



TRISKELION INTERVIEW

Read the exclusive interview with local folk music band Triskelion to find out about the meaning behind their name, who inspires them and more.

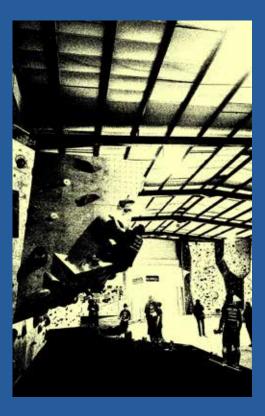


KPOP BEAUTY STANDARDS

The pervasive influence of KPOP beauty standards fuelling a global mental health crisis.



Over three action-packed days, the University of Huddersfield competed against Bradford University in their annual sports tournament. Did they bring the Varsity Cup back to Huddersfield and reign victorious?







EDITOR'S LETTER

Hello students!

Welcome to the Issue #2 of T'Hud! We have reached the last week of teaching, so here's another issue to commemorate the close of the academic year.

This issue focuses on the annual varsity sports event. This year, it took place in Bradford, where Huddersfield uni students competed against students of the University of Bradford in a range of sports. We didn't have space to report on ALL the events — but we covered as much as we could!

For the rest of the issue, we've got a great range of culture covered by students... There is an interview with a local band, commentary on independent art, male beauty standards in K-pop and much more. The culture in this term's issue covers local and global culture so there is something for everyone on campus.

This is my last issue as consulting editor as I am graduating in June. I have really enjoyed the demanding nature of this role and collaborating with T'Hud. I wish them the best of luck with the magazine next year and I hope future members have as great a time as I did.

Catch up with all you missed at Varsity with our latest issue. Happy reading, best of luck for the rest of the semester and I hope you all have a wonderful summer!

Sandra Wbege

Consulting Editor of T'Hud on behalf of the T'Hud Magazine team.



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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

INDIE ART AS AN ART DESCRIPTOR

How the adjective has developed and become more popular in our cultural landscape

By Sandra Wbege

7he path to success in the arts has become less trepid over the decades. Not only through easier access provided with the Internet and social media but with the increasing knowledge about the many flaws with the mainstream system of art distribution and the ensuing creation of companies outside the system to counteract those errors. Record labels, film studios, publications and other expressions of art made independently are befittingly named independent or indie for short.

However, indie art has come to mean something particular about the style of the music or the film. Though there is not a general consensus on what that style is. It might be the focus on live instruments on the track as opposed to notes being played on a music production programme. The indie style within film is no less easier to identify. The direction indicating a smaller budget and the often very personal nature of the film seem to be what people consider characteristics of an indie film. Filmmaker Greta Gerwig's films are often given this label, due to her frequent collaborations with film production and distribution company A24, which is known for championing cinema from marginalised and independent backgrounds. All films involved with A24 are called indie art, though they have worked with some of the biggest names in film such as Gerwig, Colman Domingo, Florence Pugh, Zac Efron and Sofia Coppola. The style of indie art is in its unpolished sound or appearance and its razor sharp focus on an artistic approach, unconcerned with the commercial and the risks that may come with it.



Image credit to Yaroslav Shuraev on Pexels

Indie art has become needlessly difficult to define. Art made outside of the mainstream production system is already but we seem to have turned ourselves into knots with defining the specifics.

There's also nothing stopping a film or album made by a mainstream production company from incorporating the so-called elements of indie art. So you end up saying a Warner Brothers blockbuster looks indie when that is far from the case.

The obsession with indie art is not surprising. In recent years, we've seen how much mainstream art executives run their companies like very bad businesses. The oversaturation of reboots, remakes, sequels in films, songs being made on an assembly line for TikTok virality. Disregarding the artists' desires to create slop that the audience undoubtedly will not enjoy. So naturally artists seek to create their own spaces to create art, with a single-minded focus on quality, personal and meaningful art. Naturally, audiences will follow as they also share the same frustrations with mainstream art production companies.

As well as indie art putting creativity instead of profit at the forefront, indie musicians are more likely to own their masters. They have complete control over their art and don't have to give into the demands of executives who are increasingly showing that they don't know anything about art or business. Creative control in indie filmmaking is a little more limited due to the often small budget of the production. Independent art production companies are created with art as a priority and that ethos means that they are less likely to prevent certain messages being displayed in indie films. Though there is a monetary limit, the artist is free.

Putting art at the forefront is lost in the mainstream parts of the industry. Let's hope the increasing popularity of independent art production companies will instil artistic integrity into the fabric of the industry again.

THE IMPACT OF KPOP BEAUTY STANDARDS ON GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH

By Sabih Madeem

In recent years, the pervasive influence of K-Pop beauty standards has had a profound and concerning impact on mental health worldwide. The beauty ideals promoted by the K-Pop industry, characterised by features like a slim figure, V-shaped jawline, and pale complexion, have created immense pressure on individuals across different countries to conform to these often-unattainable standards.

Globally, there has been a notable increase in cosmetic surgery rates, reflecting the extreme measures individuals take to meet societal beauty expectations perpetuated by K-Pop and other influential media. According to the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ISAPS), South Korea consistently ranks among the top countries for cosmetic procedures, with a significant portion of these surgeries driven by desires to conform to K-Pop beauty affecting individuals of all ages and genders across standards.

The pressure to achieve these specific beauty standards can lead to significant dissatisfaction with one's appearance and contribute to mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. A study conducted by the American Psychological Association (APA) highlighted the detrimental effects of mediadriven beauty ideals, revealing correlations between exposure to unrealistic beauty standards and body dissatisfaction among young adults worldwide.

The influence of K-Pop exacerbates these pressures, as idols undergo rigorous dieting and cosmetic procedures to conform to industry standards. Many individuals, especially young fans, internalise these beauty ideals, leading to body image struggles and feelings of inadequacy. A survey conducted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) found that a substantial percentage of adolescents globally experience body image-related distress, with media portrayal of idealised beauty contributing significantly to these concerns.

Notably, some K-Pop figures have begun to challenge these norms. Personalities like Hwasa from MamaMoo, who was initially rejected by the industry for not fitting conventional beauty standards, have embraced their unique appearances, and advocated for selfacceptance. Despite these positive shifts, the impact of beauty standards remains profound,



especially among vulnerable populations facing economic hardships. The correlation between beauty ideals and mental health issues is undeniable, contributing significantly to rising rates of anxiety, depression, and body dysmorphia. According to a report by the World Economic Forum (WEF), body image concerns are increasingly recognised as a global mental health challenge, diverse cultural backgrounds.

There are encouraging signs of change, with individuals like Amber Liu from f(x) challenging societal norms and advocating for diversity in beauty standards. Amber's openness about her own experiences and commitment to promoting self-acceptance resonate with many individuals worldwide who struggle with societal pressures to conform.

Addressing this complex issue requires a collective effort to promote mental health awareness, combat harmful stereotypes, and foster a culture of acceptance and inclusivity worldwide. Initiatives focused on media literacy and promoting diverse representations of beauty can play a crucial role in mitigating the negative impact of unrealistic beauty standards perpetuated by the K-Pop industry and other influential media sources.

The global impact of K-Pop beauty standards on mental health underscores the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to promote positive body image and mental well-being. By prioritising diversity, acceptance, and mental health awareness, we can cultivate a more inclusive and compassionate society that celebrates individuality and rejects harmful stereotypes.

EXCLUSIVE TRISKELION INTERVIEW

By Charlotte Sharp

Triskelion is a West Yorkshire based band consisting of three members, Faith, Rivea and Harrison. They are at different stages of studying their music performance degrees at the University of Huddersfield. We sat down with the band to interview them on their journey so far, what is coming up in the band's future, what Triskelion actually means and more.

The band all had an interest in folk music prior to beginning the course, within their time at the university they have all expressed their interest within the folk music genre (a genre that isn't typically popular among the current younger generation) to their singing teacher. After realising that the three of them had interest in this genre, their singing teacher introduced them. The head of the music department at the time even allowed them to make Triskelion a part of their music performance assessment rather than just something that they did on the side. Triskelion is quite a unique name for a band and it is interesting how the group came up with this name. When asked, Harrison said that they began to think of a name quite

early on, the trio knowing that they wanted a one word name that would be memorable. Although the name didn't come to them right away and took some thinking, Harrison eventually pitched the name which the band now has - basing the name on a symbol which is known as the triskelion / triskele. Their logo is therefore made up of three spirals, and there are three members / a trio within the band itself, meaning that it has a logical tie to their group, as well as it having a Celtic origin similar to a lot of their music.

The group have a range of artists that they look to for music inspiration, both in and out of the folk genre. To begin with, Faith, who is also a songwriter outside of singing traditional folk songs, enjoying writing in that style looks up to artists such as Phoebe Bridgers who is more mainstream folk as well as Kate Rusby, a folk singer from Barnsley. Then Harrison, as the 'sea shanty guy' says that his biggest inspiration is 'The Longest Johns' as well as obscure 70s folk rock people who no one really knows of anymore. Rivea's

current biggest inspiration is Nancy Kerr, Kate Rusby and Regina Spektor. A Lot of his musical inspiration comes from the music that his cousins introduced him to when he was younger that shaped his engagement in folk music which is why he feels a family tie there. In terms of how they feel about the music scene within Huddersfield, Faith said that within Huddersfield town centre places such as Northern Quarter which she said is a great venue that do an open mic every week. Rivea added that it is a small scene however there are lots of open mics. Harrison then added that he is in the Huddersfield Choral society as well as a couple of its subsidiary choirs as well which seems to be a huge part of Huddersfield - it is internationally recognised as one of the UK's leading choral societies and has been going for almost two hundred years, since 1836. Rivea brought up that within Huddersfield, there's a lot of experimental music that goes on in the area due to the contemporary music festival and electric spring. There is also the building

named after Richard Steinitz

West Yorkshire Based Folk 7rio





Photography by Wolly Jenkins



on the University campus which is world famous. Overall, there is definitely a variety within the Huddersfield music scene and there is something for everyone.

When the band were asked where they see themselves in a year or so, and if they are planning on releasing any of their own music in the future, they stated that the band will definitely not be going away anytime soon and are still in their early days as they did only form in October of last year. As they are all students, they do have a lot of deadlines and work to be doing, with Harrison and Rivea almost finishing their masters degree, they aim to focus on writing more original music after the two complete their degrees.

Find out more

If you would like to see Triskelion live, they have an upcoming gig at the Holmfirth Festival of Folk (Friday May 10 to Sunday May 12) which is not far from Huddersfield at all. They will be doing an unplugged set as a trio and then Faith will be performing as a solo artist the day after with more of her singer-songwriter stuff. They are involved and ready to get out there and perform for an audience. And if you want to get in touch to have a chat, see what they do or book them for anything, feel free to get in contact with one of their social media accounts such as triskelionband on Instagram.

THE CLASH BETWEEN HUDDERSFIELD AND BRADFORD BEGINS

By 9saac Hall

Varsity 2024 kicked off in some style with the opening ceremonies between the two rivalling universities, the two sides presented themselves to the roaring crowd, with the captains representing every team proudly entering the sports hall, accompanied by the sports presidents for this year.

The teams entered the arena, waving their respective flags, being serenaded by both the passionate fans and competitors alike, all whilst the theme song from Rocky played over the speakers, indicating that this event was to be the culmination of the teams' months long hard work, and that they were to be putting everything on the line to get the all-important wins.

Rohith Narayan, the SU's activities officer, has himself seen how much hard work our competitors have put into this, saying "I've seen the dedication of our athletes and I know we've got what it takes to keep the cup at home where it belongs."

The mission is also clear, getting the W over our fierce rivals is simply not enough, and Rohith made his intentions very clear, stating "We're not just here to play, we're here to conquer... we're rewriting the playbook on how to dominate."

Rohith's counterpart from Bradford was also



very ready to gee up their team, letting the travelling fans know exactly what they were in for over the next few days, as she claimed "You are going to be defeated tonight AND in ALL of these games!"

Overall, following these spritely opening ceremonies between the two sides, for fans and players alike, this season of varsity was another cracker.

Huddersfield made it 4 years in a row, taking the coveted Varsity trophy home.

NOTHIN' BUT NET FOR BRADFORD

By Harry Brown

top 95-65 in against a Huddersfield team who huffed and puffed to the final buzzer.

It was Bradford who won the tip off to begin the first quarter and they instantly scored two points trying to set an early tone for the game. but they were pinned back within seconds by a to show. Huddersfield huffed and puffed but Huddersfield two pointer.

After a frantic start the game, multiple fouls being committed by Huddersfield led to cheap points to Bradford putting the score at 10-8 halfway through the first quarter.

The first real quality moment of the match was produced by Bradford's number 20 who swished from deep. This really set Bradford apart from their opponents as the teams went in with Bradford leading 29-16 after the first quarter.

At the beginning of the second quarter, it was Huddersfield's turn to show their class as sand-out Harvey Annable turned it up a notch and scored their first 3 pointer of the game making the scores 29-19 to Bradford.

It was Harvey who played every minute of the game for Huddersfield and tried to make a comeback for his team as he won his side a couple of points and free-throws which lead to the match favourites Huddersfield mounting somewhat of a comeback leaving the score at 44-34 going into half time.

However, tiredness started to show in the Huddersfield team going into the third quarter who had only 1 substitute after an injury, in comparison to Bradford's 4 substitutes. Bradford, having strength in depth and being able to rotate meant that Huddersfield couldn't keep up as tiredness was taking its toll on the

Bradford's men's basketball easily came out on players and the teams went in at the end of the third quarter 65-52 to the hosts Bradford.

> Into the fourth and final quarter. Huddersfield backed all way through by their fans, were now playing for pride and enjoyment as the fatique and difference in numbers really started Bradford were too strong as they went and finished the game empathically to win 95-65 in the men's varsity Basketball.

Huddersfield's MVP Harvey Annable had this to say about the defeat: "Tough rotations when you've only got seven guys but even though we took the L it was a good way to the end the year, with positive attitudes from all the players."

The final score here at Bradford College: Bradford 95-65 Huddersfield.



VARSITY 2024 EDITION

THE HUDDERSFIELD WARRIORS ACHIEVED THEIR SEASON'S HIGHEST PERCENTAGE SCORE AT THIS YEAR'S VARSITY CUP!

By Stacy Mowforth

One of the most anticipated events in the University calendar for the Huddersfield Warriors cheer team is always the annual varsity event against Bradford Ravens. This year's meet did not disappoint!

The squads faced off in the second event of day one, delivering everything you could wish for in a cheer event: excitement, high energy, thrills, and even a few spills. The teams anxiously awaited the results, with judges emphasising that the performances were incredibly close and came down to the smallest of details. After much deliberation, the teams were separated by just 4%, and it was the Ravens who claimed victory on their home turf, following a very solid, professional, and well-drilled performance.

The event followed the men's basketball game, which had warmed up the crowd nicely. The cheerleaders certainly lived up to their name, whipping the audience into a frenzy during their performances.

Both teams' routines featured a mixture of complex movements and lifts, executed almost to perfection. Their efforts were reflected in Huddersfield receiving their highest percentage score of the year at 86.07%, against Bradford's impressive 90.2%.

Cheerleading is gathering momentum and quickly becoming one of the most popular up and coming sports in the UK with over 89,00 athletes within the UK and 900 teams in England alone. More and more universities are bringing cheerleading to their students and with events like this and the feel-good factor of a cheer competition it is easy to see why it is becoming a popular sport in the UK.

From the Warriors level 1 team - The Aztecs, captain Nur Mohammed Zaki said that despite the defeat, they were happy with the result. She continued to say that as this was the last performance of the year and with some members leaving, the team just wanted to go out today and make the most of their last performance.

At the beginning of the month the Huddersfield Aztecs team won 1st place in the division at the Future Cheer Atlantis competition, coupled with that and their highest score this season despite not getting the varsity cup win, this was a nice way to finish the season and to say goodbye to departing members as they go onto new things post-graduation.



VARSITY 2024 EDITION

HUDDERSFIELD MEN'S FOOTBALL SECOND TEAM GRAFT TO GLORY IN A DULL AFFAIR

By 7yler Wright

The action began at Laistridge Lane slightly earlier than planned at 12:45pm rather than 13:00pm, however the sidelines were still packed with spectators on both sides, ready for the first footballing event of the week.

Huddersfield started the game brightly and saw more of the ball early on than Bradford but the first big chance came for the home side.

A troublesome defensive mishap and some miscommunication between the away defence and goalkeeper very nearly led to an early Bradford lead. However, it quickly became a bit of a Huddersfield onslaught with numerous chances falling to them in quick succession — the best of which tend to become squandered by too much time spent on the ball allowing Bradford enough time to swarm the potential goalscorer.

A few more chances went longing before the breakthrough finally arrived for Huddersfield, Bradford's erratic goalkeeper came yet again soaring to the edge of the box to claim the ball out of the air but is beaten to it by the boot of Huddersfield centre back Abdur-Rahmaan Ismail who was in the right place at the right time to lift the ball out of the air, over the keeper and into the back of the net.

As hailstone and rain began blasting down, so did the chances for the away side but none could be put away as the two sides went in for half time with Huddersfield holding tightly onto a 1-0 lead.

The second half began the way it intended to go on — quiet. A lack of chances for both sides began to paint a rather dull affair as the minutes dragged on. Despite little to no action taking place on the pitch, Huddersfield remained in charge as the two sets of fans fired more shots at eachother than either goalkeeper faced in the entire second half.

At long last, the first real attacking spell of the game occurred towards the dying embers of the match as Huddersfield had an array of chances all go awry. At this point, I'm sure their entire side were kicking themselves as it should have been 3-0 or 4-0.

Huddersfield kept the pressure on til the final whistle, but couldn't find another goal whatsoever. Bradford's side are bound to be disappointed with their performance as it was quiet, timid and lacked any form of attacking threat. The victors can hold their heads high despite perhaps being slightly disappointed they didn't score more.



VARSITY 2024 EDITION

HUDDERSFIELD'S NETBALL TEAM DOMINATES IN STANDOUT PERFOMANCE

Huddersfield's platinum netball side took to the court in high spirts, cheered on by family and friends.

Early chances were missed by Bradford to open the scoring, but they eventually succeeded. The Bradford goal attacker quickly added another goal. However, Huddersfield equalised within the first 5 minutes. Throughout the first quarter, Huddersfield demonstrated strong defence, maintaining a good shape and effectively countering Bradford's



attacks. Despite a slow start, Huddersfield ended the first quarter with a narrow 11-10 lead.

With the switch of sides, Bradford was able to pull level early with their goal attacker being at the centre of everything good linking attacks and breaking up the play. However, Huddersfield's Courtney Hulme went on a mid-second quarter rampage giving Huddersfield a health 4-point advantage at 12-16. There were missed opportunities that allowed Bradford to pull level with 5 minutes left in the half. In their classic blink and you'll miss it style, the Huddersfield points raised in the last 5 minutes and a 6-point lead being accrued left them in a healthy position at half time of 19-25.

After half time, the Huddersfield goal scoring responsibility shifted to Katie McCamlie, but goals from that position continued to fly in even with the new marksman. Bradford attempted to reduce the deficit, but anything touched by McCamlie turned into points, with 5 consecutive shots finding the hoop. Just over halfway through the third quarter, Huddersfield's lead had grown to 15 points, and Bradford's attempts to claw back seemed ineffective. As the final quarter approached, Huddersfield held a comfortable 46-28 lead.

In the last quarter it was just status quo with the lead growing and Bradford not being able to do much with a final score of 38-57. The sensational McCamlie was the player of the match at the end and said it was all the calm feeling that her teammates gave her that allowed for her to perform so well.

BADMINTON TRIUMPH PERFOMANCE

By Stacy Mowforth

Huddersfield men's triumphant in the badminton tournament. The men's badminton team took to the court ahead of the women's tournament at the Unique fitness centre In Bradford. Both the singles and doubles matches were taking place simultaneously.

An expectant cohort of away fans were unsurprisingly excited at the prospect of another emphatic victory over local rivals Bradford University that mirrored last year's varsity event.

In the doubles match, captain Jamie Saint and Will Rood won their sets 21-19 and 21-15 respectfully. Singles competitor Sudish Konattusseril Sadhu lost in the deciding third set to bring the score to one all. Huddersfield continued to dominate the doubles competition with the dynamic pairing of Augustine Benny and Melvin Antony who won their sets,21-15, and 21-8 in match one. They also won their second match

HUDDERSFIELD MEN'S SWIM TEAM WINS; WOMEN FIGHT HARD BUT FALL SHORT

By Stacy Mowforth

After a thrilling and noisy swim event at the Unique swimming pool at Bradford University, the Huddersfield team triumphed over Bradford, the winners of the last two years.

Going into the final two relays Huddersfield were behind by 1 point, needing a victory from both relays to take the win. The first relay started off strong with Matthew Whelan, Sheins Saijan, and Joe Weston setting the pace for Omar Abdelatty to bring the victory on the final leg which levelled the score.

All eyes were on the last men's relay as it all came down to the final race of the afternoon. Club president Weston set a blistering pace in the first leg, Matthew Robson came in at second with a strong leg but there was still work left to do for George Brickland on leg three, he pulled away from his Bradford competitor which left Abdelatty free reign on the last leg to win the relay and secure victory for the men and take the title from last year's winners Bradford.

The men won 5-6 overall and Weston credits every player in the team saying that everyone swam amazing and put in 100%. He continued to say that unlike last year when Bradford won quite convincingly, his personal highlight was just how close the competition was this year, and it went right down to the wire.

The atmosphere around the pool was electric for both sides all day, especially during the relays. The biggest cheer of the meet however was in the men's 100m breaststroke late in the day on race 15, when Saijan came from 10 metres behind to claim a much-needed victory to close the gap on Bradford.

The women's swim team found themselves on the back of a 7-4 defeat to Bradford despite a gritty and determined performance. Speaking after the event, women's captain Millie Hamby credits her team on a vastly improved performance from last year saying, "We really outdid ourselves this year, the progress that they have all made has been really good."

Hamby herself got swept away in the excitement of the men's relays saying that the men's relay was one of her personal highlights and credits the team for really getting into the team spirit and cheering the men to victory despite a loss themselves.



convincingly 21-7 and 21-18. Despite singles defeats for Huddersfield, they were tightly contested with three out of the four matches going to a third and final set to determine the winner.

Saint and Rood took returned to the court with confidence and dominated their opponents and recorded their biggest victory of the competition, winning their sets 21-9 and 21-5.

The already electric atmosphere heightened when stand in, and overall player of the tournament Jack Walmsley who only found out 12 hours prior to the event that he was playing took to the court. An overall wing from Walmsley would have guaranteed a result of 4-3 for match total wins.

It came right down the final set, as both teams won a set each, but unfortunately Huddersfield's Walmsley narrowly missed out on victory losing the final set 21-18 and the match two sets to one. This levelled the overall match score of the tournament to 4-4. An agonising wait ensued for both teams as officials collated and verified the points difference. After what seemed like an eternity, Huddersfield were announced overall winners with a score of 345 to Bradfords 315 to claim the win.

HUDDERSFIELD VOLLEYBALL DOMINATES WITH ENERGETIC START AND STRONG STRIKING

By gacob Elomri

Bradford's volleyball team won 3-1 in a tense high quality game that had controversy and drama till the very last second.

he game began with a high-energy start from Huddersfield, quickly taking the lead. Bradford's Number 5, Wartia, struggled with a spike shot that led to errors, which became a recurring issue for them in the first set. In contrast, Huddersfield showcased brilliant combination play, particularly from Nova Paulin and Daniel Stapleton, who stood out with their striking. They secured a 12-7 lead at the first break. Bradford's Number 9 posed challenges in the first set but was substituted out, resembling a student in detention on the bench. Mistakes marred Bradford's game, making it easier for Huddersfield, who ultimately won the set 25-14, leading 1-0 in the match.

It was almost a role reversal in the second set where it began to be Bradford that were forcing the mistakes out of Huddersfield. With them being level pegging at the start 3-3. Then at 5-4 this is when the dubious calls began to be from the officials. This first one was a ball that was close to the line being called out that could be used as a Specsavers. Although, the poor set up shots were something the officials couldn't control for Huddersfield and the Bradford depth started to show with them being simply too good and getting to a 20-12 lead. Despite a late comeback they were not able to stop Bradford who drew level.

In the game Huddersfield kept the same 6 players on the court as they didn't have any substitutions available and defiantly showed as Bradford's number 5 who came on a substitute changed the game. The set looked good for

Huddersfield at 17-10. The biggest moment of the match happened in controversial serve occurred that took about 3 minutes to solve and meant we got to see Sir Alex Ferguson-like fury on the touch line. Chants took over the arena and a tense, cagey atmosphere developed. This was the tied turning event. From this, Huddersfield could stop a bulldozing comeback from Bradford with n11 the star of the show.

In the final set, although a gallant effort from Huddersfield with a team that had given everything, they narrowly lost the 4th set and match 3-1. While they lost their grit, their determination was something of a gold standard



HUDDERSFIELD CLIMBERS RISE TO TOP AND TRIUMPH OVER BRADFORD

By 9saac Hall

The bunch in blue blew away Bradford in this year's climbing competition. In what can be seen as a calculated victory, Huddersfield took their time, assessing not only the wall but also the competition, as they cruised to a 31-point victory over their bitter rivals.

The competition spanned over a 3-hour time limit, so all 19 contestants had more than enough time to get the best out of the occasion and did not have to rush to any silly mistakes. Tom Pagon, a seasoned veteran of the wall climbing world, and post-graduate student, scored 140 points on the occasion, and knows himself how important it is to be self-evaluative, as climbing is often regarded as an individualistic affair. After his all-star performance he reflected on how he did, saying: "There's a couple of things I still have to work on, but overall I'm very pleased with my performance."

However, although each climber's performance is their own, the two teams are just that, a team, and as such they are cheering each other on from the sidelines, motivating one another, offering advice to those unsure, and what really shone through was the sportsmanship between

the two sides, each side were congratulating each other after a successful climb, and saying what to do next time.

Tom has been in a fair share of teams over his climbing tenure with varsity, and evaluated how his side performed, stating: "We have a really nice spread of skill level, and experience, which has made [today] really enjoyable, seeing people work through issues, working through their different challenges and problems."

Tom is also studying his post-graduate at Huddersfield, and is the only member of the team to be doing so, and in terms of the whole of Varsity, Tom makes up a very small percentage of the teams that are on post-grad degrees, but Tom does feel strongly that more students past main graduate level should get into varsity, as he says: "It's a really good way to do something different, being a post-grad can be quite intense, it's also a good way to meet people outside of your immediate area."

Overall, the blue side of the climbers had a hugely successful event, taking a 163 point average over their rivals' 132, heading back to HD1 with their heads held high.



VARSITY 2024 EDITION VARSITY 2024 EDITION

HUDDERSFIELD HEROES DELIVER SECOND HALF THUMPING TO WIN VARSITY FOOTBALL

By gacob Elomri

Huddersfield win 4-2 in a second half goal fiesta to make sure there wasn't a share of the spoils at the football.

Early on it was a good Bradford start with a deflected effort bringing urgency into the Huddersfield performance. The cagey start continued until in the 28th minute when a centre back come attacker Owen Moulding got on the end a long throwing forcing a pawing save from the Bradford keeper.



The pressure was beginning to mount. Then in the 32nd minute,

Huddersfield's number 8 who on the right wing had been turning his man inside and out gained some rare final product to deliver a brilliant ball in behind the Braford defence. The goalkeeper was unable to sweep the ball up in a 50/50 with Josh Dimbleby, then Huddersfield's Italian stallion Richard Basha was able to knock into an open net to make it 1-0. There were only a couple of half chances to finish the half.

The second half was under way with the second goal coming courtesy of our very own Rory Delap delivering a throw-in for Dimbleby to header into the left corner. The rebuttal was quick with Bradford's number 17 on the half volley, forcing a brilliant save. However, the goal did come from number 12 and the talking to at half time was clear to see with the pressing and intensity from Bradford.

Although, Huddersfield yet again saw this as a wake up call around the 60 minute mark and started to get some joy down the left hand side of the pitch. The third Huddersfield goal was a peach with some great channel play by Basha playing the ball into the middle and to score his second Dimbleby unleashed a rocket 20 yard volley that took a slight deflection.

Huddersfield were now in the grove when the 4th came with some 5 minutes later determined left wing play from number 9 getting into the box and Basha cheekily finishing off the on target shot. A good long-range effort from Bradford's number 6 did reduce arrears but bar some good saves White had to make for Huddersfield, the game finished in Huddersfield glory.

Huddersfield's manager gave his thoughts on man of the match Dimbleby: "Since we've come back for Varsity prep you can see how much it meant to him to finish off an obviously. I'm so happy two goals and an assist" he said. Also going on to talk about the performance not being one of the best from the team, but the tactical work and preparation paid off.

Scores in full for Huddersfield...

Basketball men — loss
Cheerleading — loss
Netball 1s — win
Swimming men — win
Swimming women — loss
Volleyball men — loss
Volleyball women — loss
Netball 2s — win

Climbing — win
Cricket — loss
Badminton men — win
Badminton women — win
Football men 2s — win
Football men 1s — win
Rugby League — loss

BRADFORD CLAW BACK MONENTUM IN CRICKET

By Bradley MacHavbunga

Huddersfield were defeated 2-1 in a best-of-3 series against Bradford on the final day of this year's Varsity event.

Huddersfield went into this game with a mountain to climb facing a 5-3 deficit after the previous day's round of events. A victory in this event was essential to help retain the Varsity Cup.

Huddersfield won the coin toss and chose to bat first. The tension when the two teams met was palpable.

The game started with Sam Holdaway batting for Huddersfield. The batter scored 5 runs for the first over

Ahmad Kabir was the second person to bat and hit the first maximum of the game. He went on to score back-to-back 6s in the second over. However, Kabir's momentum quickly stopped at 30 as he was caught out

The umpire called the end to the interval and Huddersfield set Bradford a target of 96 runs to beat.

Huddersfield struggled with several misfields which resulted and Bradford gaining extra runs. Huddersfield's chances of victory were dashed in the last over after a wide throw. Bradford sealed the first game with 2 runs to spare.

The second game was underway with Huddersfield batting first. Huddersfield looked sharper and more organised during this round of batting with Kabir getting back-to-back retirements.

Kabir's shot just brushed past a Bradford fielder to

score a 6 and he went on to score a 4 in his very next shot. Both opens retired for the cup holders. However, Bradford scored their first wicket of the game and managed to run off one of the Huddersfield batters a few moments later.

Huddersfield scored 134 runs with Bradford needing a target of 135.

Bradford's batters clawed momentum back which frustrated the Huddersfield camp. The frustration grew into a mistake from one of the fielders who missed a golden chance to catch a Bradford batter napping. Just before a Bradford batter retired, he was getting quite wound up by some Huddersfield students near the net which made for quite amusing viewing.

After going back and forth through the majority of the game, Huddersfield grabbed their first win in the second game by 19 runs.

The 3rd game was the decider of who won the event. Bradford managed to catch out 2 Huddersfield batters early on. The last man standing was run out and Huddersfield only managed to score 39 runs. Bradford met the target of 40 to close out the game.

In the event that they needed to win, Huddersfield just fell short. They showed great resilience to draw things level in the second game. Bradford just managed to show more quality in the key moments which decided the win.

Huddersfield just fell short against Bradford in this afternoon's cricket match #Varsity2024

Overall score: Bradford 7 - 8 Huddersfield

Well done to ALL our teams and competitors from Huddersfield! We look forward to Varsity 25!

VARSITY 2024 EDITION VARSITY 2024 EDITION

PIGEONS ON THE MOON: MUSICAL GENES, BAND NAMES AND ANOTHER GIG!

Ava Peter, Jon Wood and Harvey Fraser are the masterminds of the three-piece indie band aptly titled Pigeons on the Moon.

With Peter on vocals, Wood on drums, and Fraser playing bass, each band member contributes something different to the group. With two of the 'Pigeons' previously knowing each other through studying the same course, it's great to see the is designing pigeon related logos University has brought together a pool full of talent.

Having on-stage experience performing at Northern Quarter just over two months ago in February, in Huddersfield's town centre, the crowd's enjoyment of the band was obvious. With a setlist spanning folk, pop, indie and rock, it's clear to see that Pigeons on the Moon are not afraid of genre-bending and experimentation. The band know how to keep their target audience

You may be wondering how the name came about. This isn't your

usual one-

By 7homas Welia

worded act, instead there's four. The one-of-a-kind name came from the lead vocalist who shares, 'I went to music college, and in that we needed to make a band. So me and my little sister decided to brainstorm names for a band, we didn't use it in College. So I was like, Oh, why don't we use it now?'. This is a real student affair as Wood's flatmate is contributing too. Peter smiles, 'Fran and mascots, so it's actually worked out perfectly'.

Drumming must be in Jon's nature as he detailed 'My dad used to play drums in a cover band called Swordfish, then also in The Brazilians'. Another interesting point to note is the bassist Fraser can play a five string fretless bass, a remarkable feat. Not only is the band's name fascinating, the trio themselves are too.

Their debut gig may have been spectacular, but it didn't come without any obstacles. Ava describes going into the performance, 'I lost my voice the day before our gig

at Northern Quarter. I did not

know what sounds we're going to get out of my mouth. So I was absolutely terrified, I thought it's going to be like, awful. I thought we were going to absolutely tank it'. Peter wasn't the only band member who got unlucky they explain, '(Harvey) got blisters. I ended up miming out what I was going to do on stage to rest my voice'. Ava details the rehearsal process, 'The week before the gig we went up like four hours every day, just practising, practising, practising'

Their efforts have not gone unnoticed as it appears this band won't be small for too long gaining appraisal after their performance. 'Three people came up to me, even the guy behind the bar said my drumming was good. He told me he played drums as well', Jon marvelled, 'I said thank you. It was so Fun. I didn't know he could see

This opportunity and the upcoming gig are both accredited to the Tech Stores Team in the Laurie Annie Wilson Building who helped make this all happen.

If you're eager for more Pigeons on the Moon content, original songs are next on the roster but just before that, a second show at Northern Quarter which will fall somewhere in the week of Monday 13th May is their top priority.



By Dur-e-sheywaar Ahmed

We've all been there. When you've spent the last 3 hours scrolling on social media, forgetting about that assignment that is due in 2 days or your 9 am class. You thought you had time, right? wrong. You told yourself that you work better last minute. You do not.

Here are 4 tips on being the best and most productive version of yourself:

Tip 1: Go to sleep on time

You might think all you need is a cup of coffee but what you need is a good night's sleep. According to the Mental Health Foundation, sleeping poorly increases the risk of a negative impact on mental health. When you haven't reached your optimum amount of sleep, for adults it is usually around 7-8 hours, you are irritable, tired, and have poor concentration and focus which affects your productivity levels. How this works involves your Circadian rhythm, your body's internal alarm clock. It responds to the light in the environment and lasts 24 hours. The quality of sleep is poor and the person's body goes against natural daylight hours. The sun plays a huge part in our productivity levels and mental health. Make sure to get as much Vitamin D as you can from the sun!

Tip 2: Exercise

It's such a classic one. Exercise is usually the answer to everything. Not only does it release happy endorphins that boost your mood, but it also reduces the risk of developing health disorders such as Heart disease and keeps you healthy, reducing the 'risk of early death by 30%' according to the NHS. The UK Chief Medical Officers' Physical Activity Guidelines recommend aiming to do 150 minutes of physical activity over a week. You can do this through different activities, biking, which strengthens your cardiovascular system so you're not struggling to breathe when taking the stairs up to your classes, swimming which builds endurance or team sports such as Volleyball or

Tip 3: A healthy diet

I'm sure you've heard of 'You are what you eat', but did you know just how true it is? Consuming junk food and developing unhealthy eating habits won't give you the energy to finish your assignments or go out with your friends. In fact, according to Harvard Health, consuming a diet high in refined sugar can impair brain function and worsen mood disorders such as depression. Although you might like pizza, I can assure you that you probably don't like eating it every day, because it isn't a feel-good food, the way food companies want you to think. RMIT found that eating junk food reduces the brain's neuroplasticity which is essential to forming new memories and becoming quick learners. The NHS recommends high fibre-starchy carbohydrates such as wholewheat and brown pasta. It goes without saying, but your 5 a day is the way!

Tip 4: Practice Gratefulness

Writing 3 things you are grateful for every morning can change your whole day. Practising gratitude is a key component in motivation and productivity. In a Forbes article, it was found that receiving a pep talk from the boss of a firm, thanking colleagues for all their hard work, increased workflow, and fundraising over a group that didn't receive it. Being grateful encourages a growth mindset, knowing you are a part of something bigger than yourself drives purpose which coincides with higher productivity levels. Consistently practising gratitude can reduce feelings of stress and anxiety as found by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

BENEFICIAL LESSONS THAT I'VE LEARNT FROM RAMADAN

By Ayman Sabir

There is no doubt whatsoever that for many Muslims the most peaceful time of the year is Ramadan! For those who may not be familiar with what takes place within the holy month, Ramadan includes four, serene weeks of fasting to detox the body, praying to get spiritually closer to Islam as well as focusing on the present. Questions like "not even water?!" Are slightly relevant... But try not to ask them.

The main misconception people have is that it's all about not eating or drinking and lots of prayer. I'm here to tell you it's not! In fact, I'm here to tell you that whether you are Muslim or not, fasting and Ramadan both have some extremely beneficial lessons to learn from.

1. Discipline and wore concentration:

Believe it or not, with less food in your system, attention levels are incredibly high. This Ramadan, I've definitely noticed that I've had more concentration whilst writing my assignments, which has allowed me to power through and get things done! Also, I believe that the act of fasting in itself, has allowed me to reach a level of discipline that will be reciprocated throughout the year, and I'll tell you how now:

Do you know when those gym rats (myself included) who go on and on about sticking to your designated gym schedule? The ones that don't stop talking about training and strictness? (Myself very much not included). Those people are the same individuals who are the most dedicated and disciplined because they know that missing out on one of the key elements that make up their gym routine, could result in them becoming lazy and ultimately affects their entire performance.

Ramadan can be viewed in the same way; it's hard, yes, but missing out on one day of fasting, or becoming lazy may affect other aspects of life.

2. Being present:

This particular lesson has been the most helpful for me because sometimes, I feel like everyday life responsibilities prevent me from taking the time to appreciate now. I can't explain it through words; it's very much a feeling that is experienced through fasting itself, but during Ramadan this year the feeling of being present was abundant. It felt like the worries and stresses of university assignments were no longer there, the urges to have to spend hours on social media had completely dissipated, the yearning of other worldly experiences were put to rest. Focusing on the present for me meant spending time with family, having time to reflect both spiritually and mentally and also just being able to live without being concerned about everything else.

3. Gratitude:

Another aim of Ramadan is to try and relate to those who aren't as fortunate as us. So funnily enough, having less food and water, really made me aware of how blessed and grateful we should be. The best thing is, because Ramadan was for a month, this feeling is more likely to stay than a two-day New Year's resolution. Gratitude also sprouted from other aspects, such as me being thankful to having time to really connect with one of the most important things in my life: my religion. Any other Muslims/ religious individuals reading this, will know just how much sometimes your heart yearns to feel that spirituality. Ramadan definitely gave me that!

It's a shame that it had to go by so quickly, but I'm utterly delighted to have taken so many lessons from this.

To the Muslim readers: I hope you all had a blessed month and Eid, and too anybody else: These lessons are gained from any aspect of life that gives back a peaceful and positive spirit. If you find them, cherish them!



TOP TIPS FOR SURVIVING THE DREADED FINAL SEMESTER AT UNI - FROM REAL STUDENTS...

By Eve Goode

Has that dreaded final semester crept up on you unknowingly... again? In this article you'll find real tips from University students in the UK that have been trialled and errored to help you survive the last few assignments! This time of year is hard for everyone. Trust me. Balancing getting to every lecture, seminar and exam all whilst finding time to complete your assignments, going to work and having some free time for yourself! We understand that this can leave you feeling stressed, anxious and extremely tired. However, we hope this small guide with tips and tricks from students that are and have been in your position may help to relieve this... even a little bit. Here are 5 Basic Top Tips on how you're going to survive:

Stay Organised - Get yourself a white board or a calendar that you

can mark everything important onto! This will help you keep track of everything to make sure you don't miss a deadline and ensure you have enough time to complete everything! Get that study schedule in check!

Stay In Touch - Although it can be difficult to keep in touch with your friends during this stressful time, it's important to keep your friends near and dear to ensure you are all doing ok! Don't hesitate to reach out if you're finding the pressure too much! Stay in touch with your lecturers just as much. They are there to help you if you need it! Maintaining your network around you allows you to receive support, encouragement and guidance.

Set Celebrations for After - Make sure you have plans made for after the semester is over. This gives you

something to look forward to and will mean all your hard work will have paid off.

Allow Yourself to be Flexible - One assignment may end up running into the time you put aside for something else. Always allow yourself some extra time as there may need to be some adjustments made. The last semester can be daunting but just remember... in a few months you'll have that scroll in your hand!

Take a Break! - Always allow yourself to take that well-deserved break. Your assignment can wait 20 minutes whilst you have some time to yourself! By taking regular breaks this will allow for you to avoid burnout. Small breaks allow your mind to refocus and concentrate. Yes! Breaks can actually lead to you producing better work!

Now you have heard the five top tips, here we are going to show you five tips that helped real students across the country to get through that last semester. These responses may end up helping you! So listen up... Here are 5 Realistic Tips from Real Students:

Emily Hamilton (Law - University of Sheffield).

"Get some comfy pyjamas from Primark and a box of snacks, you're going to be spending a lot of time in your room this term so you may as well be comfy and fed whilst you do it! After each assignment was finished I allowed myself to get a treat, like my nails or eyelashes done so I had something to get me through."

Lauren Hindle (University of Huddersfield).

"Make sure you organise your time better than you did last semester. It will help you stop your head from exploding! Leave procrastination in last term, you want your summer to yourself and don't want to have to do any resits."

Erin Hughes (Kanine Training - Gloucestershire University)

"Prioritise sleeping. I do most of my work in the evening and late into the night but I still get a good amount of sleep. I don't think I would've gotten through my dissertation if I didn't! If you need an extension for any of your assignments, don't be afraid to ask. Your lecturers are more understanding than you might think."

Abigail Ainger (PR & Marketing - Canterbury Christ Church University).

"Pace yourself, take regular breaks and don't feel guilty about having a breather. It allows your mind to reset. I used to get quite overwhelmed by my dissertation and my mind would fog, this would help me regulate my thoughts when I got back to working after my break."

Rhiannon Whitmore (Social Care - Birmingham City University).

"Don't lose sight of your goals. It is hard right now but it's only a few months and it'll be finished. If you're talking physically then don't forget to talk to your family and friends, especially your uni friends because everyone is in the same boat."

By following all ten of the tips provided, this will give you a better chance at getting through the final semester successfully. Remember, stay organised, stay connected and make time for yourself! Continue to be determined, mindful, strong and hardworking and everything you have completed in the past three years will pay off. It won't be long before you're collecting your scroll at graduation and moving into the next stage of your life, whatever that may be!

FROM TABOO TO TRIUMPH: THE EVOLUTION OF POLE DANCE

By Elise Coward

Pole dance is a sport that consists of a mixture of dance and acrobatics. It requires great core strength and dancers use their skin to grip the pole to achieve hypnotising spins, contortions, and gymnastics. It requires great stamina and dancers are commonly covered in bruises. Sounds brutal right? Well, you'd be correct. It's a killer of a sport and takes more than some high heels and a cute outfit to look good. If I was talking about any other sport, I'm sure you'd be in awe and thinking "Wow I have major respect for people who can do that", but for whatever reason, the pole in the middle of it all makes it inappropriate and shameful.

In society, men are more often seen as the dominant figures whereas women are seen as more submissive and often objects of desire, leading to pole dance being perceived as an activity primarily catering to the male gaze. Many sources I read whose aims were to de-stigmatise pole dancing even made jabs at strippers saying "It is widely assumed that to be a pole dancer, one must first be a stripper who abuses her body to make quick money from men." I spoke with erotic dancer Kiea Sharif-Stringfellow she believed that these comments and opinions came from people who had clearly never worked in the industry and that they were "anti-sex work rhetoric".

You may be thinking, "Why would people want to pole dance when all this stigma comes along with it?". Well, after speaking to the president of Huddersfield University's Pole Fitness Club, Bethany Murphy, it wasn't hard to see why. "Pole is the one place I see women actually supporting each other and genuinely wanting each other to succeed rather than competing." Kiea said that whilst working, "I met a lot of my close friends there... they're all my little sisters and big sisters."

I performed 2 studies to find out what the modern perspectives are on pole dancing. The first survey consisted of 40 people, all of whom had never tried pole dance.

Here's what I concluded; I asked all participants what kind of person they imagined when they heard "pole dancer". Words that came up a staggering amount of times were confident, flexible, and powerful. What I concluded from these results was

that people are beginning to truly appreciate the efforts that go into pole dancing instead of instantly connecting it to the misogynistic stigmas that it's usually tied to.

My second study was done on people who had pole danced before. This consisted of 15 people. 100% of the participants said they'd recommend pole dancing to others due to how fun and rewarding it is. One participant wrote: "The community is very welcoming, it's great exercise and it makes you feel good about yourself".

SJ believes that "There will always be a section of the population who want to objectify pole dancers", and whilst this is probably true, from my study it's clear to see that perspectives are changing for the better. Pole dance isn't just about being sexy, it can be elegant, contemporary, or simply just for fitness.

It's a space where people can come together and show their support whilst also being supported, everyone gives, meaning everyone also receives. It's a beautiful cycle. It is a community full of pure, untainted love where people get genuinely excited over other people's successes, whether they've known each other for years, or have just met them that day. There is no hierarchy, no favouritism from the instructors, and all love and it's incredible to see that the general public is beginning to realise it.



THIS BAND IS BONKERS!

Zy %olly genkins

Are you looking for new music to listen to? Fancy broadening your horizons? This funky and fresh new collective Bonk! may be the band for you!

Combining genres such as funk, jazz, prog-pop, post-punk, and psychedelic rock, even the fourpiece refuse to be confined to a singular genre, as they often post TikTok videos asking fans how they would classify their band. Made up of Dan Hewitt on vocals and guitar, Sam Robinson on bass, Badri Ram Mohan on kevs, and Remy Forrester on drums, Liverpool's Bonk! is the future of funk. The band have recently released their first EP, entitled The Act of Doing It. It contains 4 tracks and is suitably timed for their UK tour. Fridge Lightbulb. Safety In Numbers, Wave, and Preserve make up their first major release since their first singles Nepotism, Wave, and Preserve. Fridge Lightbulb is an incredible instrumental opener on the EP, and with a funk twist, can be harkened to the post-punk excellence of Horsey and black midi. Safety In Numbers responsibly continues the postpunk vocals, creating a hauntingly funky listening experience. 'Wave completely changes things up, as the psychedelic surf rock tune perfectly accompanies a groovy stroll on a sunny day. Closing the EP is Preserve, a number that wouldn't be out of place in a modern cowboy film. The opening guitar riff is a perfect fusion of cowboy and klezmer, much like a unique twist on Black Country, New Road's Opus. The large textures in Preserve and Safety In Numbers especially pay a great homage to modern UK post-punk, but completely reinvented in Bonk!'s unique way.

I was lucky enough to be able to see the collective live in Manchester earlier this month, at Band On The Wall. They were supported by Ask My Bull, a flamboyant jazz-punk group from Manchester. There was a distinct klezmer influence and a musically playful and irreverent chemistry between the two saxophones. I don't think it is actually possible to stand still listening to these guys. Bonk!'s set treated us to the contents of their newest EP, but also weaved in a number of other original tracks, and even some covers. Their first Spotify single Nepotism was particularly enjoyable, as Sam on bass particularly shined, both playing and moving around simultaneously and effortlessly.

Say Kwah was reminiscent of Italian rock band,
Måneskin. We then heard Weapons Grade
Charisma, Bike Ride (the first song they ever
recorded), and Bonkspace (just like their website).
Byzantine Conquerors and Sexy And I Know It, a
cover, originally by LMFAO was next. I definitely
was not expecting to hear a jazz-funk cover of
childhood throwback band LMFAO. The audience
was taken aback by the unexpected cover, yet was
incredibly well received and was the perfect choice
of song. Finally, we all sang along to an interactive
number Big Seventies Porn Moustache, trying not to
giggle. I attended this concert by myself and would
not recommend it more as I was welcomed by the
arms of Bonk! into their weird soundscapes.

These guys are absolutely absurd. I have serious trouble naming a group more unique and innovative in modern music. Bonk! manage to effortlessly mesmerise audiences with so many nuances to other modern music, yet completely flip the script with their jazz-funk twist. For fans of Black Country, New Road, black midi, horsey, TOOL, Yin Yin, King Gizzard & The Lizard Wizard, and to everyone, I could not recommend this band more. Prepare to be Bonked!



Thank you for reading!

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SPECIAL THANKS TO JENNY GIBSON, DAVID EASSON & DANIEL LEVICK FOR HELPING US ORGANISE THIS EDITION. ADDITIONAL THANKS TO THE SPORTS JOURNALISM STUDENTS THAT WORKED WITH DAVID TO REPORT ON VARSITY





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