

EDGE MAGAZINE

BITING BACK: DANGEROUS DOGS? SPORT MENTAL HEALTH NEWS & REVIEWS

Table of Contents



6

Dangerous Dogs?

Reporter Rosie Downen joins calls for a re-think to the UK's 30-year-old legislation to curb the ownership of dangerous dogs and asks how effective the Act actually is.

18

Mental Health

Mental health issues are on the rise for young people nationally. Poppy Kearney asks what support is available and why there is such a demand for services.



IO Sporting Triumph

Callywith's sporting teams have been in action again with successes in both football and netball despite some stiff competition both home and away.



12 Photography special

16 News & views

14 Album review

Hello & Welcome

Edge is back for its second year, packed with new issues, spectacular photography and everyday news... all with a fresh design. With a different team of editors and designers, and now with 800 students with diverse skills and interests who are free to contribute their stories, this is sure to be a great year for Edge. My name is Jack Pompa and I'm this year's editor of Edge! I'm currently in my AS year focusing on media studies and English language and living in Wadebridge. For this issue of Edge we have many diverse articles lined up, and I'm looking forward to seeing what the team and you, the student has to add. We follow Poppy Kearney into the world of mental health services and the extent to which they are needed now more than ever. Rosie Downen also makes an impassioned plea for changes to The Dangerous Dogs Act and we see the work of some incredible photographers.

If YOU have any interesting, creative, topical or burning additions to contribute to Edge then feel free to email me: jp307189@callywith.ac.uk

We are open to any suggestions and we will try our best to get your story in the next issue of Edge... Thank you very much for your support!

Jack



Editor Jack Pompa

Join the team at Edge in Garrow 127 every
Wednesday afternoon.



Photo courtesy of Rosie Dowen

WHEN LOOKS MATTER

Hundreds of dogs are put down every year due to the Dangerous Dogs Act even if they have never attacked anyone. In a personal opinion piece, dog-lover **Rosie Downen** calls for a change to the law.

It's coming up to the 30th birthday of the Dangerous Dogs Act, which restricts the ownership of certain dog breeds deemed to be dangerous. Whilst some dogs will return home with a muzzle, others are kept shut in cages, enduring their last dog days waiting to be euthanised – but why? Most, for their behaviour; but also in some cases, just for their appearance.

Over the years people have misread the guidelines and labelled family dogs as something they are not. One of the prime examples of this is the American Pit Bull, branded the most 'dangerous' dog. The most devastating thing is that it is possible to cross the banned breed, which can result in these cross breeds sharing similar looks to other dogs such as the Staffordshire bull terrier and Pit Bull mixes. This leads to some dogs being seized from their loving homes and taken to kill shelters where they are assessed to see if they are a threat to people or other dogs. No dog is born violent,

it is largely the way that they are brought up that determines their characteristics. One of the most used dogs for bait is the American Pit Bull. This is purely because they are a muscular, strong-jawed dog.

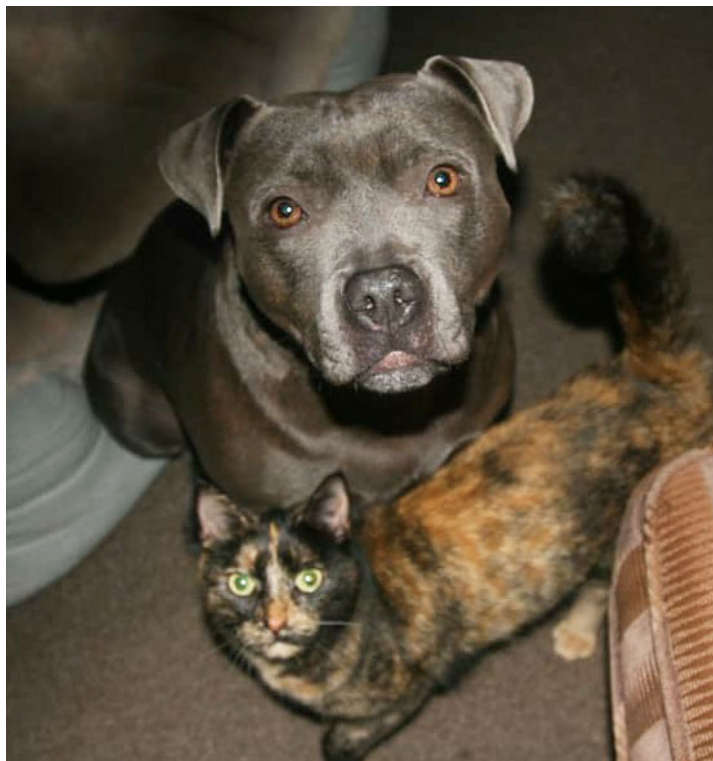
In October last year, Labour's Gordon Marsden said that Pit Bull type dogs are routinely put down due to law, but they are often judged on the looks of the dog and not their behaviour.

He told a Select Committee looking into the Act: "My wonderful bull terrier-type dog was rescued from the streets and to think of her being destroyed because her face did not fit in court is chilling."

Dogs accused of being dangerous are measured on a 100 point scale, where only 10 points are allocated to behaviour. This can put similar-looking dogs at a high risk of being wrongly seized and taken to a 'kill station' where they await their fate, according to Mr Marsden. However, just because they look this way



Rosie's dog Blu is sometimes mistaken for a banned breed



Staffies have an unfair reputation for aggression

Calls for a change in the law

does not mean that they are violent. I own a Staffordshire bull terrier, which is along the same family and gene line as the Pit Bull. She is a female and she is the most loving, caring animal that my family has ever owned. Despite this we still get funny looks when taking her for walk. She quite often gives kisses and falls asleep on your lap, yet it is frightening to know that she could be seized and taken away from us.

The point of this article is to bring attention to the breed specific legislation before more dogs are put to sleep for the wrong reasons.

The impact of breed specific legislation is felt by many. We know that the majority of dogs affected by this law tend to be family dogs. When dogs are seized as suspected dangerous dogs, it is usually carried out using a search warrant by the police. Most dogs, even if friendly, are taken away by catchpole - which is extremely distressing for both dogs and owners. The dog can appear aggressive out of fear.

How does a parent explain the law to a child that their dog may never return home because of the way it looks?

FACTFILE

According to figures, hospital admissions for dog attacks rose by 76 per cent in a decade.

Serious dog attacks are thankfully rare. According to RSPCA figures, 37 people were killed by dogs between 1991 and 2016 but in 28 of those cases people were attacked by dogs that were not banned.

The Pit Bull terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino and Fila Brasileiro are all banned dogs in this country.



Above: MP Gordon Marsden has urged the Commons to consider a change in the law.



The netball teams (left and right) enjoy their successes.

SPORTING SUCCESS FOR CALLYWITH TEAMS AGAIN

This academic year the Netball Academy has doubled in students, showing how popular the sport is becoming. We now have 3 teams at Callywith. First team playing in the AoC League and National Cup, second team playing FE Social League and our third team playing friendlies with other colleges and sixth forms. There has been some outstanding progress in the academy, which I am very proud of. Every individual works hard, wants to improve and has fun. The

first team has had an extremely successful year so far entering in the National Netball Cup. Starting with a 118-0 score against West Somerset College progressing to Round 64, in which we came up against a local team Penwith College. The girls fought so hard in that game after being down until the 3rd quarter. We managed to pull it back and won 56-46. We are now in the last 32 and being the last Cornish team in the cup we are hoping to carry on our winning streak as we face Exeter College

1st away on the 23rd January. Our second team are having a successful season so far. Winning the FE Challenge Cup and not losing one game throughout the whole tournament. The girls showed great determination in all games and really worked well as a team. We are currently second in the FE Social league table and are hoping to finish top by the end of the season. The third team at college has had opportunities playing Wadebridge School, Brannel, Newquay Treviglas and Launceston. We have had two wins from four. They really enjoy the social and fitness aspects of the netball academy.

THE ONES TO BEAT

As a Football Academy, we made an excellent start to our first ever competitive season in the AoC South West League, winning 3 out of our 4 league games, beating Truro College 1sts, South Devon College and Penwith College 1sts



along the way, and drawing 1-1 at home to a strong Torquay Academy side. In addition to this, we thrashed Plymouth Argyle Education (Cornwall) 7-0 in the first round of the Cup, with George Harvey scoring a hat-trick before losing to Torquay Academy in the next round.

We continued our good league form by beating PETROC College 2-1 at home with Michael Barton and George Harvey grabbing the goals. However, we met Torquay Academy for the 3rd and final time this season the week after, where we narrowly lost 2-1 despite a determined performance. We currently sit joint top of the table with Torquay and still half of the season to go, so the league title is still a realistic target.

Both Michael Barton and George Harvey have been selected for the Cornwall U18's Representative side this season and have already played against the likes of Bedfordshire and Gloucester.

Michael recently accepted his scholarship offer to play football (soccer) in America at West Virginia University, where he will be studying accounting alongside his sporting commitments. This will no doubt be a fantastic opportunity for Michael and we are all very proud of his achievements.

MOMENTS OF BEING

Photography students have been exploring black and white imagery with some surprising results. Adam Hay reports.

As part of their unit investigating two dimensional outcomes the Level 3 Diploma Photography students were asked to respond to the theme of black and white. In order to develop their conceptual thinking the group was encouraged to consider outcomes which transcended literal representations of black and white and investigate ideas outside of pure photography.

Lily Bray's work, made at locations surrounding her immediate and wider living spaces show how people interact with their home and work environments. Through her work Lily successfully combines photographs of people and places which serve not only as documentary photographs but as a valuable family archive to be enjoyed in years to come.

Kara Stokes adopted a different approach and used the opportunity to represent her concern for the environment. Considering the strong links between the natural world and our dependence upon it Kara has shown visual similarities between human and natural forms. Kara intends for her images to make the viewer consider the fragility of the landscape and our use of it.

The theme of opposites and our ability to portray different personas to suit the perceived expectations of given environments forms the basis of Katy Mitchell's work. Drawing inspiration from portrait and documentary practices, Katy has explored the idea of dual personalities through a character study of her partner. Photographs



of Ryan 'acting up' for the camera in his guise of a boxer are presented alongside more intimate, candid portraits which Katy feels are reflective of his true self. The work leads the viewer to consider not only Ryan's identities but the ways in which we all present ourselves on a daily basis.

The work produced by the students on the course will form part of their final portfolio.

Lily Bray, Kara Stokes and Katy Mitchell explore black and white photography to express landscape, the environment and character.



Tierra Whack

BY ISAAC GUTHRIE

The 23-year-old Philadelphia rapper, producer and auto-crooner's recent 2018 album "Whack World" draws in at a brief 900 seconds worth of content, with all 15 tracks on the list lasting exactly one minute each. Considering the limitations, Whack shows off an impressive range of skills and ideas that vary from track to track. Her colourful poppy aesthetic combined with rattling trap instrumentals creates an easy listening experience from the comical and repetitive lyrics of the opening track "Black Nails" to the raw and exposed atmosphere of "F*** off".

The bright spots on this album show snippets of what could be great full length singles, with cuts such as "Bug's Life" only truly kicking in within the last few seconds of the song before trailing off into the next. This aspect tends to leave the listener wanting more, especially considering how bare the instrumentals can be at times, with them more often than not sounding more like the intro to a great song than a great song in itself. Even though this project only

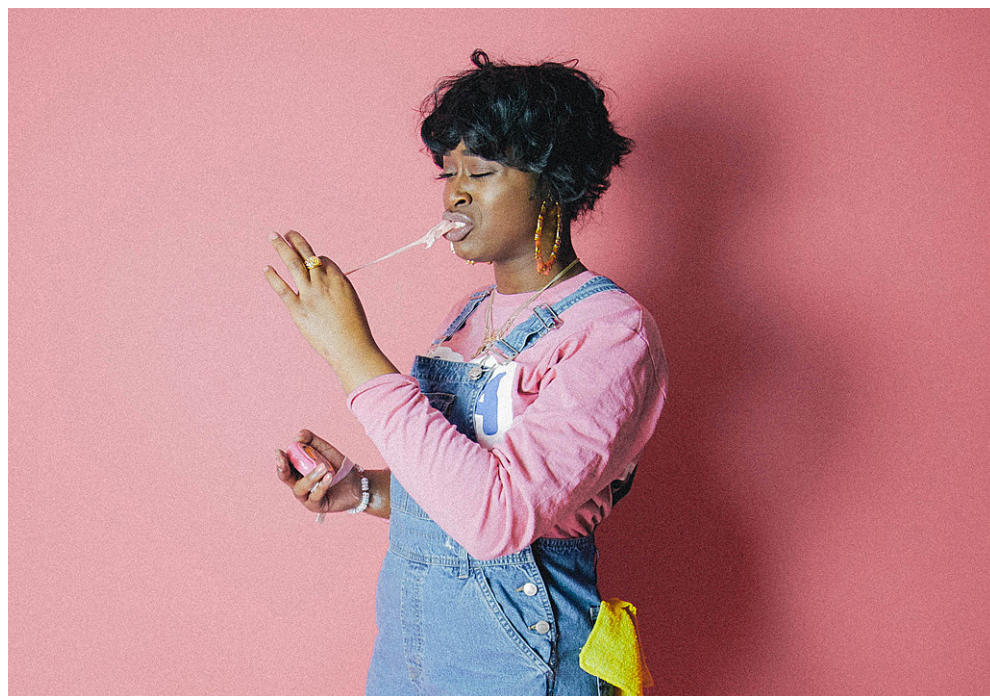
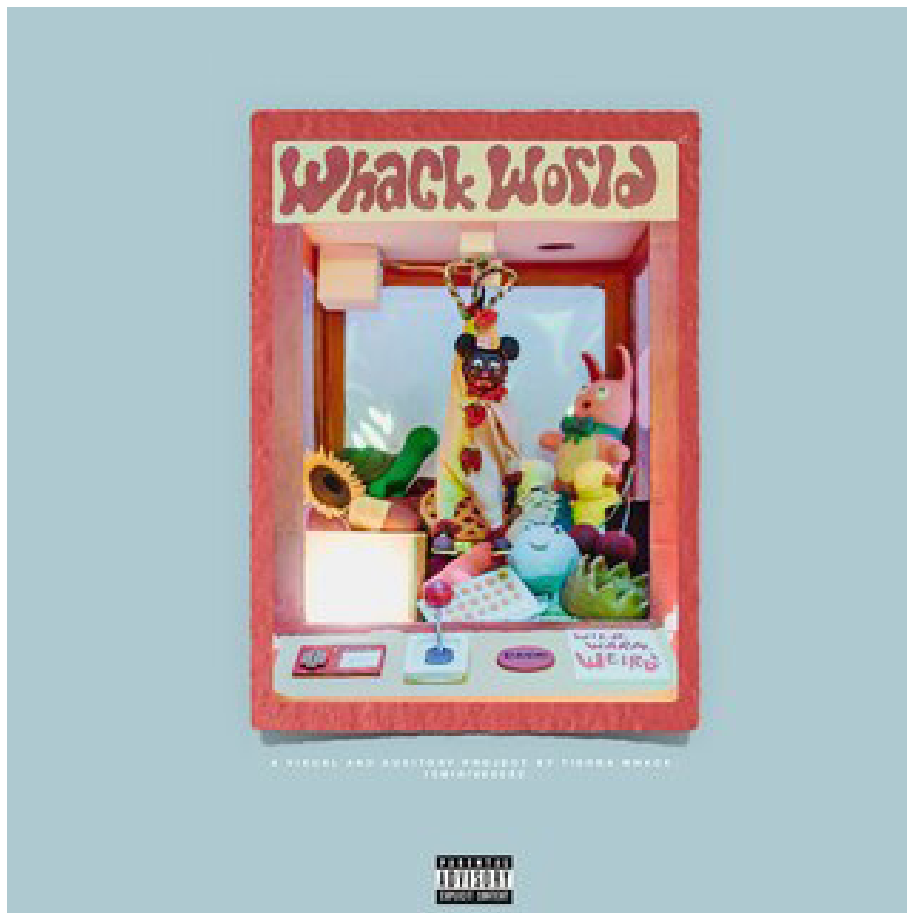
lasts a mere quarter of an hour there are still what could be considered throwaway tracks that slip their way in, songs like "Wings" and "Dr Seuss" which seem more like tools used to pad out the album.

However, Whack's unwavering charisma and comical lyrics, combined with her versatile voice manages to keep interest even through the more stripped back instrumentals. Often, Whack stretches her voice into the realms of crooner and rapper effectively, while her instrumentals contain elements of 80's synth wave and Rhodes' melodies, creating a unique style that is hard to find from anyone else in the same lane as her.

Tierra Whack's "Whack World" shows off a broad range of song styles and ideas in a brief and impressive run time, while also limiting herself with the amount of experimentation and development she can put into each song, causing few songs to often miss the mark.

However, when they hit that mark, they stick out as something clearly unique and heartfelt. Some more please and make it quick!







Media and drama student Louie Greensmith takes the lead role in Blink.



Actor Dean Nolan offers drama students the benefit of his experience



There was no escaping from the snow!

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

Students on the Extended Diploma in Media Production course have taken part in a Script to Screen challenge creating an original dystopian film for upcoming film festivals. This featured media AS student Louie Greensmith fighting to disrupt the system, and Abbie Hosken as his helping hand. The film was shot over three days at Callywith College and on location at Davidstow airfield. Director Lucas Hocking said: “It was a great experience learning what it’s like on a real film set”.

NOLAN WORKSHOP

First and second year drama students were lucky enough to have a professional acting workshop from Cornish born stage and film actor Dean Nolan, who has starred in the likes of ‘Pan’ and worked with Cornish theatre company ‘Kneehigh’, as well as currently rehearsing for David Walliams’ novel ‘Billionaire Boy’, the musical production. He brought an upbeat and passionate energy to the group, leading a fun and interactive workshop focusing on vocal, performance and improvisation techniques and providing the pupils with a great opportunity to speak to an industry professional, writes **Maisie Rose-Hurn**.

WINTER WONDERLAND

It was one giant sleepover at Callywith College when the sudden snowfall prevented buses from safely leaving the site. With our own Mark Wardle appearing on Breakfast TV looking remarkably unruffled after the previous night’s happenings and students recounting their own stories of bedding down in the sports hall for the night on TV, it was an eventful time. Fortunately everyone was kept fed and watered. One for the Callywith history books.

WINNING HEARTS AND MINDS

With mental health services nationally being over-stretched, what is college offering to support students through tough times? **Poppy Kearney** reports.

The queue is growing but the budget isn't - this is the reality of mental health services up and down the country. But with so much demand the pressures are only increasing. So what is available for young people suffering with mental health issues in college?

Jamie Crowle from Callywith College's student services said there is a high demand for services across the board, from counselling to emotional support from Macy the therapy dog.

He said: "As a society we are more open to talk about mental health. This causes an increase in the demand for our services."

Nationally there has been question raised around social media and its cause of mental health problems. Social media dramatically changed the way we communicate, socialise, and make and maintain friendships. However young people can also get lost in a world of unrealistic comparisons, cyberbullying, and feeling left out. This can cause lots of pressure on young people today, they can get embarrassed about the

amount of likes they get or don't get this can really effect the amount of confidence young people have.

Jamie agrees, saying: "Social media plays a huge role. It has a lot to answer for in pressuring young people to look a certain way, get a certain amount of likes Instant gratification is very important for young people."

Is the solution to put the phones down? Some people think not. It is important to build up resilience emotionally in life something that you are academically, socially and emotionally resilient. In December the Government recognised the growing calls for mental health services for young people to be better funded, promising a four-week waiting time for specialist support and new teams in schools. But campaigners say the changes are long overdue.

According to new NHS figures, around one in 10 girls aged 16 or 17 were referred to over-stretched specialist mental health services in England last year. One student said: "It's a lot easier to talk about the subject of mental health now."



Macy is a trained therapy dog who helps ease stress.

The charity Mind said: “When you’re living with a mental health problem, or supporting someone who is, having access to the right information - about a condition, treatment options, or practical issues.”

So what is available in Callywith College? Informal talking therapy, formal counselling, advice, careers guidance, sexual health advice,

financial advice and help with housing matters. Callywith works closely with Kooth to deliver trained counselling services.

Callywith College is one of the few educational establishments in the country to have a trained therapy dog, Macy, to help with stress relief and reducing anxiety for students. Drop into student services for more information.

