office for Students will become fully operational in April - we will see how this troubled beginning may have already undermined its effectiveness in the higher education sector.



Image: Independent



Image: The Guardian

Daniel Zaks

“It is important to stress that we are investing in support and regularly review our services to ensure they are meeting the needs of students. Working with LUU, we have increased investment in the student counselling and wellbeing service in 2017-18, adding new roles, such as wellbeing practitioners, and new services, such as the Big White Wall, which can be accessed at any time. Mental health and wellbeing is an incredibly important issue which the University takes very seriously, working alongside other groups in the Leeds community to help students to reach their full potential.”

A photograph showing a person in a black t-shirt and blue jeans sitting on a couch, with their hands clasped together. In the foreground, the hands of another person are visible, gesturing as if in conversation. The background is slightly blurred, showing a red cushion and a white wall. The text 'Image:Acon' is visible in the bottom right corner.

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Fees Must Fall: Cape Town's Struggle for Academic Equality

From the perspective of a Leeds student on her year abroad at the University of Cape Town, *The Gryphon* explores the mistreatment of students fighting for free education in South Africa.



Image: The Citizen

Mailies Fleming

Exam season in Cape Town. The regulation bag check and ID scan grant you entry onto the University of Cape Town's (UCT) rugby field which has been transformed into November Hall- the huge marquee which serves as a temporary exam venue. With the line of portaloos and metal fencing encircling the compound, you'd be forgiven for believing the running joke amongst students- that you're entering a festival. Yet the private security forces lining the walkways with truncheons in hand, the rolls of barbed wire which enmesh the perimeter, and the German Shepherd dogs that patrol at night, show that this is far from a joke.

These measures were part of the University of Cape Town's response to the recent #FeesMustFall protests. The final months of 2017 saw students on university campuses across South Africa reignite the call for free, decolonized education. According to UCT management, their response was "designed to ensure exams [were] concluded in a safe, quiet and calm atmosphere." Yet the presence of German Shepherd dogs (whose historical use as weapons against the black population of South Africa earned them a reputation as 'apartheid police dogs') and armed private security (private security have a track record of responding violently to student protests in South Africa during the past few years) was more than unfortunate. Far from creating an environment conducive to learning, it showed a blatant disregard for student well-being, with a major blind spot over how the 'militarization' of campus has racially biased and triggering effects on students. But how did things escalate to this point?

Student protests occupy a unique position in South African history. The 1976 Soweto student uprising marked a pivotal moment in the demise of South Africa's brutal apartheid regime. The massacre of hundreds of peacefully protesting school children drew international condemnation and gave momentum to the rise of the African National Congress party, which

Nelson Mandela was later to lead. Protests continued to be an integral part of student politics over the following decades, but it was the #RhodesMustFall movement in 2015 which once again garnered international attention for South African universities. In March 2015, the throwing of a bucket of faeces over the statue of British colonialist Cecil Rhodes, which occupied a central position on the University of Cape Town's campus, marked the catalyst for protest actions which resulted in the eventual removal of the statue. The defamation of the statue by students at UCT was a tangible indication of the emotional pain endured by black students attending a university which visibly revered individuals who had historically denied people of colour their humanity. This drew attention to the fact that both the curriculum and the bureaucratic structure of the university prioritised a white perspective, putting students of colour at a disadvantage and maintaining a Eurocentric curricular focus, despite this being the curriculum of an African university.



Image: EWN



Image: Daily Maverick

The 2015 nationwide protests were intended to communicate to universities and government that this inequality could no longer stand. At UCT, students shut down the campus by disrupting lectures, barricading entrances, burning artwork deemed to be perpetuating colonial ideas, and building a shack on campus to highlight the plight of those students left without housing. The university's private security and the South African Police responded with tear gas, stun grenades and violence. Students across the country were arrested. Responding to the nine arrests made at UCT this last semester, one UCT student interviewed questioned: "How do you jail people who are protesting for social justice?"

The worn-out familiarity which clashes between students and police have acquired casts doubt over whether anything has fundamentally changed in South African education since the student protests of 1976. The words of anti-apartheid activist, Steve Biko, ring true today as much as they did when he was at the forefront of the student protests and Black Consciousness movement in South Africa during the 70s. "The basic tenet of Black Consciousness is that the black man must reject all value systems that seek to make him a foreigner in the country of his birth and reduce his basic human dignity." The use of English as the language of instruction in a country of eleven official languages, the Eurocentric perspectives which are unquestioningly reproduced in many areas of the curriculum, and not least the treatment of students as criminals, suggest that South African universities such as UCT are rooted in a 'value system' that places financial interests above the needs of students.

In 2016, the University of Cape Town opted to spend over 24 000,000 ZAR to secure its campuses against protesting students. The irony of spending "already deeply constrained resources" on subduing student protests, rather than on alleviating the financial burdens which were the catalyst for these protests, deepened during the latest round of protests when UCT offered a 30 000 ZAR reward to anyone with information that led to the successful prosecution of 'illegal' protestors. The use of such a classic divide and rule tactic suggests it was not students but bureaucracy and buildings which were being prioritized. This was confirmed by the South African government's reluctance, during this time, to increase its financial contribution towards education from 0.68% of GDP to 1% of GDP – a figure which would still pale in comparison to many developing countries. In Biko's time, the enemy was clearly the apartheid government, but the oppression of the black population of South Africa today is veiled beneath layers of economic rhetoric, making it more insidious and difficult to fight.

Nevertheless, the fight for free education in South Africa has won some ground. Last month, President Zuma announced plans to begin phasing in

'free' (meaning grant-funded) higher education for the poorest South African students attending public universities and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges. This would include the 1% contribution of GDP towards education over a period of five years, as suggested by student protestors and governmental financial advisors. In theory, this would implement a similar model to the UK student loan system, although its efficacy in practice remains to be seen.

"The worn-out familiarity which clashes between students and police have acquired casts doubt over whether anything has fundamentally changed in South African education since the student protests of 1976"

Whilst the commodification of education through extortionate fees is something we are painfully aware of in the UK, the consequences could not be more different in a country whose Gini coefficient – a measure of the wealth disparity between citizens – is around twice that of the UK. Financial exclusion from education in South Africa can easily result in slipping to the bottom rung of a social ladder which is heavily mediated by race. The transition of the protests from #RhodesMustFall in 2015 into 2017's #FeesMustFall reflects a recognition of how intertwined racial and economic issues are, meaning that it is the fundamental values underpinning the education system which need addressing.

Whilst the racial tensions which characterise South African society may be less pronounced in the UK, the need to decolonize education is just as pressing. The Why Is My Curriculum White? campaign which the University of Leeds has hosted during the past few years was an important step to bringing conversations about decolonization into the open. It addressed the bias towards European perspectives and forms of knowledge which is embedded in the curriculum, and pointed out how social structures prevent people of colour from accessing higher education and reaching positions from which they could begin to change the structures which perpetuate racial inequality. Universities are supposedly the institutions of learning which produce the thinkers and builders of tomorrow's world. But, without addressing the historical racial prejudice which is woven into the fabric of these institutions, and making these spaces equally accessible to everyone, there is little hope of progressing towards a more just and equal future.

Uncovering the Chilean Mural – Repression and Resistance



Painted by refugees in the 1970s, this Chilean mural was long forgotten before being discovered by chance. *The Gryphon* attended its relaunching event, to discover its symbolic importance in the struggle against injustice.

Inaya Folarin

On 7th December, the LUU held a launch event for the restoration of a mural that had been hidden for 40 years behind a wall in the Union foyer. It was spotted by Chilean Ph.D. student, Mario Alvarez Fuentes, who noticed his country's flag on the wall during a refurbishment in the Union. He contacted the wider Chilean community about the mural who subsequently, in an open letter to the LUU, expressed the cultural significance of the mural and the necessity of its restoration.

It was painted in 1976 by a group of Chilean students who came to Leeds as political refugees fleeing Pinochet's military dictatorship. Chileans created the mural in the union to draw attention to the dictatorship, the plight of the Chilean people, and act as a symbol of workers solidarity, a crucial part of Chilean heritage. It depicts miners and agricultural workers with 'And There Will be Work for All' written in Spanish, a popular socialist slogan.

General Pinochet's regime was an authoritarian military government that ruled Chile between 1973 and 1990, established after the democratically-elected socialist government of Salvador Allende was overthrown by a CIA-backed coup d'état on 11 September 1973. The regime was characterised by the systematic suppression and persecution of dissenters. The regime left thousands dead or missing and tortured many more, driving an estimated 200,000 Chileans into exile.

Political activists, artists, musicians, intellectuals and Chilean citizens, fled their homes with many settling in neighbouring Latin American countries. However, in an agreement with the UN High Commission for Refugees, the UK arranged to accept 3,000 Chilean refugees.

The launch event featured an exhibition which encouraged the audience to engage with the mural by listening to interviews with individuals from the Chilean community and read articles, pictures, and newspaper cuttings from the era. The event also hosted talks by members of the Chilean community including Gilberto Hernandez, one of the Chileans who painted the mural, and people involved in

the restoration project such as Sarah Rainey, an MA student in Art Gallery and Museum Studies. Miss Rainey expressed the importance of enabling the Chilean people to tell their stories in their own words and not have their stories told for them.

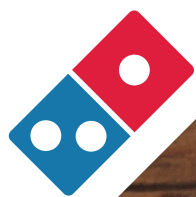
The mural restoration, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, has been hailed as a project of great symbolic significance and an important demonstration of the Union's commitment, historically and presently, to supporting student political activism, expression and art and strengthening bonds with communities of various kinds.

LUU states that the mural will "form the centrepiece of a resource library dedicated to refugees and asylum seekers, bringing members of the student, local and Chilean communities together. A programme of educational workshops on muralism, a collection of oral histories by Chilean volunteers, and a walking tour of mural sites in Leeds will enable everyone to discover the rich history behind this culturally important artwork."

Speaking at the event, Gilberto Hernandez spoke about the warm welcome he received when he arrived in Leeds and how various organisations – trade unions, grassroots movements – came together to provide support to the Chileans in their time of need. He talked about how the university was a place where many Chilean students came together for meetings and discussions and that some were even enabled to continue their studies at the University of Leeds. He stressed the importance of the mural and "the role that visual communication plays in changing injustices that occur daily in the world."

LUU Education Officer, Zaki Kaf Al-Ghazal, said that he wanted the Union to be a 'microcosm' for the community, country, and the world in its commitment to openness and acceptance for refugees through the Sanctuary Scholarship, particularly at a time when there is an increase in far-right attacks. Though the mural reflects the injustice that emanated in 1970s Chile, it is a symbol of the necessity to resist, fight and conquer modern injustices that permeate through our society.

"Chileans created the mural in the Students' Union to draw attention to the dictatorship, the plight of the Chilean people, and act as a symbol of workers solidarity"



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Society Spotlight: Brazilian Jiu Jitsu



Image: Scramble Academy

Mary Lumley
Society Editor

Quickly gaining traction as one of the most effective styles of fighting, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu stands apart from its counterparts due to its emphasis on technique that allows participants of all shapes and sizes to compete as equals. Society Editor Mary Lumley sat down with Sean Maguiness, president of the BJJ society, to ask how he shares his passion for the sport and how students can get involved.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

My name is Sean, I'm a third year English Student and I see myself as a particularly charming individual.

Sean, this isn't a tinder bio. What is BJJ?

It's a grappling sport which was first used to win

no rules (essentially anything goes) fighting contests. From then on, it transformed into a legitimate sport that revolves around taking down, controlling and submitting your opponent.

How did you get into the sport?

When I was 16 I was playing on my estate and this guy started threatening to beat me up. I removed myself from the situation but that's when I decided I should learn how to defend myself. We're alright now.

What's the best thing about BJJ?

I love watching the transformation in people. Many people come in who were like I was when I first started: they have low confidence and are out of shape. The change you see in them mentally; the confidence that people get is amazing. It absolutely just transforms people.

What's your favourite aspect of the society?

How friendly everyone is but also the balance between an inclusive atmosphere and a general desire to succeed.

What is your philosophy on discipline?

Liam, our coach, shared a great philosophy. There were students saying they found it hard to keep up certain things because they became less motivated. In response, he recommended that motivation is not an effective way to monitor habits; discipline is better

because it's based on consistency and not fluctuation.

The martial arts world is very male dominated. What would you say to a female thinking of getting involved?

Male domination is the wrong word, even though there's a higher percentage of men, there isn't a better martial art suited to women. This is because, in Jiu Jitsu, it's specifically designed in favour of a smaller opponent with a physical disadvantage. For example, some of the Gracie's (pioneers of the sport) have set up women's self defence programmes. They've devised a lot of ways that women can effectively combat numerous dangerous situations they may find themselves in.



Image: Scramble Academy

New Year, New You, New Society?

Lara Groves
Society Editor

It's a New Year, and with every New Year comes the inevitable talk about pushing the boat out and trying new things. Taking the plunge can be daunting, but since these societies are all newbies too, maybe it will turn out to be a case of problem shared, problem halved. Novelty is cool, we think, so do check out some of the following new societies:

International Creative Writing (ICW)

A new one to add to the number of literary arts societies in operation at Leeds, but the only one with a multilingual focus. ICW have created a platform where students are free to write in their native language. More than 6,000 international students arrive at Leeds each year, so ICW is a brilliant initiative to ensure inclusivity and promote diversity of voices across campus.

Search 'LUU International Creative Writing' on Facebook, or email internationalcreativewriting@gmail.com.

Marine Science and Conservation (MSC)

If you watched *Blue Planet II* and marvelled at spectacular marine life you weren't even aware of, then consider joining MSC. They are dedicated to spreading awareness about our seas and oceans, and what we should be doing to protect them. They are holding a virtual reality evening on Friday 23rd February allowing you to explore the world's oceans and immerse yourself in the deep sea. In addition, there will be a talk and a discussion from a marine conservation charity.

Search 'LUU Marine Science and Conservation' on Facebook.

Cocktail

For those who fancy recreating their Revs favourites, try Cocktail society. They host mixology lessons for beginners and encourage you to become familiar with an array of different drinks - by creating and, more importantly, drinking them. Expect plenty of bar crawls and tasting sessions.

Search 'Leeds Cocktail Society' on Facebook, or email leedscocktailcommittee@gmail.com.

Third Culture Kid

You're a third culture kid if you've grown up in a culture other to that of your parents, but have developed an affinity for both cultures. This society is internationally-focused, and provides an opportunity for third culture kids to meet and hang out, and share stories of what it's like to experience cultural hybridity.

Search 'Third Culture Kid Society Leeds' on Facebook, or email tck@gmail.com.

Cryptocurrency and Blockchain (LUUCAB)

You've heard of Bitcoin, but do you know how it works? LUUCAB's aims are to increase awareness and understanding of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology. From hosting discovery lectures tackling questions such as 'how can blockchain change the world?' to cryptocurrency trading workshops, there's lots to get involved with and will cost you nothing.

Search 'LUUCABsoc' on Facebook, or email luucabsoc@gmail.com.



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Music • Clubs • Fashion • Arts • Lifestyle and Culture • Blogs

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Take a look at the World Island 2018 line-up and your jaw will drop. Headliners Sampha, Loyle Carner and Unknown Mortal Orchestra destine this weekender at Southbank Depot to be something truly special.

Crafted by Super Friendz, the line-up is a curation of the best of the UK's rising musical talent, embracing an eclectic mix of artists who blend together seamlessly. With the soulful jazz of Alfa Mist, the blissful meandering samples of Nightmares on Wax and the husky haze of Yellow Days, the weekend is set to enrich your soul and wash away the post-winter blues. Rising icon Mahalia is also one to catch before she inevitably soars to well-deserved fame.

It's rare to see such a stellar line-up on local soil, and because of this, World Island 2018 is simply unmissable.

Meg Firth

2018: Ones to Watch

In celebration of the New Year, we have compiled our top 10 artists and bands to look out for over the next twelve months.

Sigrid

Everybody's favourite Scandipop sensation Sigrid is practically guaranteed to make waves this year after her well-deserved triumph in BBC Music's prestigious Sound of 2018 poll. Since the release of the wonderfully anthemic "Don't Kill My Vibe", she has been stealing the spotlight both in her native Norway and across the world with her minimalistic production, heartfelt lyricism and rousing choruses. Pair that with her fresh-faced charm and effortlessly cool style and you have a starlet that's set to dominate the industry.

Nilüfer Yanya

Nilüfer Yanya holds the power to glide into your ears and reside in the pleasure centre. The 22-year-old West Londoner blends minimal, yet rich, percussion seamlessly with earworm hooks and her hypnotically husky vocals. Her recent EP, *Plant Feed*, flaunts her effortless charm and perfectly encapsulates the beautifully raw quality of her lo-fi sound; flourishes of jazz and trip-hop glide and stutter under muted guitar tics, creating the perfect canvas for Yanya's smoky vocals. Hailed by NME as 'one of Britain's best young talents' and recognised as 'one to watch' by The Guardian, Nilüfer Yanya is certainly someone to feature heavily in your playlists this year.

47SOUL

47SOUL are looking to reach new heights with their exhilarating electro Arab Dabke sound. Following their 2015 debut release, *Shamstep*, the Palestinian-Jordanian quartet are back with their follow-up, *Balfron Promise*, on 2nd February. If their single release, 'Mo Light', is anything to go by, the album will prove to strengthen not only their compelling beats and frantic synth riffs, but also their pressing political lyricism. The release of *Balfron Promise* will be accompanied by several album launch shows throughout February across the UK, including Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool.

Moses Sumney

With honey soaked vocals, Moses Sumney is the contemporary soul singer who after a number of EPs released his debut album *Aromanticism* at the tail end of 2017. The album is a series of melancholic tracks filled with lofty vocals that transport you into this space of heart-ache and loneliness whilst still being painstakingly beautiful. Highlight tracks include 'Plastic', 'Don't Bother Calling' and 'Quarrel', but it's difficult not to lose yourself to the album in its entirety. After touring with Solange and James Blake, Moses Sumney has managed to secure himself a spot at Coachella this year which will surely be the platform to catapult him to the fame he deserves.

Superorganism

Step into the kaleidoscopic world of psychedelic indie pop collective Superorganism and your senses will be assaulted by a many-hued, surreal, eclectic vision of delight. Originally shrouded in a cloak of mystery during the release of their bonkers debut *Something For Your M.I.N.D.*, the quirky eight-piece hail from all corners of the globe and have already turned heads with their zany performance on the series finale of *Later... with Jools Holland*. Their sample-heavy sound will flip your ears and turn them inside-out and you will be all the better for it.



The Rhythm

The Rhythm Method's mission is to conquer the middle ground between today's mainstream pop and the supposedly more serious (read: pretentious) 'alternative' offerings. After a few years of well-received singles, 2018 is the year they're set to release their debut album. Newcomers to the duo may find themselves a bit disconcerted: their kitschier stuff could be ripped straight from the theme of a bad TV show, and lyrical references to Cherie Blair, salad cream, and Princess Diana's butler aren't exactly pedestrian. But it works. Good pop songs that find humour in the banal could well be the light relief we need from the awaiting doomsdayism of 2018.

Yellow Days

George Van Den Broek, aka Yellow Days, first turned heads in 2016 with his soul soothing Indie EP, *Harmless Melodies*. Gritty vocals lamenting lost lovers are eased with lazy melodies and slacking guitars, characteristic of his woozy lo-fi sound. At the astonishing age of only 18 and with his debut album *Is Everything Okay In Your World?* just released, featuring the likes of Rejjie Snow, 2018 is sure to see more Yellow Days.

Rival Consoles

Rival Consoles has been teasing his fans by posting a blurred 12-track folder on his Facebook page, strongly hinting at a new album in 2018. Accompanying this excitement, he has also posted some sketches and improvisations on Soundcloud over the last few months – when this new release finally surfaces, expected a great blend of soothing tones and juicy pulsations!

Brockhampton

Brockhampton is the "boyband" you need to get listening to. Unlike anything that you're used to, the 14-piece alternative hip-hop collective have released three albums in the last year and don't seem to be showing any signs of slowing down. Their vocalists, producers, writers, graphic designers and creative directors are all included as band members, creating an unstoppable passion that comes through in every track. For intensely honest lyrics and irresistible, rock-hard beats, Brockhampton are one to keep an eye out for in 2018.

Nils Frahm

2018 looks to be a promising year for Nils Frahm. Having had an extended break throughout 2017, the German pianist and composer returns with his new album, *All Melody*, on 26th January, which is expected to be full of stringed and synthesised soundscapes. The release is followed with a UK tour in February and March, which includes several nights at London's Barbican Centre, before passing through Manchester and Glasgow.

On the Radar 2018: Local Leeds

It's undeniable that Leeds has one of the best music scenes in the country, home to both big names as well as a blossoming DIY culture. LSR's Head of Music, James Ward, highlights the city's most exciting rising stars.

Hookworms

The 2nd and 3rd of March are two of the most exciting dates of 2018. Why? Hookworms are taking over The Brudenell 'with friends'. These guys have been in the thick of the Leeds scene since their formation, and their recent brief hiatus has prepared them for a big one this year. Their third album *Microshift* comes out on the 2nd of February, and if the whole album is on the level of the anthemic *Negative Space*, then Hookworms are in exactly the right place to influence the soundscape of Leeds.

Necktr

Exploding in 2017, Necktr are one of those bands that you can't help but rave about at every opportunity. They've already smashed the legendary Boilerroom in Guildford and the Sebright Arms in London this year, meaning that this nine-piece jazz-afrobeat-hip-hop fusion band of LCOM students are ready to take their party across the country and bring joy to the people.



Dead Naked Hippies

Quite simply some of the best performers out there. Vocalist Lucy takes control of the stage and captivates a crowd like no one else in Leeds right now. Their blistering self-titled debut EP came out in September and is essential listening.

Team Picture

Timothy and the Team are in the studio cooking up new tunes that will delight and surprise. Team Picture have a sound that has been described as 'a tiger trapped in a freight train', with kraut-rock and shoegaze influences. 'The Katman' experience at the Hyde Park Book Club was something to behold. Starting the new year right with a gig at London's Old Blue Last as part of DIYs Hello 2018 gigs, it's essential for more people to hear their music.



Heir

It's almost impossible to dislike this band. These guys are pop music at its best. Their infectious hooks are so accessible that will be hard pressed to find someone who won't start tapping their toes, especially along to 'I'll Pick You Up'. Already playing legendary venues like the Troubadour and Old Blue Last, these guys bring joy to the party wherever they go.

Fizzy Blood

Fizzy Blood are at 'the awkward teenager stage' of their development; they're ready to leave home, perhaps not big enough to make it in the big bad world just yet but have all the confidence and swagger they need to say 'Fuck you mom (Leeds) we're going anyway!'. Having toured with Dinosaur Pile and currently Spring King, they'll embark on a headline tour in February, residing at Headrow House on the 24th of February.

The Golden Age Of TV

New single 'Beast' by The Golden Age Of TV was a great start to 2018. Already getting traction on RadioX, this single is one that you will be hearing on the dancefloors of all your favourite indie discos by the end of the year. Merging the best of Leeds indie talent, this art-rock quintet will be opening for Marsicans at Church in March. Bea and the boys warmly invite you to dance with them at with every song they play and every song they release, and it's highly recommended you accept their invitation.

Jellyskin

Jellyskin have come a long way in the last year; moving away from their shoegaze roots and towards a heavier sound, the duo are moving forwards. Securing a slot in Liverpool supporting Yassassin at the end of February, Zia and Will are really ones to watch over the summer.

James Ward

Making Music Herstory Vol 5: Midori Takada

One of the many failings of our western media - and there are many - is that it rarely takes the time to look beyond the Western hemisphere for the Next Big Thing. The internet allows us to connect instantly with people across the globe at the touch of a button. Yet, cookies and advertising often leave you trapped in an online vacuum, being fed a cycle of similarities that it is hard to break.

So here is your break: Midori Takada. Prominent in Japan in the 1980s, she was a big player in the minimalist and

ambient worlds of music and was hugely influential in that realm. Takada was previously part of the Mkwaju Ensemble, whose work sounds like the sprouting buds of early techno.

For her debut solo release, *Through The Looking Glass* (1983), Takada gives us a lesson in girls doing it for themselves. Original pressings of the album are a notorious collectible, going for up to \$750 on Discogs. Takada recorded the entire album in just two days, playing a huge number of instruments and found

objects herself, layering them over one another to create a beautifully soothing warmth. Takada said in an interview with the Guardian, "what I wanted to compose was impossible to notate, and each sound was painted like on a sound canvas."

Through The Looking Glass is a wonderfully evocative oeuvre, leading you by the hand through a world of moods and colours you couldn't have imagined. 'Crossing' ups the pace, making your heart beat faster, whereas 'Mr Henri

Rousseau's Dream' evokes the warmth of childhood sleep. It's simultaneously soothing and exciting, and a work of refined genius.

Takada's compositions are an early lesson in beat-making and soundscaping. To everyone at Leeds who thinks they're a DJ, take a listen to Takada and then we can talk.

Jemima Skala



Image Credit: NME

In the Middle with The Night Café

The Night Café are quickly gathering popularity and pace with their upbeat indie and big ambitions. Clubs Editor, Milly Whyman, spoke to Sean from the band about inspiration, resolutions, and massive plans.

It's a story that many wannabe musicians aspire to. The Night Café boys met in school in Liverpool, drawn together by the mutual desire to be in a band. This is exactly what they are doing now, and exactly what they are doing well. The band have had, in Sean's words, "a mad year." Going from touring to writing and back again, the boys have been working hard to get their EP out early this year, and have also been making progress with a "massive" album coming out before the year is up also.

The band seem to be constantly realising their dreams, with Sean referring to their upcoming Alexandra Palace gig with the Wombats in March, as being a "bucket list venue". Then again, the tour is, for the band, a "bucket list" moment in itself. Sean says that they have seen an organic growth of small gigs to sell out venues, and that seeing these crowds grow is even more motivation to keep working hard. After selling out Church in Leeds, they can't wait to get down and play the venue. Sean has heard good things about Church, and is itching to get there. The band love a night out in Leeds, and, having spent some time in the city before, are eager to return. Having previously supported Sundara Karma on tour, and being set to support

The Wombats later this year, the bands biggest inspiration came as a bit of a surprise. The bands collective favourite is Brockhampton: "have you heard of them? They're really cool." But, their love of Brockhampton, a 15 strong boy-band that Sean likened to Odd Future in their heyday, isn't entirely random. It's the idea of a creative collective band that appeals to the boys. Some of Brockhampton are graphic designers, some vocals, some mixing, but together they take the

form of the self acclaimed "worlds greatest boyband." This seems to be an aim for The

Night Café, to expand into a band on the road to world domination. It's this motivation that seems to be pushing the boys to keep working hard and enjoying every moment.

The Night Café, in reviews and interviews, have been previously described as Indie Rock. Sean is keen to drop this label. Admittedly, the music they have out at the moment does fit into this "indie rock" sound, but Sean tells me that the music they are creating behind the scenes is strikingly different. "(We're making) anything, RnB, we don't

"This year has had ups and downs, but our goal for 2018 is to do it properly."

want to stop at a genre." Similarly, to that of Brockhampton, who dip from rap, to soulful RnB, to acoustic guitar seamlessly, it seems that The Night Café have no plans to be put in a box. In Sean's words, "if it sounds good, it sounds good." The band want to structure their albums "properly," but seem excited about having a mix of genres across albums. This creativity and genuine excitement about trying out new music, and new styles, is a testament to the love the boys seem to have of what they do.

When asked about New Year's goals and resolutions for The Night Café,

Sean emphasises that plans are looking big. In short, the band want to make the New Year as successful as it can possibly get. "This year has had ups and downs, but our goal for 2018 is to do it properly." They want to "switch it on" and make their next step towards becoming what they want to be: "as a whole, the resolution is to smash it." This seems like a good resolution to jump onto. But Sean also emphasises the need to enjoy the moment and have fun with what they are doing also, as well as being ambitious. The band

want to "touch into the fact that they are living the dream already, and haven't even got to the point they want to."

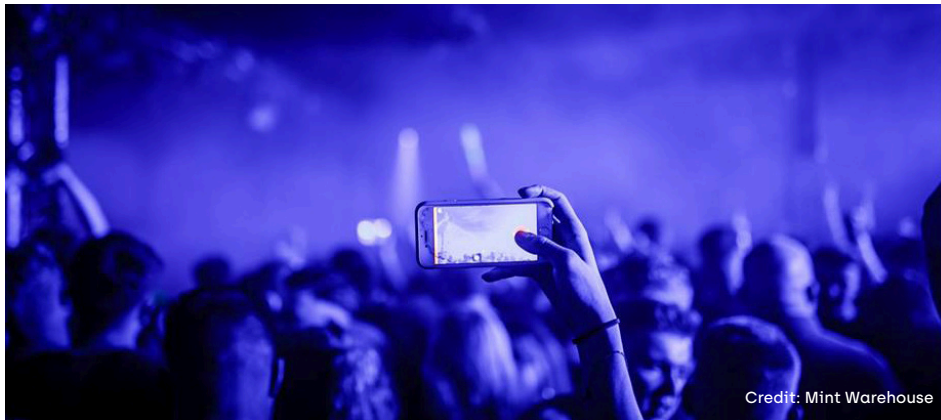
But, what is the point they want to get to? According to Sean, it's not just to be a "pure famous band", but they want everyone to have their music. More than fame, the aim is to be influential, to start a movement, to become a brand. "We don't want to stop, ever," says Sean, and I wouldn't be surprised, with the energy the band have, that they want to keep going forever. Sean thinks that you won't ever be fulfilled if you have a "point" you want to reach and "that's where you will be fine." "You should always want more," says Sean. "More", it seems, is to be the "biggest band in the world." It's a motivational idea, to always strive for more, and never stop just because you're comfortable.

After all that, I'm feeling inspired, and perhaps more than that, excited to see what The Night Café have in store. The boys come to Church 26th January; tickets are available via Dice, Jumbo, or Crash Records.

Milly Whyman

Four Clubbing Resolutions for 2018

Clubbing is undeniably a major part of the student experience. But we're creatures of habit. It's not difficult to quickly fall into a routine: same pre-drink playlist, same venue, same experience. It's time for a shake-up. Here are four resolutions to make 2018's nights out better than last year's.



Credit: Mint Warehouse

Less filming, more dancing

People are tired of dancefloors becoming seas of screens, with people feeling the need to give their Snapchat friends a constant stream of updates. It gets old. When re-watched, these generally consist of 30 seconds of indecipherable sound, occasionally punctured by some bloke shouting "Oi Oiiiiii" when the track drops. Keep the camerawork to a minimum, please.

Branch out

Your favourite clubs are your favourites for a reason. But, regardless of how good Wire and Hi-Fi are, there is more to Leeds than those two trusty basement havens. Head to Wharf Chambers, HPBC, or Moorside Social Club for some DIY parties and a bit of community spirit. And whilst the weekends boast the visits of the big names, midweek nights often feature international up-and-comers. It doesn't hurt to try something new.



Credit: Mint Warehouse

Arrive earlier

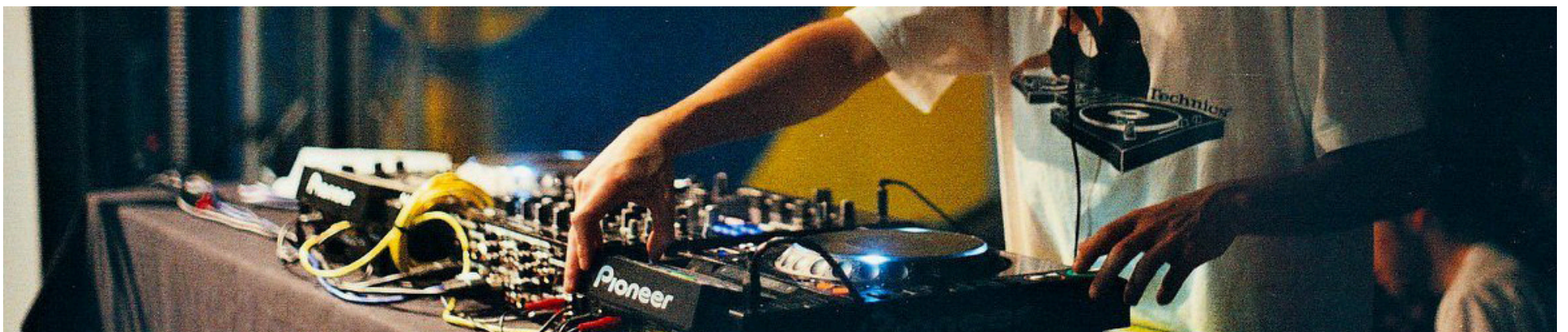
If the night finishes at six, then it can make sense to arrive late and maximise valuable pre-drinking time. But whilst the pre-midnight acts don't top the billing, they can often outshine more established artists. Try to be less focused on the specific person behind the decks, and more focused on the music coming from the sound system instead.

Don't take it too seriously

Club culture has its fair share of snobbery. Not every night has to be underground industrial techno, or a warehouse rave with five headliners. There's no shame in going to Fruity. Don't take every night too seriously. And definitely don't take newspaper articles as gospel. Happy New Year.

Dan King

LSR Launch Transmission



Leeds Student Radio has unveiled plans for *Transmission*, an extra-terrestrial event set for launch at the Brudenell Social Club on 7th February.

The spaced-themed party will feature local talent while supporting a charitable cause and is anticipated to be out-of-this-world. On the bill so far for the "inter-planetary journey" are Leeds-based electro-funk trio Galaxians, hip-hop, soul and jazz mavericks Garde Dog, and sample-driven psychedelic

four-piece Fold, as well as the indie jazz stylings of Ed Allen to open to the night. If that wasn't enough, Cosmic Slop's Raf, an iconic stalwart of the Leeds party scene, will end the night with a set of astronomical proportions.

A share of the night's proceeds will be donated to the charity MAP (Music and Arts Production). The project, which offers qualifications in art and music to young people who are at risk of exclusion from the mainstream school

system, is at risk of losing its base at Hope House gallery and is desperately fighting to keep going.

In addition to the night's musical offering, LSR have teamed up with The Scribe, LUU's student-run arts zine, for an exclusive collaboration for the event. The publication is looking for literature, music, poetry, short stories and visual arts on the theme of "Sound and Silence".

If you are fool enough to miss the

unmissable and actually attend then fear not, as LSR will be broadcasting "live from the Brudenell Social Club, Planet earth" in order to transmit their message across the universe. The *Transmission* has sold out for the last three years in a row and so this is not one to sleep on.

Tickets can be bought through DICE for £5.

James Ward



Credit: Wire

Seven Nights of Non-Stop Fun

As 2018 kicks off and exams are over, it's time to start having some fun again. If you haven't quite mastered the art of Leeds nightlife yet, or if it's just time for a January revamp of your clubbing routine, we've got you covered.

How do you avoid awful nights out at below average events in Leeds? To spare your wallets from costly mistakes, here are the city's best events, a selection finely whittled down through my own trial and error. Set your sights on an event below, I've made these mistakes so you don't have to.

Monday

Mint Mondays - With both Mint Warehouse and Mint Club serving up their own unique offerings, you would be a fool to miss out.

Quids in - One pound VK's, chart tunes and a chatty smoking area, the epitome of cheap and cheerful.

Tuesday

Space - Offering funky house and urban beats in the heart of Leeds' town centre.

Wire - This venue's small, dark and intimate basement frequently hosts the biggest names in underground music, offering intense beats all night long.

Wednesday

Warehouse - A seminal venue with a quality sound system which is the end point for all sports socials every Wednesday. If you dig rugby boys then don't miss it.

Hifi - Funk and soul tunes that you will find impossible not to groove to with your friends. The stage at the front is a firm fave for people looking to show off their dance skills. Hifi's carefree attitude towards those leaving and returning to the club on a whim means you can pop out for a midnight snack if you desire.

Thursday

Donuts - Cheap, cheerful and on campus. With free donuts on entry and a cavalier attitude to genres, this fun-loving night has quickly become a cult classic.

Mission - Mission is a sprawling venue committed to house music in every form. Watch out for its intense lighting and powerful smoke machines, which are exciting but also relentless.

Friday

Beaverworks - If you love a night of adventure, even if it means constantly losing your friends, this maze of a converted warehouse can't be missed on a Friday night. Beaverworks is home to some of the biggest events in Leeds, from Highrise to Flux.

Fruity - The night that needs no introduction. Start early in Terrace and go home only when you've grown tired of the Frozen theme in your ears and VK's on your tongue.

Saturday

Cirque, Goodlife, Subdub, Flux or Up4. It's a Saturday night, what are you waiting for?

Sunday

With Monday lectures looming, Sundays are built for the pub and nothing more. However, if you do spend a little too much time at the pub and crave to continue the night, Hifi is free on a Sunday, fill your boots.

Bella Davis

From 70's Rock to 80's Disco, What's Coming Up in the New Year

Isabella Minns talks us through why she's swapping new year's resolutions for fashion reflections and a chance to embrace new trends.

I am not usually one to make New Year's resolutions. Most of them have failed miserably within weeks, leading to the familiar deflated feeling as you sit surrounded by celebration wrappers the following Christmas period as the year draws to a close. You reflect on the resolutions you made at the start of the year and how not much has changed since. You consider, briefly, trying again this year, although deep down you know the results will be the same: another year, another failed resolution.

So instead of seeing the New Year as a chance for new proposals, I like to see it as an opportunity for reflection. 2017 carried through the ultra cool 70s trend from Saint Laurent's previous 2016 collections. 70s influences cemented themselves in 2017 identity. Before this new wave of style influence, I looked upon the 70s as a decade fashion should forget. Flares? Gross. Platforms? Fancy dress. But Saint Laurent's rocking collection stole probably one of the best things of the 70s - the music. Elements of The Rolling Stones can be detected with military style jackets and gorgeous oversized cream furs. Gucci also surfaced some of the 70s greatest looks in a more colourful manner drawing upon the synonymous boho hippy culture of the era with floral patterns present throughout collections.

On campus, 70s vibes have also circulated with sheepskin jackets, teddy coats and fabulously huge furs being the chosen companions for cold winter walks through Hyde Park. These jackets styled with wonderfully fitting flares have changed my perspective on the trouser style. The high-waisted nature of the trouser gives the illusion of a Hollywood waistline while the contrast of the tight fitting top with the flares elongates the legs. How could I have ever loathed them? Now as we reflect on 2017 and the 70s for style inspiration our Pinterest boards become inundated with iconic images of Jerry Hall and Grace Jones partying at Studio 54, or romantic images of Jane and Serge in the French countryside. There are also many current style icons who have looked to these greats to create their own style identity; just look at Alexa Chung, Kate Moss and boho beauty Sienna Miller.

Projection for 2018

As Saint Laurent's recent collections see models sporting sequin tops with elegant shoulder pads and dresses with side ruffles, perhaps an 80s rival could be on the way. Colour is in, as our techno-society draws inspiration not only from the catwalk, but the fashionable figures that fill our timelines. Yes, I'm talking about the blogger, the vlogger, the insta icon. As society evolves, we must not ignore the power these instagramers have and what a platform they have gained. Now switching on the TV you can find the face you're used to seeing on your phone.

An instagram sensation I have been following for some time now is Megan Ellaby. Over the years her colourful style has brightened my feed and consequently my wardrobe. Although some outfits I find can be a bit too much for my go-to classic style, Ellaby has educated me on how colour can be cool. Gone are the days when grunge and leather jackets were the epitome of trendy. Now red tassle earrings, leopard print coats with pink collars or shiny silver converse have earned their place in the magazines, on Instagram, and all over our high street. What's more is this ability to experiment with textures, patterns and colours can make a look all the more unique and exciting. Each of us has a favourite colour or a colour that complements our skin tone so discover it and have a play.

Prediction for 2018

Expect more colour clashes. Red and pink do work.

Reflecting on 2017 there is no reason for us to create new resolutions but rather learn from our previous year. Whether that's style-wise, work-wise, uni-wise or relationship-wise. Reflection comes almost naturally, making it easy to learn from, and grow from.

Isabella Minns



Credit: Stylecaster

Fashion Resolutions

Our writers discuss what they want to change about their style this year and how.



Image: Elle

Do you ever wake up in the morning and put together an incredible outfit only to get hit by a wave of self-consciousness which makes you take it all back off again? This is something I have done too many times in the past, which has really restricted what I choose to wear. More often than not, I find myself pushing past my millions of pairs of funky trousers and reaching instead for my boring and basic black jeans, because that is what I feel comfortable in. When choosing an outfit, I would always put what others might think above what I might want. But, not anymore! This year I am committing myself to changing that wave of self-consciousness to a tsunami of self-confidence. A new year, a new start and a new found fashion confidence. I am going to be waving goodbye to other people's negative opinions and saying hello to a more exciting and colourful wardrobe. I aim to inject splashes of colour and glitter into to every outfit I wear. I WILL wear that multi-coloured faux fur jacket, that bright pink pinafore or those rainbow patterned trousers. I think I forget sometimes that anyone can look great in anything so long as they wear it with confidence and assurance. I am so excited to give this new mind-set a try and become the fashion queen I have always dreamed of being. And, as my mother always said: the best accessory a girl can own is confidence. So here's to 2018 – the year of confidence!

Moll Alec

As per, I've made all the usual New Year's Resolutions like giving up chocolate, going for runs three times a week and learning how to play the harmonica. And already I've made it through three boxes of Cadbury's Milk Tray, left my running shoes in my hometown and, well, I don't even own a harmonica.

However, despite my disastrous attempt to accomplish these resolutions, there is one that I've been keen to persevere with, and that is to make fashion more fun. Having a fashion resolution is great because it's one that comes with no guilt attached, and it's a way of being more creative in your engagement and attitudes towards fashion.

This year, I'm going to try and incorporate a fancy dress- style element into my everyday wardrobe. Fancy dress has always been one of my favourite things and so I ask myself; why should I restrict this profound passion of mine to house parties and the occasional Otley Run? I'll be getting out my feather boas and fancy hats to flaunt in lectures and around campus to promote a more light hearted association with fashion.

With the recent recognition of the importance of ethical fashion, I'm all for getting on board with this. However, last year I found I became too focussed on avoiding shops and labels that weren't classed as 'ethical' and forgot about the social, interactive side to fashion that I love. 2018 is therefore going to be the year that I organise clothes swaps with friends, go to embroidery classes and all sorts of crafty cool workshops so that fashion becomes being about sharing creative ideas with people in order to turn fashion into something sustainable.

Fashion shouldn't just be about the clothes that we wear and the trends that we follow. And, hopefully, my resolution will prove that fashion can be about being inventive and eccentric, helping our environment and even just simply making someone smile.

Darla Dryland

2017 saw a lot of changes in the fashion industry, with the appointment of Edward Enninful as editor of British

Vogue and the banning of real fur by Gucci being two of the most significant. Both changes suggest a move towards a more diverse and accepting industry: Enninful is both the first black male editor, and his inaugural issue highlighted racial and political diversity through using British Ghanaian model Adwoa Aboah for the cover. An increased awareness of sustainability was also highlighted by the acknowledgement of catwalk brands such as Gucci, who announced a ban on the use of real fur for their products come 2018. The significance of these changes has not only affected the industry as a whole, but my own approach to fashion coinciding with some of my personal experiences of 2017. While I have always had an interest in my outfit choices, I personally think moving to Leeds and starting university has influenced my style and my outlook towards how many clothes I actually need. My 2018 resolution for a more compact, staple wardrobe may have stemmed from a want of lighter bags when travelling to and from uni or a newly heightened conscience towards my impact on the environment and want to reducing this being another resolution of mine. A third resolution or goal I had for this year was to finally buy a fur coat which, with the influence of uni and my new awareness of sustainability had to be faux fur and had to be reasonably cheap. This meant that the leopard print one I found in the H&M January sale for £20 was perfect and became the fastest New Years resolution I have ever completed. My resolutions for 2018 are ones more easily achieved as they are shaped by issues that have little chance of decreasing in importance, making them difficult to forget about.

Indya Harvey

'This year I am committing myself to changing that wave of self-consciousness to a tsunami of self-confidence.'

New Year, New Trends

Every year the fashion industry changes the rules, with new trends coming up every season. Here's a little guide to help you know what is coming your way in 2018.



Checks are Back: One of the things you can't go wrong with in 2018 is definitely checks, and what's more, it's actually one of the easiest trends to follow. First of all, it's not hard to put an outfit together: just toss on a check shirt, some mom jeans and you're ready to go. Since checks have always been a part of mens' fashion, you can go through your friends, boyfriends, brothers or even dads wardrobe and help yourself to one or two pieces having to spend a penny. Trust me, there is nothing better than saving some money, recycling some clothes and still being trendy.

Pastel Crazy: With pastel pink being a mainstay in the wardrobes of many, I am

very excited to tell you that this years top colours are pastel, especially for summer. The best thing about pastel is that there is a colour for everyone - if you don't like pink, than go for blue, red or whatever shade you can find. You can dress them up or down too - think pastel crops tops and jumpers for uni, or try a pastel maxi dress for the perfect ball occasion. Versatile and effortless is the vibe you'll be going for.

Glitter Everywhere: It's time to put some glitter on again! If you don't know what to wear on a night out, you can always go for a glitter piece, keep the rest simple and you are ready to rock the night. It doesn't even matter if you wear a glitter shirt,

dress skirt or even some glitter accessories - it all works in 2018, just avoid going OTT with the glitter highlighter!

Sheer Veils: This trend is definitely one of my summer favourites. Choosing a light, floaty veil-style top will help you fight those sweaty days, and if it gets windy, there's always a long sheer trouser so that you can still show off your summer tan. Just make sure you don't show off too much underneath: think clever, careful layering for this one!

Prints All Over: This trend may sound a bit dangerous, as it easily evokes images of clashing prints which quickly become an

eyesore. But what may have been a fashion faux-pas is set to be the latest look, if it's done right. It is very important to carefully choose your outfit. In the beginning, you can start with a statement shirt with a little quote on it and some jeans. Then, you can build up to pairing with some print trousers or even a dress. This trend is definitely one where you can try different things out and get braver every time.

Chiara Varelija

Outfit of the Week

1 . Missguided // 2. Zara // 3. Topshop

Pulling off double denim is no easy feat, but Joanna makes it look pretty effortless. The key to creating a statement without looking like you spent three hours figuring out what to wear to is taking a risk - being bold. Here, the fierce set of shades paired with the killed boots [3] make for an edgy, fearless look. Loose, wavy hair dispels any notion of trying-too-hard, whilst minimalistic base layers let the denim speak for itself. Joanna's also caught onto what looks to be one of 2018's favourite trends - the patchwork jeans [2]. Combining different shades of denim into one pair of trousers is a statement that's as easy to throw on in the morning as the

usual jeans, but twice as dynamic. We'll all be after a pair of straight-legged, reworked jeans before we know it, and why not? Here's an example of upcycling creating a trend that's both ethical and exciting, and we couldn't be happier.





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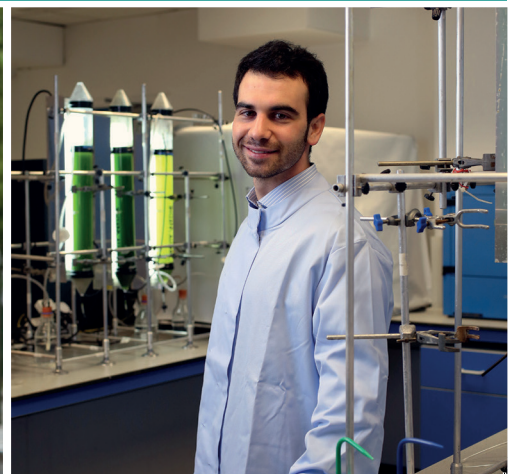
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What Happens When We Forget Female Artists?

The art history of the Renaissance is dominated by male artists, but in reality, female artists also enjoyed immense success.



2017 proved itself to be a good year for women in the art world; large exhibitions opened for artists such as Rachel Whiteread and Fahrelnissa Zeid in London, and in December, 63 year old Lubaina Himid was announced as the winner of the Turner Prize, not only being the oldest winner but also the first woman of colour to win. Whilst much more needs to be done to further the inclusion of women in the contemporary art scene, it is not difficult to name a female artist of the past two centuries, with names such as Frida Kahlo, Georgia O'Keeffe or Tracey Emin coming to mind. However, when we consider artists of the Renaissance period, it is almost always solely men, such as Michelangelo or Leonardo Da Vinci. But why is this? Where are there only Renaissance 'masters' and no mistresses?

Whilst it was much more difficult to be a female artist than a male one in the period due to a lack of available schooling and the general misogyny of the 16th and 17th centuries, it isn't true that there

were a lack of female artists. Figures such as Artemisia Gentileschi, Properzia de' Rossi and Sofinsba Anguissola not only matched their male counterparts in terms of skill, but often earned more money for commissions than them. However, instead of discussing these women and their large bodies of work, much of art historical discourse has lead us to view the Renaissance period as more female nudes than female artists; these artists have been "forgotten" and excluded from the established canon of great works of that period. One of the most important accounts of art and artists from the Renaissance period is Georgio Vasari's *The Lives of the Artists*, and whilst Vasari has been widely praised for discussing female artists in his series of biographies, in reality he only briefly mentions four female artists,

"However, instead of discussing these women and their large bodies of work, much of art historical discourse has lead us to view the Renaissance period as more

in comparison to the hundreds of male artists he dedicates extensive accounts to. In order to counter this warped view of art history that we are so frequently presented with, a large amount has been done by contemporary scholars such as Joan Kelly, Linda Nochlin and Leeds'

own Griselda Pollock to reconstruct this canon, to rewrite an art history that no longer privileges the white male artist.

As well as being forgotten from the history books, many pieces from female artists of the Renaissance have been left out of displays in galleries and institutions as they are frequently forgotten

about, lost or wrongly attributed to male artists. AWA (Advancing Women Artists) is an organisation created by Jane Fortune in 2009 which aims to rediscover these lost women artists by finding their works and restoring them via

the use of crowdfunding projects. One of the key pieces that the foundation is currently working to restore is Plautilla Nelli's depiction of *The Last Supper*, one of the most difficult subjects of the Renaissance to paint. These efforts by the AWA mean that Nelli's painting is set to be displayed in 2019 in one of Florence's most popular museums, that of the Cathedral of Santa Maria Novella.

The role of feminist scholars and organisations such as AWA is a crucial one within the writing, and re-writing of art history as it allows a more realistic view of the Renaissance to be presented one where, whilst still marginalised, many women were able to make a name for themselves as artists. Establishing a recognised history of female artists is also important for contemporary art, as without the representation of women in the past, there are no figures to inspire women of the future to create art and establish their own place within the art world.

Hannah Stokes

Three Billboards Strikes a Chord

Akin to watching a William Faulkner novel (albeit several decades late) being brought to life before your very eyes, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* delivers in its poetic comeuppances, sharp-witted screenplay and conflicting characters. Straight to the point, this film expresses important messages of vengeance and forgiveness in an effective state of simplicity where its purpose is not lost in archaic script writing or romanticised tragedy.

As the acidic-tongued Mildred Hayes (Frances McDormand) grieves the rape, murder and posthumous mutilation of

her daughter, she takes the initiative to speed up the work of the local police department in bringing to justice the man who harmed her daughter. Renting out three billboards and plastering them with a message to Chief Willoughby (Woody Harrelson) holding him to account, she causes a stir amongst the townspeople. McDormand's commanding but problematic role both nurtures support and criticism from her audience; Hayes is not the film's hero – in fact this is a film without protagonists or antagonists, simply people living.

Martin McDonagh's screenplay

nurtures caustic, black humour that not only lightens some of the film's darkest moment but amplifies this apt picture of humanity in all its flaws. Nobody better both endears and infuriates than Sam Rockwell's Officer Dixon – a performance that balances idiocy and ignorance with a child-like willingness to make something of himself. It seems that most characters, while questionable in their motives, are redeemable in some way and while McDonagh's writing ends on what would be an unsatisfactory note in any other film, the sheer craft of its writing is enough.

This is a film that acknowledges the cultural flaws of the Southern states and the personal transgressions of its characters and poses these problematics with the difficulty of sparking change. Encouraging reflection in its rawest form, *Three Billboards* both charms and outrages prolonging its themes far beyond the cinema screen.

Rose Crees

Our Top Ten Films of 2017

From *The Disaster Artist* to *Blade Runner 2049*, Gus Hunninghake takes a look back at some of the best cinema of 2017.

Many genres this year saw continued revamps in quality storytelling (horror and action films seem to be getting better at recognizing what's scary and what good action looks like), and despite growing interest in television series as champions of narrative, 2017 proved that movies can still have a lot to say about even the simplest of ideas: from family ties to otherworldly space operas. We take a look back on the top ten films of 2017.

10: The Disaster Artist

I'm not the biggest fan of biopics, largely because I don't think that people who get involved in them have enough passion about the people in the story to tell it right. Cliches ensue and things get boring. However, James Franco's *The Disaster Artist* blew me away. This film tells the true story about Tommy Wiseau and the making of *The Room*, largely considered one of the worst movies ever made. Franco is on point as director and star, and he brings along a solid cast to tell a true story properly, stripped of any padded storytelling.

9: Logan

As always, superhero films flooded theatres this year. *Logan*, however, marks one of the rare deviations from standard genre fare. Hugh Jackman reprises his role as a weathered, poorly aging Logan, taking care of a similarly



decrepit Charles Xavier. The modern world has all but rid itself of mutants, so when Laura, an eleven year-old mutant, is forced into his life, Logan must choose between running away and fulfilling his role as protector. Jackman portrays a tortured soul incredibly and indeed, what make this film worthy of our top ten is not its focus on complex story lines but instead its focus on the familiar broken character we know and love.

8: Star Wars: The Last Jedi

Despite its divisiveness among some fans, this film satisfies millions in so many different ways. *The Last Jedi* picks up right where Episode VII left us, with Rey finding Luke, the Resistance on the heels of a large victory against the First Order and Kylo Ren struggling to come to terms with the good inside him. Without giving any spoilers away,

the action in this film is definitely some of the best in the series: Rian Johnson's screenplay and direction are top notch, and despite the story dragging near the end of the first act, this remains one of the most emotional and fun experiences from cinema in 2017.



7: Get Out

Who would've thought well-known sketch comedian Jordan Peele could write and direct something so grounded in racial commentary and downright creepy storytelling. *Get Out* follows Chris (Daniel Kaluuya) as he meets his girlfriend Rose's (Allison Williams) upper class family for the first time. As each day passes, Chris realizes more and more that the people around him aren't who they seem. Featuring a breakout performance from Kaluuya and incredible direction from Peele, *Get Out* remains one of the best films of 2017.

6: War for the Planet of the Apes

War concludes the new Apes trilogy with a bang. Ape leader Caesar finds himself in a seemingly impossible predicament when his people are kidnapped by the ruthless Colonel. He must team up with a small band of followers to save them from an all out war between apes and humans. This final chapter solidifies the new Planet of the Apes series as one of the best trilogies of all time, and credibly shows Andy Serkis as one of the hardest working character actors in Hollywood.

5: Baby Driver

Edgar Wright's latest tells the story of Baby (Ansel Elgort), a getaway driver constantly trying to get out of the crime business. Once he does, he finds the girl of his dreams, but is thrown back in to his former life against his will for one last job. Wright's signature style, the use of long takes and less editing than most action films, and a killer musical playlist make *Baby Driver* one of the most unique experiences of 2017.

4: It

Sometimes I forget how much I hate clowns. Then movies like *It* come along and remind me. This story follows a group of kids in Derry, Maine, who are constantly terrorized by a demonic entity most often in the shape of Pennywise

the dancing clown. Led by Bill (Jaeden Lieberher), the group eventually decides to take matters into their own hands and rid the town of It's presence. Full of practical scares and gory terror, *It* is a deeply resonant film that's not just scary, but full of heart and the perfect dose of nostalgia.



3: The Meyerowitz Stories (New and Selected)

With nowhere near enough of the critical claim it deserves, this comedy-drama follows many members of the Meyerowitz family as they live out their daily lives in New York. Danny's (Adam Sandler) daughter has just started college, his father Harold (Dustin Hoffman) is struggling with retirement, and he struggles to connect with his half brother Matt (Ben Stiller). Noah Baumbach, who is known for his stories focused on familial drama, writes and directs this film with so much heart, and it remains one of the most realistic, funny and downright emotionally affecting movies I've seen in a long time.

2: Dunkirk

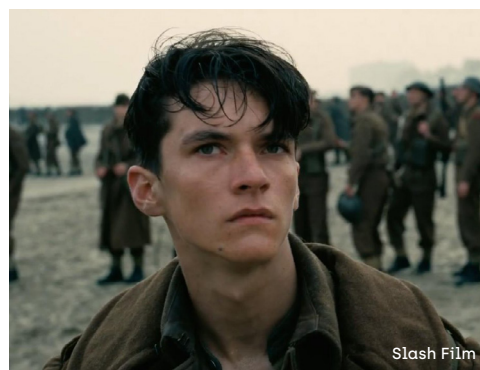
This groundbreaking war drama narrates the story of the evacuation of Dunkirk, France, during the Nazi invasion from three different perspectives: the land, the sea and the sky. Each setting follows a few key characters as they



race to survive the night, the day or just a matter of hours. Christopher Nolan directs a film that is largely different from the war films that have preceded it. He relies heavily on visual storytelling to drive the narrative, this stylistic choice working on every level.

1: Blade Runner 2049

There's so much potential for grounded storytelling within a science fiction setting. The original *Blade Runner*, and now its sequel, are fine examples of this idea. The film follows K (Ryan Gosling), a Blade Runner on the search for out of date replicants in dystopian Los Angeles. Like its predecessor, this film raises a



lot of serious ideas that discuss what makes us human and what it means to exist in a world constantly changing and evolving. This is largely done through Denis Villeneuve's hauntingly stark direction and Roger Deakins' Oscar worthy cinematography. *Blade Runner 2049* reinstalls a love of good film and solidifies Villeneuve as one of the best working directors of today.

Gus Hunninghake

A Bright Light in Netflix's Library

Netflix's big-budget Will Smith flick is enjoyable, but unremarkable.

As far as action and fantasy films go, the recently-added film *Bright* on Netflix was rather good. It was funny throughout, with some of the witty quips between the two protagonists, human Scott Ward (Will Smith) and orc Nick Jakoby (Joel Edgerton), were hilarious. Their chemistry was great, and it really elevated the film. It's set in a world where humans, elves and orcs live somewhat amicably together; yet still experience as much racism, corruption and prejudice as there is in our own, admittedly mundane, world.

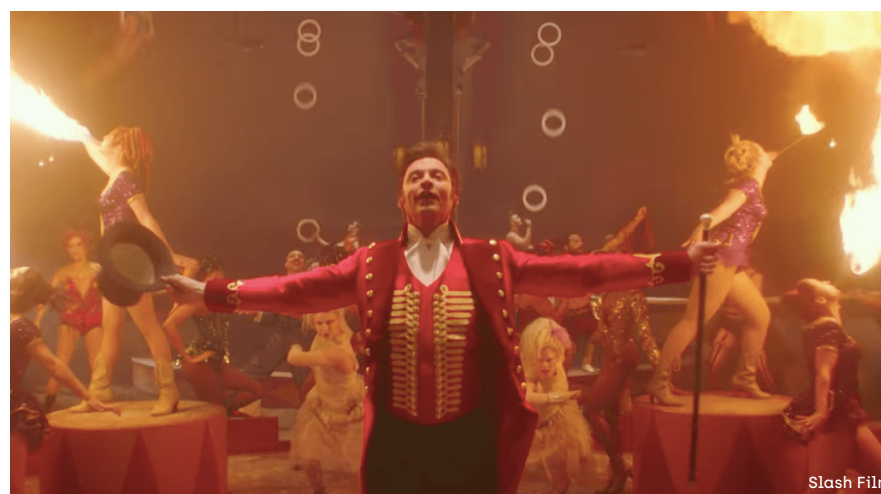
Police officer Ward is forced to work with a new orc partner, Jakoby, while they try to protect a dangerous magical weapon that different groups are intent on killing for. While cliché and predictable in places, the overall film was enjoyable to watch. The copious fight scenes were good and in partnership with decent special effects, it was sometimes impressive.

"While cliché and predictable in places, the overall film was enjoyable to watch."

One irritating issue, however, were the ridiculous flips that the elves were continuously poised to do; even set in a fantasy world it was a little exaggerated. Will Smith, already renowned for his skill, shone in this film through his wit and unique performance. Overall, the cast was good, but Smith truly surpassed everyone and made the annoying issues fade from memory. The music was great and reflected the scenes well to produce more impact.

In any case, if you're bored and are searching for a film to fill the time, *Bright* is an excellent choice. Packed with action, fantasy and humour, it's one of the better films that Netflix has added recently.

Stephanie Bennett



Hardly The Greatest Showman

Hugh Jackman fails to save this shallow film.

Wouldn't it be great if the world was always a happy place where everybody spontaneously broke into song and dance whilst wearing fun and elaborate costumes? Sadly, this is not the case and instead one must immerse themselves in the closest thing to it: musicals. I can't say *The Greatest Showman* is going to be movie of the year, but I can say that first-time director Michael Gracey gives it his best shot. However, what results is a feel-good film that might just make it through due to the catchy soundtrack and brilliant choreography.

The Greatest Showman loosely tells the true story of P.T. Barnum (Hugh Jackman), the 19th-century American entrepreneur-showman who pieces together an extravagant circus in an old museum, showcasing the weird and the wonderful. Whilst breaking no cinematic boundaries, the film is an ode to Hugh Jackman's award-winning stage-musical days before becoming the star of *X-Men*. There is definitely a musical out there for Jackman, but unfortunately this is not the one. Despite this, Jackman really does steal the show and has a brilliant stage presence throughout the film.

I heard such rave reviews before seeing *The Greatest Showman* but I was utterly disappointed; the story lacks originality and the only reason I could possibly give it an okay review is because the musical scenes are so entertaining.

Other stars include Zac Efron and Zendaya who delivered to the best of their ability with a plot that is simple but often scattered at times. The lovers were compelling and put on a pretty good show. The roles were quite different for the pair with Zendaya performing a little more seriously than usual and Zac Efron embodying his former *High School Musical* days. The messages of self-love, following your dreams and believing in yourself that the film is trying to relay are clear if a little lacklustre. Though *The Greatest Showman* is ultimately an entertaining ride, that doesn't save it from being painfully mediocre.

Bella Davis



Image: Pexels

Eight Best Ways to Beat the January Blues

The turkey's long gone, the presents discarded, New Years is simply a blur, and now we're back for another term. Despite your bleak bank account, the frosty weather, and the return of lectures, January doesn't have to be miserable. Here are the best ways to keep your spirits up as we enter the New Year.

We're all familiar with that sinking feeling as we move into the New Year. That 'what next?' feeling that we can never seem to shift. That 'here we go again.' It's not easy to be that positive 'New Year New Me' person. To break out of this rut, to make all of those new chances count, here's some advice to make 2018 your year.

1. Do Something New.

Whether you join that society, visit that new bar or go and see that new film, do something that motivates and excites you! Being proactive and staying busy is really important to become a happier you.

2. Set Some Resolutions.

Just one or two will do, and that sense of purpose and determination followed by the feeling of success at the end are well worth it. You never know, you may even become a better you whilst doing so.

3. Revisit Christmas Spirit.

What made Christmas really special for you? Seeing lots of friends and family? Christmas dinner? Try re-creating some of those things to keep your spirits up. I know that January isn't quite Christmas day but to some extent you can stay in that positive holiday mood.

4. Create a New Playlist.

Or update an old one! Get a good list of music that will get you out of bed in the morning and kick start your day. One that will quicken your walk to Uni and get you feeling really positive.

5. Treat Yourself!

Try getting one item from your wish list per week, or even once a month if money is tight. You'll start to feel more positive.

6. Step Out of Your Comfort Zone.

Do something you wouldn't normally do, or even something that scares you, because afterwards you'll feel ten times more accomplished for it and, in the end, it may even stop being a fear of yours or you could be on the road to doing something great.

7. Organise Yourself!

One of the worst feelings is being overwhelmed. Suddenly there's a whole twelve months ahead of you and you know that there are exams and assignments and deadlines and weekends away and family to see. But just breathe. And invest in a calendar or a diary, just something that will help to keep your mind in order and also stop you from missing anything important. It may also inspire you to fill your calendar with things to do.

8. Don't feel Pressured to be Positive.

It's okay to take a minute out for the January blues but also remember that February is just around the corner. January may feel terrible for now but remember to keep your head up and plan positive and exciting things and I'm sure that 2018 will be an amazing year for you! Happy New Year.

Sasha Williams



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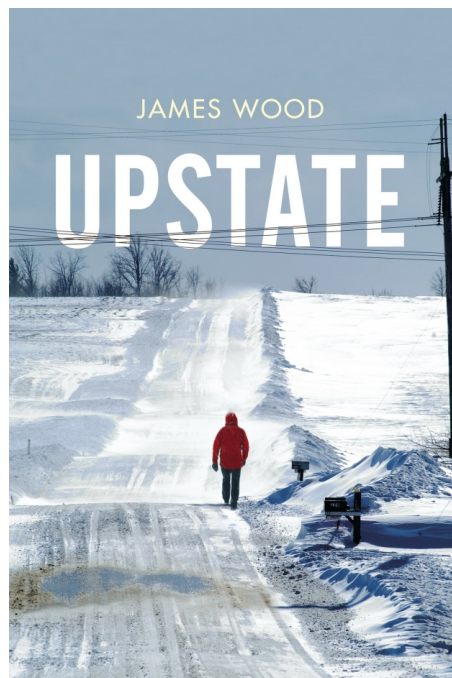
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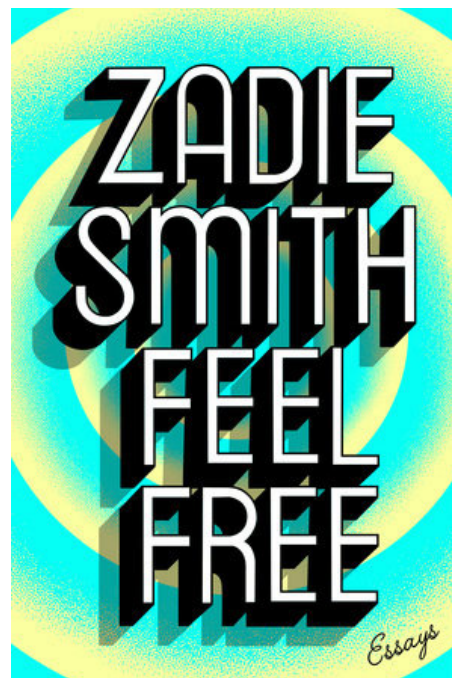
Books to Look Out for in 2018

The novelist and essayist, Christopher Morley, once wrote: 'When you sell a man a book you don't sell him just 12 ounces of paper and ink and glue - you sell him a whole new life.' This year, liberate your minds from your reading lists and take a gander at what promises to be the best books this year.



Upstate -
James Wood

If you were looking for some light reading, look no further than James Wood's new effort. The novel follows the story of father, Alan Querry, and his two daughters. With one daughter in America and the other in London, the family unit has never really recovered from the parent's bitter divorce. When one falls into a deep depression, all three come together for a discussion on how to be happy and the meaning of life. This is a very nuanced, compassionate and honest read about mental health and definitely worth the time of day.



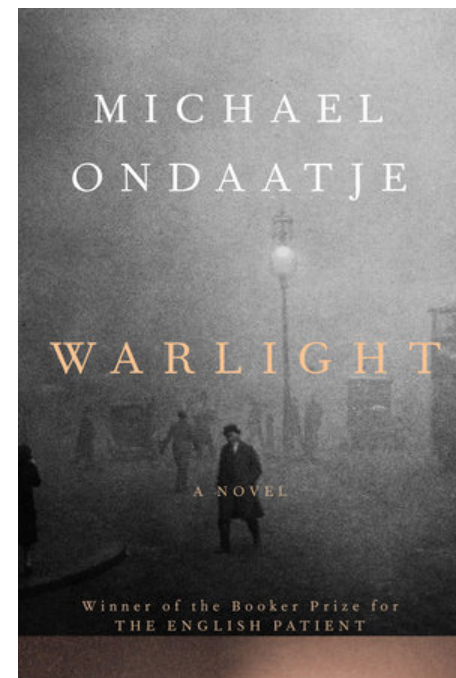
Feel Free -
Zadie Smith

You may know her from the release of her best-selling debut novel *White Teeth*, Zadie Smith is back with a collection of essays set to be released in February of this year. Hailed as a voice of her generation, Smith's subject matter ranges from Quentin Tarantino to the fundamentals of *The Social Network* with a style that never fails to amuse. Not one to be missed!



Dead Men's Trousers -
Irvine Welsh

Once again we are joined by Renton, Begbie, Sick Boy and Spud in the latest installation from Irvine Welsh. Renton is now a big-shot DJ manager, unsatisfied with the high life. After bumping into long-time nemesis Begbie, Renton is surprised to find that he's reinvented himself as an artist and not set on revenge, whilst Spud and Sick Boy have embarked on a venture into the organ-harvesting business. Knowing Welsh, his dark humour will revive these characters once more.



Warlight-
Michael Ondaatje

Writer of *The English Patient* and *Anil's Ghost*, Michael Ondaatje, is releasing his first book in six years. Set in post-war London, 1945, following the aftermath of the Blitz, two young teenagers find themselves in the care of 'The Moth' and his rag-tag group of criminal acquaintances. Years later, Nathaniel writes back on his memories of that time and uncovers the secrets not realised as children. Ondaatje is truly one of the greatest writers of our time and you can grab a copy of *Warlight* in June this year.

Treat Your Shelf

The Curious Incident of the Dog In The Night-Time
-Mark Haddon

A book which manages to be effortlessly simple yet incredibly poignant is a rare find, but it is a feat reached by Mark Haddon's modern classic. Beginning with the murder of a neighbourhood dog, the story centres upon Christopher Boone, the 15 year old protagonist who happens to have severe aspergers.

Christopher decides to investigate the fate of the dog, but what he uncovers goes much further than the murder, and shakes the very foundations upon which his life is built.

Haddon deals with possibly problematic subject matter with ease, intelligently negotiating the emotive difficulties of those who suffer from aspergers without resorting to damaging tropes. Coupled with the economic style of writing with which Haddon

excels, the book is perfect for de-stigmatising aspergers for children, or as an easy read for adults. Being added to school syllabus's nationwide, as well as being replicated as a commercially and critically successful stage play, *The Curious Incident of The Dog In The Night-Time* is rightfully developing into a quiet classic.

Reece Parker



Keeping a Diary: A Real Form of Art

This year, turn over a new leaf, take up a new hobby and start writing a diary. Lifestyle and Culture Editor, Bella Davis, offers some pointers on getting started.

The beginning of the year is often characterised by the setting of goals and resolutions, and the consequential fallout from the failure to achieve them. Often resolutions are near impossible, whilst laziness and lack of motivation often play a part to sabotage your efforts. I am someone who personally always falls into this trap, but one effort which bucked the trend was to keep a diary for the whole year, filled with both brief and detailed entries each day depending on how busy I was. Needless to say the habit stuck.

It is no secret that some of the most influential people in history have long kept detailed journals and diaries of their lives, which have served two purposes: a permanent record of posterity and an extremely helpful release for all life throws at you both positive and negative. I really believe that there is an art to keeping a diary and hopefully this article might inspire you to pick up your pen or start typing on a blank page. Here are a few pointers that might help

you get started.

Firstly, try to establish why you want to keep a diary. It might just be your new challenge, but you may ultimately feel utterly compelled to continue writing. Personally, now I couldn't imagine a day in which I don't spend a little time writing for myself. Keeping a diary helps me make sense of the world and organise my thoughts which are often an overwhelming frenzy in my head. It doesn't matter if you only spend five minutes writing but at least you get yourself into a rhythm, something near impossible at uni. It will also help to harness your creativity.

Where and when should you write your diary? It really doesn't matter as long as you manage to find some time to actually put pen to paper. Not having time is an easy excuse. Make time. I tend to write about my day before bed, but obviously if I plan on going out then that isn't going to happen when I can hear

my beloved housemates encouraging
the beginning of pre-drinks.

It is really important not to fear the blank page, remember you are writing for yourself. When I started writing a diary at 16 I think I was writing for someone else - I wrote the diary that I thought I should be writing. The one I wanted my mum or friends to find - do not fall into this trap.

**lieve that
t to keeping
ry."**

You shouldn't feel the need to make perfect entries. It isn't necessary to edit entries but if you find yourself hating a sentence when reading back then just cross it out. You don't have to read your entries back to yourself but I find that it can be quite therapeutic at times. Although I am not sure I would really want to read some of my first diaries. They are very depressing and full of teen angst about boys, or lack thereof, friends and the beginning of my mental health struggles. Don't look back, keep writing and going forward.

What do you write about? It is very common to start writing a diary about one thing and over time your writing will most probably evolve. I started writing about my feelings, but I think it is some of the worst writing I have ever done. My old diaries were full of misery and obsessive thinking even though I had a very happy life. Now, I tend to write about things people have told me, opinions on TV, film, news and radio, memories and occasionally my feelings. I try to be more present in my life and observe and reflect more. Collect everything and anything that you feel is important. Some of my diaries have very little writing in and have more mementos and bits and bobs stuck in: a pressed flower from a holiday, a train or cinema ticket that was particularly good.

Be honest. When you write honestly and for yourself, with nobody else in mind, you feel great. It is a really rewarding experience, you just have to start.

Bella Davis

A Day in the Life of a School Rep

Introducing The School Rep Column, an exciting collaboration between In the Middle Blogs and our elected representatives.



Leeds University Union is committed to making sure you love your time at Leeds, and that involves ensuring that student voices are heard. To protect and promote student voices in the University, the Union elects a number of student representatives each year.

School Reps are the elected Undergraduate Student Representatives of each School in the University, whose job it is to represent student interests and lobby the University.

This year, The Gryphon Blogs have partnered up with these representatives to keep you up-to-date on the activities of School Reps for a more transparent University experience. Follow the Column in print or online to discover what it means to be a School Rep, learn how you can support your Rep to make your School, Faculty, University and Union the best they can be, and perhaps feel inspired to become one in the future.

I was sat in the School of English Computer Cluster when I got the email. It

wasn't a graduate job or Masters course acceptance, but a notification of my new role as School Rep. Nevertheless, since October the job has proved to be worthy of a similar level of excitement.

I had found the application process surprisingly friendly, although this may have been a comparison to the law firms I had visited last summer. I met School Reps from most schools and every faculty, and even today it surprises me how many concerns we share across departments, from employability to what kind of free food will elicit the best feedback from students. The most rewarding part of the training day was the diversity awareness segment, in which we rotated stations questioning how race, class, gender, sexuality, disability and religion can play a minor or fundamental role in our lives. I hope my pledge to champion accessibility will continue beyond my role as School Rep.

In the School of English, we have been recruiting Course Reps, and had a

meeting together in preparation for our next Student Staff Forum. With the aim of gathering feedback for this meeting we partnered with the lovely English Society at their English Tea to give out food bought with the help of the Union's School Rep budget. The event was very successful (I have only just managed to collate the pages of feedback!) and we hope to recreate it in the second semester.

I would urge any student to apply for the role, for its universality. Yes, I made that word up. It adequately describes the School Rep position's ability to develop one's versatility, ability, and universal skills which are, in my opinion, the core of university life, beyond postgraduate study or graduate employment.

Lisa Benson, School of English
Representative, 2017-8

'... even today it surprises me how many concerns we share across departments... '

Feeling Blue?

Man Ting Yu shares her tips for keeping your spirits high in January.

Here we are, nearing the end of January! Exams are finally over, but although you may have nailed your tests, January blues can still creep up on you. The colder weather this month is a huge contrast to the festive warmth of Christmas, and as the holiday vibes fade away and university-related stress grows, it's not uncommon to feel a little depressed. So here are some top tips to help keep your spirits up and beat the January blues.

1) *Soaking in a bath in your 'me' time.* Some researchers have pointed out that warm temperatures can lift someone's mood. So why not treat yourself with a bath and music at the end of a day filled with lectures?

2) *Skyping your family and friends.*
Missing everything at home can really

bring you down, so it's important to bear in mind that your family and friends are always there for you and willing to chat. Share your day with them – both the happy and sad bits.

3) *Getting together with friends.* Why not gather your squad and have a drink with them? It's a really good remedy to relieve your stress after the exams and deadlines, and most importantly, you will avoid isolating yourself when you're feeling blue.

Another thing that might be stressing you out in January are New Year's Resolutions. So many people are going on about how they have to get this or that ticked off their bucket list this year, but what if you don't even have an idea of what your resolutions should be? If

that's what's getting you down, here are another three tips to help you out.

1) *Consider learning something new.* This could be a new language, sport, or skill that you have always wanted to learn. You will definitely discover a genuine interest in something and add it to your bucket list.

2) *Set realistic goals.* Realistic goals keep you from falling into the trap of giving up halfway. Moreover, making progress with something, step by step, can boost your confidence and help beat the blues by making you feel that you have the ability to accomplish your goals!

3) **Create plans.** Making plans helps bring you closer to carrying out your resolutions. Be organised and do your best to stick to your plans alongside your academic work.

January will soon be over and I

sincerely hope that the above tips can help. Surround yourself with positivity, both when you're alone and when you're with friends, and create resolutions that will make you feel happy and proud in 2018. You've got this!

Man Ting Yu



Credit

Appreciate Your Food

Bethany Pownall calls for action against food waste, a growing problem in the UK.

Food waste is an underestimated issue of our generation that desperately needs to be tackled. WRAP, a waste and recycling advisory body, estimates that the UK wastes around 10 million tonnes of food each year, which is equivalent to throwing away £17 billion; or in simpler terms, £450 per average household. If we continue to waste such an enormous amount of food, we will soon face an unsolvable problem whereby our food supply will not be able to support our population.

My passion for this issue initially arose from *Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall's War on Waste*, a series which aired on BBC One in November 2015. Before watching the program, I was very naïve and didn't give food waste a second thought. However, *Hugh's War on Waste* gave me clear, behind-the-scenes insight into the food industry, highlighting how even at the source, tonnes of produce is unnecessarily wasted. For example, many fruits and vegetables are not stocked because they do not meet the size, shape or colour specifications of supermarkets. With an estimated third of all food not being consumed, awareness is needed for a collective effort to tackle this problem.

Nowadays, the supply of food appears infinite to the average consumer. However, we live in a world with finite resources that are rapidly depleting as a result of carelessness. Many tend to forget that the planet is unable to sustain an ever-growing population. The simple fact is that the world cannot consume the way it does today for the rest of time!

It is apparent to me from my grocery shopping trips that many people walk around their local supermarket adding food items to their trolley or basket without thinking if or when the produce will be used. Shoppers need to become more appreciative and thoughtful when handling and consuming food.

According to Whittingstall, bread, milk, potatoes, cheese and apples are the most wasted foods in the household. These are all easy ingredients to use up if you know how. The trick I've found is to get creative with them. In my uni house, bananas seem to be the biggest waste issue. However, with a little imagination it's so easy to use them up: put them in a cake; make banana pancakes; stick them in a smoothie.

Being the keen bean I am, I have recently noticed that Morrisons stock 'wonky vegetables' which cost far less

than normal, simply due to them not being 'aesthetically pleasing'. I would encourage everyone to start buying the wonky avocados, which cost £1.56 for five, as opposed to £1 for one. This is a deal that is absolutely perfect for students like you and I, and that at the same time helps save the planet!

I hope I have inspired you to solve this hidden issue. Whether it's using up those left over potatoes at the back of the cupboard or investing in some wonky vegetables, there's something we can all do to start cutting down on our food wastage.

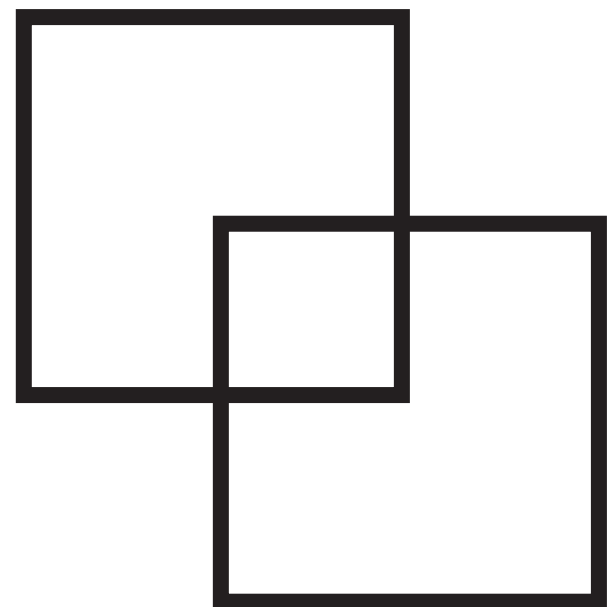
Bethany Pownall

"The UK wastes around 10 million tonnes of food each year, which is equivalent to throwing away £17 billion."

In the Middle



“People always say that the Arts aren’t as important – you know with Arts cuts ... but everything you watch on TV, anytime you listen to the radio - they are the performers, they are the people that get you through the day – like when you’re stuck in traffic, what do you do? You switch on the radio. You listen to music, you watch something on Netflix. They are all people that have worked so fricking hard to get to that, and it’s almost like people shoo-shoo ‘theatre people’ that want to do ‘this’ degree or pursue an acting career – like ‘oh they aren’t very clever, they’re never going to make it’. But actually, they still turn on the TV... argh I just get so frustrated! You know, people say ‘oh you just prance around and pretend to be a tree’. But it’s so much more than that! When people dismiss what we do, it’s like - you really haven’t thought about everything you do in your spare time – that is, watching what we do, what we are working towards.”





A Stein Investment?

With the University of Leeds purchasing twenty-seven Steinway & Sons pianos for a total of £742,000, *The Gryphon Views* asks, is this a fantastic enrichment opportunity? Or a catastrophic waste of money?



Image: University of Leeds

Jonny Chard
News Editor

Reece Parker
Editor-in-Chief

I understand why some may look at the figure of £742,000 for twenty-seven pianos and recoil in shock, but I see its value.

For starters, Steinway & Sons pianos are handcrafted and built to last a lifetime, which makes them the instrument of choice for the world's top pianists. Unlike most pianos, they retain their superior sound and economic value incredibly well, with many even seeing great appreciation in the long run.

Music students at Leeds are required to take a mixture of performance and composition modules and, when they are paying to get the best education, they should be able to realise their full potential by having access to the best instruments. Many science students are used to handling thousands of pounds worth of one-time-use equipment in laboratories and getting a tangible feel for what their tuition fees are going towards. For arts and humanities students, it is a common concern as to how much of their £9000 per year investment they are actually seeing.

In a year which has seen Leeds rise five places to tenth in the UK for Music, to be the first Russell Group university to receive All-Steinway School status is something that will cement Leeds as an elite institution for musicians.

The pianos will help enhance the university's well-renowned International Concert Series and the Leeds International Piano Competition – one of the most prestigious competitions of its sort, which attracts worldwide attention and leading musicians from across the globe.

The investment in the School of Music cowers in the shadow of the £96m being invested into the Engineering and Physical Sciences department, the £38m being invested in Innovation and Enterprise, or the £520m total investment into campus development. This isn't even the largest acquisition of Steinway & Sons pianos within a two-mile radius, as Leeds College of Music has held the All-Steinway School status for nearly seven years, and has double the number of pianos delivered to the University of Leeds.

There is no escaping the fact that it is an extortionate amount for twenty-seven pianos, but the upgrade in experience it will provide students in the department, faculty and university, and the international reputation it will help Leeds reinforce, outweighs the cost.

Dr Karen Burland, Head of the School of Music, said:

"We are in no doubt that our investment in the new Steinway pianos has immense value for our community – on campus, the city and across the world. We've already received some great feedback about how this professional-standard equipment will benefit students, including the 400-plus members of music societies, as well from people looking forward to performances on campus for many years to come."

The decision of the University of Leeds to invest in twenty-seven Steinway pianos is one which deserves intense scrutiny. Whilst Leeds is highly accredited for its commitment to musical education, having been ranked in the top 10 by the Complete University Guide for Music, I cannot help but feel that this is an overinvestment in this area. We must, especially with the recent increase in student fees, be conscious of how cost-effective this investment is when you consider how many students it will benefit.

The cost of these pianos totals just over £742,000. This is the equivalent to the fees of over 26 entire three year degree courses, or over 80 years of study priced at £9,250. When you consider that the major beneficiary of this investment is the School of Music, who welcome only just over 100 new undergraduates onto its degree programmes each year, this level of spending seems dubious. Moreover, a large amount of these students will likely choose to specify in instruments that aren't the piano, meaning that even to those in this School, the investment is not beneficial.

"With fees more expensive than ever, it is of heightened importance to interrogate where these funds are being directed"

It is undeniable that this investment will develop and sustain our profile as a prestigious international university, which in turn will help us attract more students from across the world. For those who are currently students, this isn't any comfort. I, along with many others, would like to see our provisions strengthened in areas such as mental health funding, which will benefit students who are here now, rather than attract those in the future.

With fees more expensive than ever, it is of heightened importance to interrogate where our funds are being directed, and whether the University's investments are beneficial overall. I cannot help but feel that this is ultimately a waste of funds which could instead be utilised to enhance the entire student body's experience, rather than a concentrated few.

‘Fast-Track’ For Your Money Back?

Michael Turnbull

As you may or may not know, the UK government is trying to introduce fast-track university degrees nationwide. The policy was a key focal point of the new Higher Education and Research Act, which was pushed through by parliament just prior to the snap election last June. The idea behind the policy was to reduce the extortionate fees us students have to pay overall – by reducing our time at university from three to two years – and allow us to enter the job market and to start earning sooner. Whilst this seems like a fool-proof plan in theory, I do have to wonder whether the government has really thought about what this would actually mean for us as students.

The ability to slash our maintenance debt by one third is undoubtedly appealing. That being said, some ministers have proposed that universities should be able to charge the same overall tuition fees for these fast-track degrees, resulting in an eye-watering payment of £13,500 a year. Given that one of the main aims of the policy was to reduce the fees students would have to pay, I can’t help but feel that charging the same tuition fees makes it somewhat defeatist.

Students being able to enter the workforce sooner was the other alleged ‘advantage’ the government outlined regarding these fast-track courses, which, if you go to university later than most, is extremely

useful. However, the majority of us do start higher education aged 18 or 19. And I don’t know about you, but I have absolutely no desire to graduate from second year this summer at the ripe old age of 20 because, let’s face it, student life is pretty good.



Image: Firenews

I am sure we can all agree that having those 12-week-long summer breaks is pure bliss. More importantly though, they form an invaluable time for students to obtain work experience and internships in their desired field, something which would be much

more difficult to do with the significantly longer term-time that fast-track courses necessitate.

This, in my opinion, is the main problem with these degrees, as many employers – especially with regard to sciences – look favourably on candidates who have undertaken prolonged summer internships of ten weeks or more, which those who study intensive 2-year courses would not feasibly be able to do with their timetable.

Also, is cramming three years of study in to two really an effective way of preparing students for the working world? Being a languages student myself, I know there is no way I would be able to absorb and revise all of my course content in just two years of teaching to as high a standard as I could achieve with the traditional three, which begs the question: is reducing your maintenance debt at the risk of being less proficient in your chosen field actually worth it?

Whilst these fast-track degrees could have some governmental benefits, by increasing the economically active population and reducing maintenance debts, I think in practise their usefulness for students is seriously questionable.

In other words, it may be more beneficial to resist the temptation to save money, at the ‘expense’ of potentially greater opportunities.

The Emoji React: The End of Journalism?

George Baines

You are engaging in conversation against the backdrop of a constantly shifting societal landscape. Epithetical headlines zoom before your eyes; you grimace, smile, weep, frown in frustration or laugh at the day’s cherry-picked events. You return to a superficial, faceless conversation with a friend, loved one, or acquaintance. This is no *Black Mirror* plot, but an insight into a profound characteristic of the zeitgeist that is social media.

Facebook remains the uncontested virtual deity of all social media platforms. With 2 billion users, Facebook’s network share dominates over Twitter’s more than 300 million. Facebook’s influence over human interaction, our engagement with information, and focus on the self have defined this decade and will be the subject of debate for years to come. But it is notably the use of ‘Reactions’ and ‘Likes’, as reactive indicators to Facebook content, which suggest how our widespread engagement with sources has simultaneously discredited quality journalism and rendered our encounters with it a gratifying exercise of self-expression.

“Just as the ‘Like’ does not necessarily convey acknowledgement of something based on merit, equally subjective is the ‘Haha’ react.”

It all began with the universally recognised ‘Like’ button, kick-started on Facebook in 2009; for many years it was the common parlance of all social media platforms. However, last year Facebook threw in the emotive ‘Love’, ‘Haha’, ‘Wow’, ‘Sad’ and ‘Angry’ reactions for good measure.

Whilst a passive user may note and compare the amount of likes their posts receive, ‘liking’ a post or comment as an active user can indicate a plethora of thought processes.

You could ‘Like’ something through brand or partisan support of a company or party, because the content appeals to your sensibilities, or because it made you think. Ultimately, ‘Likes’ remain unquantifiable because they are indefinable. The same applies to the newly added reactions.

It personally feels like it’s all a bit too much. Beyond capitalising upon the animated emojis in the ‘breath-taking’ (in a pinch yourself-kind of way) *Emoji Movie*, I would go so far as to class them as strikingly insidious. Chief amongst this malevolent and bewilderingly abstract paralanguage is the ‘Haha’ react.

The laughing face is a logical addition to express one’s amusement – say if you spot a ‘fail’ video, or if you’re tagged in a video epitomising the nature of you and the tagger’s friendship. But if you read the headline of a cautiously analytical and objective news bulletin treating a sensitive political theme, does it warrant you using a laughing react?

Facebook revolves around user experience and the regurgitation of information into the user’s own personal narrative. It has evolved to deliver this through not only the ‘reacts’, but also through the ‘Share’ button and the option to comment on said shared posts. But it is the ‘reacts’ alone which transcend personal accounts and friendship networks and leave a demonstrable impact on users worldwide.

Just as the ‘Like’ does not necessarily convey acknowledgement of something based on merit, equally subjective is the ‘Haha’ react, which can be seen as a symbol of derision in a journalistic context. Personally, I no longer count how often a laughing emoji ranks amongst the top three reacts on an Anglophone article dealing with Trump, Brexit, the EU or Russia. In an overwhelmingly sensitive political environment, emotions are very high, and people are prone to use the ‘react’ outlet to vocalise this. But sadly, in this echo chamber of personal thought and expression, we require more than paralanguage to nuance debate on topics of the day.

In any case, I believe the ‘Haha’ react, whether intentionally or not, now discredits serious debate and reporting on the most pressing of subjects. For many, for whom Facebook is the main platform of engaging with the news, their immediate impressions may well be skewed by a combination of cynicism and condescension by other users beyond their own circles. How we interact with information needs to change. Yet the social media truism will remain: it’s all about you.



The Necessity of Respecting the Concept of Cultural Appropriation

Zahra Iqbal

Before coming to university, I hadn't really given the concept of cultural appropriation much thought. Living in a small town, many people dressed in the same way. However, since moving to a large, diverse city, I have been exposed to people from all over the world with conflicting opinions and new styles, and I have seen a need to establish the difference between cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation.

Cultural appropriation is defined as a 'concept in sociology dealing with the adoption of the elements of a minority culture by members of the dominant culture', compared to cultural appreciation which is defined as 'someone's understanding between themselves and people from other countries or backgrounds'. It should be noted that this excludes adopting the clothing of a culture out of respect, an example being Kate Middleton removing her shoes and wearing a head scarf when visiting Malaysia. This was a sign of respect for the Muslim religion and Malaysian culture; cultural appreciation.

I am talking about when Caucasian girls wear bindhis, saris and hennapatterns to achieve the perfect 'Instagram aesthetic' or an 'indie' look. When COW Vintage's 'festival' range is an array of Desi clothes, many adorn the wardrobes of my family members without appreciating that these family members are apprehensive to wear those clothes in

case of a racist comment or a second look. This is cultural appropriation.

Furthermore, it is essential to note that this issue isn't only a battle between the East and the West. It applies to cultures within Europe too. For example, St Patrick's Day celebrations in London, where non-Irish people dress in green, indulge in Irish stereotypes, drink to their heart's content and dance to traditional music. They forget that the Northern Irish parliament were only given sovereignty in the late 90s and 'No dogs, No Blacks and No Irish' policies in London existed in the post-war years.

Attending an 'indie/festival' themed night further challenged my perception of the matter. One drunken girl said to me 'but you're Asian, you should have "indier" clothes'. Firstly, my culture is not 'indie' and secondly, no, I should not. After years of European beauty standards telling me I need to look and be a certain way, I was shocked to see that the same girls imposing these beauty standards were the ones trying to share and uphold emblems of cultural minorities; my culture.

The cherry-picking of cultural aspects and random elevation of certain traditions allows people to remain ignorant to the hardships faced by natives of that culture. Many can embrace and incorporate the positives of non-native cultures and avoid the

necessary education, thus, maintaining the archaic marginalisation of minority cultures, which has no room in a modern world.

It should be noted that I'm not taking the role of a gatekeeper, nor am I being 'selfish' for protecting my culture's music, traditions, food and clothing. I'm the first person to decorate my friend's hands with henna, knowing that they would not insult my heritage and discriminate against immigrants. I'm advocating the end of hypocrisy that renders minority cultures marginalised due to our ethnic differences, and asking for people to learn the difference between cultural appreciation and cultural appropriation.



Image: Odyssey

After The #Hashtag



Image: Chatelaine

Lewis Radstone-Stubbs

In the digital age, is it really possible to be or affect the change that you want to see in the world? Our helpless generation appears to have all the right intentions, but no feasible idea of how to implement them. Twitter is perennially saturated with stories of injustice and systematic inequality, but sympathy is only expressed with a hashtag, a '#justice for...'. Can social media bring change with a hashtag? What can these thousands of mobilised, angry 90s kids do to bring justice, or feel that they are being listened to at all? What happens when we lose hope and realise that we can have no impact?

This month, nine members of the British wing of the 'Black Lives Matter' movement were sentenced for obstructing routes to Heathrow last year. The media and police deemed such action as little more than "utter chaos", seeing no irony in condemning a protest that caused an hour of delays to raise awareness of

a system that leaves families waiting 20 years for justice. Such acts should be analysed from a different angle; the 'get up and go' nature of campaigning for a cause they feel strongly about should be praised. And all without causing any harm.

Take the case of Julian Cole, a young black student from the UK who was left paralysed following his arrest in 2013, and still remains in a vegetative state, requiring 24-hour care for life. I feel fury and passion, yet most of all, helplessness. I would love to say that I attracted attention to this matter through a stunt such as that of shutting down of Heathrow. So how can I criticize their protest, even if it took people's attention away from the core of the issue?

At this point I expect some will point to large-scale peaceful protests, such as marches, as a way to physically show your discontent with the decisions of the state. Marches stretching back to 'Ban the Bomb' have gone the same way as recent protests against raising tuition fees and insisting large corporations pay their share of tax. Utterly futile. Yes, they were a powerful show of strength, but as I was present on the latter three of those protests, it is clear they made no difference whatsoever in terms of concrete change. Yet another mass march with millions speaking as one with such little impact. What is next?

Martin Luther King Jr. claimed that those who feel they have no stake in society will unconsciously try to destroy it. From the 2011 London riots, where a disenfranchised 90s generation took to the streets to protest the abusive powers of the state, to the Fergusson protests that saw the realisation of the power that a mobilised, abused minority can have,

this appears to be correct. When a viral hashtag has no impact, the only other option seems to be relative, aggressive backlash and breakdown of social order. However, this also brought no change to the awareness of the state that was being condemned by all that acted. The officer who shot Duggan, sparking the London Riots, and Darren Wilson, the officer who shot Michael Brown in Ferguson, were not convicted of crimes. Thus I am left in the uncomfortable position of concluding we can do nothing as a majority, to change what a ruling minority dictate.

"Can social media bring change with a hashtag? What can these thousands of mobilised, angry 90s kids do to bring justice, or feel that they are being listened to at all?"

There is a lot of truth in the belief that only legislative change can really bring about concrete change, in society. But don't let that impact how you protest. Getting out, mobilizing and providing strength in numbers will always breed more hope and justice than sitting on twitter or signing an e-petition in a hopeless demonstration of slacktivism. The oppressive forces holding back social justice must love the Internet age, an age in which a highly educated and angered generation believe that they have 'done their bit' with the click of a button and the post of a hashtag. Let us put "utter chaos" over virtue signalling and get on with wholesale protest.



Is Hyperloop the Future of Travel?

Charlie Harrocks
Business Editor

We might not be as far away from hyper-speed travel as you might think. Although it isn't quite teleportation, the Hyperloop combines a vacuum, a train, and levitating magnets to shoot you towards your destination at hundreds of miles an hour. The magnetic levitation 'maglev' train is lifted above rails by magnets, reducing friction to propel the train through a vacuum tube.

The idea, first mentioned by Tesla and SpaceX tycoon Elon Musk in 2012, is gathering momentum, with multiple billionaires investing in this revolutionary method of transport. Musk himself has poured money into the operation, and has even announced that he has "verbal approval" from the US government to build a link between New York and Washington DC that could shuttle people in just half an hour.

Another company buying into Musk's brainchild is Virgin. Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Hyperloop One is the most advanced of the Hyperloop systems currently in development. He has claimed that his technology can shoot passengers from London to Edinburgh at 700 mph in just 45 minutes; a fraction of the tedious 8-hour drive or 5-hour train that passengers currently endure. It has even been suggested that Hyperloop 1 could be used to link London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports, as an alternative to the proposed Heathrow third runway. Passengers could be transported

between airports in just 5 minutes, quicker than the time it takes to travel between terminals at Heathrow.

The first question that springs to mind, is how close are we to this becoming a reality? Although advanced tests are already being run in Nevada, people are still yet to ride in a Hyperloop train. However, the leader of the Hyperloop engineering team, Anita Sengupta, expects that Hyperloop will be set to launch commercial operations by 2021. Given that far more basic transport systems such as the HS2 high speed rail system have taken decades for progress to be made, Sengupta's claims seem a little optimistic. Not

only would the system cost an estimated £8 million per mile, there are also safety concerns and the potential difficulty of having to tunnel underground or lay tracks across the motorway-ridden English countryside.

Nevertheless, in an age of rapid technological developments and innovation, it seems that it is just a matter of time before new high speed travel systems are introduced. Coupled with the need to move away from high carbon emitting road vehicles, a more sustainable, greener transport system such as the Hyperloop is surely a step in the right direction.

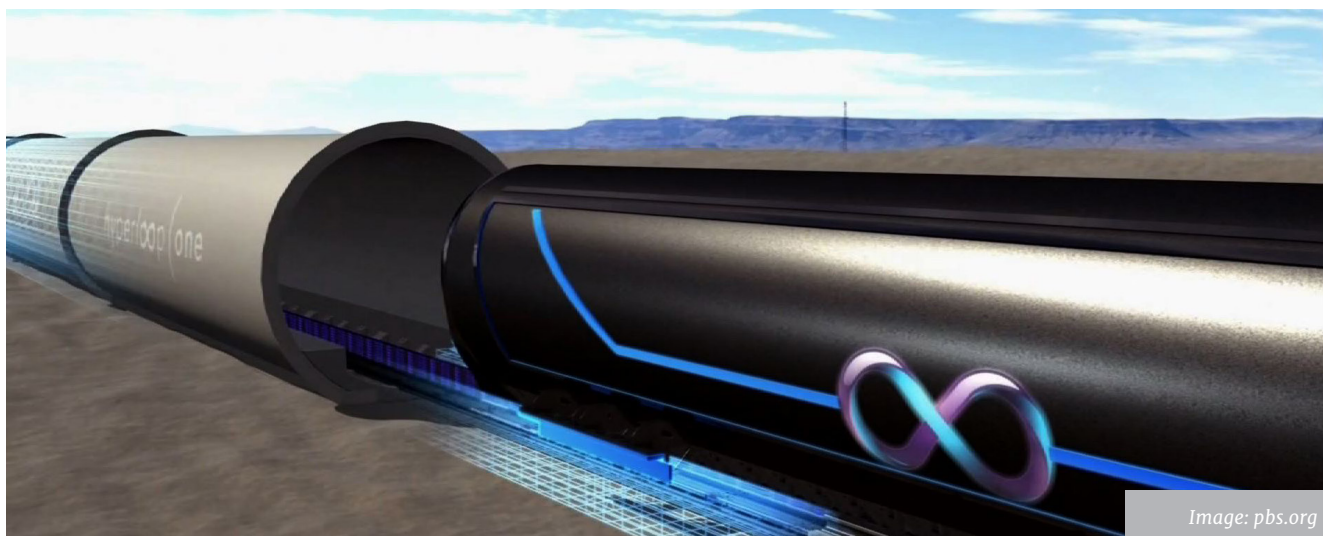


Image: pbs.org

Leading Retailers Cut Sale of Energy Drinks to Under Sixteens

Catherine Fairbairn

Following calls from a number of health experts, dieticians and scientists to ban the sale of energy drinks to minors, it seems as if such requests are not going unheard. Many of Britain's favourite retailers – namely Asda, Aldi and Waitrose, are now placing an age-restriction policy on the purchasing of such beverages, similar to that regarding the sale of alcohol. This will require proof of ID with purchase, and comes as a result of multiple studies linking the dangerously high levels of caffeine to irritable behaviour in schools – which consequently has a detrimental impact upon the educational outcomes of teenagers who choose to consume energy drinks in their daily lives.

From the 1st March 2018, as the first of the 'big four' to undertake this move, Asda will begin to require identification to prove that customers are over sixteen when purchasing any soft drink with 150mg of caffeine per litre. This move followed Waitrose, who instigated the policy, and was also echoed by well-

known budget supermarket Aldi. Brands affected will include Austrian owned Red Bull, as well as their prime competitor – Monster Energy. However, supermarkets will also be compromising their own profits, with most producing their own range of highly caffeinated beverages. With much modern day health research aimed at improving the lives of children and young people, it is no surprise that the cheap, popular and seemingly never ending craze of energy drink consumption amongst teens is now being clamped down on. Many of us will recall seeing, if not purchasing for ourselves, a can of this caffeine filled concoction, which has been consistently linked with poor diet and health issues amongst the younger generations, who are less aware of the consequences.

Others have gone further than simply requesting an age limit, and demand that the government ban the sale of these products to all consumers in every supermarket and shop up and down the country. MP Maria Caulfield is at the heart of this movement, and has appealed to PM Theresa May on a number of occasions. Other campaigners advocating the ban on

health grounds include renowned TV chef and dietician Jamie Oliver, who places a particular emphasis upon enriching the diets of schoolchildren.

With public institutions now so very aware of the impact that caffeinated products have upon the health of young people and wider society, could we be nearing the end of the road for the long-standing popularity of energy drinks? Or is it simply unrealistic to expect the government to focus on such futile matters, particularly in such a busy political and economic climate? Nevertheless, with large scale corporations now taking matters into their own hands, unless drastic changes to the ingredients of energy drinks are made, the future of these products certainly does not seem overly positive.

"Supermarkets will be compromising their own profits, with most producing their own highly caffeinated beverages."

Will Supermarket Cashiers Be Replaced With Artificial Intelligence?

Chloe Pryce
Business Editor

My first thought was, who do you ask when you can't find the hummus? But on second thought, the benefits of a cashierless supermarket could potentially outweigh the costs; I'm yet to decide. On Monday, in downtown Seattle, Amazon opened its first artificial intelligence-powered Amazon Go store.

Having faced technical bugs and a year of testing, Amazon is ready to Go. Using computer vision, machine learning algorithms and sensors— similar technology to that which powers self-driving cars— Amazon Go allows customers to walk in, scan their smartphone at a turnstile with the Amazon Go app, do their shop and leave. Through eliminating the checkout line, customers save time; it's convenient.

But what about the jobs? Considering a future where all supermarkets follow Amazon's lead and become cashierless, we're talking about the loss of, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 3.56 million cashier jobs in the US alone. To put that into perspective, there are currently 6.58 million people unemployed in the US. However, whilst the stores don't demand cashiers

to operate checkouts, personnel will still be needed to restock shelves, make food and help customers (it's looking likely I'll still be able to get help finding my hummus). Furthermore, Amazon Go still requires many employees working behind the scenes to make the system run smoothly, whether that be engineers, marketers or construction managers; jobs may be lost but jobs will be gained.

Challenges do remain however. The system struggles to accurately charge those in groups, families and couples. Engineers are working on solving this. Amazon is also hoping to implement this technology at Whole Foods Market, which it acquired for \$13.7 billion in September of this year. This also presents a challenge, however, as Whole Foods stores are generally much larger than the 1,800-square-foot convenience store just opened in Seattle. With more space, more products and more people, the system may struggle to cope and accurately analyse shoppers movements.

Despite the challenges, Amazon Go is at the forefront of an exciting shift from your traditional supermarket, and could be the leader in a possible future of cashierless shopping.



Image: recode.net

As Carillion Collapses: Is Outsourcing Dead?

Sam Robinson

Facility management firm Carillion's recent collapse was one of epic proportions, casting 450 public-sector contracts into doubt, dragging down thousands of small businesses and leaving tens of thousands of employees with an uncertain few weeks ahead. As a gargantuan enterprise with a vast web of projects, services and indeed debt (around £1.5bn), you'd be forgiven for believing it was too big a company to fail.

The search for blame has begun in earnest. The government is a clear target; after Carillion issued a profit warning in July last year, the government continued to award it contracts, notably the £1.4bn HS2 contract. Surely the profit warning should have been a red flag, signalling that Carillion was bidding too aggressively, making heroic assumptions about its expense on public projects and not leaving enough margin to cope with unexpected cost overruns. In short, the government should have realised sooner

that they were dealing with a gambler who was taking on risky and potentially unprofitable contracts. The lowest bid is not always the best bid.

The immediate political implications are clear. After Grenfell and the recent Virgin Trains bailout, Carillion will come as another blow for advocates of PFI and outsourcing. It gives Corbyn and Labour more ammunition to fire at May's already embattled government, as it seems to be evidence that the Tory model of public service provision is broken and that outsourcing doesn't work.

However, to have a proper discussion about this issue we need to distinguish between the failure of outsourcing and the failure of the bidding process for contracts. Where contracts have been handed out wisely, the evidence does point to good outcomes. Studies of hospital domestic services, refuse collection and buses show that competitive tendering can deliver significant cost reductions, and that after being burned by an over-optimistic bid firms learn and will bid more conservatively in future.

A common objection is that this cost-cutting comes from underinvestment and a reduction in service quality, but the evidence on service quality is not conclusive enough to say that outsourcing necessarily leads to poor service provision. For example, consider that from 1998 to 2016, the Public Performance Measure – a metric for the punctuality and reliability

of train services – has remained at a constant level, even while the rail network has expanded greatly. In short, the jury is still out on this question.

The issue then is not whether outsourcing works but under what conditions it works. If we are to avoid another Carillion-style calamity the government needs to address its obsession with cheap bids by giving a bid's quality and sustainability much more weighting. Bids need to be more competitive; many tendering processes attract only one or two bidders, which makes identifying the most efficient firm much harder. There needs to be a recognition that competitive tendering will work in some markets better than others; some activities are just downright unprofitable whether the public or private sector manages them, while some services need tailored contracts and effective regulation to set the franchise on the right path.

The mistake of the government is not its belief in outsourcing, but its belief that it is a magic bullet which automatically delivers results. For an issue with such nuance, we deserve a debate with nuance to match, because a one-size-fits-all approach simply doesn't fit reality.





Image: Tavis Coburn

Gene Genie: Biohacking For Better Health

Louise Müller
Science Editor

When former NASA scientist Josiah Zayner pulled out a syringe during a genetic engineering workshop last October and injected himself with a gene editing enzyme, he became the first person to try to hack his own genome – and a pioneer in the biohacking movement.

Biohackers believe that they have the right to do whatever they wish with their own bodies, including manipulating genes to enhance or diminish character traits. We are beyond just accepting the genes that biology has given us, and with an increasing number of tools available for easy genetic modification, this is no longer as high-tech as it may sound. Via his website, The Odin, Zayner distributes complete laboratory kits for gene modification experiments to be performed at your own kitchen table. He also confirmed in an interview with The Guardian that both custom DNA material and gene sequencing is readily available to everyone online nowadays.

Zayner's injection allegedly contained the CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing system, a tool which has gained much publicity in recent years due to its accurate ability to cut out specific genes from human DNA while leaving the remaining DNA intact. A lot of research has been invested in trying to work out whether this could be used to cure genetic disorders, such as Huntington's disease, by simply removing or replacing defective genes. CRISPR-based treatments have also shown promising results for interfering with the growth of cancer cells, and for eliminating HIV infection in several animal models.

The technique is derived from the surprisingly advanced immune systems of bacteria. Even bacteria need to protect themselves against viral infections,

and they do that using CRISPR DNA sequences and Cas enzymes. This method was hijacked and simplified by scientists to generate the CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing system. The two main building blocks of the system is a Cas9 enzyme and a guide RNA. When injected into a host cell, the Cas9 enzyme is capable of accurately cutting the cell's DNA strands. The guide RNA identifies the correct place in the DNA sequence at the gene of interest where Cas9 needs to cut.

Following a cleavage of DNA strands, inherent repair mechanisms in the cell immediately take over to try to repair the break. This process is error-prone and often introduces a mutation in the DNA which effectively silences the gene of interest. Contrary to popular belief, it is thus the host cell itself that knocks out the gene, with just a little help from the CRISPR. The great advantage of the system is that the guide RNA can be designed to bind to any DNA sequence, making highly specific targeting of virtually any gene possible.

In essence it's like replacing one specific word in a sentence. Imagine you have the sentence "Peter Piper picked a pear", but you want to adjust it to the more common version, "Peter Piper picked a pepper". With earlier gene editing systems, you could delete "pear" or simply insert "pepper", but neither would give the precise sentence you want. An extra perk of the CRISPR/Cas9 system is that, in addition to silencing a gene, it can also insert a new gene into the DNA – in other words, replacing "pear" with "pepper" to give you a meaningful sentence.

Zayner's injection contained a CRISPR construct designed to target the myostatin gene. This gene encodes the myostatin protein which inhibits the growth of muscle cells. Silencing the gene would thus allow an enhanced growth of the muscle cells in Zayner's arm, theoretically leading to a larger

muscle mass. Zayner's most recent report about the progress of his experiment was given in an interview with The Guardian in December, where he confirmed he had not yet observed any changes to his arm. He also added, "In similar experiments with animals, you only start to see results after four to six months of treatment. I would expect that the DNA in some of the cells of my arm has changed, but I am still working on developing assays to try and detect that". The Gryphon has tried to contact Zayner for an up-to-date statement but received no further comment.

Although Zayner is an experienced biochemist, biohackers don't need a science degree or the access to expensive facilities anymore. While in the 21st century gene editing per se is low-tech, much thanks to the development of the CRISPR/Cas9 system, the biggest challenge today is the moral and ethical concerns that we face when we're in control of our own biology.



Image: The Odin



Image: InBusiness.ae

Daim! Chocolate Extinct by 2050

Kira Knowles

Looks like it is CRUNCH time for chocolate. The Cacao plant, the main ingredient in the snack, is destined to go extinct by 2050. It's no PICNIC for Cacao plants or chocolate lovers in the future, with the vulnerable plant currently under threat from fungal disease. This disease can decimate crops of Cacao and has already destroyed crop populations in Central America. Without their original habitat to colonise, scientific solutions must be found which aid the crop.

Climate changes may affect the future of the Cacao plant, as it has a very specific range of temperatures for growing in, flourishing in Ghana, Indonesia and Côte d'Ivoire. According to the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) the plant only flourishes when located within 10° North or South of the equator, preferably in rainforest conditions. This allows the perfect conditions due to uniform temperatures, high precipitation rate, nitrogen rich soil, high humidity and protection from wind. Without these the population would FLAKE away.

A recent IPCC report (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), predicted that temperatures would increase up to 2.1°C if 'business as usual' carries on. Cacao can actually survive in warmer temperatures, but the decrease in humidity and subsequent rise in evapotranspiration, without even the benefit of extra rainfall, could potentially cause Cacao's extinction as the growing regions become devoid of moisture. The major exporters of Cacao are shared between 2 African countries, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. They will have opportunities in future production due to the rising temperatures. This increase will push suitable cultivation areas uphill by roughly 250m, the home of wildlife reserves. Are these countries willing to protect natural habitats or continue producing chocolate, risking the hilly terrain forest preserves? By 2050 it is predicted just over 10% of current cultivation zones will be suitable for growing Cacao. The next generation of farmers would be on the land by 2050, which can allow adaptation through a few possibilities to avoid a future without chocolate.

One solution is to manufacture and breed Cacao plants that have a drought resistance which is superior to the current species. This possibility can be explored by using the gene-editing technology CRISPR, which allows the Cacao crop to survive new challenges, especially humidity. The global manufacturer company MARS are also hoping to invest significantly in sustainability practices to ensure the future of chocolate.

Another strategy which may BOOST the Cacao population is a traditional cultivation technique which involves replanting or retaining rainforest

trees, in order to give the Cacao plants shade. This would decrease the temperature for the Cacao plant, as well as providing more leaf litter to more adequately sustain the soils at the base of the plants. Through this cultivation technique, called cabruca in Brazil, the Cacao plant can be sheltered from the wind, and be less sensitive to pests. This environmentally friendly technique advocates the planting of trees to protect the vulnerable plant, allowing carbon storage as opposed to being released through forest clearing. A study in 2014 found that the cabruca cultivation practices could potentially double the production of Cacao in an environmentally conscious manner.

There is hope for the future, cacao plants could always be grown in greenhouses where the specific conditions can play MATCHMAKER for the plant. There are also other areas in the world where it could potentially be grown such as Australia. Cacao is originally non-native to Africa and flourishes there, which gives hope as long as conditions are replicated Cacao could be successful in other parts of the world. And importantly we can continue producing chocolate.

From the IPCC report in 2014 there will be a considerable reduction in suitable cultivation areas, which will allow disease to spread faster which could potentially lead to extinction. However, multiple solutions are being explored for the future of chocolate to be saved.

Maybe Trump will take note of climate change if chocolate is set to disappear? It is improbable and we can but DREAM.

The Mystery of the Microprocessor

Sam McMaster
Science Editor

Arthur C. Clarke perhaps put it best when stating the third of his three laws: "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic". Our world is powered by computer systems, from our banking systems to simple devices in our homes but, to many, it's a mystery how any of these devices operate. Most electronics are controlled by microprocessors more commonly known as a CPU or central processing unit. These devices, though complex, aren't magic. The CPU is a collection of electronic circuitry that carries out the instructions of a computer program (commonly within an operating system). These instructions can be a variety of things from basic arithmetic, logic, and input/output operations. The main component of this circuitry is semiconductor transistors which switch or amplify electronic signals in specific sequences to carry out these instructions.

The compute power of CPUs was, in the past, described with Moore's law. Named after Gordon Moore, co-founder of Fairchild Semiconductor and Intel, the law states that the number of transistors in integrated circuits doubles approximately every two years. In the past this translated to the raw compute power of a system doubling in the same time frame, but the trend has dropped off in the past few years. As the die size of semiconductor devices has shrunk, we're now reaching a stage where it's increasingly difficult to make traditional semiconductor transistors smaller. The latest processors from Intel are at the 14nm node size and the next series will be 10nm. That's on the scale of proteins, how crazy is that? The 'brains' of our computers aren't without problems though. In the technology world recently, the news has focused upon the Meltdown and Spectre bugs. The bugs concern different aspects of processor function but are linked in that they concern fetching instructions stored in memory. With the Meltdown bug, a process can be instructed to bypass the normal

privilege checks when accessing instructions by exploiting the timing of specific groups of logic gates within the processor. The bug has been so worrisome due to the massive market share Intel and ARM hold. Spectre is a more general bug affecting AMD processors as well as their competitors. Optimisations in modern processors allow them to predict common sets of instructions sent to memory to allow them to execute those instructions faster. However, not all of these instructions are secure. If you were to be able to access a system where sensitive data were being processed, you'd be able to piece together that data from the memory cache by seeing what's processed. This is true for both Meltdown and Spectre. These bugs will mainly affect servers, but home PCs are still vulnerable. Patches have been released, but there's still work to be done to fix them properly, so do keep your computer updated with the latest security patches.



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Leeds Edged Out in a 4-3 Thriller

Julian Bovill
Football

Bitter rivals Leeds United and Millwall played out one of the games of the Championship season as the South Londoners saw off the Elland Road outfit, and also bagged their first away win of the season, in a mouth watering clash that ended 3-4.

The last five meetings between the two sides had only provided nine goals, with the headlines focusing on events off the pitch rather than on it. However, this time, right from the outset, events on the pitch stole the front pages.

Leeds had the first real opening of the game. Pablo Hernandez floated a lovely ball up to the head of Pierre Michel-Lassoga. It seemed the ball took an age to drop, with the striker seemingly having all the time to place himself correctly. As it was, he agonisingly placed it right into the gloves of a thankful (and furious) Jordan Archer. Perhaps such a miss was to be expected for a striker making his first start since November.

Thomas Christiansen's side were suitably punished only a matter of minutes later when Gaetano Berardi lost Aiden O'Brien at the back post. O'Brien faced no such problems with his finishing and put Millwall 1-0 up. With Millwall without a win away from home all season, it is unsurprising that their supporters were sent into wild celebrations. This became utopia on the stroke of halftime for the thousand or so Millwall fans that travelled to Leeds as Liam Cooper - Leeds' captain for the day - dived in needlessly and irresponsibly on the half way line after a horrendous touch.

Christiansen in the week had spoken of Leeds' playoff push lying in tatters due to the insurmountable

amount of injuries they have suffered. The three red cards in as many games certainly have not aided it, either. The game seemed done when just before the break Berardi suffered another comical lapse in concentration, allowing Lee Gregory this time to sneak in behind him and seemingly give Millwall their first away win of the season. Leeds' run of no wins in four appeared to be extending to five.

Whatever Christiansen said to them at halftime, it worked. Leeds responded instantly, and this time it was Millwall's turn to look shaky at the back. Shaun Williams missed an opportunities to clear the ball twice, allowing Lassoga some sort of redemption for his earlier missed chance. Full redemption was to come later for the big number nine. He made no mistake, lashing the ball in with his right foot. Leeds had a foothold. Nine minutes later they had an equaliser. Kemar Roofe, the former Oxford United man, pounced on a loose ball in the midst of goalmouth scramble after Archer had lost it. 2-2. From nowhere, Leeds were back in the game.

The ten men of Leeds were now faced with a dilemma. With their knee firmly on the throat of a side that, prior to this game, had only scored 6 goals away from home all season, do they go for a third or sit back and settle for point that only 16 minutes ago looked impossible? Lassoga took the former option. This time it was Roofe's turn to turn-provider, playing the ball back to Lassoga 25 yards from goal, who without a touch, lashed the ball into the far corner with his weak foot. The Don Revie End had very much forgotten his earlier misfortunes in front of goal.

Leeds' problems this season have stemmed from the fact that they lose concentration all too quickly

for a side that has hopes of promotion. They have conceded the third most goals out of anyone in the top ten, with over half of those coming during the second half. Millwall capitalised on Leeds' lack of ability to close a game out. First through Tom Elliot, who after Leeds failed to deal with a basic long ball into the middle of their area, pounced and equalised. 87 minutes gone, 3-3: do they stick or twist? Neil Harris went for the latter, forcing his side forward in the dying embers. Jed Wallace drove with the ball, deciding instead to shoot rather than play it wide. It turned out an inspired decision, as the ball deflected up off Pontus Jansson and over Felix Wiedwald to give Millwall the three points.

The result sees Millwall climb to 15th while Leeds find themselves further adrift from the playoff spots, lying in 10th, three points off Sheffield United in 6th.



Image: The World Game

England Avenge Ashes Humiliation

Thomas Lambton
Cricket

England took an unassailable 3-0 lead in their ODI series against Australia, courtesy of a hard fought 16 run win in Sydney.

In comparison with the other two victories, this was perhaps England's best. Not only did England face Australia's first choice bowling attack, as the hosts reversed their original decision to only play two of Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc in each match, but they also had to cope without the bowling of Liam Plunkett due to a hamstring injury.

Australia won the toss and subsequently elected to field. All members of England's top order, excluding Alex Hales, made starts, yet through a combination of poor stroke play and tight Australian bowling, at 189-6 with just 11 overs to go, England looked unlikely to score 300.

This predicament however did not phase Jos Buttler who produced in many ways the perfect one-day innings; initially patient and controlled whilst England rebuilt, and then aggressive and game-changing in the final 10 overs to push his side up to a very competitive score of 302. Buttler secured his hundred on the final ball of the innings and it was no less than he deserved after a fine display of ball

striking. He was also ably supported by Chris Woakes who finished not out on 53.

The momentum was undoubtedly with the visitors as David Warner and the recalled Cameron White both fell cheaply in the Australian reply. But Aaron Finch continued his supreme form with 62 as he and Steve Smith threatened to take the game away from England. However, through a combination of excellent leg spin, as Rashid trapped Finch lbw, and a moment of substantial controversy, as Buttler caught Steve Smith, when the ball seemingly touching the ground, Australia's hopes gradually faded. Mitchell Marsh and Marcus Stoinis both played well in reaching the fifties, however in both cases they perhaps lacked the raw fire-power of Buttler whose innings proved to be the major difference between the two sides.

Whilst there are still two matches remaining, England's ODI performance has clearly acted to significantly erase the sense of despair that accompanied their 4-0 Ashes defeat. Chants of 'we're going to win 5-4' could be heard during the game by those remaining members of the Barmy army who have had a lot more to celebrate in the past week.

It represents a remarkable turnaround and above all demonstrates the real ascendancy of England as a cricketing nation in the shorter form of the game.



Image: AP

NFL: Dynasty, Dogs and Defence

Last weekend saw the two championship games that would decide who would go to this year's Super Bowl

Nathan Olsen
American Football

This past weekend saw two games of American football that would decide who would have a chance to win Super Bowl LII in Minneapolis. The first game of the weekend consisted of the defending champions, the New England Patriots, taking on the Jacksonville Jaguars, a franchise that has never won the Super Bowl. The other game saw the Philadelphia Eagles host a Minnesota Vikings team coming off the high of the 'Minneapolis Miracle' last week.

In a repeat of the 1996 Conference Championship Game, the Patriots and Jaguars fought it out to earn a place in the Super Bowl. The top-seeded Patriots had been here many times before, as this was their seventh consecutive AFC Championship Game. The Jaguars, on the other hand, had not been in a Championship game since 1999 – almost twenty years ago. The experience of the Patriots dynasty did not, however, prevent the Jaguars from holding a ten-point lead entering the 4th quarter. New England mounted a typical 4th quarter comeback, mainly due to the play of future Hall-of-Famer and all-time great quarterback Tom Brady, seeing off the Jaguars 24-20. Jacksonville played outstanding football for most of the game, but

in the end, it was not enough to keep Brady, genius coach Bill Belichick and the Patriots from reaching their eighth Super Bowl since the year 2000.

The showdown between the NFC's top seed, the Philadelphia Eagles, and its 2nd seed, the Minnesota Vikings, was predicted to be a close one. Much had been made of the two teams' similarities when it came to outstanding defence, a strong running game and their backup quarterbacks. Yet this game was not as close as it was supposed to be. Philadelphia, portrayed as the underdog due to the absence of star quarterback Carson Wentz, used the home crowd to its advantage. Not only was the noise inside Philadelphia's stadium deafening, second string quarterback Nick Foles played a blinder of a game. Spurred on by a legion of fans wearing dog masks to highlight the Eagles' underdog status, Philadelphia overwhelmed a Vikings team who some suggest have struggled to get back to normality after the celebrations of the 'Minneapolis Miracle' last week. The Eagles scored 38 straight points to win 38-7, knock Minnesota out of the playoffs and prevent them from being the first team to play in a Super Bowl in their own stadium.

On the 4th February, at Super Bowl LII, the New England Patriots dynasty will face an underdog Philadelphia Eagles team determined to prove their



Image: AP Photo/David J. Phillip

critics wrong. Despite the differences in perception of the two teams, perhaps it is not such a crazy match up, after all – the Super Bowl has come down to the top seeds of the AFC and NFC battling out for NFL supremacy.

Edmund's Loss to Čilić Caps Off a Fantastic Australian Open

Kyle Edmund may have exited the Australian Open, but his performance caught the eye of the nation

Elliot van Barthold, Ryan Wan
Tennis

Yesterday, Yorkshireman Kyle Edmund's incredible journey in the Australian Open finally ended. His defeat came at the hands of Marin Čilić in a three set semi-final match that ended 6-2, 7-6, 6-2.

Čilić dominated for the majority of the match with his serve winning easy points and his powerful forehands putting Edmund under consistent pressure. This led to Edmund struggling for break points during the match, managing only two near the start of the match. A medical timeout by the Briton seemed to improve things, leading to a tie break in the second set. Although he stayed in touch at 3-3, the Croat eventually took the tie break 7-4. The final set was a repeat of the first, with Čilić sealing his victory with a wide serve that Edmund could not get back over the net.

Edmund has much to proud of in this tournament, such as defeating 11th seed Kevin Anderson in the first round, but his finest moment was undoubtedly when he stunned the world of tennis by beating world No.3 Grigor Dimitrov in the quarter finals. By beating Dimitrov he avenged his earlier loss in the Brisbane International, which he narrowly lost in a three set

match. However this time, in a steely performance, Edmunds showed few nerves as he battled his way to a 6-4 3-6 6-4 6-4 win in his first outing at the last-eight of a Grand Slam.

Edmund's appearance in the semis made him only the sixth British man – alongside Murray, Rusedski, Lloyd, Henman and Taylor – to reach the last-four at a Grand Slam event. Quite an achievement for the world number 49 who has never won a tournament on the ATP Tour.

"It's great," disclosed Edmund on the matter. "You don't think of those things when you play but it's something to be proud of."

"As a kid you're growing up looking at your idols and when you're here progressing in the best tournament in the world, it's amazing."

Regardless of his defeat, British tennis fans have been enthralled by Edmund's amazing performance at this year's Australian Open. His change in ranking will reflect that as well, with his current ranking of 49 being certain to increase into the mid 20s next week. Progression into the finals would have even seen him dethrone Murray as the British No.1 since the Scot is currently recovering from hip surgery and is expected to make his return around June.

Most people had very few expectations after Andy Murray pulled out of the tournament with a knee

injury. However, Edmund's success gives further hope for British fans, showing there is a future after Murray leaves the game for good.



Image: EPA

Phil Neville: Insult to Women's Football?

The FA is under fire for hiring Neville for a job he has little experience in



Image: Sky Sports

Nancy Gillen
Football

After Mark Sampson's reign as manager of the England women's team came to an abrupt and controversial end, the Football Association was handed the task of finding a new manager, preferably one that could refrain from alienating their dressing room by making offensive and inappropriate jokes. They decided to award the role to someone with no previous involvement in the women's game, and most bewilderingly, no managerial experience.

Phil Neville was named England manager on Tuesday, to an immediate backlash amongst fans, pundits and ex-players alike. This was only exacerbated when a number of sexist tweets emerged from 2011 and 2012, one of which appeared to make light of domestic abuse, reading: "Relax I'm back chilled – just battered the wife!!! Feel better now". This in itself is a huge issue. Towards the end of Mark Sampson's time as manager, he had been accused of making racist remarks towards his players, and was then dismissed from his role due to misconduct in a previous managerial job. Surely the FA should have gone through the adequate checks to ensure that their new manager would not also be mired in controversy. In addition, despite the obvious problems with these tweets, the outcry conceals the deeper issue that Neville is nowhere near qualified enough to be manager of the England women's team, and he has bypassed candidates, both male and female, who have more experience in the women's game, and most essentially, in management.

Neville has a UEFA Pro Licence and has coached Manchester United and Valencia, though none of these periods were particularly successful for his respective teams. He has also managed a team, non-league Salford City, which he co-owns, for the grand total of one match. All this experience comes in the men's game, which is fundamentally different to the women's game in both structure and playing style. It seems an extremely peculiar choice of manager for an international team who are third in FIFA rankings, placed third in the last World Cup and are real competitors to lift the next one in 2019. This is emphasised when looking at the FA's original

criteria for the job, which states that they want 'an outstanding football coach with a track record of consistent and successful management.'

So why have the FA gone with Neville? There is the argument that his high-profile will raise awareness of women's football, and so benefit the game. Indeed, as a player for Manchester United, Everton and England, and a regular pundit on Sky Sports, Neville is the most well-known women's team manager yet. However, it seems his appointment has only raised awareness of women's football so far through the backlash and criticism he and the FA are receiving, which is hardly positive. In addition, an experienced manager would have a better chance of guiding the Lionesses to World Cup glory next year, which would surely be the ultimate way of raising the profile of the women's game.

The lack of other candidates is also a transpiring reason for Neville's appointment. The FA embarked on a four-month process to find England's new manager, a period which saw two of their top candidates find new jobs. John Herdman, manager of the Canadian women's team, moved across to their male counterparts, while Laura Harvey, previously of Arsenal and Seattle Reign, found a new role in America. If the FA were serious about securing a top-quality person for the job they should have maybe moved faster than four months to prevent candidates finding other opportunities. Mo Marley, the current caretaker manager, decided to withdraw from the process, and Emma Hayes and Nick Cushing, of Chelsea and Manchester City respectively, couldn't be tempted away from the Women's Super League. Despite the lack of availability of the best in women's football, it would be an insult to suggest that there were no more managers left that were more qualified than Phil Neville. Many have worked hard to gain their licences and move up in the women's game, only to be bypassed by someone potentially put in place because of the reputation of their surname.

Regardless, Neville has a chance to prove the critics wrong and do something special with an extremely promising team. The FA's gamble could pay off, but to do so Neville must apply the limited managerial experience he has and adapt to the women's game as quickly as possible.



BUCS Fixtures 31st January

Badminton Womens 1st vs Durham 2nd
2pm, The Edge

Basketball Mens 2nd vs Sunderland 1st
5.15pm, The Edge

Fencing Mens 1st vs Manchester 1st
2pm, The Edge

Football Mens 2nd vs Leeds 3rd
2pm, Sports Park Weetwood
Football Womens 2nd vs Hull 1st
2pm, Brownlee Centre

Hockey Womens 1st vs Northumbria 1st
5.30pm, Sports Park Weetwood

Hockey Womens 7th vs Leeds Trinity
2.30pm, Sports Park Weetwood

Hockey Mens 3rd vs Sheffield Hallam 3rd
2.30pm, Sports Park Weetwood

Lacrosse Womens 1st vs Beckett 1st
2.15pm, Sports Park Weetwood

Netball Womens 3rd vs Sheffield Hallam 2nd
1.30pm, Gryphon Sports Centre

Rugby League Mens 1st vs Beckett
2pm, Milford Sports Club

Rugby Union Mens 1st vs Loughborough 2nd
2pm, Sports Park Weetwood

Squash Womens 2nd vs Durham 4th
12.45pm, Gryphon Sports Centre
Squash Mens 1st vs Liverpool 1st
2.15pm, Gryphon Sports Centre

Table Tennis Mens 1st vs Sheffield 3rd
2pm, Cromer Terrace

Tennis Mens 1st vs Durham 3rd
12pm, David Lloyd Leeds

Volleyball Womens 2nd vs Teeside 1st
6.15pm, Gryphon Sports Centre
Volleyball Mens 1st vs Teeside 1st
3.15pm, Gryphon Sports Centre

Waterpolo Mens 1st vs Newcastle 1st
2.15pm, The Edge

Full Fixtures and Results at
bucs.org.uk

Leeds University Squash



Image: Ryan Wan (Peter Joyce)

War of the Roses II: Leeds Succeed Where York Failed

Ryan Wan
Squash

Wednesday saw the University of Leeds going up against the University of Lancaster in the first BUCS fixture of 2018. This was a return fixture between the two universities, with Leeds previously winning 5-0 at Lancaster back in November. They hoped for a repeat of this and to continue last year's stellar run of form last year that resulted in them being undefeated and sitting at top of the Northern 1A league. In contrast, Lancaster were at the other end of the table, having managed only one victory this season.

The first match of the day started off with Leeds' ace and world ranked 551 Omar El Tahry, battling not only Lancaster's No.1, but also the flu. Leeds won many points through hitting the ball parallel to the wall, leaving little space for an effective return, and the first game ended quite comfortably 11-5 to Leeds. The first point of the second game went to Leeds through a drop shot, however Lancaster then used this very tactic to go 5-2 up. After winning an extended rally Lancaster looked to have the momentum at 7-3 and then pulled ahead to further their lead to 9-4. Despite this Omar mounted a stunning comeback, winning three points in a row to make it 9-7, eventually tying the game at 10-10. With the momentum back on his side, he finished the second game 12-10. The third

game started off very even at 4-4, but Lancaster once again pulled ahead to 8-4, and after trading some points Lancaster was at game point 10-6. However, much like the previous game, the flu ridden Omar pulled off another unbelievable comeback winning the game and match 12-10, proving why he is ranked internationally.

Peter Joyce was next for the Leeds team and wasted little time establishing a 7-0 lead. His taller opponent could not keep up with the speed and agility of the Leeds No. 2 and only managed two points in a game that finished 11-2. It was total domination in the second game with Lancaster not getting a single point to end game two 11-0. The third game looked to be a repeat of the first two with Leeds storming ahead to a 7-2 lead, but Lancaster's No.2 was unwilling to go down without a fight. He brought it back 8-5, but Leeds regained focus and finished off the game 11-5 to take the match.

Leeds' No. 3, Matty Powell, was the last to play, winning the first point after a long rally. However, Lancaster were not deterred and managed to keep the score even at 4-4. Leeds then went on a run of three points to go 7-4 up, before a ball that went out gave Lancaster a point back. The first game was close and finished 11-8 to Leeds. The second game was even closer than the first with scores tied at 7-7 as a result of some fantastic angled shots off the wall

from the two players. However, Powell managed to cross the finishing line, wrong footing his opponent with a late change of direction on a drop shot. By the end of the third game Lancaster's No.3 was visibly tired and struggling to reach balls that he would have previously, and Leeds seized the chance to seal the game 11-5, winning the match and the overall tie.

The other two games featured captain, Henry Worrall and Paul Allen at No.4 and 5 respectively on court 1. These games were played concurrently with the others and ended in straight games, with Henry's match ending 11-6, 11-5, 11-8 and Paul's ending 11-1, 11-2, 11-6. These victories resulted in Leeds winning the tie 5-0 and not dropping a single game to Lancaster.

Captain Henry Worrall said afterwards: "It was a great win and it puts us in prime position for a chance at promotion. Hopefully we can get back into the Premier League, but we still have a game left against Liverpool and then win a play-off game against one of the bottom four in the Premier, so there's still a lot left to do. The best situation would be for the women's team to also go back up to the Premier League since they are also at the top of Northern 1A right now." He also expressed some disappointment, but at his own situation. "Unfortunately I won't be here next year to play, which is slightly disappointing, but it will be a great achievement for the society to get back to the top, since we haven't been there for about 5 years."