

182,078 SUBSCRIBERS

# TheNationalStudent



[The National Student](#) > [Opinion](#)

---

## Am I a coconut?

[Gursimran Hans](#)

23rd July 2017

RATE THIS ARTICLE

Share This Article:



Coconuts are brown on the outside, but they're white on the inside. I've been accused of being a coconut before - often tongue in cheek, but it brings me to an interesting point.





Like - what the hell does that even mean?

It seems to suggest there's a specific way for people who are British Indian like me and other ethnicities to act.

In fact, I remember after a Philosophy lesson, I read that babies develop the ability to differentiate colours quite late during pregnancy, I was around five and a half weeks premature, before this point. I asked my friend "Does this mea...

**Coconuts are brown on the outside, but they're white on the inside. I've been accused of being a coconut before - often tongue in cheek, but it brings me to an interesting point.**





Like - what the hell does that even mean?

It seems to suggest there's a specific way for people who are British Indian like me and other ethnicities to act.

In fact, I remember after a Philosophy lesson, I read that babies develop the ability to differentiate colours quite late during pregnancy, I was around five and a half weeks premature, before this point. I asked my friend "Does this mean I couldn't tell colour when I was born?".

His reply: "You still can't because you think you're white".

No, this I find is very derogatory; it suggests a person's race defines their characteristics and behaviour and if they don't fit a set prototype that's somehow wrong.

I've had various things about me being used as examples of me being out of character; apparently, rock and metal music is not a thing someone like me should enjoy, it's more of a "white people thing". Because, you know we know about those legendary white supremacist guitarists - Jimi Hendrix and Slash (!)

- Article continues below...
- More stories you may like...
- [Why cutting down on unconditional offers is not a bad thing](#)
- [Why dating apps don't ask for enough information](#)
- [Why our appetite for political protest is doing more harm than good](#)





I sound like I have a couple of plums in the back of my mouth - some people genuinely think I don't actually sound like that and I'm putting it on. Like, I have the time to keep it up for 19 years.

When it comes to politics, this is a lot worse; there's a presumption that being from a minority background I must be left wing. I'm a libertarian unionist Tory and just about every left wing party I've encountered is so far away from my principles, I'd find it very difficult to subscribe to their policies.

People do like casually roasting Tories presuming I'd agree with them, which to be honest is a bit awkward. It's funny how some are adamant that anyone right-of-centre is racist. It's quite racist to think that someone should vote a certain way due to the colour of their skin and anyone who uses that argument is quite simply a fool. It's deliberately divisive and wrong.



I am genuinely surprised with the high proportion of British Indians backing Labour, if I'm honest. If you look at the way Indians think and are raised, the Conservative Party seems a natural home for them. Indeed, the current Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, is perhaps one of the most right-wing democratically elected politicians in the world.

Yet, when, I discuss voting with fellow British Indians, I will never make this point, because it's quite frankly horrible. If anyone ever tells me I should feel guilty for voting a certain way because of my background, I will openly call them out for it.



Going back on the libertarian stuff, I just do what I want; I do the things that make me happy.

I listen to the music I want to, I wear the clothes I want to and I act in the way I want to. This is regardless of what people think I should be. I do my own things, I want to be my own person, and if that doesn't fit into your idea of how I should be, then tough.

Putting labels on people and expecting that to influence their actions is quite frankly wrong. Am I coconut? I don't know, to be honest, you might think I am, but I don't care. I'm my own person, and I'll live the way I want.

[read more](#)

## **You might also like...**

[Should parents be allowed to opt their children out of sex education at school?](#)

[Why our appetite for political protest is doing more harm than good](#)

[Criticism of the Youth Strike 4 Climate protest is shameful](#)

[Why celebrities adverts for diet aids should be banned](#)

[Why cutting down on unconditional offers is not a bad thing](#)

[Why dating apps don't ask for enough information](#)

[Cash is not the solution to the teacher shortage](#)

[An open letter on education: Why it should change, but not in the way you believe](#)

[Filtering Out the 'Weak': University of Edinburgh's Mandatory Interruptions Policy is a slap in the face of student welfare](#)

[Mobile phones in schools: Is a total ban the way forward?](#)

## **People who read this also read...**

[Interview: Flo-Rida](#)

[Leeds and Reading Mini Preview](#)

[How to balance revision & exams with your relationship](#)

[17 Tips For Surviving Freshers' Week](#)

[Fresher Sounds - 23/11/2015](#)

[Dacryphilia: I get wet when you cry](#)

[Interview: Gojira](#)

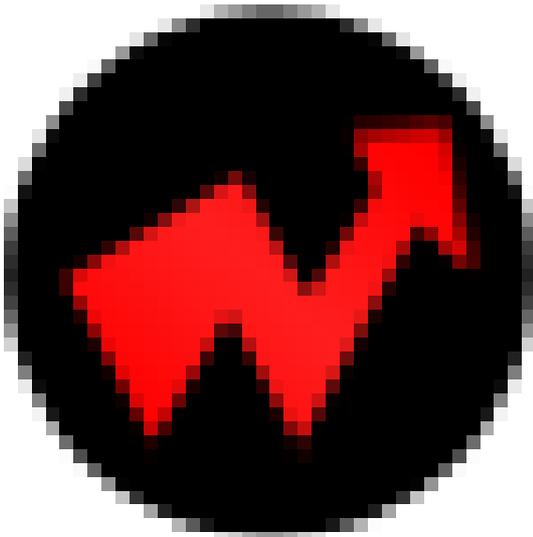
[Interview: Ruby Rose](#)

[From dotwork to traditional: tattoo trends for 2017](#)

[DVD Review: The Team](#)



TRENDING



1

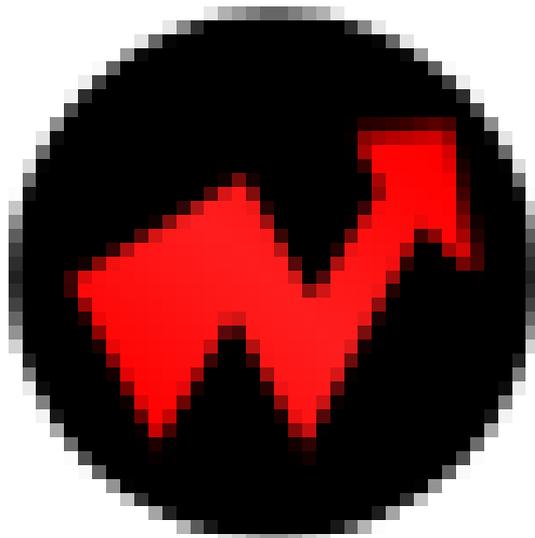
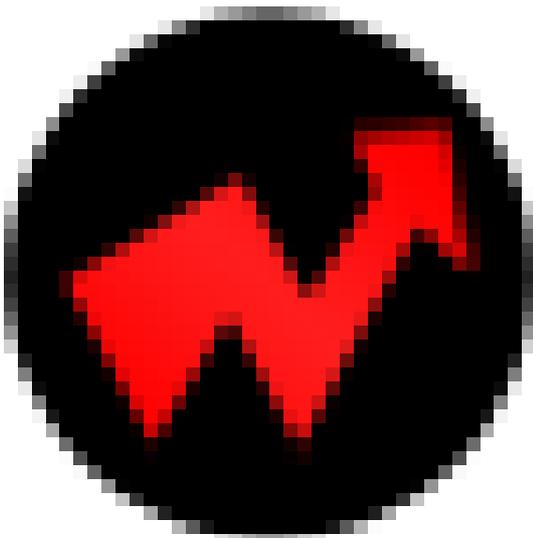


[GB Bobsleighters record best finish in 53 years - in a Crowdfunded sled](#)

2



[Snowboarder, 18, breaks ankle but still finishes second](#)



3

4





[Omloop Het Nieuwsblad women's race stopped as cyclist catches men's event](#)



[Where the comedy seeds are sown: exploring Exeter's budding arts scene](#)



5



[Introducing: Hazydays](#)

READ MORE TRENDING

TRENDING CHANNELS





The **National** Student

PRIMARK®



WORLD  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
ORGANISATION



CONTRIBUTOR OF THE MONTH



[Ciaran Hanvey](#)

**Ranking:**

**Articles:** 26

**Reads:** 25695

**Top article:** [Was Amazon Prime day 2018 just an irresponsible advertising ploy?](#)

CONTRIBUTORS

- [About TNS](#)
- [Legal, Terms & Conditions](#)
- [Write for The National Student](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Advertise](#)

© 2019 TheNationalStudent.com is a website of BigChoice Group Limited | 10-12 The Circle, Queen Elizabeth Street, London, SE1 2JE | registered in England No 6842641 VAT # 971692974

