

sixth form
term.
tarpotle



THINK TWICE...

BOUNDARIES. SEGREGATION. RULES. RACISM.
SEXISM. WEIRD. HOMOPHOBIA. DIFFERENT. ODD.
HETERONORMALTIVITY. OBJECTIFICATION.
SEXUALISATION. DEHUMANISATION. TOXICITY.
HYPERMASCULINITY. WHITE WASHING.
EUROCENTRICITY. FAKE NEWS. STEREOTYPES.
EXPECTATITION. IDENTITY. ABNORMALITY.
LABELS. STANDARDISATION. INDIVIDUALITY.
PATRIARCHY. REPUTATION. JUSTICE.
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because
the world
needs to.



Editor's Note

In a world full of over 7 billion different opinions... I think we should all think twice. Think twice about how your opinions may be opposite to someone else's. Think twice about what you consider to be amazing may, as it may not be somebody else's cup of tea. Think twice about what having an open-mind would expose you to.



When we first began creating the 11th edition of TERM magazine, we had a team full of a diverse range of talents, ideas, opinions and strengths and this is reflected within this issue. I realized that everyone needed to be able to write about what they believed in and not be held back by any constraints or criticism. This is where the 'Think Twice' concept fell into place.

No matter what idea somebody wants to communicate, this issue embraces it. I wanted to create a place where anything can be accepted.

Whilst reading this issue of TERM magazine- Think twice, have an open mind and enjoy whatever is thrown at you.

Nicole Morrison

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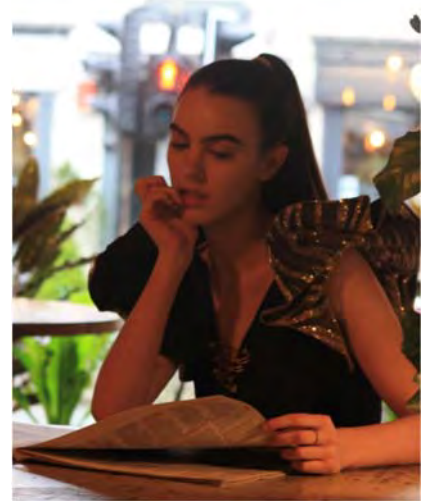
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I THINK TWICE TO:
BELIEVE
IN
DIFFERENCE

Katy Adkins

Artwork: Hannah Whelan

For humans, life wouldn't really exist without thought. Thought controls our minds; controls our behavior; controls our imagination. But what actually is it? Considered to be a type of mental faculty, thought encompasses any mental activity of existential value for humans.

However, science is incapable of defining such an intricate abstraction.

Like flying comes naturally to birds and swimming comes naturally to fish, thought is the equivalent for us. We may not understand the complexity behind our thought processes but neither can birds comprehend the concept of aerodynamics whilst they glide effortlessly through the sky. Let's take the sky. In order to perceive the sky, light must reflect from it into our eyes

If someone told you not to think of a white bear, what would you do? You would think of a white bear.

As strange as it may seem, we are usually incapable of controlling the direction of our stream of thought. In a study, conducted by psychologist Daniel Wegner, one group of volunteers were instructed to think about white bears for 5 minutes and another group were instructed not to think about white bears for the same time period. It was revealed that the second group thought about white bears more than the first group, thus

Try to,
if you can,
imagine a life
without thought...



Furthermore, an ongoing debate between theorists involves the question of the role that language plays in thought. Some say we think using language, some say we have the ability to think without language. If language is a necessity for thought, how do pre-verbal infants think? How do animals think? The philosopher Peter Carruthers believes that we do not use language to think,

It appears that we are the only species alive inhabiting the ability to entertain the astonishingly vast range of thoughts that we do. Why can we understand the depths of science, maths and art, yet dogs and cats cannot? Aside from the fact that animals aren't exposed to the same variety of things as humans and that they are not educated by society, one reason behind the sophistication of human thought is said to be linked to language, as we are capable of projecting our thoughts into language. This also links to the unique feature of human thought as it can be transmitted through generations. This is because we learn to think from the guidance of experts who pass on their knowledge, enabling us to inherit not only the thoughts themselves of our ancestors, but also new methods of discovery and communication of thoughts. This is unlike other species; whose cognitive advancements usually have to be rediscovered by each generation.

ONE GIANT LEAP FOR WOMAN- KIND

Last October physicist Donna Strickland made a pioneering step for women in the scientific community. She became the third woman EVER to win a Nobel Prize in physics. I remember feeling so proud that she had done this. Yet even more potent was my feeling of excitement – I realised that women actually could do remarkable things in science,

The world of science as we know it has been expanding and evolving for millennia; from Galileo to Darwin, revolutionary figures from history have built upon the sphere of knowledge to know more and more about the world in which we live. And yet, if we were to try to name all of the famous scientists we could think of, how many of them would be women? Of course we've all heard of Marie Curie – the remarkable woman who won two Noble Prizes

There are in fact countless women without whom our knowledge would be only a small fraction of what we know today: take Tapputi, for example, dating back to the second millennium BC, she is believed to be the first known chemist and the first to use the process of distillation; or the German astronomer Caroline Herschel, the first woman to have a paper read out at the Royal Society; and Ada Lovelace, who is often considered to be the first computer programmer.

Throughout history women's contributions to science have been understated or, in many cases, completely ignored. Chien-Shiung Wu, the Chinese physicist who left her family behind in China to pursue her scientific dreams, managed to prove through experimentation that a theory devised by the scientists Tsung-Dao Lee and Chen-Ning Yang was true. This theory contradicted a fundamental belief of scientists at that time and, in 1954, Lee and Yang won the Nobel Prize for it. But Wu, despite her necessity in the proof, was not included in the award.

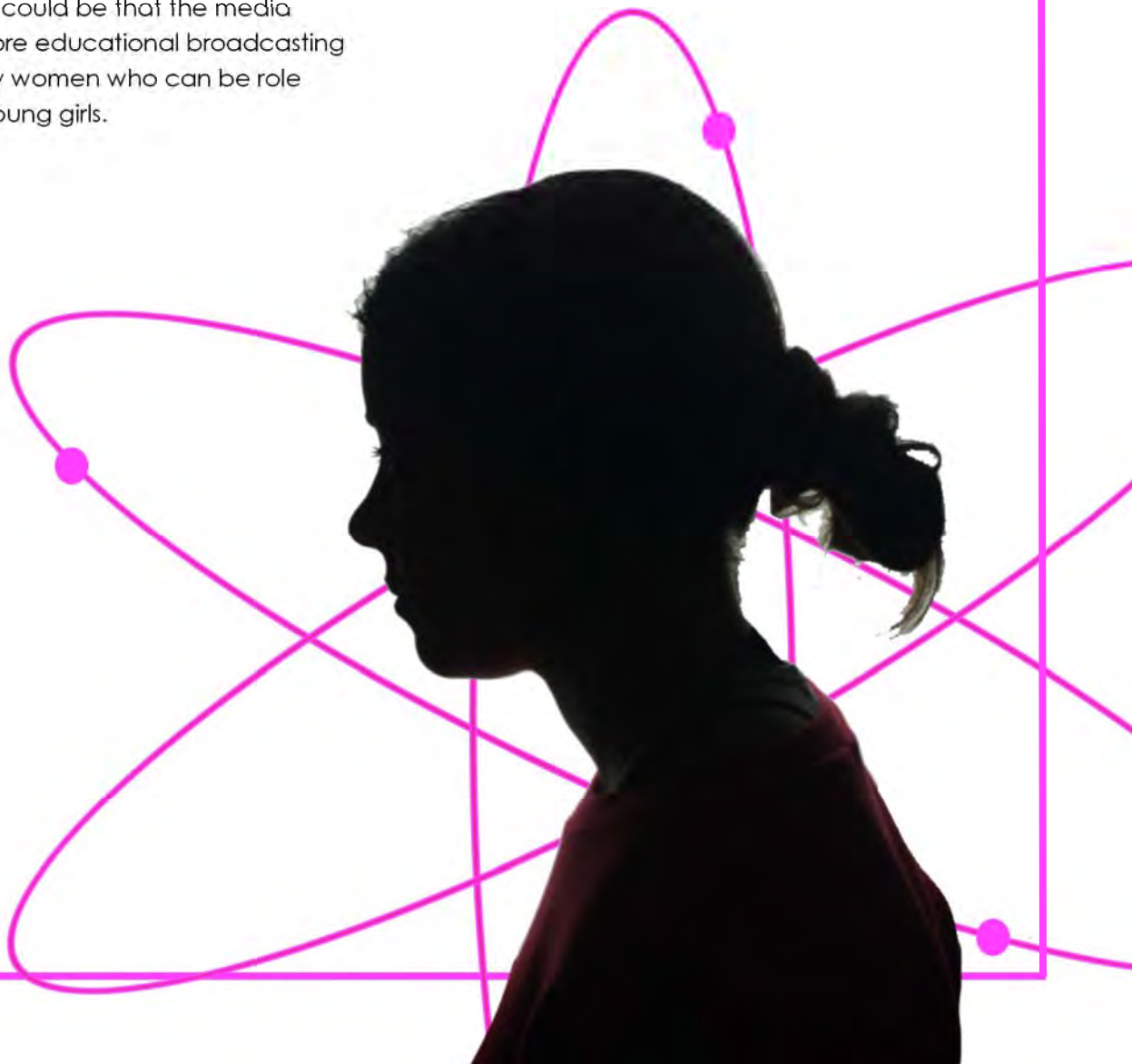
It is in this way that we have been left with only very few icons to guide the next generation of female scientists. I believe this is one of the main reasons why I am the only girl studying physics in my year, and why females only represent 28.8% of scientific researchers worldwide. The way I see it, this means that we are missing out on countless contributions which could have advanced our scientific understanding decades ahead of where we are now. But what should we do about this?

Evidently this problem isn't just coming to light now – there have been substantial efforts to boost women in STEM subjects up to now, including offering scholarships or using positive discrimination to increase the number of girls studying sciences at university, but doesn't this qualify as bribery? Will this really inspire women to push their scientific boundaries? It seems to me this will only discourage women further as they realise their only motivation for entering the industry was the money, and not the passion they have for it. In my opinion, the best form of action is to thwart the gender gap from its source; education. We learn to conform to stereotypes when we are young and our minds are still malleable, so we need to teach children that being a scientist does not necessarily mean being a tall, white, bespectacled man from a young age. It could be that when you buy your son a chemistry set for Christmas you get your daughter one too, or perhaps it could be that the media produces more educational broadcasting presented by women who can be role models for young girls.

By teaching kids that gender does not affect your potential, the life-changing benefits of these views will trickle into society as the next generation grows up.

Despite the overwhelming disparity between genders in the scientific community, it is clear that things are already changing. For centuries women have been fighting to equalise the gender imbalance and finally they are. In the EU we have almost reached equality with 40% of scientists and engineers being female, and many powerful positions are now being held by women. Considering our natural tendency to lean away from the sciences comparative to men, such facts are really quite astonishing and incredibly encouraging.

Fabiola Gianotti, current director of CERN and the first woman to hold this position, said: "I cannot say myself that I have ever felt discriminated against". It seems as though the path is already laid out for us; all we need is the inspiration.



PLASTIC IS FANTASTIC

Plastic surgery was pioneered by Dr Harold Gillies during World War 1 - He developed surgical reconstructive techniques to treat wounded soldiers. This allowed war veterans to continue their lives; however, over the years plastic surgery has evolved, and is no longer just about treating those who've experienced brutal trauma, with many patients now requesting morphological alteration to purely improve their natural appearance. The prevalence of elective cosmetic surgery has been widely normalised across the world, with the average young adult's anatomy being constructed of a combination of oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, phosphorus, silicone and Botox. Natural beauty has almost been completely rejected by much of society, with beauty now being dictated by specific criteria in order to meet strict aesthetic standards. There is much debate over whether elective cosmetic surgery should be available, with some believing that it's an individual's right to control what happens to their own body. Yet cosmetic surgery is having a more sinister psychological impact on society than we realise.

Surgical procedures are a booming business - equivalent to other fields of medicine. The ability to change your own body is a right many people feel entitled to. Some believe that surgical aesthetic alterations should be encouraged in order to improve body appreciation and positivity, as well as to enhance the physical and psychological well-being of the patient. However, this message could be sending a dangerous message to youths, evoking many self-confidence issues relating to body image. Over 40% of teen girls have considered plastic surgery; indicating the pressure to conform to contrived social norms. In a contemporary world, meant to be promoting difference and equality, we can almost see a regression, with young adults seeking surgery to obtain the same so-called 'perfection' - big lips, big boobs, big butt, tiny waist and a petite nose. What we are left with is a robotic society full of Barbie and Ken duplicates, and the elimination of individuality and uniqueness.

Although plastic surgery is still treated under the NHS if it is the result of a horrific injury or disease, many people are now opting to fork out thousands of pounds on private healthcare for surgery such as a breast augmentation, liposuction, nose jobs, abdominoplasty and buttock enhancement surgery. Although these

elective aesthetic procedures are not conducted by the NHS, it is our health service that has to pick up the pieces when it goes wrong. The NHS is spending more than ever on corrective surgery for botched plastic surgery abroad, which places further burden onto our already financially unstable health service.

It's questionable whether there should be more ethical consideration when advocating unnecessary surgery; whilst it is important to recognise that cosmetic surgery is a choice, and that people should have the right to alter their body if it's something they deem vital to enhance their self-confidence, we should perhaps be encouraging society to transform its generalised, uniform perception of beauty instead. Is plastic really that fantastic?



DESIGNER SUNGLASSES ARE OKAY.



DESIGNER BABIES ARE NOT.

Unlike the most obvious perception, designer babies (despite their branded names) don't have Chanel and Gucci clothes, with a wardrobe worth more than the average parent. They are babies that have had their genetic material specifically altered by scientists, to remove inherited diseases and problems. However, there are issues concerning ethics, whether it is morally acceptable to genetically change a baby's makeup to remove unwanted aspects.

Despite this, the Nuffield Council on Bioethics says changing the DNA of a human embryo could be 'morally permissible' if it is in the child's best interests. Through research around the world and a handful of experiments, the creation of genetically altered babies has shown that DNA editing could, in principle, prevent children from inheriting serious diseases caused by mutations and faulty genes.

The creation of babies, whose DNA has been altered to give them the best chances in life, have received a cautious green light from a leading UK ethics body. They urge research into the safety and effectiveness of the approach, its societal impact, and a widespread debate of its implications.

This is a huge step forward in our dynamic world. Recent advances in genetic technology have given scientists the tools to rewrite the DNA bound up in living cells, letter by letter. With the procedures in hand, scientists can in principle tweak the genetic code in sperm, eggs and embryos, and change dramatically how future children develop.

However, this advance in technology has opened the door to the unrestricted use of heritable engineering, and an age of genetic haves and have-nots.

The prospect of modifying genes in human embryos has long been controversial. From the beginning, there has been immense concern regarding tampering, with such a complex substance as DNA, and it has yet to be proven safe. The most used tool for genome editing, Crispr-Cas9, caused more damage to the DNA than previously thought, leading to the disturbance of healthy genes as well.

DNA editing also raises the possibility of "designer babies", where the genetic code of embryos created, through standard IVF, is rewritten so that children have desirable traits. Scientific reports, do not rule out any specific uses of genome editing, but to be ethical, any applications must follow the principles of being in the child's interests, and have no ill-effects for society.

Abuse may arise if the law were changed to allow scientist to modify the DNA far beyond removal of unwanted aspects. Money is also a weapon that may be used to fuel the negative image of designer babies. While the technology could potentially reduce the number of people affected by certain genetic disorders, it could leave those with the diseases feeling more marginalized and with less medical support.

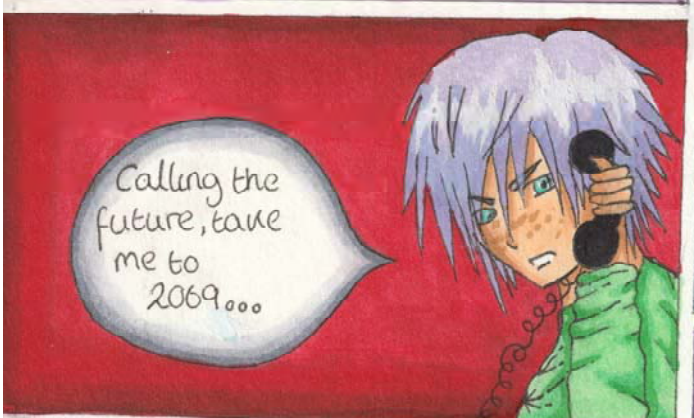
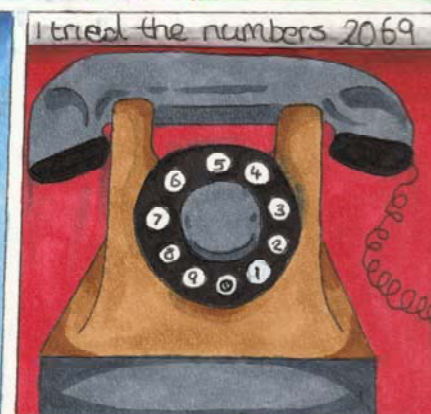


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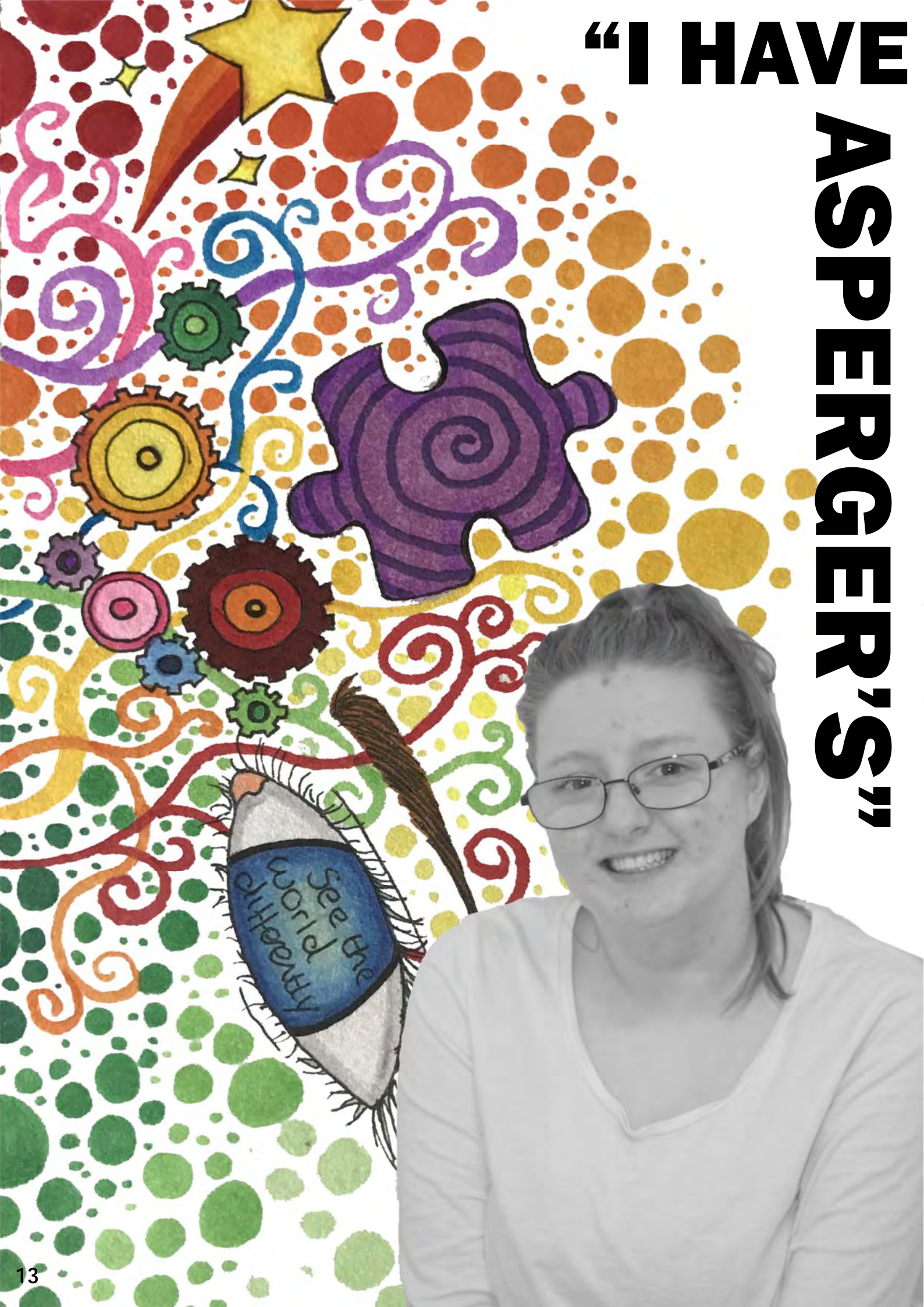
Artwork: Ciara Bolt-Wilson



I THINK TWICE TO:
MAKE
my
VOICE HEARD



“I HAVE ASPERGER’S”



An important issue that is getting a bigger media presence is autism, and autism spectrum related disorders. It is often viewed by the media as being negative and can often provide the reader with a very stereotypical, potentially speech-impaired child, with no recognisable talent.

The crux of the matter is that this isn't always the case. I have Asperger's. This is classified by the medical community as 'high-functioning', which suggests that we don't have any problems. If one were to judge a person with Asperger's on grades alone, they certainly wouldn't get a diagnosis of 'autism'. It is highly stigmatised, and as a result, many people feel isolated, and almost forgotten about.

Yet this is an extremely debilitating condition, that completely changes the life experience of a person with it. ASD, or Autism Spectrum Disorder as it is now being diagnosed as, is as suggested, a spectrum. Therefore, everyone falls on it in one place or another. Statistically, it is one female diagnosis, to every 4 male diagnoses. Females hide it better. It is 'normal' for a girl to prefer to stay in and read or prefer to be in her own world as such, whereas, this is seen as more uncommon in boys. Clearly also a sexism view intrinsically linked. Girls with ASD are often overlooked.

But this isn't about gender and ASD. I am going to tell you what life is like, as someone with Asperger's disorder. Just imagine a perfectly normal situation – going to a shop for example; simple for most, but not for us. Sensory issues are something commonly associated with perhaps more low-functioning autism, but for Asperger's, not classed as so much. However, it is such a critical part of life! So, back to the shop, (but now through the eyes of someone with ASD): the lights are blinding, the sound deafening, the colours becoming a kaleidoscope and cacophony of movement and noise. There is no true order to the shop. The shop is busy and confused. And so are you. That's just the shop experience- that's without the change in routine, and potential social integration, that I for one, am not willing to do without a lot of persuasion.

Obviously, this varies for different people, because everyone has different needs, but this makes leaving the house challenging, and often so anxiety-provoking that often we will put it off. This sometimes leads to bullying, or isolation, and this will not exactly make the person feel better about themselves and their own condition.

A word on labels; I personally don't like the changes that have occurred within the classification of ASD (and no, that isn't just my autistic brain not coping with change!). I was diagnosed with Asperger's, but now it is no longer politically correct to diagnose someone with that, because it is putting them 'in a box'. Instead, it is low-functioning, or high-functioning. I'm happy with a solid label, as it makes sense. The shambles of the new system does irritate me. Definity is a definite (no pun intended!) need for me.

I overheard a phrase recently, that really struck a chord with me, because it made so much sense. "It isn't the person that has to change, it is the environment!". I think that is the key message to people with autism, or any condition that limits someone's overall experience of the world. We don't have to change. No-one should have to change. It just takes one person to view you differently, and it completely alters your life.

Having a diagnosis isn't the dread I expected waiting for the results. It is a feeling I could never describe, because it is a feeling bigger than words, bigger than anything - It is unparalleled. All the pieces fit together perfectly like one of the most satisfying jigsaws you could complete.

It's okay to feel like you don't belong. You find joy in many things that other people wouldn't notice.

We all view the world differently. Even you. And that's okay.







I THINK TWICE TO:

*Slash the
clichés*

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

'What are your plans for the future?' This is the integral question that the majority of teenagers find the most daunting. With the burden of A-levels following you like a dark intermittent shadow, 'Post 18 options' are the last thing you are wanting to perpetually circle your mind.

Naturally, society has fallen into the expectations of University being the overriding pathway for teenagers, after the completion of their A-levels. The increased desire to achieve the best grades possible, is the pinnacle of students stress in today's society, due to the accumulating competitive nature of Universities. Despite this, being indecisive isn't an idea anyone should take lightly, the recurring vicious circle of not knowing which educational 'pathway' to pursue, and not to mention the myriad of Universities that have every intention to persuade you to study alongside them for the next three or four years.

'Time flies when you are having fun'. This proverb becomes ironic when you have six months to decide where and how you want to spend an average of the next three years of your life. Open days, financial aspects, predicted grades, these are just a few of the factors you have to think about before finishing your A-levels. Consequently, the majority of universities are situated all around the country! Naturally, when paving the way for your future, it's difficult to remember the reason and the ideal outcome for studying; employment.

Employment is an integral aspect of life that young people of today's society are not educated enough about, consequently making it increasingly difficult to pursue a career you will enjoy. Motivation is a much-needed aspect of existence; the main reason for wanting to achieve so highly is to eventually ensure you can sustain your future. The truth is, that achievement and expectations are far too prevalent in our lives today to dismiss.



The specious, idealistic future is advertised perpetually, as we aim to reach self-actualisation. Consequently, the pressures placed on us become overwhelming.

Furthermore, the strengthened desire for young people to reach their full potential has heightened the societal expectations, placed on adolescents in the contemporary world we live in. We are only thoroughly educated as students in the desirable pathway of 'higher education'. Consistently told the deluding notion that going to university will increase our chances of achieving in life and getting a better career. It can be recurrently unnerving to have numerous courses, of which you struggle to decide which one to pursue. Why? This needs to change.

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF SUCCESS

At its most fundamental success is defined to the accomplishment of an aim or purpose. Bound not by categorisation, the concept of success is applicable and adaptable to any aspect of life. But what values are we taught to regard as success? What makes someone successful? The fierce and bold contemporary social and political climate orchestrates non-tangible ideals for us to associate with success. How can we differentiate between our own individual, personally-motivated success between the uniformed, ideological and pre-determined values of success which are implemented blatantly into society? Ultimately, success is relative, people interpret it in different ways – there's no set way to construct or obtain it.

/sək'sɛs/

NOUN :

- THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF AN AIM OR PURPOSE

Social media in our contentious age treats a 'like' or a 'follow' as an instrument of signifying success. There's a conflicting attitude towards the purpose of social media consequently distorting the success sustained as a result of it. At its core, we can use social media to express either what we do or who we are. If your work, creation or product is the focus of your Instagram or twitter then your success is surmounted from whatever love, recognition and support you receive as a consequence of it. However, if your online presence is dedicated to who you are, as it commonly is for the majority of young people, then it's much more dangerous as success can never really be wholesomely created. Uniqueness isn't a foreign concept, and in today's political climate we're becoming increasingly aware of how no two people are the same. Therefore, exemplifying our unique selves on social media, how can we attain universal success? Since no two people in a planet of 7.6 billion are the same, posting something which is honest and authentic to you, could be entirely falsified to someone else. We cannot control how we are perceived, yet social media teaches us to translate the popularity from both negative and positive perceptions as success.

Academia is defined by the global recognition that good grades equal success since they supposedly provide a positive platform for life. After GCSE's it's a-levels' then university, then a job. If I don't perform and follow this pattern, am I destined to fail? This pathway pre-determines the ways in which we progress academically, and tailors our choices to conform to this restricted identity. There's a damning, demeaning sense to failure, a sense of unworthiness that requires immediate change and adaptation to repair the wreckage. If I'm intelligent in the 'traditional sense' but choose to have a career in something which deviates what the quintessential clever people do, can I still be successful? People who excel in life do so because of their own drive and passion. What's scary is that society tricks people with the capability to succeed in their passion into thinking something more 'standard' will be better for them in the long run. I'm not wasting a gift if I'm good at maths but don't get an office job, I'm successful because I can see beyond the classroom and know that happiness will run alongside my success if I choose to pursue what I want.

For some success is measured in money, being able to support themselves and others financially drives their career path and life choices. There's no fault in this, it motivates people to produce valuable work. But if money equates to success, does that mean underpaid workers are not successful? The age-old tale of underpaid and overworked NHS nurses corresponds perfectly; if a lifelong dream, ambition and goal has been acquired by someone who's worked tirelessly for it – are they not successful because others earn more than them? More earnestly, financial motivation can be routed in aims to support others, alongside great admiration, success is measured here in the ability to help someone else, money just acts as the stimulus. Some allow money to distort the values of success, which perhaps then symbolises that we regard money with more value than success, or that having money is more beneficial than being successful.

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On the flip side, self sufficiency is often a success signifier to many – when a culmination of blood, sweat and tears has resulted in maintaining the ability to provide securely for yourself. Contrastingly, this means money becomes secondary in the hierarchy of success. The drive for personal gain is routed in financial stability rather than material excess. To compliment this, people often feel most successful when they can provide for their family. Simultaneously reinforcing that family is a primary aim for many, perhaps as it is reciprocated as fundamental due to the influences of society. Years ago, for men, success meant you could leave your wife to clean and cook while you did the 'real' work. Nowadays, awareness and acceptance mean we aren't as heavily constrained to these outdated values, yet success is still commonly measured with the capability to obtain the stereotypical family life. Alternatively, for others, when their work reaches the point where it has made a definite and tangible difference, it correlates to success. Exemplifying even more how career-driven people work hard to succeed to a sense of self gratification. Being able to take a step back to see the positive impact your efforts have produced is for some, the epitome of success. Making a difference, making a change and making an impact can measure invaluable to financial gain or following the 'set path' defined by primitive academia.

Accomplishing an aim or purpose is universally interpreted differently, motivations for succeeding alter depending on a multitude of reasons. Society influences us to believe in and follow a defined path to undertake to ensure success, but this cannot suit a world of individuality. Therefore, success should continue to be liberated from a sole definition yet recognising that wage doesn't equal wonder and family cannot always determine happiness.

Kirsty Thorp



JOURNALISM: IS A STORY WORTH DYING FOR?

“These actions no longer carry the consequence of a backlash from the international community. Instead, these actions may trigger condemnation quickly followed by silence.”

Those were the words of Jamal Khashoggi for the Washington Post, describing the consequence of the state of the free press in the Arab world. The article was concise yet eloquent, beautifully illustrating the point and the lack of freedom of speech and how journalists paid the price for speaking out.

Then he became an example of the very point he was trying to prove.

On the 2nd of October 2018 Jamal Khashoggi disappeared, he entered the Saudi Arabian consulate in Turkey, after 15 Saudi officials followed him in. What happened next was a brutal assassination of the dissident, the gory details of which are extremely unsavoury to say the least. It triggered world-wide uproar, for a few weeks. It's now 5 months later. Nothing consequential has been done.

Whilst the brutal nature and potentially volatile nature of his country of origin made headlines, Jamal Khashoggi is by no means an outlier or an anomaly. With the recent rise in authoritarian powers, the threats to journalists are increasing by an unsettling amount. Since 2000, the Committee to Protect Journalists records over 600 cases of journalists murdered with confirmed motives. This does not even begin to encompass those who are missing or imprisoned.

The question remains, who would want to target journalists? The unsettling answer to that lies behind the number one reason for incarceration of journalists: charges against the state. It may seem like an old-fashioned idea, something you would read out of a cold war crime thriller, but state attacks on journalists are a very legitimate threat to the foundations of democracy, and we don't have to look too far to see chilling examples of this. In America, President Trump has been creating an anti-reporter sentiment, coinciding with the mail bomb attacks on many including journalism institutions such as CNN. When a leader feeds into the 'press is the enemy of the state' narrative, real consequences ensue.

The solution to state attacks on the press may seem simple when theoretical. If states condemn and follow through with substantial consequences on state executed attacks on the media, then there would be more of a risk that a country would not be willing to take when aiming for reporters. However, as demonstrated in 2009 with the brutal death of Sergei Magnitsky in Russian custody, these laws don't tend to be the most effective. Sergei Magnitsky was allegedly assaulted multiple times when under investigation in Russia into tax crimes and was denied medical treatment after refusing to take back his reports which incriminated many Russian officials. In light of the heavily speculated mistreatment and unjust nature of Magnitsky's case, the USA introduced the Magnitsky Act, which essentially meant that any human rights offenders could be punished for their crimes. This act was soon mirrored in many countries, such as Canada and the United Kingdom. However, quite quickly, it became strikingly apparent that the desired results were not going to be produced.

Despite the law being in place, it often gets overlooked as political agenda takes precedence, with justice for those killed subsequently being brushed off. In too many cases political groups are allowed to escape punishment because of the upset it would cause. This shows a complete disregard for those uninvolved journalists who were killed simply for doing their job.

If we don't begin to take action against those who prey on those in the media, we are going to arrive at a point where journalists are in too dangerous of an environment to report objectively without being subjected to the calamitous results. It's time to step in to defend those who are having their human rights infringed upon for merely turning up to work.

No reporter should have to worry whether their next op-ed will place a target over their head. No reporter should have to agonise whether their next column will subject them to a brutal torturing. No reporter should have to live in fear that their next article might be a death sentence.

Molly Bleckly

Photography: Amie Oldfield



The Great Escape

Gone for good? Or now driven by political awareness?

Usually, as media consumers we desire escapism as a diversion from the mundane monotony of the everyday – something to distract and put our minds at ease. Through books, films, music and more we allow ourselves to subconsciously suspend disbelief and blur the boundaries of reality. We submerge and immerse into a different world to our own, whether it be on Barry Island or Middle Earth. But happens when the distinct divisions between true and false, reality and disbelief merge – and the most contentious aspects our society start to seep into the media. Lyrics coated in political meaning, films and TV made to start a conversation are becoming more and more common; are we in need of this as a society? Or has the power of profit driven our entertainment and escapism into an instrument of ideology.

The entertainment industry has grown exponentially in recent history, in only 52 years we've gone from the first colour broadcast to smart TV's with voice control. Alongside that, as an audience we have access to an unearthly multitude of television, music and film. Netflix, Prime and Sky have put the cinema in our living rooms, Spotify and Apple Music have brought the concert to our bedrooms and Kindle, and iPad have brought the library to our sofa's. With this we have unlimited access to any kind of content we're in the mood for, so the urge to escape can be satisfied at any time. But what happens when this moment of suspension unknowingly becomes a metaphor for change. 'Thirteen Reasons Why' for example, in March 2017 Netflix adapted Jay Asher's novel into an original show, it spurned major success including commissioning for a second and third season. Through tackling the primary issue of youth suicide, it also covers rape, sexual assault, drug addiction and alcoholism as well as being routed in teen-drama and love. By bringing these issues under the spotlight of the media, the fundamentals of escapism are distorted because of the notable social and political conscience nonetheless, a conversation is started. People facing the same issues in their own life' can relate, and feel perhaps comforted in the knowledge of not being alone and recognition of the importance of their stories. On the flip side, people suffering and in pain might not want to see their struggles glorified and glamourized for the sake conforming to the stereotypical American high school TV show for the sake of profit and fame. How can we truly escape if graphic stories and images plague our screens? But what if we need this, in the social climate of the present day should we allow our entertainment to hybridise for the sake of greater understanding and awareness?

Emotions and memories are enhanced by music, we attach our personal experiences to lyrics known to millions, so they become our own. Songs act as a reminder of the things, people and places we love so we escape into them amongst the everyday to keep them close and vivid. Politics has always motivated music. In 2016 Beyoncé's 'formation' paid homage to the Black Lives Matter movement and the victims of Hurricane Katrina. In 1971 John Lennon's 'Imagine' simplistically called for positive change across the globe. In 1985, 'Do they know it's Christmas' pleaded for donations for the Ethiopian famine which resulted in Live Aid. In 2018, Ariana Grande said God is a woman whilst the 1975's 'Love It If We Made It' was filled with antagonistic lyrics including references to the Syrian refugee crisis and Trump's 2016 inauguration campaign. All the lyrics in these songs allude to relevant contemporary events there cultural inclusivity is perhaps what make them so successful.

“A beach of drowning three year olds” Love It If We Made It’

The 1975

“Nothing to kill or die for, and no religion too” ‘Imagine’

- John Lennon

Since music is so expressive, artists pour their anger to their craft which is why so many people can then relate. Politically motivated music is advantageous to us in the sense that it signposts particular events and issues – in 40 years this music will remind us of the emotions we felt, and the memories we created during this time. Then again, since these songs become so popular, is there a point where the wholesome intention of creating awareness is masked and blurred by the financial gain.

Ultimately, at its core the music industry is funded by the listeners. Musicians' careers are now dependent on tours and merchandise because streaming services enable us to get the actual music for pretty much nothing. Bands can't rely on sale of physical album copies like they could 30 years ago, that's why gig tickets have inflated so much –these sales are what funds the continuation of a music career. Amounting enough profit is exceptionally difficult for new bands and singers, so a song with political or social pragmatic implications could be tempting to create without the whole-hearted intention.

“You'll believe God is a Women” ‘God is a Women’ - Ariana Grande

“Nothing ever grows, no rain or rivers flow”

‘Do they know it's Christmas’ - Band Aid

Perhaps are revitalised social attitudes are calling for our content to be enriched with a reflection modernistic values. People can express themselves however they choose nowadays, as they should be rightfully be able to, representation in the media is key to establishing this solidly. Does this mean it's time to for escapism to take a back seat, or can we strike a balance between immersion in a hyper-reality whilst understanding and recognising the tropes of the current social environment.



I THINK TWICE TO:

*divert
society*

Knife Crime:

the sharp edge of a crisis

Welcome to a society where sitting on a park bench takes you to your grave; where you walk home from school but never reach the front door because you became an innocent victim within an epidemic. **The knife crime epidemic.** Call it wrong place, wrong time. Blame budget cuts to explain police shortages. Be critical of the youth of today. We no longer have new excuses to justify, both provoked and unprovoked violence that is continuing to infect our towns and cities.

It's described as a **"growing cycle of violence that has shocked us all"**, with incidents involving knives rising to 40,000 in 2018. The crisis has been overshadowed in recent years until the statistics meant we could no longer hide behind the problem. Ten years ago, knife crime was associated with gangs, carrying a pen knife was symbol of power; ten years later it's a method of street protection along with machetes and swords. For London boroughs, knife crime is a daily headline, each new name forgotten and replaced overnight. It has become a form of glory hunting. Inflicting death and pain, is a way into a life of crime for young adults groomed by gangs for their vulnerability and desire to impress.

Is it time we thought differently about society's treatment towards victims of Knife crime. Does the gang member, stabbed in street confrontation deserve our sympathy as much as the school girl murdered, with a simple stab to the back? Was his potential, like hers lost the moment the blade pierced the skin, or was his already lost when he picked up his weapon of choice?

Coverage of knife crime has a pattern. The media reports on the situation, using statistics like the fact that **285 people were stabbed to death in 2018 across England and Wales**. Politicians use the opportunity to fight, blame inadequate leadership and failing budgets; often forgetting the people involved and mocking a public sector stretched to its limits. The police are unfairly criticized, and maybe my view is biased because of my personal aspirations, however the simplest crimes funded by a black market are the hardest to control. Successful crime prevention and intervention take place every day, but it's an unrealistic ideal to remove knife crime overnight.

As of March 2019, the government has announced an extra £100 million to be used by police forces across the country to directly tackle knife crime. However, many have criticised the tactic of ploughing funds without a detailed plan to protect those involved. There's no question that it is people from oppressed and underprivileged communities who are the most directly affected; it is a **deep-rooted issue** connected to poverty. The knife crime epidemic was reported for many years, as being a 'black- on- black' crime. This racist stereotyping is not only misleading but problematic. In reality it affects young people from all backgrounds. When we remove the statistics and attempted quick fixes we're left with **three sectors failing to trust each other** : the communities, government and police force, all of whom have failed to provide a strong partnership. This absence of a unified approach is a pivotal reason why no previous solution has worked.

What do I believe to be the biggest flaw within the epidemic? We are focused on a quick fix, we want to develop an antibiotic to an infection we don't fully comprehend. To beat the problem, **we need to really understand it.**

DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES

WHAT WE ASSUME vs WHAT THEY LIVED THROUGH

Perception. Individualistic to a fault. One thing can have infinite identities.

Countries, for example, are perceived through a myriad of lenses: none more polarised than that of the local and the tourist. 'Is it like the movies?' Amie tells me gets thrown around by those who haven't visited. What they don't see are the 'hidden parts' off the beaten track, places a movie crew couldn't even dream about. Take South Africa, a country with landscape as diverse as the people who inhabit it, but if everyone listened to the international media you'd expect riots on each street corner and need security guards for a trip to Woolies. That's the first impressions perspective. Next comes the tourist experience: The heat, the meat, the endless wildlife. You spent three days on a game reserve, traipsed up Table Mountain and swam with the Penguins. No riots on street corners. Somewhat closer, you can begin to understand the culture but it doesn't scratch the surface of the everyday reality of a South African. Then eventually we come to the Feet on the Ground, Finger on the Pulse Perspective: Living 365 days in the Southern Tip of Africa. This is where I bring in Tayla Marot, recently moved to England from Johannesburg. Whilst a Brit, a Swede or a Colombian may initially think of lions and elephants (questions about the wildlife are the most common comment she receives!) Tayla's immediate response to the phrase South Africa is 'Equality'. One Phrase that causes two remarkably contrasting responses. The South African relates to the incredible people whilst tourists wonder only about the animals: Fast moving, fast entertainment, so ephemeral that one fleeting glance is all you may catch of an Elephant during a four hour drive. Therefore what the country is really crying out for the world to see is their evolution, their culture, their perspective.

This is not solely an Anglo-South African issue. Amie's interview reveals that this topic is alive and kicking across the pond. The foreign perspective once again remains rooted within the glistening movie theatres and the clamouring of Quick News (often Fake News). The world's wider interest lies within the scandal and spectacle so their perspective misses the mark of what truly lies within the country. None more so than that of America: a worldwide laughing stock thanks to the newly fake tan stained Whitehouse. Yet Amie's depiction shows a United States in need to serious appraisal. Safety is 'rare' (23 school shooting within the first 21 weeks of 2018), the politics 'all over the place' and the tourists 'don't appreciate the places they visit'. Having lived for 14 years in Florida, Amie is well placed to see that 'the media don't show the positives only the negatives' both nationally and internationally. But perhaps for once the view from abroad is belittling the dilemmas within a country. The warped perspectives have prevented wider empathy with Americans trapped inside a system just because their country is the latest joke on Twitter.

Here in Britain we are 8,397 miles away from Johannesburg. 4,386 miles from Florida. Between us stretch millions of miles, lands, languages. A different perspective each time the wind changes. Individualistic to a fault.

Quick fire Questions with Tayla (SA) and Amy (US) .

What is the first word when you think of:

Your Country:

TAYLA: Equality

AMIE: Infamous

The people:

TAYLA: Different

AMIE: Average

The scenery:

TAYLA: Amazing

AMIE: Urbanised

The school system:

TAYLA: A mix of qualities

AMIE: Sh*tty!

The Safety:

TAYLA: Awful

AMIE: Rare

Politics:

TAYLA: Even more awful

AMIE: All over the place

A hand in a dark green jacket holds a rectangular cardboard sign. The sign has the text "Can We Really CHANGE The PLANET?" written on it. The background features a clear blue sky, bare tree branches, and a dark green hedge.

Can We Really
CHANGE The
PLANET?



CAN WE REALLY CHANGE THE PLANET?

Caleb Clarke

What do you want in your future? The knowledge that you helped keep the planet green and healthy? Or the guilt of killing innocent nature that inhabits our shared planet for our own species' self-progression?

Some of you may be wondering 'What has it *actually* done?'. Well, it's caused CO2 emissions to increase by 40% since the start of the 20th century. It's also caused oceans across the globe to become warmer, the sea level itself to rise whilst decreasing snow and ice cover in the northern hemisphere and a severe decline in Arctic Sea ice. Analysis of all data and evidence shows that most of this occurred over the past 50 years or so, meaning it cannot be explained by natural causes therefore, blatantly proving the influence of human activity.

The world's seas absorb more than 90% of the heat given off from greenhouse gases and it's taking a toll on our oceans. If they aren't stabilized, it increases the risk of more drastic long-term shifts. One example: if West Antarctica's ice sheets start crumbling, that could push sea levels up significantly, which may have devastating effects on coastal habitats farther inland, cause destructive erosion, wetland flooding and loss of habitat for fish, birds, and plants. Due to these risks many coastal cities are already planning adaptation measures to cope with the long-term prospects of higher sea levels, often at considerable cost. Such as in Jakarta, a \$40 billion project will aim to protect the city with an 80-foot-high seawall money which could be better spent on making advancements in their societal issues and boosting their economy.

If this continues on such a large scale, there is likely to be extinctions. As the world retains even more heat, many plant and animal species will need to adapt their habitats at a rapid rate. Some species will likely be able to keep up; others unfortunately won't. Coral reefs, for instance, will have difficulty adapting if the oceans continue warming and becoming more acidic. The National Research Council has estimated that a mass extinction event "could conceivably occur before the year 2100." Having this put in perspective, it seems we should be doing a lot more than we currently are.

So, what will our future hold?

It will mean; our health will worsen, ice sheets will have melted, sea level will rise causing floods, our storms will be more vicious, water supplies will be diminished, and animals' habitats will have shifted. If nothing is done about this, climate change will place a fierce strain upon society when we're adults. However, at that point we should more of a say in the treatment of our planet and I believe more people in the younger generation will stand up for the earth. Doing so by changing some of the current attitudes towards it.

Before writing this article, I believed I was knowledgeable on climate change, however having researched many aspects upon the subject I've realised I knew very little upon the pressing matters. I have discovered many new aspects that were unbeknown to me as I'd never truly delved into the plethora of upsetting consequences our actions are having. It really is truly distressing and worrying to see the amount of damage we're causing. Although humans are the reason for the huge increase in climate change, we can also be the ones that can combat it, reverse it, change it. If we work to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy sources, we might be able to prevent some of the worse effects of climate change that are still yet to come.

As the sun slowly descended and gradually painted the sky yellow, Turville was nothing but a quick hush and soft whispers – the bird's hums simmered, the power lines and softwood silhouetted. Emmet breathed out long and slow as he kicked his feet gently against the tree he commonly found himself perched upon. It had just hit nine o'clock. A streetlamp flickered against the beginning of the now black, gloom skype, the bleakness cascading the surroundings. It was beautiful. The simplicity was elysian, encapsulating – a glistening sight of hope and freedom. Darkness connotes sadness and loneliness, but accentuates life and *living*. It was breath-taking. Emmet stood up swiftly, and balanced the tips of his beat-up vans on the old, thick tree branch, reaching for his phone from out of his back pocket. He waited a while, listening to the slow mummer of cars and the silent whisper of pedestrians before reluctantly unlocking his phone – enabling the real world to come crashing down, bringing him back into the bleach reality – destroying any hope of freedom.

One New Message.

W A
L K
I N G

But of course, freedom isn't in our reach; it is simply unattainable, something we thrive to establish, but never truly succeed in grasping.

Locking his phone and effortlessly shoving it back into his pocket, postponing the inevitability of real life, Emmet tucked his nose into his Dad's old, worn, beige sweater as he let himself sink back down onto the sturdy branch beneath him, kicking his legs softly – creating a swift rhythm, almost a perfect impersonation of a heartbeat: *his* heartbeat. He lay his left shoulder gently against the side of the tree trunk, his eyes drifting left and right, not knowing who or what to focus on. A dog could be heard loudly barking, the soft whispers of multiple cars in the distance and the distant vibrations of chatter and laughter of those enjoying themselves in their neighbours garden – life could be heard; life was being lived.

A soft smile made its way across Emmet's face, allowing himself to become lost in his mind once again, allowing himself to dream of a life he wished he could live; a life where he could live and be whoever he wanted to be. A life where he could finally be himself – finally be Emmet.

But that was a life that was impossible to live.

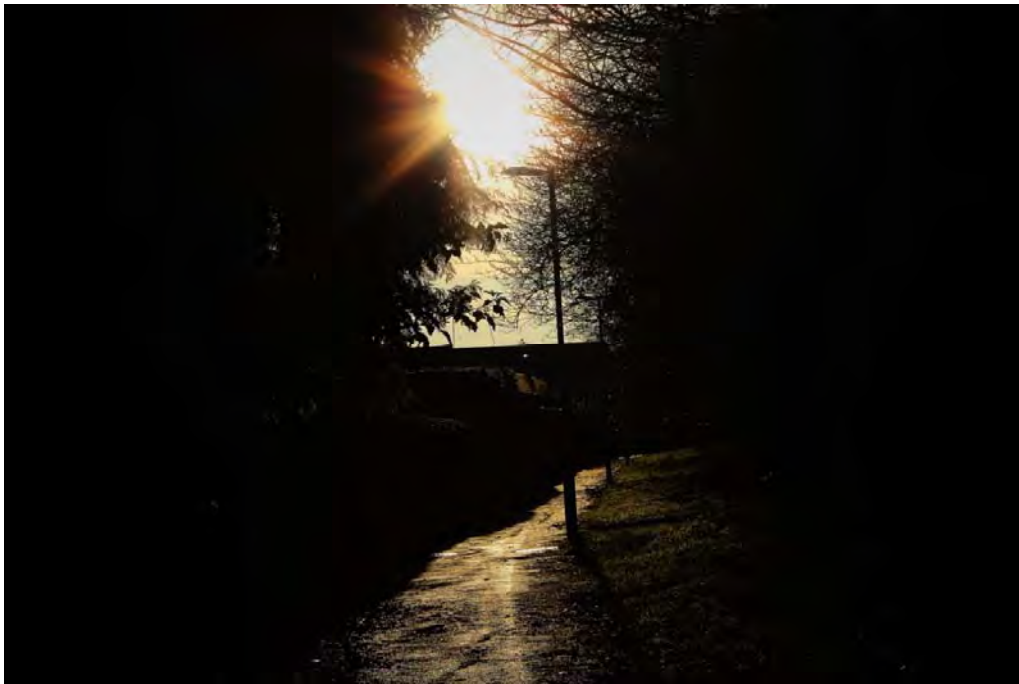
Emmet stopped kicking his feet, halting all movement as the abundant reality slowly absorbed into his skin: he was never going to be who he wanted to be, who he *needed* to be. Running his small hands over his face and roughly rubbing his hair in frustration, he finally stood up and checked his surroundings for a way down – *a way out*. He gripped hold of the trunk on his left-hand side, swiftly swinging down to the branch below the one he had previously been perched upon, before lowering himself down gently, feet first, hands wrapped tightly around the smaller branch then letting go and landing with a sudden thud. He took a moment to unbend his knees and look around in all directions – checking for unwanted visitors, likely threats, but alas, he was alone.

With a sigh, he lifted his arm effortlessly, reaching for his phone from his back pocket once again, finally accepting that he needed to come back and accept the life right out in front of him.

He looked down briefly at his phone before chuckling lightly under his breath. It was his Mum, of course it was—who else would it be? Pulling the sleeves on his slightly oversized sweater to cover his cold palms, he sniffed loudly, looking down and following the movement of his feet as they effortlessly made their way towards the main road and then down the cobbled pavement to make his way home. Each long stride he

TAR GET

He couldn't help but ponder over the irony of his game; avoiding the cracks to ensure it doesn't all fall apart.



SOCIETY'S HEART SHAPE

"Love is the answer to everything. It's the only reason to do anything"- Ray Bradbury

Love is the ultimate attainment of humanity. This is what we have been told since the day of our births through literature, through television and movies, through our parents and teachers and friends and lovers. But the grand picture of love that has been painted for us by society is not one of all-encompassing, unconditional, undiscerning love. It is one simple message: without a romantic partner you are nothing.

It's the same reason why suicide rates rise every Valentine's Day; the social pressure to get into a relationship is suffocating. We have been tricked into believing that we are not whole people and, instead, blind, stumbling sub-humans desperately floundering for our 'other halves'. It is because of this ingrained dependency on a relationship for happiness that so many people end up latching on to people, partner-to-partner, with no real sense of self and therefore no love for themselves. Growth in character isn't needed when you can just shove all of your emotional baggage onto a significant other, right? Maybe it is because of this radical idealisation of romance that 42% of all UK marriages end in divorce. We naively skip into romance like a kitten into oncoming traffic, expecting our own Cinderella Story, before realising the realities of love are hard work and compromise.

Alas, many people stay searching for their non-existent Prince-Charming-Next-Door.

Fortunately for the simpering sops wailing out for somebody to love them, society has forced upon us an easy step-by-step guide to the *~perfect relationship~*:

Meet your

~soulmate~

at a young age.

If you are a woman over 30 you are far too old and withered up for love.

Move in together. This is an excellent time for women to start housetraining to become the perfect domestic goddess! Remember, in order to *~truly be in love~* you must spend every single second of every single day together until you feel as though your identity has been swallowed up by the gaping jaws of sharing a living space.

Get married! Spend a minimum of half of your life savings on the extravagant wedding, otherwise you're not *~truly in love~*. Poor people can't *~truly be in love~*. At this point you can constantly make jokes about how much you hate being with your 'ball and chain', because despising your spouse is the norm for the *~perfect relationship~*.

This is an important one: **you must have children.** Girls, your body is an oven, and if you're not poppin' loaves out like a broken tennis ball machine then it's of no use to anyone.



The fact of the matter is that society violently drives the necessity of love down our throats on a daily basis, yet demands we only love in the specific way that it deems acceptable. It is not enough for us to love our friends and family, and it is wrong for us to love in anyway outside of the heteronormative, monogamous expectation. We are expected to give up our own selves in the name of a relationship, and gender roles are so rigid that they even extend to same-sex couples. The thing that is supposed to lift us up as humans has been disfigured to harm us.

It is pitiful that we can no longer just love, or just not love.

Therefore, I must urge people to ignore what they know about love. Ignore the movies that tell you a well-rounded, fully developed relationship will just bump into you on the street. Ignore the nagging voice of the dead generations telling you that you must get married and have children to be a good person. Ignore society's oppressive scream that you are nothing without its prescriptive version of 'love'. I urge you instead to actually act upon the most overused rhetoric in existence:

"Listen to your heart".

(Disclaimer: homosexual relationships, polyamorous relationships and any relationship not adhering to strict gender roles are not applicable. Just like the poor, they do not deserve love.)

Phoebe Dobie

Photography by: Miles Done

FPS Games – overkill, or still original?

Hannah Ford

With the uprising of video games after the market crashed in 1985, players have been itching for a sense of escapism, challenge and narrative development and so, developers have responded with the evolution of one of the most stereotypically “gamer” video game genres – first person shooter (FPS) games. The earliest FPS video games were Maze War, 1973 and Spasim, 1974, which lead to the advancement of this style of game then into the 80’s battle FPS games hit the arcade and from there, developers and players alike couldn’t get enough. This pushed us towards the climate we are in today – an era where developers are tapping into our desire for diversion from actuality and the stresses of everyday life that can also double as an outlet for fantasy violence, benefitting the producers financially and the players mentally.

This dynamic is all well and good, and don’t get me wrong I do enjoy a good FPS game as much as anyone else, but I’m not sure I can solemnly swear that all 826 officially released FPS games, not considering illegitimate homemade or smaller online games available, that have been published to date are completely individual, engaging with a rich narrative, slick animation/ effects and a good representation of diverse characters and cultures. Surely by now the underwhelming predictable plot lines of the majority of these games and the notably similar box designs such as those that adorn the boxes of COD Modern War fare 2.

and Battlefield Bad Company 2, or Farcry Primal and Star Wars Battlefront and the hundreds of other games that follow the limiting generic scene of a battle based FPS game despite their differences in theme and plot are becoming tired? You’d think so however, the gaming community is divided in this situation – those who are sick of the lack of new content and those who are contented playing the same game type because it meets all of their criteria for an enjoyable FPS.

I’m not saying that all of these games are bad, that’s not true, I’m simply highlighting the fact that with advancements in technology, funds and creator skills, surely there’s something more original up for grabs, something for both the narrologist’s and the ludologist’s? Something you can just pick up and play for a bit after a bad day or play for hour’s straight working through an engaging narrative and learning about each character, invested in the storyline. I know people who fit into both of these categories – my step brother skips straight through the scenes explaining the mission and increasing the depth of the game and jumps straight to shooting stuff, I on the other hand love those parts as they make my actions in the game feel much more purposeful and motivate me to complete the section. This just demonstrates that really there’s no way to make something for everyone, people are just too different, their needs diverse and unpredictable but how can developers know what else works well when they’re so drilled into the routine of making a generic game? I believe there’s a call for something different, a new approach, a new perspective or just a change to break out of the monotonous routine that these games far too often fall into. As society and technology changes, so do our expectations and desires; we need games that reflect this shift but also satisfy the basic needs of a good shooter game. Let’s embrace our changing minds and start to make some incredible games again.

Artwork by Hannah Ford





I THINK TWICE TO:

BE
JUST ME

10

THE BLACK



LITTLE DRESS



Designer: Nicole Morrison
Photography: Tayla Marot

[LittleTAP]

STREET STYLE CHIC

Whether it's New York, London, Milan or Paris. Fashion Week is never complete without the street style.

Every single season, I know I'll spend each evening of fashion month scrolling through all the looks from outside of the catwalk ... so to see the looks in real life was surreal to say the least. What can I conclude from London Fashion Week? The brighter, the better. To put it in simple terms, everything but the kitchen sink plus each colour of the rainbow (in every shade possible) strutted down the streets of London this year. Incredible and adventurous combinations, style and ideas weren't the only interesting aspects of the street style. More fascinating still, were the people wearing idiosyncratic and quirky creations. And we were lucky enough to speak to some of them...



TESS HELL

Fashion Editor for Forni Magazine

Started off interning at Fashion Week when she was younger.

Hardest thing about being an editor:

"There is so much to do when producing a magazine. Managing all of the teams and sticking to deadlines is the biggest challenge"

Biggest piece of advice: Social media, networking and influencing is the biggest tool that lead me to where I am now. Instagram is about making yourself feeling



SARA

Hair Stylist for Toni and Guy

Working at the shows this week

Main stylist will do a demonstration then all stylists will replicate this look. 3rd time at



RAWAN

"I'm a full-time law student but blogging, styling and fashion- it's my downtime and what I love"

"Blogging has resulting in so many small brands approaching me which eventually has led



QWAN AND QIJN

YouTubers who post videos and look books on their channel.

First time at London Fashion Week

A huge thank you to @fashionscout and @officialgfw for this incredible opportunity!

Mentions

Fashion Scout	Official Graduate Fashion Week
London Fashion Week	Saffy Khan
Tolu Coker	Stefan Howarth
Hope Macauley	

MERIT AWARD SHOW- TOLU COKER

I always thought I knew how much fashion week had to offer. I'd seen the insane pictures from the runways, I'd seen the eclectic and daring street style. But it wasn't until I actually attended that I realized the incredible focus on the future generation. Hannah and I were lucky enough to win tickets to the Merit Award Show held at Free Mason's Hall, London, thanks to Fashion Scout London and Official Graduate Fashion Week. The Merit Award is a new talent initiative to support and display upcoming designers' work which then enables them to receive support and development with their designs and businesses. As one of the most competitive industries, the pride and joy of winning this award, I imagine, would be overwhelming.

The AW19 Merit Award went to Tolu Coker. And what collection it was! Her collection was built around inclusivity, diversity and social responsibility. She wanted to make a statement to express political reform and to challenge social and economic stereotypes, as well as connecting to her cultural roots and reconstructing black heritage.

The show started with a heartwarming and sentimental video full of clips from Tolu's life and culture. Then the runway commenced.... incredible pieces, full of layering, a diverse range of prints, taking something seen as stereotypically smart for example the blazer two piece and transforming that to something vibrant, fresh and exciting.

An aspect of the show which largely stood out to me was the attitude of the models. They were completely laid back, casual and you could feel and see how much they were enjoying the show and the pieces whilst dancing to the music of Tolu's culture.

Every single look had something different from deep leather maroons to chains, blues and beautiful prints designed by Tolu. Each piece was incredibly significant. However, my favourite piece to groove down the runway was this eye-catching red leather skater dress. The piece was paired with a cropped dark denim crop top. Accessorized with super sporty footwear to finish this incredible look. An amazing detail was the chained pieces hanging along the model's back. Overall this piece ticked all the boxes yet offered something completely alternative, intriguing and an ongoing sense of youth ran

throughout. Tolu's collection has gained huge success allowing her to dress stars such as Rita Ora, Demi Lovato and Rihanna as-well as multiple awards.

Once the hustle of the show began to fade, we noticed a few faces on the front row wearing a familiar designer to us. Bloggers @stylegrimoires and @howste were dressed by Hope Macauley. Hope has become an iconic and familiar designer to me this year and her pieces keep popping up more and more. Saffy (@stylegrimoires) and Stefan (@howste) were delighted to be able to talk about the incredible designer and it can be concluded that her alternative, thinking out of the box mind set has earned her extreme success!



IS FASHION PREDICTABLE?

I'll tell you what's predictable, what's inevitable, what I'd bet my life on... it's predictable that Monday morning traffic is most people's version of a nightmare. I'd say it's inevitable, that every single day of the week, there will be a mention of the weather England has blessed us with that day. I bet my life, that every romance film ends up with either, a happy ending or a weeping, crying, 21st century version of Romeo and Juliet.

But fashion, style, art, the runway...I couldn't predict that if I tried.

It all started whilst flicking through the gleaming metal rails of Topshop when I pulled out a pair of flares. Holding them up for my mum's approval (with an underlying hint of pretty please, with a cherry on the top, buy these for me!) To get the reply of "Oh, it's good to see flares are coming back into fashion." There and then, that's when it hit me. Without even realising it we're seeing trends and styles from decades ago coming back into our lives and straight into our wardrobes. The 90s saw chunky Doc Martins on everybody's feet, now, thanks to FILA and Buffalo, we're living in a remake of that decade. Mom jeans, dungarees, leather trousers (p.s. If Gatsby, the 20s, flapper dresses, margarita glasses and all that jazz, fancy making a comeback I'd be very open to

Wait. No... it's not possible, I could never say fashion is predictable. I'd never bet my life on any Haute Couture runway. It's not just what we see on the rails and it's not just bloggers #OOTD posts on Instagram. Fashion... it's something else.

How can I prove it? And more importantly who has proven it? The one and only Alexander McQueen. That's who. Nothing other than extraordinary and out of the box thinking was expected from McQueen. His Spring 2001, Ready-to-wear, collection was no exception.

The venue held a large mirrored cube which the audience sat around. During the show when the cube was lit, a mental-hospital set up was visible. The models wore hospital headbands and conveyed a demented and distressed tone. This was shocking and unexpected to many, subverting the typical runway show. The garments were beautifully constructed with a huge gothic yet elegant feel running through them. The collection spoke for itself, but that wasn't enough. Just when everybody thought the show was over, McQueen had something else up his sleeve. To add to the climatic and powerful catwalk another glass cube was revealed. Now picture this - you're sat in a show after watching something truly chilling, only for a huge glass cube to come crashing down. Fragmented pieces everywhere. You'd be in shock. I for one would be looking for the nearest emergency exit.

The smashed cube frame revealed an overweight nude woman, her face was covered by a mask and she was breathing through a tube. The scene consisted of neutral colours and fluttering moths.



But why? Why did he do this? I found the provoked idea particularly interesting. All of this allowed the audience to question the notion of conventional beauty. What does it mean to be stereotypically beautiful? What is beautiful? The shocking and unanticipated final image stressed the morally incorrect activities of society marginalising individuals, who are considered not to be beautiful. It was an exaggeration of how some people are seen to be treated.

Nowadays we are blessed to live in a world where 'different' is becoming more 'normal.' So many fashion brands are expanding diversity. Nobody is marginalised for colour, belief, race, size... for example, look at the amount of companies providing for plus sizes and how many people think and know that curvy is beautiful.

20 years ago, no one could have ever guessed how inclusive fashion could really be! The real question is... what will happen next?





PASSION



SPEED



COURAGE



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SPORT:
THE
PERSONAL
THE
INFAMOUS

Was Kepa Arrizabalaga's condemnation of Chelsea a malicious attack on Sarri's authority or just a misunderstanding?

On February 24th 2019, Kepa Arrizabalaga tainted the reputation of the Premier League and humiliated his club and manager in front of an audience 81,000 spectators, sparking a mass outrage amongst the media and fans alike. The Carabao Cup is a domestic competition fought for by all 92 teams in English football, there is **pressure amongst players and managers to deliver**; with Chelsea it was no exception. With the battle for Champions league qualification becoming increasingly more in doubt, Chelsea and Sarri could not afford to return to Stamford Bridge empty handed. After a 6-0 embarrassment at the hands of Manchester City the week before and surrendering 4-0 to Bournemouth two weeks prior; Maurizio Sarri's authority and managerial ability was under scrutiny by Chelsea fans.

In the final minute of added time, Chelsea goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga pulled up with cramp for the second time during the match. Ex-City keeper and penalty specialist Caballero was called up to the touchline as fans started to believe Chelsea had a chance at securing their first piece of silverware this domestic season. However, this was not to be as all beliefs were obliterated in a way in which nobody out of the 81,000 spectators even imagined was possible. Kepa stood his ground, refusing to be substituted. Chaos ensued with Sarri engulfed in fury and, unsurprisingly, causing **mass hysteria** amongst the touchline. Sarri had been publically embarrassed by his own pawn and had been played in the game that he had once controlled.

But what does this mean for the power of the manager over the player?

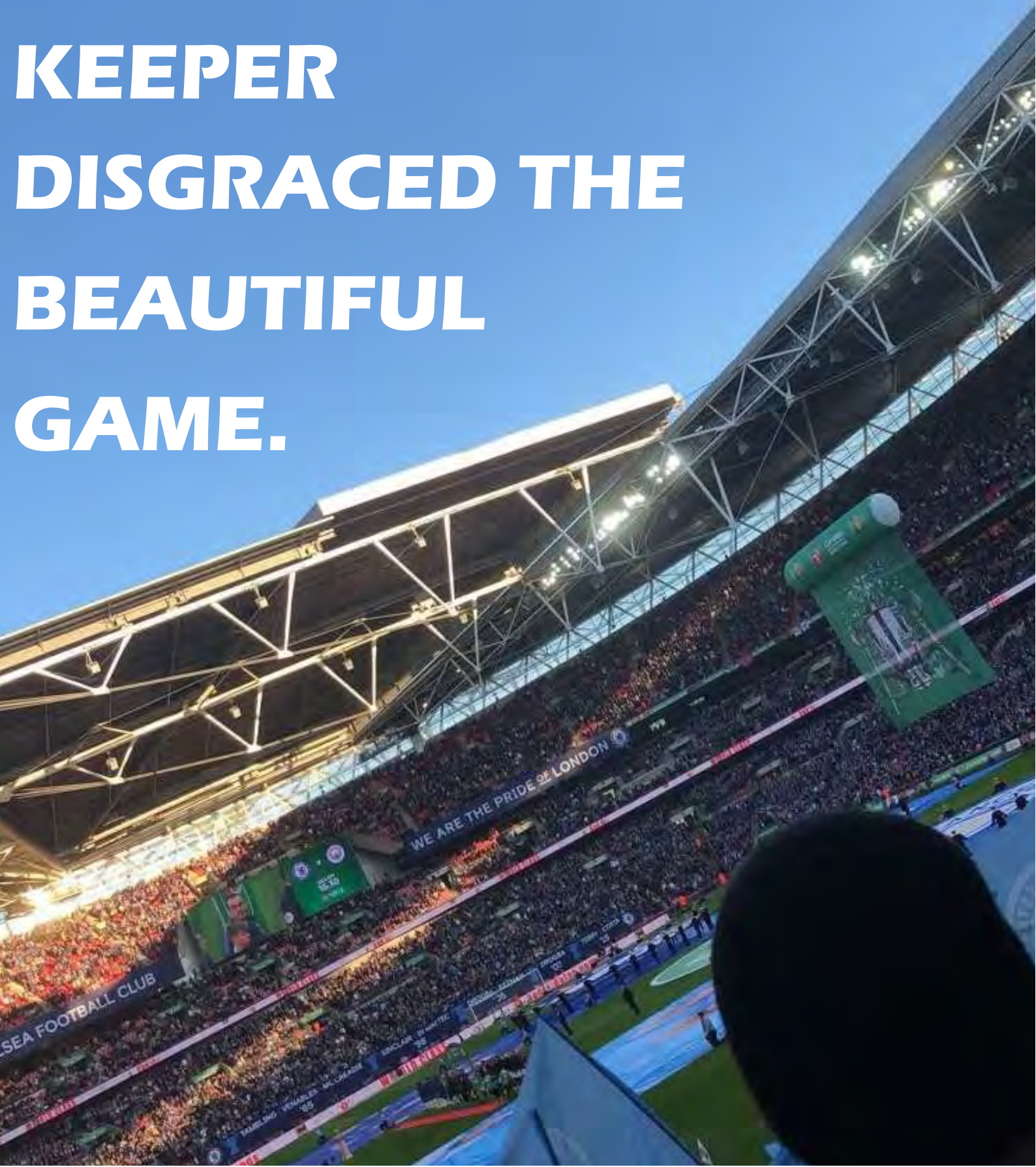
With players ostensibly holding clubs to ransom to try and get a bargain for a better contract, do players have too much power over their respective clubs? With your average individual working the same, monotonous 9-5 job for the majority of their career, why should football players be allowed to demand an increase in pay at will? If this is not acceptable in the stereotypical workplace then why should it be any different for some guy who's good at kicking a ball or good at ensuring a ball doesn't travel over a goal line? It shouldn't be.

This inevitably links back to the classic question 'why doctors, nurses, paramedics and firefighters aren't paid the same as footballers?' Although their pay is relative to the vast audience that they attract and sponsorship being a fundamental factor for the exposure of a company's product, why are the people who ensure that the very foundations of our society are put in place paid substantially less, why are the people who save lives paid less, why are the people that risk their lives to save others paid less than the those who fall to the ground at the slightest hint of contact?

To conclude, players in today's game have **too much power** over their employers. It is unacceptable in any other workplace to simply say 'no' to your boss, let alone publically embarrass them in front of thousands of spectators and yet despite this Kepa was only fined a week's wages. This event is indicative of the consensus that players now have more power over their managers than ever before. Their greed and arrogance has **corrupted the innocent ideology of the beautiful game** and it is unlikely to be the same again.

James Adamson

**"MUTINOUS
SHOCKED
SLAUGHTERED"**
**HOW THE CHELSEA
KEEPER
DISGRACED THE
BEAUTIFUL
GAME.**



2 years later...

29th January 2017

Ward 24. The familiar yet chaotic nature of A&E at Leighton hospital, was replaced by the disturbingly calm atmosphere in Oswestry's Orthopedic hospital. It felt like an age. Every tentative step I took, my feet got 2 stone heavier. Faces went by with no emotion, no notice. The despondent nerves rose inside of me as I sat agitated in the robust hospital chairs...until I was called in. The diagnosis was confirmed and the stress fracture in my right lumbar vertebrae was real. Part of me had already accepted it and I continued with the hospital protocol, dazed and emotionless. It wasn't until I had time to think that realization hit me and my eyes flooded with acceptance. I knew full well that my dream of going to the Commonwealth Games, in Australia the following year, was out of the picture.

14th February 2018

My Facebook was in overdrive. The continuous ping of notifications became unbearable, as one by one my teammates announced their selection to the Gold Coast. I knew it would be a hard day. I had already accepted that, however it's different when it comes down to it. My heart tore between joy for my friends that had made it and grief for myself at being tripped at the last hurdle. My mind raced with what could have been and all the while I questioned why, why me? They say 'everything happens for a reason' and I do stand by that. But what is my reason? Will I ever find it out?



23rd February 2019

Finally, a sense of achievement. I stood behind the curtain. Heart pounding, hands shaking, audiences cheering. I had moments, maybe even seconds until I was about to walk out and compete again for the first time in 2 years. It was not about the outcome it was experience. A step back into the arena and into my journey.

Even though my injury still does and will continue to affect me. I made myself, my coaches, my family and anyone involved in my journey proud by getting back out there again. As I was continually reminded that 'not many people have it in them to get back from a setback like this I smiled my way through the competition and felt overwhelmed by a simple gesture from my coach. A high five and the words 'welcome back.'

Isla Warr

Artwork: Tara Moseley





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