



Maria Sharapova – Featured on Page 16



West Midlands Flooded - Featured on Page 8



Brexit Debate – Featured on Page 4

The War against Hunt

By Jay Harris



Recently Jeremy Hunt (the Minister for Health Care) introduced a new contract that he was to force upon junior doctors. This contract was that the doctors would have to work weekends with the same, or less, pay than they would get normally in the week, because there are higher death rates on weekends. Both the BMA (British Medical Association) and staff at the NHS are unhappy with the contract that they are being forced to comply with, and so the junior doctors announced that they were going to strike for 48 hours.

As of 8:00am British junior doctors have started striking for 48 hours so as to show their views on the new contract that has come into place. Jeremy Hunt when he appeared in an interview announced that he would not be making any compromise in order to change the contract that is being forced upon the doctors.

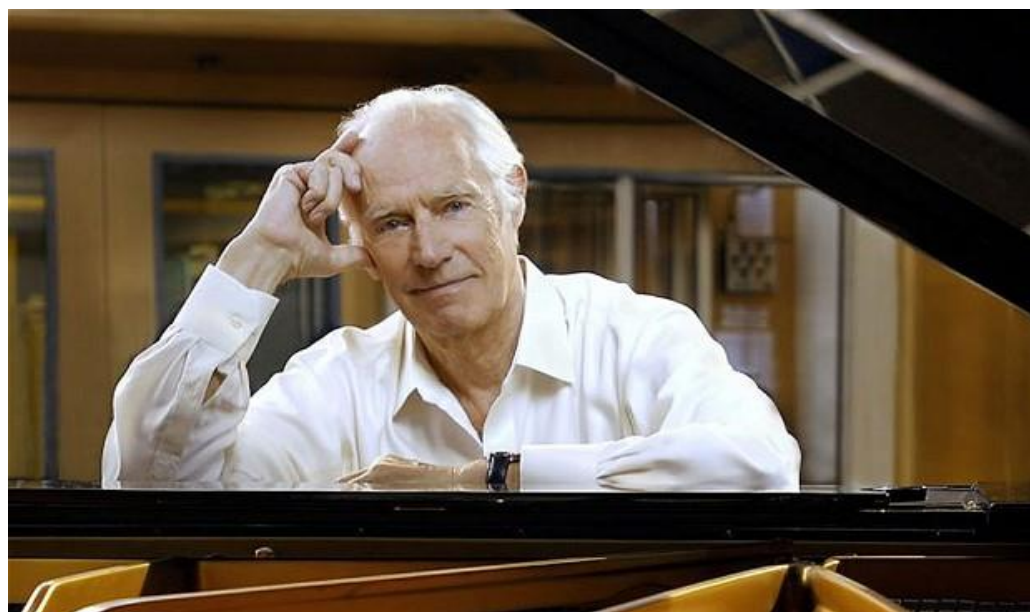
The Shadow Health Secretary of the Labour party Heidi Alexander has warned Hunt that by doing this, one of the biggest gambles with patient safety is trying to be controlled. All of the BMA agrees that there is a need to reform the contract so as to make the medical staff happy, but chaos will follow if there is no change.

With recent statistics it doesn't look like Hunt will end up making a compromise to support junior doctors, considering the BMA want a 50% increase in pay on Saturdays. Hunt has not made any middle ground in conferences with any of the doctors he has spoken with, so perhaps it might remain this way. Will the junior doctors be happy with this reform, or will they continue to strike?

The Death of the Famous Legend, Sir George Martin

By Daiana Mruk

As we all know the extremely famous George Martin who was the fifth Beatle from the well-known band 'The Beatles' has died on the 8th March 2016. George Martin was born on the 3rd January in 1926 and he died at the age of 90. The cause of his death has not been publically announced however his death was announced by another member of 'The Beatles' Ringo Starr who was the drummer, who had tweeted "God bless George Martin peace and love to Judy and his family love Ringo and Barbara George will be missed xxx" and a spokesperson for Universal Music Group that confirmed his death. – **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Editorial

By Jessica Matthews

During my spare time I volunteer online as a counsellor, helping adults and teenagers with issues such as depression, substance abuse, anger issues and even loneliness. The different types of problems I deal with are endless. Recently I was contacted by a young mother who is currently being forced out her country due to extreme violence that her, and her community are facing; due to the confidentiality that is all I can release.

Through talking with this vulnerable young woman, I learnt more about the treatment of refugees than ever before. Over the past few months refugees have been fleeing to western reaches of Europe, scared for their lives and futures. Some countries have reached out and offered sanctuary, Germany has accepted one million immigrants over the past few months, a considerable amount more than other countries.

However, these refugees receive little compassion, according to the woman who wishes to remain anonymous, she and her family were “treated like animals”. All she wanted was safety and security for her family, for her children to live. Isn’t this what every mother wants?

The world has the power to stop this, why are we still spending millions on footballer’s wages, when we could be building homes, providing more security and spreading awareness? People need to stop treating refugees with bitterness and annoyance, instead accept them with compassion, and prove to them that there is still a life worth fighting for.

Britain should be ashamed of itself after opting out of accepting refugees.

Yes, protecting your own country is important, but is it worth losing your humanity?

Newsday Team

- Jess Matthews
- Rebecca Connell
- Michael Lear
- Max Pearson
- Courtney Greenhill
- Jay Harris
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- Alex Mackins
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The Death of the Famous Legend, Sir George Martin (cont.)

By Daiana Mruk

George Martin was very famous for what he did to save his band. As a legendary producer of the band itself, he was also the only one to sign the group to a label contract in 1962.

The Prime Minister David Cameron had also tweeted 'Sir George Martin was a giant of music - working with the Fab Four to create the world's most enduring pop music.' Other famous singers and television presenters have contributed to writing their thoughts about his death on Twitter. George Martin's family have since released a statement thanking 'everyone for their thoughts, prayers and messages of support'.

George helped the Beatles gain the fame in many ways. He actually helped them achieving success and fame as the head of the Parlophone record label just after hearing their demo tape in 1962. He produced more than 700 records and was one of the most influential producers in popular music history.

Actually Syd Coleman changed George Martin’s life in February 1962 by one simple phone call. Coleman asked Martin if he would be interested in hearing a demo from Brian Epstein who had a new band called ‘The Beatles’. Martin heard their tape and met with them when he realised what potential they had although he was not convinced they had song writing ability. After the band split, Martin started his own music publishing company and set about working with other artists.

Most importantly George gained the success and fame all by hard work. He was born into a poor family and he was actually a carpenter’s son from London. He had a strong passion for music and followed it by teaching himself how to play the piano and oboe after leaving the Navy in 1947. It

all seemed like a dream until he had won a place at the prestigious Guildhall School of Music. He married his first wife Sheena at the age of 22 and they had two children. After graduation his first job was in the BBC’s music library where he met his second wife Judy who was his boss’s secretary. They also had two children.

Over his career, he was awarded two Ivor Novello awards, six Grammys and in 2008 was the recipient of the Grammy Foundation's Leadership Award. BBC had also filmed a documentary about his life in 2012 which gained worldwide acclaim. Up until his death, he continued to write music, work with charities and advise broadcasters, according to the website for the independent music publisher he set up in 1969. George had also written three books, including his 1979 autobiography All You Need is Love, co-written with Jeremy Hornsby.



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The rise of Trump

By Jay Harris

Donald J Trump is formerly known as a businessman and a television personality, appearing in TV shows such as The Apprentice. A little back story behind this man; he was born in June, 1946 in Queens, New York. His father gave him a small loan of a million dollars when he grew up, to start a business, and in early 2015 he decided to run for a presidential candidate on the Republican side.



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By going on the republican side of the Trump is faced with going up against Marco Rubio, and Ted Cruz. Both very respected candidates, who were seen to be front runners... or so they thought. And on the other side of the election with the Democrat party, Trump is going up against Hilary Clinton and the other candidate Bernie Sanders, who is thought to be a front runner along with Clinton.

When Trump announced that he was running for presidential candidate people thought he was crazy, and what mas more crazy was the policies that he started introducing. Most people see Trump as a fascist, a very right wing person on the political spectrum who has very racist views, and believes in social hierarchy. We can clearly see this by the policies he has, an example of these being that he wants to build a wall between North America and Mexico so that immigrants are not able to escape the country unlawfully. Trump wants to remove all Muslims from the country to reduce any chance of terrorism (so blaming the majority for the minority) and he also wants to upload the 2nd amendment law in the constitution so as not to change gun laws.

These policies are from a man who very much believes that America needs a change in society, and people thought that because of this, that he would be bottom of the tables for the American polls, but they were wrong. Trump started to rise up in the polls for the Republicans, firstly winning Iowa, and then following states Hampshire, Virginia, and so on. In the home state of candidate Marco Rubio (that state being Florida) Donald Trump started winning leading with an eight percent more of seats than Rubio giving him a clear win, which will undoubtedly kick Rubio out of the election if he can't win in his home state.

So does this all mean that Trump will win the election?

Well, with the current results from the polls Trump is going to be a front runner for the Republicans, most likely facing off against either Sanders, or Clinton. Whether Trump will win the election is a different story, but with the current results, that shock all worldwide, we should all have an open mind for possibilities, because we may have a fascist in American office very soon.

Unfair Funding

By Jessica Matthews

Education Secretary Nicky Morgan is launching a consultation to replace the current system that deals with school funding. Mrs. Morgan says the current system is “outdated” and wishes to tackle uneven levels of funding across England.



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The proposed changes will result in local authorities being removed from the process, and the money will go directly to the heads of the school. She says this will ensures money goes “straight to the front line”, however this will further the lack of a link between local authorities and schools.

The main point of the changes is to provide schools with funding that “genuinely matches their need”. These sudden proposed changes have come about following complaints about spending gaps and local anomalies, school with similar level of disadvantage have drastic differences in funding, when they should have similar amounts.

In December, MPs led by former Education Select Committee chairman Graham Stuart, presented a petition that called for change. In their proposal they stated that the best-funded areas received up to £6,300 per pupil per year, while the worst funded received £4,200 showing a lack of balance across the country.

Following this further details were announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, with the promise of a national rate for each pupil, with extra funding for those with additional needs.

Russell Hobby, leader of the National Association of Head Teachers, backed the principle redistributing money in a fair manner, supporting money going straight to schools. However he warned that there could be consequences for some schools. And there is little detail about how the new funding regime will be decided.

With the current system outdated and not reflecting modern societies need, its time for a change.

Britain: grow up and accept more refugees

By Tom Parkin

It’s simple - if Britain is willing to bomb a country, it should be the first nation state to accept those fleeing this escalation of conflict. Under no circumstances is this a one way deal. Why is parliament quick to vote for air-strikes but sluggish to increase refugee numbers?

In 2016 - sixty eight years after the Declaration of Human Rights and sixty six years after Britain accepted the European Convention on Human Rights, the European political community are struggling undertake (what is simply) their moral obligation.

Save innocent human life.

The European ‘project’ has shamefully resorted to tear gassing children, incarcerating thousands and refusing to assist those drowning in the freezing night waters of the Mediterranean. News headlines fill our little worlds with images of packed trains, flooded campsites and starving infants. Combined, the European Union has the largest economy in the world. Is this really the way we should be treating those most in need? Of course it's not.

Thankfully, Germany has taken the lead on the issue. Perhaps due to historical and political responsibilities, the north European state accepted over one million refugees in 2015. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the British government. At a European summit in September, David Cameron opted out of taking ‘his fair share’, instead offering a measly 20,000 over a period of four years. A pathetic response to one of humanity's largest disasters of a generation. On an international level, Britain is more 'hot air' than substance - a reputation developed after years of weak, ineffective and heartless foreign policy.

So how many refugees, and they are refugees, should Britain take in? 20,000? 100,000? In past years, the Home Office have asserted the idea that one refugee family can live within two hundred British households. Using population figures of sixty four million, this widely used formula would suggest Britain has the capacity to accept 320,000. Although not the one million Germany has achieved, it would be a good start.

Britain was once at the forefront of writing the world’s key humanitarian conventions and yet fails to coordinate an appropriate response to the major problems facing the world today. The government have consciously denied Syrians their most basic rights to life, liberty and security. In the words of Nelson Mandela, “to deny any person their human rights is to challenge their very humanity.”

Together, we should challenge the government and say no - not in our name.



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Nuclear North Korea

By James Lusardi

North Korea once again are shouting Death to the West (Or more logically, east to them) and claiming that they have successfully tested and developed a small nuclear weapon. Should this be true, they would be able to tip their missiles with nuclear warheads and become a threat to South Korea and the United States.

But many question the honesty in these claims. Many people believe North Korea don't actually have nuclear weapons nor hydrogen bombs. Most professionals say that North Korea doesn't have the capability or resources to construct Nuclear weapons.



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So could North Korea be a massive threat? If a rather small atomic bomb can wipe out an entire city, then what would a bigger warhead do? Well in short, nothing.

The biggest countries that are armed with nuclear weapons will never use them due to their policy of not striking first. They also boast a Nuclear Deterrent strategy, this means they will stockpile a large amount of nuclear weapons and claim they will only use them in defence, thus leading onto Mutually Assured Destruction, or MAD. If one country tried to strike another then the target country would retaliate, and their allies and an all-out nuclear conflict would occur resulting in death and destruction on a scale that is incomprehensible.

But isn't this North Korea's goal? To obliterate the "Evil" United States and all that stands with it? Well then we have to take into account the actual effectiveness of North Korea's weapons. They may have missiles but they have no Ballistic Defence, meaning launching would instantly be met with a counter strike which would wipe North Korea off the map permanently.

Modern day counter-ballistics are also developed and most of which remain highly classified, satellites can disarm warheads mid-flight and ground based laser weapons can easily fry the detonation computers on board the missile, even smaller missiles can be launched to counter enemy missiles. If we were discussing a very dangerous country such as China, then of Course Nuclear war would end in total destruction of all parties involved however North Korea is behind in the arms race and may even be lying about their weapons.

Intelligence agencies can even learn about a nuclear threat and stop it days before launch. The best intelligence agencies even prevent the development of Nuclear weapons.

The case for remaining in the European Union

By Michael Lear

On 23rd June, voters will go to the polls to decide whether Britain's future lies in or out of the European Union. Whatever the outcome of the long awaited referendum, the political fallout from the result will be huge. The "Remain" campaign has already been labelled "Project Fear," an unfair term which disregards the serious and compelling case for Britain to remain a leading member within the EU.

Firstly, perhaps the most important issue surrounding the EU debate concerns jobs and trade. Supporters of "Brexit" argue that the EU is of declining significance to the UK economy and that jobs are not dependent on membership of a political union. Nevertheless, the EU still represents 52% of the UK's total trade in goods and services, a figure which is hard to ignore. As for job prospects, it is impossible to know what the true impact of leaving the EU would be. However, it is hard to deny that there is at least a risk of global manufacturers relocating to other European states if Britain chose a different path. BMW's decision to warn its British workforce of the possible consequences for jobs if there is a vote to leave may be viewed as scaremongering and unnecessary interference by some, but the warnings are there to be heeded.

In terms of the wider economic impact of EU membership, many "out" campaigners will be quick to highlight the cost of Britain's membership fees. It's true that Britain is one of the largest contributors to the EU budget, having put in a net total of £8.8 billion for 2014/15. This seems like a large amount, but in fact only represents 1.4% of total public spending. So while Britain would make a small saving if it left the EU, this has to be weighed up against the benefits of unfettered access to the single market. Indeed, many businesses have endorsed British membership of the EU on these grounds. Although there is a chance that leaving could result in modest gains in GDP (around 0.6% in 2030, according to the think tank Open Europe), this has to be set against a context of years of uncertainty - the enemy of business. Even Mark Carney, the governor of the Bank of England, stated on Tuesday that the EU had "likely increased the dynamism of the UK economy and correspondingly its ability to grow," while claiming that a vote to leave is the "biggest domestic risk to financial stability."

The "Leave" campaign's major shortcoming has been its failure to set out a clear vision for Britain outside the EU. One option is the establishment of a Free Trade Agreement, allowing the UK to retain access to the single market without accepting the current conditions of EU membership. However, the issue of whether political circumstances would make this a viable alternative is open to debate.

The British market is undoubtedly a valuable one, but any sort of renegotiation following a "Brexit"

The British market is undoubtedly a valuable one, but any sort of renegotiation following a "Brexit" would have to be agreed by all 27 remaining EU countries, as well as the European Parliament. David Cameron's recent attempts to negotiate a reform deal to give the UK "special status" within the EU.

The toxic issue of immigration has dominated the EU debate so far. The ability to take back control of the country's borders and reduce the flow of people coming to Britain from other European states is often touted by "Leave" campaigners as one of the key incentives for a clean break with the EU. However, this argument fails to acknowledge the economic benefits of immigration. The Office for Budget Responsibility says the economy depends on migrant labour and taxes paid by immigrants to keep funding public services, while UK growth forecasts are partly made on the assumption that high levels of net migration will continue. Moreover, it's easy to forget there are approximately 2.2 million British citizens living in other EU countries who could be affected by a vote to leave. We often take for granted our ability to live and work freely in EU member states. A vote to leave the EU could see us lose this privilege.

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Finally, the influence Britain has in the world as a member of the EU should not be overlooked. It is surely no coincidence that America and other allies favour a vote to remain. Leaving the EU could also act as a trigger for another Scottish independence referendum if Scots are outvoted by the rest of the U.K. and find them being taken out of the EU against their will. This doesn't even take into account the need for a global response to tackle issues such as the refugee crisis, terrorism and climate change, which Britain has a moral responsibility to be a part of. The role supranational organizations like the EU play in helping to maintain international order makes them a key vehicle through which solutions can be found to these challenges facing humanity. If the economic and political arguments don't sway you, then this reason alone should be enough to demonstrate the importance of voting to remain in the EU on 23rd June.

Killing for Profit

By Jessica Matthews

The managing director of a Zimbabwe mining company, Godfrey Nyakudya has been labelled as the leader of the devastating elephant killings that have plagued the animals in Hwange National Park for the past three years.



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More than 400 elephants have been killed over the past three years, the elephants are exposed to water or food that is laced with cyanide, and the effects are horrific, ultimately causing suffocation.

Speculation regarding the cause has been ongoing for years, many believing the elephants were being killed by poachers. The demand for ivory is constant; due to its lack of distribution the poachers are able to sell the tusks for high prices. In October 2015, four elephants were found with their tusks removed, meanwhile several of the elephants were too young to have tusks.

Nehanda radio, a special investigations unit based in Bulawayo, the home of Nyakudya's mining company, has stated that Nyakudya is wanted in connection with "the manner in which he dealt with cyanide that was used during the chemical poaching in Zimbabwe since 2013." Allegedly Nyakudya imported cyanide from South Africa without obtaining the official documents.

An anonymous employee spoke to the special investigations unit, wishing to keep his identity secret for fear of his life. According to the employee, Nyakudya did not have a permit to handle or transport the substance, it would be delivered at night and there was no documentation of the chemical. Nyakudya supposedly sold four tons to another mining company near Bulawayo; the employee was told by colleagues and friends that some of the Cyanide was transported to Hwange. Mining done in the Hwange area is for coal, coal mining had no use for cyanide, therefore bringing about suspicion; why else would Cyanide be transported to Hwange? Especially when you consider how much damage it would cause to the ecosystem

Nyakudya is currently being held in a jail in Bulawayo, he is due to appear in court by the end of March. Until then, the cause will remain unclear and there will be no justice for the poor animals who have suffered.

EU-Turkey Migration Plan Causing Legal Concerns

By Max Pearson

A controversial new plan created to reduce the strain of the migrant crisis in both Turkey and the EU has drawn concerns from the UN which fears the plan may contravene international law should it be implemented.

The plan, which is currently under negotiation between the EU and Turkey, states that all migrants entering Greece from Turkey should be returned and for each migrant returned, another Syrian currently in Turkey would be resettled in the EU.

This comes as a result of the growing strain on the EU as it struggles to meet the demands of the refugee crisis as unprecedented numbers of migrants, not seen since World War Two, are arriving and seeking aid.

The UN's refugee agency has questioned the legality of the plan, suggesting that such expulsion of foreigners is 'not consistent with European law.' Amnesty International shares this position, declaring the plan a death blow to the right to seek asylum.

However with Slovenia and Serbia joining the growing list of Schengen countries that have applied border controls to stem the flow of migrants, many are calling for drastic reforms to immigration laws to better address the problem.



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On this Day in History...

By Lauren King and Ellen Day

- 1916-Germany declares war against Portugal
With the outbreak of WW1, Portugal became concerned about the safety of its holdings in Angola and Mozambique, so in order to gain support for its African divisions, it joined the war on the Allies side. Portugal's involvement was initially limited to naval support, but in February 1917, it sent its first force of 50,000 men to the Western front.
- 1945- Firebombing of Tokyo
During an offensive against Japan, the US dropped 20,000 tons of incendiary bombs on Tokyo over a course of 48 hours, destroying almost 16 square miles in and around the city and killing up to 30,000 civilians in the worst single firestorm in history.
- 1949- England beats South Africa at cricket, scoring 174 runs in 94 minutes 1949-England beats South Africa at cricket, scoring 174 runs in 94 minutes
- England won two out of five test matches and had gone unbeaten through the tour in South Africa ten years previously, so the team, captained by FG Mann, had considerable hopes that the road leading towards recovery in English post-war cricket had been reached
- 1957- 8.6-magnitude earthquake shakes Andreanof Islands, Alaska
The fourth-largest magnitude earthquake in US history caused extensive damage to infrastructure on the Adak and Umnack Islands, an eruption of the long-dormant Mount Vsevidof volcano and a tsunami that reached heights of 16m, but thankfully no lives were lost in either tsunami or the earthquake.
- 1964- Ford Mustang launched
Conceived as a 'working man's thunderbird', the ever-popular Ford Mustang was first produced in March 1964 and unveiled by Henry Ford at the World's Fair in New York. It debuted in American showrooms the same day and almost 22,000 models were instantly snapped up by buyers.



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So Mr Obama, just how successful has your Presidency been?

By Alasdair Jones

In 2016 the world will say goodbye to Barak Obama as President of the United States. Barak Obama made history in 2008 as the first black president of the country and now after his maximum two terms the question presents itself: just how successful as Barak Obama been as President. Obama’s main aim that appealed to the electorate that got him elected was to get American troops out of Iraq. But there are three other pieces of criteria that Obama’s success could be judged by: his attempts to bring gun control to the United States and introducing a national health service to America.

“On my first day in office, I would give the military a new mission: ending this war”.

Following the 9/11 Attack George W. Bush initiated the invasion of Afghanistan (2001) and Iraq (2003). In the Iraq War, it has been estimated that between March 2003 and June 2006 151,000 violent deaths occurred. Obama’s foreign policy was a serious departure from that of George W. Bush. On his first full day in office, Obama made it clear in meeting with military officers in charge of Iraq that there should be ‘additional planning to execute a responsible military drawdown from Iraq’. Obama has successfully seen a ‘drawdown’ from Iraq successfully managing to begin the withdrawal of troops in 2011 starting with 10,000 troops by the end of 2011 but also successfully ordering Osama Bin Laden’s death the same year. However, it could be argued that despite Obama’s successes in the Middle East he has taken his eye off the ball. Activities of organisations such as Daesh including the Paris shootings could be attributed to Obama failing to put troops on the ground in Syria and allowing a vacuum of terror to grow in the Middle East and the situation to spiral out of control, worse than it was in 2001. Obama allowing America to take a step back from the conflict could also be argued to have allowed Putin to take action in far from moral ways. So this suggests Obama’s ‘drawdown’ has been far from ‘responsible’. Overall, however, it could be strongly argued that Obama has succeeded in fulfilling his promise of a withdrawal and it would be unfair to blame him for unforeseeable events that are out of his control.

‘My biggest frustration so far is the fact that this society has not been willing to take some basic steps to keep guns out of the hands of people who can do just unbelievable damage... This has become the norm. We should be ashamed.’

The second amendment gives all Americans the right to carry a gun. To most non-Americans it would seem nonsensical for anyone to believe that this makes for a safer country. Between 1st January and 10th January more killings occurred in America than the total number of terrorist related deaths that had occurred since 9/11 up to that point. Obama saw that high-school shootings were not the sign that America needed more guns but was a sign that stricter gun control in the States was required. Obama has been fighting a long battle which does not seem to show many results. For example, following the Sandy Hook massacre, Obama claimed that Congress had the opportunity to pass a bipartisan background check bill “supported by some 90% of the American people” including “a majority of NRA households” but the Senate blocked the bill, their reason: the National Rifle Association’s urging. January 2016 saw Obama moved to tears as he stated “We can’t wait”. So overall, Obama’s attempts at merely introducing background checks to gun control have failed and it seems stricter gun control is distant and unlikely. However, ninety per cent could be considered a start.

“My vision for America is prosperity through comprehensive health care regulated at the feudal level. Because every U.S. citizen, no matter which state you live in, deserves quality care.”

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (or ObamaCare) was signed into law to reform health care industry on March 23 2010. Obama’s brainchild had the aim of giving ore Americans access to affordable, quality health insurance and to reduce the growth in U.S. health care spending. It successes include the reduction in the number of uninsured Americans and greater access to care. Most importantly, it is estimated that between 2010 and 2013 there has been a reduction of 50,000 people losing their lives and a saving of \$12 billion. Like gun control, ObamaCare faced much opposition this time from drug companies and individuals who felt that it went against the American Dream. Though

not a failure, resentment towards it has risen in America due to it going against ‘laissez-faire’ and increasing what some regard as state control. However, despite this resentment, ObamaCare has achieved what it set out to do.

And the conclusion:

So, to answer the question: how successful has Barack Obama been as President of the United States? This snapshot of issues in his Presidency suggests Obama has achieved two major things he set out to: he has pulled troops out of Iraq and set up ObamaCare. Obama has been unsuccessful with gun control but then it could be argued that no one ever will be. However, there is one certain success of Obama over one of his potential successors: he has a sensible haircut and that might just reflect his progressive ideas.



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Is Animal Testing Necessary?

By Georgia Lewis

Every year companies around the world test their products on animals. Testing in areas such as medicine and cosmetics. Animal experiments are used to develop new medicines and to test the safety of other products.

Companies and scientists are aware of the ethical issues and acknowledge that experiments can cause pain to the animals and can reduce their quality of life.

Companies agree that tests should be made as humane as possible. Some say that if alternative testing methods were reliable then they wouldn't test on animals.

A small number of countries collect and publish data about their use of animal testing. Scientists have estimated that more than 115 million animals are tested on per year around the world. Scientists say that banning animal experiments would mean no new medicines or more people used for drug tests. Animal experiments aren't used if medicine is safe for humans.

Instead of testing products on animals we could develop new ways of testing. Some alternative ways of testing are experimenting on animal cells instead of animals themselves. Some other ways of testing are making computer models of animals. Sometimes volunteers are paid to take part in experiments.

If we could safely move animal testing over to humans testing than it would reduce the number of animals involved in experimentation. We have to consider whether animal testing is ever morally right.

Head Teacher's Interview

By Jessica Matthews and Rebecca Connell

What's next in terms of development for the school?

We have refurbished two of our science labs with state of the art science equipment, which I believe will greatly improve the environment for the students, and benefit their education. As well as this we are looking into extending Henry's over the summer, meaning lunchtimes will be less congested. Another exciting project involves landscaping the area between the Grove building and the Abbey building, resulting in a more pleasant environment for students and staff alike.

How has the new learning environment of the Grove building helped the students?

The Grove building has provided us with seminar rooms, 14 new purpose built classrooms, brand new ventilation and lighting systems. As well as this we have been privileged with futuristic IT facilities, along with the new server room which will keep the school up to date for the next 20 years. This building has also provided us with new offices and large corridors, which has already helped in reducing congestion during lesson change overs, benefitting the entire school. The school has already started receiving the benefits of the new building, and these benefits are set to last for years to come.

What sets Prince Henry's apart from other schools in the area?

Prince Henry's has a reputation that's been set over hundreds of years, it has always been a school recognised for pushing students to work to the best standards to reach their aspirations. Every school has its own distinct ethos and Prince Henry's is particularly special. This can be felt simply from talking to any of the students and teaching staff, with their loyalty reflecting the outstanding nature of the school.



Included by kind permission of Prince Henry's High School

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What aspirations do you have for 2016?

I'm looking forward to assisting students in achieving the success they deserve in all areas of their school life. One of our main projects is working alongside the Teaching School, bringing in a new generation of teachers with fresh ideas. Prince Henry's is now supporting other schools and this benefits us as well as those schools. We are looking to set up a Sixth Form Alumni, which will encourage former Prince Henry's students to return and train with us after university, therefore generating our own talent.

Who inspires you daily?

My family are one of my main inspirations, my wife and my children. My parents are also a major influence as they looked after and inspired me when I was younger. Another inspiration is the students and staff, seeing them work hard to achieve their goals and targets gives me great job satisfaction.

Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau

By James Noble

Today, as part of the Lessons from Auschwitz Project run by the Holocaust Educational Trust, myself and a fellow Year 12 are visiting the concentration and death camp in Poland.

We attended an orientation seminar last Monday in Birmingham to prepare ourselves for the visit, during which, we were joined by Auschwitz survivor Susan Pollack. She was an amazing lady, who told us her story; one of tragedy, survival and eventually happiness. We also discussed various questions about how to respond to the events of the Holocaust and help to prevent such genocidal acts in the future.

We will have a guided tour around the camp during today's visit, learning about the events that took place there and the alarming reasons and attitudes that led to such atrocities.

After the visit, it is the job of the pupils who've taken part, to spread the word and help others learn the vitally important historical lessons to help build a better, safer future.



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Teen Book Awards Success

By Georgia Lewis

In November last year, three Year 9 English classes did Speed Dating with books. Year 9s all through Worcestershire took part in the Speed Dating; there were 35 books altogether and the students whittled them down to 6 books. These books made up the shortlist. Students then got together to read the books in the Worcestershire Teen Book awards reading group at each school.

12 students took part in our Book Awards and attended weekly meetings every Tuesday for 6 weeks. During those 6 weeks we read as many of the shortlist as possible. The shortlist included "Girl Online" by the YouTuber Zoe Sugg, "13 hours" by Narinder Dhami, "Playlist for the dead" by Michelle Falkoff, "Frozen Charlotte" by Alex Bell, "Arena 13" by Joseph Delany and "Big Game" by Dan Smith.

During the meetings we often spoke about the plots of the books and which ones we had enjoyed. We also shared facts, for example, that you can buy Frozen Charlotte dolls and you can listen to the playlist that is featured in "Playlist for the Dead."

At the end of the 6 weeks we voted for the best books. "Frozen Charlotte" by Alex Bell came in first place and in second place was "Arena 13" by Joseph Delaney. Both books were exceptionally well written, and they were both very different from each other. "Frozen Charlotte" was a young adult horror story while "Arena 13" is a fast-paced, teen fiction, dystopia fantasy book. Both books are highly recommended by the students.

The book awards were a great experience as students had the chance to read a wide variety of books that they may not have considered reading beforehand. The winning book overall for Worcestershire will be announced on 18th March.



Everest Climber visits Prince Henry’s

By Georgia Lewis and Dylan Stanley

On Tuesday 1st of March Year 9 students were privileged to get a visit from author Matt Dickinson. He wrote books such as The Everest Files and the Mortal Chaos series. After an insightful talk Dickinson gave in the Year 9 assembly we had the privilege of interviewing him.



Have you always wanted to be an author?
I have been writing since I was 11, and at the age of 12 I entered some short story competitions. At 15 I wrote my first book which is unread in my mum's attic! I have always been a massive reader.

What inspired you to write?
My own experience in the wilderness. Climbing Mount Everest has inspired me to write the Everest files. I want to write young adult books for my children to read. My youngest is my 12 year old daughter.

What is your favorite character out of all of your books?
My favorite character would have to be Kami from the Everest Files.

Out of all of your books what is your favorite?
My favorite books that I have written would probably have to be the Everest Files.

Are you working on any new books at the moment?
Yes, I am currently writing the third installment of the Everest Files.

Do you have a specific writing process?
Usually I write a careful plan which I normally ignore! I always try to write a set amount of words every day and I write everywhere.

If you could write a book with any author who would it be and why?
I would probably write a book with J.K. Rowling because it would definitely help me elevate my fame!

Is writing a skill or can you learn it?
I think that you can definitely learn it. I see myself less as a writer and more as a storyteller, I think that you can learn how to tell a good story to people.

What kind of books do you read?
I read a lot of young adult fiction because I like to keep up with what my audience likes to read. I also like to read a lot of non-fiction books, especially science and auto-biographies.

What is the hardest thing about writing?
Definitely time. I have friends who are also authors, and publishers often put pressure on them to produce work so when they send it to their publishers, it isn't at the stage where they want it to be. I don't like to send my books off until I am sure that I am happy with the story.

Why do you write?
I have always wanted to communicate and writing is a way to communicate. I do author visits to communicate. I also love to write and tell stories to my children.



Love is in the air

By Libby Phillips

In light of the joviality that surrounds the 14th of February, Prince Henry's Interact Group organized a Valentine themed fundraiser in aid of the group's chosen charities.



During the week leading up to Valentine’s Day, members of the group sold cupcakes in the PRH, attracting students and teachers alike. As well as this, roses were being sold for the romantics, these were then delivered to the recipients, meaning not only was money donated to charity, but some lucky people had their day brightened considerably by the meaningful gesture. The group also arranged for a screening of a movie in the Arts Centre, for friends and couples alike to come enjoy, by selling tickets and drinks, the group continued their impressive run of charitable activities. Overall, it can be concluded that the efforts of everybody involved paid off as a large sum of money was raised.

You don’t want to ‘Mis’ this!

By Rebecca Connell

With opening night looming and four sell-out shows, anticipation for this year’s school production, the world renowned musical *Les Misérables*, is growing.

After years of battling Prince Henry’s has finally won the much sought after chance to try its hand at revolution! The cast have been working hard for months to ensure that the musical lives up to Prince Henry’s high standards, and with Mrs. Cook at the helm, it’s no doubt will.



Earlier in the year the cast had a chance to travel to London for a workshop with the west end cast to gain some hints and tips of how to make their own performances west-end worthy.

Curtains go up on Wednesday 16th March; students and teachers behind the scenes have been transforming the stage from our dull art centre to a scene straight out of 19th century France.

I think it’s safe to say we can’t wait to...hear the people sing!

Flash Floods Hit Worcestershire

By Claudia Trotman and Emily Livingstone

All over the county, many people woke up to the light of day, or rather, the lack of it.

On the morning of the 9th of March 2016 the skies were grey and the grass was drenched from the storm that occurred the previous night. River levels rose dangerously high, and the Met office have issued a yellow warning for flash floods in Worcestershire.

Several roads are closed due to the heavy rain overnight and this morning in Worcestershire, causing delays across the county. Broadwas CE Primary School located in Worcester and The Chantry School in Martley has both closed.

The River Avon, which runs through Evesham, has burst its banks causing disruptions to travel in the local area. Buses arrived late this morning and traffic was worse than normal, meaning many people’s journeys took longer than usual.

The floods are trying times and cause great disturbance for local businesses, travel and residents. Many institutions have had to close or make special arrangements as people have been struggling to reach work and school.

Local residents hope to see the floods reduced quickly, so life can continue as usual.

Is there a prime time for social media?

By Courtney Greenhill

The most recent statistics show that 500 million people use Facebook, 645,750,000 signed up to Twitter and there are 400 million monthly active users on Instagram, so with social media growing everyday, do we feel there is a prime time to post so that we can achieve the most likes and views?

In a recent survey I did I found out that people 15+ found the most popular time to post on social media was between 7:30pm-8pm, some even gave the specific time of the weekend to post and not weekdays. People aged 25-40 averaged a time of 7:30pm-8pm once again as that is when everyone is home from work but this could be on a weekday and a weekend. Lastly people over 40 said the most popular time was between 6pm-7pm, or just when they had a spare 5 minutes!

So is there a science behind posting on social media? All it takes is some knowledge and forethought, and anyone can be their way to optimizing engagement with their social media posts, whether it is for business or pleasure, timing is everything in life.



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Planet-X

By Jay Harris

Around January this year, scientists at the Berlin Observatory made a new discovery. Lurking beyond Pluto, our dwarf planet; is the new ninth addition to our solar system- Planet-X. The newly discovered planet is said to orbit the sun every 15,000 years, which is why it has only come to vision today. Astronomers also theorize that this planet was knocked out of the “planet forming region” near to the sun upon the infancy of the solar system, it still remains there today, in the distant reaches of our galaxy.

With this new discovery there has been a large divide of opinion, which has caused questions to arise, such as: “Is this really a planet?” Batygin and Brown (the astronomers that discovered the planet) have calculated that there is a 0.007% chance that the clustering of six objects orbiting something is a coincidence. The scientists actually made this discovery from noticing the six (previously known) objects were orbiting beyond Neptune, and after actually seeing the planet, they realized that these objects had actually been shepherded into the orbit of this unknown planet.

The planet being the distance it is means that scientists haven't directly seen the planet itself, so

Autonomous Cars: The Journey So Far

By Michael Lear

As automotive technology becomes increasingly sophisticated, a world where driving is a thing of the past seems closer than ever before. However, it’s not the ability of car manufacturers and technology giants limiting the development of autonomous cars. The lack of a clear legal framework means many obstacles remain in place before driverless vehicles can become a genuine proposition for consumers.

While the potential for autonomous cars to transform the motoring landscape is huge, the technology currently available to car buyers is impressive in its own right. Most mainstream manufactures now offer vehicles equipped with advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS), including parking assist, where the car will steer itself into a space for you, and even automated lane changing. Inside, features such as gesture control should make performing simple functions like adjusting the volume of the radio even more intuitive. Perhaps more importantly, the adoption of Apple CarPlay and Android Auto means it’s now easier to sync your smartphone with your car’s infotainment system. Nevertheless, refining this new technology still presents a significant challenge. For many manufacturers, one of the main drawbacks of ADAS are that they remain reactive rather than predictive, and thus still require an alert human at the wheel to spot potential hazards.

One company which has made significant gains in the development of autonomous vehicles is better known for its internet search engine rather than its cars: Google. The technology giant has been working on driverless cars since 2009 and has carried out extensive testing in California and other U.S. states. Meanwhile, in the UK, the government recently announced £20 million worth of investment into driverless and “connected” vehicles, including testing on motorways for the first time. This follows trials in Greenwich, Bristol, Coventry and Milton Keynes. Despite this, further testing may be held back by the need to re-draft road traffic laws, which won’t be completed until at least summer 2017. Google faces similar problems in the USA, where state and federal safety rules are hindering

this is mostly a hypothesis with a lot of evidence, which is why there is such a big divide of opinion on the new discovery. Until there has been a clear sighting of the planet no one will really know what has been found, but Brown and Batygin say that they hope other astronomers will join them in the hunt for this new planet.



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progress. Curiously, this is where the Isle of Man comes in. The self-governing crown dependency in the Irish Sea, whose inhabitants are classed as British citizens, is believed to have been approached by Google about the possibility of testing their driverless vehicles on the island. The authorities now have ambitions to turn the Isle of Man into the leading nation in the development of autonomous vehicles and may have legislation in place as early as this summer, in stark contrast to the timescale on the UK mainland.

As far as the sale of autonomous cars is concerned, it’s surely no longer a matter of if, but when. So are we nearly there yet? In the short term, most manufacturers are working with advanced technology companies to develop ADAS over the next 2 to 5 years. Tesla, possibly the most prominent name in the industry, expects to have some autonomous systems ready by 2018, while Volvo believes it can prevent anyone from being killed in one of its cars by 2020. Furthermore, in a major coup for Google, U.S. vehicle safety regulators announced in February this year that the artificial intelligence system which controls their autonomous cars could be considered the driver under federal law. Unfortunately, in the same month, one of Google’s autonomous cars caused a collision with a bus in California and the company has accepted its car was to blame.

In the longer term, it is predicted that by 2025 the driverless and semi-autonomous global car market will be worth £900 billion a year. Nonetheless, stumbling blocks remain. The willingness of customers to trust the technology behind autonomous cars will be a crucial factor in their uptake. In addition, if manufacturers are to succeed in creating a truly driverless car, high levels of investment will be required to ensure they continue to make developments in key areas such as vehicle to vehicle communications and urban autonomous driving. Finally, the vast array of legal issues surrounding autonomous vehicles will continue to have profound implications for the real-world relevance of the technology until they can be resolved. Fortunately, the advancements made in recent years suggest that the end of the road may at last be in sight for those seeking to realise the previously unimaginable prospect of a fully autonomous car.



Google have built and tested a prototype of a fully autonomous car, which was recently involved in a collision with a bus.

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Peter Pan- Banished to Neverland?

By Kia Mackenzie

In the 21st century, we think of fairy tales as stories of a prince ready to rescue the damsel in distress, and a promise of a ‘Happily Ever After’. Yet originally fairy tales were dark tales aimed to thrill and horrify to the audience it was aimed at: adults. Over the years, and even by the original tellers themselves, they have been twisted to become more ‘bedtime orientated’. One of the most famous and well known people to do this was the director Walt Disney adjusting each one to suit, what he felt, was right for children. In fact many of these films have strong connotations of racism, sexism and prejudice. A prime example of his misinterpretations comes in the form of his production of J.M. Barrie’s ‘*Peter and Wendy*’. Disney’s warped take on the much loved Victorian book about the boy who would never grow up has led to people questioning whether Peter Pan is suitable for children.

Many understand that what children watch easily reflects their attitudes towards people and the world around them, taking in both the suitable and unsuitable views unquestionably. Yet many people forget about Disney, and its underlying connotations. Say what you will about watching it when you were younger, and feeling it was fine, but the world changes: attitudes change. What society had once deemed appropriate has changed. So what once was a child friendly film is now contrary to what our society believes to be right-minded and moral. Walt Disney’s 1953 ‘*Peter Pan*’, which made over 87 million dollars in revenue, contains blatant racism and misogyny which, at the time, was viewed as acceptable. It wasn’t until 1911 before the play was adapted somewhat, and combined with chapters from his 1902 novel ‘*The Little White Bird*’ to form the book we know of today; ‘*Peter and Wendy*’.

Today we complain about the over pre-occupation on a woman’s image and how it is considered acceptable in the media: thin and weight obsessed. Disney doesn’t break that mould. In the opening scenes Tinker Bell is standing on top of a mirror, questioning the size of her hips. She is shown, although she doesn’t

speak, to be a shallow manipulative woman with a strong jealous streak. The book is no better; like the mermaids she is jealous of Peter and Wendy’s relationship and shows murderous spite towards her, also attempting to kill her. At the end of the book, Peter doesn’t even know what happened to Tink; he hardly remembers who she was and it is suggested that she is dead as faeries don’t live long. The sequence with the Indians contains heavily misogynistic attitudes from the Indians themselves, towards both their own, and the white women. In the circle of men there are two women featured: one is Tiger Lily and the other a pretty younger woman. Not only does this present ideas that only the better looking young women who would be sexualised to fit their ideological frame of mind would be allowed, but also that judgments are made if you’re not. The ‘mother-in-law’ is depicted overweight and unattractive. As a viewer, you automatically compare her to her daughter and, like the Indians in the film, reduce the female value to no more than her appearance rather than her character.

But J.M. Barrie’s novels are not racist, and nor do they promote and encourage those stereotypes. Don’t get me wrong, he uses them, but only to enforce a message that so many over complicate: it is a book not only about youth’s innocence, but also of its ignorance, and that whilst it is perceived to be a book about the tragedy of growing up, in reality it is explaining that to not grow up is the true tragedy. It was in fact Disney who contorted this classically Victorian childish view into an over exaggerated, even harmful piece of work. And the difference: Disney’s was aimed at children. This created the base to an argument that, when properly judged, should never have come into play. Peter Pan is not a story for children and was never meant to be, but is much more suited to children who are leaving childhood behind and entering the difficult world of growing up.

To assess this, Barrie lets the reader see the world through the eyes of three children of Victorian attitudes with little or no knowledge of the world of pirates and Indians. Due to the culture gap, to these children things such as pirates and Indians are placed in a category with mythical creatures like faeries and mermaids and are just imaginary things suited for their playtime stories. None of

the stereotypes of the inhabitants of Neverland are meant to reflect their true culture, but are there to point out the flaws and ignorance of children before they grow up. A child’s inability to grasp the concepts only an adult can is portrayed by Peter; a boy who is cocky and self-confident but is unable to understand the concept of love and a kiss. Whilst Peter is playing games and living naïvely, Wendy and her brothers embark on the greatest adventure: growing up. In P.J. Hogan’s adaptation, Peter states ‘to live would be an awfully great adventure’ and yet how can Peter know when his life remains in the world of a child?

Their minds need to be kept open, especially at that time in their lives where they are growing up and steadily beginning to see the bigger picture and more complex view of the world, just like Wendy. Books like Peter Pan should be encouraged and not shunned, and the teaching of Barrie’s points don’t encourage racist views of other cultures... how can they if you leave the world open to them rather than guiding them down a controlled narrow path. This book needn’t be handled with the fear that its message will be misinterpreted once they have reached the age that Barrie aimed it at. Neverland is their childhood, and like Wendy and her brothers, they are learning to turn their back on it and look to the whole new adventure of growing up.

Ask yourself this: how can an author employ a dog to be a nanny, create a hero like Wendy who is strong enough to realise that she must leave Peter behind because it’s time for her to grow up, and create a princess who keeps undesirable suitors at bay with a hatchet be wholeheartedly classed as a racist, misogynistic man who has written an inappropriate book for our society? It is the ignorance that destroys a truthful, classic book that went against the flow of Victorian attitudes, and when we think what we’re doing is protecting our children, we are in fact fuelling the point Barrie has successfully made: ignorance is childish, you need to grow up and see the real world, and not be stuck judging a book by its cover.



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Half Bad Book Review

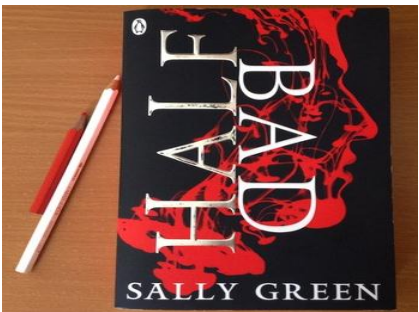
By Claudia Trotman

Half Bad isn’t...half bad.

There are many good things about the new young-adult trilogy opener *Half Bad*, that to focus on the bad aspects would feel ill-mannered. Yet as the novel moves towards its anticipatory climax, it feels increasingly incomplete. This book is Sally Green’s debut novel, and the book is plagued by the sort of mistakes first-time novelists often make. These mistakes become extremely apparent in the closing chapters, where the plot should take-off, but instead it is held back by the novel’s clunky style.

Sixteen-year-old Nathan lives in a cage: beaten, shackled, and trained to kill. In a modern-day England where two types of witches live amongst humans, Nathan is an abomination, the illegitimate son of the world’s most terrifying and violent witch, Marcus. Nathan’s only hope for survival is to escape his captors, track down Marcus, and receive the three gifts that will bring him into his own magical powers—before it’s too late.

Half Bad is not an elegant book, nor is it particularly subtle, or even well-written. It’s a raw, bloody flurry of a read that is both effective and frustrating. But... I liked this book. In spite of its flaws and its weaknesses and the pacing, *I liked this book*.



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‘Am I Normal Yet?’

By Mia Townsend and Kiya Haines

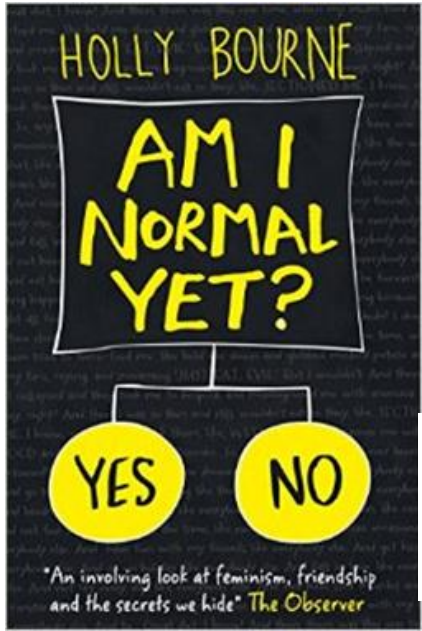
The title in itself already alludes to something related to mental health, and this is further confirmed when you open the book and come across a page of a 'Recovery Diary', which are interspersed throughout the book between chapters.

'Am I Normal Yet?' presents us with one of the most realistic and honest portrayals of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD). Holly Bourne, the author, doesn't hold back and shield you from the ugly truth of what it is like to have rituals and to feel the compulsive need to go through with them. Bourne shows you the extent that people like Evie would go through in order to get all the thoughts out of their head and to feel "clean" and okay again. In fact, there is an emphasis on things like the Recovery Diary and even the behavioural therapy that Evie goes to for her OCD. There is no façade about falling in love and recovering miraculously, or so much about Evie being able to hide her OCD from her friends without them noticing anything. What you get is a teenage girl struggling with her mental illness while taking on the typical adolescent dramas of finding a boyfriend, losing friends, peer pressure, family drama and getting through college.

This book is about normal teenage worries like being aware that you might not be ready for sex and saying no instead of giving in to pressure; like resenting the other people's ignorance towards mental health, the stigma that comes with it and the foolish notion that you have to protect younger individuals by hiding mental illness from them.

The one other thing that really sold the book for us is the feminist ideals. So much so that Evie and her friends even come up with something called the Spinster meetings, where they meet and discuss how sexist society is in a designated topic decided by each of the members. It's a refreshing topic that the girls do not approach lightly.

We highly recommend this book for anyone who wants to learn more about the issues discussed such as feminism and generalised disorders. They should be talked about and people should be unafraid to open up about them.



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The Oscars 2016

By Claudia Trotman

All eyes were on Hollywood Sunday February 28th for the 88th annual Academy Awards. The usual celebrity glamour and exquisite dresses took to the red carpet for a night of awards, interviews and film celebration.

The most awards of the night went to Mad Max: Fury Road, which managed to take home six Oscars in total, followed by The Revenant with three and Spotlight winning two.

British singer Sam Smith picked up the best original song Oscar and dedicated his award to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Smith co-wrote the song Writing's On The Wall with fellow Brit Jimmy Napes for the latest James Bond movie, Spectre. He follows in the footsteps of Adele, who won the Oscar in 2013 for the Bond instalment Skyfall.

Host Chris Rock did not shy away from the diversity issues plaguing this year's awards and opened the ceremony by declaring Hollywood is "racist" and admitting he considered boycotting the ceremony because of the absence of black nominees. He constantly referred to the issue throughout the night, in the hopes of raising awareness about the importance in diversity

As the night was drawing to a close, 34 million people from around the world gathered around the television in anticipation. Who will win this year’s Academy Award for best actor? Will it be Eddie Redmayne, for the second year running, for his role in *The Danish Girl*? Or Michael Fassbender for his emotional role in *Steve Jobs*?

Joy Film Review: Joyful or Joyless?

By Emily Livingstone

“We got here from hard work, patience and humility. Don’t think the world owes you anything because the world owes you nothing.”

Joy (2016) is a comedy-drama film directed by David O. Russel which follows the life of Joy, a determined single mother aiming to make it big with her own invention: the miracle mop. The film shows all of her triumphs and setbacks in the tough, male dominated business, and ultimately how to succeed in style.

The film is a feel good, motivating story, and at times frustrating. The audience quickly attaches themselves to the main female role Joy (portrayed by Jennifer Lawrence) and so have a deep sense of wanting her to succeed. And so, are greatly disappointed at her setbacks. The film makes you realise that it is possible to make something from nothing, if hard work and determination are involved.

The mis-en-scene and cinematography in the film added greatly to the narrative and left it to be a

No. Finally, after 5 nominations and 23 years, Leonardo DiCaprio. was finally awarded an Oscar. Will it be Eddie Redmayne, for the second year running, for his role in *The Danish Girl*? Or Michael Fassbender for his emotional role in *Steve Jobs*? No. Finally, after 5 nominations and 23 years, Leonardo DiCaprio. was finally awarded an Oscar. Having never won one before, and his continual defeat becoming a reoccurring joke, people were delighted for this talented actor to be awarded this prestigious honour for his role in *The Revenant*. DiCaprio thanked the movie's director and his co-star Tom Hardy, saying "your fierce talent on screen can only be surpassed by your friendship off screen". He left the audience and millions of people watching with an important message about climate change.

This year’s Academy Awards is momentous for many reasons. 2016 will be the year where diversity issues were talked about and encountered, life changing films were released and the year Leonardo DiCaprio finally picked up a long awaited award. It was a year of ground-breaking cinema and a lot of talent to be celebrated, as well as a lot of lessons to be learned. Now we all look over this year’s new cinema releases and wait until next year.



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a truly wonderful visual experience. However the film lacked character development and left me craving something more.

Overall, I would rate the film 3/5 and I recommend watching it. This is down to it being an interesting and immersing film throughout, however it just lacked a consistent pace for it changed from things going wrong to right too quickly. Nevertheless, a brilliant film.



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New York Fashion Week 2016

By Claudia Trotman

New York Fashion week was finally upon us. Running through Feb. 18, designers showed their autumn/winter collections on runway platforms, studio floors and around the city streets. The star studded event incorporated a lot of new talent, which corresponded with the timeless favourite designers of the fashion world. Bloggers rubbed shoulders with the Kardashian’s, and backstage production teams were frantically getting the show ready. This year’s fashion week took place in the vibrant, if not a little chilly, New York. It showcased the best of the industry while exhibiting raw talent, producing some of the best and well put together shows for a while.

New York Fashion Week had begun.

The week started with a bang, with new-fangled shows from established designers from Marc Jacobs to new talent such as Anna Karenina. On the 17th February, Anna Sui’s new collection hit the catwalk floor to showcase her 2016 autumn/winter collection to the filled out room.

Sui has a very specific eye, she is infamous for her use of mixed prints and hippie styled clothing. She is drawn to crazy-quilt mix of vests, dresses and skirts. Combined together to create an effortless bohemian styled range. The collection is timeless, described as something your Grandparent’s would wear, but somehow not dated. Sui injects a certain electricity into her collections, which makes them more than just hippie-fetish, and adds little twists all her own -- like the cardigan trimmed with puffs of fur worn atop a crinkly chiffon dress. Or a fur coat with blown-up black-and-white houndstooth material, an ode to old *Sherlock Holmes* novels. Throw in some collaged and decoupaged handbags, glittery librarian glasses and Erickson Beamon jewellery (long, dangly pendants of brightly coloured stone) and you’ve got a complete retro look. The collection mixed the old with the modern and hippie-styled clothing. This autumn/winter, Sui’s influences should be present in the high street clothing. Later in the week, Naeem Khan’s new glamorous collection took to the catwalk. Inspired by Art Deco Society of New York and the architecture that surrounds the world's most stylish city, Naeem Khan showed a glitzy, glamorous collection featuring gowns with

geometric beaded shapes, plenty of gold patterns and textures, and just enough black to keep the collection anchored in New York. Models stood high like skyscrapers in monstrously tall Christian Louboutins, just a glimpse of which were visible under tulle-layered ball gowns, made elegant by slim sequin bodices. Khan debuted his handbag line on the runway, in the style of shiny box clutch bags. The small clutches elegantly accented the couture outfits. The show was one of New York fashion weeks most glitzy and glamorous, with beads, tulle and many shades of gold dazzling the audience. To conclude an already impressive collection, Khan walked the finale with 11-year-old Trinity Faith Moran of Texas, wearing a custom gown by the designer, to fulfil her wish made with the Make-A-Wish foundation.



With the Kind Permission of Anna Sui

He’s got the moves. He’s got the motion. Michael Kors’ autumn line-up was all about movement: feathers, streamers, slashes, chains and flippy strips- all fluttering, swooshing and swooping down this high energy runway. This collection differs greatly from his others. The brand is notorious and known for their polished tailoring. Though fear not, there were plenty of smart peacoats, trim houndstooth tweed jackets, smart jumpers and blouses with neckties to be had.

But Kors was in the mood to party. There were a slew of flirty sequin dazzlers, metallic brocades, and rocker chick looks held together by metallic rings. And while autumn colours usually go

rings. And while autumn colours usually go toward subtle -- coffee, camel, gray, white, and black -- he had them, Kors didn't stop there but infused the collection with happy blasts of powder blue, wisteria and bright green. Kors' didn't walk; he sprinted down his runway to take his bow. Yep, he's definitely got the moves.

New York Fashion week concluded with a buzz of excitement for 2016s Autumn/winter season. New bold prints and colours will take place next to the retro 1960s tones coming through on the collections. Bloggers, models, celebrities and designers alike, packed up and got ready for London fashion week that took place straight after.

Game ratings: are they necessary?

By Maria Keane

Game ratings are there for a reason; so why are they ignored by parents and children alike? Only 21% of parents in America restrict the games their children can play. Is it right for parents to buy a game that is rated 18, 16 or 12 for their 10-year-old? Is it a simple mistake because parents do not understand that the white 18 in the read box means it not suitable for anyone under the age of 18 due to the violence and graphic content.

Online gamers often hear children as young as 8 screaming and shouting into the headset and often these children are throwing insults at other players or use explicit language that most adults rarely use. One belief is that violence in video games makes these children grow up to become more violent towards others. Most gamers would disagree with this as hardly any Call of Duty or Grand Theft Auto player would not just pick up a gun and start firing at others. The reasoning behind this is because of a handful of people on the news who had repeated what they had done in the game.

The reason games are rated is to stop retailers from selling a game to a child under that age but it does not stop a child playing it and ratings are only enforced by law at the checkout not at home. So game ratings are there only to stop retailers selling to children and not to stop children playing them.

The Sound of The 1975

By Issy Stephens

Here comes the long awaited new album of the 1975, entitled ‘I like it when you sleep because you’re so beautiful yet so unaware of it’. The much-admired band has sprung out from school friendship into alternative teenager stardom. Hailing from Manchester, the 4-piece dreamy group fell from new single to new single until 2013, where they dropped their debut album self-titled ‘The 1975’, and then went quiet. It’s hard to believe that the album of fresh-sounding alternative hits came out 3 years ago, however we would all be lying if we said we hadn’t been

pinning for new songs since then.

The new album takes a more upbeat 80’s sound, with singles emerging such as ‘UGH!’, ‘LOVE ME’ and their most recent single ‘The Sound’ reminiscent of electronic guitar riffs and indie-bar hysteria; we see a different side to the band’s talent. Their themes of love, sex and teenage memories continue however, again offering helpless teenagers a relatable tune to both dance and cry to. Personally, I will always love The 1975’s original trance-like songs which they first released, my love for that sound is undying, but this new album is beautifully different, eclectic and individual. I can’t wait to hear more.



With Kind Permission of The Odyssey online

The Great Gatsby Trip
By Emily Livingstone and Claudia Trotman

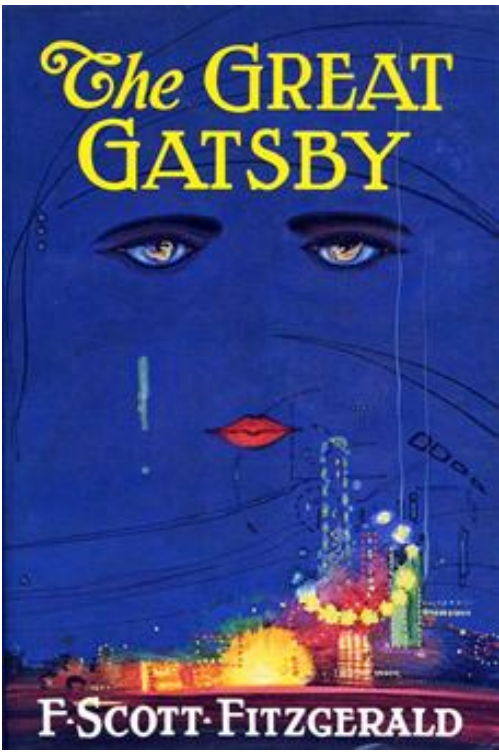
The Great Gatsby is an American novel, written by F. Scott Fitzgerald during the roaring twenties. The book is studied at AS level, in order to help with understanding of the novel, a study day was organised.

On the 1st of March 2016, AS English Literature students visited Birmingham to learn more about The Great Gatsby and its importance in Literature.

Around ten schools gathered from the local area, filled with discussion and new information regarding the novel, the day proved both interesting and helpful. Consisting of four lectures, the day provided students with a huge amount of knowledge and insight. The lectures included talks on: gender representation, reliability of characters, context of the 1920s and setting. Each talk gave vital information which can be readily applied during exams.

The first speaker, was Professor John McRae from the University of Nottingham, as he took his place at the front of the hall, all the students looked on in interest. Not disappointing, he delivered a well-informed lecture on context of the infamous jazz age. From quoting Oscar Wilde, to comparing Jay Gatsby to the Kardashians, he filled our awaiting minds with an exciting, if not slightly humorous, interpretation of life for the lost generation.

After a filling lunch we returned to the church for the second part of our day. Receiving another two interesting lectures. After a long, but worthwhile day, the students headed back to school, now with a new insight and information on the brilliant novel; The Great Gatsby.



With permission from NPR.org

School Trip: Disneyland
By Courtney Greenhill

Day 1

4am, and a group of sixth formers loaded onto a coach, the look of excitement glistening in their eyes, they were off to Disneyland Paris. We arrived in Disneyland at 1pm, and hauled our suitcases onto a bus which took us to Hotel Cheyenne- a western themed hotel. After settling into our rooms, we were whisked off to a seminar where we found out the background of Disney have a 30 year plan before they make profit and made a net loss of 114 million euros last year.

Day 2

The next day we all woke up early for breakfast, then set off for another seminar in which there was an activity where, in groups, we had 20 minutes to come up with an advert on how Disney could make profit. Following this we had to present it to the rest of group, many good ideas were presented, such as a new ride opening or focusing on teenagers who still enjoy the magic of Disney. Then we had the rest of the day to experience Disney, we were able to go on exhilarating rides, watch the parade, and finally in the evening; the firework display.

Day 3

Our Disneyland experience was coming to an end and it was time to go home. We had time to go into the other park and experience a car stunt show where we were shown behind the scene techniques which furthered our media knowledge. With one last go on our favorite ride: space mountain, it was time to say goodbye to Disney and time to dread another 8 hours of travelling.



With the Kind Permission of Disneyland Paris

Do Before You Die
By Kia Mackenzie

Havasu Falls: The waterfall of Havasu Creek, located in the Grand Canyon, Arizona, USA. Not for the faint hearted, it involves a 10 mile hike each way, but the end result is beautiful. Crystal blue-green waters, spending time in the Indian village with the Supai people and the added bonus of Wi-Fi are just some of the qualities of this natural wonder.

Dubai: This city in the desert is one of the most surreal urban places you could go. Located in the United Arab Emirates, Middle East, this city has developed magnificently in the last decade, becoming an increasingly popular destination, especially for the wealthy. With opportunities for the most high market retail therapy, to swimming with sharks, Dubai has it all.

Cayo Levantado, Dominican Republic: This beautiful tropical paradise, on the adjoining Island of Haiti is one of pure natural beauty and luxury. With its golden sands, whale watching opportunities, massages on the beach, it is the perfect relaxation getaway.

Budapest, Hungary: Architecturally, it’s one of the most outstanding cities in Europe, with a Parliament building to rival London’s Houses of Parliament. With baths, cruises along the Danube and St Stephen’s Basilica, there are plenty of sightseeing opportunities.

Tromsø and Trolltunga, Norway: This modern city in the Arctic is where nature and culture go hand-in-hand. There is plenty of entertainment from an aquarium and several museums to the world’s northernmost botanical garden. It’s also an ideal place to observe the natural phenomenon of the northern lights. , Trolltunga is situated about 1100 meters above sea level, hovering 700 metres above Lake Ringedalsvatnet. It is an

expert level climb, making it another difficult but very worthwhile hike.

Passo Tonale, Northern Italy: this area of Italy is highly mountainous but the perfect terrain for skiing and snowboarding, beginners to advanced. Your typical ski resort, it offers much in the way of facilities and a lot to explore around the grounds; all accesible by gondola (The flying kind)!

Egypt: One of the most popular African countries for sightseers, Egypt holds some of the most ancient historical mysteries that attract tourists for miles. The typical Sphynx and Pyramids of Giza in Cairo, and The Valley of the Kings near Luxor are popular, but with countless museums (the Egyptian Museum in particular), Abu Simbel, Mosques, the Siwa Oasis, and Nile river cruises it’s a destination that allows you to experience so much more.

Transylvania, Romania: Bran Castle near Braşov is one of their top attractions, but the whole country is known to be “the last truly medieval landscape in Europe”. Its forests and meadows step off the pages of a novel, its wolves, lynx and largest population of brown bears and idyllic Saxon towns like Biertan make it an ideal place to visit.



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Your Monthly Horoscopes: March 2016

By Olivia White

As the month of February draws to a close, we take a look at the forthcoming month of March and what it holds for the zodiac signs.

Capricorn: December 22- January 19

You will become clear on your goals and aspirations; you must embrace change, as it will bring great success. March is expected to be a very productive and promising month.

Aquarius: January 20- February 18

Aquarius' are encouraged to keep a healthy balance between helping others and looking after themselves; you may find you are putting others before yourself, which may have a negative impact on your health

Pisces: February 19- March 20

Pisces will struggle with holding in their thoughts this month, but this may be for the best as saying what they feel, may do more harm than good. Usually, Pisces show extreme amounts of empathy and understanding but there seems to be a lack of these traits this month making it difficult for you to understand other points of view.

Aries: March 21- April 19

As the first sign in the zodiac, Aries always find new places to explore and new hobbies to enjoy. You are continuously searching for unfamiliar ways to pass time and you will excel in these hobbies.

Taurus: April 20- May 20

The stubborn, uncompromising part of your personality may drag you down this month, Taurus. You must be flexible and willing to change some ideas to fit with your plans. Not everything you have planned will go right. But spontaneity will not go a miss in your life!

Gemini: May 21- June 20

Gemini's, your best quality is that you are adaptable, so make sure you show this when you decide to make a change, as it will work in your favour. Feeling nervous is natural but you might find that it is holding you back. Do not let this happen. Resist confining yourself to certain places with certain people, broaden your horizons.

Cancer: June 21- July 22

Your strengths are that you are highly imaginative, loyal and emotional however, you are extremely insecure, making Cancer one of the most challenging Zodiac signs to get to know.

Leo: July 23- August 22

Being ignored and not being treated like royalty are two of Leo's dislikes making them unique to others. Generally, people born under the sign of Leo are natural born leaders. Look for careers in the arts, as you are dramatic, creative and self-confident.

Virgo: August 23- September 22

Your loyalty will be necessary this month, Virgos. The people around you will depend on your loyalty to keep them going and as it comes naturally to you, you will be happy stay loyal.

Libra: September 23- October 22

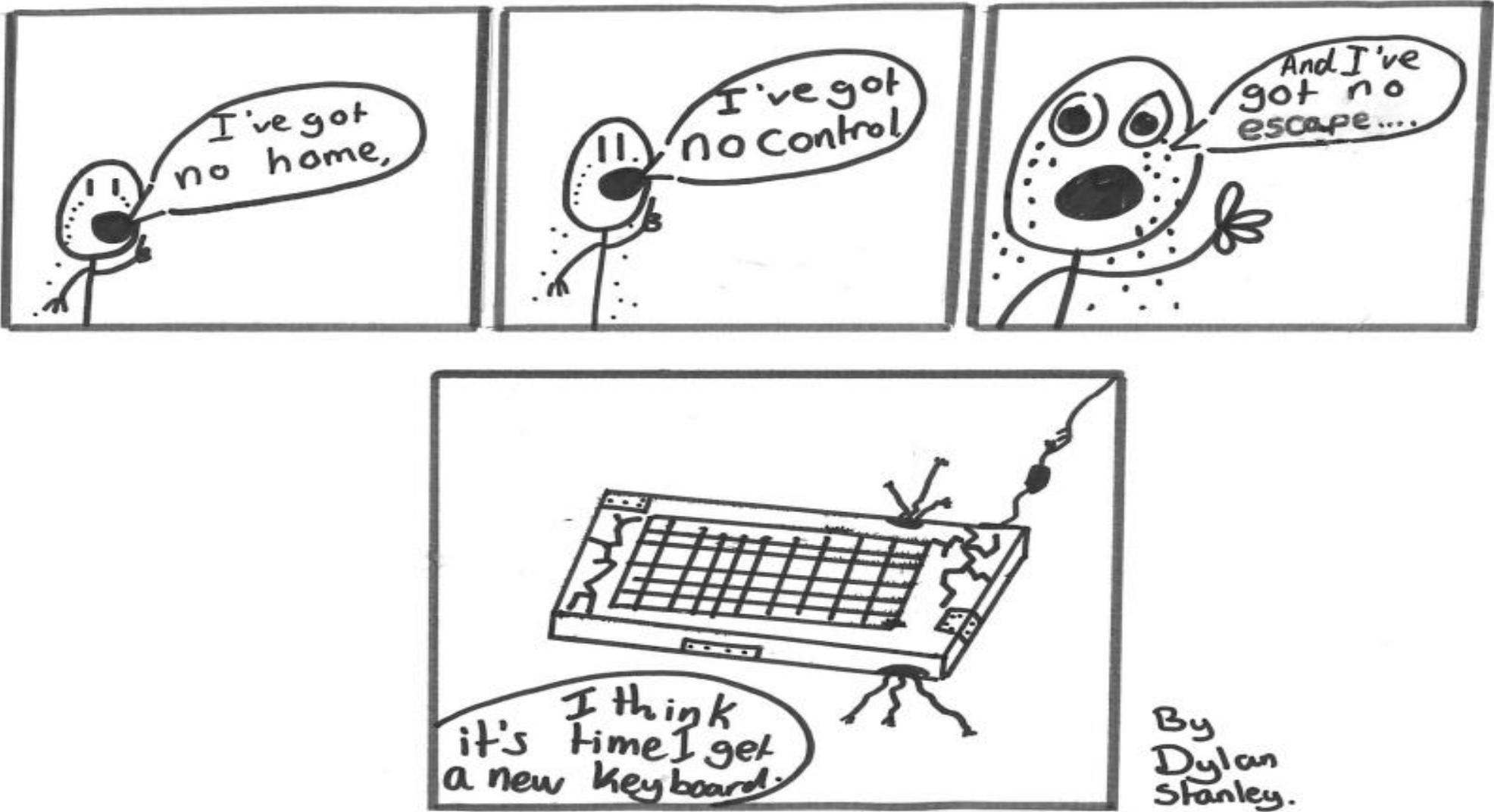
Libras hate being alone, partnership is essential and you love cooperating with others, even if you are just sat in a room with several other people. Libras like harmony, gentleness, sharing with others and the outdoors but not violence, injustice and conformity.

Scorpio: October 23- November 21

Scorpios are passionate and assertive people. They are naturally talented when researching which will make them good police offers or journalists. Scorpios hate dishonesty. You will only surround yourself with people who you fully trust.

Sagittarius: November 22- December 21

With positive personality traits such as optimism and enthusiasm, people of the Sagittarius sign tend to be happy and carefree most of the time. They leave their worries behind them which may causes issues if they have a highly demanding job.



By
Dylan
Stanley.

The EU Referendum

By Alex Mackins

The EU referendum is due to arrive in the summer period of 2016, support is arriving from all corners of society, from politicians to celebrities, this national debate has sparked everybody’s interest and will be the reform of this decade. It will have a huge impact on society from jobs, to taxes to our very basic rights.

According to an *Apester* poll 23% of people voted against leaving the EU, this ongoing poll shows the general inclination towards leaving the EU shown in many polls. *Vote Leave* and *Grassroots*, are the primary backers in the leaving of the EU, these organisations include names such as, Nigel Farage, national treasure Boris Johnson and Actor Michael Caine. The support of popular celebrities such as Michael Caine, swing votes in a major way, their support is necessary to prove to the electorate that their campaign has national support and is the right way to vote.

We currently pay around £13 billion a year to the EU, receiving only £4.5 billion in 2015 from the EU in investment, making our net contribution around £8.5 billion. The UK pays out around £110 billion to the NHS on a yearly basis. An £8 billion extra contribution to the fund may seem like a drop in the pool however it would contribute massively to reducing stress on junior doctors as well as funding for new equipment and medication that could save many lives.

A large impact of leaving the EU would be a change to the single market between the EU and

UK, no import or export tariffs. It is argued that this would be a huge devastating blow to the UK as 50% of our exports go to the EU. However talks would be opened to establish its own trade agreements, it could also allow us to follow Norway, a non-member to the EU, which has no import tariffs, this is a win-win for leaving the EU.



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Under EU law, Britain cannot prevent anyone from another member state coming to live in the country – while Britons benefit from an equivalent right to live and work anywhere else in the EU. The result has been a huge increase in immigration into Britain, particularly from eastern and southern Europe. The recent pace of immigration has led to some difficulties with housing and service provision, countrysides has become an urban sprawl of identical homes, lined up like an army regiment. Without the EU we can stop the large influx of immigrants, and control the amount coming into our country to ensure we can actually cope with an ever rising population.

Home Secretary Theresa May has promised along with conservative backing promised to scrap the human rights act in favour for a British Bill of Rights. The conservatives want this act passed to break the connection with the British courts to allow them to make their own decisions on deportation of criminals. Abu Quatada is a famous example of a Jordanian terrorist who could not be deported as it was expected he would be tortured. This was a defeat to the

government who wanted to deport this terrorist who they now had to keep, another famous example is of a Bolivian man who was due to be deported. He was allowed to stay under Article 8 of the Human Rights Act, the right to family life. To show he had a genuine relationship he used a cat to show commitment, this was deemed acceptable by the courts but to Theresa May it was a reason as to how the Human Rights Act is misconstrued and misused, and needs to be replaced.

Guns, Guns and Guess What? More Guns!

By Alexander Mackins

3,000 people died in the terrorist catastrophe that is 9/11. Between 2013 and 2014 1,347 people were killed and 3,817 people were injured by USA mass shootings. This 9/11 attack is remembered constantly, but these mass shootings have far less affect and far less is done about them. After 9/11 congress frantically moved to stop terrorists, but far less is being done about this constant consistent threat. During 1,066 days, over 1 death occurred each and every day, during this period there were 1,052 mass shootings, just fewer than 1 every single day for the past 3 years in the USA. 85 of these mass shootings and children were killed, injured or scarred for life. Yet America still believes they need guns.

The Sandy Hook Massacre is a mass shooting that occurred on December 14th 2014, a 20 year old Adam Lanza shot 20 children between 6-7 as well as six teachers. The reaction to this massacre from the National Rifle Association? ‘How do we protect our children right now, starting today, in a way that we know works?... Politicians pass laws for gun free school zones.... in doing so, they tell every insane killer in America that schools are the safest place to inflict maximum mayhem with minimum risk.’

They think that schools should be protected by guns, the only thing they know, their business. Guns are the problem; the last school shooting in the UK were in Cumbria 2010, where 12 people were killed by a lone gunman. 12 people killed since 2010 in a country that has banned guns, in a country with guns 1,347 killed since 2013.

Ask yourself, is the second Amendment truly a good thing? Should it be allowed to continue unchecked, and unchanged? Or should something be done. The NRA lobbies congress consistently to ensure guns are not blamed, the people are blamed, guns are nothing to do with the problem, according to them.

SNP controversy over Sunday trading laws

By Michael Lear

The government is bracing itself for an embarrassing defeat in the House of Commons over plans to grant local authorities in England and Wales the power to set their own rules on Sunday trading.

Labour and the SNP have joined forces to vote down the measure, which could see opening hours on Sundays increased by up to 6 hours.

However, the government has criticised the SNP for reneging on its commitment not to vote on

legislation which does not apply to Scotland. Despite the introduction of the so-called “English Votes for English Laws” provisions, Scottish MPs are not prevented from voting on the proposed changes to Sunday trading due to the fact they are contained within the Enterprise Bill, parts of which do apply to Scotland.

The SNP has decided to intervene as it fears the extra pay Scottish workers receive for working on Sunday could be threatened if Sunday trading laws become relaxed across England and Wales. Currently, there are no limitations on how long shops can open on Sundays in Scotland.

If the government loses the vote as expected, it will mark another defeat on the contentious issue of Sunday trading for the Conservative Party. In 1986, Margaret Thatcher suffered her first Commons defeat as Prime Minister when she attempted to ease restrictions.

Those who oppose extensions to Sunday trading argue that Sunday should continue to be a day for religious observance and family time, while those in favour of the changes argue that cultural norms have shifted. Evidence for this is the proliferation of sporting and other events staged on Sundays, suggesting a move away from it being a day of rest. From this viewpoint, the proposed laws are seen as an opportunity for High Street businesses to compete with online retailers by offering consumers greater flexibility.

Sport’s Scandals: A Chance for Progression

By James Noble

The last ten months or so have been fairly rocky for sport.

It began at the end of May last year, as we saw the first of a glut of FIFA-based incidents, with the arrest of a handful of officials in Zurich over corruption suspicions.

More arrests followed, and December saw eight-year (reduced to six years last month) bans from football imposed upon FIFA President Sepp Blatter and UEFA President Michel Platini.

Since then, Athletics has come under the spotlight with the discovery of what seems to be an alarmingly large sub-culture of doping, while the actions of IAAF officials have also come under serious question.

The first weeks of 2016 saw tennis become the latest to fall under a similar scandal-shaped shadow as evidence of widespread match-fixing across the highest levels of the sport came to light.

It’s a sorry sight to see three of the planet’s most popular sports having to pick themselves up from such damning findings. The last few months most certainly have not been sport’s finest hour, but they may just turn out to be the most important.

As with cycling, we should be grateful that such troubling events have been uncovered. Thanks to various investigations, the drug-taking that was rife amongst cyclists around 15 years ago has, we presume, been rooted out and stopped. The sport is better for it and is now more popular than ever.

These three latest scandals provide a similar opportunity for progression in football, athletics and tennis. Much of the questionable culture, and many of those responsible for it, has been removed. The chance to build a better future is here and mustn’t be wasted.

Football looks to have laid its foundations.

The election of Gianni Infantino as the new FIFA President appears a solid step in the right direction. Some have questioned the fact that he comes from within the original framework, having been the disgraced Platini’s right-hand

man, as Secretary General of the organisation from October 2009. The early signs have been good, however.

He has already made an impact since officially ending the almost 18-year-long presidency of Sepp Blatter on 26th February, taking part in a meeting last weekend that saw video technology and other rule-based innovations in football come a step-closer.

Let’s hope this is a signal of intent to move the game forwards, out of the grasp of the corruption and stubbornness that seems to have characterised a considerable amount of FIFA’s recent history. Further nods to a more progressive future are likely soon.

Athletics and tennis have made less progression, but improvements are on the cards for both.

It appears athletics and the IAAF are currently a few steps behind football. An extensive WADA report, completed and released in mid-January, was pretty damning. It stated that “the IAAF council could not have been unaware of the extent of doping in athletics and the non-enforcement of applicable anti-doping rules”, evidence in writing that corruption has been embedded in the organisation for a considerable time, and it may still be the case.

Much of the blame has been laid at the door of ex-president Lamine Diack, a man “responsible for organising and enabling” much of the questionable activity. He is the subject of a French criminal investigation at this moment and it appears the next step for athletics is the digging out and prosecution of others involved. The evidence is on the table, it’s now time for widespread action, as is currently happening at FIFA.

Dick Pound, the former WADA president who headed the report, rightly said: “This is a fabulous opportunity for the IAAF to seize control under strong leadership.” A clear incentive for current IAAF president, Lord Coe, to lead a clean-up of the sport, and set it on a better path.

A similar statement suits tennis at this moment. An investigation by the Tennis Integrity Unit has uncovered the regular match fixing amongst many pros, especially those ranked below 200 in the world, and some umpires. It is now the job of the ITF, ATP, WTA and the Grand Slams to

become more open and transparent, so they can get onto dealing with the problem.

There’s undoubtedly much work to be done, whether that be in football, athletics or tennis. But it seems that we are a step closer to a better, cleaner world of sport. An exciting prospect.

Britain Overcome Japan to Begin Defence of Davis Cup

By James Noble

Andy Murray has had a hectic three months since hitting that winning lob at the end of November to secure Britain’s first Davis Cup triumph in 79 years.

In December he won his second BBC Sports Personality of the Year award, January saw him suffer defeat to Novak Djokovic in his fifth Australian Open final and his wife Kim gave birth to their baby daughter Sophia on 7th February.

He hadn’t played since.

But the same old Murray traits were still there to be seen as he finally came out on top of a marathon, four hour 54 minutes, five-setter against world number six Kei Nishikori to secure his team’s safe passage through to the quarter-finals.

Murray once again played a huge part in the holders’ progression, 3-1 on aggregate. Winning his first singles match on Friday over Taro Daniel in straight sets, Murray joined his brother Jamie in defeating Yoshihito Nishioka and Yasutaka Uchiyama in Saturday’s doubles, before Sunday’s classic against Nishikori completed the job.

Whilst Murray is undoubtedly the strongest member of the British Davis Cup team, he would be the first to point out the sterling contributions his fellow players have consistently made.

However teammate Dan Evans, playing in his home city of Birmingham, was unable to defeat Nishikori in Friday’s second match; he put up an impressive fight for a man ranked 168 places lower in the world than his opponent.

Meanwhile, the Murray brothers’ doubles partnership continues to blossom. Let’s not forget Jamie secured the doubles crown at the Australian Open just five weeks ago, and the siblings seem to thrive on court together. They don’t get to play alongside each other too often, and they look determined to make the most of any opportunity they have to do so. They comfortably overcame Japan’s partnership in straight sets on Saturday. Another pattern maintained from last year’s success.

Britain will face Serbia away in the last eight during July, between Wimbledon and the Rio Olympics no less. Serbia likely means Djokovic. Murray will be hoping his recent record against the world’s highest ranked player is one pattern that he’ll be able to change.



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A Guide to the 2016 Formula 1 Season

By Michael Lear

When the lights go out in Melbourne on 20th March, Lewis Hamilton will begin the defence of his World Drivers’ Championship crown at the Australian Grand Prix, kick-starting the 2016 Formula 1 season. Here’s what to look out for...

In the era of turbocharged hybrid engines, many will be wondering whether Hamilton’s Mercedes team can continue the dominance that has seen them win both the Drivers’ and Constructors’ World Championship titles for the past 2 years.

So often they have left the opposition playing catch-up, but results from testing indicate that Ferrari, their closest competitor last season, may have closed the gap to mount a serious title challenge. However, the biggest test for Mercedes this year may not come from the other teams fighting it out for race victories, but rather from managing the intense rivalry between Lewis Hamilton and his team-mate Nico Rosberg. There have been some fierce battles between the two in recent years, both on and off the track, leaving team boss Toto Wolff and non-executive chairman Niki Lauda (a former F1 driver and three-time world champion) to pick up the pieces



Championships this year. With kind permission of bbc.co.uk/sport

. With Rosberg’s contract up at the end of this season and a warning from Wolff that he may reconsider his driver line-up if the feud with Hamilton affects the team’s performance, any fireworks between the pair could prove costly.

Further down the field, the fortunes of McLaren will no doubt be one of this season’s major talking points. After a miserable 2015 with new engine partner Honda, seeing one of Formula 1’s most successful teams scrapping for the final points-scoring positions has been a shock, not least for what may well be the best driver line-up on the grid: former world champions Jenson Button and Fernando Alonso. Compared to this time last year, testing was a much more positive experience for the team, with the latest Honda engine seemingly more reliable and with much improved performance. Only once the racing begins will the extent of any real progress be seen however.

Two new teams will be welcomed into the pit-lane this time out in Australia. After choosing to buy out the financially-stricken Lotus team, Renault has returned as a full works outfit. Look out for British driver Jolyon Palmer making his Formula 1 debut. Meanwhile, from across the pond, the American Haas team will be hoping to make a splash, especially with the backing of Ferrari. Overcoming established names such as Red Bull, Williams, Force India and Toro Rosso, who are all looking competitive, will nevertheless



. With kind permission of bbc.co.uk/sport

be a tough ask. With a new Mercedes engine powering their 2016 car, even perennial strugglers Manor Racing (formerly the Marussia F1 team) may turn out to be dark horses this season.

Away from the circuit, controversy over the current rules governing Formula 1 continues to paint the sport in a bad light. Plans to make the cars faster and more exciting have hit numerous problems and there is a debate to be had as to whether they are enough to drag Formula 1 out of the mire it has found itself in. The criticisms of the aforementioned hybrid engines and the lack of competition certainly haven’t helped, and in an attempt to spice things up, a new qualifying format is being introduced at this year’s Australian Grand Prix. Put simply, qualifying will now follow an elimination-style system, with the slowest car being knocked out every 90 seconds in the final minutes of each of the three sessions. Even this change has not had its problems though. F1 commercial boss Bernie Ecclestone initially claimed his company would not be able to get the timing software and television graphics ready in time, only to change his mind under pressure from senior figures within the sport. Despite this, it is understood that many drivers don’t see the need to reform qualifying, while a new safety device known as the “halo,” designed to protect drivers from head injuries caused by flying debris, has also provoked a mixed response. Its aesthetics may leave something to be desired, but many expect that with some fine-tuning and further testing, it will be introduced for the start of the 2017 season.

The politics of Formula 1 may sometimes cast a shadow over the sport, but on track the fierce battles, rivalries and the prospect of Mercedes having a real fight on their hands courtesy of Ferrari (and possibly their drivers) should make for an enthralling 2016 season.

Tennis the Menace By Olivia White and Courtney Greenhill

The Princess of tennis shows courage whilst admitting a drug scandal lasting over a period of 10 years as she fails drugs tests. Although the public were surprised and shocked that their favourite Russian ace had failed the tests, they were extremely happy with her honesty. Nike and Porsche have publicly declared their withdrawal of sponsorship due to the recent discoveries of Sharapova’s drug taking.

Although Sharapova claims her drug use was for medical reasons, and had been taking them since 2006, the substance has been banned from January 1st 2016. Even though Sharapova was taking the substance before it become banned, she knew the ‘medicine’ was sport enhancing, and continued to take it after it had become more clear that the substance was banned.

Sharapova has been praised time and time again for her courage and honesty, “Throughout her

career Maria has always impressed with her professionalism as a leader and a role model in our sport” quoted by Tennis Australia. However in reality, does this show the lack of seriousness for drug abuse within the sporting industry? Sharapova is an inspiration to many young people, but should this right be taken away from her for not illustrating true sportsmanship.

Sharapova's ex-coach Nick Bollettieri said the Russian's test was a "game-changer for life, not just for tennis", he argued that her honesty and bravery should be an example to everyone in the sporting industry, and it would be unfair for her to be remembered as the number one tennis player who cheated her way through success.

John Haggarty, her lawyer, said: “I want people to know that for 10 years Maria took this substance, which was recommended to her by her doctor after he did an extensive battery of tests to determine what medical conditions were causing her to be sick on a frequent basis.” The substance Sharapova was taking was called Meldonium, which is used medically to treat

heart problems like angina and myocardial infarction; it is also an effective treatment for ischemia, or a lack of blood flow. Sharapova claims she did not realise the drug had been banned when she took it after January 2016 as she did not look at the updated WADA’s banned list.



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