



Hockey committee members 'pressured' to resign

'Severe' sanctions imposed following streaking incident in Julian Hodge

EXCLUSIVE
Anna Lewis

Members of the Cardiff Men's Hockey committee have reportedly been 'pressured' to resign after team members were recorded 'streaking' in the Julian Hodge Building.

The incident, which took place in the building's library and was recorded on video by a surprised onlooker, led to both social secretaries of the men's hockey team leaving their positions.

According to a message posted to the one of the group's social media pages last week, the committee felt itself to be under pressure to introduce 'sanctions against certain members of the club'.

In the Facebook post, the secretaries detailed an alleged loss

of confidence in their ability to fulfil their roles, explaining that "we feel we have lost the backing of the chairman and the committee and we feel our position has become untenable."

"We feel we did the job to the best of our abilities and feel that his decision is putting the club's best interests first."

"It's with a heavy heart and teary eyes as I type this for the last time," the message concluded.

There has been speculation that the students involved in the incident, which was reported by Gair Rhydd last week, have been banned from training or participating in matches for the remainder of the academic year.

However, those responding to the disciplinary action have voiced concerns that the action taken is too severe.

Former student Chris Houghton said: "I think a hockey player's job is to play hockey. If anything, all that running around with their kit off shows is an intense devotion to their sport."

Some have claimed that students shedding clothes on campus is not a new phenomenon, especially in student residences such as Talybont, and is not particularly controversial.

Indeed, the behaviour seems muted in comparison to alleged behaviour in student halls - one third-year student recalled waking up in Talybont South to "six students

peeing on the side of my house."

Journalism, Media and Culture undergraduate Sophie Lodge also confirmed that she had seen "people streaking" in Talybont North during her first year.

But talking about the disciplinary action, Lodge expressed doubt over whether the resignations were too harsh an outcome.

"It's not like they are losing a job, they're losing a voluntary position in a society they participate in their spare time," she said.

Last week, Gair Rhydd reported that students who bore witness to the hockey players streaking in the library found the incident amusing rather than disruptive.

Speaking to student news website

Pictured: Hockey players at last year's varsity (Talesin Coombes)



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THE FREE WORD

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Fitness & practice

Last week, we ran a story on our front page about a group of Medics Rugby players who appeared to have the tour from hell. We were approached by multiple corroborating sources who said that some serious shit went down on their tour to Amsterdam. An investigation continues, and until it concludes, the definitive truth of the incident will remain up in the air, along with the collective fate of those involved.

But while answers are yet to come from the uni, our publication has provoked an interesting debate. There are people who believe we should not have reported the story - claims that we "did not understand the scale of the issue" were passed on to one editor, for example - because of the clear violation of fitness to practice guidelines the alleged behaviour would constitute.

For the uninitiated, "fitness to practice" guidelines are there to make sure the public remains confident in medical staff. They're there to ensure that everybody who goes under the knife feels as though their fate is being placed in the hands of individuals who are trustworthy and driven to make reasonable decisions. Committing crimes or engaging in activity that would leave a cruise company on the fence about involving the police is a pretty clear breach of fitness to practice, and if the disciplinary panel believes that some wrongdoing has taken place, it would have a serious impact on whether or not those involved will be able to progress their studies.

People fuck around and make mistakes when they're young. Lord knows I did, because being a glorified child and having access to white lightning is a recipe for disaster. Hell, Stephen Fry went to prison before he went to Cambridge University (normally, it's the other way around). However, there reaches a point where enough is enough - and when you commit to being a doctor, I'm pretty sure that's when you have to call a moratorium on the bullshit. The University does, too, and that's why they present people with fitness to practice guidelines on day one.

These guidelines are not simply rules to be flouted. These aren't things you can do, but should make an extra effort to hide. If you break the rules, you can be

found unfit to practice, and that's the end of your career. Everybody knows the risk. Now, we don't want to end anybody's career before it begins. But if somebody's career ends as a result of their own actions and we happen to report on problems they've caused for themselves, it's their fault, not ours.

A significant member of the administration at the Heath lamented our publishing the article, but they said it needed to come out, and that medics "get away with too much." I think that's an interesting statement; I genuinely hope that there is no wider trend of medics ignoring the rules and simply hoping they don't get found out, because that's terrible conduct for those who hope to take peoples' lives into their hands for a living. A literal piss up is one thing, but where does that attitude end? If the boundaries aren't the rules, then where are they?

I know, I know, I'm a journalist, and journalism is a profession in disrepute. But we have our own fitness to practice guidelines, and I abhor those who break them. Believe me when I say that the phone hacking scandal has hurt the trade quite deeply, and everybody involved knows that. The actions undertaken by reporters at the News of the World and their ilk were a disgrace that violated the spirit of the profession, and it leaves me very depressed to know that the public has lost confidence in us, because as with doctors we need public confidence to do our work.

Life at the Heath is hard, and sport is one of the few outlets medics have in an otherwise gruelling environment. It would be a terrible shame if people began to conclude that sport and the standard of conduct expected of a healthcare professional were incompatible. When reading reports like ours, though, the administration would be forgiven for beginning to think that might be the case.

If allowed to develop, that could become a real problem. The Medical School is incredibly image conscious, for reasons that are probably obvious: as with their students, the school itself needs to maintain a reputation of good conduct to make its work worth anything. The NHS in Wales is taking a beating

in the media at the moment, and this rugby nonsense is another battle on another front for the University Hospital.

The Heath doesn't want its reputation to suffer, because that would be bad for students, and I don't think any medic wants it to suffer either. So get it together, guys; you're not just here for yourselves, but for all the people you'll go on to care for when you graduate, and no trip to Amsterdam warrants taking a patient's confidence for granted.

We are aware that narrative surrounding sport at University might be building through our coverage. But any suggestion that we have declared war on sports teams is completely false, and our choice of front page story should be considered a reflection of that. It's hard to see why the punishment against the hockey team has been quite so swift, especially when onlookers and WalesOnline don't seem particularly bothered. Bans and restrictions only seem to serve to drive this behaviour underground. After all, initiations are technically banned, but they still take place, and we all know it. I don't think there's anybody who isn't aware what "welcome drinks" events truly are, and I don't think that there will ever be a way to prevent them without turning the Athletic Union into a police state.

The events of the past few weeks have been negative reflections of sport culture, which is nearly always a positive part of the university experience - but these events have been fairly tame compared to some of what goes unreported, and the rumours seem to get worse as time goes by. Even as an editor who relishes in the newsworthy, I would hate to see the UK's universities drift towards a sport culture not dissimilar to that in the USA, where initiations and celebrations aren't just kind of stupid, they're dangerous and transgressive. After the Cardiff Uni Football Team's disastrous social with FAD made national headlines last year, there was a hope that people would at least avoid acts of unspeakable stupidity in future. So why does it seem like things are only getting worse?

- MOCD

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY: GAIR RHYDD 662 20/3/2000



We're going back to 2000 this week for our little blast from the past, at a time when Quench was non-existent and instead we had the marvel that is 'GRIP' as the university magazine. The week of 20th March 2000 seemed to be a week of woes for Cardiff, as several students are involved in a fire, others witness the arrest of two burglars and an investigation is underway into the assault of a Cardiff student.

At this point in the academic year 15 years ago, the Students' Union elections were imminent and Gair Rhydd had a '20 page pullout special' dedicated to the sabbatical candidates. However the main headline of issue 661, was 'ELECTRIC DREAMS' in big block capitals, presumably in reference to the 1984 film of the same name. Some final year students in a house in Mackintosh Place woke up to find their fuse box on fire. This could have been prevented, as it was a result of 'inadequate maintenance by the housing agency', who allegedly were called by the residents about a 'burning smell', but failed to ensure that proper safety checks were made. Luckily nobody was hurt, but the fire forced the final year students to move temporarily into a local bed and breakfast. We can only hope that 15 years later times have changed and that proper safety measures are now put in place.

Also on the front page is a small article about two burglars who apparently attempted to rob a house in Cathays, but were caught up with by the police on the steps of the Students' Union. The so-called 'smug

thieves' were tracked on their escape from the property on CCTV, directing the police officer to the 'two criminals'. The delinquents of 2000 failed to step up their game.

In 2000, an independent cinema had closed on Queens Street, leaving film-lovers to worry about the future of 'alternative movie experience', or so says Gair Rhydd of the past. In a teaser for a larger article within the pages of GRIP, a 'lone' independent cinema still stands tall in the face of commercialism. This cinema is the Chapter Arts Centre, and despite receiving a serious face-lift since the article was written, it still stands today, fully functioning. Conversely, something which is well in the past is the 'Gair Rhydd Fashion Show' that occurred in 2000. Apparently the publication was a 'dedicated follower of fashion', and with our current editor's fashion sense, we can say that things are very different today. Models dancing to 'Blame it on the Boogie' happened fifteen years ago to celebrate the millenium, but I doubt it will happen again under the Gair Rhydd name.

It's funny to think how in just 15 years so much can change. Design-wise, Gair Rhydd in 2000 would be practically unrecognisable were it not for the dragon logo. There are things we try to move away from, but also a good standard of writing and a level of journalistic integrity that we hope to maintain in issues to come.

- MM

Campus In Brief



Joe Atkinson

Cardiff was thrown into darkness as experts from the university's School of Physics and Astrology joined students on Friday morning to take in a partial solar eclipse as the moon passed in front of the sun. There were a series of lectures on Thursday before the eclipse was viewed at the National Museum Wales using specially designed telescopes to ensure the rare event could be viewed safely.

Last week Cardiff Fringe Festival descended upon the Students' Union. The week-long celebration of all things society related included an 'inner child day' hosted in Y Plas, which involved giant connect 4, '90s music, face painting and puppies. As well as this there was a wide variety of society events to get involved in, from drama to music to comedy to photography.

Professor David James of the Cardiff University's School of Social Sciences was confirmed as a new Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, taking the total of members of the school with fellowships to 14. Professor James, who is also Director of the ESRC Wales Doctoral Training Centre, was among 33 people named Fellows by the Academy.

A report from Cardiff University researchers revealed that a poorly understood chromosomal condition increases likelihood of the development of schizophrenia in both children and adults by 25 times. Deletion syndrome is estimated to affect around 35,000 people in the UK, and results in the deletion of small amounts of the sufferer's DNA.

Cardiff became one of the very first UK cities to be officially recognised for promoting sustainable food. Cardiff University was part of a partnership initiative that intends to promote the benefits of eating healthily, as part of a wider project run by Food Cardiff, which has the intention of helping the Welsh capital city become a sustainable food city.

NATIONAL

Chancellor George Osborne announced his pre-election budget, which pledged to cut a further £30 billion of spending in the next Parliament should the Conservatives remain in power. Forecasts in the budget predicted that public spending would end a year earlier than predicted in 2019-20 as Osborne also announced that the UK's economy had grown by 2.6 per cent in 2014, which was faster than the growth of any other advanced economy, though it was down on predictions.

In response, leader of the opposition Ed Miliband described Osborne's budget as "devastating" for the state of funding for the Welsh government from the UK treasury. Miliband was speaking at the Welsh capital's Millennium Stadium on Thursday, and claimed that living standards would be "driven down for another five years" should the Conservatives stay in Government come May 8th.

Two 17 year-old boys and 19 year-old man were flown back to the UK and arrested on suspicion of preparing terrorist activities having been stopped in Turkey attempting to cross into Syria and join Islamic State. The trio, and from the London area, are the latest young British people who have tried to join IS, with three schoolgirls believed to have attempted to travel to Syria still missing.

Three judges were sacked for using their official IT accounts to access pornographic material. District Judge Timothy Bowles, Immigration Judge Warren Grand and Deputy District Judge Peter Bullock were all removed from office, and their indiscretions were described as "wholly unacceptable conduct for a judicial office holder" by the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice.

Upon their UEFA Europa League elimination, Everton became the last British club standing in European competition to bow out, meaning that for the first time since 1993 no British football club will appear in the quarter final of a European tournament, highlighting the perceived dip in quality of the beautiful game in the UK.

INTERNATIONAL

Nine people were arrested after a gun attack in city of Tunis, capital of the North African country of Tunisia. 23 people, including 20 foreign tourists, were killed as two gunmen attacked the Bardo Museum. Among the victims of the attack was British national Sally Adey, while Islamic State has claimed that they were behind the massacre.

Arctic sea ice reached a record low in terms of maximum winter volume as the scientists continue to point to the effects of carbon emissions and global warming. There was peak coverage of 14.5 million square kilometres recorded by the US National Snow and Ice Data Centre, a figure 130,000 square kilometres smaller than the previous low recorded in 2011.

It was revealed that Microsoft supremo Bill Gates' 'Gates Foundation' has invested \$1.4 billion in some of the world's biggest fossil fuel companies. The Guardian published the figures and ran a petition to attempt to get Gates' foundation to start divesting from fossil fuel companies within five years and immediately freeze new investments being made.

Fashion company Dolce & Gabbana kicked up a storm as they described IVF babies as 'synthetic' and questioned the morals of allowing children to be raised in a gay family. In a joint statement Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana, themselves gay, said: "We oppose gay adoptions. The only family is the traditional one". Prominent celebrities including Sir Elton John have campaigned for a boycott of D&G following the remarks, while protestors gathered outside stores.

The final of the ever-controversial 2022 Qatar FIFA World Cup was officially announced to be taking place a week before Christmas Day 2018. This confirms the long-discussed and anticipated plans to host the first ever winter World Cup due to the immense heat that the famous footballing nation of Qatar experiences in the summer months.

Pictured:
A partial solar eclipse (Photographer: NASA)

“ Arctic sea ice reached a record low in terms of maximum winter volume as the scientists continue to point to the effects of carbon emissions and global warming ”



NEWS

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Cont'd: Hockey Committee Members forced to resign



Continued from front page

The Tab, postgraduate Nate Yeo described the incident as "really funny".

"People in the room felt lost and just stared at them," he explained. Yeo promptly started to film the event in order to "share it with my friends".

As an international student from China, the student labelled the incident "the most interesting and shocking moment since I came to Cardiff".

Another student described the event as over "relatively quickly".

Despite being "quite cross" that the event disrupted their studies, they concluded that "anything else and I'd be annoyed but in this instance you have to laugh".

One student voiced concern that the relatively harsh nature of the disciplinary action is in-part due to the media attention that the incident received. The story was picked up by both The Daily Mirror and WalesOnline.

A University spokesperson confirmed that a formal complaint had been received regarding the

incident.

As a result, an investigating officer has been appointed to examine the complaint and consider whether any action needs to be taken by the institution itself.

"As the investigation remains ongoing it would be inappropriate to offer any further comment," the spokesperson said.

They added: 'we strive to maintain a safe and supportive learning environment for everyone.'

In response to concerns over the strict nature of the punishments,

a Students' Union spokesperson explained that the Union expects sports clubs to take 'pro-active steps' to deal with inappropriate behaviour within its membership.

They continued: 'As a result the Hockey Club have undertaken a number of actions with individuals involved in this matter.'

The resignation of both social secretaries will be taken into account upon the completion of the investigation, in order to assess whether any further action needs to be taken.

Gair Rhydd shortlisted for national awards

CSM publications and staff shortlisted across 12 categories at the 2015 SPA awards

Anna Lewis

Gair Rhydd and Quench have been nationally praised, with both publications announced in a record number of shortlists in the upcoming annual Student Publication Association Conference.

Gair Rhydd has been shortlisted in nine out of twelve categories, including nominations for best newspaper and for the work of individuals such as Politics Editor Lauren Boyd and News Editor Georgia Hamer.

It has also been shortlisted in categories for best website, best design and best use of digital media.

Editor Michael O'Connell-Davidson was also shortlisted in three categories for the best news, best features and the award for outstanding achievement. After winning best feature for two years consecutively, this will mark O'Connell-Davidson's

third year in the shortlists.

Quench has been shortlisted in three categories, with nominations for best feature and best design. Feature editors Jason Roberts and Aimee-lee Abraham were recognised for their work, with both students making the shortlist.

With both publications shortlisted for best design, the significant design changes made to Quench and Gair Rhydd at the start of the academic year have been hailed a success. Quench Editor Sum Sze Tam explained that last year it was decided to separate the magazine's editorial and design team.

"I'm glad to see that our decision to revamp the design of Quench has paid off", she said.

This year has also seen Gair Rhydd's website and use of digital media



Pictured: Top: A few issues of Quench magazine Below: A page from Gair Rhydd

significantly reworked, with the extensive use of digital media to report on last month's student elections.

O'Connell-Davidson said: "The massive changes we've made to the publication's design and website have been recognised on a national platform, and we've built upon our record from last year. In addition, our elections coverage has been afforded significant recognition [see Best Multimedia], and it's only our first year covering the event."

"It's a great honour to be included on the shortlist for the third year running both as an individual. But it's the greatest honour to be the editor of Gair Rhydd, which has moved from strength to strength over the past academic year.

He also praised the individual work of Boyd and Hamer for their work, competing for best interview and best news story respectively:

"Lauren Boyd and Georgia Hamer are both incredibly talented and it makes me very happy indeed to see them nominated in their respective categories. We're all looking forward to the conference next month!"

The Quench team were hailed for their hard work as Tam said: "I am proud of our art editors and features team with both being nominated. It is an honour to have such talented people on the team.

During the SPA awards last year, Gair Rhydd was awarded runner up in the Best Publication section.

The awards ceremony will take place during the conference on Saturday 11th April at the University of Southampton. The weekend-long event will see talks from seasoned journalists including Simon O'Hagan, editor of the Independent Voices section and Daily Mash deputy editor Tom Whitely.

Gair Rhydd has been shortlisted in nine out of twelve categories



Cardiff SU named in top hundred non-profit organisations

Anna Lewis

Cardiff Students' Union has been named The Times on Sunday's Top 100 non-profit organisations, after the results of surveys from over 1,000.

One of three students' unions to make the shortlist, the Union placed 83rd on the list after failing to make the cut last year. According to a survey created by The Times, the Union received a 73 per cent positive score.

It was given a top 20 score nationally after 84 per cent of employees cited that 'work is an important part of their lives'. It also placed 62nd for its 'fair deal' policies and 77th for its 'personal growth opportunities'.

The principles of the Union were praised, with 70 per cent of the 102 employees within the students' union

describing its 'strong principles'.

However, Cardiff Students' Union placed behind both Kent University's Students' Union, placed 15th overall and the University of Surrey Students' Union, ranked at 48th.

Despite this, Cardiff Students' Union boasted a higher percentage of employees earning over £35,000 than both Kent and Surrey Students' Unions, with 11% compared to Kent's 2%. Cardiff's male/female ratio was also rated above Kent University's Students' Union, with a balance of 54:46 compared to 32:68.

The Union was also commended by its employees, with three quarters of those who work for the SU claiming that they are 'proud to work for it'.

As a non-profit organisation, the

Union uses the profits from its bars and shops in order to improve student services including advice, training and skills development.

The list praised the Union for its 'extremely diverse' employee specialisations, including plumbers, chefs, legal advisers and IT specialists. It also cited reasons such as the quantity of financial support available for 'work-related qualifications' and time made available for study and development training.

The top 100 non-profit organisations were listed as part of four surveys conducted by The Times involving 1,050 businesses. The news follows after the Students' Union sabbatical officer team were named the best oficer team during the 2015 NUS Wales conference.



Urine trouble: Medics' Rugby team investigated

University and Union have launched joint inquiry following Gair Rhydd exposé

EXCLUSIVE
Anna Lewis

Gair Rhydd has gained knowledge of the identity of the student responsible for the medic's rugby team incident reported last week. Whilst we are unable to confirm the identity at the time of print, our information states that the individual accountable for reportedly "urinating on a table where a family were eating" is a third year medical student.

A source close to the investigation has told Gair Rhydd that the individual responsible for the incident has come forward, along with a number of other members of the team with relevant information.

Gair Rhydd also received reports that the University threatened to suspend the team from the British University and Colleges Sport (BUCS) association until the identity of the student responsible was revealed.

The rugby team have declined to offer comment on the situation, and have yet to release a statement denying the allegations.

However, the Cardiff University rugby team have been quick to distance themselves from the incident, with a statement published on Friday, March 20th stating that: 'Cardiff medics RFC are

completely separate to Cardiff University rugby club.'

The statement continued: 'This has NOTHING to do with our Cardiff University rugby club and no member of our club was involved in the incident in question.'

Last week Cardiff University announced that an investigation had been launched to examine multiple claims that a student "urinated on a dinner in public" whilst travelling on a P&O ferry. The incident took place on a journey from Dover as part of a rugby tour to Amsterdam, with the individual reportedly wearing a University hoodie at the time.

Ferry operator P&O confirmed that an incident involving the aforementioned rugby team did indeed take place on-board the 23.15 departure to the French port of Calais on February 12th.

As a result of the incident, the company resolved to ban the students from returning to Britain on-board their service. They have claimed that the 'nature of the incident' was such that they could have involved the police, and may yet reconsider.

A Cardiff University spokesperson said: "We can confirm that an investiga-

tion into the incident has begun. It remains on-going."

However, they emphasised that they were unable to offer further comment on the situation or any possible outcome until the precise nature of the incident has been established.

A Union spokesperson released a similar statement, and stated that 'the University and the Students' Union will be working together in taking appropriate action once the investigation into the matter is complete.'

Despite this, last week one anonymous student confirmed that: "it was 100% a medic student that did it."

"I'm not sure whether they actually pissed in the food or on the table," they added.

The prevailing version of events has also been corroborated by other students, with one account stating that: "I was told that one rugby player got so drunk they pissed in someone's food." These students had no to one another.

According to VP Heath Park, Claire Blakeway, the institution is now 'aware of an incident involving the Medics' Rugby Team'.

Blakeway confirmed that 'initial meetings have taken place' concerning the

best course of action, with the gatherings said to have included the Cardiff University's Dean of Medicine.

She emphasised that 'appropriate action' will be taken towards the individual responsible.

The VP Heath Park condemned the behaviour of the team, insisting that 'this behaviour is not condoned by the Students' Union'.

'We convey this message strongly to sports teams during their yearly induction sessions.'

Pictured:
A P&O Ferry



“
The institution has now begun an investigation into the members reported to be involved in the incident
”

Vice-Chancellor blows £20,000 on expenses

New figures reveal extravagant expenses by highest paid Vice-Chancellor in Wales

Katie Evans

Cardiff University's Vice-Chancellor blew £20,000 on business and first-class flights last year, despite receiving a pay rise of an undisclosed amount.

Professor Colin Riordan was the best paid Vice-Chancellor in Wales for 2013-2014, earning a reputed £271,000 and yet amassed a £19,996.66 bill for premium-seat flights.

A study by the University and College Union (UCU) has also revealed that seven out of eight of Wales' vice-chancellors received a pay packet exceeding £200,000, five of which received pay rises.

An average salary rise of 5.1 per cent for UK vice-chancellors caused walkouts last year among UCU members amidst staff cuts. Sally Hunt, gen-

eral secretary for UCU, said: "Many staff and students will be amazed at the size of vice-chancellors' salaries, and at the largesse displayed by some university leaders when it comes to first class flights, hotels and other expenses."

"That this is happening in public institutions which are largely funded by the taxpayer and students makes the

lack of transparency and accountability surrounding senior pay and perks a national scandal.

In response to revelations about Riordan's air fare spending, a Cardiff University spokesperson commented: "As head of Wales's leading research intensive University it is vital our Vice-Chancellor represents the University at major meetings in Wales, the UK and internationally. This often requires extensive international travel to establish new research collaborations, attract students and put Wales on the global map."

"The spend on travel has to be put into context with the overall impact that Cardiff University and its global presence has on the wider Welsh economy."

The spokesperson continued to defend Riordan's expenditure, adding: "In 2013/2014 1 per cent of all Welsh employment and over 1 per cent of Welsh GVA was generated by Cardiff University."

Overall the University, together with our international students and students from the rest of the UK, generated some 13,000 jobs in Wales."

The spokesperson was also eager to clarify that Riordan's pay rise was a 'sector-wide increase and does not relate to Cardiff University'.

Revelations about Riordan's air fare comes just months after public criticism over his expenses claims, which included taxi fares, hotel stays and hospitality bills.



Pictured:
Cardiff University's Vice-Chancellor, Colin Riordan

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Senate motion “almost identical” to fallen AGM proposal

Senators vote to remove ‘Ban BAE’ from the agenda after it is revealed that the motion is 94% similar to that voted down by hundreds of students



Pictured: Students voting at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) back in Noember (Photographer: Laura Sargent)

Georgia Hamer

After failing to meet quorum earlier this month, the re-scheduled Student Senate meeting took place last week.

The evening’s agenda had originally consisted of four items. However, in the opening of the meeting a controversial decision was made to remove a motion calling for Cardiff University to end its investment in the arms trade.

One senator, Ollie Wannell, argued that the motion was “virtually the same” as what was discussed at the Cardiff Students’ Union Annual General Meeting (AGM) back in November.

Wannell highlighted that the newly-submitted motion contained 94% of the same wording as the original motion discussed at AGM. The motion fell by a significant margin at AGM after concerns were raised by the President of the Engineering Society that cutting the University’s ties with businesses in the arms trade would severely disadvantage Engineering students.

In spite of this, Daniel Roberts, current Ethical and Environmental Officer, defended his decision to bring the motion back to Senate, arguing that the motion had been amended to be “much clearer in what it aims to do”.

Although Wannell recognised that some of the benefits listed on the motion were different, he argued that the issues and actions were “identical to what was taken to AGM”, adding that: “ultimately people vote on issues and actions and because they are the same I think we can’t vote on it”.

“Senate does not have the power to overturn decisions made at AGM.”

In response, Roberts said that he was “not going to argue that these aren’t the same motions” but he believed that the motion was not put forward clearly enough at the AGM and therefore should be rediscussed by the Senate.

“This is a motion a lot of students have come to me and asked me to discuss”, he said.

“We’re not taking it to Senate just to try again [...] [the motion] has been adapted accordingly.”

Nadine Dahan, who was stepping in for another member of Senate that evening, supported Roberts in his argument. She said: “As an outsider, this is not the way I envisaged Senate.”

“If it’s the same we should still discuss it again and let it fall again.”

After a somewhat heated discussion senators voted to remove the motion from the evening’s agenda. Only 4 members voted for discussing the motion and 2 abstained.

Following the vote, an evidently distressed Roberts declared: “I’m doing two essays this week due in on Friday and I’ve worked so hard to bring this motion here.”

“If it wasn’t going to be discussed, this should have been made clear beforehand”.

VP Education, Rhys Jenkins, noted that the decision on whether or not to discuss the motion had to be made by the Senate given that there is currently no elected Senate Chair. This did little to appease those in support of the motion.

Jake Smith, appointed as Senate Chair for that evening, eventually drew the discussion to a close, declaring that there were a “number of other good motions up for discussion”.

The first motion to be discussed called for the Union to increase awareness about carbon monoxide poisoning. The motion, submitted by Madhura Kanade, resolved that it is important that students are made aware of the harmfulness of CO and that the Students’ Union should hold information sessions, stock CO detectors in the Union shopping outlets and campaign to ensure the instalment of detectors in University residences.

No one spoke for or against the motion and it passed with all 31 members in attendance voting in favour.

Equally, no one spoke for or against the second motion and it passed with only one abstention and all other members voting in favour. This motion, submitted by Daniel Roberts, called for the Union to lobby the University to affiliate with Electronics Watch – an independent organisation which aims to monitor working conditions in the global electronics industry to ensure socially responsible public purchasing in Europe.

The final motion to be discussed was a motion to provide better integration for overseas students. This motion was submitted by Lowri Pritchard. Drawing on her own experience as an exchange student in France, Pritchard proposed the introduction of a ‘buddy’ system for foreign students.

A further resolve outlined in the motion was that the VP Societies sabbatical officer should ‘look in to setting up an International Society which functions in a similar way to the Erasmus Society’.

It was proposed that this item should be removed from the mo-

tion. Senator Ollie Wannell argued that it is not up to the VP Societies but rather it is “the responsibility of students to set up societies.”

“I’m not sure what a society would add to this motion”, he said.

Pritchard declared that she was “happy to remove” this item, given that it is not “integral” to the motion and her primal aim is merely to “get the ball rolling” in improving the integration for overseas and Erasmus students.

An amendment to the motion was submitted stating that the VP Societies work with the International Association to achieve the aims outlined by the motion.

The amended motion passed with 30 members voting in favour and one abstaining.

“As an outsider, this is not the way I envisaged Senate”
Nadine Dahan

“Concerns were raised that cutting the University’s ties with businesses in the arms trade would severely disadvantage Engineering students”

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

Ethical Career Guidance - Ban BAE
Removed from agenda

Increase Awareness of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
Approved

Lobby the University to support Electronics Watch
Approved

Better Integration of Overseas Students
Approved

Ice cream vans whipping up student votes

Union invests £5,000 on a 'fleet of ice cream vans' to increase voter engagement

Anna Lewis

Cardiff Students' Union have received £5,000 funding to help increase student voting registration, to be spent on schemes including the use of four ice cream vans.

The money received will be used to hire ice-cream vans which will be located at key locations around campus on Thursday.

According to Students' Union President Elliot Howells, the vans aim to 'create a buzz' and attract students in order to encourage them to vote. Each ice-cream van will be supported by a team of students wearing branded t-shirts to encourage registration.

The scheme also aims to inform students about party policies specifically aimed at those in university.

The funding has been awarded by the NUS and Cabinet Office in order to promote voter register ahead of the General Election in May. According to Howells, the NUS allocated the money due to 'confidence in our ability to run a successful campaign'. The decision was also made based on good results from the Union during National Voter Registration Day in

February.

The decision to use ice-cream vans was explained by the SU President, who said 'it creates a hype and gets students talking about something they may not normally talk about'.

This is one of many schemes undertaken this year in order to encourage voter registration. Two weeks ago, the Hope not Hate campaign brought its 'No Vote No Voice' bus to Cardiff as part of its fifteen-day tour across to UK to encourage passers-by to register to vote.

Cardiff students have also taken an active part in the Hope not Hate voter registration campaign after a silent demonstration was held at Cardiff City Hall last month.

The event launched a 'suffrage movement' among Cardiff University students and saw demonstrators tape over their mouths to raise awareness of the 14,000 students who dropped off the electoral register in Cardiff this year.

The news follows some weeks after The Guardian named Cardiff students as the second most powerful student

population in the UK, with their power to swing the result of the general elections.

With the city centre home to students from both Cardiff University

and Cardiff Metropolitan, there are predictions that Labour could gain student votes in order to overtake the small Conservative majority won after the 2010 elections.



Pictured:
A dispenser of the finest scoops

“ It creates a hype and gets students talking about something they may not normally talk about Elliot Howells, SU President ”

Union refutes 'exaggerated' reports of drug use at Treatment



Pictured:
Y Plas (Photographer: Students' Union)

Georgia Hamer

In light of an investigation by Gair Rhydd in February, Cardiff University Students' Union has claimed allegations of drug use at Treatment nights are 'widespread and unchallenged', 'seriously flawed and based on unsubstantiated claims and exaggeration'.

In a statement, the Union reported that interviews were carried out with staff and the entry data and sales figures at Treatment events was analysed alongside an examination of the Union's policies and processes regarding organisation, control and management of events.

Although it was recognised that 'the incidence of drug taking in connection with house music events is higher than other music events world-wide', the report concluded that there was 'no evidence' to support claims that a number of people in attendance at Treatment events held in the Students' Union have taken drugs.

Despite numerous sources reporting notorious drug use at the event, the Union maintains that 'the combination

of zero tolerance drugs policy with life bans, entry searches, observation of individual behaviour and security sweeps during the event', does not support such claims.

In dispute of claims that bottle water sales are heightened at Treatment events because many attendees are under the influence of drugs, a Union spokesperson claimed that this is merely due to the 'energetic nature of dance events'.

It was reported that a 100 per cent search of attendees was conducted at a Treatment event in February. Of 2,200 individuals searched, four were found to be carrying suspect substances. The Union report confirmed that these substances were immediately confiscated and the individuals involved were all given life bans from all Union events.

The Union also stressed: 'We work closely with South Wales Police who are entirely satisfied with arrangements provided by the Students' Union in organising and running all of its music events: Searches are routinely car-

ried out, generally in excess of 50% of people attending these events, and the incidence of drug finds is low.'

Gair Rhydd Editor, Michael O'Connell Davidson released a statement in response to the Union's claims. He said: 'I reject the findings of the Students' Union investigation, which took place too late to be meaningful. The prominence we gave these allegations is such that it would likely influence the subsequent actions of staff and attendees alike, and we have received numerous reports since that security has significantly improved since we published the article in February. Treatment has changed, and pretending the event has been run with the current standards in the past is dishonest.'

'Given that the people who spoke to Gair Rhydd did not wish to be named as they feared consequences at work, it seems unlikely that any interviews conducted by their employers would yield reliable results. Would you speak to your employer and admit that you arrived at work high, or hungover? I doubt it.'

'Further, the fact that only four people were found with substances proves very little. Only a fool would believe that security had the capacity to conduct flawless searches, or that anybody who might carry illicit substances would be so indiscreet as to be caught by a spot search.'

'Actually, we had a discussion in the newsroom about how newsworthy the staff claims really were. I mean, people take drugs in a club? It's not exactly a Pulitzer winner. But both the original article and this investigation highlights blind spots in the union's ability to self-scrutinise, and it concerns me that anybody could truly believe Y Plas was as squeaky clean as this investigation sets out.'

He added: 'I remain resolutely confident in the original article and the publication's team of reporters and editors. While the people in the article were not named, I took steps as the editor of the publication to verify the identities of those quoted, and can testify that they were union employees at time of writing.'

“ Allegations of drug use are 'widespread and unchallenged', 'based on unsubstantiated claims and exaggeration' ”

“ I reject the findings of the Students' Union investigation, which took place too late to be meaningful Michael O'Connell-Davidson, Gair Rhydd Editor ”



ADVICE

Welcome to our Advice section, where we bring you tips for surviving Cardiff University life
Email us: advice@gairrhydd.com

Unsure of where to turn when you encounter sexual harassment?

How to utilise the Union's zero tolerance policy to stay safe and report trouble when you see it

Kirsty Fardell

Cardiff University aims to include everyone under the Dignity at Work and Study policy, which is in place to promote the university environment in which people are treated fairly and with respect. All students and staff are encouraged to play a role in maintaining an environment free from any harassment, bullying or victimisation. There is also a framework of support in place for both staff and students who encounter any such behaviour as well as a process by which complaints are dealt with and addressed fairly.

There is a specific policy to behaviours related to harassment. The 'Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment' policy is in place to ensure that all students feel that they are in a safe environment in the Union and all university buildings. Having such a policy means that should any students unfortunately experience sexual harassment, there is a process in place that will investigate it and take appropriate actions to ensure that it doesn't happen again.

Laura Carter, the current Women's Officer told us that the policy aims to highlight that the union has a zero tolerance stance against all types of sexual harassment both verbal and physical. It has recently been updated to include specifications such as

training for staff and making the union and university policy more accessible to students. After all, the policy will only work so far as students actually know about it.

Students have the right to report someone if they encounter any unwanted sexual comments or invitations, any groping, pinching or smacking of the body, wolf-whistling or cat-calling, having your clothes lifted without consent or someone exposing themselves to you without consent.

Students also have the right to report anyone who they believe is harassing them. This could be behaviour that is unwanted conduct relating to a protected characteristic, violating a person's dignity or creating a hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment. It could be physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct, and may occur as one incident or be sporadic or ongoing.

Protected characteristics include age, disability, gender reassignment, race, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, gender, sexual orientation, religion and belief. So if anyone delivers unwanted conduct in relation to any of those, the student has the right to report the person under the zero tolerance policy.

If students are concerned about any unacceptable behaviour and feel that

it is violating the policy they can seek free, independent, confidential advice from the Union's Student Advice on the third floor of the SU. They can also report any informal complaints to their personal tutor or their Head of School.

However if there is a serious complaint relating to harassment students should make a formal complaint through the Formal Complaints Procedure by filling in a form from the Governance and Compliance Division. When sexual harassment takes place students may find it easier to report the incident to a member of staff in the SU or by emailing zerotolerance@cardiff.ac.uk. Complaints are taken very seriously. A full investigation will take place into the incident and the potential offender will

not be allowed onto the premises until a resolution is found.

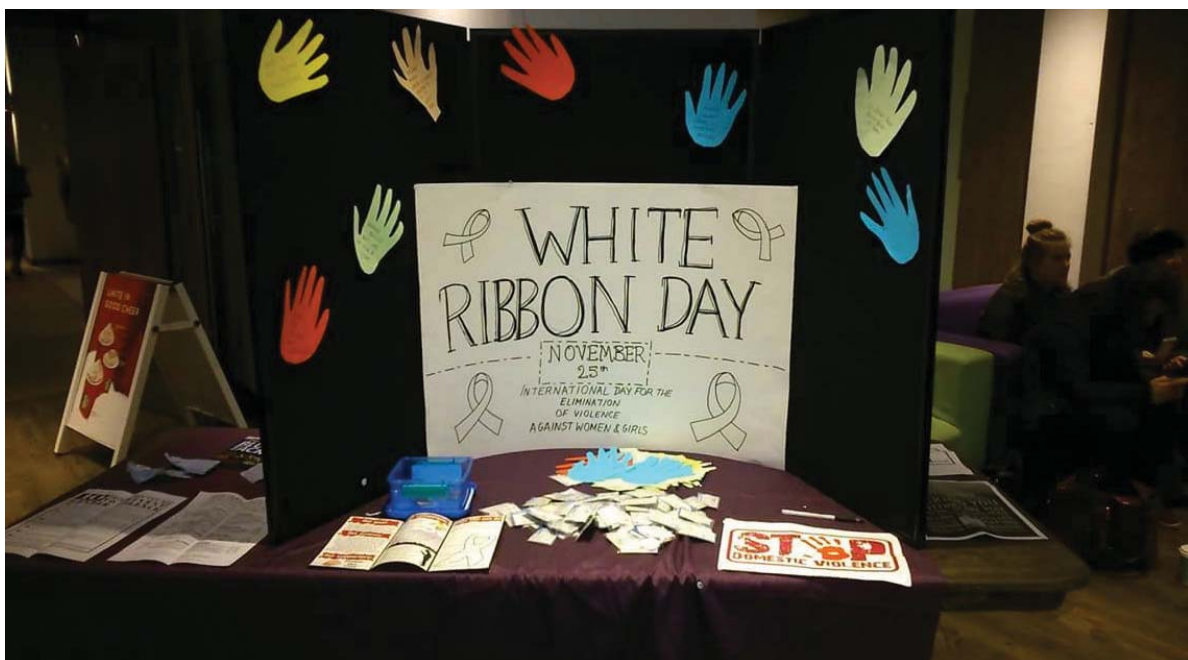
The Zero Tolerance policy came about after the Hidden Marks survey conducted by the National Union of Students that revealed some shocking statistics about the experience of women students and the frequency of sexual harassment. For example, 68% of women students have experienced sexual harassment and/or assault whilst at university but only 4% of these have reported it to their institution. The most common reasons given for not reporting the incidents are 'feeling ashamed or embarrassed' or feeling that the sexual harassment was 'their own fault'.

Therefore, the Zero Tolerance Policy aims to help students to understand

ZERO TOLERANCE

“ 68% of women students have experienced sexual harassment and/or assault ”

Pictured:
The White Ribbon Day stand in support of stopping violence against women



To see the text of the Zero Tolerance Policy in full, visit <http://tinyurl.com/kbzptm>

What do you think? Have your say: advice@gairrhydd.com


Continued from the previous page

what is not acceptable behaviour and make the process of reporting easy. There is support available to students who fall victim to sexual harassment too – as Laura Carter pointed out staff are now receiving training to be able to appropriately deal with complaints.

Laura is also trying to ensure that the SU draws attention to the support services the University and the Union already have, such as the Student Support Service. To find out more information about the Zero Tolerance Policy visit <http://tinyurl.com/kbzpptom>

The policy is a useful tool for promoting the 'Reclaim the Campus' campaign, set up by the Welsh Government as a way of tackling violence against women. Four YouTube videos have been created to cover issues of stalking, domestic abuse, consent and victim blaming in cases of sexual violence.

As part of the Hidden Marks survey which looked into harassment, stalking, violence and sexual assault it was found that all of these forms of abuse were prevalent in students' lives and the vast majority of perpetrators were students. The report found that 1 in 7 female students experienced a serious physical or sexual assault

during their time as a student.

Shockingly, other research by NUS Wales found that 30% of male Welsh students felt that a woman was partially to blame for being raped if she was drunk or wearing revealing clothing.

This shows that the Zero Tolerance policy is vital to ensure that all students are aware of the behaviour that is deemed unacceptable so their neither harass someone unwantedly or are able to recognise the behaviours that are unacceptable. It is also important for students to know there is something in place to help them and somewhere to report incidents to should anything unwanted happen to them on university premises.

Therefore, the Reclaim the Campus campaign works to promote a culture that proactively challenges the attitudes that accept and normalise violence. The Zero Tolerance policy directly stems from the work by NUS Wales 'Violence against women' campaign, with each of the four YouTube videos targeting an area of violence against women. To find out all information about the Reclaim the Campus campaign visit <http://tinyurl.com/oy5lnk>.



Pictured: The Women's association stand during Fresher's Week

“ 1 in 7 female students have experienced a sexual or physical assault during university ”

Think your society would benefit from equality and diversity training?

The Equality and Diversity training evening with talks from campaign officers could improve your society



Pictured: From left to right: Campaign Officers Laura Carter (Women's), Sam Cook (LGBT+), Vidya Brainerd (Students With Disabilities), and Megan Jevin (International Students)

Kirsty Fardell

To ensure that all students can thrive no matter what their gender, background, race, faith or sexuality, the elected campaign officers have put together an interactive session on understanding and implementing equality and diversity.

The evening takes place on Monday 23rd March from 7pm in the Great Hall and free pizza is being provided. The Students with Disabilities Officer Vidya Brainerd will be talking, as well as Women's Officer Laura Carter, International Students' Officer Megan

Jevin and the LGBT+ Officer Sam Cook.

The 'equality and diversity' term is used to promote equality, diversity and human rights as defining values of society. It promotes equality of opportunity for all, giving every individual the chance to achieve their potential, free from prejudice and discrimination.

Gair Rhydd has previously reported on forms of discrimination and unfair treatment of certain groups of people within a club or society, so the training

aims to decrease the chances of that happening.

Students may act in a way that alienates certain groups of people or do not treat all groups equally without even realising they are doing so. Therefore this training evening will potentially stop those forms of behaviour happening.

Laura Carter, current Women's Officer, spoke to us about the upcoming event and said of the training that 'the aim is to give clubs and societies a bit more information about how they can make their activities more inclusive

to current and potential members. Its looking at issues surrounding women students, LGBT+ students, international students and students with disabilities.'

'It's not a case that we think clubs and societies are actively excluding minority and awareness groups but that its important to take an active and positive stance on these issues.'

'It's mainly targeted at club and society committees and all are welcome.'

To sign up for the event visit <http://tinyurl.com/n4pw48m>.

“ Equality and Diversity training takes place on 23rd March in the Great Hall at 7pm ”



COMMENT

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Stop taking liberties for granted

Complacency around civil rights stems from those who have never felt their absence

Gareth Evans

Last week, Nigel Farage announced that his party “would scrap much of the legislation designed to prevent racial discrimination” in the workplace. When asked whether, under his government, there would be any laws preventing discrimination on the basis of race or colour he responded with a simple “No.”

This is because, according to him, his party are “colour blind.” Ironic then that he showed his true colours here. The interviewer, who was none-other than former chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission Trevor Phillips, immediately pointed out that these laws are in place for a reason. He explained to the UKIP leader how, prior to their existence, discrimination was widespread and so was incompetence. Farage dismissed this by saying that “40 years ago your point would have been valid” but “I really don’t think it is today.”

If you are not left open-mouthed by these comments then I invite you to read them again. But let’s take a step back. What Farage is saying here is that, 40 years ago (ie before equality laws) discrimination was widespread but now (after years of equality laws) it is not. Thus these laws should be scrapped. It would be complimentary to describe that as a thought process as it would imply a level of cognitive ability.

Farage is totally disregarding the importance of this legislation by suggesting that societal progress has occurred due to some kind of abstract moral evolution. Why does the UKIP leader believe that workplace discrimination has lowered if not because of

these laws? His comments are an insult to the tireless work of the campaigners and activists who have forced laws such as these to become a reality. Let’s be clear here; progress is never the result of goodwill. Lyndon Johnson did not sign the Civil Rights Act out of the kindness of his heart. Nor did our political elite legalise same-sex marriage on a moral whim. The laws that Farage feels are needless bygones are in fact the hard-fought products of courage and principal. His contempt for them must not be tolerated.

When it comes to civil and political liberties, however, Farage is not alone in his complacency. His comments were deplored from all sides of the political spectrum and rightly so. Yet, his views represent an issue that is apparent throughout our political elite and in certain elements of society more generally. It is the presumption that the rights we have are not in fact rights but simply the natural order of things.

It is impossible for Farage to imagine that any employer would discriminate on the base of race and that is why he feels that legislating against it is superfluous. Perhaps it would be impossible for others to imagine having no minimum wage, or no right to vote if you were too poor, for example. This is a dangerous trap to fall into, that is, to think that our liberties no longer need protection. Make no mistake that they can be taken away far more quickly than they were gained.

Take trade unions for example. The rhetoric surrounding last year’s tube strikes was deeply concerning. The overriding consensus seemed to be

that they were troublesome and petty. Commuters complained about everything from the overcrowding on the few available journeys to the difficulties in finding alternative transportation. London Mayor Boris Johnson thanked the tube workers who had turned up and implored more to do the same. A millionaire Tory calling for workers to break the picket line is nothing new. However, the portrayal of strikers as somehow ‘bad for London’ is to ignore the history of civil progress.

It is progress that has been instigated by this type of disruption. After all, the whole purpose of a worker’s strike is to disrupt the normal workings of industry in order to highlight the valuable labour that is done. One can trace British history as far back as the Luddite’s for evidence that uprisings and protests are rooted in this kind of action. For those who have little power or influence, laying down your tools on a mass scale is one of the few ways that you can show your value to those who view you as a commodity and not a person. It is a grizzled middle finger to exploitation and to argue against it is to side with the employers; and history shows that this side is rarely the moral victor.

For those who still feel it is just to complain about trade union action, whether it is for teachers or train drivers, I ask you to check your privilege. Are you paid enough for the hours that you work? Are you entitled to annual leave? How about a pension plan or redundancy pay? If the answer to these questions is no, then this is why unions are needed. If the answer is

yes, how do you think that these rights came to be?

The reality is that it is all too easy to fall foul of Nigel Farage’s complacency trap. It is difficult to appreciate what working rights we are entitled to and the sheer effort that went into creating them. We live in a privileged age in which we can benefit from the groundwork of those who have fought before us. Without the courage and effort of the historically exploited then workers would still have nothing and employers would still have everything. Can you believe that before 1999 there was no minimum wage? This seems unfathomable now, but we are far from finished in the pursuit of fair and just employment laws. I believe that in years to come the current lack of a universal living wage will be viewed with the same degree of shock and disdain as the years before a minimum wage was introduced.

Thus, the problem of viewing rights with complacency comes down to a lack of historical humility. It is difficult to appreciate where we stand in terms of civil and political liberties because naturally we view most things in relation to our own era. Yet we have gained so much in the past century alone and this must first be acknowledged and appreciated.

There is work to be done, however, and this is why the views of Farage and others who wrongly feel that our age is somehow ethically complete mustn’t be tolerated. Recognise your liberties, your rights, and your freedoms because there are many people like him who would strip you of them without a guilty conscience.

Pictured:
A World Pride March in London, 2012 (Source: Flickr)

“
The laws that Farage feels are needless bygones are in fact the hard-fought products of courage and principal

”

“
We live in a privileged age in which we can benefit from the groundwork of those who have fought before us

”

The law isn't free of the class system

Em Gates

Imagine you work in an estate agents where you are put into competitive teams to see who can sell the most houses in a certain time. Now one day, the other team is doing very well, so to put them off their game and keep your team on track, you decide to racially attack and bite a member of the other team. You would certainly get fired, probably be reported and would definitely suffer for your actions. So why, in the case of footballer Luis Suarez, despite a four month ban, has he returned to his career as good as new?

The answer is the universal truth that us mere civilians blissfully ignore; celebrities can get away with a hell of a lot more than we can. There is no bigger example of this than the six foot mound of sheer ignorance that is Jeremy Clarkson. Last year he offended the entire country of Argentina alongside his Top Gear buddies and managed to avoid the blame by labelling it a 'misunderstanding'. Now Clarkson is a smart guy, to think that he had no idea that the license plate was a thinly veiled insult regarding the Falkland's war, well just seems a little unbelievable to me. The BBC has had Clarkson on his last warning for what seems to be about five years, and even though he has now been suspended, I feel like it's only a matter of time before the grey haired hunk of rubbish is back on our screens proclaiming his racist and sexist views. But this time he really messed up, whereas before

he's just been insulting and highly offensive to the ears, this time the Top Gear presenter thought it would be a fun ole idea to actually punch one of the producers of the show... Try and explain how that one was a misunderstanding Jeremy.

But as much as my dislike for Clarkson is exceedingly apparent, who wouldn't take a few liberties if you were guaranteed to get away with it. Katie Hopkins' plain nastiness doesn't affect her career, so why shouldn't I call a co-worker inept if they're useless at their job and there were zero repercussions? Forgetting that we're old enough to know better, people are selfish beings who only really behave to avoid punishment, so eliminate the punishment, only then will you really discover who people are. Jimmy Carr's tax avoidance, Noel and Liam Gallagher's family dramas, and Chris Brown's domestic abuse are all examples of how major illegal and inappropriate acts don't even affect celebrities' careers, they are literally judged by a different system to us.

None of the above activities would enhance any civilian's career, but Jimmy Carr incorporates tax jokes into his comedy routines, both Noel and Liam have released music and autobiographies depicting the family rift, and Chris Brown is still recording music talking about how his 'hoes ain't loyal' (the less said about that the better). For regular people, it would have lead to legal action or at least



Pictured: Suarez's infamous bite of Ivanovic (Source: Andrew Yates, Getty Images)

social alienation from our friends. But I suppose we have to accept the fact that we live in an unjust society, and non-celebrities will always be an underclass to the more famous counterpart living by very different

rules. So I'll just sit here waiting for Jeremy Clarkson to be reinstated and continue offending the world, while I politely work my way through life. That seems totally impartial and not biased at all.

“ Non-celebrities will always be an underclass to the more famous counterpart living by very different rules ”

Why nightclubs are hell on Earth

Jordan Adams

When I say I don't understand nightclubs, I honestly mean it. I cannot conceptualise a situation in which being inside a cramped, moist, unhygienic hub of sensory deprivation and sexual assault would be desirable. After getting past the bouncer who has mistaken his obesity for muscle mass, deeming himself the hardest man since Marvel's The Thing, you walk into a room comparable to that of a CIA torture chamber. Terrible music blares so loud that the human ear is incapable of processing it into anything intelligible – like when you scream into a microphone. Moving head lights designed to be used on TV shows and arena concerts send their cornea-burning gaze around the room like the Eye of Sauron. Add buckets of overpriced booze that you had to shank your way to the bar to purchase only to spill half of it down yourself and the result is a swash of dazed and confused idiots, ready to reveal their dastardly plot to the interrogating agent.

Physical environment aside, the humans that you'll find in a nightclub are something else altogether. Between the rampant 'lad culture' and men in their late 30s who seriously think they have a chance, what is realisti-

cally going to be found in a nightclub that constitutes an enjoyable social experience? The last time I was in a club, some dirty old men (around 28, maybe) were eyeing up my female company and making crude gestures to each other like savages. After they noticed both me and my disapproving face, the leader of this pack of animals proceeded to half-assedly apologise. To me. Not to my friends. As if he'd scratched my car. Fucking dog. Later that night my friend, a stern feminist, walked back to the car on my arm – because she felt safer that way. Indeed after we'd left another female friend was pushed to the ground by some dirty chav who she had presumably rejected.

So why is it that people go to these places? It's not fun – it's an exhausting exercise in self-defence. Other humans can be difficult to deal with at the best of times – but drunk, entitled, filthy chavs who treat nightclubs like a human catalogue are just detestable. Add that to fact that the majority of club owners are wannabe gangsters and the stench of cheap aftershave and perfume constitutes chemical warfare. I am confident in saying that I wish never to set foot in such an establishment again.



Pictured: Why do you go to Treatment? (Artist: Naomi Brown)

“ I cannot conceptualise a situation in which being inside a cramped, moist, unhygienic hub of sensory deprivation and sexual assault would be desirable ”

”



Why we **don't** need a Welsh Officer

In response to last week's article on the need for a full-time Welsh Officer, the VP Education Rhys Jenkins argues why it isn't necessary

Rhys Jenkins

It may surprise some readers to see one of the Vice Presidents writing in the comment section and not just being commented upon. However, this topic is of such importance that a balanced argument should be presented. Last week this section featured an article outlining why we should have a full time VP Welsh Language and thus why the referendum is important. However, the full story wasn't displayed, and the argument was one-sided.

The current Union Welsh Language Campaign Officer (WLCO), Steffan Bryn Jones, tabled a motion originally to Student Senate to have a referendum for a full time paid Vice President Welsh Language. This was debated and narrowly defeated by the body of students who have been elected to represent the student population.

Interestingly the motion wasn't submitted to the Union's AGM, the highest decision making body of the Union, save that of the Trustee Board. Here it could have been debated in front of 650+ students with both arguments being vigorously examined and fiercely defended. Yet, by the WLCO's own admission, it wasn't tabled at AGM for fear it wouldn't pass, which in my opinion is clearly damning evidence that the full time role isn't a popular choice. Don't get me wrong, we must hear the voice of our minority communities, which is exactly why we have the campaign officer role. However, in my opinion, it isn't necessary to launch this into a full time paid sabbatical position.

So as explained last week, a petition was launched which, over the period of an entire month, only secured 513 sig-

natures: scraping over the minimum of 500. As a result, time and money will be put into launching a referendum that must secure 1500 votes within 5 days, in order to be binding. Many previous referendums have failed to reach this binding minimum and I imagine this will be the case once more. Nevertheless, I agree this shouldn't be an argument not to have one. However, it is an argument for it going to the next AGM, and not a referendum.

Before I launch into the reasons why we shouldn't have the role full time and therefore why you should vote 'No' in the referendum, let me first dispel some of the "misunderstandings and prejudice" that last week's article attempted to address.

As a Welshman myself I am fully in support of the Welsh Language and its use. Whilst my own proficiency is ashamedly somewhat limited, I agree it is an important foundation of Welsh culture and key to living in Wales. I would, however, question the proposition that using Welsh is deemed perverse or threatening. In my experience this certainly isn't the case. Moreover, having a full time VP Welsh Language will not normalise it but drive the Welsh speaking community further away. I appreciate that poor translation is frustrating, but I am unsure as to the "lack of service" and "arrogant and dismissive attitude" which was commented on last week.

The Union has recently taken on a member of staff to be Welsh translator. Most University services can be accessed through the medium of Welsh if requested. The Union has simultaneous translation at AGM and Senate

meetings and has in its 3 year strategy "To improve Welsh language provision" as a top priority. Furthermore the Union has adopted the Welsh Language Charter and recently set up a Welsh Language Steering Group to drive the Welsh agenda.

What concerns me most is last week's author felt Welsh speakers were not represented and were "an invisible minority" with the need for someone to pass on the community's feedback. Clearly they think little of the work done by the current Campaign Officer, as this is precisely what they should be doing. Never mind the fact that the current President is a fluent Welsh speaker himself.

Last week's statement that Cardiff and Swansea Students' Unions are the only Unions that don't have a full time Welsh Language Officer is simply untrue. In fact it is quite the opposite: the only HE institutions with a full time role are Aberystwyth and Bangor, which both have entirely separate Welsh Unions and a much higher percentage of Welsh speaking students. The other 7 institutions do not have a full time role.

So why shouldn't we have one? Simply put: because it would change little and be a waste of time and resources. That may sound stark and rather harsh but allow me to elaborate. It is my understanding that the main remit of the officer would be to drive the Welsh agenda, but also be the contact point for all issues pertaining to Welsh students. Effectively they would become the VP Societies, Sports, Welfare, Education, Postgraduate and indeed President, for Welsh speaking stu-

dents. This goes directly against the suggestion of normalisation but causes a divide. It would also be impossible to effectively represent those students on the 30+ groups I alone sit on whilst also campaigning of welfare issues, improving sports and society provision, and translating.

It seems to me to be far more effective to write into all the current positions' job descriptions a need to improve Welsh language in their respective remits or something to that effect. That way in all areas of activity the Union could create effective change. The Campaign Officer role as it stands should be to advise and feedback to the current officers on issues affecting their cohorts. Is this not exactly what is trying to be 'reinvented'? The resource for this role could then be put to the cost of translation and double printing.

Scrutiny committee would then be able to hold all the full time Officers to account should it be felt that enough wasn't being done. Moreover, one of the full time team could be designated as lead on the Welsh provision strategy to further ensure this agenda was driven forward and the Welsh Language Charter fully achieved. As covered above, the Union is already making great strides towards achieving this with some very positive steps, including the taking on of a translator and the setting up of a steering group. Rather than pushing back against this progress, I am of the opinion that this should be celebrated and highlight how well the current system of having a campaign officer is working.

For all the above I urge you to vote 'No' in the upcoming referendum.

Pictured:

Above: A display of Welsh pride in Cardiff city centre

Right: Remaining Anonymous. (Source: Mattia Notari, Flickr)

“ Don't get me wrong, we must hear the voice of our minority communities, which is exactly why we have the campaign officer role ”

“ It seems to me to be far more effective to write into all the current positions' job descriptions a need to improve Welsh language in their respective remits ”

”

Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Why?

Anonymous' vigilantism isn't achieving anything

Dan Heard

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, "Anonymous" is defined as something which is "made or done by someone whose name is not known or not made public". This couldn't be more apt in describing the activities of the hacktivist group currently terrorising anyone who is anyone (yes, that includes Yeezus himself, Kanye West). Their activities have peaked the interest of social media-wielding "citizen journalists" - particularly when one of the biggest mediums in the world was nearly brought to its knees by hackers. These activities were in the news again only days ago, when members of the hacking collective, with help from GhostSec and Ctrlsec, released a list of 9,200 Twitter accounts tied to members and supporters of ISIS to help suspend them. The list is being promoted in hopes that it will force the social media site to immediately remove ISIS sympathisers from its webpage.

This is not the first time Anonymous has targeted ISIS. The hacking collective launched #OpISIS last year and claims to have disrupted thousands of websites affiliated with the terrorist group. Anonymous also launched #OpCharlieHebdo after the attacks in Paris earlier this year. A member of Anonymous was even quoted as saying, "This is historic amongst the digital world as it's the first time these groups have come together for something this large. Usually they are closed off and not willing to work outside of their circles but this has become such a problem they're willing to form an alliance for what is seen as a greater good. The outcome of hundreds of hackers

across all three major groups is the largest compiled and verified list ever to be released to the public." Members assert that the organisation is not a group but a loose collective working to advance similar ideals, but sometimes contradictory ones. While Anonymous espouses privacy, its members also use the release of others' personal information as a tactic in cases where they believe the authorities are not acting in the public interest, or the news media has not released pertinent information. They are quick to condemn any individual who claims to speak for the entire collective, and dissent and infighting are common.

Opinion is certainly divided. Many Anonymous members consider themselves 'crusaders for justice', and in launching these campaigns, demonstrate just how purposeful, if sometimes misguided, they can be. More than once, they have posed as underage girls in order to entrap paedophiles, whose personal information they later sent on to the police. Publicly, Anonymous persists in claiming to be non-hierarchical, despite there being four or five individuals touted as the 'true leader' of the movement. Yet personal identity and the individual remain subordinate to a focus on the "epic win". Anonymous might just be the most powerful, non-governmental hacking collective in the world. Even so, it has never demonstrated an ability or desire to damage any key elements of public infrastructure. To some cybersecurity experts, the dire warnings about Anonymous sound almost like fearmongering. The actions taken in Ferguson, for example, at the way in

which they dealt with the affiliated member who misidentified the killer of Michael Brown.

Phone lines at Ferguson's City Hall were cut and their website brought down. The personal details of the daughter of the senior officer in charge, Jon Belmar, being touted by the group, as something of an incentive to reveal the name of the police officer alleged to have shot Mr Brown. Belmar held his nerve, prompting taunts from the account threatening his own wellbeing, before making the crucial mistake - accusing a civilian of committing the crime. Big mistake. Within hours, Twitter had shut down the account, something which was barely contested by other hacktivists. The baiting of Mr Belmar was the work of an 'Anonym' who was, apparently, "acting against the advice of others", according to fellow members. Yet how can the group retain any credibility when individual members are seen to be breaking away from the pack? Isn't that basically the aim of groups like this? Evoke the social media masses into some kind of frenzy against society and its many flaws? Anonymous attracts people who are willing to 'push the boundaries', in terms of what those they represent are willing to take. The big question then for me is this: is this vigilantism justifiable?

Well, in short, no. Not to me anyway. Vigilantism is simply a bad idea. The vigilante is a person, or in this case a group, driven by emotion, or even rage at times. This group doesn't have the law's resources, or even interest, in finding out the person he deems guilty is actually indeed guilty. The anger and

vengeance is focused on a person or group that seems guilty to them, even if they doesn't have any solid evidence, which comes against every precept of the law. Also, in other cases, the vigilante doesn't care that much who ends up in the cross fire when he enacts his vengeance. Sure, vigilantism applies to the extent where, say, a criminal is running down the street, evading police, and you were to tackle them to the ground. That's as far as it should really go. Leave everything else to individuals who are trained and equipped for the job. That is a rather benign example perhaps, certainly when compared to the kind of rough justice being dished out by groups like Anonymous. How much good can actually come from this? Even ISIS experts have previously said that taking down accounts does little to hit the actual core of activity. And such campaigns have occasionally had counter-productive effects - taking down users that aren't affiliated with ISIS at all, for instance. Twitter doesn't even prohibit what it calls "direct threats of violence" - is a better platform for vigilantism available? I doubt it.

The vigilante cannot be held responsible should they make a mistake, as no one knows who they are. Their only use is in societies where the law itself is more of a guideline, like the Old West, where gunslingers dished out revenge with bullets and manly stares - not with tweets and tirades of abuse. Anonymous may stay just that, but should they continue, then their actions will have greater, negative ramifications than they could possibly have imagined.

“ Anonymous might just be the most powerful, non-governmental hacking collective in the world ”

“ The vigilante is a person, or in this case a group, driven by emotion, or even rage at times. This group doesn't have the law's resources ”





POLITICS

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Budget 2015:

Tax cuts and austerity in a pre-election budget as Osborne announces a “national recovery”



Carwyn Williams

Last Wednesday, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, gave his last budget of this parliament. This was obviously a budget for votes.

It became quickly apparent via Twitter that many viewers were playing ‘Budget Bingo’. Instead of numbers being called out, Osborne would say an iconic phrase such as ‘recovery’. This shows that many have become bored of the current predictable, boring and long budget announcements, although it does not seem to have stopped people from watching it. Indeed there was much reaction on Social Media, with #Budget2015 trending across the UK as people analysed the chancellor’s plan for the next year.

The Deputy Speaker was forced to intervene several times during the Budget and during Miliband’s response, due to a particular rowdy budget announcement, with pointing, shouting, head shaking and pleading going on between the benches. This again reminds us all of the irresponsible, loud and frankly rude behaviour of our Members of Parliament. Osborne also attacked the previous Labour government, as you would expect, but accused the opposition of increasing the north south divide, to the displeasure of the Labour cabinet.

The Office for Budget Responsibility however has said that public service cuts are planned to be like a rollercoaster, with ministerial budget’s deeper than at any point during this parliament, before recovering slightly by 2019/20. The decision facing voters is clear, deeper cuts but into surplus quicker with the Tories, or less austerity with Labour.

“ We are getting the whole of Britain back to work, with a truly national recovery ”

George Osborne

”

ECONOMY

The main theme of this budget: the economy. The main message of this budget: “We are delivering a truly national recovery”, with Osborne mentioning this several times throughout his speech. Starting this pre-election budget, stating, “We have grown faster than any other major economy in the world”.

To the joy of Conservative MPs, it seems the economy is faring better than anticipated in the autumn statement, with the forecast for 2015 revised up to 2.5 per cent, with growth staying at around 2.3 per cent in the following years of a Conservative government. Unemployment figures were also released on Wednesday morning, showing a record high number of people in work, but yet still 5.8 per cent of people unemployed, hoping to reach 5.3 per cent by the end of the year. Mr Osborne looked proud, uttering, “We are getting the whole of Britain back to work, with a truly national recovery”, despite loud Labour opposition and Conservative cheering in the house.

5.8 Percentage of UK workforce Unemployed

On to the all-important borrowing figures: the Chancellor announced that borrowing would be £90.2bn this year, falling to £75.3bn and £39.4bn in 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively. However, in the autumn statement, Osborne hoped to get a surplus of £23bn by 2019-20, but this was revised

down to £7bn this week. The national minimum wage will also be increased, to £6.70 this year, on course for an £8 minimum wage by 2020. Living standards have also increased, Osborne suggested: disposable income had increased for families since 2010. Miliband attacked this statement, responding: “On living standards, which the Chancellor made much of in his speech, he knows that on the official measure people are clearly worse off under him. So he had a bright idea. To invent a new measure of living standards.” The Conservative benches were not amused by this statement, this was party politics at its worst. Miliband went on to say: “People don’t need a new measure which pretends they are better off. They need a new government to make them better off. This is the reality behind the Budget that can’t be believed.” Can Mr Osborne be believed, or is he hiding the scale of future cuts?

The Chancellor referred back to his first budget where he wanted to get national debt falling as a share of GDP by 2015/16, and seemed proud that he had met it, although looking back it is obvious he has failed on much of his deficit plans. Again Miliband commented on this, stating that Mr Cameron said in 2010 that halving the deficit would not be good enough, and Osborne has failed on a key election promise. This comes only a few months after the new Conservative campaign claiming to have halved the deficit, but as a share of GDP, misleading many, critics argued. Mr Osborne pleaded to the people of Britain that a slower recovery with more borrowing would mean Britain will deviate from

its recovery plan, meaning Labour’s plan is the wrong plan. Bringing the last Labour government’s economic failure into the Budget announcement, Osborne announced that despite the country is now paying off century old debt “The debt issued by Gordon Brown will take a little longer to pay off”, to Labour’s dismay. “Do we return to the chaos of the past, or do we continue along the path that is delivering for you,” he said, emphasising the need for a long-term economic plan.

0.2 Inflation rate predicted for 2015 (%)

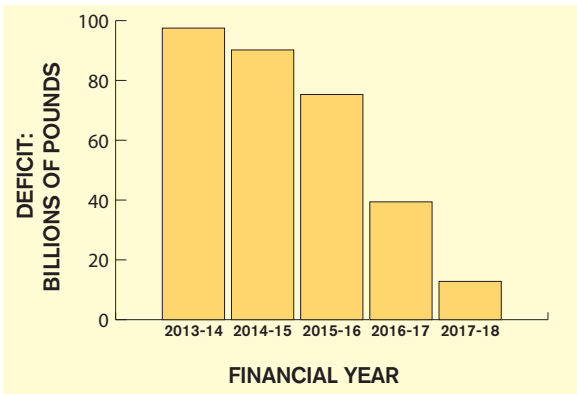
Labour MPs got very rowdy when the Chancellor announced that as a country “we are all in this together”, causing the speaker to intervene. Mr Osborne announced the gender pay gap had never been smaller, while this is a positive outlook; it is still up to 24 per cent in some occupations, still not a figure to be proud of.

Inflation was the main change though since last year, predicted to be just 0.2 per cent this year, dropping from the predicted 1.2 per cent. This is helped by falling food prices and worldwide oil price decrease, being good news for families as according to Osborne, “We are delivering a truly national recovery”. After talks with the National Farmers Union, Osborne has finally agreed to let farmers average their income over five years. NFU President Meurig Raymond reacted to this news announced shortly after: “We are very pleased that Mr Osborne said that he had listened to

“ People don’t need a new measure which pretends they are better off. They need a new government to make them better off. This is the reality behind the Budget that can’t be believed ”

Ed Miliband

”



Pictured: Osborne delivering his Budget (Source: ft.com)



Continued from the previous page

the arguments by the NFU and will allow farmers to average their incomes over five years...farmers are increasingly facing a volatile marketplace and this will enable them to manage the impacts of this."

TAX

Tax was also a hot topic in the house, with the Chancellor announcing that the income tax threshold will be increased to £11,000 next year

There were many incentive tax cuts for voters, or so it seems, from this Budget. These include a 1p tax cut on beer, 2 per cent cut in cider prices, that will make that night in Flux a tad cheaper. The chancellor again confirmed plans to clamp down on tax avoidance, confirming a new measure penalising tax evaded and avoidance. From next year there will no longer be immunity for those who admit to tax evasion, and will face higher penalties. This clampdown, Osborne claims, will rise up to £3.1bn in the period of the next parliament, helping to reduce the deficit.

Miliband stated that these so called 'tax-cuts' were not in fact beneficial for families, adding families were £1,600 a year worse off, due to tax rises in many areas. Mr Miliband went further, adding the Chancellor had not mentioned anything about VAT in his budget. Mr Miliband added: "And everyone knows what's coming if they were to get back in: another VAT rise. The Tax the Tories love to raise." Despite Tory figures rejecting this, the official manifestos are not yet released and this budget is not binding, therefore we will have to wait and see if the Chancellor even has that option.

The annual tax return will also be scrapped, for a real -time online tax

account, to be completed by 2020, although announcing that people who wish to fill out a paper form will still be able to do so.

Another big announcement that was announced was the changes to savings tax, and that anyone earning less than £1,000 in savings income will be exempt from this, a big bonus for savers, not so much so for students.

Miliband accused Osborne of ignoring big cuts in his Budget, which would occur between 2015/6 and 2018, billions of pounds worth. Miliband claimed that eventually the NHS would not be able to be ring fenced, leading to NHS cuts if a next government was a Conservative one.

STUDENTS

In higher education, the Chancellor first announced that the number of students form disadvantaged background were at a record high. Mr Osborne announced that he had in fact examined the option of restricting the annual allowance of pensions to use the money to pay for a tuition fee cut. Mr Osborne said: "It involves penalising moderately paid, long-serving public servants, including police officers, teachers and nurses, and instead rewarding higher paid graduates", going on to say that such a policy would not be fair, and would not be progressive. This comes as expected, but is still a disappointment to many, including the National Union of Students who stated in their General Election manifesto a policy supporting the eventual abolition of tuition fees.

When tuition fees were raised, there was uproar in the student community, with many protesting in London and the conservative student polling being stagnant at 23 per cent, while the

3p	Beer duty cut rate in three years	£25k	PhD student loan availability
16p	Savings on the average bottle of Scotch whiskey	0p	Fuel duty increase in the last four years

Green Party, who support the abolition of student fees, currently polling at 28 per cent amongst the student population. Mr Miliband attacked Osborne's actions on students, saying,

23 (%) Students expected to vote Conservative

"the next generation has seen wages plummet and tuition fees treble."

The Chancellor also promised loans up to £25,000 for students studying for research-based master's degrees and PhDs, saying "Future economic success depends on future scientific success." This adds on to the £10,000 loans announced for taught-based postgraduates. The UK Commission for Employment and Skills estimates that by 2022, as many as one in seven jobs will require a postgraduate qualification, a worrying fact as the UK's number of postgraduate students lags behind international competition.

WALES

So what about Wales? There were many positive points in the Budget for Wales, starting with the fact that the UK government is opening up negotiations over a £1bn tidal lagoon energy project in Swansea. The lagoon, which could power 120,000 homes for 120 years, is much more expensive in the short term for energy than nuclear.

The Chancellor also announced a development of an infrastructure city deal for Cardiff. Cardiff and the South East of Wales will also benefit from the reduction of the Severn Bridge tolls, when they come into public ownership in 2018. The higher rate for vans will be scrapped, to pay the same as cars, at a rate of £5.40.

Wales' Finance Minister, Jane Hutt, was not convinced by the Budget, being devastated that the "devastating impact"

of austerity will continue. Secretary of State for Wales, Stephen Crabb, however had a vastly different opinion, being a Conservative; he said that this was "a Budget to help secure Wales' future."

Local MP Jenny Willott announced "This Budget shows just what Lib Dems in government have been able to achieve for the people of Wales: creating opportunity for everyone by building a strong economy and a fairer society."

REACTION

On Thursday, the real pre-election campaigning about the budget began, with George Osborne denying that planned cuts after the election would be tougher than the austerity of the last five years.

Reacting to the news that the OBR said there'd be a rollercoaster of cuts, Osborne rejected this assessment from the independent watchdog. However, Osborne refused to spell out in interviews what his plans would actually look like, we shall just have to wait and see, is the message.

Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls even praised the Chancellor over some of his policies, saying that the new Help to Buy ISA, which will help first time buyers, was "an interesting idea", which he would keep if Labour would win the election. However, Balls said that "What I will reverse is a plan for deeper spending cuts in the next three years than the last five."

"I think that is a really risky and dangerous prospect for our country. I think he'll end up cutting the National Health Service or raising VAT."

With regards to the effect the budget will have on the General Election campaign, it is yet unclear how the polls will react, whether voters will be sceptical of Osborne's plans and reject the Conservatives, or be bought in by things such as beer and fuel duty cuts. Mr Balls told BBC Breakfast that this budget "was quite empty" and had not "changed the fundamental picture."

“What I will reverse is a plan for deeper spending cuts in the next three years than the last five. I think that is a really risky and dangerous prospect for our country. I think he'll end up cutting the National Health Service or raising VAT”
Ed Balls

Pictured: Severn Bridge toll booths, price will be reduced from 2018 (Source: Flickr, Sprinter Jockey)



Kieran Lewis Prime Minister's Questions



This week's PMQs coincided with the announcement of George Osborne's final budget before the General Election, although surprisingly this was not a prominent theme in the debate. Instead, the Prime Minister turned his attention to newly released unemployment figures that showed a national decline in the three months to January.

Miliband's attack came in the form of the NHS. He claimed that the Prime Minister had broken a number of promises, including failing to meet four hour waiting targets and cancer treatment pledges. Mr Cameron responded by referring to statistics

within the Labour leader's own constituency, which showed the Government had been meeting these targets. Nevertheless, this was not sufficient and when pressed for national figures by another Labour MP later in the debate, the Prime Minister claimed that half a million more patients had been referred to cancer units, without directly addressing the question.

While Labour focused on the NHS, attacks directed at the economy were difficult to maintain, as the Prime Minister was well prepared with statistics showing a drop in claimant counts and plans to increase the minimum wage. Mr Cameron said

the UK was seeing a 'genuinely' national recovery and drops in poverty and inequality. These figures were continually challenged, but the Prime Minister maintained his composure.

All this was seemed lost at times in the midst of heated discussions and mocking of Ed Miliband's two kitchens, following press coverage in the last few days. The Labour leader responded by criticising the Government's Chief Whip, whose kitchen had allegedly been funded by the taxpayer.

The Prime Minister seemed to maintain control of the debate, and in the most part gave passionate

and convincing answers to questions from Labour. The budget was not really mentioned, with the Prime Minister instead returning to claims about his 'long term economic plan', and spouting various economic figures.

From this week's PMQs, it seems that the main themes of Labour and Conservative campaigns have emerged, with the Conservatives centring on the economy, while Labour will prioritise the NHS. However, both parties will need to work to show their competence in the other areas as campaigning gets underway in the next few weeks.

Damning UK detention centres report

Daniel Heard

A damning report into the state of immigration detention in the UK has urged the government to bring in radical changes to detention policy. The report, by the All Party Parliamentary Group into Immigration Detention, criticised the government for detaining people for indefinite amounts of time and using detention more often than is necessary. The panel examined over 180 written submissions and heard evidence from more than

20 witnesses, including current and former detainees. The UK's use of immigration detention was widely condemned, and radical and immediate change was called for. Crucially, this panel believes that little will change by tinkering with the pastoral care or improving the facilities. The report makes a number of key recommendations, including a 28 day time limit on the length of time anyone can be held in immigration detention. The inquiry goes beyond the scope of the

Commission and looks into detention not only of asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers but also other irregular migrants who are caught up in the detention system.

In contrast to the review of care for mentally ill migrants in immigration detention, recently announced by the Home Secretary, Theresa May, the inquiry's report amounts to a forthright rejection of a focus on 'tinkering' to make immigration detention less harmful. It concludes that reform must amount to a 'wholesale change in culture, towards community models of engagement and better case working and decision-making.' It also recommends that the UK emulates good practices in other countries which operate much more effective community-based alternatives to detention programmes. David Burrowes MP, a member of the inquiry panel and Conservative MP, said "This inquiry is an unusual one. Immigration is on the political agenda but rarely do we unite on a cross party basis and consider the issue of immigration detention. The lack of a time limit is resulting in people being locked up for months and, in some cases, several years purely for administrative reasons. While there is a need to properly control our borders, people who arrive by fair means or foul must also be treated with dignity and respect throughout the immigration process."

The inquiry panel conclude that the enforcement-focused culture of

the Home Office means that official guidance, which states that detention should be used sparingly and for the shortest possible time, is not being followed, resulting in too many instances of unnecessary detention. The panel recommend that the UK government should learn from best practice abroad where alternatives to detention are used, which not only allow individuals to live in the community, but which also allow the government to maintain immigration control at a much lower cost to the state. The review argued that depriving an individual of their liberty for the purposes of immigration detention should be an absolute last resort and only used to effect removal. The UK remains the only country in the European Union not to have an upper time limit on detention, and the panel conclude that the lack of a time limit has "significant mental health costs for detainees, as well as considerable financial costs to the taxpayer." This is an uncomfortable subject that most politicians would probably rather not deal with in public, but the current system is apparently both expensive and ineffectively unjust. Because of this general refusal by Parliament to engage with the issue and against the background of the dismal failure by UK civil society to stop the expansion of the detention estate over the last decade or so, there is legitimate scepticism over what this new inquiry could possibly achieve.

“ While there is a need to properly control our borders, people who arrive by fair means or foul must also be treated with dignity and respect throughout the immigration process David Burrowes ”

Pictured: Detention centre



Russia prepared to use nuclear weapons

Louisa Idel

Although Russian President Vladimir Putin had been mysteriously absent from public view, he nevertheless appeared on state television on March 15 in the pre-recorded documentary *Crimea: The Path to the Motherland*. The documentary, which marked a year since the Crimean referendum, retold the crisis from a Russian point of view.

In it, Putin admitted to having been ready to put Russian nuclear weapons on alert during the Crimea crisis, ensuring combat readiness. "We were ready to do this...[Crimea] is our historical territory. Russian people live there. They were in danger. We cannot abandon them...We were ready for the worst possible scenario", said the Russian President regarding the use of nuclear force.

This statement has given renewed salience to the issue of international nuclear security that dates back to the second half of the twentieth century.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia took over large stocks of weapons-grade fissile material and a massive nuclear weapons production complex. In a series of international treaties agreed in subsequent years, Russia and the United States agreed to a limit of 1,550 strategic warheads by 2018. According to recent estimations, Russia is currently in possession of 1,643 deployed warheads. Taking into account the total amount of deployed and non-deployed

nuclear weapons and including those awaiting dismantlement, however, the Russian Federation is thought to have approximately 8,000 warheads.

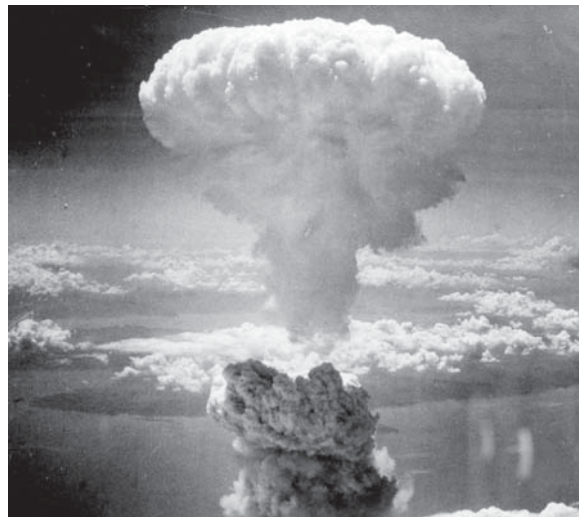
Against the backdrop of deteriorating relations with the West due to the Ukraine crisis, Russia has not been hesitant in reasserting its nuclear power status. Before the new military doctrine was signed in December 2014, important military figures had demanded that the right to a first nuclear strike be restored. While it was ultimately not included, the doctrine identifies NATO enlargement as a principal security risk for the Russian Federation and holds on to the right to make use of nuclear weapons in response to both nuclear strikes and conventional attacks, given that the state's existence is in danger.

Putin's readiness to make nuclear weapons ready for combat has made the possible nuclear threat that Russia might pose to the West ever more tangible. As a consequence, a nuclear-weapon-free world does not appear feasible, with NATO's 2010 Strategic Concept clearly stating that '[a]s long as nuclear weapons exist, NATO will remain a nuclear alliance.'

The situation has also added a new dimension to the ongoing debate regarding the renewal of the British nuclear deterrent programme Trident. A chief argument brought forward by Trident opponents was that the Cold War threat from the Soviet Union no

longer exists. In the light of Putin's statement, however, serious concerns about Britain's defence capabilities have been raised. It seems possible that the fundamental component necessary to drive counter-proliferation – the belief that situations in which nuclear weapons would be used are extremely remote – might be missing after all.

Despite global progress in disarmament, a number of countries continue to increase their nuclear capabilities. In this context, giving Trident up entirely does not seem a viable option. If nuclear threats resurface, a minimum nuclear deterrent might be needed, and Putin's readiness to put Russian weapons on alert might influence Parliament's final decision on the successor to the Trident programme, which is expected after the general election.



Pictured: Mushroom cloud

“ Important military figures had demanded that the right to a first nuclear strike be restored ”

We can no longer ignore the housing crisis

Jack Pickering

This newspaper has dealt with quality and affordability of student housing closely. In the rest of the media, horror stories about the astronomical cost and dire quality of some accommodation, especially in London, abound. Despite this, no party has outlined a credible plan to deal with the housing problem. Recent graduates are perhaps suffering the worst effects of the affordability crisis given their lack of capital and the concentration of the more illustrious job opportunities and internships in London and the South East, the housing crisis is affecting many more than just recent graduates, and there are no signs that it's going to get better unless action is taken soon.

Housing is one of the most practically and politically challenging areas of policy for any government due to the complexity of housing policy's relationship with other policy areas. These difficulties are demonstrated by the large amount of political protest concerning regeneration initiatives in London and the overall lack of affordable housing. A large part of the problem with housing policy in the UK is the British fixation on home ownership. Policies to increase ownership are nothing new, and the most significant of these was the Right to Buy, which was introduced in the 1980 Housing Act and led to the widespread residualisation of council owned housing stock. This left the worst off tenants in the worst quality and least desirable properties, and it also left local authorities with a vastly decreased stock of properties of much lower quality, meaning that council owned housing and its inhab-

itants acquired unfairly poor reputations. The policy also had the effect of changing the original purpose of council housing from an essentially well-maintained and acceptable form of housing for working people, to a form of safety net for the worst off.

Alongside the sharp increases in income inequality and in-work poverty across society there have been dramatic increases in the waiting lists for council housing, in part because of the bedroom tax. Many on the waiting list are now in emergency accommodation at the expense of local authorities or in unsuitable accommodation. Many in London are even faced with the prospect of relocation to another part of the UK. As general housebuilding across the whole of the UK is currently around 200,000 homes per year short of estimated demand, the revival of the Right to Buy in a manner which prevents local authorities from providing like for like replacements is not 'austerity' politics' it's simply bad policy, which is set to increase costs for local government.

Faced with a well-publicised affordability crisis, you would think that housing would be a crucial issue for the main parties to address before the upcoming general election. Despite this, none of the parties have properly addressed the issue. The conservatives have by far the worst housing policy, promising to help people build conservatories by tinkering with the planning system. Labour has pledged to build 200,000 homes annually in order to end the crisis, but still problematically focuses on home ownership, promising to double the num-



Pictured
Belgravia
(flickr: Axel Drainville)

ber of first time buyers. This assumes massive intervention in the housing market as this would be necessary to provide affordable mortgages, and the number of first time buyers under this approach would reach 60000; according to The Guardian, the last time more than 30000 loans to first time buyers were granted (2007), the housing bubble burst.

We live now in some of the oldest and most poorly insulated housing seen across Europe, at a time when climate change is threatening homes directly through flooding and sea level rise. Heating and powering homes is also responsible for a large proportion of the national carbon emissions when sustainable housebuilding and

retrofitting programs could be reducing these while providing many jobs. The wholesale privatisation of council housing and the obsession of successive governments with facilitating owner occupation make dealing with the serious issues we face increasingly difficult. Housing policy has knock on effects on a range of issues from health and wellbeing, to the economy and the environment. In neglecting long-term housing policy, Westminster has been monumentally short-sighted and has also potentially missed out on proposing what could be incredibly popular and realistic policy options before one of the most hotly contested elections in recent memory.

“ Many on the waiting list are now in emergency housing at the expense of local authorities ”

Where next for Nick Clegg and the Lib Dems?

Robert Thomas

On the 12th May 2010, at the rose garden, Downing Street Cameron and Clegg embraced hailed a “new politics” of coalition partnership in the face of the economic abyss. Could this coalition last five years? Would Clegg stand strong against a Tory dominated front bench? And assert his Liberal principles? The Liberal Democrats have not benefited from their role in government. The Coalition Agreement, meant to turn party political pragmatism into joint principles centred on economic recovery, has left the Tories’ junior partners objects of popular ridicule.

Leader since 2007, Nick Clegg was the real winner of the TV debates in 2010, which led to ‘Cleggmania’ and the Liberal Democrats won 23% of the popular vote, albeit losing five seats in the Commons. Of course the decision to go into coalition was fraught with criticism. The party’s membership dropped from 65,038 in 2010 to 48,934 a year later. In the local council elections of 2011, where the Lib Dems lost control of Sheffield council, Clegg admitted that the party had taken “big knocks” due to a perception that the coalition government had returned to 1980s Thatcherism. After disappointment in the AV referendum, failed re-

form of the House of Lords, and losing ten of their eleven seats in the European Parliament in 2014 is it possible Clegg will remain leader of the Lib Dems after the election.

For Nick Clegg to continue as party leader after May he must overcome a number of obstacles. Firstly, he must retain his Sheffield Hallam seat where in 2010 he managed a 29.9% majority. The Lib Dems must hold on to at least 30 seats within a hung parliament scenario as well as having a coalition deal with Labour or Conservative possible. Lastly, Clegg has to be able to sell that deal to the public, asserting his competence to his party. This is the least likely of all.

Even the party faithful admit that if the Lib Dems do as badly as the polls predict (around 7% of the vote) and return to opposition then Clegg’s tenure will certainly end and a leadership debate will ensue. The clear favourite is Tim Farron. His four year stint as party president meant touring the UK, reassuring discontented activists while building a base in the party unhindered by ministerial office. He follows “independent loyalty” – never reactively attacking the leader but proactively voting against £9k tuition fees and the bedroom tax – yet critics

inside the party label this “ambitious expediency”.

Farron’s record as a canny strategist has meant that he gained 60% of the vote in his constituency in 2010. In 2010 he ended the Tories’ 95-year reign in Westmorland and Lonsdale by just 267 votes. In the 2014 Euro election, it was one of only four areas in the UK where the Lib Dems topped the poll. It is argued that Farron reaches parts of the electorate where the party usually cannot. While some say he lacks gravitas or charisma, Farron looks forward to rebuilding the party. Shirley Williams has said: “I have the highest opinion of him, but he’s not a foreign policy man” but he has attempted to assert his providence on welfare reform, immigration and civil liberties as well as courting the party’s economically liberal ‘Orange Bookers’. He has been described as “unstoppable” by Clegg aides.

But who else may run? It depends on who survives. Danny Alexander, the clever and effective Chief Secretary, may not, his unpopularity in government is a detriment in an all-party ballot; Norman Lamb has many merits but has been called “bland”; Ed Davey has brains on his side; Jo Swinson would be a radical choice. It’s

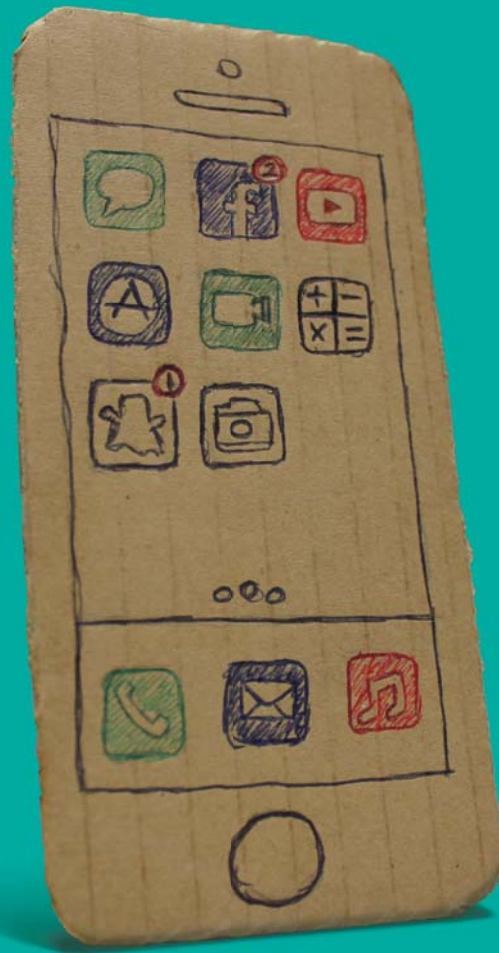
conceivable that long-standing parliamentarian Vince Cable, 72 may stand, perhaps his age will prove a virtue rather than hindrance.

As Stephen Tall, editor of Liberal Democrat Voice puts it: “...it seems almost certain that Tim Farron will be giving the leader’s speech at the party’s Bournemouth conference this autumn. He will, naturally, use the occasion to pay full and handsome tribute to Nick Clegg. But no-one expects him to lead the Lib Dems in the same direction.”



Pictured:
Nick Clegg
(Source: The Spectator)

“ Lib Dem membership dropped from 65,038 in 2010 to 48,934 a year after the general election ”



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Ed Miliband talks to Gair Rhydd

The Labour leader shares his thoughts on tuition fees, the SNP and voter apathy

Rhiannon Tapp

Carwyn Williams

Lauren Boyd

Last Thursday, Ed Miliband answered people's questions at an event in the Millennium Stadium, speaking on a range of issues and telling the Cardiff audience, "Welsh Labour needs a partnership with Westminster."

Miliband tried hard to differentiate himself and the Labour party from the Conservatives, saying: "Tories want wealth to trickle down, however I believe that the people with the broadest shoulders should bear the greatest burden."

With tuition fees trebled, the vast amount of zero hour contracts in the economy, and the stripping of services, young people feel that the last five years have been tough, leading to apathy regarding voting, critics say. In the last General Election, 21.4 per cent of 18-24 year olds voted for the main two parties, suggesting they no longer be-

lieve that there's a difference between the mainstream parties.

Gair Rhydd asked Miliband why students should believe that Labour is different, and he answered saying:

"For students and young people, listen to what we've got to say on tuition fees... This decision will also bring more money to the Welsh budget. Look at what we've got to say about jobs, putting people back to work and the minimum wage. And look at what we've got to say about raising the minimum wage and zero hours contracts. These are massive issues for many students. So coming up to this election, the message should be made clear to young people that we have a better offer for their future."

Labour recently announced they would lower tuition fees to £6,000, to distinguish themselves as the party who will right the wrongs in the minds of students.

Critics of this plan argue that Labour aren't going far enough. The practicalities are also a concern. The Chancellor announced yesterday that he had reviewed lowering tuition fees at the expense of pensioners, but it was not a viable option. Since 2012, the Welsh Government has been partially subsidising tuition fee for Welsh students, and we asked Miliband why his plans didn't go this far.

"£6,000 is what is affordable", he said, "We've got to make our plans add up. It will make a difference for the Welsh government because at the moment they've got to pay a bigger difference than they will once we lower the fees. The one important lesson to take from Nick Clegg's broken promise is to make promises you can keep,



Pictured: Ed Miliband arriving in Cardiff, greeted by First Minister Carwyn Jones, Owen Smith MP and Cardiff Labour candidates (Credit: Media Wales)

and that's what we're doing", saying he would like to go further, but can't promise this.

During the talk, it seemed at points Mr Miliband was avoiding fully answering certain questions. These included questions on his dismissal of an SNP coalition, the Barnett formula, asylum seekers and climate change.

In response to this Gair Rhydd asked why he was ruling out a coalition with the SNP when it's unlikely he'll secure a majority government:

"There are too many fundamental disagreements between ourselves and the SNP for us to have a coalition government. But I want there to be a majority Labour government. I think this election is still to be decided. There are seven weeks to go and people are still focusing on this election. They're thinking about their options and I'd say to people that there is a big choice: a Labour government or a Conservative government. We know what a Conservative government would

mean now for public services. We've seen the devastating impact and that's just one of the many reasons why I hope people vote Labour."

On devolution, Miliband said he didn't think an English Assembly was the answer but was in favour of greater devolution across the UK. He went on to say that devolution was "a tussle over power", and we need to find the right balance. Regarding reform of the House of Lords Miliband stated: "I want a democratically elected senate of the nations. This would increase the democratic principle and reduce hereditary power."

Miliband joked that such a range of bases had been covered in a relatively small amount of questions and that he'd never had people so keen. Miliband continuously made joking references and kept the atmosphere light. Various members who took to the microphone announced their pride for Miliband and offered their hopes that he would be the next Prime Minister.

“ The one important lesson to take from Nick Clegg's broken promise is to make promises you can keep, and that's what we're doing **”**

Ed Miliband

”

Pictured: Politics editor with Ed Miliband



A week in the Senedd with Carwyn Williams



First Minister's Questions

Health was again on the agenda this week, with Muhammad Asghar starting proceedings accusing the Labour run government on breaking their election promise with regards to GP out of hour appointment services. Mr. Asghar said that only 0.5 per cent of GP surgeries had any Saturday appointments and 7 per cent on late night appointments, the First Minister however dismissed this, hitting back with statistics that 79 per cent of surgeries offered appointments until 6.30pm every day.

Kirsty Williams also mentioned health, and why the Welsh Ambulance Service was spending £269,653 on taxis taking patients to hospital in the first 11 months of last year, an increase of over 50 per cent. Mr. Jones added that a taxi costs as little as £4 to transport a non-emergency patient, whereas an ambulance can cost £183.

Conservatives leader Andrew RT Davies mentioned the economy, and added Wales has one of the highest high street shop vacancy rates in the UK. Mr. Jones lighted a political match here, adding that it was the

Conservatives' fault for stripping families of their disposable income that was to blame, with Mr. Davies saying it was a "ludicrous answer". The First Minister later added that higher education, such as Cardiff University, makes a huge contribution to the Welsh economy.

Elin Jones, Plaid Cymru, mentioned the Welsh language, and disagreed with the First Minister that enough was being done in the planning process to ensure local communities in West Wales can stay Welsh.

Bond Rejected by Butler

It has been revealed that a request made by the makers of the new James Bond film to feature the chamber in the Assembly was rejected by the Presiding Officer Rosemary Butler. It emerged that the controversial decision was not made by the official body of the Assembly; the Assembly Commission, and members have reported to say they would have supported it. In a statement, Butler said "On balance, the risk to the Siambr and potential for disruption to business was too great.

Monitor senior pay in HE

The Education Minister responded to claims from members that the senior level salary in the higher education sector were out of control. The minister stated he had "asked Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) to monitor senior pay levels and rewards in the HE sector and to submit a report to the Welsh Government on an annual basis." It was revealed last week that a development director for Bangor University had racked up expenses of almost £50,000, on top of a high salary.

Senedd to get Armed Police

Due to an increased threat to security, armed police will now be deployed to the Senedd. It is following a number of security issues that have been revealed recently. In the wake of a shooting at Canada's Parliament last autumn, MPs in Westminster were advised to barricade themselves in their office in the event of an attack. An assembly insider said "It's a shame this should be happening, given the Assembly's commitment to being an open institution, but it's a sign of the times we live in."



Magic medicine does not work Gambian president HIV “cure” gets British support

Shanna Hamilton

As a research student in life sciences, I have to absolutely bend over backwards to prove something I might find. This involves mind-numbing repeats, multiple types of experiments, revision after revision of a manuscript and then intense scrutiny from experts in the field. This painstaking process that can take months, if not years, is partly why the latest in quack medical news angers me so much, and should anger you.

The Gambian President, Yahya Jammeh, not only claims he can cure AIDS “Using charisma, herbs, magic and charms”, but has British support from a homeopathic group who are official suppliers to our very own Royal family. The Gambia Wellness Foundation (GWF) offer alarming homeopathic treatments to thousands of patients in Gambia, and this has recently surfaced in the midst of the release of a damning report from the National Health and Medical Research Council in Australia, that slates all types of alternative treatments. It states: “Homeopathic remedies are no more effective than a placebo. The alternative medicine does not cure any conditions that are chronic, serious or could become serious.”

For a medical treatment to reach doctor’s cabinets, the process from start to finish can take 20 years. From basic molecular science work in the lab, to extensive animal testing, to long and cautious clinical trials in humans, there are so many hurdles for pharmaceutical companies to overcome before we can even contemplate taking a new drug.

Homeopathy, however, goes through absolutely none of this vigorous testing process. Most claims are based on anecdotal evidence or single studies, which carry no weight

in the medical community.

It may seem absolutely astonishing then that the NHS spends between £4 and £12 million a year on treatments that have no scientific basis. Not only is tax payer’s money spent so frivolously, many of us fall for promises of miracle cures, with the homeopathy industry worth £40 million in the UK alone. I’m sure many of you have fallen for the guise of raspberry ketones that promise fat loss, acupuncture to help sore back muscles, and St John’s wort for growing pains - the promise of a quick and easy fix is too much for some to resist. Even celebrities publicly show their support for unproven treatments – Gwyneth Paltrow’s latest endorsement is a vaginal steam clean, for a “cleansed uterus” and a rebalance of female hormones.

We have to thank 18th century German doctor Samuel Hahnemann for the birth of quack medicine. Unhappy with the benefits of medical treatments that seemed more painful than useful, Hahnemann stumbled across cinchona bark in his search for alternatives. The plant product caused fever, but seemed to “cure” the fever caused by malaria. The central theory to homeopathy was born from this observation: that like cures like, that something that can cause a fever will cure one.

Many current alternative treatments are based on extreme dilutions of so-called “cure” substances. Practitioners maintain that water retains some sort of memory of molecules it once held, and even after hundreds or thousands of dilutions, where in actual fact any concentration of a substance would be negligible or zero, the water will still have pharmaceutical effects. A 2010 Commons science and technology committee report found this

theory is “scientifically implausible” and stated there is overwhelming evidence that these preparations are absolutely no better for a patient than a placebo.

However, whilst most treatments contain virtually no active ingredients, homeopathy carries risks. Professor Edzard Ernst, a particularly outspoken critic of these medicines, published a review in 2012 of harmful effects arising from such treatments. Over 1000 patients were reported as having problems, and four died. Effective medicines were often delayed or refused, consequently harming their health.

It is therefore no surprise that the actions of GWF and the Gambian president have concerned scientists across the globe. Professor David Colquhoun of University College London, who myth-busts such treatments at his blog dcscience.net, says, “These people should be prosecuted. These are serious and treatable conditions and people should not be distracting from the efforts to improve things by giving people worthless remedies.”

The President of Gambia announced in 2007 that he had found a remedy of boiled herbs to cure AIDS: “With this project coming to fruition, we intend to treat 10,000 HIV/Aids patients every 6 months through natural medicine.” It is frightening to think how many people may have chosen the unproven treatment over anti-retroviral drugs, that may help many HIV sufferers go on to lead normal lives.

The President has offered his support to the London-based charity GWE, helping the group to set up a clinical practice within the country. The list of ailments the charity claim to cure with its herbal remedies includes malaria, arthritis, stroke and even rape trauma. There is no surprise this out-

rageous suggestion has many up in arms, before even considering a questionable relationship with a president who has an atrocious human rights record who claims he will rule for “a billion years”.

Even more frightening is the discovery that the British charity supply homeopathic remedies to the royal family, through Ainsworths, a London shop with the royal seal of approval of Prince Charles himself. The Prince has long been an advocate for alternative medicines, and Professor Ernst, a prominent critic of all things pseudo-science, claims the royal cost him his job.

In 2005, Ernst slated the Prince’s Foundation for Integrated Health in a newspaper comment, and on request of the Prince’s private secretary for disciplinary action, was subjected to a 13 month investigation by Exeter University who even tried to limit his right of free speech to the press.

In a chapter of his book “Off With His Head”, Ernst writes, “Prince Charles has continued to promote alternative medicine indefatigably, often showing himself unwilling or unable to distinguish between real health care and blatant quackery, between medicine or snake oil, or between the truth and some half-baked obsessions of his own.”

I find it somewhat disturbing that an avid supporter of so-called magic medicines is in line to the throne of our country, and even more so that a Gambian president renowned for ill treatment of his own people could get support from British citizens. Homeopathy does not work, and it is high time the NHS no longer wasted tax payers money and put patients at risk when effective and proven treatments are readily available.

Pictured:
Above Left: President Yahya Jammeh of Gambia, who promotes a herbal cure for HIV (Source: UN Photo/Erin Seagle)

Above Right: Prince Charles, who has been described as “His Royal Quackitioner” by Professor David Colquhoun (Source: Chris Jackson, Flickr)

“ I find it somewhat disturbing that an avid supporter of so-called magic medicines is in line to the throne of our country ”

Got a story idea? Let us know: science@gairrhydd.com

The rise of scarlet fever

Is increasing antibiotic resistance to blame?

Shanna Hamilton

“His face grew very flushed, and he talked in his sleep, and his little body was so hot that it burned the Rabbit when he held him close.” Children’s novel “The Velveteen Rabbit”, written by Margery Williams in 1922, is a much-loved classic but also an early literary reference to a contagious disease that is now on the rise in the UK.

Scarlet fever is highly contagious. While rarely fatal, it can become life-threatening in the weak, young and elderly. Due to its serious nature, the condition remains a notifiable disease – health professionals must report on any suspected cases. Thanks to such rigorous surveillance, Public Health England (PHE) has noted a dramatic increase in cases compared to winter last year, and are urging the public to be vigilant.

The condition dates back centuries, but thanks to medical advances is now uncommon. Some researchers suggest scarlet fever dates back over 2,500 years, to the times of ancient Greek physician Hippocrates. The first paper distinguishing the condition from its similar counterparts, measles and smallpox, appeared in 1553, where Italian doctor Giovanni Ingrassia describes the disease as “rosalia”, referring to a rash.

Much like the flu, symptoms include sore throat, fever, body aches and nausea. What makes scarlet fever so recognisable is the rash first appearing as itchy sunburn with bumps around the face and neck, before spreading across the entire body. The bumps merge together, giving the affected area a bright red appearance. Suffering a bout of scarlet fever is wholly unpleasant experience.

The fever is most commonly caused by group A streptococcus bacteria, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, well known for causing “strep throat” that many of you will have suffered. Infections typically begin at the throat or skin, and are usually mild. However, complications can arise if a person’s immune system is weakened. If the bacteria is spread through the bloodstream, life-threatening complications can arise, including meningitis, toxic shock syndrome and pneumonia. 20 per cent of patients with an invasive *S. pyogenes* infection will die.

The rise in cases therefore has PHE concerned. They have reported a 66 per cent increase between winter in 2014 and 2015, the number of cases jumping from 762 to 1265 in the same 6 week period. The highly contagious nature of the bacteria, passed on through aerosols produced by sneez-

ing and coughing, means authorities are closely monitoring disease progression.

PHE researcher Dr Theresa Lamagni said: “We’re continuing to see a considerable increase in the number of people diagnosed with scarlet fever across England confirming this is the second season in a row with exceptionally high numbers.”

In Wales, while cases have risen, the increase does not match that of it’s bordering country. A spokesman for Public Health Wales (PHW) said, “We would like to reassure people that Welsh scarlet fever figures do not show any unusual increase for this time of year. Patients are always advised to contact their GP if they have any concerns about their health.”

Although there has been no significant increase in Wales, more than 14,000 people were diagnosed with the disease in 2014, reaching levels not seen since the 1960s. While nowhere near the scale of previous centuries, thanks to the discovery of penicillin, antibiotic overuse may be contributing to the rise of scarlet fever. In the past two decades, there has been a resurgence of several illnesses caused by *S. pyogenes*, including the flesh-eating necrotizing fasciitis, and some experts think our flagrant use of antibiotics may be to blame.

Published in *Emerging Microbes & Infections*, Samson Wong and Kwok-Yung Yuen of the University of Hong Kong comment on penicillin as the drug of choice for scarlet fever, despite serious warnings from health officials that growing resistance to antibiotics is like a “ticking time bomb”.

Professor Dame Sally Davies, the government’s chief medical officer, spoke of the threat at the 2013 G8 summit: “If we don’t take action, then we may all be back in an almost 19th century environment where infections kill us all as a result of routine operations.”

According to Wong and Yuen’s study, resistance to antibiotics is rising in *S. pyogenes* infections. One group of antibiotics, macrolides, is over-subscribed for minor ailments such as bronchitis, sinusitis and even the common cold, and the level of use corresponds to the prevalence of resistant bacteria.

Matthew Smallman-Raynor of the University of Nottingham, an expert in the history of disease, says the rise in cases could also lead to infection becoming resistant to treatment in the future. “The more cases there are, the greater risk of development of antibiotic-resistant strains,” he said.

The Unpleasant Symptoms



Red Rash

After 12-28 hours, a characteristic and painful rash appears. It feels like sandpaper at first or an itchy sunburn, progressing from the face across the whole body. Small bumps conjoin to form what appears to be a large red rash.



Strawberry Tongue

What begins as a white coating on the tongue progresses as scarlet fever develops. After a few days this peels away leaving the tongue very red and swollen, hence the nickname “strawberry tongue”.



Peeling Skin

As the rash begins to fade after 6 or 7 days, skin begins to peel on fingertips, toes and groin areas. This painful process can last for weeks, even after the rash has subsided.

Pictured: Symptoms of scarlet fever. (Sources: First, RBSS Infectious Diseases, Second, Tamisworth Informed, Third, Imagearcade)

“If we don’t take action, then we may all be back in an almost 19th century environment where infections kill us all as a result of routine operations”

Prevention and treatment

Be vigilant of symptoms, especially in young children

Wash your hands

Throw used tissues in the bin

Avoid contact with infected materials - tissues, eating utensils and bedding

Report any symptoms to your GP or NHS Direct

Take the full course of prescribed antibiotics, and avoid misuse

Stay at home to avoid spreading the infection

Pictured: Table of advice, sourced from Public Health England

Men are being denied life-saving HPV vaccine

Maria Mellor

Recently in the media, accusations have been brought to light claiming that the government are 'homophobic' for not immunising men against HPV. Since 2008 girls aged 11-14 have been given the jab on the NHS, whereas boys and men, regardless of how likely they are to contract the virus, have been ignored.

HPV, or the Human Papilloma Virus, is a sexually transmitted infection known to lie in wait and show no signs or symptoms until it emerges, causing warts or even cancer. Even the use of condoms doesn't provide adequate protection as it is spread by skin-to-skin contact; new research as of November 2014 has even shown that HPV could be spread through kissing.

There is no cure once it is contracted, and after weeks, months or even years, the virus can cause cells in the body to mutate, forming cancerous tumours in the mouth, genitals or anus. HPV is a major cause of cervical cancer, hence why the government chose to immunise girls rather than boys, and the treatment protects women as well as the men who have sex with them. The idea behind only vaccinat-

ing teenage girls was that it would be cost effective, as young girls are less likely to have had any contact with the virus.

Scientists, campaigners and media personalities alike have recognised the discrimination behind this, as men who wish to be immunised must pay for private treatment. With the policy of only immunising girls, prevention of the spread of the virus relies on a society where only heterosexual relationships exist. Dr Christian Jessen, of 'Embarrassing Bodies' fame, notes that "to only vaccinate 50 per cent of the population doesn't make sense" as "You need to vaccinate enough of the population to shut down an infection".

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation have advised the government to provide gender-neutral immunisation. Not only would it help prevent the spread of HPV, but it would also be economically beneficial, saving the government millions of pounds that would otherwise be spent on treating the cancer caused by it on the NHS. According to Dr Max Pemberton, editor of 'Spectator Health', the annual cost of treating every case



Pictured: The HPV virus is delivered via a series of injections (Source: Ruben Diaz, Flickr)

“ The annual cost of treating every case of anal cancer directly related to HPV across the UK is between £70 million and £90 million ”

of anal cancer directly related to HPV across the UK is between £70 million and £90 million, whereas the cost of gender-neutral immunisation would only be around £20 million.

It is also apparent that the policy of only vaccinating young girls has had other negative effects. Studies have shown that the public health campaigns which encouraged people to get their daughters vaccinated have given inaccurate impressions about the matter. With the focus on the protection against cervical cancer, many do not realise that HPV can affect both men and women of all ages, and that the jab can also prevent other kinds of HPV related cancers. The Advisory Com-

mittee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention have previously recommended that boys and young men receive the vaccine routinely.

However, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) have noted that while the vaccine is effective, currently including boys in HPV vaccination programmes is not yet proven to be cost-effective. Dr Jessen had this to say: "I understand there's a need to economise, but this is entirely a false economy and will leave a whole cohort of the population at risk of problems caused by HPV which will be very costly to treat – more costly than the vaccine."

There's something fishy about pheromones

Meryon Roderick

Glam on a Saturday night presents an interesting cocktail of smells. The over riding smell is bound to be sweat but there's also that unique fragrance that can only derive from a mixture of Sambuca, Jagermeister, and cheap lager slowly drying onto the walls and floor. This is usually mixed with the acrid smell of too much cheap aftershave as a group of lads on the pull stride past and if you happen to be standing near the toilets then you'll also pick up on a hint of urinal cake with vomit undertones.

You can tell a lot from a smell but it's not clear exactly how much. You could be blind and deaf but as long as you still possess your sense of smell, you'll always know if you stumble into Glam. But could we be subconsciously be discovering intimate details about one another via our noses?

Since the 1950s, scientists have been aware that some animals communicate by releasing chemicals, called pheromones, into the air. One of the most famous examples of this is in moths. Female moths secrete a sex pheromone into the air, which is capable of travelling extremely long distances. When a male moth detects this chemical with his antennae it alters the way his brain works, making him hell bent on tracking down the female and mating. Laboratory tests have even shown that male moths in this state will ignore the calls of

predators because they are so intent on finding the female.

Obviously if you could apply this effect to humans you'd be on to a winner. A lot of people would pay very large sums for a scent that would drive the opposite sex wild, even more so than liberally applying Lynx on top of your clothes. Indeed, if you search for human pheromones on the Internet there are myriad websites claiming to sell perfumes to improve your love life. One website even claims to sell pheromones for women that will make a man "Fiercely determined to copulate". Romantic.

Sadly, or happily depending on your view of fiercely determined copulation, there isn't actually any hard scientific evidence that humans can communicate with pheromones. So far there have been several potential candidates for an effective human pheromone, the first being androstadienone and androstenol, which are known to be pheromones in pigs and are also found in human armpits. When little was found to support any effect on humans focus shifted to androstadienone and oestratetraenol, which are oestrogen derived substances that are present in the sweat of pregnant women.

Trials appeared to show that these two compounds are capable of causing arousal in men but later scrutiny revealed huge flaws in the experimental design. The men who were tested

were exposed to the two potential pheromones in concentrations that are thousands or even millions of times higher than would ever occur in nature. Other researchers have struggled to replicate the results and one study found no candidates for receptor cells that could even detect androstadienone or oestratetraenol. Furthermore the work was funded by EROX who sell pheromones so they obviously have a vested interest in the

tests coming back positive.

The case against human pheromones is fairly damning which makes the fact that you can still readily buy them quite a concern. The pheromone industry, like so many others, profits from peddling pseudoscience to desperate people. Rather than spend large sums on questionable perfumes to make us more like moths, why not be more like people and just talk to one another.



Pictured: "Sex panther" cologne: 60 percent of the time, it works every time.

“ A lot of people would pay very large sums for a scent that would drive the opposite sex wild ”

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Barney's Note

If you are reading this, it means that Go Global is either about to happen or has just happened – I am sure it will be/was one of the best nights in the Union calendar and you should totally come/have come! On top of that, the Cardiff

Fringe Festival is now over! Highlights for me included the puppies at Inner Child Day (courtesy of Student Minds) and the Variety night. You all remind me that I have the best job ever and why I keep doing it!

In other news, the Societies Ball tickets have now almost sold out! If you have yet to get a ticket you need to move fast. Some tickets will be held back for societies that are shortlisted but there is no guarantee of this so get a move on! For those that have a ticket, you will be pleased to know that I am currently getting quotes for chocolate fountains! I can't wait to see you all there! Much love from the Societies team and get in touch if you need us.



What's On

Monday 23rd March

Student Advice
Student Advice Drop In
Noon - 2pm
Meeting Rooms close to the IV Lounge

Krishna Consciousness
Soul Jam
6.15pm - 9pm
4G, Students' Union

Nightline
Call Nightline to chat about anything
Every night 8pm - 8am

Music Society
MuSoc Acoustic Night
9pm
Vulcan Lounge

Tuesday 24th March

Cardiff Women's Association
CWA AGM
6pm
4G, Students' Union

German Society
German Society AGM
6pm
The Taf

A Cappella Society
A Cappella Spring Showcase
7pm - 11pm
See article for more details
CF10, Students' Union

Chemistry Society
ChemSoc's Chemistry Ball
7pm - 1am
Swalec Stadium Gate 5

Erasmus Society
Erasmus Ball 2015
7pm - 11:59pm
Cardiff Museum

Broadway Dance Society
Dirty Dancing theatre trip
7.30pm - 10.30pm

Act One
Dr Faustus
7.30pm - 10pm
See article for more details
YMCA, Roath

Baking Society
Baking Society social
8pm - 10pm
Face 11, 105 Cathays Terrace

Wednesday 25th March

Skills Development Service
Short Course in Personal Effectiveness
2pm - 4pm
For location information e-mail SDS.

The Palestrina Singers
A Concert for Reflection
6.30pm
Church of St Martin, Roath, CF24 3JL

People and Planet
AGM
7.30pm
4H, Students' Union

English Literature Society
English Literature Society Spring Ball
7pm - 1am
The Parc Hotel

Thursday 26th March

Expression
Fitness
6pm - 7.15pm
4A/B, Students' Union

Student Enterprise
Speaker Session: Confessions of an Entrepreneur
6pm - 8pm
4J, Students' Union

Student Minds
Eating Disorder Support Group
6.15pm - 7.15pm
4F, Students' Union

Journalism Society
Journalism Society Spring Ball 2015
7pm - 11:59pm
Angel Hotel, Cardiff

Effective Altruists Society
Talk by Professor Alan Fenwick - Director of the Schistosomiasis Control Initiative
7pm - 8pm
UHW Heath Park Campus

Bioscience Society
Bioscience presents - End of Year Casino Royale Ball
7.30pm - 3am
Millennium Stadium

Friday 27th March

Boardgaming, Roleplaying and Wargaming League
National Student Roleplaying and Wargaming Championships
Noon - 29th March 10pm
De Montfort University, Leicester

Saturday 28th March

Erasmus Society
A day at the seaside - Gower Trip
9am - 5pm

Optometry Society
EyeBall 2015
7pm - 2am
City Hall, Cardiff

Hitting the right notes with the A Cappella Society in their Spring Showcase

Rob Hindle

Now in our second full year as a society, the A Cappella Society has gone from strength to strength and has especially improved over the past year to become a gold-tier society. Making music with only your voice is something that anyone can do and this year we have had an amazing increase in members who want to sing along with us.

We arrange all of our own music and everything that you will hear at our showcase has had hours of listening, arranging, teaching and rehearsal time to it. The results are amazing, as are the responses that we get from audiences when we perform!

This year, we have had some great performances such as our collaboration at Sinatra Society's Black History Month event and the Cardiff Fringe Festival. We

have also enjoyed working more with the local community, by performing Christmas carols in town with Cardiff Marrow, singing for the elderly and running workshops for teenagers, all of which have been rewarding

experiences and have enabled us to network with other societies.

We also entered our groups into the Voice Festival UK which is a national a cappella competition.

We will be attending in April to collaborate and develop with

other groups from across the UK. We also plan to record a CD, to go and see Pentatonix on their European tour and, of course, organise a massive trip to see Pitch Perfect 2!

The society will hold its end-of-year summer showcase on March 24th in CF10 at the Students' Union. Doors will open at 7pm and tickets cost £5 for general sale and £3 for society members. It will be an evening of singing, dancing and music all made from our mouths – and a few claps!

With performances from the Acapelads and Decibelles and our two new groups InterChorus and Vox, it is sure to be an amazing evening and not one to be missed!

For more information about the event and the society, search CU A Cappella Society on Facebook or @CUACappella on Twitter.

Pictured:
An A Cappella Society performance



Should we have a UKIP Society?

A student has set the wheels in motion for the founding of a society for fellow students who support UKIP

David Hooson

The UKIP General Election candidate for Cardiff North, Ethan Wilkinson, has expressed his intent to found the first-ever UKIP Students Society at Cardiff University. Wilkinson, who is in his fourth year studying Italian and Spanish at Cardiff, stated in a tweet last Wednesday that such a society would be the first of its kind in Wales.

When he was interviewed by Gair Rhydd Politics in February, Wilkinson opened up about his experience of standing as an election candidate while still being a student, as well as being a married father of one and a member of the Mormon Church. He also stated his support for the UKIP policies tuition fees, climate change and equal marriage.

At Nottingham Trent University, plans for a UKIP society were blocked and there is an ongoing debate about

the presence of UKIP on the University of Derby's campus. Here at Cardiff, there is a recent precedent for founding political societies with the Cardiff University Green Party having been resurrected this year.

It looks very likely that plans here will fare better than those at Nottingham and Derby. Anyone who wishes to establish a society within the Union must fill in an application form that can be accessed on the Union's website. The form gives applicants an opportunity to explain why they want to form their society and what they plan to do if their application is successful.

Applications are put before the Societies Executive Committee, who decide whether they have made a good case for the need for their society in the Union and how it could benefit Cardiff students.

Evidence of student support for applications is also an important factor, with a minimum of 20 students required for a new society to be formed. In a further tweet last Thursday, Wilkinson told Gair Rhydd Societies that he had 45 students signed up in support of a UKIP society and would be submitting his application as soon as possible. The next meeting of the

Societies Exec will be held this Tuesday, March 24th.

If a UKIP Students Society is formed after Tuesday's meeting, it will come just in time for the new society to campaign and raise support for the party among students ahead of the General Election that will be held on Thursday May 7th.

The rapid growth of UKIP support in recent times has had little impact among students. Opinion-Panel reported in February that just two per cent of students intended to vote UKIP in the upcoming election, putting them in sixth place among students behind the SNP. The same group reported last June that 80 per cent of students considered UKIP to be racist.

This might account for the opposition the party have faced on university campuses in other parts of the UK, but there does not seem to be any legitimate reason why an application to form a UKIP society would fail. With proven support for such a society at Cardiff University and their parliamentary candidate leading the charge; it looks likely that a Cardiff University UKIP Students will soon have their first meeting.



“ Ethan Wilkinson (@ethanwilkinson)

I am in the process of setting up the very first @UKIP @Yofficial @cardiffstudents uni society in Wales #VoteUKIP ”



All events must be signed up for in advance. To sign up and for more information on any activities head to cardiffstudents.com/GiveitaGo.

Try a Sport

Give it a Go Jiu Jitsu
6pm 23rd March

The Jiu Jitsu Club welcome everyone including absolute beginners and those what want to give martial art a try. Jiu Jitsu is a martial art which concentrates on self defence by utilizing locks, throws, strikes, holds and immobilizations to defend oneself.

The techniques of Jiu Jitsu try to use as little force as possible to overcome an attacker. This means it does not matter what size, build or sex.
Talybont Dojo

Give it a Go Ladies Cricket
5.45pm 24th March

Ladies cricket has members of every level of ability and have coaching to suit all levels from complete novices to experienced players. All are welcome to come along to any session and try your hand at a new sport! Training twice a week at Talybont Sports Hall they teach and improve batting, bowling

and fielding skills with the option of one on one coaching to help everyone progress on an individual basis.
Talybont Sports Hall

Be Creative

Give it a Go Circus Skills
3.30pm 25th March

Cardiff University Circus Society are teaming up with No Fit State Circus for 2 hour weekly sessions every Wednesday. This is perfect for anyone interested in learning some new and exciting circus skills or to improve on existing talents!
Meet at the front of the Students' Union

Give It a Go Manga Library
6pm 23rd March

A weekly screening of either a movie or the first five episodes of an anime. There's a good mix of old and new, genres from across the board and no repeats!
The Lounge, 3rd Floor of the Union

Give It a Go Sci-Fi
6.45pm 23rd March

Meet at the front of the Students' Union

Give It a Go Creative Writing

6.45pm 24th March
Meet at the front of the Students' Union

Give It a Go Anime Workshop

7pm 24th March
Large Shandon Lecture Theatre, Main Building

Music, Dance & Performance

Give it a Go Slash Hip Hop Dance

7pm 23rd March
Room 4J Students' Union

Give it a Go Dance-Sport
7pm – 9.30pm 24th March
Salsa 7pm
Latin & Ballroom 7.30pm
Technique Class 9pm
Great Hall, Students Union

Thought, Faith & Culture

Give it a Go Model UN
6pm 24th March
Students Union, Room 4H

Give it a Go Debating

7pm 26th March
Would you like to become more confident, improve your public speaking, sharpen your skills of analytical thinking, make new friends and maybe even have fun? Then come along to Cardiff University Debating Society!
Cafe in Bute Building

Heath Park

Give it a Go Healthcare Basketball
2pm 28th March
Spend 1 hour learning new drills or honing in your amazing skills and the 2nd hour playing full-court matches in a tournament style.
Heath Sports Hall

Give It A Go Medics Hockey

4pm 29th March
Talybont Astroturf

Try Volunteering

Give it a Go Feed the Homeless
3pm 25th March
Beneath the Queen Street railway bridge on Newport Rd



Cardiff Fringe Festival concludes

Hannah Sterritt

Last week saw the second annual Cardiff Fringe Festival held predominantly at the Students' Union between Friday 13th March until its climax with Go Global on Saturday 21st March.

The week kicked off with Afrogene hosted by the African Caribbean Society on the Friday, held in Y Plas. Afrogene is the ACS' annual cultural extravaganza which was billed to be a celebration of African/Caribbean cultures through avenues such as dance, music, drama, fashion and even food.

The Operatic Society performed Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th March. Jordan Nicholls reviewed the opera at The Gate Arts Centre, stating: "First performed in 1692, *The Fairy Queen* is an adaptation of Shakespeare's beloved, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and centres around King Oberon's birthday. Following on from last year's roaring success of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, one of the biggest highlights of the evening was the Operatic Society's take on the classic 'Hush, no more' choral number. Recently seen in the Welsh National Opera's compilation of best-loved choral numbers in *Chorus!* it was a treat to see this beautiful song in context, and it certainly didn't disappoint! The great thing about Cardiff University's Oper-

atic Society is it provides students with the opportunity to experience producing and performing an opera – which is certainly no easy task. The *Fairy Queen* did a great job of showcasing the talents of the students of Cardiff University and revealed some true gems among them too! Bring on next year's production!"

The Art Society put on a Giant Art Attack in Y Plas on Sunday afternoon, using various natural resources and recyclable materials to create a giant reproduction of Cardiff Castle.

If you passed through the Food Court of the Students' Union on Monday afternoon, chances are you were handed one of the many delicious Welshcakes which were being made fresh by the Baking Society. Unfortunately due to an error in promotion of the location, the Baking Society didn't get as much involvement as anticipated. However, Em Lowthian, Baking Society's president, stated that "some people had never even tried Welshcakes before so it was great to get them involved. Lots of people had a go at making the dough too so the event was very positive from those who did engage."

Monday evening was the turn of the Variety Show featuring 11 different performance societies. Operatic Society member Katie Blackwell was in the

show, and thought it went very well. She states "for me a particular highlight would have been Molly Garfoot performing her solo 'O Let Me Weep' with Jess Thomas dancing alongside her. Everyone participating in the variety show were brilliant, and I thought it was a great demonstration of the diversity of the performance societies at Cardiff University. It feels good that we got to show students who may never have seen an opera before some of our show."

A real highlight of the Fringe week for many students was the Inner Child Day, attracting many students not otherwise involved in the week's events. Featuring inflatables, face painting, free refreshments and even puppies, the day was a roaring success with a consistently long queue for the puppies for the duration of their visit. The Inner Child day ended with three films screened by the Film Society: *Mulan*, *My Neighbour Totoro* and *The Goonies*.

On Wednesday evening the Photography Society headed down to Pontcanna fields for a Light Painting Workshop, changing the shutter speed on their cameras to create long exposure images known as light painting. For more information on the Photography Society, see their article on the next page.

Battle Scars, Act One's new musical

began on Wednesday and ran until Saturday at the YMCA Theatre. Described by many as 'incredible', reviews were staggeringly positive for director and writer, Alex Gatherer.

The Comedy Society presented a Comedy Night on Wednesday 18th March in CF10. After several performances by society members, Will Seaward performed an hour long set as part of his 'Ghost Stories' tour. Reported to have the audience in constant tears of laughter, his surreal storytelling style was a real hit.

On Thursday 19th March in CF10, the Jazz Society invited the public to join them in a Latin 60s themed evening, featuring a surprise performance from two Dancesport couples performing latin inspired routines, a set from Cardiff jazz/funk/soul band The Antz Wandle Project, finishing with a jam night. The jam nights are normally held monthly in the Yard bar in the town centre, so placing the nights in a new context and with a specific jazz sub genre was welcomed by new attendees.

At the time of going to print, the Music Showcase, Broadway Dance Society Around the World production and Go Global are still to follow. A full lowdown of the entire festival will be available online from next week.

Pictured: Clockwise from top: PhotoSoc light painting, Art Society Giant Art Attack, PhotoSoc exploring the great outdoors, Afrogene ACS event, an Inner Child Day inflatable, Baking Society making Welshcakes. Centre: puppy at Inner Child Day (Photographer: Laura Sargent)

“ I thought it was a great demonstration of the diversity of the performance societies at Cardiff University ”

”

Faustus: a hell of a show by Act One

Aimee Hardman
Alex Diggins

We all think we know the story of Dr Faustus: a man sells his soul to the devil for twenty-four years of unlimited freedom and opportunity. However, having reached heights of knowledge and power his contemporaries can only dream of, he finds his life empty and meaningless. And so begins his inevitable downfall towards madness, death and damnation.

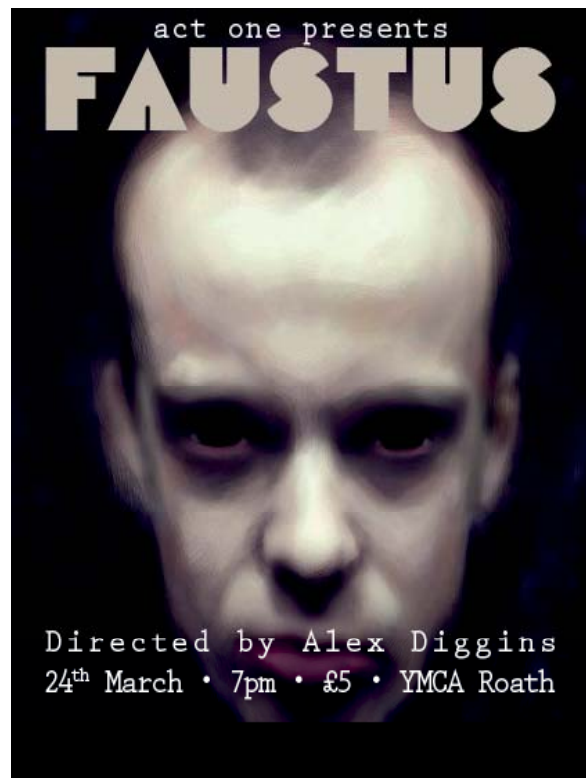
This bold and stripped down production, directed by Alex Diggins and presented by Cardiff University's Act One, forces you to reconsider this simple narrative. Alex Diggins, the director, notes, "Dr Faustus is a great play but it is too long and tonally all over the place. My production aims to intensify the psychological conflict at the heart of the play by focusing much more on Faustus' internal struggle for sanity and salvation."

Is Faustus the victim or the villain? Does he summon supernatural powers or is he simply being manipulated? Is damnation a reality or just a figment of his imagination? Challenging, thrilling and innovative this production toys with the boundaries

of madness and sanity, reality and the imagination, and finally, salvation and damnation. "Our production is short, intense and visceral. Inspired more by the work of Hitchcock than Shakespeare it presents a man on the edge of sanity confronting an abyss of madness, death and damnation", says Alex Diggins.

This dark take on a Jacobean classic allows the words to feel modern and fresh, connecting the audience intimately with the actors on stage. Performing on 24th March at the YMCA Theatre, Roath. Doors open at 7.00pm with the performance beginning at 7.30pm with tickets priced at £5. This is a one night performance and is definitely not to be missed.

As we head towards the end of Act One's mammoth season of productions, Faustus represents the third to last performance of the season. To follow, Act One will present *Voluntas Electio*, written and directed by Poppy Parker and choreographed and directed by Lucy Spain, and *Staging a Coup*, a night of short original plays. Look out for more information in coming weeks.



Pictured:
Faustus
promotional
poster

“
a man sells
his soul to
the devil for
twenty-four
years of
unlimited
freedom and
opportunity
”

PhotoSoc provide a snapshot of their society activities

Laura Sargent

Cardiff PhotoSoc is a group created for and by people who love photography. Throughout the year we run a really diverse set of workshops, trips and socials which aim to entertain, as well as inform our members about the many styles and types of photography. We are always happy to answer questions both

technical and artistic. We believe that photography doesn't have to be high-tech and expensive, so even if you just have a compact camera or an iPhone, you can still take part in almost all the same activities. The society also owns a DSLR camera which we lend out to members for free during events and trips for those

who don't have one of their own.

We aim to improve students' confidence in using cameras and related equipment, and create a diverse network of like-minded individuals who want to improve their photographic abilities and are dedicated to the teaching of basic principles of photographic lighting.

We have various studio backdrops and lights available for members to use during workshops.

For Cardiff Fringe week we held a very successful light painting workshop. Light painting is best done at night and is where you set your camera to a long exposure time (10-30 seconds) and then use torches to 'paint' patterns and doodles in the sky. We've had all sorts of creative photos taken and members have been sharing some beautiful shots on our Facebook page all week. If you think you'd be interested in giving light painting a go, we're holding a second workshop after Easter. This workshop takes things to another level where we'll be heading to Penarth beach and using burning wire wool (which works like a giant sparkler) to create the photos.

In addition to the light painting, we've got a few other exciting events planned alongside our regular Wednesday afternoon tea socials which includes trips to Dan yr Ogof show caves, the Brecon beacons to do some long exposure star photography, and Tredegar House in Newport.

For more information about our society and details on all upcoming events, search for our page 'PhotoSoc - Cardiff University Photographic Society' on Facebook.

Pictured:
The stunning
results from the
light painting
workshop
(Photographer:
PhotoSoc
members)





DTBD PROUDLY PRESENTS

Wonderland

A magical, chocolate filled end of term party

Friday 27th March

VIP TICKETS

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cardiffstudents.com/dtbd

#DTBDWonderland

FREE ICE-CREAM! THURSDAY 26TH MARCH



**LOOK OUT FOR OUR ICE CREAM VANS
ALL DAY ACROSS CAMPUS**

**WHILE YOU'RE THERE,
REGISTER TO VOTE**

#GeneralElection15 #GenerationVote



Codi'r llen ar dîm pel-droed y Gym Gym

Dylan 'Trainers' fu'n holi capten y tîm pel-droed i siaradwyr Cymraeg Prifysgol Caerdydd

Dylan Williams

Beth ydi dy rôl di fel capten y tîm?

Deffro Gwion Ifor, prynu styds a shin-pads i Dyl Trainers, sobri Rhys Williams, golchi sgidia Tirion, gwneud popeth o fewn fy ngallu i wneud yn siwr na fydd Garmon Williams byth yn chwarae eto. Dwi hefyd yn trefnu socials a gemau a wedi helpu i gael kits a noddwyr i'r tîm.

raeg ar y cae. Da ni'n lwcus iawn o gael Flares yn noddî ni, dwi'n meddwl fod pawb yn mwynhau'r 80's vibe.

Pwy ydi Gareth Bale y tîm?

Gerallt Hywel, mae ganddo droed chwith sydd yn fwy lethol na Tom G ar dancefloor disco room Pryzm.

Mae na si yn mynd o gwmpas bod rhai bwydo Tom G er mwyn iddo allu sgorio, ydi hyn yn wir?

Fedra'i gadarnhau fod hyn yn wir. Tom G ydy ei'n prif sgoriwr, clinical!

Pa mor aml y mae socials y tîm yn cael eu cynnal? Sut bydde ti'n eu disgrifio?

Fel arfer bob yn ail nos fercher. Da ni fel arfer yn cyfarfod yn Flares a symud ymlaen i Retros wedyn. Mae'r noson yn dechrau yn eitha parchus, ond mae pethau'n dechrau troi'n fler ar ôl i'r Twat/Man of the match gael eu gwo-



breuo!

Unrhyw atgofion da o'r tymor yma?

Ennill Jomec 2-1 mewn gem agos yn mis Chwefror, Geth James yn gwylltio ac yn gweiddi "Grow some ___" ar chwaraewr nath o dacllo.

Oes 'na gymeriadau yn y tîm?

Mae banter y freshers yn ofnadwy, criw eitha boring sydd byth yn mynd allan i fod yn onest. Ar y cae, mae Iwan Garmon yn arwain pawb yn yr amddiffyn, Rio Ferdinand-esque.

Oes gen y tîm unrhyw rivals?

Neb penodol, ond mae pawb yn edrych ymlaen i chwarae CARBS (business school) eto ar ol i ni gollu yn erbyn nhw cyn d'olig.

Beth ydi targedau'r tîm erbyn diwedd y tymor?

Trio ennill pob gem sydd ar ol, da ni'n ddogon da i ennill y gynghrair ond yn anffodus da ni heb ennill digon o gemau ar ol d'olig i allu cystadlu am y gynghrair.

Diolch i Wiff am ateb y cwestiynau.

“ Mae'r noson yn dechrau yn eitha parchus, ond mae pethau'n dechrau troi'n fler ”

Ar y cyfan, pa fath o dymor mae'r tîm wedi gael hyd yn hyn?

Ar y cyfan, tymor da iawn! Da ni yn y "Premier Division" ac yn chwarae pel-droed da. Mae na ambell "confrontations" wedi digwydd mewn rhai gemau, un yn cynnwys lanto Gruffydd yn gwthio rhywun a wedyn cuddio tu ôl i Tom G.

Oes unrhyw beth sy'n gwneud i dim pel-droed y Gym Gym fod yn wahanol i dimau eraill?

Mae'n fantasiau fod pawb yn siarad Cym-

Canlyniadau Eisteddfod Ryng-golegol 2015

Steffan Bryn Jones

Ar benwythnos Mawrth 7fed, fe dyrrodd dros 600 o fyfyrwyr Cymraeg o bob cwr o Gymru i Aberystwyth ar gyfer penwythnos yr Eisteddfod Ryng-golegol 2015. Bu cryn dipyn o lwyddiant i griw Caerdydd felly rhaid yw eu hadrodd yma.

Dyma oedd y canlyniadau terfynol swyddogol, wedi eu darparu gan Lywydd UMCA Miriam Williams:

- Prifysgol Abertawe – 10
- Prifysgol Aberystwyth – 1446
- Prifysgol Bangor – 1312
- Prifysgol Caerdydd – 209
- Prifysgol y Drindod Dewi Sant – 6

Aberystwyth oedd yn fuddugol felly ar eu tomen eu hunain, gan gipio'r tîws oddi ar Fangor oedd wedi ennill llynedd yn Abertawe.

Gala Chwaraeon

Ar brynhawn dydd Gwener 6 Mawrth, cyn yr Eisteddfod dydd Sadwrn, fe gynhaliwyd y twrnament chwaraeon ar gaeau Blaendolau rhwng Aberystwyth, Bangor, Caerdydd ac Abertawe.

Enillwyr y twrnament oedd Aberystwyth, a dyma'r canlyniadau unigol:

Pêl-droed bechgyn:

- 1af – Caerdydd
- 2il – Aberystwyth
- 3ydd – Bangor

Pêl-droed merched:

- 1af – Aberystwyth
- 2il – Bangor
- 3ydd – Caerdydd

Rygi bechgyn:

- 1af – Aberystwyth
- 2il – Bangor
- 3ydd – Caerdydd ac Abertawe

Rygi Merched:

- 1af – Aberystwyth
- 2il – Bangor

Yr Eisteddfod

Yn gynnar fore dydd Sadwrn, ar ôl noson fywiog yn y dref, dechreuodd yr Eisteddfod yn y Neuadd Fawr, Canolfan y Celfyddydau am 10:30yb.



Yr arweinyddion oedd Anni Llŷn ac Aeron Pughe, a'r beirniaid oedd Elaine Llwyd, Non Williams a Tudur Phillips. Dyma ganlyniadau'r gystadlaethau llwyfan:

- Prifysgol Aberystwyth – 249
- Prifysgol Bangor – 272
- Prifysgol Caerdydd – 86

Wrth gwrs, cyn y penwythnos, roedd pawb wedi bod yn brysur yn ennill pwyntiau i'w prifysgolion yn y cystadlaethau gwaith cartref.

Diolch i'r holl feirniaid am eu gwaith; Eurig Salisbury, Bledwyn Owen Huws, Arwel Pod, Lleucu Roberts, Marged Haycock, Ian Hughes, Guto Dafydd, Felicity Roberts, Matthew Woodfall-Jones, Manon Dafydd, Gwenan Griffith a Bethan Antur.

- Dyma ganlyniadau'r gwaith cartref:
- Prifysgol Abertawe – 10
- Prifysgol Aberystwyth – 1167

- Prifysgol Bangor – 1035
- Prifysgol Caerdydd – 113
- Prifysgol y Drindod Dewi Sant – 6

Bydd modd gweld canlyniadau'r holl waith cartref yn Yr Awen a fydd yn cael ei gyhoeddi yn fuan, ond dyma ganlyniadau'r prif gystadlaethau:

- Y Gadair – Marged Tudur, Prifysgol Aberystwyth
- Y Goron – Mared Roberts, Prifysgol Caerdydd
- Y Fedal Ddrama – Alaw Gwyn, Prifysgol Aberystwyth
- Y Fedal Gelf – Lleucu Lynch, Prifysgol Aberystwyth
- Medal y Dysgwyr – Rhys Dilwyn Jenkins, Prifysgol Bangor
- Tîws y Cerddor – Siwan Tudur, Prifysgol Bangor
- Diolch i UMCA ac i Bwyllgor Trefnu'r Eisteddfod am benwythnos gwerth chweil! Ymlaen â'r Eisteddfod i'r brifddinas fis Mawrth nesaf!

Llun: Fawr o siâp ar gôr Caerdydd ddiwedd y prynhawn!

Llun: Mared Roberts a gipiodd y goron i Brifysgol Caerdydd yn yr Eisteddfod



“ Bu cryn dipyn o lwyddiant i griw Caerdydd felly rhaid yw eu hadrodd yma ”



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Super Furry Animals
01/05/15 - SOLD OUT

Super Furry Animals
02/05/15 - SOLD OUT

Super Furry Animals
03/05/15 - SOLD OUT

Uriah Heep
07/05/15, £22 ADV

**Hoobastank/P.O.D/
Alien Ant Farm**
15/05/15, £22 ADV

**Legend -
Bob Marley Tribute**
24/05/15, £13 ADV

June

Young Guns
04/06/15, £12.50 ADV

July

Karyn White
11/07/15, £20 ADV

October

Peace
03/10/15, £15 ADV

Cont'd: Preview of Wales' crucial Euro qualifying fixture against Israel



Continued from back page

integral roles in their respective teams, there are plenty of reasons for Wales fans to be cheerful.

The Welsh national team are on the brink of qualifying for the European Championships for the first time in their history, and Bale has even said: "I feel football can overtake rugby soon", a bold statement taking into account that the people of Wales live and breathe rugby.

Wales have enjoyed a sublime start to the Euro 2016 qualifying campaign and are now within touching distance of booking a flight to France for the championship next year. Having played four games, they have won two and drawn two, picking up wins against Andorra and Cyprus.

Belgium, boasting the likes of Eden Hazard, Thibaut Courtois and Romelu Lukaku, were the clear favourites to take Group B by storm but Wales managed to pick up a vital point away from home against such competitive opposition.

Bale and co. would have been disappointed not to pick up a home win against Bosnia, but eight points from four matches is a commendable start.

Many will be shocked that Israel head the group, but their credentials were confirmed after a convincing 3-0 win against Edin Dzeko's Bosnia who played at the World Cup. Israel

have Omar Damari to be thankful – the Leipzig striker has scored three goals in each of Israel's three games making him a player that Coleman will want to keep an eye on.

Despite playing in the second tier of German football, the 25 year-old possesses an excellent touch and has ingenious ball work, and his tenacious workhorse-like attitude makes him comparable to Luis Suarez.

Swansea captain Ashley Williams will no doubt be keeping tabs on the former Tel-Aviv hit man and will try and prevent him from scoring four from four.

Elsewhere, former Chelsea and Manchester City defender Tal Ben Haim captains the Israel side and will be looking to shutout the Welsh strike force. His pace is a weakness and his Premier League spell was characterised by clumsiness; the Wales attackers should be licking their lips at a potential goal fest.

Aside from the goal-scoring threat of Bale, this game will be won at the heart of the midfield. The player who holds the key for a Wales win is Liverpool's Joe Allen. Former Swansea playmaker Allen plays a quiet role for both club and country but his sensible ball work and creativity is making him a fan favourite at Anfield. He is hitting form at the right time and will go into the game with Israel

full of confidence.

Israel are a team who like to control the tempo of matches and enjoy slowing the play down. In the match against Bosnia, Israel made 495 passes and this is where Joe Allen will influence the game. Allen enjoys breaking down attacks and then works to distribute the ball effectively. He has also vastly improved his dribbling ability and is looking more and more like the ultimate midfielder.

If Allen is allowed to dictate the game early on then Wales' strike force will have a license to attack. Supported by the Premier League duo of Aaron Ramsey and Joe Ledley, the Wales triangular midfield looks exciting and Ramsey can only execute his attacking role if Allen is sensible in front of the back four.

It promises to be a competitive fixture and it would be surprising to see Israel keep up their winning streak. They are yet to play Belgium and face a Wales side beaming with confidence. Wales should come back with at least a draw from Haifa, but Bale has a point to prove and the Madridistas will be watching closely.

Depending on Williams keeping Damari quiet and how well Allen distributes the ball, Wales have enough quality in their team to edge the win and will be in pole position to qualify.

Pos.	Team	Pld.	Pts.
1.	Israel	3	9
2.	Wales	4	8
3.	Cyprus	4	6
4.	Belgium	3	5
5.	Bosnia	4	2
6.	Andorra	4	0



Analysis: Gareth Bale's form

Dan Heard

This just in: Gareth Bale is human. Yes, you heard me. He's not just some emotionless robot who runs down the wing, whips in a cross or smashes home a free-kick from miles out, but rather a man who thinks and feels, and so there can be no way that the recent abuse he's received from the Real Madrid fans and the Spanish press won't have affected him somewhat.

The Welshman has come under fire in Spain since his world record £85m move, despite scoring crucial goals that helped Real Madrid secure the Champions League and Copa del Rey last term. The former Tottenham stalwart says he ignores abuse from Madrid fans and opposition supporters when playing, yet the attacker's performances this season have dipped, and he has accused of being selfish after deciding to go it alone rather than passing to teammates when through on goal.

There have even been calls for him to be dropped and sold by sections of fans following polls in Madrid based newspaper Marca. However, in spite of the mounting pressure he is facing from fans, Bale says he just shrugs it all off and focuses on his football.

As a result, his response in the recent game against Levante was quite fantastic. When scoring the first of his two goals in the 2-0 win, Bale ran towards a corner of the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, kicked over a corner flag and cupped his ears. This was him showing that the criticism he's been receiving lately wasn't affecting him. Judging by Cristiano Ronaldo's rather bizarre reaction his steadfastness might not necessarily be universally admired, but so far this is a test that the Welshman has come through with flying colours. So why the criticism?

Well, Real were winless in their previous three games, enough of a run to spark talk of a crisis at that most demanding of clubs. And when there's a crisis, the most expensive footballer in the world is probably going to get singled out. In truth Bale hasn't been performing to his normal high standards for a few weeks now.

Before the Levante game, his previous strike was a last minute penalty to win a game at Cordoba on January 24th, which was largely due to an overall malaise at a club who were always going to have to have a comedown following the sparkling

early season form which featured 22 wins in a row in all competitions. This little spell of struggle has featured a 4-0 hammering in a Madrid derby, a loss in Bilbao and that remarkable second leg Champions League defeat to Schalke which ultimately counts for little.

Bale has been at the centre of this storm, largely because attempts to look elsewhere are met with more than a sideways glance at Ronaldo's remarkable scoring rate, something which really only one other player in world football can match. He goes into Wales' game against Israel on March 28th as the best player in both squads, something that every player on the pitch will also know.

Coming through this spell of criticism still smiling and still scoring might well be the making of him, just as Wales's manager Chris Coleman said when interviewed by Gair Rhydd back in February: "He isn't that type of lad, he won't let things get to him."

"He is the most expensive player in the world, and one of the best, playing for the best team. He is a strong lad, and a strong character. He's proved time and time again how good he is. He is an important part of both Real's team

and ours."

"Because they have a bad result, all players get criticised. They'll bounce back from it, as will Bale. He is too good a player not to."

If Bale goes on to have a long and successful career in Madrid then those he cupped his ears to on Sunday night will always be able to say that they were there. They wouldn't have been amongst those abusing him though, of course.

Wales squad

Wayne Hennessey, Owain Fon Williams, Danny Ward; Ashley Williams, James Collins, Ben Davies, Chris Gunter. Sam Ricketts, Ashley Richards, Adam Henley; Joe Allen, Joe Ledley, Aaron Ramsey, David Vaughan, Dave Edwards, Shaun MacDonald; David Cotterill, Hal Robson-Kanu, Tom Lawrence, Gareth Bale, Simon Church, Sam Vokes.

“ In spite of the mounting pressure he is facing from fans, Bale says he just shrugs it all off and focuses on his football ”

Team Talk: AsianSoc F.C.

Captain of the IMG 7-a-side champions Aneel Parmar talks about his side's fortunes and the future prospects for Asian players in Britain

James Lloyd

How has your season gone?
Last week was the final game of the season, and we played Riders of Rohan. We were on twelve points and they were on ten, so they had to win to take the league, whilst we only needed a draw. It was a tough game; they played very well and both teams went for it by attacking. There were a lot of tackles and it was an aggressive, passionate game - it was fair though. It ended in a 0-0 draw - it was end-to-end but we did enough to win the league with 13 points.

What's your role as captain?

At the start I wanted to get a good team together, as each year we get a new team, so we held trials. We wanted to get a good team of lads together who played some good football, and winning the whole thing wasn't on my criteria; we just wanted to do well, so to actually win the league was fantastic. I organise the team, the tactics, the formations, and make sure everyone gets a game. Sometimes we have arguments so I sort that out and get the best out of everyone. Rotation isn't too much of a problem actually, as we only have ten players in the squad.

How do you work game day?

The two centre-backs and goalkeeper never change, then we play with two wingers and a striker. I tend to use the three substitutions to rotate as our midfield often gets tired as they are constantly tracking back and forth. IMG has no offside rule, so we play deep, stopping the opposing team playing the long ball. The game is faster paced than 11-a-side which I prefer. We have to be on point with our passing as you don't get much time on the ball, and it requires a lot of fitness.

Do you have to organise training sessions?

We sometimes have weekend training

sessions before matches, but a lot of people go home so they are quite hard to organise.

As you're a Manchester United fan, pick a United player to put into your team.

I wouldn't have Di Maria in, that's for sure. I'd probably have to say Rooney - the thing about 7-a-side is that you have to have the ability to play anywhere, and Rooney is an engine and is versatile, as well as being a good leader.

There is much debate around Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, pick one to put in your team.

I have always been a Ronaldo fan and I love his style of football, but for 7-a-side I'd like Messi as he has good close control and a load of skill that would be useful. Also, in IMG you rarely cross the ball and Ronaldo is good at headers so it wouldn't be much use, so I'd pick Messi.

Michael Chopra and Neil Taylor are two players with Asian backgrounds who played in Wales. It won't be long until a player of Asian origin breaks into one of the British national sides. What are your thoughts on this and what does the future hold?

Hopefully we will see more Asian players make it at that level. It's hard though; a lot of Asians play football as a hobby, but they can never get very far, and they often have to stop as parents want them to go down the education route as opposed to sport. That's why you see a lot of thirteen or fourteen year olds with a lot of natural talent, who have not had the opportunity to make it at the top, as they have changed their life goals. There is a lot of emphasis now in training kids young, so hopefully in the future we'll see a lot more Asians in the British national setup.

What are your thoughts on football

Rodney Parade in the quarter-finals of the Challenge Cup now has added significance, with the Arms Park outfit looking to put a halt to the slow decline of rugby in the capital city.

With Cardiff City struggling in the Championship it would appear that rugby has a genuine opportunity to pull floating supporters back onto their side. However, the Blues have suffered a poor campaign up to this point which culminated in the departure of Director of Rugby Mark Hammett after only six months in the role.

Despite their wretched run of form



in Wales?

Rugby is so big in Wales that people don't play football quite as much as in England. There are plenty of opportunities to play football here though, and the facilities are good; football in Cardiff is very fun.

How can the IMG league improve?

We have had a mixture of standards in refereeing - some are good, some are bad - this is frustrating because refereeing decisions can change games. Thankfully a referee has never cost us a game, but we rode our luck on one occasion, as we conceded but the referee deemed the scorer to be in the D, where you can't score.

We have won the league this year having played 14 games, and didn't receive a prize, but we paid £50 to enter the league and then £20 a week in match fees to play, so I think there should be a prize for the winners - a trophy or cash prize or something. I messaged the guy in charge and he said the only prize is bragging rights which I don't like - we worked hard all

year, other teams have worked hard so it would be nice to have a prize.

Who are your rivals in the league?

Riders of Rohan were fun, they were competitive and played in the right way. We played a team and the match almost broke out into American Football as they were playing rough - they were going into tackles with studs up, but we won 2-1 that day which was satisfying. Campus Sport are also fun to play; they're a top team and they were the team to beat. We drew 0-0 with them and then lost 1-0.

Finally, who is the Gareth Bale of the team, the Welsh Wizard?

Yusuf Siddique is a fantastic player, he could make it semi professionally I reckon; his dribbling is amazing, he can play anywhere, can destroy defences and is a pleasure to watch. He can certainly change a game, and he also comes back and defends all the time and is always focussed. He scored 6 goals all season and which was impressive from midfield.

Pictured:
Former Cardiff City player Michael Chopra, whose family is of Asian origin

“ We have won the league this year having played 14 games, and didn't receive a prize, but we paid £50 to enter the league and then £20 a week in match fees to play. ”

Steffan Thomas

New life has been breathed into the Cardiff Blues' season in recent weeks, with morale-boosting victories over Edinburgh and Connacht ensuring that the Blues still have a mathematical chance of qualifying for the Rugby Champions Cup through the PRO 12.

However, the Blues are still thirteen points behind sixth-placed Connacht, with their best chance of qualifying for next season's Champions Cup realistically going to come from Europe's second-tier Challenge Cup.

Next month's east Wales derby against Newport Gwent Dragons at

this season, to lift silverware would aid the Blues in their quest to expand their supporter base in light of the worrying trend of increasingly dwindling crowds.

With rugby seemingly being at a crossroads in the capital city it is imperative that the Blues board make no mistake in their search for a replacement for Hammett. The board must identify what they want out of their new head coach in terms of whether they want to appoint somebody who already has the Blues' values and heritage ingrained in them?

If so, then acting head coach Dale Macintosh, or even former Wales full-back Mike Rayer may be the answer.

Or do Blues hierarchy wish to reinvent the wheel by appointing a visionary with no preconceived loyalties to the current squad?

Elsewhere the Blues' head of recruitment Billy Millard has confirmed that recruitment for next season is well under way, with Leicester Tigers' USA international winger Blaine Scully thought to be close to committing his future to the Arms Park outfit.



Canoe polo players descend on Cardiff

James Cable

On the weekend of the 14th and 15th of March, Cardiff University Kayakers hosted the second largest Canoe Polo tournament in the country after BUCS. This year saw 35 teams from Universities all around the UK assemble at the Taf Bargoed Lakes for the annual tournament.

The tournament comprised of three divisions. A division 1 for the hard-core nutcases who have decided floating around a lake in sub-zero temperatures all winter was a better option to paddling actual rivers. A division 2 for those who aren't quite as hard-core as the division 1 players, but were still having trouble making the correct lifestyle choices. And finally, a ladies division because who doesn't like watching a canoe polo match happen in slow motion? Most Universities brought 2-3 teams of their finest players, Cardiff was simply overflowing with talent so fielded 6, including an Old Girls, Old Boys and the blindingly good D Team.

The weekend started on Friday, with a small elite team of van-mounted committee members arriving around midday at the lakes to set up the pitches. Whilst this may sound like a pretty straight forward task, getting a 1.5m x 1m goal to stay suspended and stationary 2 metres in the air

whilst floating in the middle of a lake is something people would normally ask NASA to figure out, but alas Cardiff University Kayakers have been coming up with solutions like this for free for the past decade. Despite the constant rain, "The Bank Team" was very happy, keeping his track record of never once wearing waterproofs in Wales clean for its second year.

After an evening of pretending to be happy that all the other Universities had arrived. We woke up to the perfect Canoe Polo conditions; 1 degree above freezing with a strong wind and light rain, "The Bank Team" was very happy. With an early start of 9am, everyone began arriving at the lake and kitting up, not many smiles all around as frozen polo players huddled together trying to get warm. Meanwhile "Bank Team" were having a great time, James Cable had delivered a captain's talk that suggested to us he had been watching too much "Braveheart".

Sunday came around too quickly with the majority of people suffering from hangovers from the "Under the Sea" themed party the night before. After people had resurrected, car keys had been discovered and tactical chunders were had, players began to trickle back down to the lake. Sunday saw the start of the elimination



matches, and players began realising that the sooner they got eliminated, the sooner they could get warm.

Half of Swansea's Ladies team took this a step further by simply not turning up, a lesson to be learnt from the pros. The C team kicked off the day with an epic win scoring 7 goals to 2, proving that being inebriated can sometimes be an advantage. The B team played some polo again (I lost the scores sorry), special mention to Stu Clark who from the bank looked awesome in his new cag, and to Polo Sec Mitch Davis who somehow managed to play the entire weekend without actually paddling out from under the goal.

For those keen beans who actually enjoyed being cold and throwing a ball around, finals saw Cardiff Old Boys and Bangor Old Boys facing off for the division 1 crown. After a good start from Cardiff the score at half time was a draw, however come the second half Bangor dominated to take 1st place. The division 2 league saw Manchester A playing Southampton B, for some reason Manchester A had to be in Division 2, and with Manchester taking 1st place, we think we may know why.

Finally in the Ladies Division, Cardiff Old Girls steam rolled ULU Ladies whilst having to put up with the questionable commentating skills of

Andy Bucknell and Rob Haley. A huge congratulations and thanks to all the teams that braved the cold, and it was amazing to see so many teams from around the country getting involved, truly making this one of the largest tournaments in the country and the biggest one Cardiff have ever hosted!

The weekend would not have been possible without the support of Cardiff University Kayakers official sponsor Canoe & Kayak Store who kindly donated a £100 voucher for the division 1 winners, as well as prizes for the charity raffle this year, in aid of Dartmoor Search and Rescue who rescued a Cardiff Uni Kayaker from the Upper Dart, earlier this year. We cannot thank Canoe & Kayak store without thanking their Cardiff Manager Ronnie Rogan the kindest man in the world who took time out his weekend to come and help run the tournament.

A huge thank you also to Up and Under for supplying a lot of the equipment used in the tournament, and for donating the 1st place prizes for Division 2 and the Ladies Divisions. Finally a massive thank you to Aberfan Canoe Club, who let us host the event at their club, helped set up the pitches, did the playlists for us, and taught us how to build the biggest rafts we have ever seen in our lives.

Pictured:

Above: A visiting player making a pass
Left: Cardiff's Vaughan Roberts (pictured right), who famously lives in a box
(Credit: Rob Haley)



Cardiff capped a fantastic run of form in recent weeks with impressive performances against two of the big hitters in the league, Brentford and Bournemouth, with the Cherries close to the Championship summit and the Bees not far behind. The Bluebirds, meanwhile, languish in lower mid-table. Following these two results though, City have bucked their recent poor form.

Russell Slade's men came from a goal down to win at Brentford despite seeing two men sent off; more than 1,500 City fans cheered their team as

Federico Macheda and Alex Revell scored after the Bluebirds had fallen behind. City had both Kadeem Harris and Federico Macheda dismissed in the second half, but showed a newfound mettle to hold on through six minutes of injury time to win at Griffin Park.

Following this fantastic victory against a side who had put three past Cardiff at home late last year, the fans who made the journey back had some confidence going into Tuesday's encounter with Eddie Howe's well-drilled Bournemouth team. Coming

into the game the free-scoring South Coast side had hit the back of the net more times than in the league than any side in the top four divisions, including putting eight past City already this term - five in the league and three in the Capital One Cup.

At the Cardiff City Stadium though, they had to rely on a screamer from Harry Arter to gain the lead. Their lead was pegged back by superb play from the resilient Bluebirds to bounce back just after the hour, thanks to a thunderous header from Cardiff's Bruno Manga. The resilience in

particular that has been on display in these two matches in particular is evidence of a turnaround in fortunes for the much-maligned Russell Slade.

Following such outstanding displays, taking four points from a possible six against two promotion-chasing sides, Cardiff can now hopefully look to build on this good form leading into their final games of this season. They will hope to lay some foundations for a promotion tilt next campaign, which will hopefully see them emulate the two sides that they managed to so impressively blunt in attack.

Dan Heard





Wales prepared for Israel Euro clash

After an impressive start to their Euro 2016 qualifying campaign, Chris Coleman's side face table-toppers Israel in Jerusalem

James Lloyd

Chris Coleman's Wales team head into Saturday's game with Israel knowing that a win would make them favourites to top the group. This fixture has overriding significance as Israel have taken maximum points from their first three games including a comfortable 3-0 win versus Bosnia.

Travelling to Israel will be extremely challenging for Wales and they will face an intimidating atmosphere, playing

a team carrying a lot of momentum. Looking at the rather questionable world rankings, Israel have the slight edge as they are ranked 26th with Wales 37th.

Both teams have an attack-minded mentality, but are also resolute in defence. Israel scored nine goals in qualifying to date, whilst Wales have only managed four. Coleman will want his team to take more chances and be

more ruthless having missed a series of opportunities in previous matches.

With Gareth Bale leading the line, goals should be frequent despite the Welsh wizard hitting a bit of a rough patch. Under harsh scrutiny from the unforgiving and overly brutal Madrid fans, Bale's character will be tested. The thing with Cardiff-born Bale is that he can turn a game on its head, and is amongst only an elite number

of players who can make the difference in tight games. Not many have that talent and Wales are privileged to have someone of Bale's calibre in their team; he makes things happen and he will no doubt cause Israel problems.

Football in Wales is slowly on the up. It is constantly competing with the beloved sport of rugby that the Welsh adore so much. With the likes of Bale, Aaron Ramsey and Joe Allen playing



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