

TARPORLEY HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

TERM



LGBTQ+

SCRATCHING THE SURFACE OF EQUALITY

CONTENTS

THE PRIDE EDITION

April 2017

- 
- 3- What Is Transgender
5- The Shine Awards 2017
7- Survivor's Eye
9- New Year ,New Disasters
11- Breaking The Law
12- It's Not A Lifestyle Choice
13- Primetime TV: It's gayer than ever
15- The Most Influential Artist Of All Time
17- How Not To Come Out
19- The Trouble With Primary School
21-Text Over Talk
23- Positively Negative
26- A Curve Here, A Lump There, I Am Normal
29- If Carlsberg Wrote Articles...
31- Beyond The Binary
33- Old People - They've Got Us All Wrong
35- You Know You're Having a Bad Day When...

THE EDIT

Welcome to this award-winning edition of Tarporley Sixth Form's 'Term' magazine – In this issue we focus on the LGBTQ+ community and we are even told some awkward coming out stories! As 2017 goes on, we are lucky enough to have a society where LGBTQ+ rights and recognition are more accepted. Recently, HSBC have offered Trans customers gender-neutral titles; gender neutral Emojis have been approved by Apple and Pride awareness is increasing each day. At Term we welcome and value this progression. We also have a look into the disastrous year that was 2016, celebrate our Shine victories, as well as exploring some deeper topics such as the Holocaust, body image and homelessness. As this is my first time being Editor, I hope you enjoy this edition, compiled of fun and sensitive articles. From myself and the Term team:

Happy reading and enjoy!

Bethany Farrell



TRANSGENDER?

What's it all about?

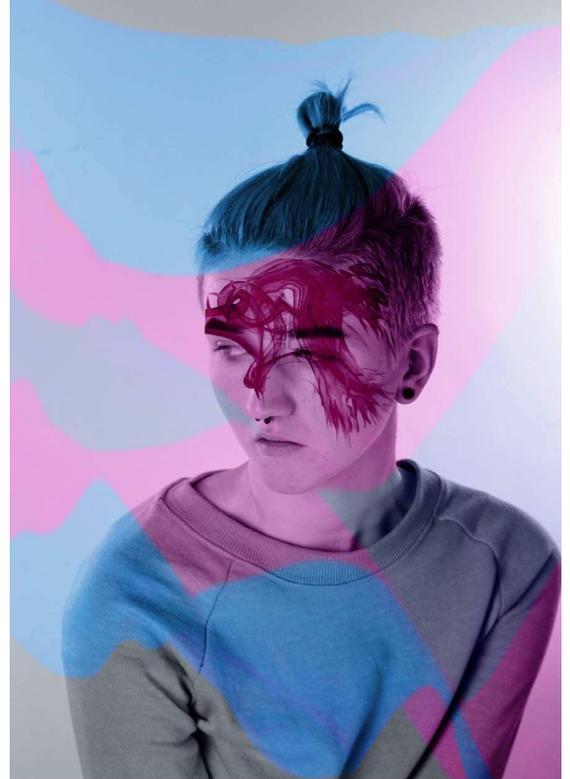
Transgender is feeling that the gender which you were assigned at birth does not fit what you feel on the inside. Transgender people sometimes identify themselves as “genderqueer”, “gender neutral” or “gender-free.”

Imagine waking up everyday knowing your body is not your own; imagine looking in the mirror and feeling a combination of shock, dissociation and confusion. That is what it feels like to be trapped inside your own body – with the people around you labelling you a certain gender which you are not.

Picture this; you go to school everyday not feeling yourself and you get lost in thoughts of anxiety. You simply want to be able to express yourself. Is that a fair way to live? Having to repress what you truly are inside because you fear people's reactions? Having to live a lie? Why is being transgender *still* not tolerated in society? Some parts of society discard the transgender community resulting in, bullying and preconceived assumptions leading to violence.

A video recently went viral showing a transgender woman being beaten up by a male. Nobody helped her. Users shared. People laughed. Is this really our world – a world where you must conform or be victimised? “48% of trans people under 26 said they had attempted suicide” – this statistic further emphasises how society's inequality not only results in ignorance but a lack of understanding and empathy.

This makes it clear that we must all adjust to the way others wish to live their lives, be accepting and welcome this diversity. One size definitely does not fit all.



ACCORDING TO A STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE NATIONAL CENTRE OF TRANSGENDER EQUALITY:

- 82% of transgender youth report that they feel unsafe at school.
- 44% of them had been abused physically (eg. punched, shoved, etc.).
- 67% of them had been bullied online.
- 64% of them had their property stolen or destroyed.

In 2017, many organisations are ensuring that the language of their institutions is inclusive and all-encompassing: Hull University is now insisting on gender neutral pronouns in all students' work; HSBC have released a range of gender neutral titles for customers of all genders and Apple have released emojis with no prescribed gender. These are baby steps towards greater acceptance and equality. Let's not split the difference.

‘Let’s not **SPLIT** the **DIFFERENCE**.’

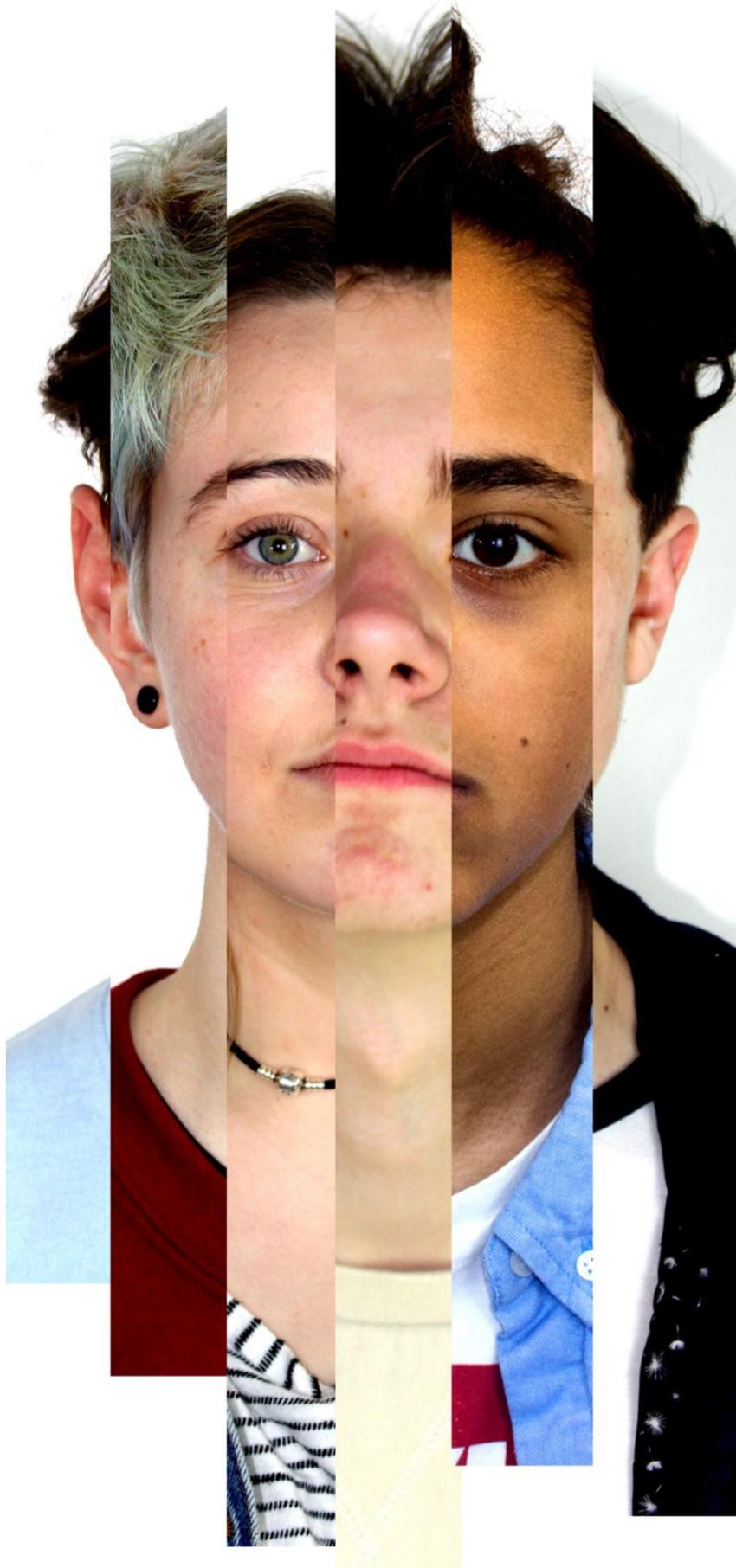


Photo by Isabella Ashdown & Hannah Ashdown

On the 19th of June 2017, myself and six others were lucky enough to attend the Shine National Media Awards. After months of writing, re-drafting and putting the whole edition together we eventually created the most successful issue of Term magazine yet.

We received 5 nominations – top 6 schools nationally - only one other school had as many nominations:

Best Overall Editorial Content (Term Team)

Best Cover (Bethany Farrell, Ciara Palfreyman, Ellie Coulston & Maisie Bell)

Best Business Strategy (Emma Peake & Erin Metcalfe)

Best Artwork (Katy Oakeshott)

Best Photo (Hannah Ashdown, Isabella Ashdown and Megan Lester)

We were highly-commended in three categories – top 3 schools nationally:

Best Overall Editorial Content

Best Cover

Best Photograph

1 Special award – Prize to spend a day in London's 'News Week' offices with news journalists:

Best Reporter (Eilidh Bodfish)

OUR DAY:

5:30 AM - Wake up time - iPhone alarms sounded, the struggle to wake up was real, the excitement began. With under an hour and a half to get ready for the awards ceremony at Stationers Hall in London, the game was on.

6:50 AM - Go time - All suited and booted, we commuted to Crewe Train Station where we would get the 7:30 am train to London Euston train station. The excitement was very high. The caffeine had now kicked in, our tiredness had been conquered and we were ready.

10:30 AM - The Hunt - After a very slow 2.5 hour train journey, we finally made it to London Euston. Mrs McMillan came prepared with multiple maps and directions to Stationers' Hall and the hunt began. After one train ride and two tube trips we made it into The City of London and tracked down Stationers' Hall, which was steeped in journalistic history. Our anxiety was palpable.

11:30 AM - The Interview - Shortly after arriving at Stationers' Hall we were welcomed by impressive, leading journalists, including Carey Sedgwick (Telegraph, Observer, Harpers and Queens, Natmags) who wanted to know ALL about Term Magazine and its purpose. After a series of questions and conversations they all seemed very impressed by our creation, ourselves included. Sedgwick even remembered Eilidh's article and spoke of how impressed she was by her ability to write so well.

1:15 PM - The Awards Ceremony - After meeting the journalists, and eating lunch in a room that resembled Hogwarts, it was finally time to announce the awards. Our nerves kicked in; all Term members made the "oh my, this is it" face to each other as we sat in silence, waiting and waiting and waiting (in sweltering heat) for the first category to be announced.

1:20 PM - Best Photograph - One of our most highly anticipated from this edition was entered into this category, could we win? Our chances were just taken by an impressive photo from Dollar Academy, our confidence had been knocked down. That was until we heard the following words... "And the highly commended schools are... Tarporley High School & Sixth Form College." WE DID IT!

1:30 PM - Again & Again - After 1 there came 2, after 2 there came 3. 3 highly commended awards for Term Magazine. The Tarporlian pride flooded the room.

2:00 PM - The Special Awards - "And the Winner of best reporter is... Eilidh Bodfish!" WE SMASHED IT! 5 nominations, 3 highly commended and 1 win. Successful Day. A great team effort by so many of the Term journalists / designers / photographers!

After our amazing success at the Shine Awards, we crawled out of the scorching hot, stuffy room and headed for Paternoster Chop House – The 'First Dates' TV show restaurant (which we all agreed was very different and way smaller in reality.) We had a drink in the sweltering hot weather, played table tennis and giant Jenga in the courtyard beneath St. Paul's Cathedral, and then continued to sight see around London. We crossed Millennium Bridge, walked past Shakespeare's Globe and Tate Modern, sauntered along the Southbank with ice creams, had photographs by the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye, before ambling to our final tube station.

The Shine Awards was a fantastic day, one we will always remember - and one which will always result in regret for our outfit choices (do not wear black trousers in 34 degrees heat.)

On one of the hottest days in 2017 and the hottest month in 47 years, the moods were high in the City of London. All passing faces were smiling, not a single frown in sight, despite what had happened over the previous days when innocent people perished in the Grenfell Tower disaster and another awful terrorist attack outside a Mosque had happened in the city. We safely sauntered in the sunshine not long after these events and the incidents on Westminster Bridge and Manchester's Ariana Grande Concert; it was hard to comprehend such horror amid such peace, beauty and culture. These tragic events which were meant to break us, hurt us and anger us had brought our community closer together, and unified us as a country. Being in London on Monday made us all see how negativity isn't dealt with in anger, it strengthens us emotionally and allows us to become a more united society. Londoners showed us how even tragedy can't stop people from carrying on and becoming even stronger than before. Nothing can stop us. Keep Calm and Carry On.

Congratulations Term Team!



A Survivor's Eye



During the years 1939 – 1945, an eruption of conflict cost many innocent lives amongst European countries. As many are aware, the war was highly destructive with many homes and families, not different to our own, completely annihilated.

The damaging consequences of the war resulted in children being evacuated from industrial cities to the countryside and even to other countries. It was thought they would be safe from aerial bombing there, also that attitudes of German children may alter, as it meant that the Nazi influenced children were able to mix with more affluent and rational families. An estimated 800,000 children left their homes throughout the duration of the war, and not all returned.

In February 2017, Tarporley High School were honoured with the pleasure of hosting a highly inspiring Holocaust survivor, Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines, a representative from the Holocaust Educational Trust. This company's mission is to educate every person from every background in the UK about the Holocaust and its contemporary relevance.

For a captivating two hours, the students witnessed an immensely strong and empowering woman who personally experienced evacuation throughout World War II.

Her stories engaged the youthful minds as they were exposed to only a fraction of the horrors of war.

In the 1930s, Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines' father was warned and advised to leave the country due to trouble within politics. He was believed to be high on the list for desired Jewish people and may have been arrested by the Gestapo if unprotected. The threat led Lady Milena's family to leave to a safe house in Berlin.

“Despite the consequences of being Jewish, many remained faithful to their religion.”

There they travelled to Brussels, where the country was occupied. Stationed in Prague in the 1930s, she reminisced about leaving her beloved family at the mere age of nine, with her sister only three years old. As the years passed, she reflected upon the events assuredly as if still vivid in her mind.

Her father contacted a family friend, Henry Boylhort, from England, who accepted the children into his family. Told she was going on an “adventure,” her mother and grandfather gifted her with an autograph book to always remember that her family was loving and caring. Lady Grenfell-Baines read the words out loud: “A faithful daughter to the country you're having to leave, your parents, your grandfather.”

Still to this day she possesses the handbook to recollect those precious memories of her family; similarly she keeps a tag once tied to her own suitcase that illustrated the numbers: "639/641". Those digits engrained onto a scrap of paper demonstrate a lifetime of history.

Despite the consequences of being Jewish, many remained faithful to their religion. However, the aura of a railway station was distressing as families viewed Jewish children being shot if they refused to participate when boarding evacuation trains. Even through this fear and fright, Milena's father still emphasised to his daughter that, "You must not hate." He believed that in spite of the cumulative pain and torture inflicted by others, it is not beneficial to be resentful or take vengeance, as it only increases impulsivity. This infinite hope provides inspiration to be true to our beliefs today; even in the toughest of hours, we should not give in and never quit.

Milena's optimistic attitude towards life today, regardless of parting with her family at a particularly young age and experiencing such horrifying events, was immensely inspirational for us all. Many may be wondering, why should we know about the life of Milena? Why is it important to know the history of others and past events?

Being a history student myself, I often ask myself this question. Studying history allows us to recognise, understand and learn from the mistakes of our ancestors and prevent them from happening in the future. Although we are now entering the 21st century and we are converging to more accepting attitudes, unfortunately hatred and racism still exist in the modern society which we live in today. Lady Milena shared her opinion on fighting indifference, hatred and racism, with the wise and final words which we could all learn from: "Do not stand by."

Abbie Whelan



New Year, New Disasters



If you're reading this, congratulations. You made it through 2016. The year that has been recorded as the worst year since 2001. As we all know, 2016 was an absolute disaster, full of tragic events, deaths and bizarre politics, but it doesn't end there.

Oh no, we also had the worst movies ever created, the most horrendous music taste, and most horrifying of all... the dab. The dance move that has taken over millions of people, all ages, across the world. We can no longer walk down the street without seeing a classic bottle flip followed by the dab ritual, and don't get me started on the 'Whip and Nae Nae' craze.

As a result of 2016, we have the clueless, small minded, egocentric President Trump, I'd guess we have about 50% less celebrities (as we had at least one celebrity death a day in 2016), and in total I'd say

“Let’s make 2017 the best year... Wait isn’t that what we said last New

So when did it all begin? January 2016, picture the scene: everyone's positive attitudes mean they manage to resist the left over nibbles from Christmas, with all hopes pinned on the 'new year, new me' goal. However this classic attitude is rapidly scrapped on the 10th of January 2016 when the entire world went into mourning for the demise of the musical legend that was David Bowie, followed by beloved Professor Snape shortly after. With this bad news came a series of unfortunate events.

Not only were we living in a constant celebrity funeral, we were also living with theatrical monstrosities such as Batman v Superman and Suicide Squad, films with such huge publicity, but little entertainment value. Treacherous music followed such as 'Can't stop this feeling' by Justin Timberlake, which has been interminably trapped in our brains with a padlock, the key nowhere to be seen, forever making our poor ears bleed. Can someone get us out of this constant EastEnders episode we are living in?

Not only did we suffer a number of tragedies, such as the death of Harambe, we were also tortured by an infinite number of ridiculous online trends that need to be left in 2016 and never spoken of again—however for the purpose of this article I will briefly mention a few. We had a hideous number of weird memes (coming from Harambe, Kermit the Frog and other random celebrities), the 100 layers challenge in which people would wear 100 layers of foundation, nail varnish, even fake tan, just for the views. Is this really entertainment?

But I think its safe to say the worst, most terrifying trend to come out of 2016 was the clown craze. A period of months in which clowns haunted houses, followed the innocent down streets and committed crimes with their identities hidden behind a mask. At first this craze was fun, the odd clown being spotted in streets, making people jump and run away. However the craze was taken to the next level when purge threats were sent online, causing schools to be on temporary lock down in some extreme cases. For the health of everyone, I say we leave the clown masks behind in 2016 memory boxes please.

Let's leave this series of crazy events in 2016, who's with me? However, there are some things that cannot be left in 2016 no matter how hard we try, and I'm not just talking about Jacob Sartorius. I'm talking politics. We all wish we could abandon and leave the US Presidential Election in 2016, lock it up in a steel cage and bury it far underground. However we continue to be haunted by the known racist and homophobe that is Donald Trump. I'm talking about the man that wants to build a wall on the Mexican border to prevent them entering America. I'm talking about the man who has banned all migrants coming to America from poor, 'dangerous' countries, seeking a better life. I'm talking about the man who doesn't believe in Global Warming. The man who is a threat to us all. As we enter 2017 people have already started speaking up against Trump, in the vain hope he will finally listen. We need to encourage everyone to do this, not just the minorities. After all, love trumps hate.

New Year, New me? More like New Year, new disasters. Good luck everyone, I mean it.

11 6 Breaking The Law,

Law has a wide spectrum of career paths ranging from Criminal law to Family Law. The UK holds a special place on the legal world stage. Four of the Ten largest Law firms are headquartered in the UK. Therefore studying Law in the UK stands you in good stead for opportunities within the Law world.

A Lawyer is a generic term used to describe someone who is a Licensed Legal Practitioner. Solicitors and Barristers are both types of Lawyers. A Solicitor is a qualified Legal Professional who provides expert legal advice and support to clients. Whereas a Barrister provides specialist legal advice and represents individuals and groups in court. Implementing how Lawyers act as both advocates and advisors — There are no essential A-Levels for students who want to study Law. However, Essay based subjects such as English and History are useful for Law at degree level. Also, many students take at least one 'facilitating' subject such as a language, Math's, Science which is deemed as a good choice for those who wish to keep their options open.

To become a Solicitor in the UK you must complete a Bachelor of Law (LLB) degree and a Legal Practice Course (LPC). The final step to becoming a solicitor is securing a Training Contract (TC) with a Law Firm. The Training Contract takes two years and is inclusive of the Professional Skills Course (PSC). Overall it can take a minimum of 5-6 years training. To become a Barrister you need to complete an undergraduate Law degree and then after that complete a Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC). The next stage is pupillage at a set of barristers' chambers or another approved legal environment.

Law firms are always searching for graduates from specialist Law universities such as Oxbridge, Durham and Nottingham. These are some of the best universities to study Law, putting you in a good position to work with approved companies. Law firms have preferred universities where they recruit from. The Russel Group represents the top 24 leading universities in the UK and it dominates the recruitment from Law firms with over 80%.

Yet going to university is not the only option for someone who wants to pursue a career in Law. Legal Apprenticeships are gaining momentum due to alternative business structures and how it enables you to 'earn whilst you learn'. There are apprenticeships such as Solicitor Apprenticeships and Paralegal Apprenticeships. A Solicitor apprenticeship would take up to 7 years for post A-Level students. Apprentices would gain a Law degree and LLM Masters during the apprenticeship. A Paralegal apprenticeship would consist of developing legal and business skills, eventually qualifying as a chartered legal executive.



There are various types of a lawyer in a diverse range. Here are 5 examples:

Employment Lawyer

An employment lawyer can provide legal advice about issues which arise from employment contracts and relationships.

Criminal Lawyer

A criminal lawyer deals with areas related to crime such as bail, arraignment, arrest.

Immigration Lawyer

An immigration lawyer deals with disputes over visas and issues of deportation.

General Practice Lawyer

A lawyer who can differentiate between aspects of law, and provide legal advice in many areas.

Duty Solicitor

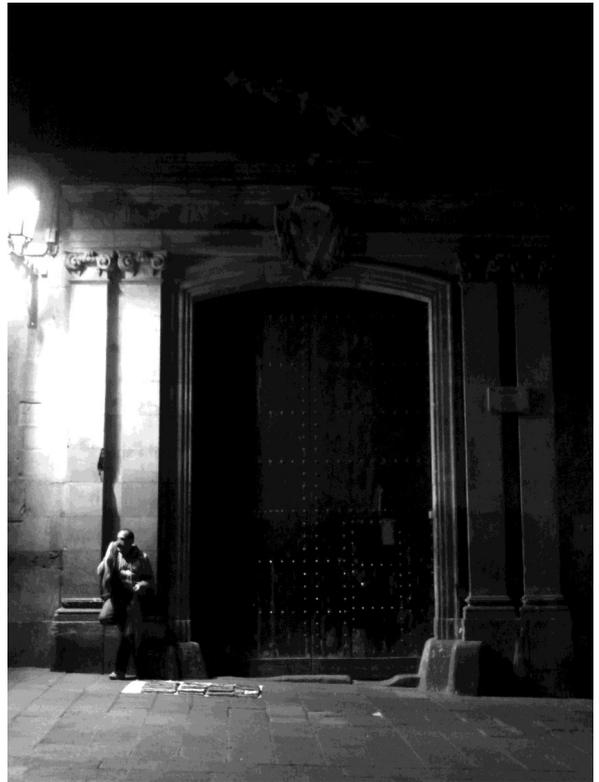
A Duty Solicitor is someone who is available to someone suspected of criminal offence, free of charge.

It's not a lifestyle choice.

The increasingly visible & fast-growing homeless population on the streets of Manchester.

Walk around the city centre on a Friday or Saturday night and you'd think the problem was even worse than the reality. Members of Manchester's homeless community becoming unforgotten, and unrecognised as emotionless fundamental parts of the neglected remains of buildings. Although over the years the city has struggled to erase its reputation for failing to house the homeless, it has only just taken a sudden turn for the worse. The decaying dark alleyways, reveal destructive sights of urban poverty. The rate of homeless people in Manchester has more than doubled, in the last year.

The city's visible homelessness problem jars with its self-projected image of prosperity: glitzy shops and nightclubs; ever more cranes are building multimillion-pound penthouses on the horizon, supercars are parked brazenly on double yellow lines outside restaurants by footballers and sheikhs who earn the fine in a minute. To wealthy 'Manc's' the homeless are seen as their "invisible neighbours," as they continue their labeled, luxurious lives; as they continue to walk over their homes and past their hopeless faces.



Consequently, many abandoned children, become categorised thanks to society's prejudged stereotypical views, automatically associating 'the homeless' with drugs. For many drugs are not part of their story.

“We are all guilty of holding back the spare change at the bottom of our pockets”

We are all guilty of holding back the spare change at the bottom of our pockets, if it's to avoid putting ourselves in the same position on the streets, or acting as a responsible 'anti-drug' figure to society. But the homeless crisis is widespread and growing at an alarming rate. It's an issue that remains faceless and side-lined. Manchester's lack of compassion and respect for those who

don't face a bed at night, forces a blanket of shame and immorality over the Manchester skyscrapers.

Minnie Leahy



Primetime TV:

It's gayer than ever

In the society we live in, equality is the word on everyone's lips.

In 2016, GLAAD reported that TV is gayer than ever - It's been confirmed that there are more LGBT characters on TV now than ever. 4.8% of series regular characters on broadcast primetime TV in America identified as LGBT and that's the highest percentage GLAAD have ever found, and the number of LGBT regular and recurring characters on the streaming services Amazon, Netflix and Hulu have increased.

Not only this, but the amount of transgender characters on the three services has more than doubled from 7 to 16. On the surface, this is a brilliant progression for the queer community and it shows how same-sex relationships are *finally* being normalised and binary gender boundaries are being broken and yes, that much is true. It's great that there are young gay children who are seeing themselves represented in the TV shows they are watching and LGBT relationships are being made a part of everyday life. But are these representations healthy?

Firstly, the majority of gay characters are white. There is still a significant lack of queer people of colour, which means that in reality only a small proportion of a group that is already a minority are seeing people like themselves in the media. I understand that yes, that's just something that's in process and we'll get there, but it feels like people are pushing their luck with these "baby steps."

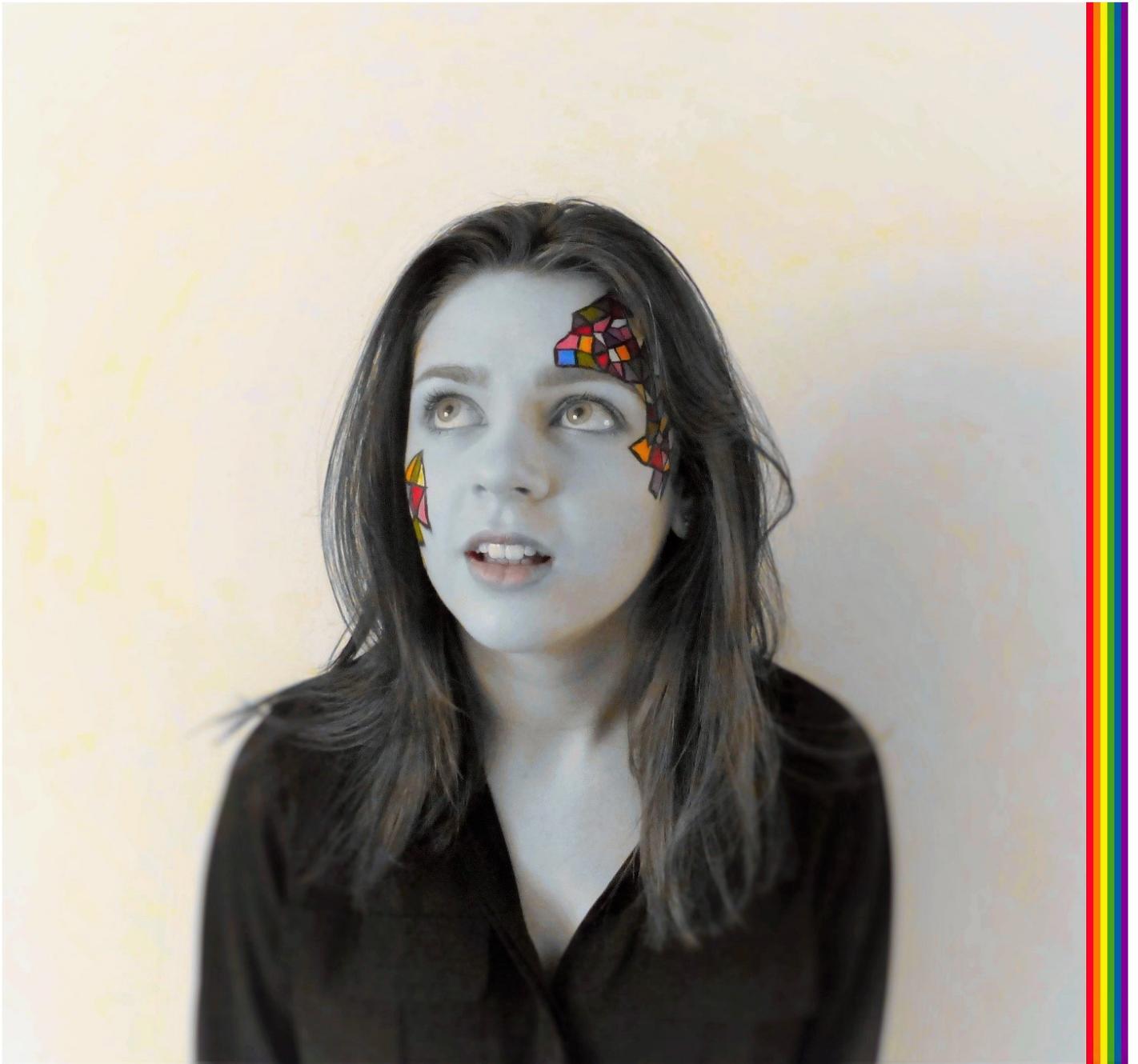
For me, the most concerning and infuriat-

ing thing is the sheer number of LGBT characters who have been killed off. The numbers got so high, in fact, that 'Bury Your Gays' became a legitimate trope and lesbian TV characters became the most likely to be killed. This in itself is bad enough, but it turned out that in almost every case, the characters were either killed because they were gay, or to further the plot of a straight character. Queer TV characters were being made into disposable parts of a straight storyline and the so-called "representation" became questionable.

Bisexual characters conform to the dangerous stereotypes that society already has of them. Lesbians are butch, gays are 'fabulous' and there's barely an ace in sight. What is the point in going to the effort of writing in an LGBTQ+ character, if you're only going to show them in a negative way and reinforce what everyone already thinks? The point of bringing these characters into mainstream media is to break down barriers and show the public that their pre-conceptions aren't always spot on, and to show the queer community that they can be a part of everyday life, too.

It is not good enough to throw in a few token gays here and there just to satisfy a quota. Unless they're going to be given complexity, purpose and character development, spare yourselves the hassle. We don't want your sympathy, we want intricacy. We deserve it.

Liv Taylor



“Bisexual characters conform to the dangerous stereotypes that society already has of them”

The most influential artist of all time

Tom Arnold

Who is the most influential artist of all time? Some may say Elvis or The Beatles. Others may say The Smiths or The Sex Pistols. For me, the most influential artists of all time are 5 men from California: Hip hop, gangster rappers, N.W.A. However, to understand why, we must first understand N.W.A.

Their story starts in the city of Compton, where previously, the only rap music aired had a funky, disco beat, played to mainly white people looking for a beat to groove to. This was the era of rioting, with gangs destroying Eastern Los Angeles and damaging whole neighbourhoods. Police began racially identifying individuals, causing uproar in the community.

Eazy-E, an infamous drug dealer, meets Ice Cube and Dr Dre at a club. They decide they need to speak the truth about the violence in Compton and later meet up in a studio with MC Ren and Yella. The rest is history.

There can be no other artist or genre that had such a sound of protest. Sure, you could say that the punk movement caused uproar, Bob Dylan gave meaningful social and political commentary in his lyrics, but none on the scale of NWA. The lyrics gave black people across the USA a voice. "F**K the Police" was chanted, screamed and bellowed from the warm tropics of Southern Florida to the hard streets of New York. The moment when "Straight Outta Compton" dropped, was the most important moment in the history of rap music.

Dr Dre (born Andre Romelle Young) was the group's main producer. He rapped in parts of the album, most notably in the upbeat "Express Yourself". Dre did something on this album which transcended modern day hip-hop. His constant sampling of 60s, 70s and 80s hits inspired modern day artists, most notably Kanye West. Also, without Dr Dre we would not have seen Tupac and Eminem, two artists who are top of the rap podium. Ice Cube is one of the great poets of our generation, a modern day Shakespeare, who also writes lyrics for Eazy-E. One of my personal favourite lines is where Cube spits, "Black police showing out for the white cop." I think this is one of the most impactful lines in rap history, with Cube suggesting

NWA make me stand up for what is wrong with the world. Their opening line "Straight Outta Compton" would automatically turn most people away, but for many who felt unheard and under-represented, this was the voice they required.

A voice that told them that the brutality shown by society wasn't right. A voice that told them that you should stand up for your city. A voice that showed the world what living in some people's description of hell was like, and how there are real issues in society which people need to look at.

I can honestly say that there is not an act out there that could make me feel this way, and if there is, well send them my way.

"There is no other artist or genre that had such a sound of protest"

that black police are as bad as white, and that white police are brainwashing their black colleagues. In a time where American policing attitudes are still controversial, such linguistic and contextual lyrics are the gold we should be discussing in GCSE English Language!

Of course there are countless artists, who we can say are influential. Jimmy Page created the power chord. Kurt Cobain co-created grunge plus Jimmy Hendricks challenged every guitarist of all time. Chuck Berry created rock and roll meanwhile Freddy Mercury became the king of front men. And the Beatles, well they're the Beatles. But I can honestly say that, as a white young male who hasn't grown up with the struggles of other people who grace this earth,



How *Not* To Come Out



I probably picked the worst possible time to come out to my parents. At one in the morning, breathless from dancing, a cider in one hand and my high heels dangling from the other, I stumbled up to them in the kitchen and brazenly proclaimed: 'Mum! Dad! I'm bisexual!'

Under the circumstances, I can see why this unexpected and alcohol-inspired declaration was met with scepticism. Only weeks before, I had been complaining to my mother about how no boys I liked ever reciprocated my feelings; I'd never even suggested to her that I thought I might be interested in girls (although, in hindsight, surely that time I cut all my hair off and refused to wear anything but cargo pants and boys' sandals was a bit of a hint?). I fell asleep in a confused but happy blur, continuously replaying the memory of the moment I found myself kissing my female school friend under a tree.

Perhaps I was naïve. It had seemed so simple the night before, but the next morning I unexpectedly found myself having to justify my feelings (which I had barely begun to get to grips with myself) to my parents, my tolerant parents, who had always accepted the idea of same sex relationships, yet struggled so much to understand mine. There were difficult conversations, all of us saying things we later regretted. It seemed like this one, small (to me) change had completely altered the way my mum saw me; as if I had become someone she was

ashamed of, someone she felt uncomfortable with. I wanted her to realise that I was the same person I'd always been, but that she just knew me better now.

Today, I can see that my mum's response stemmed from fear for me and my wellbeing. If someone my age had come out while she was growing up, the implications would have been much harder to live with. I think that she was worried that my life would become vastly more difficult; maybe I would be bullied, struggle to fit in, miss out on a 'normal', happy life. It was unfair of me, too, to force such important information on her in such a chaotic way; instead of sitting down with my parents and having a serious discussion with them, I flung it on them, post-party, with no prior warning and then got angry at them when they didn't respond with a casual shrug and a 'Good for you!'

7 months later she was helping me arrange flowers to give to my girlfriend on Valentine's Day. I'm cautious to give advice about coming out – clearly I haven't modelled the best approach myself – and I know my experience was a lot better than many people's, so I don't want to naively reassure you that it'll be easy and everything will work out perfectly. But if I were to give one piece of advice, it would be patience. I cried a lot. I was angry and upset for a while, and I imagine that my parents were too.

A few months later, though, when I told them that I was in love and my dad's first response was a smile, I knew it was going to be ok. And it is. It's a lot more than ok.

That Sunday after the party was a strange day. I flitted between euphoria and worry that I would walk into college on Monday morning to see Sophie, full of regret and embarrassment, refusing to meet my eye. It didn't help that she'd managed to drop her phone in a portaloos at the party (I'm never going to let you live that down, Soph) and I had no way to get in touch with her. I could feel the curious stares as I walked up to her in the common room. We went outside together and I said (perhaps not the most romantic proposition): 'So, do you want to... go somewhere with this?'

I'm proud of the students at our school that all the comments I received about our surprise

gay relationship were overwhelmingly positive. Whenever it came up in conversation, people said 'I'm so happy for you', 'That was brave – good for you!', or 'You two are so cute together!' We still get stares from the younger years as we walk around holding hands, but that just makes me hold on tighter. **18**

If we can help young people at our school to normalise the idea of same-sex relationships, if we can help to create a more tolerant and accepting society, I like to think that in the future no-one will think twice about two girls, or boys, holding hands in the corridor. If someone in year 8 or 9, who's struggling with their sexuality and is scared of how people will perceive them, sees me laughing with my girlfriend and feels more hopeful about their own future – wouldn't that just be the most amazing thing?



Eilidh Bodfish
Photo: Lucy O'Neill

19 MEMORIES 2006



THE TROUBLE WITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Whether you went to a quaint, village school or a Church school, every primary institution used the seven years you spent there to teach you: simple addition, nothing about grammar, 'Hot Cross Buns' on recorder and some far too cheerful songs that never fail (even now) to get stuck in your head while you're on shift and can't even blast angry Muse to block it out.

Your school's particular brand of weekly torture might have been 'Give me oil in my lamp keep me burning' or 'I like the flowers, I like the daffodils' but nothing was as bad as the dreaded time that some seemingly intelligent adult would suggest singing in the round. If you thought choral singing (/screaming, one can never tell with the little reception kids) was bad, wait until your school is divided savagely into groups all trying to be heard over each other in a cacophony more painful than Justin Bieber opening his mouth.

As if this wasn't bad enough, when the student body has just about managed to sound less like screeching cats and more like an out-of-tune piano, same dead-eyed teacher flings all hope for redemption out of the window and announces that they're going to add their literal out-of-tune piano to the mix. Insisting that it will add some professionalism to the piece is a lost cause when no matter how many instruments you play, nothing will stop the parents who have been forced to come to a 'Hot-Cross-Bun-Afternoon' and the like, from seeing that kid in the front row picking his nose and eating it.

Possibly the only good thing to come from singing assembly was that if you were good at changing the lyrics seamlessly into something rude enough to make the teacher's pet blush you were hailed as a school hero for the next few weeks.

Some particular favourites — original version:

- So light up the fire and let the flame burn
- He's got the whole world in his hands
- While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground

Our version:

- So light up a fire and let the school burn
- He's got the whole world in his pants
- While shepherds watched their socks by night, all hanging on a

Such inventive 4-11 year olds. Getting told off for singing the wrong lyrics was almost a mark of status back then.



Imagine, for a minute, that your primary school was good at singing. I'm talking David Tennant in the Nativity's Choir or Pitch Perfect good - angelic voices, harmonies, the whole shebang. It would only be at this level of perfection that I personally would deem it appropriate to add any kind of dance-move from the underrated clap to a full musical choreography. Unfortunately, nobody in the teaching world seems to share this view and, to add insult to injury, seem to think that seven year olds are capable of off-beat clapping. I don't know if the previous schools they worked in tutored only Chopins-to-be but I can tell you now that convincing small children to clap on the off-beat of '*You just call on your brother when you need a hand, we all need somebody to lean on*' - is about as possible as Legolas riding that shield down the stairs in Helms Deep, or teaching a snake to tap dance, or Donald Trump showing an ounce of humanity or intelligence.

Despite my, ahem, more mature years, I do occasionally find myself missing singing in assembly. Sure, it was painful and a stronger factor into my eventual tinnitus than noise-cancelling headphones will ever be, but there was something fun in having so little dignity that I'd quite happily stand on stage wearing a self-decorated straw hat covered in fluffy chickens and sing my heart out.

Getting older has a lot of benefits, but it's a shame that to karaoke in public now I have to work seriously hard at boosting my flagging Dutch courage. Luckily for everyone's ears though, I doubt they have 'Kumbaya' at any club.

TEGAN BERRY

Text Over Talk

Technology WILL be the death of us! And guess what? The only ones that can be blamed are ourselves. We have let the power of the internet slowly but surely infiltrate our lives. Ever since 29th June 2007, the lives of many have drastically changed, with the release of the iPhone affecting people all over the globe. Technology took the world by surprise; life actually became easier – until now. 2017, became the year in which people became unrecognisable, the year in which their personality was disguised and a year where social experiences became absent. Technology has robbed us of our identity.

Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat... the main culprits of our virtual, online lives. Whether it's posting your status, popping a picture of your cereal on your story or simply liking Kylie Jenner's selfie on 'insta', we are damaging our social life and for what? Nobody cares about your cereal and Kylie Jenner doesn't even know who YOU are! So why devote yourself to a far from realistic, online community?

I have a fair idea... it's because we are bored. Bored with the normal pace of life. We can't sit at a table and talk anymore we can't get muddy playing in the park and go on adventures with our mates – (I mean your 'real ones') – not the ones you 'add' on Facebook for the sake of having 1000 + 'friends.'

The amount of time we spend on technology is no joke. A recent international study stated that 1000 students were told to stay away from their phones and any other source of technology for 24 hours. 4/5 students reported back that they felt isolated, confused and panicked without their beloved mobile phone. How concerning....



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♥ 31 likes

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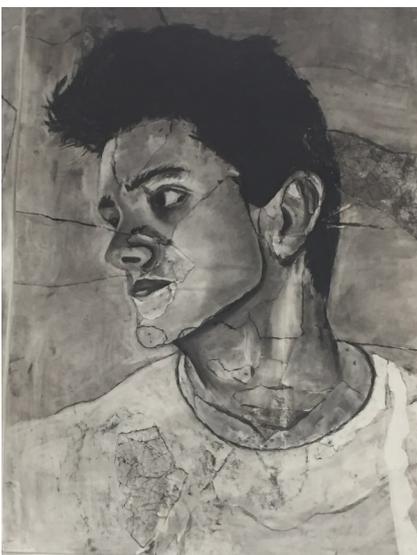
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♥ 99 likes

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♥ 138 likes

[view all 10 comments](#)

4/5 students reported back that they felt isolated, confused and panicked without their beloved mobile phone. How concerning.... Undoubtedly, Technology can contribute to the cause of anxiety and depression as heavy computer usage increases your stress levels. It makes you feel lonely, affects your posture and strains your eyes. Staring at a screen from only 30cm away is really not beneficial to your health. Trust me on that.

Tell me, why do those who play Sims 4 for a living enjoy a simulated game with virtual families when you could be enjoying quality time with YOUR own family? Where will our 'interactivity' lead us? Will we lack in social skills when it comes to interviews? Will violence and crime become promoted to the younger generation when playing games such as 'Grand Theft Auto' – which by the way is rated age 18 for a reason. Last but not least, will we lose our self-esteem, comparing our images to fake and unrealistic shots on Instagram?

So why carry on? It's because we love the internet—it makes us laugh, connects us, offers escapism—and in all honesty we wouldn't survive without it. It provides us with information and allows us to enjoy life in general, making it easier to shop, to work, to live.

I am all for technology in small doses but don't take advantage of it; don't underestimate its invasive power. Take care of your health and wellbeing, talk to your family and friends. Go out and have fun!



♥ 102 likes

[view all 9 comments](#)

Positively Negative...

The Media: a tainted window to our world

Across the globe, people have access to countless sources of information. As a result, we are constantly bombarded by updates on current affairs. Editors, journalists, bloggers and tweeters allow us to receive wave after wave of the latest news. However, is all of this information beneficial to individuals and society in general?

The media is incredibly influential, more so than ever before because the media is EVERYWHERE—from newspapers that promote fear, cynicism and prejudice to Mr Trump's error strewn Tweets. Going a day without watching TV, picking up a daily newspaper, or my all-time favourite, Cosmopolitan magazine, is a day in the dark. The media is ingrained into all aspects of our lives; politically, socially and economically. Sadly, writers across all media seem to believe that what readers really want is negative, hate-filled reports and comments.

Indeed, the media is so powerful that it could persuade many to believe that $2 + 2 = 5$.

Naturally, as human beings, we absorb any news that is remotely interesting or entertaining, giving us a topic of conversation to discuss with others. However it must be remembered that no matter how fascinating the story may be, not everything on the internet is true and such 'facts' can sweep the globe in a matter of minutes on social media. Tweets are produced to be retweeted, Facebook posts to be shared and Instagram pictures to be liked.

Although we are aware that the sources on the internet can be unreliable, are we aware that it can be the same for newspapers? Newspapers are widely read. Journalists, editors and even the government know this and so use words' persuasive influence to their advantage. Stories are adapted to suit the writer's own beliefs and opinions, indoctrinating the public



with exaggerated, false data. It is easy to forget that journalists are paid to entertain the public, editors are motivated to expose new information, whilst the government aims to persuade the masses. Our opinions and attitudes are significantly affected by the information provided or omitted. The depiction of facts and the representation of events greatly influences our opinions. If a snatched five minutes is all one can spare to read a newspaper or magazine, then skim reading may ensue. By only reading sensationalist headlines or key quotes, one can miss the vital point of the article or misinterpret the meaning. Each day we are showered with statistical information, which can be misleading, especially if only reading one source of information. By exposing oneself to alternate ways of interpreting news, you can divert from the influence of the media and form an unbiased judgement.

Possibly the most dangerous aspect to modern media however, is the fact that it is immensely negative. Hearing good news naturally prompts you to have a positive outlook on your day, allowing a sense of optimism and contentment. Yet hearing bad news can massively affect one's mood, creating a downcast, colourless day. I mean, wouldn't we all love stories of heroism and good deeds to be headlining every day instead of death and doom?

Although it is true that rewarding news does not always grab people's attention, surely it is the king when leaving the feel-good-factor. Disturbing headlines may be true, but are they necessary, are they always required to be so destructive? Emotive headlines can highlight and amplify insecurities that are uncomfortable and displeasing. Dramatic stories draw us in, so of course papers sell.

Reading the news, it is easy to see the world's corruption via the front pages, yet positive, upbeat, life-affirming stories rarely hit the headlines.

The way in which the media generally portrays immigrants and foreign countries is concerning. Emphasising the negative aspects of immigration has portrayed migrants to the UK in one light only. Many of the real issues that blight our everyday lives may not be who is coming into the country, but rather those who have been in our country for many years and made valuable contributions. Being too quick to believe what we read is greatly damaging, to ourselves and others.

Similarly, attitudes towards women are repeatedly offensive in tabloid newspapers and glossy magazines. Being a young female myself, it is disheartening that glamour and beauty journalists often criticise females for their appearance and choice of clothing, pitching women against other women; displaying beauty ratings; promoting the notion that skinny is the only pretty; that any other body type except size zero is unacceptable and should be covered.

Likewise, reports of failures in sport is a regular occurrence in papers. Team and individual sports are a large and important aspect of many people's lives. Taking part in exercise and sport can help develop a strong character both on and off the pitch, building vital teamwork and cooperation skills.



"The media is so powerful that it could persuade many to believe that $2 + 2 = 5$."

A mere 9 months ago, English sport was praising the amazing managerial prowess of the newly crowned Premier League champion, Claudio Ranieri. Yet, after months of being harangued and harassed by negative reporting, and only weeks after being awarded the World Coach of the Year award, Ranieri was sacked as manager of Leicester City. The media frequently promotes that loss is a failure. But it is not! Learning from mistakes is positive and the news should be encouraging people to never quit. However,

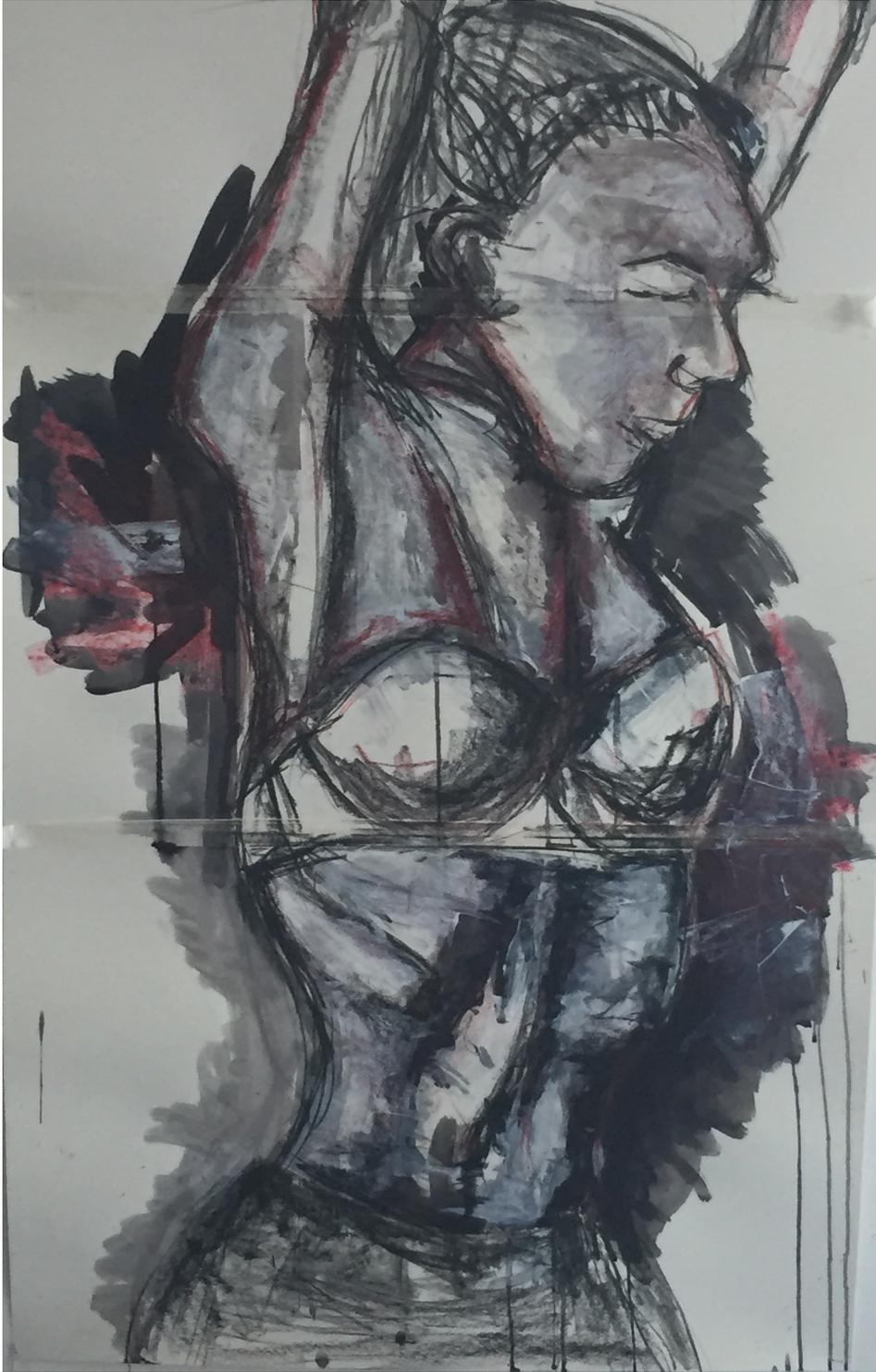
the British audience are seemingly compelled to read adverse headlines, delighting in the critical. We feel the need to know and protect ourselves from the dangers of the world; surely knowing these dangers can only help us to protect ourselves. But being alert at all times for threats can be draining and mentally exhausting.

Surely now is the time to fight back and demand that we are given news that is fair, positive and heart-warming. There are thousands of fantastic

events occurring up and down Britain. The NHS is saving hundreds of lives, our schools are creating wonderful young adults and our country has never been so successful on the sports field. But to read British newspapers and watch the news on TV, one would hear little of these success stories. For the good of our wellbeing, our sanity and our future mental health, it is time that the media flipped their thinking in order to negate the negativity.

Because, as we all know, 2 negatives make a positive!

Abbie Whelan



‘Beauty comes in all shapes and sizes ,
Rock your **CONFIDENCE**’

A **curve** here, a **lump** there: I am normal

I am normal with curves on my body, lumps on my thighs and a little bit extra (as they say) on my stomach, I am normal.

She's natural, with cellulite in her thighs and stretch marks on her, the natural order of a human body. He's natural with a stodgy stomach, lessening hair on his head and stumpy legs. They are healthy as they are, they are happy as they are, they are natural as they are.

Prince Fielder: hench, strong, a bold statement. He expresses the normality of being a black, male in society, with his optimism in highlighting that any-one can be healthy, and 'just because they are big does not mean they are not athletic'. Healthy can come in all shapes and sizes. It's the idealism we all try to uphold due to the bombardment of celebrities' toned unrealistic figures which are constantly loaded into the tabloids. It's perpetuated onto us, the idea that fame and fortune can buy you happiness in your body, thanks to implants or botox. Yet when it comes down to the reality, life can bring happiness by simply believing in the beauty of your own skin.

Shaming, hurting and offending the body - that's body shaming. When this 'shame' allows anyone to hate their bodies in such a way that they suppress love for themselves; and done in such a way that it becomes out of the human mind's control, then things have gone too far. Furthermore, we are made to feel mentally confused, as though we aren't the 'right' look, size or image. Size! Size! Size! What is the obsession with size? We are each born with differing body types, face shapes, hair colour yet as we grow into society we change, from wanting to look different to wanting to look like a model, or look identical to the icons in the public eye.

Kendall Jenner is the typical prodigy we try and achieve— the fit, natural beauty. Now that's the key, the 'natural beauty.' She obtains what women of this day and age desire. However this just seems so unachievable. Celebrities have the expenses to live, look and act a certain way; most middle class people which is more than half of the UK population are not able to sustain this unrealistic look or lifestyle, never mind those living in socio-economic difficulty. However, it's most definitely not just the women who feel the overbearing weight of looking a certain way; men have these same issues too. In my opinion, these pressures are even more overbearing for a female, possibly due to the traditional view regarding men's superiority to a woman in society and the constant objectification which we see on our billboards and magazines.

But let's take Ashley Graham: beautiful, courageous, a strong independent woman who is a natural beauty. She's beautiful, she's beautiful, say "YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL!" We have been taught to think in this manner, now we need to teach again that body shaming is wrong and can be detrimental to anyone's health. Ashley Graham is a positive female activist who stands against body shaming. Her motto is: "beauty comes in all shapes and sizes, rock your confidence," an ethos which I stand close to. She rocks her inner and outer beauty in absolute confidence. I think one of the main issues that we deal with is the issue of CONFIDENCE. Lack of confidence can persist if we carry around a little extra weight here or there, but it is NORMAL.

Yet we are told this is unhealthy, unattractive and it is not idealised in the world in which we live. She sets the standards for being an icon and completely pure as a model. She does not slim down to the stereotype, she will not lose weight in order to keep her job and yet she is categorised as a plus sized model; however I see her as any normal person, especially compared to the standard size zero models, we see today on the catwalks.

Katy Oakeshott



I would classify these models as the unhealthy, unrealistic, unattainable people in society who aren't normal. Mentally and physically, many models force themselves to attain a certain idealistic notion of beauty which the fashion industry has dictated: to be "skinny." Ashley is put against this box because she juxtaposes the ordinary models who are slim. Marilyn Monroe, the beauty icon who was known for being one of the most beautiful women of our time, had rolls on her stomach, extra flab on her thighs, yet we never questioned her beauty then, so why do we question it with others now?

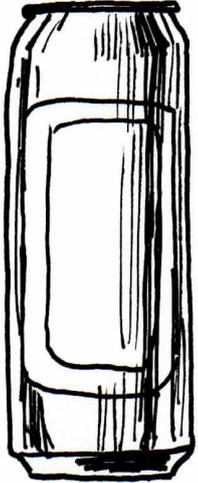
Yet there isn't just the enormous issue of body weight but also physical differences which can lead to body shaming, take Chantel Brown as an example. She of course does look different from the ordinary white or black person we most commonly associate with. Her beauty contrasts, combining two different skin tones, yet as her career in modelling progresses, she is able to show her beauty through her own skin.

However, there is most probably a considerable amount of people who feel she is ugly because of something she cannot change, yet she is natural as she is, as is everyone. A larger person is also born this way as each person has different genetics, it's just genetics and DNA so why do we have such an issue with being slightly overweight?

Anyone can be beautiful, yet that's another question which we over complicate. Everyone and anyone is beautiful in their own skin, we just need to learn to appreciate this in our ever evolving society which changes its view constantly.

I do feel that women feel the pain and abuse far more than males, and this has to do with the fact that women are more sensitive to this topic. Bitchy comments can seem more hurtful, sometimes made by other girls, which more often than not begins in the early years of high school. Let's STOP humiliating, STOP disregarding and STOP body shaming!

If Carlsberg Wrote Magazine Articles...



It's a quiet Sunday morning and I log onto my Facebook page: Dan has uploaded a new profile picture, there's a selfie of Matt at the United match and, oh, Adidas interrupts to tell me that I too can be a legend, a creator, a hero like Gareth Bale and Lionel Messi if I just buy a pair of their new football boots. OK then, they've got my interest, I click on the link to the advert.

The link takes me to...guess what?...another advert. Another advert to watch before I can watch the advert! It's Bulmer's Cider. Apparently, my life will be a party, a festival, if I down a can of 'Blood Orange' cider. I'm 17. Am I their target audience? Probably.

I can't be bothered waiting, I go back to Facebook because all I really want to see is what my mates are watching on YouTube. I see that Tom has shared a video, I click on it only to be blocked by Lenny Henry telling me that if I go to the Premier Inn I will get 'a guaranteed good night's 'sleep'. But really, it *will* be bedtime by the time I get to watch this clip.

Is it just me who is extremely frustrated by the invasive and ubiquitous nature of advertising, I know it's not. The advertisements prey on you, monitoring everything you do and search, and out of nowhere it suddenly sneaks up on you when you least expect it. Irritating.

I go to McDonalds for lunch because this week the Chicken Legend is only 99p, bargain. Then it's off to the cinema to watch Marvel's new film. I arrive on time but it takes a whole 45 minutes for the film to start. Yes, 45 minutes of adverts and I've eaten my sweets (new, improved M&Ms with an even better crunch) before the film even starts. Most of these adverts are completely irrelevant to the product being sold. For example, remember John Lewis last Christmas advert about the man on the moon? What does that have to do with John Lewis? Does it matter? It sticks in my mind and I remember it's John Lewis. Damn, they got me! There is even an advert to tell me to turn my phone off.

Just say it! On the way out I pop to the toilet only to find an advert for Rennie indigestion tablets on the back of the door. I feel bombarded. I can't open my eyes without being drowned in billboards and pop up advertisements.

The trouble is the more media we look at the more adverts we see. I take a moment to think about this and realise that at least some of these adverts work, after all I'm writing this wearing a Hollister t-shirt, All Star Converse shorts and my Nike trainers. I'm texting on the latest iPhone, playing games on my PlayStation 4 and drinking Coca Cola (the real stuff, not the cheap Rola Cola from the supermarket).

Evening time and I'm watching The Big Bang Theory, the programme is 30 minutes long but at least 10 minutes is adverts. Yep, 10 minutes of watching England goalie Joe Hart washing his hair, Gary Lineker eating crisps and the Liverpool team getting way too excited about deodorant. Have a word

Whilst watching TV I check my emails. There are 11 new ones, Amazon want me to take advantage of their new Kindle deals, delete. Halifax

are telling me about their new current account because they think I deserve extra, thanks, and Game are previewing the new Call of Duty game, oh go on then.

The advertisers know what they are doing otherwise they wouldn't bother. They are selling us a lifestyle because we are all aspirational. We all want to look better, feel better, be sexier, be healthier, be fitter. The advertising agency that came up with Dove's Real Women campaign was congratulated for ditching stick thin models and using real women instead. However, the adverts were scrapped after a couple of years because they didn't sell the products. They weren't aspirational enough.

Whether we like it or not adverts are here to stay no matter how annoying, cringe worthy, boring, repetitive and irrelevant they are.

So, I guess I have two choices: I either live the digital life I love and learn to tolerate the adverts or I run away from it all like a meerkat in the sand dunes. **Simples.**

Skip Ad ▶



Probably the worst annoyance in the world.

“It’s a *beautiful, beautiful thing to have an intimate knowledge of you.*”

Suki Le Hunte

Beyond The Binary

Last month I read a very warning statistic – almost 50% of young people in Britain don’t identify as straight. And even more than that agree that sexuality is a scale, and not a fixed position. 23% of British people overall plotted themselves somewhere other than heterosexual on the Kinsey Scale, showing that the minority is getting bigger and bigger every year. These figures were published by respected pollsters yougov.com after a (rather small if I’m honest) survey of 1632 people. With each generation we get closer and closer to acceptance of all the myriad of new-fangled notions about gender and sexuality – and it’s wonderful.

Today I thought I’d take a chance to write about this 50%, and while this survey was primarily about sexuality, it’s demonstrated the changing attitudes in the population towards the notion of fluid identity. It’s not unreasonable, then, to assume that a good selection of the 18-24 population agree that gender is just as fluid as sexuality. The difference being that sexuality has been talked about massively over the past few years, but in the mainstream media and television the conversation hasn’t gone much beyond ‘wow look a whole bunch of gays – and a bisexual? Wild. But hey we’re not gonna *tell* you they’re bisexual Being a person of considerably fluid gender, I’ve recognised that it isn’t talked about beyond ‘here’s a 7 year old who’s transgender’, or ‘here’s someone who thought they were transgender and rushed into surgery and – oh, wait, they’re not actually transgender, what a shame’. Transgender children are wonderful and colourful and divisive, but the narrative of ‘teenager healthily exploring gender and their identity’ just isn’t discussed in the media, and for all the teenagers trying to healthily explore their gender identity it’s not really helpful.

Obviously gender identity is a very personal thing, and every trans* person feels it differently, some people are completely genderless, some people are male, some are female, some are a little bit of both, some are a lot of one and a bit of another – there are endless ways to defy the gender binary. I’d like you to take a moment now, and consider what your gender means to you.

What does it feel like? How do you know? How long have you been able to perceive a sense of your gender? What makes you the gender you are?

If you can’t answer any of those questions, then well done, you’re probably a human being. Gold star for you. If you

could answer any of those questions, think twice about your answer. Go on, really challenge some preconceived societal ideas.

What I’m trying to get at in my very roundabout way, is that gender is something deep, something profound that can’t be measured or quantified with solid, physical reasons. ‘I’m a woman because I can have children’, ‘I’m a man because I have a penis’, these are all valid responses – because that’s what being a woman or a man means to you; but these things don’t automatically *make* you the gender you are, making sense? The things that to you mean you identify as a woman or a man or anything inbetween aren’t the things that intrinsically *make* a woman or a man or anything inbetween. When you identify as something other than girl or boy, it can be strange and terrifying, or it can feel right. It can feel like something has just slid into place that wasn’t there before. The really strange thing, though, is when you find yourself having to fight for your identity to someone you thought was your friend, when you’re being yelled at ‘there’s only 2 genders’, and ‘you’re not a man’. Because no, I’m not a man – I’m just really damn close. And what’s strange is when your friend explains your gender to you in cookie-cutter terms that attempt to make sense of you in a binary mind set, and you spend the next five days in a shaking, anxious, dysphoric blur. It’s strange when you have to come out five times over to your parents because you wake up every day having slightly shifted in your identity. But eventually, when you’re comfortable in an identity, it’s not strange anymore, it’s not alien; it’s just another slice of your person pie. So no matter what flavour your person pie is, whatever filling you find it has, it’s your own pie – don’t let people tell you what it should look like or contain. Mind your own damn pie.

In a recent BBC3 documentary about young transgender children, transgender psychotherapist Hershel Russel said the following: ‘a mother of a gender-diverse kid came in, and she said, ‘how do you know you’re really a boy?’ and he said: ‘I know deep down where the music plays.’ And really, that sums it up perfectly. It’s profound, it’s deep, it’s emotional, and it’s a beautiful, beautiful thing to have an intimate knowledge of you.



Photo by Lorna Elvin

33 Old people - They've got us all wrong

Criminals, Thieves, Dangers to society ... apparently.

In recent years, teenagers in Great Britain have acquired a perceived reputation amongst the elderly as knife wielding 'hoodies' out in the streets, breaking windows, throwing eggs, spray painting, all sorts of antisocial mayhem. Where has this misconception come from?

The over 65s (other than our grandparents—the ones who actually know us) glare at our teenage 'gang' as we walk past like it's Al Capone and his mob walking down to the Co-op. All we want is a meal deal .Give us a chance.

What do they think of us?

I can't say exactly what many of the older generation (and newspaper editors) think, but I know this for sure... they hate us and they're scared of us. They treat us like criminals, as if we chose to be young so we could terrorise the general public: it's as if they were never young themselves.

Of course there are people our age who are out to cause mischief but that doesn't mean that every teen is out to wield knives, cause trouble or harm. The stereotype has grown and grown into something inaccurate, and to be honest, untrue.

Despite the frequent moral panics, not every teenager is out in a rage looking to mug the elderly. The idea that all teenagers hang around on the street in their baggy trackies, lurking beneath hoodies to harm others is a myth. So why do such lies persist? It has to be said that teenagers are not the best behaved age group at times, however who's to say they're the worst?

Headlines document youths' attacks on elderly people or even their involvement in the London riots— dominated by teenagers 'apparently.' This doesn't help our cause or reputation, however events like these are rare and only a minority of teens participate, despite the reports. Teenagers don't deserve to be treated like something they're not. How would you react if you were treated as a failure from the start, as a consequence of someone else's actions?

Something needs to change and it's not the way in which teenagers act; it's the way teenagers are treated. It's unfair for people who have never done anything wrong to be prejudged and prejudiced against. It is unfair that we are feared as this cultural dread affects the elderly too, there is nothing to be afraid of.

Small acts of kindness by young people show that not all teenagers are pests out to participate in crime or mug OAPs. Most teenagers are normal young people contributing to society just as much as everyone else.

.....
“The stereotype has grown and grown into something inaccurate, and to be honest, untrue”
.....

Give us a break...

Hell-raising hoodies

**BRITAIN'S
YOUTH
IN CRISIS**

Teenage party mob
clashes with police

YOB RULE **YOUTHS RUN RIOT**

**UK TEENS
WORST
BEHAVED
IN EUROPE**

er of little Maisie
**DAD
AT
13**

**TEEN GANG
TRASHED
MY HOUSE**

**Stabbed
in lunch
hour**

**MURDERED FOR
DEFYING YOBS**

**RIOTERS
AGED 7**

**CHILD
SEXT
CRIME
SURGE**

**DEVIL
CHILD**

**DON'T CALL
US FOR HELP
ABOUT YOBS
SAY POLICE**

**Meet youngest ever
Asbo thug - aged 10**

YOU KNOW YOU'RE HAVING A BAD DAY WHEN...



You feel intense horror when the shower goes cold, unexpectedly. Brrr.



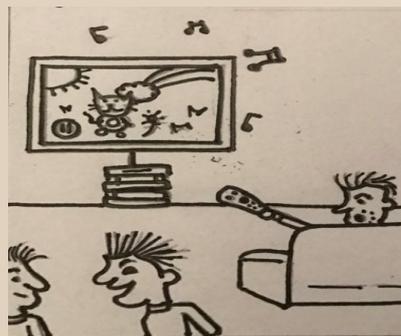
You realise there are no more toilet rolls – huge disaster!



You hear a noise when home alone, like the build up in a horror film...



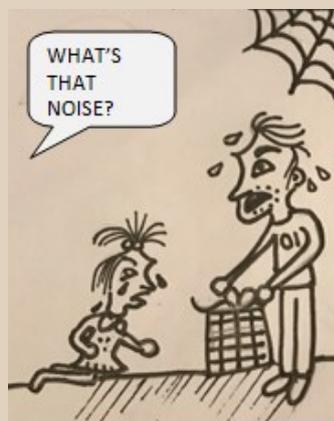
The only text you receive is from your mobile service provider?!



Watching a film and people won't stop nattering. The only option is to pause...



You're stuck behind slow walkers, especially when you're running late!



You frantically apologise to your sibling after hitting them to avoid parental wrath.



You remember that DONALD TRUMP WON PRESIDENCY!

