

SUGARHOUSE TAKEOVER

- We have now secured a DJ.
- £1 Wristbands have been on sale.
- This will take place on Saturday 5th March with predrinks in Flyde bar from 9pm.

CANAL STREET TRIP

- Just awaiting confirmation from LUSU and forms to be filled in, then tickets will be started to be sold ASAP.

HISTORY MONTH REVIEW

- We discussed the highlights and some areas to improve on for next time.
- Ally ribbons, posters with fun facts and the Gaylidlh were successful.
- There was an increased engagement with the wider community
 - A documentary and discussion show on Bailrigg FM radio.
 - Out in the Bay visited with a stall.
 - BBC Lancashire interviewed some of the exec as part of their programme following the Lancaster LGBT Trail.
 - Other societies and groups got involved such as FemSoc dedicated posting about LGBTQ+ individuals and Liminal had a successful open mic night.
- Participation and awareness of the month may need to be improved upon.
 - Some people weren't aware of why the rainbow flag was up on the roundabout. Targeting staff or adding a sign near the flag could mitigate this.
 - SCAN were relatively unhelpful in being supportive or letting our articles about the month's events be published.
 - Seeking other media outlets on campus and making use of television screens across campus would be an alternative way to get around this.
 - Posters tend to get torn up frequently so making use of the poster boards and TV screens, as well as submitting to the "Squeak" newsletter.
 - Film night events were poorly attended and at times advertised quite late.

SOCIALS

- Coffee & Film Night Combinations
 - There was a suggestion to combine coffee evenings with film nights. However, this has been tried in the past, where it proved to be unsuccessful due to people not being aware or just wanting to go there to chat.
 - Board Game Society suggested to combine socials as they occur at the same time on Monday.
- Demand for More Night Out Socials
 - Some members have enquired whether the association would be willing to have more events for going out.
 - This would require sober duty, obtaining kitchen or room to meet beforehand, and it is difficult to ascertain what night would be good.
- Femsoc joint BBQ
 - They have suggested to do a joint BBQ event at some point. Details to be discussed at a later date.

DISCUSSION: REPRESENTATION

- The two main points of this discussion were:
 - Why is representation important?
 - What is good representation?
- Visibility
 - Having a presence of LGBTQ+ representation in the media shows others that we do in fact exist. The aim to “normalise” who we are.
 - It also helps people to become aware of their identity. It’s difficult to know who you are, if you don’t know that others like you exist.
- Subtlety vs Obvious
 - Dumbledore was revealed to be gay but it wasn’t a defining feature.
 - In other media there have been occurrences of tokenisation. A gay character specifically with a gay storyline.
 - The contrast between subtle and obvious ties in with the balance of presenting and dispelling stereotypes.
 - Having LGBTQ+ people that are good and bad, shows that we’re like everyone else. But could this lead to the “Margaret Thatcher effect,” where you have a person of particular demographic that is assumed to be representative of the demographic as whole.

- Queer Coding – “*Queer = Evil ?*”
 - The concept of evil characters in media having features of stereotypes associated with LGBTQ+ people.
 - Subconscious associations may be formed to associated flamboyance with an evil character.
 - There was a suggestion that bisexual femme fatales are portrayed as being unfaithful. Not necessarily the villain of the story, but someone whom adds a negative effect to the plot.

- Two Step Process
 - 1) They’re just there - just having the presence of a LGBTQ+ character in a piece of media is a start, but the portrayal may tend to be shallow and arguably a token character. However, they’re there and they’re visible.
 - 2) They’re only human - having characters that happen to be LGBTQ+ but that they are not defined by their identity.
 - However, there may be a fear of introducing these characters due to ignorance.
 - But media consumption has arguably become an integral part of society, that it informs the social consciousness. Which is why it is important to be represented.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Aromanticism Awareness campaign.
 - Look out for a stall next week.
 - There’ll be a workshop for the meeting next week.
- Out in Sport
 - Perhaps distributing more ally ribbons in line with Roses.
 - We would like this to be included in the Roses media, and will be brought up during the upcoming media summit for Roses.
 - There was a suggestion of running a Trans only joint swimming event with York.
- Elections
 - They have now started and there should be an email with a voter code.
 - JF gave a husting about their campaign for the role of Disabilities Officer. Which you can be eligible to vote for if you self-define as having a disability.