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Issue 1192

Welcome to Cardiff!

Check out Spotlight for thing to do around the City (Page 3)

Source: Alen (Via Stockvault)

An Interview with Andrew RT Davies

Thomas Wilson
Politics Editor

How do you feel your formative years influenced your politics?

I go back further than that to the 70s and the economic situation and the decline of Britain on the world stage. This was a time of mass picketing and mass meetings in car parks where workers were bullied into going on strike and then shutting down factories. The country really was a basket case in 1979 when Thatcher and the Conservatives came in and there was a lot of difficulties in rectifying the economic situation the country faced but I believe it was rectified and a new economy came out of that and ultimately the prosperity we've enjoyed over the last 30 years were down to the reforms in the 1980s.

What do you ultimately feel the positives and negatives have been of the devolved model of government in Wales?

It is my belief people should know what is being done in their name and many could not understand the power that sat here in the Assembly. Yet now we have tax raising powers, executive powers and legislative powers and I believe passionately that those who are calling for the abolition of the Welsh Parliament are living in cloud cuckoo land because it is wrong to say Wales is the only part of the UK that should return to the 1950s style government in contrast to Scotland and Northern Ireland who have their own assemblies. In contrast to the desires of Plaid and Labour, I believe we ought to be executing the powers we've got to the best effect to make a difference on people's lives.

Given the personal abuse you suffered from campaigning for leave, did you ever feel any regret over your support for Brexit?

None whatsoever; the only regret I have is that we have not taken more advantage of the freedoms we have

gained in voting to leave as there are huge opportunities out there since coming out of the European Union. We wouldn't have been able to unfold the vaccine rollout programme as quick as we did if we were still in the EU which opened up society becoming back to normal and we have the chance to negotiate trade deals all over the world; yet we must still remain friends with our friends and colleagues in Europe. Ultimately, the result must be respected as a clear mandate to future governments, whatever colour tie they may be, that we see our future as an independent trading nation. We should be looking forward to pursuing trading operations worldwide, such as with India or building on the agreement we have with the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Unlike when you were previously leader, the FM had changed and your opposite number was now Mark Drakeford. What were your initial impressions of him in comparison to his predecessor Carwyn Jones?

Sadly, the ending of Carwyn Jones' tenure was marred by the tragic death of Carl Sargent, with those 18 months leading up to Jones' resignation being a particularly tough time during this institutions history. Mark is far more focused and academic in his responses in First Minister's Questions. Carwyn was more bombastic and barrister and it showed with the exchanges themselves being very different. I like to think I get on with both men as I do not take personal animosity out of the chamber and that whilst I believe in debating robustly inside the chamber, when outside we all want the same thing which is a strong Wales delivering for the people of Wales.



To read the rest of Thomas's interview with Andrew RT Davies, turn to page 6

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Pride Cymru: Celebrating queer identity over the summer, here in Cardiff. How does this translate into the mainstream? Source: Senedd Cymru (via Wikimedia Commons)

The haunting reality of LGBTQ+ representation

Grace Robson
Head of Opinion

Finding decent LGBTQ+ representation in the media is particularly hard. The mainstream media often entirely disregards LGBTQ+ representation, and even when the community is represented, the characters are often created to be tokenistic, stereotypical and are rarely ever made to be protagonists. While

strides in recent years have been taken to improve this representation, even now there is still an abundance of work to be done.

One harmful LGBTQ+ trope that the mass mainstream media seems particularly fond of is the 'Bury your gays' trope. The term, which popped up in the 19th century and continues to plague LGBTQ+ characters throughout fictional media, is used to

describe storylines where one or more LGBTQ+ character is killed off. When the media decides it is time to 'bury' one of their LGBTQ+ characters, it is often done so in an insensitive way and more often than not, it is done completely unnecessarily.

To read the rest of Grace's piece, turn to page 14

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Newid hinsawdd yng Nghymru

Beca Dalis
Golygydd Taf-od

Mae Gweinidog Seneddol Newid Hinsawdd ac Aelod Seneddol Plaid Cymru yn galw am weithrediad ar gyfer lleihau effaith newid hinsawdd ar y blaned a phobl ifainc.

Yn dilyn cyhoeddiad Rushi Suank, Prif Weinidog y Deyrnas Unedig, mi wnaeth Julia James, Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd alw ar Micheal Gove, Gweinidog Cysylltiadau Rhynglywodraethol Llywodraeth y DU.

I ddarllen gweddill erthygl Beca am newid hinsawdd, trowch i dudalen 9

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Sex Education: Season 4 Review

Emily Cottle
Review Editor

For those who have managed, by some miracle, to escape the conversations about it, Sex Education is a comedy series following the lives of the students of Moordale Secondary. The focal character is Otis, a virginal loner who finds he has obtained his mother's sex therapy skills, and starts an on-campus clinic to win the approval of mysterious Maeve. Through Otis' sessions with his classmates, the creators of the show expose the difficulties of modern-day youth in an unapologetically witty capacity.

To read Emily's review, turn to page 20

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Women's Super League Controversy

Grace D'Souza
Sport Editor

With the Women's Super League season starting up again, the tournament has already sparked controversy regarding the new rules and regulations which have changed the game entirely.

Ex-lioness presenters Fara Williams, Alex Scott and Ellen White have spoken out about previous Women's Super League (WSL) season being ridden with multiple ACL injuries.

To read Grace's article, turn to page 22

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A note from the Editor Nodyn gan y Golygydd



Welcome to Cardiff Croeso i Gaerdydd



Source: Colin Smith (via Geograph Britain and Ireland)

...and may the odds be ever in your favour.

...gan obeithio y bydd lwc o'ch plaid.

Edward Sutton
Editor-in-Chief

Back to Cardiff for many of us means going back to Uni (Market), YOLO, rotting in the library, or running in Roath; all those little things we do to give our time here some structure. And now you're reading Gair Rhydd, and I'd like to thank you for doing that. We are your student paper, written and edited by students to share stories and keep you informed. If you're a fresher or have been here for years (like me), a warm welcome back from me and the team and cheers for having a flick through. If you've been following us for a while you might notice some changes since last year. We have added some new sections like Spotlight and Opinion. Spotlight is our new home for all things Cardiff, giving you a one-stop shop for things to do and see around our great city. Opinion is our new section to give the student body a platform and showcase the issues that we care about. With these new additions (and some more on the way), we hope that you'll find something that

takes your fancy. We still have all the classics — News, Politics, Sport and so much more. There are stories from Cardiff and around the world, all with the common thread of being written by students like you with an approach that makes the news relevant to your uni experience. As this is our first edition of the academic year, we have some great stories about the struggles of Year 1 in Opinion and we've brought back the crossword, so if you fancy a break from the lectures — turn to the back and have a stab at it. We also have our incredible Welsh language section Taf-Od, providing you with all the highlights from each section in Welsh. With a new edition every two weeks, we hope you'll keep coming back to gain a glimpse into the world through Cardiff students' eyes. We're always open to ideas, so feel free to drop me an email.

Enjoy!

Edward Sutton
Prif Olygydd

Lawer ohonom, mae dychwelyd i Gaerdydd yn golygu dychwelyd i'r Brifysgol, YOLO, pydru yn y llyfrgell neu rhedeg o amgylch Roath: yr holl bethau bychain hynny rydym yn ei wneud i roi rhywfaint o strwythr i'n hamser yma. A nawr, rydych yn darllen rhifyn o Gair Rhydd, ac fe hoffwn i ddiolch i chi am hynny. Ni yw eich papur newydd myfyrwyr, wedi ei ysgrifennu a'i olygu gan fyfyrwyr i rannu straeon ac i'ch cadw yn ymwybodol. Os ydych yn lasfyfyrwyr neu wedi bod yma ers blynnyddoedd (fel fi), dyma groeso cynnes yn ôl oddi wrthyl i a'r tîm a diolch am gael cipolwg ar ein papur. Os ydych wedi bod yn ein dilyn ers sbel, efallai eich bod wedi sylweddoli ar rai newidiadau ers y llynedd. Mae gennym ni adranau newydd megis 'Spotlight' a Barn. 'Spotlight' yw ein hadran newydd ar gyfer popeth sydd yn ymwneud â Chaerdydd. Bydd yr adran yn hyrwyddo am bethau i'w gwneud a'u gweld o amgylch ein dinas gwych. Mae ein hadran Barn yn gyfle i roi llwyfan i'n myfyrwyr ac i ardangos materion sydd yn bw-

ysig i ni. Gyda'r ychwanegiadau newydd hyn (a mwy ar y ffordd) rydym yn gobeithio y gwnewch chi ddarganfod rhywbeth o'ch diddordeb. Mae gennym y clasuron o hyd — Newyddion, Gwleidyddiaeth, Chwaraeon a llawer mwy. Mae'r straeon hyn am Gaerdydd ac o amgylch y byd, i gyd gyda edefyn cyffredin o gael eu hysgrifennu gan fyfyrwyr fel chi gyda agwedd sydd yn gwneud y newyddion yn berthnasol i'ch profiad prifysgol chi. Gan mai hwn yw ein rhifyn cyntaf o'r flwyddyn academiaidd, mae gennym ni straeon gwych am anhawsderau y flwyddyn gyntaf yn yr adran Barn, ac rydym hefyd wedi dod â'r croesair yn ôl, felly os ydych chi eisiau seibiant oddi wrth eich darlithoedd — trowch i'r cefn i gael golwg. Mae gennym hefyd ein hardan cyfrwng Cymraeg anhygoel Taf-Od, sydd yn eich darparu gyda'r holl uchafbwyntiau o bob adran yn y Gymraeg. Gyda rhifyn newydd pob pythefnos, rydym yn gobeithio y gwnewch chi ddychwelyd yn ôl i gael cipolwg ar y byd drwy lygaid myfyriwr Caerdydd. Rydym wastad yn agored i syniadau, felly mae croeso i chi yrru e-bost i mi.

Mwynhewch!

Spotlight



Belle Lee



Nancy Cook



Noor Ehsan



BIRD AND BLEND Co.

Belle brews up her opinion on the newest and friendliest tea shop in Cardiff.

Belle Lee

Head of Spotlight

I have always said I do not like tea. The mixture of boiling water and leaves never appealed to me; frankly, the smell makes me nauseous. I have tried to enjoy it, dabbling in those cold infusion tea bags and wandering the isles of Sainsbury's looking at the ingredients in those gorgeous Pukka boxes but it's never been for me. My conclusion?

I should accept my fate and stick to coffee.

However, just as I thought all hope was lost for me, I found Bird and Blend Co. nestled in the Royal Arcade. Originally, I was going to succumb to my past thinking and not go in because 'I don't like tea!' however, once I noticed a Taylor Swift-related tea pun on the window, I could not resist going in.

It's a lovely shop with a relaxing, warm atmosphere and incredibly



Source: Marco Verch (via Flickr)

friendly staff who were more than happy to answer my questions and provide samples. They offered suggestions and pairings and were very welcoming and knowledgeable about tea, which eased me as I was absolutely in the dark about where to begin.

Bird and Blend's aim is to spread happiness and reimagine tea, both of which I feel were successfully achieved as I left the shop smiling and actually liking tea! Particularly, the 'Buttermint' blend with lemonade was a stand out as it was fresh,

unique and completely redefined what tea meant to me. It was no longer the bitter smell of Earl Grey or countless shelves of the same Chamomile blends, this was new and exciting.

All of the distinctive flavours are loose-leaf blends and come in a variety of flavours meaning there is something for everyone, and at affordable prices too. With flavours such as their award-winning 'Sticky Chai' to their 'Pina Colada' blend or 'Welsh Cake Cwtch', this tea can transport you anywhere from

a tropical beach to the natural beauty of the Valleys between brewings.

With shelves of colour-organised teas and the most creative and delicious flavours, combined with a fabulously curated playlist of Olivia Rodrigo, Lorde and Taylor Swift, it really is a place worthy of a visit.

Even if you don't fancy doing the brewing, there is a little on-site tea bar with an amazing selection of cold, hot and matcha products. There is a 10% student discount too!

I would recommend Bird and Blend Co. to anyone who thinks tea is not for them and to anyone at all because there really is something for everyone! to enjoy!

“...this tea can transport you anywhere from a tropical beach to the natural beauty of the Valleys...”

Top Five Local Eateries in Cardiff

Ella Dorman

Contributor

As one of the UK's most affordable student cities, Cardiff boasts an accomplished selection of eateries ideal for students on the go.

Starting with places to grab-and-go at the Student Union, the well-known pub and restaurant The Taf is cheap, quick, and provides the perfect plates to get you out of a mid-day slump. From pizza and cocktail deals to carveries under a tenner, this local will give you that home-from-home

feeling you've been pining for. Combined with consistent discounts on classic pub grub and their so-called 'Dirty Friday's' The Taf is certainly a student favourite.

Next up, we have The Bagel Place, found around the back of the Student Union. Specialising in fresh bagels, whether you like meat-filled subs or plant-based delicacies, this little deli has it all. From smoked salmon to cheesy goodness, you're spoilt for choice. Accompanied by a choice of buttery croissants and pastries alike, you've got no excuse to not head down there for your lunch.

Located just under 5 minutes' walk from the Student Union,

Social Eats offers an array of freshly made snacks and finger-picking meals; ideal for a quick fix during a day of lectures. Think fluffy pancakes, perfectly cooked eggs, granola-crested smoothie bowls, candied iced lattes and Biscoff brownies; it's simply the best.

Diagonal from Social Eats is Cafe37, where all-day breakfast is the norm. If you're in search of a full English to soak up the night before, or simply fancy a mouth-watering plate to start the day, this is the place for you.

With student discounts, steak sandwiches, and all the coffee syrups you could imagine on offer; whatever you're craving, they've probably got on order.

Finally, we have Metchy's Café – just a minute's walk from Cathays Lidl. Conveniently located for the perfect stop-off point before a lecture, this café-bar is student heaven. Their infamous 'Uni breakfast' will have you hooked whilst keeping with your budget. You're sorted for all three meals of the day with breakfast, lunch, and burgers; plus they've got a loyalty scheme so you're bound to get a few pennies off!

Ice Skating Society — Literally the Coolest Club Around...

Ryan Swift

Contributor

The Cardiff University Ice Skating Club is the best way to learn or improve upon your ice skating. At the club, we train every Wednesday with three amazingly talented coaches who teach skills ranging from simply going backwards to more complex waltz jumps! Training occurs at Cardiff's local ice rink located down towards the Bay, easily accessible by train or bus. We maintain an easy-going atmosphere where

“If you want to skate like a pro, or simply just flex on your friends at Winter Wonderland, come give us a go.”

all abilities are welcome to join! Our main goal is for people to make friends while simultaneously enhancing complex skills.

We hold a range of different socials throughout the year. These can vary from themed night-out socials, ice discos, bingo bar crawls and many more. We are even hoping to collaborate with the Ice Hockey Club to host joint socials on the ice and hopefully attend more hockey games this year!

Everyone will inevitably take a fall on the ice, whether a complete beginner or a seasoned veteran but do not let that deter you! It can seem intimidating however that is the process of learning in our club. Of course, we keep it light-hearted and jovial and

will help you back up and teach you everything you need to know. We have an amazing sense of community on and off the ice and we believe this is vital as trust and communication are two skills that will help you greatly in your ice-skating journey.

If you would be interested in learning this elegant skill, you can learn more about us through our Student Union webpage or simply skate into our direct messages on Instagram and we will be more than happy to give you any information you wish to know! If you want to skate like a pro, or simply just flex on your friends at Winter Wonderland, come and give Cardiff University Ice Skating Club a go. We look forward to seeing you with your skates on soon!



Source: Jill Wellington (via Freerange Stock)

Socially Sober and Dry Nights Out!

Imogen suggests the best night out for Gair Rhydd readers for whom alcohol isn't their thing...

Imogen Edmonds
Contributor

A night out in Cardiff doesn't always have to revolve around drinking; in fact, Cardiff is the home to a whole host of exciting activities you can enjoy with your friends or housemates on a sober night out!

Cardiff's city centre is jam-packed with fun activities and entertainment, providing something for everyone, whether you enjoy watching captivating performances or playing thrilling games, Cardiff guarantees an exhilarating night out.

Cardiff's renowned venues such as the Utilita Arena, The New Theatre, The Millenium Centre and St David's Hall offers a vast variety of shows. From musicals to comedy shows, and concerts to ballets, Cardiff really takes the stage in showcasing a huge range of talent! Cardiff also boasts two cinemas in the city centre, Vue and Cine-world; with both offering student tic

Source: Pexels (via Freerange Stock)



kets, it's the perfect opportunity to catch the latest blockbusters, any night of the week. If playing games is more your thing, Cardiff offers a multitude of different activities. Challenge your friends to a round of mini golf at Treetop Adventure Golf in St David's Centre or enjoy bowling, tech

darts, and various other games at Roxy Lanes. Or, if you're a fan of retro arcade games and classic consoles, take a trip to NQ64 for a huge array of

games in a funky, neon setting. Alternatively, if traditional board games are your cup of tea, Chance and Counters is the place for you; featuring a

collection of over 650 board games and for an affordable fee of only £2 per person per hour, it is fabulous for a fun-filled evening out with your mates. Finally, for those that are interested in art, history and culture, The National Museum extends its opening hours until 8 p.m. on the first Thurs-

day of every month, granting visitors extra time to immerse themselves in the extensive range of exhibitions on display. And even better, admission to the museum is free! Ultimately, Cardiff proves that you can have the BEST night out, even if alcohol isn't your thing! With its diverse entertainment options, and thrilling gaming experiences, the Welsh capital offers a huge range of activities catering to everyone's tastes, ensuring that every night out in the city is one to remember.

Spotlight

Welcome to Spotlight! This is our all new section dedicated to keeping you in the loop about all things going on in your city! Whether you are a fresher trying to get to grips with your new home or you're just keen to suss out the best spots for coffee, studying and thrifting outfits for that one day a week you actually make an effort for your lectures...! This is for you :) We will have the latest insight on all the social spots, quiet spots, spots for dancing and even spots for the best cuppa. Relevant, local, and inspired by actual students we are super excited to make a brilliant section for everyone in the coming editions!

Those of you just starting out in Cardiff, keep an eye here for upcoming goings on that you don't want to miss, I know when I was a fresher I would have loved a highlights of events, particularly pop up plant shops, local markets and an insight on societies especially!!

Thank you for being here!
The Spotlight team :)

Retro Shopping in Cardiff — Kilo Sales to Charity Shops

Izzy Walsh tells Gair Rhydd all her Thifting and Retro Shopping secrets

Izzy Walsh
Contributor

Coming from a town where clothes shopping stretches from a few poorly

stocked charity shops and the one vintage shop – which did in fact close down less than 12 months after opening – Cardiff, style-wise, was like a breath of fresh air. Of course, it was tempting to splurge the remainders of my student loan in Urban Outfitters, but the variety of quality vintage stores makes it easier to branch out and find unique pieces. Beyond Retro, located just a few doors down from

“In my opinion, Rokit is more of a staple-piece store where you will have to really dig through the clothing rails to find what you're looking for

Urban Outfitters in the city centre, only opened in late August this year yet has already become one of my staple visits. Having an upstairs and downstairs, it offers a large selection of retro pieces, such as bulky jackets and knitted jumpers, perfect for the upcoming colder weather. It also has – which I have found hard to find in other vintage and charity shops – unique corsets and floaty long-sleeve tops perfect to go clubbing in. Another benefit of Beyond Retro is its pricing – most pieces cost around half of what they usually would in Urban Outfitters, which all students could benefit from. On top of this, they frequently have deals in-store, such as 50% off all knitwear, where a top I bought was reduced from £30 to £15. I would highly recommend Beyond Retro for students who would like to expand their wardrobe with some new vintage

pieces but don't want to invest huge sums of money into it. Another new retro store in Cardiff is Rokit, also located in the city centre, which reminds me more of a kilo sale with its large selection of vintage jeans, jackets, and t-shirts. In my opinion, Rokit is more of a staple-piece store, where you will have to really dig through the clothing rails to find what you are specifically looking for.

One of my favourite places for charity shopping in Cardiff is Roath, specifically Albany and Wellfield Road, around a twenty-minute walk from the city centre. If you are looking for cheap jewellery, I would recommend having a look through all the charity shops around here – they are all quite closely located – as I have bought some of my favourite beaded necklaces from them! The prices are also a huge benefit for students, with jewellery and

most clothing items being under £10. These are some of my recommendations for retro shopping on a student

budget, but there are more expensive shops such as Flamingos and of course Cardiff's Urban Outfitters (it will always have a special place in my heart) which are great if you feel like treating yourself or just for a quick browse!



Source: Matthew Henry (Via Freerange Stock)

JOMEC Netball Society — Their Voices

Noor Ehsan
Spotlight Editor

Cardiff University offers a very wide range of societies for people of all years and courses to join, and the JOMEC Netball Society is one of them! After interviewing Social Secretary Camille Valere, there are so many reasons why joining a society can help you feel at home whilst at University, creating friendships that go well beyond your degree. Camille has been part of the JOMEC Netball Society since her first year at Cardiff,

sharing with us that she had a bit of a difficult time as a fresher, but joining this society allowed her to fall back in love with netball and build friendship groups from both the sports and social side of the society.

Camille told us that after getting to know people from different years and courses that are all on a similar path to one another, it helped to go to each other for advice, whether it's something as simple as 'where do you go for your weekly food shop?'. It is important to feel like you have people to go to at university. While being away from home comes with freedom and excitement, it can also come with a sense of loneliness in trying to navigate university life. So, joining a society, like it did for Camille, can bring

a sense of comfort whilst adjusting to your new life in Cardiff. However, you absolutely do not have to be a member of JOMEC, or a netball enthusiast, in order to join this society, anyone and everyone is welcome, and you can join at any point at your time at Cardiff, with all netball teams being mixed abilities! Biomedical Sciences student Hannah Penk has been in the society since her second year of university, and she told us that her favourite part of it all is that she and her friends get to dress up in accordance with the theme every Wednesday for the social! But fear not, Wednesday socials do not mean you have to be a big drinker! Hearing from the Social Sec herself, Camille assured us that the JOMEC Netball Society, as well as many others have a range of

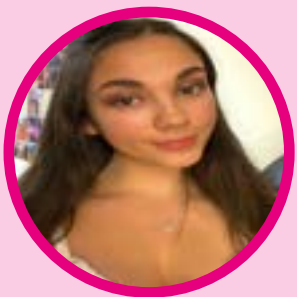
events and socials that they hold, from welcome drinks to sober socials, in order to distinguish between the culture surrounding drinking at university versus simply enjoying each other's company! Camille explained to us that striking this balance between socials that involve alcohol versus those that don't remind members of the society that this foundation was first built upon through a love of sport, prioritising kindness and caring for others who are on a similar path to you.

“You absolutely do not have to be a member of JOMEC or a netball enthusiast in order to join”



Source: Adam Selwood (via Wikimedia Commons)

POLITICS



Lauren Tutchell



Laila Dawelbeit



Adam Dunstan



Cerys Upstone



Thomas Wilson

ELSEWHERE
IN POLITICS

The Labour Party conference took place in Liverpool, with leader Keir Starmer's speech being disrupted by a protestor

Militant group Hamas have launched an attack as Israeli-Palestine tensions rise

Fury over new 20mph speed limit in Wales

Over 450,000 people have signed a petition against it

Lauren Tutchell
Head of Politics

Wales has become the first nation in the UK to adopt 20mph as the default speed limit on restricted roads.

The new legislation, which came into force last month, stipulates that motorists will now have to reduce their speed from 30mph to 20mph in built-up areas with high pedestrian activity such as village and town centres (or roads with lamp-posts placed not more than 200 yards apart).

The policy has come in for incandescent criticism, with an online petition opposing the reduction now reaching over 450,000 signatures. Yet the Welsh government is committed to the policy and has refused to redact it despite the vociferous campaign against it, with the leader of the Welsh Conservatives condemning the Labour government for not listening to the people and having an "extreme ideology".

The proposal initially featured in the Welsh Labour's manifesto when the party won a significant majority back in 2021. It was then confirmed and given the go-ahead in the Senedd by 39 votes to 15.

The main aim of the policy is to lower road collisions and casualties to make communities safer, as well as encouraging more people to walk or cycle which is not only better for the environment, but also makes the country a safer and greener place to live in.

The benefits of the policy are supported by police data from 2022



Source: Edinburgh Green's (via Flickr)

which revealed that just over half of the 4,442 people injured in collisions in Wales happened on 30mph roads. The chances of someone surviving being hit by a car at 20mph rather than 30mph is also seven times higher, with the Welsh government predicting that the speed limit changes will save up to 100 lives and 20,000 casualties in the first decade.

The idea was initially trialled in 8 different locations across Wales in 2021, including Abergavenny, Buckley and Llanelli North. The feedback was positive, with Government polling from the residents partaking in the trials showcasing that 4 in 5 Welsh adults (80%) were supportive of the new speed limit.

Many cities and towns across the UK, especially London, already have 20mph zones as the norm for residential areas, so this policy isn't anything groundbreaking. However, such a 'blanket policy' for an entire area has never been seen before in

the UK, although Scotland has plans to follow Wales' lead and make the policy nationwide by 2025.

Wales' First Minister, Mark Drakeford, has profusely defended the policy, stating that although there will be a "period of turbulence", he is confident "people will see it is a sensible and progressive thing to do."

However, the British Transport Secretary, Mark Harper, was among one of many Conservatives condemning it, saying that widespread 20mph zones "just makes life harder for motorists".

This was supported further by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak who has seized the opportunity to formulate a voting strategy for the upcoming general election by jumping on the bandwagon and vowing to end "the

Residents have had their say on this and the verdict is resounding. They do not want this costly, ill-thought out, disastrous blanket."

The Welsh government really need to scrap this anti-drive mentality."

war on motorists".

The policy has also been criticised for being too expensive, with the cost of bringing it in estimated at £33m. The Welsh Government have estimated they will need roughly 30,000 replacement signs and 5,000 posts, with hundreds of roads also needing to be re-painted. Another £1.6 million will also go towards national and local communications campaigns on the new policy.

The Welsh Government has defended the extortionate price tag, arguing it is "outweighed" by the fact that the new speed limit will reduce the impact on the NHS and emergency services, which one study found could save nearly triple the cost of implementation in just one year (£92m). First Minister, Mark Drakeford, says the costs are worth it in the long term, stating that "sometimes you have got to spend to save."

Yet, 2/3 of people in Wales don't support the policy, with many residents even taking to the streets to protest against it.

Welsh Conservatives' transport spokeswoman Ms Asghar said: "Residents have had their say on this and the verdict is resounding. They do not want this costly, ill-thought out, disastrous blanket. The Welsh government really need to scrap this anti-drive mentality and instead ensure Wales has an adequate road network for the future."

Sunak announces scrapping of HS2 line

Laila Dawelbeit
Politics Editor

HS2 Phase 2, which would have run from Birmingham to Manchester, has been scrapped in an announcement Rishi Sunak made in his Conservative conference speech. "Every single penny" of the £36bn funding intended for HS2 will now be put into other transport projects across the UK, according to the Prime Minister.

HS2 initially aimed to create high-speed railways between London and major cities in the Midlands and the North of England. This would have reduced journey times significantly, created more space on the rail network and more jobs outside of London. Much work has been done on Phase 1, between London and Birmingham.

However, the project has long experienced delays, spiralling costs and cuts. In 2021, the Leeds leg was scrapped by the government in a deci-

Shows how little he really cares about tackling air pollution, traffic and cutting carbon emissions."



Source: Number 10 (via Flickr)

sion to upgrade existing HS2 routes. Questions arose about whether HS2 would even reach Euston in central London as demolition work was paused amid rising costs. The Prime Minister has confirmed that it would, but a source has disclosed that its completion would be contingent on a private investment.

One of the main concerns of the project, the biggest of its kind in Europe, was the growing costs. As of February 2023, £27.4bn has been spent on HS2, £22.5bn on Phase 1

and £2.3bn on Phase 2, including the purchase of more than 400 properties between Birmingham and Manchester. HS2's environmental impact was another major cause for concern. Although the project claimed it would provide "zero carbon rail travel" and create new wildlife habitats along its route, Wildlife Trusts said the project will "destroy huge swathes of irreplaceable natural habitat and important protected wildlife sites".

Since Rishi Sunak announced the redirection of money from HS2 to

road schemes, Greenpeace has said that this "shows how little he really cares about tackling air pollution, traffic and cutting carbon emissions".

In labelling HS2 an England and Wales project, the UK government had claimed that HS2 would boost connectivity and reliability across the UK, despite it not crossing into Wales.

A station at Crewe was set apart as an interchange for North Wales, which is why Wales did not receive any consequential funding. With the project being scrapped, the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford, said that the "flimsy case" for Wales not receiving extra funding from the project "collapses completely".

Rishi Sunak has said that £1bn that was earmarked for HS2 will be used to electrify the North Wales mainline. While the Welsh government welcomed the funding, it described it as "a finger in the air figure".

In his speech at the Tory conference, the Prime Minister also expressed his desire to phase out the sale of cigarettes, which he says would be the "biggest public health intervention in a generation".



Conservatives push back on Net Zero targets

Sunak's decision to U-turn on environmental policies causes backlash

Cerys Upstone
Politics Editor

The idea of making the planet 'net zero' - where a balance between carbon emissions and carbon being removed from the environment is met - has been a key policy point, with initial ideas first proposed in 2017, and confirmed by Johnson in 2020.

However, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has controversially U-turned on these environmental policies, leading to backlash from fellow Conservatives and other political parties.

Plans to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars will now be pushed back to 2035 instead of the original 2030, promises to 100% stop the installation of gas boilers by 2035 has been amended to an 80% phase out, and landlords and homeowners will no longer be required to make houses more energy efficient.

To further this, Sunak has confirmed suggested policies to curb behavioural trends that harm the



Source: Number 10 (via Flickr)

environment, such as meat eating and taxing airlines, will not be taken forward by his government. He has, however, insisted that he is eager to stick with plans to become 'net zero' by 2050, in a 'pragmatic' middle road way.

Sunak's suggestion is that the original policies would have been more costly to the British public, with fuel run cars currently being cheaper on the market, and house

insulation efforts becoming costly.

However, this has been disputed, with research by the Energy and Intelligence Unit finding that poorly insulated homes will cost £1000 more on gas to heat this Winter, leading to higher costs for renters.

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt's advisor claimed the watering down of policies would affect UK finances, since policy volatility prevents businesses from making long term investments.

“We're not going to save the planet by bankrupting the British people.”

The decisions have created internal divisions within the Tory Party, with Tory grandee Lord Deben billing them as 'unconservative' due to creating distrust in the government and wrecking certainty and consistency in business, and former Conservative environment minister Lord Zac Goldsmith critiquing the situation as “a moment of shame”.

Sources close to Number 10 claim that the U-turn was due to Sunak trying to set a clear path from Labour policies ahead of the next general election, with Labour claiming they would restore the 2030 deadline to ban petrol and diesel cars, although not bringing back gas boiler targets. Shadow energy secretary Ed Miliband condemned the government's decision as an “act of weakness... dancing to the tune of a small minority of his party”.

Either way, it's undisputed by scientists that the watering down of environmental policies will make it harder to reach Net Zero targets, and thus threaten the sustainability of our future.

Sunak reveals his plans for A-level reform

Lily Portch
Contributor

The established A-Level qualifications that have been in place for over 70 years are set to be replaced. Rishi Sunak has proposed many changes to the education system for those

aged 16-18. The proposals outline the replacement of A Level Examinations with an Advanced British Standard Qualification, bringing together A Levels and T Levels, in which the subjects of English and Maths are compulsory.

Reasoning behind the alterations was highlighted by Sunak on the 4th of October, where he stated that “students don't spend enough time in the classroom – a quarter of our children leave education without the basic literacy and numeracy they need to fulfil their potential”.

Though the proposals are long term with implementation potentially not beginning until 2033-34, the magnitude of this change is not to be dismissed. Not only will classroom hours increase by 15% for most sixth formers, but students will also be expected to study five subjects.

This change may overstretch the teaching workforce and lead to potential burnout of school leavers, who will be expected to endure an additional 195 hours of classes to understand five subjects in the same depth as current A-level students do in three.

“Students don't spend enough time in the classroom. A quarter of our children leave education without the basic literacy and numeracy they need to fulfil their potential”.

Considering the current climate of teacher strikes, the prospect of increasing the workloads of already stretched teacher's schedules with limited pay rises does raise questions.

Daniel Kebede, general secretary of the National Education Union highlights how schools are “already short of 4300 maths and 2600 English teachers” yet the reform would “require an additional 5300 teachers” A problem the government needs to solve before introducing reforms to pupils.

The Prime Minister's proposals may also affect the transition in education for those students wishing to go to university. School leavers completing the Advanced British Standards will not be specialising as intensely in certain subjects as current A-Level students do, meaning the leap from post-16 education to a degree may be much larger than at present. Currently, students study a narrow range of subjects in line with their preparations for university.

Though positive implications of the change are highlighted by Robert Halfon, who states that “students will have a much wider curriculum, so they get the skills that they need, and employers want.”

An interview with Andrew RT Davies

Thomas Wilson
Politics Editor

How do you feel your formative years influenced your politics?

I go back further than that to the 70s and the economic situation and the decline of Britain on the world stage. This was a time of mass picketing and mass meetings in car parks where workers were bullied into going on strike and then shutting down factories. The country really was a basket case in 1979 when Thatcher and the Conservatives came in and there was a lot of difficulties in rectifying the economic situation the country faced but I believe it was rectified and a new economy came out of that and ultimately the prosperity we've enjoyed over the last 30 years were down to the reforms in the 1980s.

What do you ultimately feel the positives and negatives have been of the devolved model of government in Wales?

It is my belief people should know what is being done in their name and many could not understand the power that sat here in the Assembly. Yet now we have tax raising powers, executive powers and legislative powers and I believe passionately that those who are calling for the abolition of the Welsh Parliament are living in cloud cuckoo land because it is wrong to say Wales is the only part of the UK that should return to the 1950s style government in contrast to Scotland and Northern Ireland who have their own assemblies. In contrast to the desires



Source: National Assembly for Wales (via Wikipedia)

of Plaid and Labour, I believe we ought to be executing the powers we've got to the best effect to make a difference on people's lives.

Given the personal abuse you suffered from campaigning for leave, did you ever feel any regret over your support for Brexit?

None whatsoever; the only regret I have is that we have not taken more advantage of the freedoms we have gained in voting to leave as there are huge opportunities out there since coming out of the European Union. We wouldn't have been able to unfold the vaccine rollout programme as quick as we did if we were still in the EU which opened up society becoming back to normal and we have the chance to negotiate trade deals all over the world; yet we must still remain friends with our friends and col-

leagues in Europe. Ultimately, the result must be respected as a clear mandate to future governments, whatever colour tie they may be, that we see our future as an independent trading nation. We should be looking forward to pursuing trading operations worldwide, such as with India or building on the agreement we have with the Trans-Pacific-Partnership.

Unlike when you were previously leader, the FM had changed and your opposite number was now Mark Drakeford. What were your initial impressions of him in comparison to his predecessor Carwyn Jones?

Sadly, the ending of Carwyn Jones' tenure was marred by the tragic death of Carl Sargent, with those 18 months leading up to Jones' resignation being a particularly tough time during this

institutions history. Mark is far more focused and academic in his responses in First Minister's Questions. Carwyn was more bombastic and barrister and it showed with the exchanges themselves being very different. I like to think I get on with both men as I do not take personal animosity out of the chamber and that whilst I believe in debating robustly inside the chamber, when outside we all want the same thing which is a strong Wales delivering for the people of Wales.

As a supporter of Liz Truss, how do you feel history will judge her tenure?

Her policies and objectives were good Conservative policies yet the execution was what let her down and cost her the premiership. I had conversations with many of the candidates, including the final two, when they came to Cardiff and we all came to our opinions and cast our votes accordingly. We've moved on now and we've got a new Prime Minister in Rishi Sunak who is making the tough calls, making the big decisions and has an understanding of the economics of the country which is ultimately what will decide the next election. I think in Rishi Sunak, compared to Kier Starmer, we have a candidate who does get it and is unperturbed to make the tough calls.

Welsh government announce commemorative street name audit

Thomas Wilson
Politics Editor

The Welsh government have announced an audit into commemorative place names under review; with Caerphilly's Churchill Park and Chepstow's Nelson Park among those under scrutiny.

In the 'audit of commemoration', there are in fact 31 Nelson and 15 Churchill commemorations that may change. When asked for comment, leader of the Welsh Conservative Party Andrew RT Davies spoke of his disdain for the audit, telling Gair Rhydd that it was "really important to learn from history and not obliterate it."

When it comes to Churchill, the audit claims name changes are necessary due to the "hatred for his actions as Home Secretary", referencing his role in the Rhondda Valley industrial dispute. After 25,000 miners came out on strike, the Chief Constable of Glamorgan requested military support yet Churchill did not launch deployment until after violence broke out in Tonypandy which saw one killed and sixty three shops damaged.

Churchill's decision to delay deployment of troops was praised by the Manchester Guardian, who claimed the decision had "saved many lives." Even George Isaacs, who would go on to become chair of the Trade Union Congress, said "looking back it is difficult to see what else a resolute Home Secretary could have done." Yet such facts appear forgotten, for some now see Churchill as the architect of suppression and an enemy of the miners.

This is brought into question when one considers it was during Churchill's tenure as Home Secretary that the government introduced the Mines Accident Act, a Bill which offered first aid free of charge and the introductions of fire precautions in mines. Aside from Nelson and Churchill, the audit also calls for a review into Gandhi commemorations due to his racially motivated remarks.

The review into Gandhi is intriguing for two reasons; the first being that First Minister Mark Drakeford's predecessor Carwyn Lloyd attended the unveiling of Cardiff Bay's statue of Gandhi in 2017 and the second being the audit omitting Gandhi's Nazi sympathies as being part of the justification, such as his belief that Hitler was "not the monster described by his opponents."

Perhaps a reason for this being omitted is it would force one to question why Cardiff's Roald Dahl Plass or Lloyd George Avenue are not up for review, given the former stated "even a stinker like Hitler didn't pick on them for no reason" in reference to Jewish persecution and the latter labelled Hitler the "saviour of Germany." Given the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill going through Westminster which would require residents themselves to vote on re-naming proposals, the divisive debate is destined to continue in both Wales and across the border.

Labour wins Scottish by-election

Adam Dunstan
Politics Editor

Earlier this month, voters in the Scottish constituency of 'Rutherglen and Hamilton West' headed to the polls to vote in a highly anticipated and contentious Westminster by-election.

Political pundits looked forward to this as it set the record on how Scottish voters feel about the main political parties in the run-up to the next general election, which is anticipated to be held in 2024.

The result was a huge win for Labour, who took the seat from the SNP with a 20.4% swing. In 2019, the SNP won the seat with 44.2% of votes, but in this by-election, it achieved just 27.6%. This is certainly a boost for Keir Starmer whose party this time received 58.6% of votes, up by 24.1% from 2019.

Meanwhile, the Conservative candidate achieved just 3.9% of votes and lost his deposit. The by-election was triggered after the seat's previous MP, Margaret Ferrier of the Scottish National Party, was suspended from the Commons for breaching COVID-19 lockdown rules in September 2020



Source: Keir Starmer (via Flickr)

when she travelled by train after testing positive for the virus. In the UK, constituents of a suspended MP can open a recall petition, in which they demand their MP to resign, and a by-election to be called. To be successful, the petition needs the support of ten percent of constituents. In this case, that number was 8,113 and was exceeded when the petition received 11,896 signatures and a by-election was set for 5th October.

Not only was this the first by-election following a successful recall petition in Scotland, but it's also the first time Scotland's First Minister Hamza Yousaf faced the electorate after succeeding Nicola Sturgeon as SNP Leader in March 2023. In the run-up to the by-election, Yousaf was anxious to keep this seat, in the face of fierce opposition from Keir Starmer's Labour Party who have been creeping up in Scottish polls. In September,

ber, a YouGov national poll placed the SNP 11 points ahead of Labour, a staunch difference from their 24-point lead recorded four months earlier in May.

Furthermore, the seat has switched between the SNP and Labour at the last four general elections, with Labour winning the seat in 2010 and 2017 until the SNP swiped it back in 2015 and 2019. This means it wasn't absurd to anticipate a Labour win in the seat.

The UK's top pollster, Sir John Curtice predicted that Labour "ought to win relatively comfortably" given how the party has progressed in the polls. He was correct, which means that the Labour Party have doubled their number of Scottish MPs in Westminster. Until now, they had only one MP from Scotland, in Edinburgh South, following their wipe-out in 2015. The result comes just in time for the Labour Party's annual conference, which is taking place in Liverpool. However, this jubilant party mustn't act complacent. Later this month, two further by-

elections are set take place in Tory heartlands, and it's likely Keir has his eye on them.

Gender debate dominates Tory conference

A Conservative member was forcibly removed for heckling Braverman's "homophobic rant"

Cerys Upstone
Politics Editor

Controversies surrounding the transgender debate have cropped up in recent speeches made by members of the Conservative party at their national conference, which took place in Manchester from the 1st to the 4th of October.

In his speech to the Tory conference audience, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak raised concerns about those who choose a different gender to their assigned sex. He claimed that "patients should know when hospitals are talking about men or women", in relation to Health Secretary Steve Barclay's earlier announcement that the NHS constitution will be amended to ban transgender women in female-only hospital wards, and his efforts to restore use of the word 'women' when regarding female-specific illnesses.

Sunak riled up the crowd by exclaiming "we shouldn't get bullied into believing that people can be any sex they want to be - they can't!"

He wrapped up the segment by stating "a man is a man and a woman is a woman - that's just common sense!", before a cheering crowd.

Health Secretary Jeremy Miles

"We shouldn't get bullied into believing that people can be any sex they want to be - they can't!"



Source: The Conservative Party (via Flickr)

disputed these comments at a talk to Cardiff University's Labour Students' Society on Thursday 5th of October, stating they were 'absolutely disgusting'.

Rishi wasn't alone in painting his party as the one of 'common sense', with six ministers in total making reference to gender and sex debates. Home Secretary Suella Braverman condemned 'gender ideology', people being "chased out of their jobs for saying that a man can't be a woman", and damned being "disciplined for using the wrong words". She described such as 'poison' which needs to be challenged and claimed "this conservative government has begun the task of clearing out this pernicious nonsense".

She also spoke directly to parents, stating "it shouldn't be controversial for parents to know what their children are being taught in schools".

Braverman's speech received controversy due to comments made by Andrew Boff, a Conservative London Assembly member and chair, who is also gay. During her speech, Boff said "there's no such thing as gender ideology", repeatedly said 'no!', and criticised what he claimed to be a "homophobic rant". He was then removed from the conference by Greater Manchester Police, who were chaperoning the event.

When interviewed afterwards, Boff claimed the "Home Secretary was basically vilifying gay people and trans people by this attack on LGBT ideology, or gender ideology" and that "words like that in the forum of the party I love need to be challenged". He claimed "it is making our Conservative Party look transphobic and homophobic".

16-year old student Grace also condemned Braverman's com-

"The Home Secretary was basically vilifying gay people and trans people by this attack on LGBT ideology, or gender ideology."

ments, claiming "people our age would be really disgusted with the things that they're saying".

This is not the first time that the Home Secretary has made controversial comments surrounding LGBTQ+ identity. Earlier this week, she claimed that asylum seekers try to "game the system" and pretend to be gay in order to come to the United Kingdom, and that being gay or a woman shouldn't be the basis for becoming a refugee.

Other Tory MPs complained about the comments, including a gay Tory MP Elliot Colburn, who stated at a conference fringe event that his party must "drop this hardcore rhetoric". 1.5% of asylum claims last year had sexual orientation included in the basis of the claim with 64 countries having laws against homosexuality.

Taking a hard stance on gender and identity issues is likely to form part of the Conservatives' election strategy. Deputy chair of the party, Lee Anderson, claimed new topics like the 'trans debate' are needed to rile up the electorate, especially in the post-Brexit era. This allows the Conservatives to take what they call the 'common sense' approach in contrast to Labour, whose leader Keir Starmer has previously noted that individuals with male genitalia can be women.



Efa Ceiri



Megan Haf Davies



Millie Stacey

‘Take That’ yn dod i Gymru

Caitlin Griffiths
Golygydd Taf-od

Cyhoeddwyd yn ôl ym mis Medi y bydd y grŵp pop ‘Take That’ yn dychwelyd yn ôl i Gymru i berfformio yn rhan o’u taith fyw newydd: ‘That’s Life On Tour’, yn 2024. Dyma fydd y tro cyntaf i’r grŵp o dri perfformio yng Nghymru ers eu taith ddiwethaf ‘Wonderland’, yn 2017. Mae’r triawd – Gary Barlow, Mark Owen a Howard Donald – wedi cyhoeddi eu bod yn chwarae dros bedwar deg dyddiad ar draws pymtheg o ddinas y Deyrnas Unedig ac Iwerddon. Ond un ddinas allan o bymtheg y daith, sydd yn cael

ei gynnal yng Nghymru. Bydd stadiwm ‘Swansea.com’ yn ddinas Abertawe, yn cartrefu eu perfformiad ar y 6ed o Fehefin, 2024.

Wrth i’r band rhyddhau eu sengl newydd, ‘Windows’, fe gafodd newyddion o’u taith ei hysbysu am y tro cyntaf yn rhan o drafodaeth y grŵp gyda Zoe Ball ar ei sioe frest-wast ar BBC Radio 2. Dyma brif ganwyr y grŵp, Gary Barlow, yn dweud ar y rhaglen: “Mae wedi bod yn brofiad gwych bod yn ôl yn y stiwdio gyda’n gilydd yn cynllunio a recordio’r albwm hon.” Aeth aelodau arall y grŵp ymlaen i ddweud: “Da ni’n hynod falch o’r albwm newydd - mae ‘na

ymdeimlad o agosatrwydd, boed ni’n dod yn ôl at ein gilydd fel band neu rhwng y bobl sydd eisiau cysylltiad yn fywydau eu hunain. Rydyn ni’n gyffrous am y bennod newydd hon!”

Buodd digon o gyffro a dyfalu ymysg pobl yn digwydd cyn cyhoeddiad swyddogol y daith, wrth i symbol nodweddiadol y band yn cael eu hysbysu ar feysydd ar draws y Deyrnas Unedig. Nawr bod y newyddion o’r daith wedi’u cyhoeddi’n swyddogol, rydym yn gwybod bydd y canwyr yn cychwyn ar eu taith yn Sheffield ym mis Ebrill, ac yn eu gorffen ym Mhriste yng Nghanol mis Mehefin. Dyma Olly

Murs, canwr poblogaidd o Ddwyrain Llundain, hefyd ymuno a’r daith fel gwestai arbennig i’r grŵp.

Aeth tocynnau’r perfformiad ar werth ar ddydd Gwener, 29ain o Fedi am 9:30 yn y bore, ac yn barod mae yna alw wedi bod i gynnal sioeau ychwanegol i’r deuddeg naw perfformiad a gafodd eu cynllunio’n wreiddiol. Cafodd y rhai ag archebodd albwm newydd y grŵp o’r siop swyddogol cyn Medi’r 26ain, y cyfle i dderbyn cod arbennig i gael mynediad cynharach at y tocynnau, ar ddydd Mercher y 27ain o Fedi.

Yr Iaith Gymraeg o fewn Prifysgol Caerdydd

Elan Jones
Taf-od

Yn ei gyfrol ‘The Welsh Language In Cardiff: A History Of Survival’, prif ddadl Owen John Thomas yw ‘y bu’r Gymraeg yn llewyrchu ac yn wir, yn iaith a oruchafodd yng Nghaerdydd am ganrifoedd’. Mae hyn dal yr un mor wir hyd heddiw. Gyda dros 100,000 o siaradwyr Cymraeg yn byw yng Nghaerdydd, mae’r ddinas fawr yn atyniad hynod boblogaidd i’r Cymry, yn enwedig i’r Myfyrwyr Cymraeg yn ein plith. Heb os, mae ‘na ddigon o gyfleoedd i gymdeithasu a threulio eich hamser drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, a dyma un o’r prif resymau y mae unigolion yn penderfynu astudio yma ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd.

Os ydych yn fyfyrwr yn y flwyddyn gyntaf, mae

digonedd o ddigwyddiadau ac atyniadau yn y Gymraeg ar gael i’w mynychu o fewn y Brifysgol. Dewis doeth yw i ymgeisio am lety ar gyfer siaradwyr Cymraeg megis Llys Senghennydd, gan fod cymuned Gymraeg glos yno a chewch gyfle i fyw bywyd Cymraeg fel Myfyriwr i’r eithaf – o fore gwyn tan nos bydd y Gymraeg i’w glywed yno, yn bendant.

Os oes diddordeb genych yn y Gymraeg neu’r diwylliant boed yn siaradwr newydd neu yn rhugl, mae Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Caerdydd yma i’ch cynrychioli chi drwy fod yn gyfrifol am sicrhau fod ystod eang o ddigwyddiadau a gwasanaethau Cymraeg yn cael eu cynnig i fyfyrwyr Cymraeg y Brifysgol, a gyda rôl ar gyfer Swyddog Cymraeg llawn amser yn ei le, mae’r Gymraeg yn fythol

fyw yn y Brifysgol.

Trwy blatfform radio’r Brifysgol; RadioXpress, cewch gyfle i sicrhau llais a chyfleoedd i fyfyrwyr Cymraeg y Brifysgol. Ceir cyfle i greu rhaglen radio drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg a thrwy gyfrwng hynny, mae modd hyrwyddo’r iaith Gymraeg wrth sgwrsio a chwarae caneuon Cymraeg gan artistiaid o Gymru, a hyn i gyd o galon Undeb y Myfyrwyr.

Cymuned llawn Cymraeg yw’r GymGym yn ogystal ag Aelwyd y Waun Ddyfal. Y GymGym yn Gymdeithas Gymraeg ar gyfer myfyrwyr Caerdydd sy’n ymglymu a mwynhau amryw o weithgareddau trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, a’r Waun Ddyfal yn gôr sy’n mwynhau clonc, cymdeithasu, a chân!

Ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd, ceir cyfleoedd di-ri i astudio

drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg – o radd Sengl BA Y Gymraeg i radd cyd-anrhydedd, mae ‘na ryw beth at ddant pawb. Mae Ysgol y Gymraeg yn enwedig yn adran groesawgar a chartrefol o fewn y Brifysgol ac yn ymfalchio yn llwyddiannau eu myfyrwyr. O fewn yr ysgol, crewyd ‘Cymdeithas Lolo’ – cymdeithas sy’n tynnu sylw at bethau diwylliannol a phwysigrwyd yr iaith. Maent wedi llwyddo i gynnal nifer helaeth o ddigwyddiadau llwyddiannus megis y Stomp flynyddol – sy’n gyfle gwych i allu rannu eich dawn ieithyddol ymysg y Cymry.

Yn amlwg, mae’r iaith Gymraeg o fewn Prifysgol Caerdydd yn fytholwyrdd ac felly o bydded i’r heniaith barhau!

20mya: Ydy Cymru yn arwain y ffordd?



Tarddiad: Phil Dolby (via Flickr)

Millie Stacey
Golygydd Taf-od

Llynedd, pleidleisiodd y Senedd dros wneud Cymru yn barth 20mya, y genedl gyntaf yn y DU i wneud hynny. Cafodd y gyfraith newydd ei phasio

gan Senedd Cymru ym mis Gorffennaf 2022 ac fe ddaeth y rheolau ffyrdd newydd i rym ar 17 Medi.

Mae’r terfyn wedi’i osod ar ffyrdd cyfyngedig, sef ffyrdd mewn ardaloedd adeiledig lle mae llawer o gerddwyr er

mwyn cynyddu dio-gelwch. Mae’r newid i’r gyfraith 20mya wedi costio £33m i Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae cost y gyfraith newydd wedi cael ei beirniadu’n hallt gan bobl cymru, fodd bynnag, dywedodd Llywodraeth Cymru fod y pris £32.5m yn cael ei “bwyso’n ormodol” oherwydd llai o effaith ar y GIG a gwasanaethau brys, a dywedodd un astudiaeth y gallai arbed £92m blwyddyn.

Ers i’r ddeddf cyflymder newydd ddod i rym yma yng Nghymru, cymysg iawn fu’r farn. Fodd bynnag, mae mwyafrif helaeth o Gymru wedi dod at ei gilydd i gytuno ynghylch atgasedd at y gyfraith. Mae cyfryngau cym-

deithasol fel y bo’r angen yn ddeiseb a ddechreuwyd gan Mark Barker ar Fedi 13eg. Mae’r ddeiseb hon wedi torri cofnodion, gan dderbyn y nifer uchaf o lofnodion ar gyfer deiseb yng Nghymru.

Y ffordd y mae’r g y -fraith newydd yn datgan, os cewch eich tynnu’n ôl yn gwneud mwy nag 20 mya mewn ardal adeiledig yng Nghymru, gallech gael dirwy o leiaf £100 a chael tri phwynt cosb. Fodd bynnag, mae’r hed-

dlu wedi dweud y bydd eu hymateb yn rhesymol gan eu bod yn dymuno rhoi cyfle i yrwyr addasu i’r rheolau cyflymder newydd am y 12 mis cyntaf. Fodd bynnag, nodwyd os ydych am dderbyn 12 pwynt neu fwy o fewn fair blynedd, y gallai hyn arwain at waharddiad rhag gyrru.



Newid hinsawdd yng Nghymru

Beca Dalis
Golygydd Taf-od

Mae Gweinidog Seneddol Newid Hinsawdd ac Aelod Seneddol Plaid Cymru yn galw am weithrediad ar gyfer lleihau effaith newid hinsawdd ar y blaned a phobl ifainc.

Yn dilyn cyhoeddiad Rushi Sunak, Prif Weinidog y Deyrnas Unedig, mi wnaeth Julia James, Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd alw ar Micheal Gove, Gweinidog Cysylltiadau Rhynglywodraethol Llywodraeth y DU.

Cyhoeddodd Rishi Sunak, Prif Weinidog y Deyrnas Unedig, fod oedi i'r targedau yn rhan o gynllun Sero Net.

Mae'r cynllun Cymru Sero Net yn gynllun i leihau allyriannau carbon er mwyn arwain Cymru i fod yn Sero Net erbyn 2050.

Ysgrifennodd Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd yr Alban, Mairi McAllan, ar y cyd gyda Julia James.

Roedden nhw'n honni yn y llythyr nad oedd Rishi Sunak wedi

“ Rydym ni'n gweithio'n agos gyda llywodraethau datganoledig i gyflwyno diogelwch Sero Net ac egni



Tarddiad: Richard Szejewski (via Flickr)

cyd-weithredu gyda'r llywodraethau datganoledig cyn y cyhoeddiad.

Roedd y llythyr hefyd yn atgyfnerthu eu rhwystredigaeth yn y "diffyg lefel o fanylder a oedd yn allweddol i gyhoeddiad mor arwyddocaol".

Mae'r ddau Weinidog yn ymbil ar Rishi Sunak i ymateb ar frys er mwyn i Lywodraeth Yr Alban a Chymru i weithredu a gwneud y camau cywir.

Ymatebodd siaradwr dros Lywodraeth y DU gan ddweud "rydym ni'n gweithio'n agos gyda llywodraethau datganoledig i gyflwyno diogelwch Sero Net ac egni, gan gynnwys trwy y grŵp rhyngweinidogol ar gyfer Sero Net, egni

a newid hinsawdd".

Maen nhw hefyd am barhau gyda'r modd yma o gyfathrebu.

Cyhoeddodd Plaid Cymru eu bod am gyflwyno cyfraith er mwyn lleihau pryder hinsawdd neu bryder amgylcheddol ymysg pobl ifainc.

Mae'r termau 'pryder hinsawdd' a 'phryder amgylcheddol' yn golygu fod gan unigolyn bryder am ddyfodol y blaned oherwydd effeithiau negyddol amgylcheddol.

Gall hyn arwain at byliau o banig, pryder ac iselder.

Delyth Jewell, Aelod Seneddol

ar gyfer de ddwyrain Cymru sy'n cadeirio'r Senedd yn nhrefnadaethau Hinsawdd, Natur a Lles sydd wedi cyflwyno'r ddeddfwriaeth ar ran aelodau.

Mae'r cynnig am gyfraith newydd yn gobeithio i newid y cwricwlwm addysg er mwyn cynnwys cyfle i bobl ifainc sydd â diddordeb i ddeall difrifoldeb yr argyfwng newid hinsawdd.

Dywedodd Delyth Jewell yn ei chyhoeddiad "os ydyn ni'n normaleiddio siarad am ein teimladau ynglŷn â phryder hinsawdd a galar hinsawdd, byddwn ni'n rhoi cymorth i bobl ifanc i deimlo llai unig yn sut mae'n eu heffeithio nhw".

Mae'r Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd hefyd yn gobeithio bydd hyn yn hwb ar gyfer pobl ifainc i sylweddoli fod angen gweithredu a sut yn union mae gwneud hyn.

“ Mae'r cynllun Cymru Sero Net yn gynllun i leihau allyriannau carbon er mwyn arwain Cymru i fod yn Sero Net erbyn 2050.

Cymru ar y sgrîn: Sex Education

Efa Cieri
Pennaeth Taf-od

Dychwelodd y rhaglen Netflix boblogaidd Sex Education ar gyfer y bedwaredd gyfres dros yr wythnosau diwethaf - gyda 2.75 miliwn o bobl wedi gwyllo'r bennod gyntaf yn yr wythnos hyd at 24ain o Fedi. Cafodd ail bennod y gyfres newydd ei gwyllo gan 2.4 miliwn o bobl - gyda'r ystadegau hyn yn uwch na'r nifer a wylodd y rhaglen boblogaidd At Home With The Furies a lansiwyd i gynulleidfa o 2.6 miliwn nôl ym mis Awst elni.

Lansiwyd y gyfres cyntaf o Sex Education nôl ym mis Ionawr 2019 gan y cynhyrchydd Jon Jennings. Mae'r rhaglen comedi-drama yn bennaf yn dilyn hynt a helynt cymeriadau yn eu harddegau yn ardal Moordale, megis Otis, Eric, Adam, Maeve ac Aimee, yn ogystal â cymeriadau eraill fel mam Otis, Jean, sydd yn cael ei phortreadu gan y talentog Gillian Anderson. Ar hyd y cyfnod o bedair gyfres, cawn ddilyn y cymeriadau wrth iddynt wynebu amrywiaeth o broblemau personol sydd yn aml yn ymwneud â'u bywydau rhywiol.

Ond wyddoch chi fod gan Gymru fach gysylltiad â'r rhaglen deledu fawr hon? Defnyddir sawl lleoliad Cymreig ar hyd y blynyddoedd wrth ffilmio'r rhaglen Sex Education. Os edrychwch yn ofalus, mae modd adnabod lleoliadau godidog De Cymru, o Bier Pennarth, i goedwig Cwmbran yng Nghasnewydd. Erbyn y bedwaredd gyfres, defnyddir Amgueddfa Sain Ffagan yng Nghaerdydd fel coleg y chweched dosbarth newydd y cymeriadau wedi cau Ysgol Moordale. Mae Sir Fynwy'n ymddangos yn amlwg drwy gydol y gyfres, ac yn chwarae rhan allweddol yn stori cymeriad Eric. Gwelir Eric treulio llawer o amser ar Duke of Beaufort Iron Bridge yn ystod y bedwaredd gyfres.

Yn ôl Deon Du Preez, rheolwr goruchwyllo lleoliadau Sex Education, fod yr ardaloedd ble maen nhw'n ffilmio yn bennaf yng Nghymru, yn cynnig cymaint o leoliadau. Dywedodd, "It's a goldmine of opportunity! There aren't many regions that have so much versatility and are within such a small area - from the wild valleys to Cardiff and in-between - you've

got all these amazing suburbs with beautiful landscapes. The locations are definitely an important part of the look of Sex Education."

Yw hi'n amser i Gymru fach serennu ar sgriniau mawr netflix o'r diwedd?

Tarddiad: Quote Catalog (via Flickr)

“ Cafodd ail bennod y gyfres newydd ei gwyllo gan 2.4 miliwn o bobl



Gwersyll amgylcheddol a lles cyntaf Cymru

Llyr Eirug
Golygydd Taf-od

Agorwyd pedwerydd gwersyll Urdd Gobaith Cymru yr wythnos diwethaf, ym Mhentref Ifan yn Sir Benfro. Gyda'r nod i flaenoriaethu'r amgylchedd, lles emosiynol pobl ifanc a'r Gymraeg cynigia'r gwersyll 'ddihangfa rhag y byd digidol' i ymwelwyr a gwersyllwyr.

Trwy gymorth rhaglen Cymunedau Dysgu Cynaliadwy Llywodraeth Cymru, a chynllun buddsoddi ehangach gwerth £10m yr Urdd i uwchraddio'r gwersylloedd, gwelwyd gwireddu dymuniadau pobl ifanc, o drafodaethau mewn cynhadledd ieuenctid. Yn ôl Sian Lewis, Prif weithredwr yr Urdd "Wrth bo ni'n edrych ar gyfnod o fuddsoddi sylweddol yn y gwersylloedd, rodd hwn yn gyfle rhy dda i'w golli, sef sefydlu rhywbeth reit arloesol".

Rhannodd Jeremy Miles ar ei gyfrif Trydar: 'Llongyfarchiadau i'r Urdd ar agor

“ Ym aml, dwi'n teimlo fy mod yn 'overwhelmed' gan cyfryngau cymdeithasol agwaith Prifysgol.



Tarddiad: Phil Dolby (trwy Flickr)

'over

eu gwersyll amgylcheddol cyntaf, Pentref Ifan. Gyda chymorth £500k o gyllid gan Lywodraeth Cymru, bydd y ganolfan newydd wych hon yn galluogi pobl ifanc i gysylltu â'r tir a phrofi ffordd fwy cynaliadwy o fyw.

Adnewyddwyd canolfan addysgol Pentref Ifan a'i drawsnewid i fod yn wersyll. Yn ôl Urdd, bydd lle i 40 person gyssgu yn y gwersyll yn ystod misoedd y gaeaf, a lle i dros 75 yn ystod yr haf, pryd y byddant yn gwneud defnydd o bodiau i roi profiad o wersylla i'r bobl ifanc a fydd yn mynychu.

'Dan ni gyd yn ymwybodol gymaint mae'r cyfryngau cymdeithasol yn effeithio ar les a iechyd meddwl pobl

ifanc' dywed Sian Lewis. Bydd pobl ifanc a fydd yn ymweld â'r gwersyll yn derbyn 'digital detox' wrth iddynt fynd ar deithiau cerdded ar hyd yr arfordir, mynyddoedd a'r coedwigoedd. Yn ogystal â hyn, caiff gweithdai ffasiwn cynaliadwy, ioga, sesiynau gwylltgrefft, meddylgarwch, syllu ar y sêr a tyfu a chynaeafu bwyd eu cynnig yno. Bydd Gwersyll Pentref Ifan yn cynnig lle i 8,000 o bobl ifanc y flwyddyn.

Ymateb yr ifanc

Rhannodd dau fyfyrwr o Brifysgol Caerdydd eu barn nhw ar wersyll newydd yr Urdd:

'Ym aml, dwi'n teimlo fy mod yn

whelmed' gan cyfryngau cymdeithasol agwaith Prifysgol. Byddai ymweld â Gwersyll newydd yr Urdd yn caniatáu i mi anghofio am fy mhryderon a phwysau trwm Prifysgol.' Ceris Lloyd. Blwyddyn 2

'Bydd y gwersyll newydd yma yn rhoi'r cyfle i'r bobl ifanc allu cymdeithasu drwy'r Gymraeg ac hefyd ddysgu mwy am fyfyr natur hardd yr ardal a'i hanes' Osian Williams. Blwyddyn 2

“ Trwy gymorth rhaglen Cymunedau Dysgu Cynaliadwy Llywodraeth Cymru

Cymru yng Nghwpan y Byd

Jack Thomas
Golygydd Taf-od

Gyd phoen blwyddyn ddiwethaf ymhell yn y gorffennol i gefnogwyr rygbi Cymru, mae'n bryd i ffocysu ar y twrnament presennol, a pherfformiadau'r crysau coch yng Nghwpan Rygbi'r Byd yn Ffrainc.

Mae'r Ffrancwyr wedi croesawu cefnogwyr o bedwar ban y byd ar gyfer y twrnament, ond u rhai yn gwynhau eu haros yn fwy nag eraill. Bu cefnogwyr Cymru'n teimlo'n falch dros eu gwlad wrth wyllo'r cewri Cymreig yn trechu Fiji, Portiwgal ac yna Awstralia. Gyda'r fuddugoliaeth gampus yn Lyon yn tanio dychymyg pob un o'r Cymry, hoffwn edrych i'r hyn sydd yn dal i chwarae, wrth ofyn, oes gan Gymru cyfle i ennill Cwpan Rygbi'r Byd 2023?

Wrth ysgrifennu hyn mae Cymru yn paratoi i chwarae eu gêm olaf yn y grŵp, yn erbyn Georgia yn Nantes. Gêm dwi, a sawl cefnogwr rygbi arall, yn disgwyl i Gymru ennill. Gyda'r canlyniad yma bydd Cymru yn gorffen yn gyntaf yn y grŵp, sy'n meddwl bydd gennym gêm yn erbyn tîm ail safle Grŵp D, sy'n cynnwys

Lloegr, yr Ariannin, Siapan, Samoa a Chile. Wrth ysgrifennu, mae gan Samoa a Siapan nifer cyfartal o bwyntiau, gyda'r Ariannin pwynt yn unig du ôl iddynt. Er hyn, mae'n debygol mai'r Ariannin fydd yn wynebu Cymru yn yr wyth olaf, gan eu bod yn ffefrynnau i faeddu Siapan a Chile.

Bydd yr Ariannin yn gêm gystadleuol, gyda phac y Puma's yn gorfforol, a'u cefnwyr cyffrous, egniol, mi fydd yn sialens fawr i Gymru goresgyn. Mae cyfle y gall Cymru gwynebu tîm arall yn yr wyth olaf, ond mae'n debygol mai Cymru vs yr Ariannin fydd yn digwydd.

Gan obeithio y bydd Cymru yn ail-fyw eu buddugoliaeth yn erbyn y Puma's o'r Tachwedd diwethaf, beth am y rownd gynderfynol? Fel mae cefnogwyr Cymru yn deall, dyma 'busnes-end' y twrnament. Byddwn yn chwarae enillydd gêm yr wyth olaf rhwng enillydd Grŵp B ac ail safle Grŵp A. Dyma'r grwpiau mwyaf cystadleuol yn y twrnament, gyda Ffrainc, Seland Newydd a'r Eidal yn gystadleuol yng Nghrŵp A, ac Iwerddon, De Affrica a'r Alban yng Ngrŵp B. Ar sail canlyniadau arall y gystadleuaeth, mae'n debygol y gwelwn Iwerddon yn ennill eu grŵp, ar ôl buddugoliaeth gampus yn erbyn

De Affrica, ac felly'n rhan o'r gêm wyth olaf arall. Yn o gystal mae'n debygol y gwelwn Seland Newydd yn gorffen yn ail yn eu grŵp, ar ôl colled yn erbyn Ffrainc yn gêm agoriadol y twrnament. Er hyn, mae'n debygol (os mae Cymru yn parhau i ennill) mi fydd gennym gêm gynderfynol yn erbyn Iwerddon neu Seland Newydd.

Mae Iwerddon (wedi'u rancio'n gyntaf yn y Byd) yn ffefrynnau i ennill y gystadleuaeth, ac mae'n anodd gweld ffordd y gall Cymru oresgyn yr her yma oherwydd ansawdd carfanau Iwerddon a Seland Newydd, ac felly dwi'n rhagweld mai dyma fydd diwedd taith Cymru yn Ffrainc.

Er hyn, os mae gan unrhyw un y gallu i danio carfan i fuddugoliaethau hanesyddol, dwi'n hyderus mai Warren Gatland yw'r dyn yma, a dwi'n obeithiol mi fyddwn ni fel Cymry yn

“ Oes gan Gymru cyfle i ennill Cwpan Rygbi'r Byd 2023?

gweld Jac Morgan yn codi Cwpan Webb Ellis yn yr wythnosau nesaf. Yr unig beth allwn ni gwneud yw parhau i gefnogi a gobeithio...

Tarddiad: Jean-Francois Beausejour (trwy Wikimedia Commons)



Hanfodion oroesi semester yr Hydref yn nhymor cofid a fflw

Ffion Wyn Jones
Golygydd Taf-od

Mae'r pryder o ddechrau neu aildechrau'r brifysgol yn fis Medi yn straeon enfawr ar y corff. Gyda chofid yn ailgydio adeg yma o'r flwyddyn, mae'n anodd iawn i osgoi dal 'freshers flu' neu cofid... efallai'r 'freshers flu' newydd?

Dyma gyfres o hanfodion i nid yn unig oroesi'r flwyddyn, ond i lwyddo drwyddi trwy dymor y fflw!

Y cam cyntaf ar gyfer hanfodion oroesi'r semester yw cael digon o gwsg, ond nid i aros yn wely trwy'r dydd. Bydd cadw at drefn ddyddiol yn sicrhau defnydd effeithlon o'ch amser. Bydd codi a mynd allan am awyr iach megis mynd am dro o gwmpas parc Bute, yn gwella iechyd corfforol ac iechyd meddyliol.

Os nad yw hyn yn apelio atoch, gall mynychu sesiynau yn y gym lleol rhoi'r cyfle i chi gymdeithasu a bod mewn awyrgylch gwahanol. Yn ystod wythnos y glas hyd at y mis Hydref, mae cwmnïoedd JD



Tarddiad: John Robinson (via Flickr)

Gyms' a 'The Gym Group' yn cynnig dël aelodaeth myfyrwyr, sydd yn arbed talu aelodaeth iawn yn y mis gyntaf. Felly mwy o arian i wario ar rywbeth neu yn rhywle arall!

Bydd bwyta'n iach a chreu bwydlen wythnosol yn galuogi i chi arbed arian ac osgoi gwario arian gwerthfawr ar dripiâu cyflym i Tesco Express lawr y stryd. Meddyliwch am gerdded y pellter ychwanegol yna i archfarchnadoedd fel

Lidl neu Aldi am y cynhwy-sion i'ch prydau. Mae prynu bwydydd tin a nwyddau pob dydd o siopau fel Lidl yn arbed y ceiniogau sydd yn creu byd o wahaniaeth tra yn y semester cyntaf wrth feddwl am dalu biliau a rhent. Bydd lawr lwytho apiau fel 'Lidl Plus' a chasglu pwyntiau 'clubcard' a 'Nectar' yn rhoi gwobrau ac yn arbed arian pellach ynghyd a siopa yn yr ardal 'reduced'.

Cofiwch i stocio'r fyny ar y

ffrwythau a llysiau ynghyd â'r 'multivitamins' i gryfhau eich system imiwnedd yn enwedig yn ystod wythnos y glas. Mae hyn yn fuddiol yn erbyn heintiau ond hefyd yn gwella eich 'hango-vers'.

Rhai weithiau mae'n rhaid trîto eich hun er mwyn gwobrwyo'r gwaith caled rydych wedi cyflawni, sydd yn helpu gydag iechyd med-dwl. Os rydych yn neud hyn, ceisiwch edrych allan am y 'discounts' o fewn y siopau ac ar 'uni days'. Pei-diwch fod yn swil i ofyn ym mhob siop os maent yn cym-ryd 'student discount', mae pob ceiniog yn helpu!

“ ‘Nectar’ yn rhoi gwobrau ac yn arbed arian pellach ynghyd a siopa yn yr ardal 'reduced' ”

Barn y Bobl - 'Bodlon ym Moduan?'

Elin Angharad Huws
Cymraeg a Newyddiaduraeth

Eisteddfod Boduan 2023, wel am chwip o wythnos! Saith diwrnod yn llawn cystadlaethau, cerddoriaeth, chwerthin, dysgu a chwerthin o'r diwrnod cyntaf i'r olaf un!

Cefais y cyfle eleni i fod yn rhan o dîm Llais y Maes gyda'r adran JOMEC Cym-raeg. Roedd hwn yn brofiad gwaith cyflogedig, ac rwy'n sicr y bydd yr holl sgiliau a phrofiadau newydd a gefais yn rhai a fydd yn ddefnyddiol ac o werth i mi yn y dyfodol. O ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener, yr her i mi a 6 myfyriwr ar-all oedd dod o hyd i straeon cyfoes a fyddai'n ddiddorol i gynulleidfa eang. Bu'n rhaid strwythuro cyfweiliadau a recordio cynnwys fideo addas i'w uwchlwytho ar y cyfryn-gau cymdeithasol. Roedd hwn yn waith caled ond boddhaol, a rhoddodd fewnweledia-dau i mi ar sut brofiad fyddai gweithio dan bwysau i gynhyr-

“ *Hwerthin, dysgu a chwerthin o'r diwrnod cyntaf i'r olaf un!* ”



Tarddiad: Trwy Flickr)

chu newyddion yn ddyddiol.

Erbyn y nos Wener, roedd hi'n amser ymlacio a mwynhau Maes B. Roedd yn wledd go iawn i'r clustiau yn gwrando i amrywiaeth o fandiau - yn enwedig Bwncath, Lloyd, Dom a Don, Papur Wal, a Morgan Elwy. Yn sicr, dyma beth oedd ei angen arnaf i orffen yr hyn a oedd eisoes wedi bod yn wythnos anhygoel.

Mae'r Eisteddfod ym Moduan yn sicr yn un y byddaf yn ei chofio am flynyddoedd, ac alla i ddim aros i weld beth fydd gan Rhondda Cynon Taf i'w gynnig yn 2024

Elan Gwilym
Seicoleg

Mae hi'n saff dweud fod enw boduan ar dafod pawb ar ol wythnos yr eisteddfod ge-neaeathol. Roedd bwrlwm i'w gael o'r cerddi a chystadlu i'r mwydro'n maes b.

Fel un sy'n byw yng Nghaer-narfon, felly tafliaid carreg o'r maes eleni, roedd hi'n braf gweld diwylliant y gogledd yn gryf ynho. Er, roedd gweld dros 11,000 yn gig Bwncath ar y nos sul gyntaf, wir yn dangos ymestyniad sydd gan yr wyl

“ *Wir yn dangos yme-styniad sydd gan yr wyl dros y wlad* ”

dros y wlad. Roedd cael cym-deithasu gyda pobl a chefndi-roedd gwahanol o fewn y gym-deithas gymraeg yn brofiad sy'n unigryw i'r Eisteddfod. Braf oedd cael gweld cyd-gofi a cyn ddisgybl ysgol y Gelli Rhys Iorwerth yn ennill y goron.

I orffen yr wythnos roedd gigs maes b yn sefyll allan fel un o'n ffefrynnau, yn enwedig gweld Bryn Fon fel gwestai ar y llwyfan i bwncath. Profiad bythgofiadwy!
Diolch Boduan.



“ *Roedd hwn yn waith aled ond boddhaol* ”

Inside the UK's Housing Crisis

Megan Huws
News Editor

You leave school, get a job, buy a house, and settle down. However, for many graduates this is no longer an achievable dream. Without significant savings, often inherited from family wealth, first time homeowners are stuck fighting over the few affordable houses. Even those who get these affordable houses end up spending a significant percentage of their paycheque on this house. A recent report from the Home Builders Federation (HBF) shows that 11.3 million people in England spend more than 40% of their post-tax income on their home. This report also highlights that English homes are in the worst condition of all European countries, emphasising that people are struggling to pay for substandard housing. Whilst this struggle may be felt and experienced by many in the UK, this report highlights how bad the problem truly is, especially compared to our European counterparts. As Steward Basely, the Executive Chairman of the Home Builders Federation acknowl-



Source: Andrea Vail (via Flickr)

edges "It is widely acknowledged that Britain's housing is in crisis, but this research shows just how badly we are falling behind our international peers."

The house prices in Wales are significantly lower than England, with the average price being £214,174 in March 2023 compared to England's £304,193, according to the Office of National Statistics. However, they still cost a significant amount of money, leaving many struggling to find a house, forcing them to continue to rent. This results in an increase of rental prices, as the UK private rental prices have increased by 5.5% in the 12 months leading up to July 2023.

This increase in rental prices massively affects us as students. This year the

student maintenance loans in England have increased by 2.8%, falling short of covering the increase in rental prices, not considering the cost increase of bill and groceries. Students are increasingly forced to strictly budget and work many hours at part-time jobs, distracting from the degree that should ultimately be our focus. A study by the Office for Students shows that one in five of the 4,021 respondents to their poll considered dropping out of university because of the cost-of-living price increases.

Whilst there are options to help these increasing cost-of-living prices, such as getting a part time job, or cutting back on non-essential spending, the problem is worse than stopping yourself

from buying another round of VK's at YOLO. Cardiff University does have many resources available to students to help with finance, such as advice with budgeting and information about emergency loans, but a massive issue is with the state of housing highlighted by the Home Builders Federation report.

The report emphasises that it is not individual budgeting that is the issue, but the quality and quantity of houses in the UK, which needs to be a focus for the government. The 'Housing the Nation' report by the HBF explores the public response to their report and the general state of housing in the UK. In this report they highlight that 'just 18% of people think politicians truly understand the challenges young people face in getting on the housing ladder' and 40% believe that it will influence who they will vote for in the next General Election. Hopefully, with pressure from the Home Builders Federation and the general public the government will focus upon the UK's housing issues, without blaming the individual spending of students and first-time homeowners.

Museum asks public to help locate stolen artefact

Katie Storrie
Contributor

The British museum are pleading for help from the public, to help locate and recover nearly 2000 artefacts that have been believed to be stolen from its collection.

On the 16th August 2023, the British Museum declared that a number of its items of jewellery had been found missing, with many suspected to be stolen or damaged. An ongoing investigation was established, and the museum itself has been working closing with the Metropolitan police. Peter Higgins a now former head of department of the museum has since been dismissed.

Yet the museum acknowledge that

this is not enough, and have urged the public to help track down the items even further.

The museum is determined to recover the artefacts and believe that members of the public will be highly beneficial. So far the museum have stated that only 60 items have been returned and a further 300 have been identified. The museum has accepted that there is still a long way to go and has now posted pictures on their website.

The majority of the items are Greek and Roman Jewellery, including rings, necklaces, earrings and other piece of jewellery, gems and intaglio stones. Many items of Jewellery are even dating back to the Bronze age period.

An email hotline has been set up, so

people can inform the museum of any information they have, that will be useful in adding the recovery of the items. The email itself is: recovery@britishmuseum.org

The museum itself is also taking further action to help recover the items, they have taken action to register the missing items with the Art Loss Register; the museum is actively keeping an eye out on the art market, and they have put together a team in international specialists who have in-depth knowledge and expertise in the study of gems and jewellery. The museum hopes they will be able to assist in identifying the lost items.

Due to the turmoil events of the museum, the Director Hartwig Fischer has

stepped down, as he acknowledged that "he did not respond comprehensively as he should have" when he was first told about the artefacts.

Other countries across the world have also taking the opportunity to but further pressure on the institution of the museum, demanding for the return of other museum items to their counties of origins. This particularly includes China, who created a series of video reels in hope that it would spark the return of their originally owned artefacts.

The consequence of the events have been incredibly damaging to the reputation of the museum. With more and more people challenging the security and long run history of the museums motives.

ELSEWHERE IN NEWS

Uk arranges flights for Britons stranded in Israel.

Interest Rates expected to be held after small economic growth.



Serial killer Lucy Letby's retrial over attempted murder charge.

Emily Williams
Contributor

Lucy Letby, the serial killer nurse charged with murdering seven babies and the attempted murder of six is up for a retrial.

Letby carried out the murders during her time at the Countess of Chester hospital between June 2015 and 2016. The ongoing suspicion as to why so many infants were suddenly passing at the hospital on the neonatal ward, she worked on stopped as soon as Letby was removed from the ward. This only took place in June 2016, after the deaths of two triplet boys and the collapse of another boy across three consecutive days. Letby was moved to continue clerical work that September and registered a grievance procedure, which was later resolved in her favour. The hospital has been criticised for continuing to ignore suspicions and warnings from colleagues about Letby that could have

prevented many attacks. Alison Kelly, Nursing Director of the hospital, has been suspended from her role due to the handling from management.

Consultant Ravi Jayaram who helped expose the crimes of Lucy Letby to management has stated "I'm not a hero, I was just doing my job". He repetitively warned senior members of the hospital management and was frequently dismissed. During these concerns he was at one point told to apologise to Letby for raising concerns about her conduct. Chief Executive Tony Chambers told consultants in 2017 to 'draw a line' under their suspicions and that failure to do so would result in 'consequences'.

On 21st August 2023, Letby was sentenced at Manchester Crown Court. Judge Mr Goss described her crimes as "cruel, calculated and cynical campaign of child murder," where Letby was accused of injecting the infants with air, poisoning them with insulin and over-

feeding them. Despite denying the offences, Letby was served a whole life sentence for her crimes which makes her the most prolific child killer in recent British history. Alongside the charges, the jury could not reach a verdict on the attempted murder of three baby girls named as Child H, J and K and two baby boys named Child N and Q. She was cleared for the attempted murder of another two babies.

However, Prosecutor Nick Johnson KC reveals that Letby is now being retried for the attempted murder of a baby girl, named as Child K, born in February 2016. The retrial likely won't take place until 10th June 2024 due to a backlog of cases in courts, and the trial is estimated to take two to three weeks. Families were left disappointed with the news that they will not be retrialing Letby for the attempted murder of the other five children that they failed to reach a verdict on.

Regarding the retrial, Lawyer, Tamlin Bolton said: 'We are disappointed with the CPS decision. We believe that the families of the further alleged victims still have questions that are unanswered, they deserve to know what happened to their children.'

'Those families will need to pursue other channels to get the answers, through both a civil case against the Trust, and to be included as part of the inquiry.'

Additionally, Police are now investigating the deaths of two babies that died during her placement training at Liverpool Women's Hospital, alongside a review of over 4,000 babies that were under Letby's care during her career. It is likely that new information will arise in investigation before the retrial begins, hopefully bringing families more answers.

Dutch Climate Riots rock The Hauge

Daniel Estell
Contributor

Dutch police have arrested several thousand climate activists in the latest protest against the government's pledge to support fossil fuel industries. Despite police warnings, over 10,000 citizens from climate activism groups (such as Greenpeace and Extinction Rebellion) blocked the A12 highway into The Hague during a five-day protest last month. An Extinction Rebellion representative reported over 3000 arrests made by the police by September 14th, alongside water cannons being used in an attempt to disperse peaceful protesters.

Extinction Rebellion members have led protests with varying success outside of The Hague, a major Netherlands city that is home to the Dutch Government and United Nations courts, since October 2021. The movement has demanded an end to the government's

ongoing support for large users of fossil fuels, providing tax breaks and other subsidiaries totalling approximately €37.5 billion per year.

The A12 highway was chosen as a suitable protest location due to the road's connections with the Dutch House of Representatives and the Ministry of Economic Affairs & Climate Policy, both situated in The Hague. Extinction Rebellion's favoured protest spot is the Utrechtsebaan, which is designated a part of the A12 but is not considered a highway. As such, it is managed by the local authority and does not adhere to road traffic regulations outlined by the Ministry of Infrastructure.

Protests have occurred on the A12 since October 2021 with varying success. The initial protest led to four arrests after police prevented attempts to block the highway. The following year saw an increase in protests, with over four weeks of disruption between the months of July and December.

2023 has seen a rapid increase in protests and a decrease in public opinion - an opinion poll conducted by RTL Nieuws concluded that just 14% of voters expressed their support for the movement. In January, police arrested seven activists on counts of sedition, on the basis that the protesters had written graffiti on a wall next to the road. This culminated in a negative reaction towards the police's handling of the case, from both civil society groups and the court system. Court judges argued that it was morally incorrect to arrest protesters at their homes, therefore applying more lenient charges on the protesters.

The protests have received generally negative reactions from Dutch politicians, with the mayor of The Hague arguing that activists could use the Malieveld, a large field adjacent to the A12, to protest. In March 2023, Prime Minister Mark Rutte argued that the police use of water cannons was the fault of the protesters, as they did not disperse when ordered

to do so by the police.

The most recent wave of protests during September 2023 saw the highest number of arrests since the protests began, according to Hester Op De Laak of Extinction Rebellion. Once again, police opted to use water cannons in an attempt to disperse the protesters, and eggs were also thrown by civil opponents to the protests. With no signs of conclusion, can the northern-European nation known for civility and peace return to these traditionally held values?

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Can the northern-European nation known for civility and peace return to these traditionally held values?

New York Declares State of Emergency Over Flash Flooding

Hannah Wild
Contributor

Last Friday, New York Governor Kathy Hochul declared a state of emergency for New York City amid heavy rainfall and a series of flash floods.

According to statistics from CNN weather, between 3 to 6 inches of rain fell across the city by Friday afternoon, resulting in it being the second-wettest September in the history of New York City, as reported by the National Weather Service.

The storm prompted a series of mobile alerts across the city, as issued by the National Weather Service. The first alert sounded at 9:30am local time, warning of a “considerable” flash-flood warning, a term which is utilised for severe, and sudden threats, (Source: New York Times, 2023).

Subway lines were forced to temporarily shut down as water seeped to underground stations, whilst LaGuardia Airport closed one of its terminals before reopening later on Friday; sending the city into a spiralling scene of chaos. Images of residents wading through knee-deep waters have emerged on social me-

dia, whilst New York City firefighters rescued 15 people from cars trapped within fast-flowing waters, as reported by NBC News. Residents of the city were advised to stay at home; leaving millions of people confined to the likes of schools, vehicles, public transport stations and offices. On Friday alone, 23 million people across the states of New York, Connecticut and New Jersey were under flood watches (Source: NBC News, 2023), being indicative of the sheer severity of this storm, and the potential threat it posed to human life.

However, no fatalities or critical injuries have been reported.

Hochul's statement written on X read: “I am declaring a state of emergency across New York City, Long Island, and the Hudson Valley due to the extreme rainfall we're seeing throughout the region”. Shortly after Hochul's statement was released on Friday morning, the Governor of New Jersey also issued a state of emergency for his state.

The intensity of this storm is indicative of the need for New York City to prepare for the potential threats associated with the climate crisis, such as rising sea levels. This concern was

voiced by Rohit Aggarwala, commissioner of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, who declared: “the sad reality is our climate is changing faster than our infrastructure can respond”, as reported by the New York Times. Since the storm, there is a desperate call to improve the city's infrastructure in order to become resilient against extreme weather events such as these, which are only expected to become more frequent. This is evidenced by a series of apartment blocks in Queens, which have proven to lack adequate means of escape during a

(Source: New York Times, 2023), generating serious concerns for the recurrence of an event such as this.

During a press conference held in the city on the following Saturday, Hochul claimed the event to be “historic, in some areas was record-shattering” being “the most rain ever recorded in a single day in a place like JFK ever” (Source: The Independent, 2023). Eric Adams, Mayor of New York City, has faced a series of backlash amid the time it took him to respond to, and communicate about the severity of the storm.



f l o o d Source: New York National Guard (via Flickr)

The powerful vigil held for Elianne Andam

Millie Davies
Contributor

Relatives of a young girl held a vigil last weekend, broken by the cowardly act of knife crime performed in Croydon, South London.

15 year old Elianne Andam was stabbed on the 27th of September as she tried to protect her friend from her ex-boyfriend. In retaliation, the 17 year old boy, charged for her murder just two days later, plunged a foot long machete into Elianne's neck.

This death was personal; the child responsible for the death of a bright and beautiful future had potentially premeditated his exes' friends killing.

It was first reported that the 17 year old boy had passed his ex girlfriend a bunch of flowers in an attempt to rekindle their relationship, and when she had declined his offer, he had stabbed her, however this is not the case.

In reality, it was his ex girlfriend's courageous friend, Elianne, who was stabbed after trying to stand up to him and take back her friend's possessions from the boy. He then gave chase and murdered her on her way to school.

The 17 year old awaits trial next year for her murder, with the police not in search for any further suspects.

What makes Elianne's murder even more poignant is the way in which it was received by her community, as well as the general public.

Messages praising Elianne's life and offering condolences to her family have been flooding social media platforms such as Tiktok and Instagram, leading young people to realise that in this current age, deaths from knife crime are considered the norm. As young people, we really need to ask ourselves whether this is the society we want to raise our children in. At the vigil, one community leader's message read:

“When all the attention has gone, who's left behind? Us. We are going to rise from this.”

Pastors from all across the city paid their respects to the tragedy, displaying Elianne's love for her church and family, and mourning the loss of not only a beautiful soul, but a bright future.

Elianne was set to become a lawyer and was attending Old Palace of John Whitgift School.

Amongst the mourners was rapper Stormzy, who frequently campaigns about the dangerous effects of knife crime, having grown up in the same area.

Croydon once held the place for the highest level of knife crime in the UK, however crime rates had fallen last year – this is why Elianne's death is all the more shocking on her community.

Thousands gathered for her vigil, situated outside a shopping centre close to where Elianne lost her life, with family, friends and pastors reading heartfelt messages, “abso-

lutely devastated” by the loss of their girl. For most, “it hasn't sunk in yet.” Her community will never forget her legacy, dreams, a future which would have been rich in success and happiness.

A choir sang in remembrance of Elianne, and for the protection of her family, for a crime so lacking in peace and understanding.

Elianne grew up surrounded by her church community, and so it was felt necessary for so many members of her church and for other pastors within the city to come together and rally around a family which has felt so great and shocking a loss.

As the end of the vigil nears, a balloon is released, symbolising Croydon's both anger and hope for the future, the heartfelt loss of the community for such a young and selfless soul.

A young girl, a hopeful future, killed in such a cowardly way, shocking and shattering an entire community.

OPINION

Welcome to Opinion

The haunting reality of LGBTQ+ representation:
An exploration of the 'Bury your gays' tropeGrace Robson
Head of Opinion

(Potential spoilers)

Finding decent LGBTQ+ representation in the media is particularly hard. The mainstream media often entirely disregards LGBTQ+ representation, and even when the community is represented, the characters are often created to be tokenistic, stereotypical and are rarely ever made to be protagonists. While strides in recent years have been taken to improve this representation, even now there is still an abundance of work to be done.

One harmful LGBTQ+ trope that the mass mainstream media seems particularly fond of is the 'Bury your gays' trope. The term, which popped up in the 19th century and continues to plague LGBTQ+ characters throughout fictional media, is used to describe storylines where one or more LGBTQ+ character is killed off. When the media decides it is time to 'bury' one of their LGBTQ+ characters, it is often done so in an insensitive way and more often than not, it is done completely unnecessarily.

The examples are endless. Why after countless near-death experiences, did Killing Eve's writers feel it necessary to kill off Villanelle just as her and Eve were about to achieve their long-awaited happy ending? Why did Orange Is the New Black decide to kill off one of the show's most beloved characters, Poussey, in one of the most gut-wrenchingly brutal scenes of the show? While Poussey's death conveyed an incredibly important message about police brutality

and systematic racism, her death within the show provided LGBTQ+ audience members with a harsh reminder that LGBTQ+ characters are often seen as disposable, this being one of the reasons that they are so often killed off. The same can be said for Villanelle's death in Killing Eve, her death was entirely unnecessary, and it is blatantly apparent to me that the writers chose to end the show that way simply for the shock factor, once again reminding audiences how little the media cares about LGBTQ+ characters.

Why, when LGBTQ+ representation is already so dismal, does the media feel the need to give LGBT+ characters and couples such a grotesquely unfair and depressing ending? Why in 2023 do we still see this trope so often?

It is now, just as it has always been, undeniably vital that genuinely good LGBTQ+ representation is brought into the mainstream media. Good representation helps fight stereotypes, educate people outside of the community, and helps those within the community to feel seen. For some, this representation can be life changing. This all begs the question, will the mainstream media start letting LGBTQ+ characters have a happy ending? Or, will the community continue to be subjected to the same old stereotypes, tropes and un-diverse representation.

Dating advice from a Third Year

Meg Jenkins
Opinion Editor

Dating at uni is inevitable for those who it interests, and for anybody, it can be weird. But on the cusp of your 20s, having only left childhood and thrusting yourself (no pun intended) into a vat of single and lonely individuals who now only have to worry if their new flatmate hears them, it can be a shock, even thrilling. Many people find coming to university allows them find people who really get them, and romantic connection is no exception, especially if they become a constant while everything changes around you. But behind this can be a discrete and ugly numeric point system, keeping it 'not that deep' and discarding the expectation of respect.

For myself, dating people in uni has sent me on a whirlwind of confusion, awkward encounters in uni elevators and drunk devotion under the glistening YOLO sign imprinted in my eyelids Thursday morning; it was all worth it (I learnt many lessons). The dating apps I had been using as a game of smash and pass (we all do it, don't lie) suddenly got upgraded to have 100+ new characters all living less than a mile away as soon as I entered my first-year room. What's more, they were people I wanted to speak to. Easy right? It is exactly this accessibility that makes dating in uni fast, furious, and a little cold-hearted. Recent years have encouraged us to rid the shame of sexual and romantic exploration, especially for women, but the overwhelming flux of opportunity can still trick us into performing our sexuality and craving validation for it, the way we've been best taught; by the hands that hold the hips themselves. There's no right way to express yourself

of course, it is your right to make those choices and it should be shameless, but does hook-up culture and online dating encourage an objectifying view of one another as nothing but a choice of photos and a witty bio? We've swung the pendulum from 'how to be right for marriage' to the 'hoe phase'. Dating at this time in your life is not the time to be making marriage plans, but equally, the people we romanticize with can offer us glimpses of different sides of ourselves, can become friends, can introduce us to worlds we never knew and give us that sickeningly sweet churn in our stomachs. Don't settle for one-night stands with people who otherwise don't give you the time of day, as much as you could be made to feel weird for wanting the bare minimum. Connection is not the incitement for undivided attention though, transparency and respect are vital, but you can still be as free as you wish to make plans, make mistakes and learn lessons, because now is the time to do it.

Having sex is not impressive, and not a necessity as enjoyable as human nature may find it. No matter how much it comes and goes, there is a hell of a lot more to you, more worthy of focus than your allure to others. So if you find the time to date at uni, it's not worth the stress, so keep it fun and make it an enriching part to the next phase of your life.

Comfort Shows: Why we rewatch what's familiar

Chloe Milne — Contributor

When meeting new people, one of the safest first topics of conversation is television shows. Of course, there's the mandatory first five minutes of discussing the latest season of Sex Education, but then it gets into the real stuff: what is the one incredibly average television show that you've been watching on repeat since you were fifteen? What is the programme that you quote word-for-word, steal the best jokes from, and your mum doesn't understand how you're not sick of it yet? It seems that everyone in our generation has one, and it's usually a sit-com that aired years before our time. So what is it that keeps us coming back to these comfort shows again and again? Of course, a key reason that it's the younger generation that tend to rewatch shows is due to the popularity of streaming services.

Back in our parents' day, the idea of watching any episode of any television show on demand was only possible if you recorded each one on tape, which was timely and expensive. Now, the sheer volume of universal television shows that are available at the click of a button is almost unbelievable. Perhaps it is this overwhelming selection that contributes to our tendency to return to our favourites – rather than looking for a new programme and risking wasting our time if we don't like it, we can take a sigh of relief and watch something that we know we will enjoy, because we've laughed at it so many times before. It's a reliable comfort and takes so much less brain power than searching for something new. And with the lack of attention span our generation has (thanks TikTok), we

don't have to pay too much attention to the plotline that we probably have memorised.

It's also true that as humans, we form emotional attachment to almost everything, so rewatching

something often reminds us of the time in our lives that we first consumed it. This could be why lots of our ultimate comfort shows are ones we watched as children – when we feel homesick, anxious, or generally overwhelmed, rewatching a comfort show is like taking a metaphorical trip to our childhood. The main reason, though, that I have had How I Met Your Mother on a consistent loop for the past 9 years, is because if I'm watching something to unwind, I don't want to have any uncertainty about the plotline. Life is demanding enough already without

us absorbing the imaginary trauma and stresses of fictional characters. Knowing exactly what is going to happen, so that I can look forward to my favourite parts and won't be emotionally jump-scared by a sudden death, means I can completely relax. Perhaps it is just that television has become synonymous with a way to wind down, rather than the exciting, new form of entertainment it once was. Now, we watch TV to get away from our stressful lives, whereas in the past, it was a way to add some excitement into the every day. Either way, I know I'll never tire of my comfort show, because it's like wrapping myself in a lovely warm memory blanket, and the fact that a TV show can provide that much familiarity and joy is truly amazing.



Source: JESHOOTS.com



Welcome to Opinion

Good for Her: Why unhinged women in horror films can be so easy to root for

Simran Patel
Opinion Editor

October is here once again, and for many movie lovers that means only one thing: horror. Classically, the female characters in this genre are helpless victims or damsels in distress. Yet after decades of uninspiring portrayals, recent attempts at more complex representation are a welcome change. Women in horror can now be messy, unhinged, and villains in their own right.

This brings to mind a viral tweet from 2020 depicting the female leads of several films including *The Witch*, *Midsommar*, *The Invisible Man*, *Gone Girl* and *Ready or Not* (spoilers ahead for some of these!). Despite their varying states of disarray – some of them are covered in blood – they smirk triumphantly at us as the movie comes to a close. It is simply captioned ‘the “good for her” cinematic universe’. This can describe a subgenre of horror characterised by female characters going ‘off the rails’ and committing gruesome acts, usually in response to trauma or abuse. These characters gain our admiration, and we deem their revenge justifiable and even enjoyable. The more unrealistic and melodramatic, the greater the escapism.

For instance, the protagonist of *The Invisible Man* was subject to an abusive relationship and eventually triumphs by killing her ex. As a viewer, it’s hard not to be on her side, not to get some satisfaction from his punishment and smile with her as she is finally able to walk away freely at the end. We think “good for her!” and choose to ignore the severity of her crime.

The crucial idea is that the woman ends up in a better place than she started in, and we cheer her on whatever her means. That’s why I would

“The crucial idea is that the woman ends up in a better place than she started in

argue that *Gone Girl* doesn’t actually fall into this category. While Amy is certainly mistreated - her “cool girl” monologue is perhaps one of the most iconic in recent film history – her retaliation is less satisfying and more ... psychopathic. Her coldness is unlikeable. When compared to Mia Goth’s singing-and-dancing, pitchfork-wielding Pearl, for example, her insanity makes her much easier to root for. Perhaps she’s just more fun to watch.

The same goes for *Teeth*, a horror comedy about a high schooler who has teeth in her vagina. This film actually offers important social commentary on sexual assault, and the protagonist uses her monstrous power to protect herself in a scene that somehow has us feeling no sympathy



Source: Rawpixel

for a character whose genitals are bitten off. While the concept of the morally grey but justified hero isn’t new, these movies allow indulgence of a specific fantasy that has been felt by most women at some point in their lives. Not quite murder, but the more general idea of throwing caution to the wind and blowing up at those who have traumatised us in a way that we simply cannot in real life.

What does the Sophie Turner and Joe Jonas divorce tell us about the perception of women as wives and mothers in

They feed us delicious stories of women rising above injustice and taking back what’s theirs in the most unapologetic way. And it is horror after all, so if she has to get her hands dirty to do this, then so be it. Good for her.

By now, just about everyone has caught wind

Ishani Patwal
Opinion Editor

of the news of the Joe Jonas and Sophie Turner divorce. There have been many rumours and allegations thrown about and perhaps even more blatant attempts at character assassination – and somehow, all directed at Sophie Turner.

Joe Jonas and his team have been methodically and consistently attempting to build a case against Sophie Turner’s character for a number of weeks, maybe even months. There has been a clear and sincere endeavour to paint her as a bad wife, mother and an overall ‘party girl’. So far, she stands accused of being a negligent mother, work obsessed and being too young to take her marriage and kids seriously (which begs the question, why choose to marry her if you have a problem with these things). In the media alone, let alone the court of public opinion, there have been hundreds of articles published that support this narrative, with titles including, “Unhappy Joe Jonas tried to salvage Sophie Turner marriage, filed for divorce as a last resort”, “Joe Jonas filed for divorce after allegedly catching Sophie Turner on ring doorbell”, and “Sophie Turner partied without a care in the world just days before Joe Jonas divorce was announced.”

There is something very sinister at play when we examine the fact that Joe Jonas has received very little backlash for his part in the divorce, with the media tending to ignore the fact that he has been on tour rather consistently since 2022 (with the tour not set to end until mid 2024) in favour of accusing Sophie Turner of being away for a couple

of months for her filming of the new crime drama *Joan*. Not only this, but as Joe Jonas held the passports of their two children hostage, which whilst pathetic and ridiculous, was mostly importantly illegal – he also attempted to carry out a ‘pap walk’ with said children. Whilst this in itself might seem tame (albeit blatantly set up to make himself seem like a good and present father), Sophie Turner and himself clearly set out their position on the paparazzi and the privacy of their children from the get-go. She stated once, “We have always advocated for our kids’ right to privacy so sharing...publicly is something that is against anything I stand for. Our children deserve the right to grow up out of the public eye, to learn and grow in private.”

With Joe Jonas flouting the rules him and his now ex-wife set up regarding the privacy of their children and starting a witch-hunt to publicly condemn, vilify and defame her, it is clear that the slander of Sophie Turner is without a doubt grounded in the same kind of misogyny that rules women out as shameful or useless if they are not adequate wives or mothers. Sophie Turner is a fantastic, hard-working, university graduate and renowned actress, and should be treated as such. Whilst it is hard to avoid the negative portrayal of women in media, it is important to remember that women just like Sophie Turner, whoever they are – be it wives, mothers, sisters or friends – have their own identities and should be celebrated for more than their relations to men.

The Ex Freshers Guide

The Best Clubs in Cardiff According to a Third Year - By Ella Lane

As a third year, you’d think I’d be done with clubbing in Cardiff by now: same clubs, same music and same people. Despite this, I’m still going just as hard as I did in my first year, but now I’m older and wiser. I know when and where to go, and as a seasoned professional I thought I would give you freshers a crash course on my favourite clubs in the city that never get old. Third on my top three list would be the Students Union. I know this is a familiar favourite amongst freshers for its cheesy music and the cheapest VKs in town, but there are some things you definitely still need to know. Get there early! If you think it’s early, it isn’t nearly

early enough. Even 20 minutes can make the difference between the night of your life and waiting in the cold for hours on end. Also, remember to book tickets for the big events, I’ve fallen victim to trying to get into a sold out event, and it never ends well, trust me. The best thing about the SU for me is that if I want to leave early I’ll have likely been there since 9. Overall, if you want a good night that often starts and ends early with you tucked into bed (snug as a bug!) by 1am for your early lectures, the Students Union is definitely for you. Second on my top three list would definitely be Misfits. Located in Cathays, it’s the best

location if you can’t afford to splash out on an uber or extortionate entry fees when all your money is spent on textbooks (or more likely alcohol). Their eclectic mix of RnB, pop and classic indie songs means this place is guaranteed to have something for everyone and it’s never hard to convince my friends to abandon their responsibilities and waste a night here. The Misfits classic deal of £1.50 jagerbombs can be beautifully dangerous, especially when you have a 9am on a thursday. It can be a mission to get in here, especially on a Wednesday, but it’s worth the wait, I promise. Finally, I will address what I believe to be the best

and most underrated club in the city: Metros. This is definitely the least mainstream club on this list but hear me out: I know it’s not for everyone but something about that sweaty basement and test tube shaped shots, paired with alternative classics, keeps me coming back. Off the beaten track in central Cardiff, Metros makes a good after location for when you’ve been drinking at the extensive collection of pubs in town, with the last entry being at 2am. There’s not much to say apart from that the friendliest bouncers, great staff, captivating crowd of regulars and incredible DJ speak for themselves. If you’re into emo, rock or metal, come along on a wednesday, friday or saturday for the best night of your first year.



A new home?: Bruno Girin (via Flickr)

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“As daunting as it may seem, talk your flatmates about any issues you may be having.”

Expectation versus Reality First Year



Why struggling in your first year of university is completely normal

Eve Yates
Contributor

University is described as “the best three years of your life”, where you have the opportunity to meet new people and study at a top institution. The expectations are set up before you go to university of it being constant parties and having fun, without anyone reminding you of the reality of starting a new life in a city you barely know. For everyone, starting university is overwhelming, and it causes stress, with moving away from home, managing finances and the workload of studying for a degree. But it is guaranteed that you are not alone, with your peers, flat mates and friends being in the same boat.

One thing that particularly surprised me was how exhausting university can be and how much you are expected to balance. The workload of a degree can be overwhelming and despite the reassurance that “as long as you pass you’ll be fine”, the stress

can sometimes take over. Whether it be the fresher’s flu, homesickness or just generally feeling exhausted, everyone feels the same; you are never alone and these are common struggles everyone experiences in first year.

In spite of these issues, there is always things you can do to reduce any nerves and anxiety you may be feeling. Keeping in contact regularly with friends, family and loved ones is an excellent way to reduce homesickness and vent any worries you have to those you trust. As daunting as it may seem, talk your flat mates about any issues you may be having. Even though you haven’t known them for a very long period of time, you are all going through the same experiences and they are probably just as scared as you are; don’t be afraid to make the first move! And there are a plethora of support teams for you to talk to such as your personal tutor or 24-hour online services, which are open to all students on campus.

So, if there’s anything to take away from this is that whatever



Source: Pascal (via Flickr)

you’re feeling is normal; everyone is human and gets homesick, stressed and concerned during their first year at university. There’s a lot to adapt to in such a short space of time but

there is always going to be someone feeling the same things you are. Don’t be scared to reach out.

Why the queer representation in Sex Education is so important

By Liv Eveleigh - Contributor

Arriving alongside the latest season of Sex Education is a healthy dose of queer and trans representation. Seasons one to three of the show have provided us with witty and informative commentary on the teenage struggle of navigating sex and sexuality. However, it is fair to say that this season they have amped up their LGBTQIA representation in a refreshingly non-tokenistic way. Introducing a slew of queer characters, whose experiences are reflective of the realities of many people. The importance of these LGBTQ+ characters

in mainstream television cannot be underestimated.

With three of the leading protagonists being transgender, the show’s representation of trans issues is truly historic. Cal, a non-binary, transmasculine character is in the process of transitioning; through them, we are given insight into the struggles which accompany this journey, such as gender dysphoria, physical side effects and inaccessible medical care. However, the character’s arc is in no way limited to their gender identity. Similarly, trans couple, Roman and Abi, appear first and foremost as the popular, free-spirited leaders of Cavendish Sixth Form College. Their gender identities remain somewhat out of the spotlight. With Roman appearing as a reminder of the gender euphoria that awaits Cal and

others like them. Additionally, Abi’s character is represented as a warm and relatable confident to Eric.

Otis’s unlikely best friend, Eric is a recurring character across all four seasons. Flamboyant, eccentric and full of sass, Eric continuously offers us an entertaining and emotional representation of young queer love and self-discovery. In this season we see the duo drift apart as Eric feels torn between his sexual identity and his faith, neither of which are relatable to a sweet but very straight, Otis. Eric’s religious journey touches upon a truly significant issue; the place of queer people in society. Beginning at Cavendish Sixth Form College, Eric, for the first time is exposed to a community of people who express themselves similarly and freely. This newfound sense of belonging

and self-love impacts his ability to reconcile his religious beliefs with a community that is unaccepting. Once again, this representation is so significant in its complexity and nuance. Offering LGBTQ+ narratives that are relevant to all viewers, Sex Education season four has finally delivered an enjoyable representation of queerness that doesn’t leave you cringing.

“...it is fair to say that this season they have amped up their LGBTQIA representation in a refreshingly non-tokenistic way.”



Source: Mohamed Hassan (via PxHere)

How using media may be the ideal form of escapism when first moving to university.

By Emily Clegg - Contributor

First arriving at university can be an extremely daunting experience as many of us know. Meeting new people, moving away from home and having to look after yourself can be a tough combination to handle. The hardships of adapting to this new lifestyle leave many new students in search of some much needed – and deserved – escapism. Most people I know, me included, spent a lot of time in their first year using media as a form of escapism to deal with the change we had all encountered. Don’t beat yourself up about having a movie night or binge watching a new Netflix series if these

things help you to feel more comfortable in your new environment. Watching films and TV shows not

only acts as a method of self-care but also provides a perfect method of escapism from the pressures of your first year. If you’re feeling down or homesick putting on your favorite films and TV shows can be such a reliable source of comfort. We all have that film or TV show that we know will put us in a good mood, rewatching your favorites is a sure-fire way to make you feel more at home. A recommendation of mine is to watch something at the same time as your friends and family back home and text or call along together whilst watching. It’s a great way to keep in touch with those you miss most. Watching the latest films and shows can keep you connected with those back home whilst also aiding you in forming new connections. Asking flat mates if they’re watching the new season of Bake Off or if they want to watch the new Da-

vid Beckham documentary can help build friendships and help you find common interests. Bonding over media can assist you in finding your people whilst you settle into

University. At the end of the day during first year you have to prioritize your own comfort and happiness. Realistically you’re not going to be out clubbing every night. Sometimes our social batteries just run out, which is perfectly fine, and to take care of ourselves we need to get lost in a good film or TV show. We all need a form of escapism to put our minds at ease, especially when adapting to the immense changes you encounter in your first year. Use the media you know you love or throw yourself into something new you’ve never seen before to help yourself settle and ultimately feel happy during the course of your first year.

Horror stories from first year: Zooming through Covid

Joseph looks back on a university experience tainted by the global pandemic

Joseph Heppenstall
Contributor

2020 Freshers encountered COVID-19, the uninvited housemate, which forced campuses to go remote, leaving lecture halls eerily silent. With in-person lectures suspended, students and professors embraced the digital realm of Zoom calls, transforming bedrooms and living rooms into makeshift classrooms.

But the pandemic brought more than just online classes. One memorable aspect of this unconventional year was the rise of large cross-hall flat parties in kitchens and impromptu gatherings on the basketball court. It became the year of dodging campus security, while seeking social connections and challenging strict rules.

Despite the challenges we faced, a sense of resilience and adaptability among the academic community was fostered. Students formed virtual bonds, professors devised innovative teaching methods, and staff worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of all.

Looking back at 2020-2021, it's a powerful testament to the perseverance of students and staff who resolutely pursued knowledge despite unprecedented challenges.

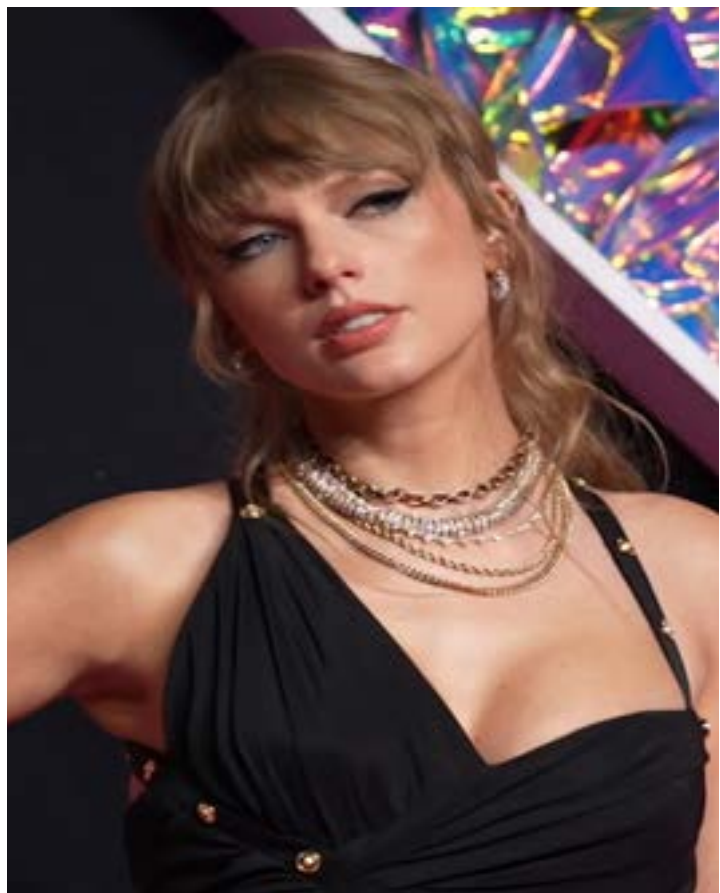
“ Looking back at 2020-2021, it's a powerful testament to the perseverance of students and staff.”



Source: Mike Moloney (via StockSnap.io)

Why Taylor Swift receives so much hate

Angelie gives an exploration of misogyny in music



Angelie Marwaha
Contributor

Taylor Swift, one of the biggest and best-known musicians of this generation, is either loved or hated, and has been since her debut country album Taylor Swift was released in 2006. The media generally, has hated. Researching Taylor Swift leads you to her dating history, how she plays the field, her “feud” with Kanye West and her “crazy, “obsessive fans”. Even after trying to find out why she is hated so much by the media, it leads you nowhere. So, the reason why she's the brunt of hate and gossip? At its core misogyny. Why internally, is there a root of dislike toward her? Swift wears her emotions on her sleeve and harnesses this, something is presented as a weakness. Being emotional is frowned upon and consistently dismissed, but Swift, along with her (rightful) anger

and confidence emboldens her feelings, creating these songs that depict her inner self, embracing every part of this. It can be difficult to observe and even support this if you yourself haven't harnessed and embraced these sentiments.

Although a lot more widely liked and revered now, previously, the media has successfully led an accolade of jealousy and disgust against Swift. I think most would agree it's because society cannot stand to see an incredibly successful woman, being one of the best, in a traditionally male dominated field. Swift's work is discredited, mocked as just being about her ex's, while she is constantly being expected to alternate her music. The speed at which the #TaylorSwiftisoverparty hashtag trended on twitter, highlights this bandwagon of hate, and how

eager the media was to bring her down in 2016. Social Media and news outlets, questioning why Swift was upset when she was called a bitch in one of Kanye West's songs, yet he received innumerable stunts of support.

Despite being a lot more popular and widely accepted, people still find it “different” dislike Taylor Swift, discrediting her song writing and herself as a person. But why am I calling this sexist? When we compare Swift to any male artist of similar stature to her, think The Weeknd, Harry Styles and Drake, absolutely none receive as much dislike or condemnation as Swift. Similar events and incidents are treated as polar opposites, think 2016, when she couldn't do anything right, think of the constant jabs about her ex's and the oh so common and re-

Why internally, is there a root of dislike toward her?

“ ductive “she only writes songs about men”.

To conclude, I think it's pretty easy to see why she receives an inordinate amount of dislike and hate, sexism in the music industry is clear to see, and really not hidden anymore. It's totally fine to dislike Swift's songs and music, we all like different music, but it's not okay to dehumanise her and hold her to opposing and impossible standards like the media has trained us to.

“ The Weeknd, Harry Styles and Drake, absolutely none receive as much dislike or condemnation”

Source: iHeart Radio (via Wikimedia Commons)

Organisations and Support Groups to help you at Uni

Cardiff Nightline

Student Connect

Your School

Your Student Mentor

SCIENCE

Aditi Kallanagoudar
Girish

Caitlin Rider

ELSEWHERE
IN SCIENCEOceans break heat
recordsUS issues first ever
space junk fine

Source: NASA (via Flickr)



science@gairrhydd.com

Valuable cargo from asteroid 'Bennu'

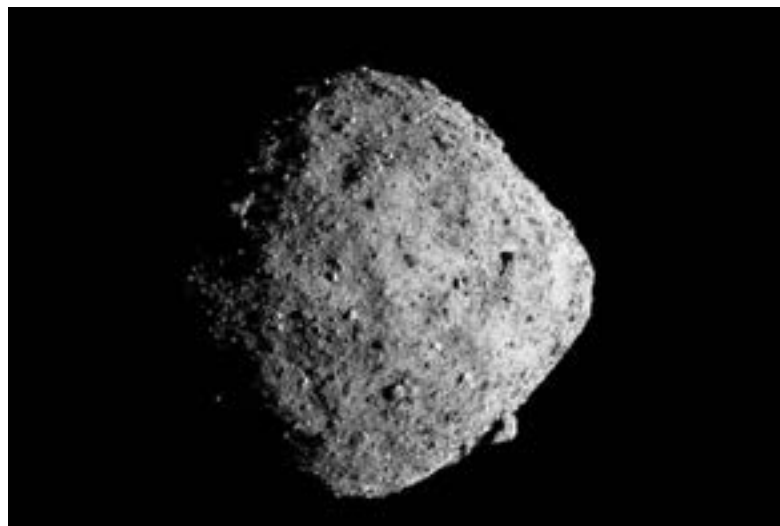
Rohit explores compounds will be stored for future scientific research

Rohit Kamath
Contributor

In a historic celestial rendezvous, NASA has successfully delivered samples from the mysterious asteroid Bennu to Earth, landing in the West Desert of Utah. This achievement is a significant milestone in our quest to unravel the secrets of the universe.

Asteroid Bennu, recognized as one of the Solar System's potentially hazardous celestial bodies, was visited by the Osiris-REx spacecraft in 2020. A safe return of the capsule has been eagerly awaited for its potential to reveal Bennu's composition and provide invaluable insights into the history of our cosmic neighbourhood.

The descent of the capsule, aided by a precisely engineered heatshield and parachutes, demonstrated high precision and technological prowess. The capsule's landing was described as an elegant touch by Tim Priser, Chief Engineer at Lockheed Martin. The payload may appear light, at approximately 250 grams but for NASA's analytical purposes, this is a substantial quantity. Eileen Stansbery, Chief Scientist at NASA's Johnson Space Center, highlighted



Source: NASA/Goddard/University of Arizona (via Flickr)

the potential for detailed microscopic analysis, offering a unique glimpse into our Solar System's history.

Preserving the sample's integrity was of utmost importance and swift transportation to a temporary clean room at the Dugway army base was imperative to shield against potential Earth contamination. The capsule's

disassembly was a carefully executed procedure, culminating in a secure placement within an inner canister.

The sample will soon be transported to Johnson's specialized facility, where a team of experts part of the "Quick Look" team including UK scientist Ashley King, will conduct the initial assessment. They anti-

pate encountering a delicate, clay-rich material that may hold traces of water and carbon compounds from epochs long past.

"I think we'll probably see carbonate minerals, and maybe some things we call chondrules and also calcium-aluminium inclusions, which were the very first solid materials to form in our Solar System." – Ashley King

The forthcoming press conference on October 11 promises to showcase initial insights from these cosmic fragments. We stand on the doorstep of comprehending the early days of our Solar System, as the scientific community awaits the revelations that may reshape our understanding of the cosmos.

Consider this: each discovery in space science is a testament to human curiosity and scientific ingenuity.

Preserving the sample's integrity was of utmost importance and swift transportation to a temporary clean room.

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Discovery of "El Gordo" Collision Challenges Science Norms

Aditi Kallanagoudar Grish
Science and Tech Editor

A recent groundbreaking research study conducted by an international team of astronomers, featuring the distinguished physicist Dr. Indranil Banik from the University of St Andrews, has unveiled a cosmic anomaly that not only challenges traditional cosmological models but also calls into question the very foundations of modern cosmology.

The study, which was Published in the Astrophysical Journal, provides a detailed account of their discovery concerning massive galaxy clusters, including the notable "El Gordo," which underwent high-speed collisions when the Universe was merely half its present age. This finding contradicts the currently accepted cosmological framework, the Lambda Cold Dark Matter (ΛCDM) theory, which posits that galaxies initially form and subsequently merge into larger clusters

over an extended period. According to ΛCDM, this process unfolds gradually, suggesting that galaxy clusters should require a substantial amount of time to manifest within the cosmic panorama.

"El Gordo," which translates to "The Fat One" in Spanish, fittingly earns its name due to its astounding mass, measuring an astonishing 2,000 trillion times that of the Sun. The study also enhances the precision of El Gordo's mass estimation through the use of "weak lensing." This technique involves the deflection of light from background galaxies owing to El Gordo's immense gravitational influence, akin to a magnifying glass. This refinement significantly reduces prior uncertainties and underscores its pivotal role in reassessing the ΛCDM model.

The research team, headed by Elena Asencio, a Ph.D. student at the University of Bonn, conducted intricate simulations to determine the speed at which these colossal clusters collided. They also pursued analogous simulat-

ed cluster pairs within the framework of a cosmological ΛCDM simulation, spanning a vast cosmic volume. Their methodology employed "lightcone tomography," considering that distant objects are observed from a time when the cosmic structure was less developed.

The findings of this pioneering study expose a substantial incongruity with the ΛCDM model, regardless of the collision velocities under consideration. The uncertainties regarding El Gordo's mass no longer rank as the primary source of this inconsistency. Even with a slight reduction in tension with ΛCDM following an updated mass estimate, the tension remained highly significant when plausible collision velocities were taken into account. A multitude of simulations demonstrated that El Gordo could not resemble the visual evidence of a much slower collision velocity that might theoretically occur within the ΛCDM framework.

As Elena Asencio elucidated, while it is possible to simulate a rapid collision resembling El Gordo, the rarity of such an event within ΛCDM raises fundamental questions. The idea of two colossal clusters converging at such an early cosmic stage with such high velocity fundamentally challenges the conventional theory itself. This new study, in conjunction with its refined mass measurement, may catalyze further efforts to comprehensively simulate El Gordo and delve into the mysteries surrounding this cosmic entity.

Notably, El Gordo is not an isolated example of a cluster collision that defies ΛCDM predictions. The Bullet Cluster, despite occurring at a later cosmic epoch, represents another striking instance of an energetic collision between galaxy clusters, which exacerbates the challenges to the prevailing model. The study documents several other cases, further accentuating the dilemmas posed by these anomalous events for traditional cosmology.

In 250 million years, there could be no more mammals...

Caitlin Rider
Science and Tech Editor

A new study predicts that in 250 million years a new supercontinent called 'Pangaea Ultima' could form. This is believed to be caused by a merged Afro-Eurasian plate crashing into the Americas and it is thought the supercontinent will be located near the equator (however the precise location is not yet known).

Due to the continents merging and then drifting apart, it is theorised there will be increased volcanism. This, combined with the sun being expected to be 2.5% more lu-

minous, will cause extreme warmth with up to 92% of Earth becoming uninhabitable for mammals. Similarly, more volcanic activity will cause higher concentrations of carbon dioxide to enter the atmosphere therefore enhancing the greenhouse effect and further increasing temperatures worldwide. It is predicted that the average global temperature will be over 40 degrees Celsius with the interior areas of the supercontinent becoming desert.

Despite the new extremities, some think parts of the planet may be habitable. Alexander Farnsworth, a Bristol University paleoclimate scientist who conducted the research into this topic, said "Areas in the

northern and southern peripheries could be survivable". It is unknown if humans will be alive at this time however if they are it could be possible that we will adapt ways to live and overcome the new environment. However most mammals will find the world impossible to survive and reptiles with increased tolerance to heat could take over. Some areas such as those that are coastal may be cooler so could be relatively habitable. Due to the unpredictability of where the supercontinent will form it is impossible to know the precise conditions, for example if it forms near the equator (as is currently predicted) it will be too hot whereas if it is more polar there could be a chance for mammals to survive.

On the other hand, some scientists theorise that other factors may make the supercontinent more habitable such as formation near a pole and as the planet ages, the amount of heat released by its interior may decrease – lessening the amount of volcanic eruptions compared to the predictions.

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"Areas in the northern and southern peripheries could be survivable".

Source: Mammals of other
lands (1917) (via Flickr)



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REVIEW



review@gairrhydd.com

Unmasked – Pokémon Scarlet and Violet: The Teal Mask

Amelia looks at the first part of the new Pokémon DLC

Amelia Di Cuffa
Review Editor

It's been almost a month since the initial release of The Teal Mask on September 13, 2023. The first of a two-part DLC titled The Hidden Treasure of Area Zero, introduces a new adventure in the rural land of Kitakami. Players can catch new and returning Pokémon wandering through rice paddles, misty woodlands, and hot springs. Despite the apparent beauty of the land that was present in the initial trailer, the game is let down by its lack of finer details. When compared to previous games such as Pokémon Legends: Arceus and the Sword and Shield DLC, The Teal Mask shows an obvious lack of detail in its environment, with only a small town comprised of buildings that can't be entered and NPCs that only repeat the same boring phrases. Don't get me wrong, this lack of detail was present in the base game but with nearly a year between release dates, one would have hoped that The Teal Mask would have more easter egg-style moments. However, the region does have a lot to offer for

“The story begins as players are invited to take part in a school trip with the neighbouring school.”



Source: Adam Purves (via Flickr)

gameplay, with various biomes to explore and catch cute critters in - a personal favourite of mine was the crystal pools at the top of the central mountain, a beautiful bit of scenery with a hidden entrance to a cave system within.

The story begins as players are invited to take part in a school trip with the neighbouring school: Blueberry Academy. As you take part in a scavenger hunt for signboards across the region, you will uncover the secrets behind the leg-

end of the Loyal Three; Munkidori, Okidogi, and Fezandipiti, three new legendary Pokémon who are said to have saved the land from an evil ogre. The story introduces the player to new characters; a sibling pair, Kieran and Carmine, with whom you will undergo the DLC's main story, and Perrin, a Pokémon photographer who will ask you to complete a Pokémon snap-style quest once you have

discovered a certain number of the region's Pokémon. I found this

photography subplot to be one of the best features of the DLC and I loved being able to capture a glimpse of Pokémon in a natural environment. The only downside to this is that it was a one-off feature in

the story and not a replayable mini-game.

The game also brings with it new mini-games such as 'Ogre Ous-tin', in which the player must ride around popping colourful balloons in order to collect berries. The best feature of this game is that it can be played in multiplayer, with up to three players able to team up.

With such a long time between the release dates of the base game and the DLC, I - like most players - had completely finished the game and maxed out a majority of my party Pokémon. This meant the main storyline took me little more than 7 hours of gameplay.

Though I cannot hide my disappointment at certain aspects of the game, as someone who also just loves catching Pokémon and the freedom of an open-world RPG, I can say that this DLC wasn't a complete bust. Although, with The Indigo Disk's release scheduled for April 2024, one can only hope that Game Freak has something more spectacular up its sleeves.

Sex Education: Season 4 Review

The final season of the hit Netflix series is here

Emily Cottle
Review Editor

For those who have managed, by some miracle, to escape the conversations about it, Sex Education is a comedy series following the lives of the students of Moordale Secondary. The focal character is Otis, a virginal loner who finds he has obtained his mother's sex therapy skills, and starts an on-campus clinic to win the approval of mysterious Maeve. Through Otis' sessions with his classmates, the creators of the show expose the difficulties of modern-day youth in an unapologetically witty capacity. Important discussions of consent,

sexuality and gender identity have made the show one of the most popular series on Netflix.

At the end of the penultimate series, the residents of Moordale must find themselves a new school - their sexually expressive campaign causing the school investors to pull funding from Hope, their ironically named Headmaster. The central characters find themselves thrust into Cavendish School, renowned for its student-led approach and no tolerance for bullying. It's a seemingly perfect school where everyone is equal. All the Moordale students seem to revel in this opportunity - apart from Otis - who finds he has a rival sex therapist, O.

Otis battles with a lot this season; a new sibling, a long-distance relationship with Maeve and the attempt to regain his notoriety. This doesn't prevent him, however, from fiercely competing to 'out therapist' O. To win back approval, Otis has a session with popular kids Abbie and Roman - a queer couple much beloved by the school. The introduction of these characters allows discourse surrounding the rarity of openly queer individuals in school to be introduced. This creates a nice moment for Eric (one of the only openly queer people at Moordale) to find his crowd. With the new school, I felt right from the first episode like this was a relaunch of the series: with new characters and individual storylines, it didn't feel like a final season. As it is the final series, however, I believe it has some questions to answer, and a duty to give the audience some closure for the characters we have grown to love. We are given some closure from original cast members, such as Aimee attempting to regain self-love after her assault, Adam trying to find his feet in his relationship with his dad, and Eric's relationship with sexuality and religion. I felt with too many subplots needing completion, the addition of so many new storylines - whilst important - meant a reduction in the overall appreciation of the series. One inclusion in the

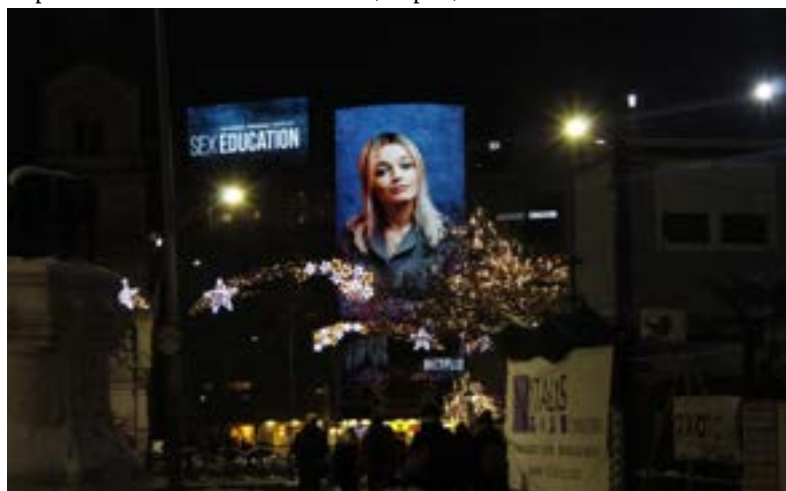


Source: Ghaith Baazaoui (via Wikimedia Commons)

season that was particularly important, however, was the discussion about the disabled students at Cavendish and the school's failure to provide support for them. This led to a conversation about real inclusivity within the school, which I felt was widely important, but ultimately rushed due to the amount of other subplots. The creators of the show do so well to have these conversations that others shy away from that I felt the season needed more episodes to do justice to each storyline. Is this season worth a watch? Definitely. If you have watched the previous seasons, the

show still manages to handle various relationship and identity issues in a tender, sensitive capacity - or a widely humorous one. Although I felt the number of episodes compared to

the number of important student stories left them somewhat rushed, ultimately, I think this show is still unmatched in its ability to have these difficult conversations. If that isn't a reason enough to watch, stay tuned to find out what becomes of Otis and Maeve!



Source: Jtorquy (via Wikimedia Commons)

Season 2 of The Bear cooks up a TV delight

The hit show has returned to our screens

Emily Redmond
Review Editor

After only one year since the show premiered, we've been blessed with another season of this gripping comedy series. This year, we re-enter the story of Carmy (Jeremy Allen White), a talented young chef thrown into control of his late brothers' sandwich shop. In Season 1, Carmy was left having to teach a team of unwilling chefs how a kitchen should be ran. From working in the best restaurant in the world, returning to the debt and distress of his brothers' legacy was not what Carmy had predicted for his life. With Ayo Edebiri's Sydney as his right hand (wo)man, Carmy is able to envision what life could be. From there, we enter season 2, where The Beef, a sandwich shop with no direction, is developed into a fine dining restaurant. This season is a journey of reform; we witness each of the characters' personal development as they venture into professional training, as well as the literal

evolution of The Bear. One of the most obvious transformations in this season comes from Richie (Ebon Moss Bachrach). Known as 'Cousin' throughout the series, we see his temper more often than not. We learn that his anger is built up from his self-doubt and personal battles. In Episode 7's Forks, Carmy sends Richie for expert front-of-house training. The pride he feels following his accomplishment at the fine dining restaurant is carried with him into his role at The Bear. At the end of this episode, Chef Terry (Olivia Coleman) reveals that she knows Carmy, telling Richie, "he believes in you, you know?". This confirmation was the final piece to Richie's character development. Even during the final episode, when the service seems to be heading for failure, Richie steps up. Without his character growth, the opening night of the restaurant wouldn't have been a success. The realistic portrayal of the hospitality industry in Season 2 brings the relatability of the series. We feel the pressure that Sydney is left with whilst Carmy is distracted by his new love interest. His in-

ability to have a healthy work-life balance is something that is constantly creeping up on him. During episode 3's Sundae, Sydney is searching for the inspiration she needs to create an award-worthy menu entirely alone. Throughout the episode, we watch local Chicago establishments close their doors due to economic factors, bringing the present world into this season. Sydney proves time after time that she is a force to be reckoned with. Without her determination, the short timeline for opening would be impossible, and the economic factors would have won. Sydney and Sugar (Abby Elliot) are the engine that keeps The Bear from being just a dream: they make it a reality. The final episode of this incredible season is an eruption of chaos behind the scenes but a beautiful creation to the unknowing. As the service begins, Carmy becomes everything he hated before, letting his emotions and stress get the better of him. Carmy's fate is decided whilst he is locked in the walk-in, during a rant Tina (Liza Colón-Zayas) about his distractions. Little does he know, his dis-

traction was listening. Whilst everyone entered their journey of self-reform this season, Carmy hadn't quite reached where the rest were. I believe this is why he needed to be locked in the walk-in for the first service of his restaurant. This event taught him to self-reflect and understand that the kitchen has become talented enough to do it without him. Hopefully, this will be the start of his journey, where we witness a better work-life balance in season 3. The continuous switch from calm to intense kitchen in this episode is genius. It leaves us feeling stressed, wanting the opening to be smooth for the success of the restaurant, but not necessarily for Carmy. We are left with a lot to feel. I can't wait to see what else is coming for The Bear.

“The final episode of this incredible season is an eruption of chaos behind the scenes.”

The Twilight Saga: Re-watched

Looking back on a beloved franchise

Tam Fraser
Head of Review

Since its publication in 2005, The Twilight Saga and its implications have shaped the course of YA media. From the problematic love triangle trope to its splitting of the final book into two separate films - a trend followed by its contemporaries The Hunger Games, and Divergent - this series dominated the world for a brief moment in time. I grew up firmly rooted in Generation Twilight, with the series being a staple of primary school sleepovers and birthday parties. Fast forward to September 2023, a Twilight renaissance begins after Netflix adds the Saga to its catalogue, with rumours of a potential spin-off TV series in the works. This prompted a re-watch, which I began with my friend Mimi, an avid Twilight supporter. The first film has remained a cult favourite of the YA genre, with its jarring blue filter and comically awkward dialogue, and I can now safely agree that it has stood the test of time. In many ways, this film really has it all. Its stilted acting and janky camerawork are charming, with insanely quotable dialogue and an unmatched visual aesthetic. The audience is bombarded with a constant slew of

now infamous scenes; Bella first seeing the Cullen family, with their overly-straightened hair and questionable contact lenses; the iconic baseball game soundtracked by Muse, featuring Alice Cullen's (Ashley Greene) legendary, overdramatic serve. To top it all off, the film ends on such a perfect cliffhanger that it almost begs for a sequel (although dare I say, maybe not four). "Best film ever", says Mimi. She goes to film school, so I'm inclined to agree with her. Unfortunately, the fun began to dwindle from there. Although 2009's New Moon opens promisingly with Bella's long-awaited 18th birthday party, the plot takes a nosedive as it begins to focus on the extended universe of Twilight; that is, the intense, perpetual class divide between werewolves and vampires. It feels like the series has bitten off more than it can chew at this point, attempting to tackle a serious and nuanced plot device within a vapid, teenage romance flick. This trend continues as the series progresses. The films attempt to preach complex issues to a demographic that does not particularly care about the philosophical aspects of pregnancy complications and the value of human life over animals - myself included! As far as I can tell, one doesn't watch The Twilight Saga to become enlightened about such



Source: Nicolas Genin (via Wikimedia Commons)

matters. Critic and audience ratings show that The Twilight Saga was significantly less well received once it began being directed by men. However, is the series' downfall due to its lack of female direction after the first film? Potentially. To get to the bottom of this, we must ask: why would Twilight benefit from a female director? One could argue that it is beneficial for a series with a female protagonist to be female directed, as the director will be able to apply their first-hand knowledge of the female experience to the films whilst also approaching romantic themes with a "female gaze", preventing Bella and Edward's relationship from being overtly sexualised from a heterosexual male perspective. This argument, however, implies that the series aligned with any feminist values to begin with - which it absolutely does not. Put bluntly, The Twilight Saga follows the tumultuous relationship between a 17-year-old girl and a 104-year-old man. The film sugarcoats this fact by giving said 104-year-

old man the appearance of a teenager, played by 2000s heartthrob Robert Pattinson. This ingenious use of casting almost manages to trick its audience into forgetting about Edward and Bella's (at best, morally dubious or, at worst, illegal) relationship. Due to it being a piece of media that becomes more problematic the more you think about it, Twilight was at its best when it was vapid and didn't take itself seriously. In my opinion, over-complicating matters by adding wildly outrageous characters and subplots was the series' downfall, as once the films strayed from their roots as campy, cult chick-flicks, they allowed for more justified criticism. Self-aware dialogue and an emphasis on awkwardness were what made the original film so good! I can only hope that when the latest TV series is announced, we see a lot more focus on the enjoyably ridiculous life of Bella Swan and Edward Cullen. And Alice. We love Alice.

To top it all off, the film ends on such a perfect cliffhanger that it almost begs for a sequel."



Source: you me (via Flickr)

England secures the top spot in Pool D

Honor Mitchell Brook
Contributor

There is a sprinkling of promise as England draw against the very strong New Zealand side and win against Japan. Unfortunately, they have gone on to lose against Argentina and then South Africa in their final game of the series. England supporters are now worrying for the future of this England side. Doubt is spreading across the nation; England rugby needs to change and quickly if they are to make a serious impact on the 2023 World Cup. 2023;

“Fans are now left nervously anticipating England's performances.

new year, new head coach. Eddie Jones out and Leicester Tigers coach, Steve Borthwick, in. With the World Cup nearing, apprehension is growing and worries are escalating on how this big managerial change could save this underperforming England side. Preseason is now underway at the England camp and with a new Borthwick squad the team begin to work towards their test matches in this summer series. Three out of the four friendlies have resulted in a loss and now things really aren't looking promising. Suddenly being an England supporter is tough work and fans are now left nervously anticipating England's performances in September. The big stage in France is set and the 2023 World Cup is well underway. Week 1 England face Argentina and unlike last year they win 27-10. A masterclass kicking game is shown by sec-

ond choice fly-half George Ford, scoring all 27 points for England from his boots. This win ignites belief in fans that there is potential for the side to go further than previously predicted.

Week 2 they are up against Japan in what seems to be a more difficult game, but England still manage to come out on top with a score of 34-12. Now they have beaten the two higher ranked teams of pool D and England are fuelled with confidence as they head into the third week. Up next – Chile. Henry Arundell makes his World Cup debut and not only scores his first world cup try but follows that with a further four. Along with Marcus Smith's attacking flair and the team's exciting and effective play, England end week three with a staggering 71-0 win. With bonus points, a head-to-head record and the

other pool D results, England are confirmed as the group winners ahead of their clash against Samoa. Moments of luck have helped England get this far (Joe Marler's header) but with determination, skill, and power there is potential for this side to go even further into the competition. 20

years since the last World Cup victory, could this be the year for England to go all the way again?



Source: Mike Cabel (via Flickr)

Aston Villa v Manchester United: Women's Super League Match

Grace D'Souza
Sport Editor

The Women's Super League returned to BBC2 with a massive opening fixture between Aston Villa and Manchester United.

The departures of key players Alessia Russo and Ona Batlle from the Manchester United side during this summer's transfer window did not stop the red devils from achieving an incredible 2-1 victory over the villains. Both sides were evenly matched

until an unfortunate mistake in the 74th minute from Aston Villa's Kirsty Hanson which caused the team to go down to 10 players after a very dangerous high leg tackle on Manchester United player Hayley Ladd.

The Scottish international

“Despite Kirsty Hanson being sent off Aston Villa did not lose hope

immediately knew that she was going to be sent off and walked straight off the pitch with her head in her hands down the tunnel at Villa Park. Despite Kirsty Hanson being sent off Aston Villa did not lose hope in the 76th minute lioness Rachel Daly scored the first goal of the match putting them 1-0 up against the visitors. England teammate Mary Earps was at full stretch, but nothing could keep the ball out of the net. However, Manchester United took advantage of a counterattack leading to a 79

th minute equaliser from Lucía García. The match looked as if it was going to end 1-1 until an injury time 90+2 minute goal from 35-year-old Rachel Williams secured Manchester United the 3 points they thoroughly deserved.

The results for the opening week of the WSL are as follows:

Aston Villa 1-2 Man United
Everton 1-2 Brighton
Arsenal 0-1 Liverpool
Bristol City 2-4 Leicester City
West Ham 0-2 Manchester City
Chelsea 2-1 Spurs

“Both sides were evenly matched until an unfortunate mistake in the 74th minute from Aston Villa.

Women's Super League Controversy Causes Stir

Grace D'Souza
Sport Editor

With the Women's Super League season starting up again, the tournament has already sparked controversy regarding the new rules and regulations which have changed the game entirely.

Ex-lioness presenters Fara Williams, Alex Scott and Ellen White have spoken out about previous Women's Super League (WSL) season being ridden with multiple ACL injuries. These can be detrimental for players, impacting leg mobilisation as they tear ligaments in the knee joints and shins.

Arsenal's key players, Leah Williamson, Vivianne Miedema, Beth Mead and Laura Wienroither have specifically been affected, as they were left out of the team, and the Women's FIFA World Cup this summer.

Despite the loss of Leah Williamson and Beth Mead, England's Lionesses managed to finish second in the competition losing to Spain in the final.

Additionally, in the build up to the Aston Villa match there had been controversy over the material of the Aston Villa football jersey's having a sweaty wet look like texture. This caused uproar for the women's team in particular who felt insecure about playing at the weekend. Aston Villa player Alisha Lehmann suffered a wardrobe malfunction in the

“This caused uproar for the women's team in particular who felt insecure about playing at the weekend.

shirt before the match even kicked off during the warmup.

The player originally spoke up about people following her for her body rather than because she is an incredible centre forward football player.

The current WSL tournament holders Chelsea football club look like the team to beat at the moment with top form throughout the squad. England's Millie Bright takes the captains armband this season and manager Emma Hayes could not have made a better choice by appoint-

ing her. Australia's Sam Kerr who also plays alongside Millie Bright will definitely be hoping for some more silverware this season the super striker will be looking to get her hands on the golden boot this season. Although with Alessia Russo moving to London rivals Arsenal this season it could see a very tense battle for WSL champions yet again. It will definitely be a season of must see matches throughout the WSL this season.



Source: Ben Sutherland (via Flickr)

Tyson Fury signs contract putting his world title at stake

Adam Gaston
Sport Contributor



Source: Johnny Silvercloud (via Flickr)

contest promises to be cataclysmic clash. Styles make fights and it will be fascinating to see how the Ukrainian, who is famous for his elite technical skill and stamina will deal with the long awkward style of Tyson Fury. So, the question remains, Can Usyk do to Fury what he did to Anthony Joshua, or is the Gypsy King too good, too big and too strong for the Ukrainian champion to overcome. Whatever the result, the occasion of the event is huge, and winner will undoubtedly cement himself as one of the greatest boxers of his generation.

"I do what I say. I say what I do. Undisputed. This is the Gypsy King era. You can't rabbit run anymore Usyk - You're getting it". Fury's last bout saw him beat Derek Chisora in the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on December 3rd, 2022 (The Argus, 2023), after previously

announcing his retirement from the sport. Since then, a Netflix docu-series and fight announcement with Francis Ngannou has followed. Usyk's last fight came with a hard-fought stoppage win over British heavyweight Daniel Dubois in Poland last month. With both fighters active, this

SPORT



Manchester United player, Anthony, available to play, despite assault allegations

Grace D'Souza
Sport Editor

Brazilian international and Manchester United number 11 Antony joined the rest of the red devils for training at the AON training complex in Carrington. Manchester United released the following statement: "Since allegations were first made in June, Antony has cooperated with police inquiries in both Brazil and the UK, and he continues to do so. As Anthony's employer, Manchester United has decided that he will resume training at Carrington, and be available for selection, while police inquiries proceed." Womens Aid also posted on social media platform X formerly Twitter: "We know the news that the @ManUtd player is returning to training camp; selection while police inquiries continue will

have an impact on survivors. We urge the national football organisations to work with us to provide much needed guidance for all clubs on domestic abuse cases." Of course, this is not the first time Manchester United's players have been in a domestic abuse media storm. England and Manchester United forward Mason Greenwood was arrested and charged with attempted rape, controlling and coercive behaviour and assault occasioning actual bodily harm after videos surfaced on his girlfriend's Instagram story. On the 2nd of February these charges were dropped and Manchester United originally wished for the 21-year-old super striker to return to the squad for the 2023/24 Barclays Premier League season but media backlash caused Mason Greenwood to take his professional football career abroad on loan at Getafe FC. Manchester United re-

leased the following statement on the 1st of September: "Mason Greenwood has signed for La Liga side Getafe CF on a season-long loan, subject to international clearance. The move enables Greenwood to begin to rebuild his career away from Manchester United. The club will continue to offer its support to Mason and his family during this period of transition." Die-hard Manchester United fan and countdown sensation Rachel Riley posted on social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter) "I won't be able to support United if Greenwood remains at the club. As an example, when it comes to VAWG, less than 1% of rapes reported to police lead to conviction. We've all seen and heard enough. Pretending this is ok would be a huge part of the problem." The Manchester United Women's Team were not happy with the Mason Greenwood's

behaviour and did not wish for him to come back to the squad which required "Man United [to] hold talks with their women's team over their handling of Mason Greenwood after players considered speaking out if they were planning to keep him" according to the Mail. It looks like there is trouble for players on and off the pitch this season. Manchester United have lost 4 out of 7 games so far this season and their rivals Manchester City sit top of the table with 18 points which is double the points United have. This will certainly be a very long and painful season for Manchester United manager Erik Ten Hag.

Are McLaren coming for Red Bull for the second half of the season?

Bethany Soliman
Sport Contributor

Goodbye 'best of the rest' as McLaren set Red Bull in their sights McLaren attempt to claw their way back to the team worthy of eight constructor titles, they have been through multiple drivers and partnerships in recent seasons, but have they finally got the formula right? Having been outscored only by Red Bull in the past seven races, it's safe to say McLaren have come far from the team considered the slowest

by many pundits in preseason testing. But this consistent growth is only the beginning of the team's aspiration, after a double podium finish at the Japanese Grand Prix, Lando Norris stated that "[McLaren] are coming for Red Bull" in an adrenaline-fueled post-race radio message to his engineers, saying much about McLaren's intentions and where they believe the competition lays. A talented driver pairing together with an efficient engine may solve McLaren's struggles. Carlos Sainz and Daniel Ricciardo have been the previous driver partners to Norris, but is rookie Oscar Piastri finally the right fit. Separated currently in the drivers standing by Mercedes' George Russell, it is clear that Piastri is a vital asset to the team this season, finishing consistently in the points. In 2018, McLaren

were powered by Renault only to be replaced in 2021 by a Mercedes unit, but it's no secret that McLaren are looking for a new partnership. Zac Brown, McLaren's CEO, reportedly met with Red Bull regarding power trains for the 2026 season. It seems the if you cannot beat them join them attitude does not only apply to a Red Bull power unit, as Rob Marshall will be joining the McLaren team as chief engineer after seventeen years with Red Bull Racing, depicting a clear idea of what McLaren are gunning for. However, the idea that McLaren are coming for Red Bull cannot be taken seriously without considering other teams such as Mercedes, Ferrari and even Aston Martin. McLaren are currently fifth in the constructor standings with a substantial gap to the current second

place Mercedes, just over 130 points. Not only would McLaren need to rapidly overcome that gap they would need to combat the 300 plus point gap between Mercedes and Red Bull. Even McLaren's team principal Andrea Stella apprehends Mercedes to "jump back quite strongly" and return to their top form. McLaren do not intend to come for Red Bull, they intend to come for everyone.

ELSEWHERE IN SPORT

IOC suspend Russian Olympic Committee

Scotland seek to qualify for Euro's 2024 in Spain

UK and Ireland win their joint bid to host Euro's 2028

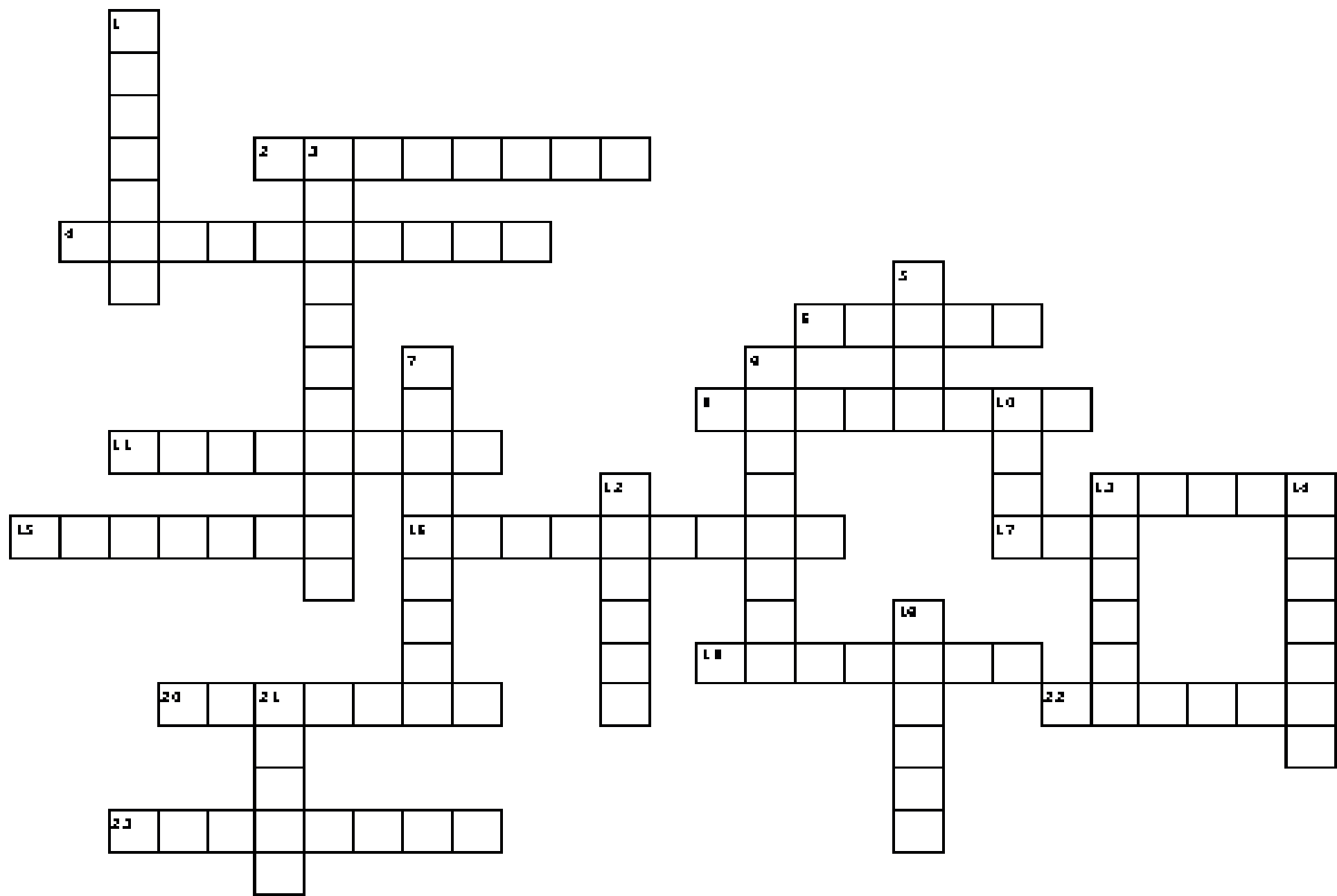
South Africa beat Australia in the cricket World Cup



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Crossword | Croesair

Uni Life by Nancy Cook



Across

2. Social relations to gain authority or power, make sure you sign up to vote!
4. Holding false beliefs or judgements about reality, girls I'm looking at you
6. ___know about that
9. Morning after drinking & 2009 comedy starring Bradley Cooper
11. Perfect square for the circumference of pie
13. Oil giant, pay your bills
15. Not plugged in, much like me

- on a Monday morning
16. Intense beam of light directly on to a place or person, particularly performer
17. It can be cured, unlike you on a Thursday morning
19. The worlds most inconsistent wifi
20. People that stand out from the rest, a club that stands out from the rest
22. Pub crawl and then some
23. Having or displaying great dignity or nobility, how you feel after shots in liveys

Down

1. First-year uni student
3. Holding strong views, that one flat mate
5. The only place to spend a Wednesday night & modern carpe diem
7. French flaky roll
8. The only paper you should be reading, official Cardiff students paper established in 1972
10. Make a lasting

- impression
12. Too many on the SU floor
13. A very small amount or part
14. Collection of books, third years second home
18. Night out with a society or club, a gathering
21. Glossed over, the ponytail we all want

Find the Answers on our Instagram @gairrhudd