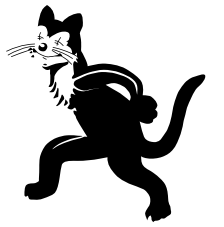


felix ...

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON



Charing Cross Hospital to be demolished

PAGE 5 **News**

Grammar schools are not the answer

PAGE 7 **Comment**

The myth of 'prancing princes'

PAGE 24 **Culture**

Is TV breaking masc norms?

PAGE 27 **Culture**



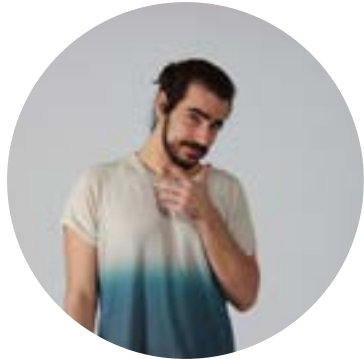
Will being masculine get you laid?

PAGE 34 **Millennials**

I will not challenge the status quo
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I will not challenge the status quo



We've all got daddy issues



Change is in the air. Imperial College has taken up recommendations to improve student satisfaction made by the Union, the Higher Education and Research Bill has just been amended, an education demo is taking place in London this weekend, and Donald Trump's backtracking behaviour has captured the public's imagination anew. But enough of that, this issue is the daddy issue, the issue where we explore our complex relationship with our fathers, our constant pursuit for their approval, our personal struggle: our masculinity.

Masculinity is a bizarre concept. Though I'm someone who has struggled with it their whole life I still don't feel confident addressing it. I still think many essential elements surrounding masculinity discourse escape me. This became painfully evident whilst trying to write a feature this week, as I realised that my views on the masculine were not quite as clear in my head as I thought they were.

Regardless of my questionable attempt at creating #content, we think this is a relevant time to have some discussion on this topic, as International Men's Day is fast approaching (19th of November), moustaches are popping up like mushrooms nationwide in an effort to combat prostate and testicular cancer (the Movember phenomenon), and the Southbank Centre is dedicating a full three days this weekend to discuss "the challenges and pressures of masculine identity" in an event aptly named Being A Man (BAM).

And we really should be talking about the masculine norms a lot of us are knowingly or unknowingly constrained by. How so many aspects of our culture, our life (even our sex life) are affected by masculinity. How it's not expected of us to openly and critically discuss such issues. So, talk we shall.

T H E
T E A M

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Union puts forward NSS recommendations

Matt Johnston

felix reads it so you don't have to (you're welcome)

The National Student Survey (NSS) came out earlier this year and the long and the short of it is that students are getting less and less satisfied with both College and the Union. The Union has now published its list of recommendations it wanted College to enact to try and reverse the slump, all of which have been accepted.

So what is the NSS?

The National Student Survey is kind of self explanatory: final year students complete a survey just before they graduate, rating the university in several categories. 23 questions cover the eight categories of 'Teaching', 'Assessment and Feedback', 'Academic Support', 'Organisation and Management',

**\\ The most satisfied department is CivEng (96%) with Physics bringing up the rear (67%) **

Learning Resources', 'Personal Development', and 'Students' Union'. These then show College and the Union where they need to up their game, relative to either themselves or the wider university world.

And what did the NSS say this year?

Basically in six of the sectors Imperial is below the average score with only 'Learning Resources' and 'Student's Union' bucking the trend. Learning resources also ranks us 11th in the country and the rest of the categories place us anywhere from 56th to a worrying 151st (out of 157 Higher Education Institutions). Overall our satisfaction was 83% which sounds pretty good until you realise this puts us 114th, with the national average being 86%. It's also a 5% drop from ourselves a year ago. The most satisfied department is CivEng (96%) with Physics bringing up the rear (67%). Physics also dropped the most from last year, a decrease of 20% in satisfaction, quite the drop.

So what are the plans to solve this?

Below are the 16 recommendations that the Union feel that College and themselves need to act on. (We've paraphrased some of the boring Union language, don't worry)

Teaching

1. Staff should work with students to improve teaching
2. Give credit to exceptional lecturers and allow them the freedom to try innovative teaching methods
3. Students should be given the opportunity to act as teaching consultants.

Assessment and Feedback

4. Traffic Light system to force feedback to be timely (two weeks late equals red)
5. Departmental leader(s) should be responsible for overseeing the quality of feedback, interacting with Academic Reps and students.
6. Students and staff should work closely to co-design assessment/feedback

Academic Support

7. Continue developing the Personal Tutor system,

possibly via a Personal Tutor network. Consider splitting the academic and pastoral care aspects of the role.

8. Standardise the administration around mitigating circumstances

Organisation and Management

9. Compile all deadlines that a student may have, in order to spread them out evenly

**\\ Compile all deadlines that a student may have, in order to spread them out evenly **

10. Provide termly timetables in advance of term start dates (i.e. stick to the actual College policy)

Learning Resources

11. Look at how best to use space within college, especially at busy times
12. Make sure facilities are still world-class and push utilising digital technology for learning too

Personal Development

13. Ensure all departments agree a minimum amount of free time for students. Decided by Faculty working closely with students.

14. Make sure the skills employers want are in modules

The Union

15. Look at how to tell the students what the Union is actually doing.
16. Find how to engage students and allow them to make the changes they want.

What does it all mean?

This all depends on whether the recommendations are actually adhered to once enacted and are actually worthwhile. What the declining student satisfaction does mean is that it effects our overall ranking as a university. This has the potential to effect our place within the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), the government policy which means your tuition fees rise by £250 next year. So that *might* change should Imperial keep falling.

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The US Election, a week on

Steve Bohnel

felix gets out and about for your reactions too

It's been about a week and a half since the U.S. election was held. By now, most of the world seems to know that Donald Trump is the president-elect of the United States.

What isn't as clear, however, is how much he will scale back from his hateful rhetoric and proposed policies during his year-and-a-half long campaign.

Trump has revealed a lot since his victory, some of which was aired in a 60 Minutes interview with Leslie Stahl on American TV Sunday night.

But even with Trump's surprising victory, some Imperial students aren't shocked - because they haven't been following along.

"There have been a lot of pages in the news about it, but I've been studying and trying to get in publications and papers," said Caner Sahim, a 27-year-old PH.D. student studying electronics.

David O'Reilly, a 21-year-old student in his fourth year of chemistry, has also been uninterested.

"I don't follow politics at all," he said. "I've just never really been interested ... I really like reading, specifically the fiction genre."

One idea many devastated Americans have had is to move to Canada because of

**\\ I don't follow politics at all. I've just never really been interested. I really like reading, specifically the fiction genre **

Trump's victory. Alexis Boutin, however, doesn't think that will work as well as some people think.

"To be honest, I see all these people moving to Canada, but it's such a different country than the United States," said Boutin, a 23 year-old Canadian studying finance and accounting.

It also isn't as easy as Americans think to just move north. The Washington Post, an American newspaper based in the nation's capital, reported that Americans will still need a permanent resident's visa in order to move past the Canadian border. In other words: No visa, no entry.

**\\ Americans will still need a permanent resident's visa in order to move past the Canadian border **

Despite some students' lack of interest in the election, others have been following more closely, including Ethan Butler, 27-year-old PH.D. student in Chemical Engineering who is originally from Connecticut. Butler said that just like during the election, it's unclear what will happen during the next couple of months.

"One of the things about this [election] specifically is that with all these reporters reporting on this, nobody knows," he said.

O'Reilly added that although he didn't follow the election, he was surprised that Trump won.

"I didn't think he would get that far," he said. "I guess it just reminds me of this quote, 'Don't underestimate the



It's your fault. That's right, you specifically \\ Gage Skidmore

power of stupid people in large groups."

Much of the United States' election has been front-page news in newspapers across England, especially leading up to Election Day. Butler, who said he voted for Clinton, talked to numerous British people about the election.

"It's a mix," Butler said about British people's reaction to the news. "I think a majority of people understand that crazy things happen in our government that Americans don't have control over."

Some, however, "confuse Americans with American policy," he added.

Marta Wolinska, an 18-year-old 'freshman' studying material science, said she saw many similarities between recent elections in her home country Poland, Brexit, and the U.S. election.

"I think it's quite sad because I feel like there's this type of voter who votes for those who show the most hope, even if it's misplaced," she said.

Reports in American newspapers indicate that Trump did rally lower-class communities in rural areas throughout the United States. Wolinska said, however, that the issue is that politicians tend to not follow through on their promises.

"People are going to say

**\\ He also said he might not completely appeal Obamacare - rather, that he would eliminate parts of it **

they will make this amazing world, and they don't," she said.

It's unclear how much Trump will deviate from some of his most radical policy proposals during the campaign. His most notable one, perhaps, was

his plan to build a wall along the southern border between Mexico and the states.

But in the 60 Minutes interview on Sunday, he conceded that some sections of the wall may need to be a fence.

He also said he might not completely appeal Obamacare - rather, that he would eliminate parts of it and keep clauses involving those with pre-existing conditions.

And ultimately, despite Trump's victory, not every Imperial student is fearing the worst.

"It's not going to be just Trump making decisions," Boutin said. "He may have been controversial during the campaign, but he's going to have to get everything approved... Congress may not like what he does."

Save Charing Cross Hospital

Stephen Naulls

Plans for its demolition are to be put to the public

Plans to demolish Charing Cross hospital have ramped up in the past week, with a public meeting being held on November 29th a pivotal moment in the future of healthcare provision in North West London. The meeting, to be held by Hammersmith & Fulham Council is likely to be key in gauging public support for keeping the hospital open.

To understand just how important this issue is to residents, one only has to explore the local picture. In 2014, control of H&F Council changed hands, largely as a result of debate over the future of Charing Cross. Walking through the borough, "Save Our Hospitals - no votes here for candidates that don't listen" posters adorn windows. Even local celebrities, such as Bill Bailey, are coming on board the campaign

(STP) - inspired by the Five Year Forward Review for the NHS - which places a greater emphasis on the need for increased primary care provision, better IT facilities, and education to enhance general public health.

However, campaigners contend that this shift is at the expense of acute care, and could be seen merely as a cost-cutting exercise. A key part of the STP will see Ealing Hospital close in the next few years, with Charing Cross to potentially follow

**\\ Even local celebrities, such as Bill Bailey, are coming on board the campaign **

in 2021. If Charing Cross survives, current plans include a severe downgrade of its in-patient capacity, with at least 500 beds being lost, and the A&E being replaced with a depleted Acute Care Unit. The project has an aim to demolish and rebuild as a local hospital - but with ongoing resistance to calls for the Business Plan to be published, mystery surrounds exactly what a

"local hospital" is and just how extensive the demolition process will be.

Whilst the government states this is part of a wider goal to equalise health outcomes for people in different communities, campaigners contend that the issues run much deeper. Sir Richard

**\\ Sir Richard Sykes was caught on camera before this year's Trust AGM saying "the issue is funding" and that "there isn't the capacity" to close the A&E at Charing Cross **

Sykes (Chairman of Imperial College Healthcare Trust) was caught on camera before this year's Trust AGM saying "the issue is funding" and that "there isn't the capacity" to close the A&E at Charing Cross. It's easy to understand the hesitance from the Save Our Hospitals group towards the proposals.

The plan is touted to save £1.3 billion between now and 2021, forming a vital part of the government's plan to find £22 billion worth of efficiency savings in the NHS budget. But with evidence of acute demand at Charing Cross increasing, is now the time to be downgrading the hospital to meet funding targets? For Michael Mansfield QC, commissioned by Hammersmith & Fulham Council to independently scrutinise the plan, it is not - he finds that these "deeply flawed hospital plans must

SAVE CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL

Self explanatory really \\ Save Our Hospitals

**\\ ICSM BMA Society will be taking a group of students to the public meeting on 29th November **

be halted immediately" and that the plan "seriously underestimated the increasing size of the population in NW London and fails to address the increasing need for services."

Now students are beginning to listen. ICSM BMA Society will be taking a group of students to the public meeting on 29th November. Charing Cross Hospital forms the hub of our medical school - and the

decision to temporarily delay demolition plans only came about as a result of strong public opposition. Now that concessions are being made, this is the time to continue to apply pressure. But with the entire nature of healthcare in North West London certain to change under these proposals, this is a cause all Imperial students - not just medics - need to rally behind.

For more information on the public meeting and how to get involved, visit www.lbhf.gov.uk/hot-topics/save-charing-cross-hospital or email the writer at SN1514@ic.ac.uk



Even Bill Bailey's campaigning \\ Save Our Hospitals



Education demo still happening

Lef Apostolakis

...despite the Higher Education and Research Bill amendments

A march for education is taking place on Saturday the 19th of November in London, where students and academics will be protesting budget cuts, tuition fee rises and increases of student debt.

Maximum tuition fees are set for a 2.8% increase, which will see Imperial charge £9,250 for the academic year of 2017-2018. At the same time, maintenance grants and NHS bursaries are being scrapped, and the student loan terms are being changed.

The march was announced earlier this year in July, but has steadily been gaining momentum. On Monday the 14th of November, the government released amendments to the Higher Education and Research Bill

**\\ I was pleased to see the amendment on Monday that sought to clarify that the Secretary of State (via the OfS) could NOT give any guidance on what courses universities could or could not teach **

first released last May. The bill first came under fire for various reasons such as the creation of the Office for Students (OfS), a powerful new body that will be able to override university Royal charters without parliamentary scrutiny, granting the Secretary of State unprecedented power

of university governance and downgrading research councils.

In a piece for the Guardian, published last October, Professor Stephen Curry, Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Life Sciences, addressed the need for amendments to the Bill, and warned against the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), particularly the creation of a super-research council. "Never before in the history of British science have so few individuals been responsible for so much spending," wrote Curry.

Further on the downgrade of research councils and the creation of a new powerful overarching council, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), Curry wrote: "from before the middle of the last century, science's influence in government has had multi-polar characteristics. Heads of autonomous funding councils, Whitehall chief scientists, learned societies, academics, and even campaign groups have together worked with, and sometimes against, government to protect the research base. This can never be the task of one or two individuals, yet the proposed arrangements invest a great deal of power in the chair and chief executive of UKRI."

We talked to Curry about the amendments released earlier this week: "I was pleased to see the amendment on Monday that sought to clarify that the Secretary of State (via the OfS) could NOT give any guidance on what courses universities could or could not teach," said Curry. "However the OfS still has the power to repeal university Royal Charters and that still seems to me to be a threat to the independence and autonomy of our universities. I

also remain concerned about the loss of voice and standing of the research councils in the establishment of UKRI. I'm not against UKRI per se - it could well do some good things but I think further amendments or clarifications are needed to ensure that the voice of the research community is heard loud and clear in government"



he continued.

Amendments also included appointing a student representative to the Office for Students Board, more support for postgraduate research training and stronger protection of students. "It seems to me a good idea to have student representation in the OfS," said Curry, "however, I remain worried about aspects of the TEF - it still risks becoming burdensome and too heavily driven by metrics which (as we all know) do a very poor job of capturing or characterising educational quality, which is the thing that students, staff and government all ought to be working together on."

The amendments were made public as Jo Johnson, Minister of State for Universities and Science took to twitter to inform students and lecturers of the government's willingness to listen, saying "Thanks for the scrutiny - listened to students, unis and academics, and today tabling range of amendments to the HE & Research Bill".

However, Sorana Vieru, NUS Vice President (Higher Education) warns, "now is not the time to be complacent... [students] will be taking to the streets on November 19 to demand our voices are heard."

"While I'm pleased to see the changes we've been calling for put in place, the

being made about them. These amendments show how students can have an impact and influence change if we work together", she continues.

The education demo is organised by the National Students Union (NUS) and the University College Union (UCU). In preparation, at a rally hosted by SOAS Union on Wednesday, attended by NUS President Malia Bouattia and Leader of the Labour party, Jeremy Corbyn.

When asked about the stance of ICU on the education demo, Union President Nas Andriopoulos said "Imperial College Union, which is not affiliated to the National Union of Students, does not have a formal stance on the demonstration or the Higher Education and Research Bill. As of yet, none of our students have approached the Union to join the demonstration. We do, however, hold concerns about the bill which will allow for-profit organisations to enter the Higher Education sector more easily. Furthermore, we do not think that the metrics that will be used to access teaching quality in the Teaching Excellence Framework are necessarily a good measure for excellence."



\\ Chatham House



FREEZE PEACH

C O M M E N T ... felix

Grammar schools are not the answer



Husain Al-Jabir gives his first-hand opinion of Grammar schools

\\ Grammars suck the intelligent and rich out of local schools, leading to a high achieving enclave within a failing school area \\

Disclaimer: I'm an alumnus of a well-known North London grammar school, having joined in the sixth form from a high achieving comprehensive school. I've studied under both school systems, coming out the other side with insights into each. No-one could accuse me of not being qualified enough to speak about the virtues and pitfalls of the grammar system. A significant number of Imperial students attended grammars and most likely support the grammar system, either vociferously or nonchalantly; however, I wonder if from the privilege of your educational bubble, you have ever looked outside?

tively zero notice. The latest brainwave by our illustrious – and need we mention unelected – Prime Minister Theresa May, is to dispense with forty years of alternately overt and implicit educational policy, by paving the way for the reintroduction of that most divisive of schools: The Grammar school. For the Scots, Welsh, or Northerners among you, Grammar schools are meant to represent a progressive utopia – poor but brilliant eleven year olds are to be offered an education akin to their rich pri-

\\ I wonder if from the privilege of your educational bubble, you have ever looked outside? \\

vately-educated counterparts in specialist schools where entry is based solely on academic merit. These brilliant children would be able to reach their potential without (heaven forbid!) the less erudite dragging them down. They would of course be selected using the most accurate measure of intelligence known to man – the eleven plus entrance exam, serving as the key to the future. Pass it and a world of opportunity opens, but fail it and the doors are bolted shut.

The problem of this vision is that the eleven plus exam is far from a level playing field for all students, acting more as a class separator than a discrim-

inator of intelligence. As anyone who has sat exams such as the UKCAT, MAT, or their ilk will know that tutoring is omnipresent and shoved into your face at every opportunity (shout out Medify). No matter how 'tuition-proof' these exams claim to be, the availability of resources and practice to families with the means to pay far outstrips the poor with potential. Anecdotally, this leads to a middle-class invasion and infiltrative classism with clear consequences on students. It's not without reason that Tatler, a traditional magazine of the wealthy has published a list of top state schools, most of which are grammars – why waste money on Private school tuition when tutoring for the 11+ is cheaper? Grammars have become an outpost of the rich at the expense of others.

The Grammar school I went to was situated in a deprived area, surrounded by poorly achieving comprehensives. Consequently, almost everyone in the local area took the test to try and get in, else they would have to resort to the failing local secondaries. You might expect then, that

my school would have people from the local area? In actual fact, I could count on two hands the number of people who lived within walking distance to my school. Hundreds of kids are bussed in from the surrounding areas commuting for up to 45 minutes. If you've ever commuted to uni, you

\\ We've tried grammar schools before, and they don't work \\

already know the negative impacts of this; if you haven't, relying on two daily school buses to get there, effectively preventing you from partaking in after-school activities, isn't much fun at all. Schools should have a strong link to their local area, with intake coming from the local children and deeply involved in local society. How can grammars possibly have a link to the local community when three-quarters of their students come from an entirely separate borough?

Grammars suck the intelligent and rich out of local schools, leading to a high achieving enclave within a failing school area. Poor school results lead to difficulty recruiting excellent staff, and wealthier families choose to move away to other areas, contributing to the isolation of the school community. The result is a vicious cycle of failure and decline, from which

London's secondaries are only recently escaping.

It appears to me that a far simpler solution, benefiting the masses and preventing the deepening of social divide, is simply to try and raise standards across the board. I was fortunate enough to attend an excellent comprehensive school; indeed, its results ranked among grammar schools even though it takes everyone in from the local community. Teaching quality was on a par with the grammar, but with wider benefits for the entire school population. There is no reason that other students around the country cannot benefit from the same education, save for Mrs May's idealism.

We've tried grammar schools before, and they don't work. The 163 educational relics scattered across England are not models to be revered, but products of a bygone age. Perhaps we ought to spend less time shoving students between new educational models every few years, and actually invest in the teaching profession. Segregation is not the solution.



Under the guise of 'educational overhaul', the Tory and coalition governments through the actions of former resident government snake Mr Michael Gove and his successor Nicky Morgan, as education secretary, have been responsible for scrapping the integrated AS-Level, trying to force every school to become an 'Academy', and completely redesigning GCSEs with effec-





Hong Kong has bigger problems than Trump



Don Y Ma discusses the recent attack on democracy in Hong Kong

\\ The government now has the power to actually deny the results of a democratic election and 'post-select' candidates \\

You think the US election was the apocalypse? Take a look at Hong Kong.

Hong Kong recently had its Legislative Council (LegCo) elections, in which two candidates from the Youngspiration party, Leung and Yau, were elected. It is important to note that their platforms focus heavily on achieving democratic self-determination for the future of Hong Kong. The two elected legislators then had the brilliant idea of protesting through their oaths. Standing in front of a "Hong Kong is NOT China" banner, they took their oaths while replacing "People's Republic of China" with "people's re-fucking of Chee-na", Chee-na being a derogatory term used by the Empire of Japan against China.

Their oaths were deemed invalid by the LegCo Chair and they were due to retake their oaths at the next Council meeting. This was not the first time that a Legislator would have been allowed to retake their oath.



However, the Department of Justice suddenly filed for a judicial review of the chair's decision to allow for the second oath, completely disregarding the authority of the LegCo Chair as well as the most basic of government principles: separation of powers. Yet supporters of the government argue that the Basic Law does not explicitly mention separation of powers.

Rita Fan, a pro-Beijing politician, stated that the Basic Law only guarantees judicial independence, "meaning that judicial decisions should not be affected by the government or any influential people in Hong Kong." Yet even before the court could make a decision on the judicial review case, the National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC) used its power to interpret the Basic Law, specifically Article 104 regarding oath-taking, as follows:

"No public office shall be assumed ... by anyone who fails to lawfully and validly take the oath or who declines to take the oath."

"An oath taker must take the oath sincerely and solemnly, and must accurately, completely and solemnly read out the oath prescribed by law."

"An oath taker is disqualified forthwith from assuming the public office specified in the Article if he or she declines to take the oath."

"If the oath taken is determined as invalid, no arrangement shall be made for retaking the oath."

Supporters of the govern-

ment insist that the NPCSC's power to interpretation is written in the law, the interpretation has simply cleared up the misunderstandings regarding Article 104, and people with nothing to hide shouldn't have to fear an interpretation. Additionally, they argue that opponents of the interpretation are doing so in support of the two legislators' actions.

But there's the thing: I couldn't give less of a fuck about those two idiots. This story has escalated far past the fate of Leung and Yau, whose political careers are without a doubt over.

\\ Bricks were thrown, pepper was sprayed, people were arrested, freedoms were crushed. Just the usual in the Special Administrative Region \\

They picked a bad fight and are paying the consequences. This is about the Hong Kong government's inability to uphold justice, rule of law, and separation of powers, which are core principles of a functioning democracy.

Firstly, while the NPCSC has always had the power to interpret the Basic Law, there are set provisions for this power

as listed in Article 158, which state that the courts of the Region shall seek an interpretation through the Court of Final Appeal if it concerns "affairs which are the responsibility of the Central People's Government, or concerning the relationship between the Central Authorities and the Region". Nothing within Article 104 corresponds to those two criteria, making this an obvious step taken by the Central People's Government to deny not only the two legislators in question, but also any other candidates of public office that they deem unfit, according to their own interpretation. What makes an oath sincere and solemn? This gives the person administering the oath the power to disqualify anyone they would like.

Trump may have said that he wouldn't accept the results of the election, but the frightening reality in Hong Kong is that the government now has the power to actually deny the results of a democratic election and 'post-select' candidates. Furthermore, this interpretation before the end of the court case is a clear violation of the judicial independence of the Hong Kong judiciary. In the end, the courts will rule in agreement with the interpretation, and this ruling will serve as a precedent for all future cases, effectively validating the 'post-selection' method.

That night, between 8000 (police estimate) and 13000 (organisers estimate) people protested against the interpretation. This devolved into violent clashes between the



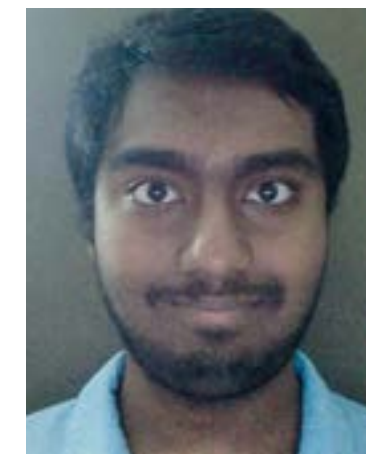
protesters and the police, reminiscent of the Umbrella Revolution. Bricks were thrown, pepper was sprayed, people were arrested, freedoms were crushed. Just the usual in the Special Administrative Region.

There aren't many options left for the people of Hong Kong. Accept the status quo and watch our liberties, freedoms, and rule of law slowly deteriorate. Give up, and let Hong Kong become the Chinese City of Xianggang. Or we could fight back. The question is how? How do we fight against a growing superpower with a choking grip in every nook and cranny of our beloved city? Peaceful protests and even riots have proven ineffective in the past, so what's next? What can we do when every level of society from universities to the Legislative Council is segregated politically?

I certainly don't have an answer for these steeping questions, but I sincerely and solemnly hope that it isn't "nothing". In the meantime, all I can do is helplessly sit here and watch my home slowly fall apart, brick by brick, law by law.



The Four Horsemen of the Trumpocalypse



Avirup Banerjee points the finger of blame for the Trump presidency

\\ Trump's victory can be attributed to failures of the Democratic party, incompetence of the media, intervention by Russia and politicisation of the FBI \\

Last Wednesday the world woke to darkness – a fascist, misogynistic, anti-semitic, Islamophobic, racist, sexual assaulter who has called Mexicans rapists, made fun of a reporter's disability, praised every dictator under the sun from Putin to Kim Jong-Un, ridiculed the heroism of prisoners of war, called for the banning of all Muslims, urged carpet bombing the Middle East, questioned the need to preserve NATO, asserted that climate change is a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese, threatened the 1st Amendment rights of free speech by promising to jail journalists and paying the legal fees of his supporters beating up peaceful protesters, and prided himself on his sexual abuse of women. Quite a mouthful, but only a thin veneer of what is Donald Trump.

So how did we get from Barack Obama to Donald Trump?

Trump's victory can be attributed to four main factors: failures of the Democratic party, the incompetence of the media, external intervention by Russia and the politicisation of the FBI.

\\ Whilst the moral bankruptcy of the Republican party was in clear sight, the failure of the Democratic party must be examined \\



Hillary Clinton was correct; Trump's supporters do fill up the basket of the deplorable of American society. They are the heirs of the Know Nothings and the Confederacy of the nineteenth century by operating through fear. Yes, the Republican Party has, for over 40 years, employed the race-baiting southern strategy predicated on whipping up xenophobic white voters against all minorities. This is most evident in the disenfranchisement of poor African-American and Latino voters by purging thousands from the voter rolls in swing states like Indiana and North Carolina, and by closing over 800 voting stations in Democratic districts in Arizona and North Carolina. All of these were accomplished due to the Supreme Court, in its infinite wisdom, gutting the Voting Rights Act.

Even with this ugly history of the Republican party, Trump's rise is still unprecedented. The last four Republican candidates – Romney, McCain, Bush and Bob Dole – are paragons of virtue compared to this lunatic. Trump has emboldened the hidden racist vote and normalised it like nothing before, not even condemning the KKK. But this was also the country that twice elected an African American with the middle name Hussain. So, whilst the moral bankruptcy of the Republican party was in clear sight, the failure of the Democratic party must too be examined.

In the end, Trump won the electoral college through his strength in the industrial 'rust belt' of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, the latter three of which hadn't gone to the Republicans since 1988. In these states, real (inflation adjusted) median wage has stagnated since 1980, and only this year were there any signs of improvements. This was in large part due to the trickle-down economics of Ronald Reagan. Ironically however, it was presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama who pushed through significant right-wing legislation that the Republicans never could, by neutralising the political left. In the process, they also alienated the Democratic base.

\\ The media need to own this outcome. This is their Frankenstein's monster \\

It was Bill Clinton's legislation that deregulated Wall Street by repealing the Glass Steagall Act, which protected depositors' money from investment banks. When George H. W. Bush failed to get NAFTA through Congress, it was Bill Clinton who subdued the unions and crippled the manufacturing industry. It was Clinton's crime bill that brought the era of mass incarceration of minorities, resulting in the fall of African American voter turnout because of the lingering resentment.

It was the Clinton welfare bill that cut benefits for the poor and thus, for the first time in a generation, white working class voters rejected the Democrats. It is Barack Obama who has deported more Latinos than any other president, so was it surprising that Trump won as many Latinos as Romney did?

Hillary Clinton only received 55% of the millennial vote, which is down from Obama's 60% in 2012. This is because many young voters are frustrated by Clinton's close association with Wall Street and her previous military hawkishness in Iraq and Libya.

Even with the faults of the Democratic Party, both Barack Obama and Bill Clinton were great presidents and Secretary Clinton was still an impressive candidate with experience and espousing progressive policies in education, health-care and climate change, let alone being the first female candidate for the presidency in a major party.

One thing that is certain is that the media need to own this outcome. This is their Frankenstein's monster, and perhaps the problem was their discomfort with the idea of a strong female leader.

The corporatist news media has





repeated 24/7 the avalanche of lies directed at her for the last 30 years. Hillary Clinton was right when she said there was a vast right wing conspiracy against her, with the media serving as an echo chamber for everything from bogus scandals, such as the nonsense about

\\ Russia has just won the Cold War 27 years after the fall of the Berlin wall \\

her emails, to blaming her and even calling her an "enabler" of her husband's infidelity in the 1990s. The icing on the cake was the crazy Trump conspiracy of Hillary Clinton murdering her close friend, Vince Foster, who had tragically committed suicide (which was confirmed by three federal investigations).

In the 1950s it took the courage of journalist Edward R. Murrow and the respected army counsel Joseph

Welch asking "have you no decency, sir?" to shame Joseph McCarthy and awaken America to the division he was creating. Sadly, today's media has no such stalwarts, and instead the corporate TV executives chasing after ratings provided Trump with over two billion dollars of free media coverage. Worst of all were the inlets like CNN with their pseudo objectivity normalising Trump by creating a false equivalence.

However, the scariest contributor to the result is the fact that Russia has been able to do what the Soviet Union had never even come close to doing - placing a puppet in the White House. Russia just won the Cold War 27 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Vladimir Putin had two accomplices in his pursuit of destroying American democracy: Julian Assange and the FBI.

Assange's WikiLeaks which hacked the private emails of only the Democrats, only leaked private messages from within the Clinton campaign to the willing media. Lastly, the FBI Director James Comey, breaking with all precedent, violated the Hatch Act and used the machinery of the FBI to interfere with this election. The reopening of the politically charged email investigation only ten days before election day swung the pendulum in Trump's favour. Trump has already promised to jail his opponents, including Clinton, and destroy the independence of the judiciary, so it seems that Trump won't have to create his own Gestapo, but merely inherit an FBI overflowing with extreme alt-right agents.



\\ The future of America lies in its youth, which overwhelmingly rejected the politics of fear \\

now, but as hope rises again the stench will wash away, because the future of America lies in its youth, which overwhelmingly rejected the politics of fear. This is the last hurrah for the racist old white man. Since the revolution of 1776, Americans have endured horrors from genocide against Native Americans to slavery and civil war, from the Great Depression to WWII - and every single time America has come back stronger in the everlasting pursuit of building a more perfect union.

Now as Liberals, we must stand with our brothers and sisters of America, who are in the front lines of this war. In closing, I would like to thank Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine for running a campaign with honour, and especially to Mrs Clinton for her many years of service for America and the rest of the world. Whilst the glass ceiling may not have been shattered today, consolation may be found in the popular vote, which she won by a margin of more than 200,000.

In the words of Martin Luther King Jr, "I've been to the mountaintop, and I want you to know tonight, that we as a people will get to the Promised Land". Therefore in that spirit, nothing can stop an idea whose time has come, for America will have a female president sooner than we all might think.

\\ Trump won't have to create his own Gestapo, merely inherit an FBI overflowing with extreme alt-right agents \\



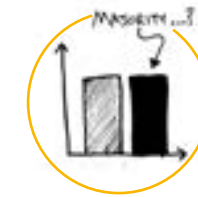
What the Brexit ruling means for our democracy



Callum Hunter welcomes parliament's involvement in the Brexit process

\\ If MPs stick to their original stance, it will be 479 for Remain and 156 for Leave, leading to a complete halt of Brexit \\

On the 3rd November, the High Court handed down a decision stating that the Government needed parliamentary approval before triggering Article 50. Whilst the Brexiteers have made an outcry, stating that this is a breach of democracy, it is actually a vindication of the United Kingdom's parliamentary sovereignty, something they campaigned for earlier this year. We must therefore use this judgement to push the Remain camp's ideas to the forefront, so that they are not neglected as they have been so far.



law. The parliamentary law that must first be overturned is the 1972 EU communities act.

As a result, the government needs parliament's approval on their Brexit plan before the article can be triggered. This is all down to the fact that, as Lord Lester QC amply sums up, "ministers are accountable to parliament and the courts for the way they use their public powers."

This all comes together to reaffirm, certainly in my mind, that the constitution of this country works to serve the people, and to hear all of our voices.

Alas, there has been an outcry, best demonstrated by newspapers such as The Daily Mail and The Daily Telegraph. There were, and still are, claims that the judges who passed down the ruling are "out of touch with the country" and "enemies of the people." It is ironic then that the parliamentary sovereignty the Leave campaigners fought so hard for has come back to bite them

\\ The parliamentary sovereignty the Leave campaigners fought so hard for has come back to bite them \\

well. It will seek to serve not only the Remain campaign, but also the Leave campaign, as they finally have the 'sovereignty' that they so longed for. Nigel Farage fears that this ruling means we may be heading for a 'half Brexit.' I am certainly hoping for such an outcome, given that, basically, half of the country voted to remain. What is more, surely this ruling is exactly what Farage, Johnson and Davis were hoping for, handing the power

\\ Farage fears we may be heading for a 'half Brexit'. I am certainly hoping so, given that half the country voted to remain \\

back to parliament. Unfortunately, the ruling isn't on their side. As a result, petty whining has ensued from the right-wing press. As a consequence, the people who wanted Brexit would now like the power to be thrust unto them and parliament left out of the negotiations. I call hypocrisy.

The question now is, what does this ruling really mean for Brexit?

That question is a tough one to answer as it is dependent

upon a large variety of variables. Everything from the will of a party to whip votes, down to conviction of each and every MP. However, what I can tell you is that Brexit may be on course for a bumpy ride. At this moment in time, Jeremy Corbyn has been unclear as to whether he intends to whip votes in the Labour party, and it seems unlikely that he would. If other parties follow suit, and MPs stick to their original stance, then it will be 479 for Remain and 156 for Leave, leading to a complete halt of Brexit.

This may sound undemocratic and ridiculous, but I welcome it. In most other countries a vote of 66.7% or above would be required to trigger a constitutional change without parliamentary approval; or a joint vote between the people and parliament would be required. Why is it then that only 52% - a margin that could have easily swung the other way - is enough? Surely that is the unconstitutional thing here.

The ruling is a welcome sight in a sea of never ending struggles towards Brexit. It gives Remainers the hope that their voice will actually be heard in the Brexit negotiations.

I believe that we are on the cusp on getting a deal which is not only focused on the Leave campaigns ideals, but on the ideals of the 479 MPs, and over 16 million people, who voted to remain. With parliamentary approval needed, the people can have their voices truly heard through the medi-

um of their MPs and lobbying. This is a glimmer of hope. We can finally make parliament truly work for us, and make sure they are not "out of touch" when they make the coming decisions. This ruling holds hope that we can

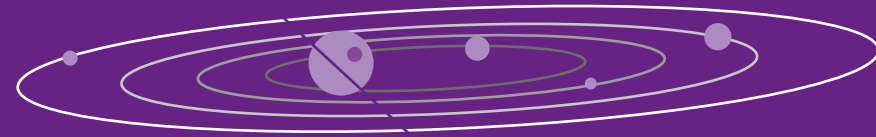
\\ Petty whining has ensued from the right-wing press \\

achieve a 'half Brexit,' just like the 'half leave' we saw on the 24th June.

This is an opportunity we cannot let go of, we must utilise it and push our agenda forward to parliament. We have seen that the constitution of this country is alive and kicking, despite the leave camp's attempts to suppress it, so we must use it.

To paraphrase the poet Dylan Thomas, "we will not go gentle into that goodnight."





The (alphas) and omegas of food

Alexandra Lim explains the important differences between omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, and why we should be controlling our intake of both.

I hereby appeal to everyone: pick up a copy of Michael Pollan's *In Defence of Food* this week. It truly drives home how food is being treated in this nutrition-crazed world, with people's sad attempts to reduce it to health components. Most forget that food in itself is more significant than this. One key fact that stood out to me was Pollan's stance on omega 3, the polyunsaturated fatty acid which we know is good for overall health, especially the brain. There are other fats which our body can synthesise from other nutritional components, but omega 3 isn't one of them, making them more important than we think.

all the healthy treasures our bodies thrive on: antioxidants, phytochemicals, and omega-3. Most people associate omega-3 with fish only, but fish feed on algae which is where the most common fat in nature, alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), originates. So how does omega-3 link to diabetes? Since omega-3 makes cell membranes more permeable, cells are also more sensitive to insulin, that chemical that regulates fat storage. This means an omega-3 rich diet could help to protect against obesity.

I'm not saying seeds are all that bad. In fact, they boast a whole host of health benefits. For example, sunflower seeds are rich in B vitamins that nourish your nervous system and bones. However, these guys are rich in omega-6 fatty acids, which are involved in fat storage rather than neurological development, glucose metabolism, and inflammation calming. Since the two types of fatty acids compete with each other for enzymes and space in our cell membranes, the actual ratio of omega-6 and omega-3 matters more than we think. Replacing the recommended omega-3 amounts with omega-6 can be hazardous to health. The most surprising statistic in Pollan's book was that the ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 in most Americans now is 10:1 rather than 3:1 before the introduction of seed oils in the 80's. Hence a key note at this point: don't start downing



omega-3 pills unless you also reduce your intake of omega-6!

Omega-3 is highly unstable in nature, but sadly, the food industry is more focused on storing food (never buy anything with a shelf-life of forever, except for perhaps honey) rather than promoting good health. So many meat, dairy and other typical market buys are stuffed with omega-6 instead of the marginally better stuff, or worse still, have omega-3 replaced with partially hydrogenated oils. Most supermarkets promote 'low-fat' or 'non-fat', warping our minds into thinking that fat in general is the greatest demon of all. Joseph Hibbeln, a researcher at the National Institute of Health said that the millions we spend nowadays on aspirin,

// The millions we spend nowadays on aspirin, ibuprofen, and paracetamol is money spent to undo the effects of too much omega-6 and too little omega-3 in the diet //



Brain Freeze



Fact: 'Brain freeze' has a biological explanation.

It even has an unpronounceable name: sphenopalatine ganglioneuralgia. When something very cold touches the roof of your mouth (called the 'palate'), it rapidly cools the blood in the small blood vessels around your sinuses. This causes them to constrict, and then to rapidly dilate again when the blood warms up again (which happens when you stop necking ice cream to take a breath).

Pain receptors in your mouth detect this relaxation of the blood vessels, but due to something called 'referred pain', it feels like the pain comes from your forehead, even though the signals originated in the roof of your mouth. This is because the same nerve carries signals for facial pain and palate pain, and because you're just more used to being slapped in the face than in the roof of your mouth you assign this pain to your forehead as a force of habit.

Researching brain freeze might seem pointless, but scientists actually use it as a model for other headaches that are not understood as well, such as migraines, so somewhere out there there's probably a scientist that will pay you to eat ice cream as fast as possible. Time to sack off those consultancy applications.

Another one of Mr. Aran Shaunak's Little Bites of Science @BitesOfScience

High in Omega-3	High in Omega-6
Flaxseed Oil	Vegetable Oil
Fish	Mayonnaise
Chia Seeds	Nuts and Seeds
Seafood	Potato/Corn chips
Soybeans	Fast Food

ibuprofen, and paracetamol is money spent to undo the effects of too much omega-6 and too little omega-3 in the diet. The scary bit doesn't end there. Similar population studies concluded that falling rates of omega-3 were correlated to ADHD in children and rising rates of suicide and depression. How crazy is all this? The obvious solution here would be to eat more omega-3 rich foods, but in light of this fantastic book, I implore a more dedicated, almost meditative approach. This is not a lazy demand to 'eat well and be healthy', this is a necessary mental shift in this day and age of growing nutrition science and bad media.



Do old bonobos need to go to specsavers?

Deteriorating eyesight in bonobos shows that we're not the only ones that may need to wear glasses as we get older

Age related far-sightedness in humans can easily be demonstrated by simply observing one of your older relatives as they tip their glasses and extend their arm out to read the morning paper. This phenomenon, known as presbyopia, is brought about by the hardening of the lens and weakening of the muscles around it over



time. Many explanations for this deterioration are founded by popular opinion, with most blaming the evils of technology in one way or another. However, new research indicating that humans are not alone in this problem can, perhaps, debunk these ideas. Researchers at Kyoto University noticed how a senior male bonobo called 'Ten' was staying a noticeable distance away from a fellow troop member as he groomed them, appearing to require this distance to see lice in their fur. This simple observation prompted a larger study involving the analysis of a decade's worth of behavioural footage of the grooming patterns of bonobo chimps in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The results

of this study showed that, whereas younger bonobos (<30 years) tended to focus at around 10cm, individuals who were 40+ had to move over 20cm away to groom properly.

Unfortunately, this deterioration in the bonobos' eyesight likely implicates serious consequences in their social standing and even survival. Older bonobo males are often among the least popular grooming partners and this is seemingly the result of their eyesight-induced inability to hold up their half of the mutualistic practice of grooming. Moreover, in the dark Congolese rainforests, far sightedness could also lead to problems with navigation and the spotting of human hunters. However, as head researcher of this project Dr. Heunglin



//Cloudtail the Snow Leopard

Ryu explains, the relative cohesiveness and gregariousness of bonobo assemblages means that, for the most part, "old bonobos can just follow the younger individuals".

This research also has several implications for humans, with the authors suggesting that we could now investigate how other tissues senesce in bonobos in comparison to humans and whether this could explain

why humans live so much longer. Ultimately, it seems that progressively worsening eye-sight is down to an unavoidable throwback to the common ancestors we share with these great apes. In any respect, at least it's not solely due to staring at computer screens all day, regardless of what our grandmothers may say.

Benjamin Collier

Masculinity vs. Attractiveness

Sophie Protheroe discusses how nature has shaped our taste in men



Why do we find some people more



attractive than others? Qualities such as a sense of humour, good looks, and honesty are often considered attractive. However, you may be surprised to discover that your immune system influences your choice of partner.

The immune system is the series of molecular mechanisms that defend against invading parasites. But what does this have to do with attractiveness? Attractive individuals are said to possess

'good genes' that affect the immune system in a way that promotes health. These genes are detectable and can be passed on to offspring.

So, what do good genes look like? The 'handicap principle' suggests that signals which put the signaller at a disadvantage are reliable. Testosterone is an important male sex hormone which promotes the growth of ornaments in animals but also reduces immune cell activity.

Therefore, costly ornaments, such as a peacock's tail, can only be maintained by healthy individuals. The 'immunocompetence handicap hypothesis' suggests that animals showcase their good genes through ornaments that represent their ability to cope with parasites.

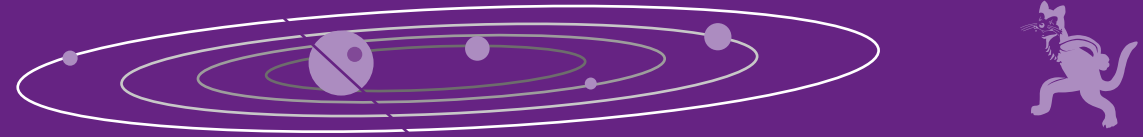
In humans, potential good gene indicators are facial masculinity and symmetry. Testosterone promotes a typically masculine appearance, including a wide face with a strong jaw and prominent brow ridges. There is mixed evidence as to whether women really prefer masculine faces. But are 'masculine men' healthier? Studies have shown that masculine men report

fewer bouts of ill health and also father more offspring. Symmetry is also a good indicator of genetic quality, representing an ability to buffer against environmental disturbance. Men and women consistently rate increasingly symmetrical faces as more attractive.

Beauty may even be in the health of the beholder. Women who have suffered from childhood illness have a stronger preference for more masculine male faces. This preference is even stronger in individuals with poorer current health.

The 'complementary genes hypothesis' suggests that individuals will be most attracted

to mates with maximally different immune systems. The major histocompatibility complex (MHC) is part of the immune system - MHC molecules bind to infectious pathogens, initiating an immune response. Partners with dissimilar MHCs will produce offspring with a diverse array of MHC molecules, providing defence against many different pathogens. Females are able to recognize the degree of dissimilarity of a potential partner's MHC using odour. Women scent-rated men's t-shirts as being more attractive if the wearer had a dissimilar MHC. Opposites really do attract.



Do all colours look the same?

Qasim Mahmood examines the science behind seeing colours, and why experiencing them may be visually different for everyone

Colour is an illusion. When we look at any object, likely the first thing we notice about it is its colour. Colours are incredibly important to our understanding of the world, and we use them all the time in art, film, photography, and in science. Despite all this however, it is a fact that colours do not exist in the external world. Colours are not an intrinsic property of any material, rather they are the representation that our minds produce of the light given off by any object. They do not exist outside of our minds and are simply our interpretation of a certain range of the electromagnetic spectrum; as such, it is impossible to detect or measure how you, or in fact any other person, experiences any colour.

This leads to an interesting and rather scary idea: the fact that different people could perceive colours in completely different ways. For instance, imagine you and I look at the same object, say an orange. I would see the colour I think of as orange, but you could see the colour I think of as blue; however, we

Colours do not exist outside of our minds, they are simply our interpretation of a certain range of the electromagnetic spectrum. It's therefore impossible to detect or measure how anyone experiences them

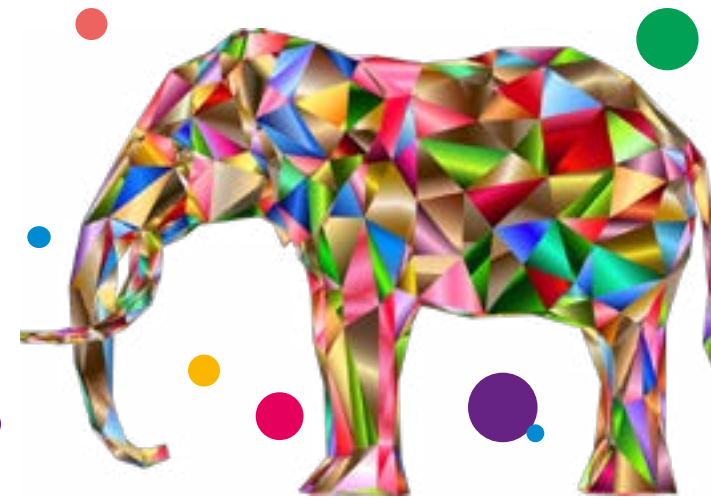
have both been brought up to label that colour as "orange". So when asked what colour the orange is, we both answer correctly and say orange, before parting to go about our lives. But despite agreeing on the colour, we have no idea how very different our experiences of the same object were.

Let's say I met a man who was born blind. He would have never experienced seeing any colour, so I decide to teach him about colours, starting with light. I start from the fundamentals, such as its basic properties like wavelength, frequency and speed,

and work my way to the more complex, such as quantum mechanics. I could teach him every single equation to do with light. I could teach him the optical and opto-electronic properties of every single material; that is, how light interacts with materials. I could teach him every single descriptive word assigned to every colour, and have him memorise the exact range of wavelengths for each colour. I could even teach him every biological process involved in how our eyes and brains process light, and how an image or colour is formed in the mind.

But he would never be able to actually see or experience any colour. I could tell him that red was a hot, passionate and angry colour. I could say blue was cold, that green was the colour of grass and blue the colour of the sky. None of this would matter. He would never experience seeing any sort of colour, no matter how I described it. No colour would ever appear in his mind no matter what I said or how I explained them to him. These private, indescribable, raw feelings or experiences have been termed 'qualia' by philosophers, and we seem to be utterly incapable of expressing or explaining them. This could be because our languages are unable to produce these qualia in other people's minds; and given time and advances in language and technology, we could be able to accurately describe a raw feeling and

We are all sentenced to solitary confinement within our own skins, for life



have another person experience that same feeling.

Qualia, such as our perceptions of colour, cannot be measured with any tests we devise. Other conditions, such as colour blindness, are different in that they cause real-world effects in the people affected. People with colour blindness fail to see things or differentiate colours in a way that most people can, so they can be tested and diagnosed. However, there could very easily be many different ways of seeing and experiencing colours, which do not alter a person's behaviour or performance in any tests we could devise. In that case, there would be people who prefer certain colours or prefer certain colour combinations, which indeed currently happens. This is extremely important, as it shows that we can never truly understand what any other person experiences, short of crawling into their subconscious and experiencing things from their perspective first-hand. When it comes to our perceptions

We can never truly understand another person's experiences

and experiences we are all alone; as Tennessee Williams put it, "We are all sentenced to solitary confinement inside our own skins, for life". Despite how scary and overwhelming this all may seem, the fact that we can function and continue to question and discuss these matters at all is nothing short of incredible. We as humans are unique in our ability to question, to debate, to discuss. I can ask you how an apple tastes, what pain feels like to you or what colour a strawberry is, but I will never be able to experience any of it in the same way you do. However, we can continue to ask and discuss and hopefully, someday, we will get there.



Going back to the future in style

First smart watches, then Google Glass – Eva Coles steers upcoming types of wearable technology into the spotlight, some of which are heavily movie-inspired

It seems wearable tech is becoming somewhat of a fashion trend around the world. And many new products coming into play this year take their inspiration from the 1980s film franchise: Back to The Future. Nike were the first to stun the world with the first-ever line of self lacing trainers, The HyperAdapt, which they based on Marty McFly's footwear in the second film. These trainers have been designed with a sensor located at the heel, triggering the fitting process when activated. The new line will be available on November 28th with an initial selling price of \$720.

Another recent and exciting development from the University of Central Florida, has proved the potential to make

This work may revolutionize wearable tech and allow us to charge our phones and other gadgets with jackets or coats, simply by sliding them into our pocket

solar, nanotech-powered clothing. The study, published only days ago in *Nature Communications*, has successfully weaved solar powered filaments into textiles. This comes from Associate Professor of nanotechnology Javan Thomas, who mentioned *Back to the Future* was a major inspiration for him to "realise

those cinematic fantasies". The research builds upon previous work conducted by Mr. Thomas and his associates, where they developed a cable not only capable of transmitting energy, but also storing it, rather than requiring a grid or battery. The team developed thin, flexible and lightweight copper ribbons, which are split into two layers: one energy storing layer; one solar cell layer. Their groundbreaking achievement removes a major limitation to solar cell portability, as the energy flowing through them has always required a battery for storage. The proof-of-concept was demonstrated using a tabletop loom and a bit of yarn.

Mr. Thomas's work is likely to revolutionize wearable



//renatodantasc

technology so far as allowing us to charge our phones and other gadgets with jackets or coats by simply "sliding them in a pocket". Furthermore, military applications would be especially promising, particularly for soldiers stationed in desert climates. These men must often trek for days and carry up to 30 pounds of batteries on their backs, which isn't easy, even

in a calm, safe environment. Other potential uses for this novel technology include cars that could function on solar energy, store that energy and re-charge themselves so long as there is sunlight.

Life-saving engineering

Sara Hamilton reviews how 'Massive Small Change' speaker Joanna Beale inspires others to make a difference by improving sanitation in Mozambique

Mention science and saving lives and we often think of scrubs, scalpels and open-heart surgery. Joanne Beale from Engineers Without Borders, in her talk 'Massive Small Change in Mozambique' opens our eyes to the fact that doctors are not the only ones saving lives directly – engineers are doing it too.

Joanne spent two and a half years in Mozambique on a project to ameliorate water conditions. In a country where only 25% of the population has access to safe water, 20% of children had consistently been dying of diarrhea before they reached the age of five, a direct result

of poor water conditions and lack of sanitation. Joanne set out with a simple mission: to reduce this child mortality rate by spreading information on water sanitation, building water wells and encouraging the construction of latrines in every house.

Joanne took on volunteers from local communities and educated them on water safety, aiming to reach every household to maximize the effect. Most locals had remarkably little knowledge about water sanitation, with commonplace methods of purification, including boiling, UV and chlorine being almost unheard of. Only

30% of the local population had any access to latrines and common practices like hand-washing before meals were scarcely practiced.

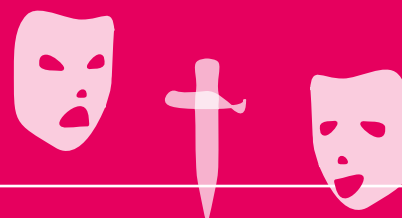
Joanne's educational program revolutionized the communities she touched within just two years: 97% of all households targeted received aid, 75% of them having functional latrines at the end of the program and water purification techniques now being widespread among 80% of the population. This has resulted in child mortality being cut by more than half, a figure that is expected to improve as these measures reach more



communities. What is truly remarkable is with how few resources and a virtually inexistent government collaboration, this was achieved. The only paid member of the project was a single field worker who managed to train 15 local volunteers, who themselves

trained 20 counsellors each, who succeeded in reaching out to 440,000 people. Joanne also expressed her joy at the willingness of locals to cooperate, with applications for volunteering positions from people with whom she did not even share a common language swarming at her door.

So next time you think about your careers prospects perhaps consider, just for a second, the millions of communities that could use your technological and scientific knowledge to empower them. They might just need it a tiny bit more than the stock exchange market does.



Yariv Mozer - The Invisible Men

You know something is amiss when innocent men have to abandon their homes and live as fugitives in a country where they are not welcome, in order to survive. However, this is the situation gay Palestinian men face today.

Ostracized by their own country, shunned by their own people, and threatened by their own families they are forced to flee for their lives. The destination? Tel-Aviv. Where - being Palestinians - if they are discovered they are returned to Palestine, and an awaiting death. To avoid being killed they try to find a means to escape again. This is the cycle, the torment, in which many gay Palestinian men live in today. Escape, hide, capture, return, repeat until death.

Director Yariv Mozer's *Invisible Men*, offers a raw insight into the lives of some of these men, who have committed no crime except to love those

who their society has deemed unfit. It unapologetically shows the struggles these men face, the torture - literal as well as emotional - they have been through and the torture they face. Their lives are at such risk that the only way they are guaranteed to survive is through applying for asylum outside of Israel. The administration involved, compounded with their unsubstantiated belief that they will not succeed, as well as plain reluctance to leave their homeland serve as major deterrents for many men. The film follows three men who decided to apply and tells their story as they progress through the application process.

Mozer has been promoting the message of *Invisible Men* for the past four years and continued to do so during his Q&A at Imperial. Having directed several films, both features and documentaries, exploring the topic of sexual identity, and identifying as gay himself, he was clearly

very passionate about its message. He, however, has the luxury of being an Israeli citizen. Under the protection of his Israeli passport he filmed the Palestinian men (who have since been granted asylum and are safe in Europe) for over 2 years, all the while unsure of whether he would have a finished product in the end - he had promised to never show their faces were they unfortunate enough to not be granted asylum. The complications of shooting the film were numerous: Yariv described how he always had to stay a good distance behind the men whilst shooting in public, for their safety. However, being filmed by a Israeli crew also gave the men a shield; they felt like they belonged in the Israeli community, and hence felt safe. This juxtaposition of what is and isn't safe highlights the confusing and unstable life the men live, always vulnerable and never at ease. The financial, physical, and emotional



Yariv Mozer \\\ WikiCommons effort Yariv put into this film was all for the sake of raising awareness.

The change that is needed is political. However, the move that will catalyse it is how masculinity (and femininity) is viewed worldwide. The mind-sets of numerous families, communities, and countries need to be changed about these issues. The view that the LGBT community partake in something 'dishonorable' needs to be scrapped. And films like this are necessary in raising awareness to our generation, the ones who can further change about such problems around the world. When asked whether he thought the film had resulted in 'change' he



The Invisible Men \\\ Mozer Films

replied, "I'm realistic when it comes to making change with the power of cinema. Politicians can make change. Social movements can make change. Sometimes raising the awareness of one person, making him change the way he looks at reality, at life, will show when he meets someone in need, these are the small things that will make a big change. Sometimes one person [at this Q&A] can become a minister or a prime minister in the future, right? And they will change things. And that is stronger than a reality program."

Thank you to the Imperial College Israeli Society for hosting the event and to Yariv Mozer for an illuminating session.

Meryl Anil

A year after publishing his 2011 memoir *Life Itself*, Roger Ebert

contacted Steve James, the accomplished director of *Stevie* and *Hoop Dreams*, to make an accompanying documentary of the same name. It must have been a daunting proposition. Assembling the definitive life story of the world's most famous film critic is certainly not an easy task. It makes me therefore happy to report, that James ultimately succeeded in producing a biography with subtlety, sincerity and an undeniable intelligence.

Overall, it was an interesting experience watching this film as I was only vaguely aware of Roger Ebert's work. I knew who he was but, I suppose not living in America or being

alive whilst his show was on television, I was never really aware of the cultural juggernaut he was. I certainly had no idea about the intricacies of his character and personal life which James explores and presents so well here. Producing comprehensive biographical documentaries can often be hard. After all, any person one wishes to study is a complex being with opinions, characteristics, biases, likes and dislikes all working together. Where *Life Itself* succeeded was in leaving me with the feeling that

\\ Assembling the definitive life story of the world's most famous film critic is certainly not an easy task \\\

I really got to know Ebert. I also liked how the filmmakers were not afraid to include some of the less glamorous aspects of Ebert's life, from his alcoholism to his ego. But, whereas other directors often present topics like these in a manipulatively melancholic way, James understood that these were human flaws and presented them with the nuance and complexity that should be expected when telling a deeply personal life story. The way Asif Kapadia handled Amy Winehouse's life story in *Amy* is another example of this done well.

There were a few things I think the film was missing however. His love for film was made clear but I never got a sense of his opinions or which films he liked or disliked, and for what reason. Which films affected him the most? What philosophies does he spell out in the way that he writes

Documentary Corner: Life Itself

about them? On top of this, I also really wanted to know what made Ebert better than the average reviewer on Rotten Tomatoes. There were also a few parts of the film which felt slightly pointless, at least to the wider narrative. The section on the Cannes film festival is an example of a part of the film which didn't really go anywhere or provide interesting insight. I would understand if other people disagree with me on

this though. Overall, I commend the filmmakers for being restrained in their runtime and not letting everything drag on for too long. It's definitely a pitfall for a lot of similar biographical films, Scorsese's *Marley* is one example. All this adds up to a biographical film which works in every way it should. I should think Ebert would be very happy to add this documentary to his legacy.

Benjamin Collier



Cohen's light has gone dark, but the night will not have him



\\ Takahiro Kyono

Cohen's last album marks the end of a **legendary** career. Filled with **mellifluous** lyrics and soul-stirring music, it has been received with **critical** acclaim. Sadly 2016 has stolen another **great**, but can an artist like **Cohen** ever really leave us behind?

This is not strictly a review. Given the circumstances it can't be. Instead, it is a look at how an album takes on a new life when its creator passes away so shortly after its release – or, more appropriately, how an album allows for the continuation of a life that is no more. If you read practically any of the existing reviews for Leonard Cohen's now final LP, *You Want It Darker*, you'll see a string of 4 star, 5 star, 9/10 and 'A' reviews. These have not come about from a sense of pity on behalf of the music press – nor could they, the album was released over a fortnight before his sad passing on 7th November – but because the album is quite simply that good.

There's no mistaking Cohen's age on *You Want It Darker*. Reaching his 82nd year during the recording process, his voice has permanently dropped an octave or two since his debut in the 60s. But in alignment with his previous works, the poetry, the religious overtones, and

\\ This is not strictly a review. Given the circumstances it can't be \\

most importantly, the humour remain. It's easy to miss behind the melancholy of the music that Cohen has delivered over the last 5 decades, but his dry wit is what sets him apart from the majority of his contemporaries: "I heard the snake was baffled by his sin, he shed his skin to find the snake within", "I struggled with some demons, they were middle class and tame". It's not laugh out loud like a Randy Newman song, but upon reflection you can spot the nods and winks laying within the harrowing subject matter. On a side note, *Is This What You Wanted* is perhaps the best example of the juxtaposition of pain and humour in Cohen's career. Away from Leonard's own performance, the instrumentation on *You Want It Darker* is second to none. From the driving baseline of the album's title track, to the surf-rock guitar of *Leaving the Table*, and the devastatingly beautiful strings near the album's end, Cohen, his son Adam, and Patrick Leonard are to be commended for the production across the 35 minute run time. Not forgetting, of course, the female backing vocalists, a constant in Cohen's music as much as the wit, but who take on a new life when heard alongside the now deeper voice of the Canadian singer. *You Want it Darker* is

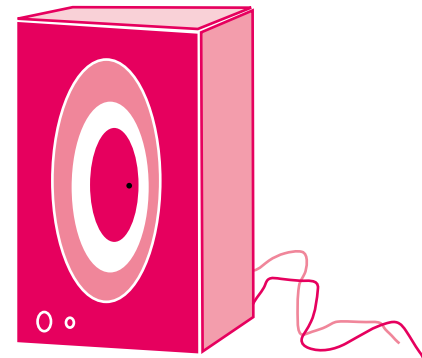
the third studio album to be released by Cohen since 2012, *Old Ideas* and *Popular Problems* being the predecessors, a prolific streak accompanied by relatively consistent touring since 2008. Much of this, it is speculated, is down to money problems. In 1994 Cohen had all but retired from music; the singer moved to the Mt. Baldy Zen Centre, a Buddhist Monastery in the Californian Mountains, to the West of Los Angeles.

\\ But in alignment with his previous works, the poetry, the religious overtones, and most importantly, the humour remain \\

He was ordained a Zen Buddhist monk in 1996, and stayed at the centre until 1999. During this period and into the 2000s Cohen's manager and former lover, Kelly Lynch, managed his finances, but recklessly. Lynch effectively stole millions of dollars from Cohen. Despite suing and winning in 2005, Cohen never got his money back, much of which was a retirement fund. So came the tours and albums, though Cohen

enjoyed his return to musical relevance so much that they continued well beyond the point of necessity. What was so remarkable about this return to song writing, however, is not how it came about, but that the resulting music was so great. Many an artist has delved back into the studio after a long period of musical silence, lured by the promise of rekindled wealth, only to produce frankly dire and sickeningly nostalgic albums. Unlike most, Cohen entered a completely new artistic period in his career, which was received with acclaim from fans and critics alike. A dazzling climax for one of modern music's great heroes.

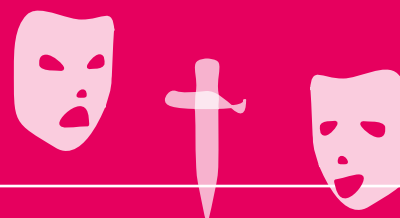
Much was made in January of this year at the poignancy and beauty of David Bowie's *Blackstar* – he knew his death was upon him, and his lyrics and music reflected that in a devastatingly wonderful manner. Comparisons of Cohen's and Bowie's final releases are inevitable – both men lost their lives to cancer. What sets the events surrounding *You Want It Darker* apart from *Blackstar*, however, is the time between album release and artist's death. For Bowie, this was just two days, while for Cohen, over two weeks. Reviews of *Blackstar* were thus rife with analysis of Bowie's last



hurrah. With *You Want It Darker*, there was time to assimilate and see an album beyond just a swansong. On the face of it, the album is a collection of love songs, a lost love, a love that keeps the world from going cold, and of a love for our protagonist's saviour (*Treaty, If I Didn't Have Your Love*, and *Traveling Light*, in that order).

Of course, from this week all of that has changed. For the generations of Leonard Cohen fans to come, of which there will be many, the

\\ Cohen entered a completely new artistic period in his career, which was received with acclaim \\



\\ Comparisons of Cohen's and Bowie's final releases are inevitable – both men lost their lives to cancer \\

swansong will be heard from the first line of the opening track. Now lyrics like "Hineni, Hineni. I'm ready, my Lord" ('Hineni', from the Torah, and Hebrew for 'Here I am'), "I'm leaving the table, I'm out of the game", "I'm travelling light, it's au revoir" paint a picture as clear as day, of a man on the edge of passing. Perhaps it's denial, or simply to avoid being rude, but few predicted this would be Cohen's last album (Will

Hermes, of Rolling Stone being an exception). This is even despite Cohen spelling his fate out to us all, without any lyrical metaphors, back in July. His most famous muse, Marianne Ihlen, passed away at 81 on 29th July this year. Before she died, Cohen sent a letter to his dear friend: "Well Marianne, it's come to this time when we are really so old and our bodies are falling apart and I think I will follow you very soon. Know that I am so close behind you that if you stretch out your hand, I think you can reach mine". Even when accepting his own demise, poetry does not fail him.

does not. Time has at last caught up and the singer is silent. And then, with but seconds left, he bids his last goodbye.

"I wish there was a treaty we could sign / It's over now, the water and the wine / We were broken then but now we're borderline / And I wish there was a treaty, I wish there was a treaty between your love and mine."

Leonard Cohen the man is now, sadly, dead. Leonard Cohen the singer, poet, lyricist, guitar player, and musician – whose influence and impact is unquantifiable – lives on.

The final track on *You Want It Darker* is the most poetic of all. *Strong Reprise/Treaty* opens with a string version of the piano melody from the album's second track, *Treaty*. Yet Cohen's voice and lyrics – the defining aspects of a now completed discography – are nowhere to be heard. The strings continue, but Cohen

Adam Gellatly

\\ Willy Gutierrez



\\ Know that I am so close behind you that if you stretch out your hand, I think you can reach mine \\

Adrian Thomson \\

Released just two days after the US election result, the cynical tone and pertinent observations throughout the album are a cutting backlash to the uprising of hate in America that accompanied Trump's success. In signature style, the bars deviate from predictable ultra-masculine, gangsta rap themes and instead philosophise on cultural identity, race and America. Before the new release had been announced, Phife Dawg, who formed ATCQ with his classmates, died of complications from diabetes, aged just 45. The remaining members continued the project in tribute, with Q-Tip stating this would be their last album. ATCQ have been praised for the infectious optimism that characterises their hits, *We got it from Here... Thank You 4 Your service* maintains this, but the lyrics are understandably darker. The second track, *We The People*, begins with

alarms sounding and later features police sirens as Q-Tip recites a Trump-style mantra: "All you black folks, you must go / All you Mexicans you must go / And all you poor folks, you must go / Muslims and gays, boy, we hate your ways". Kanye West features on *The Killing Season*, which relates the assassination of black political leaders and police brutality to the hyper-militarised US. Jarobi goes on to contemplate the evolution

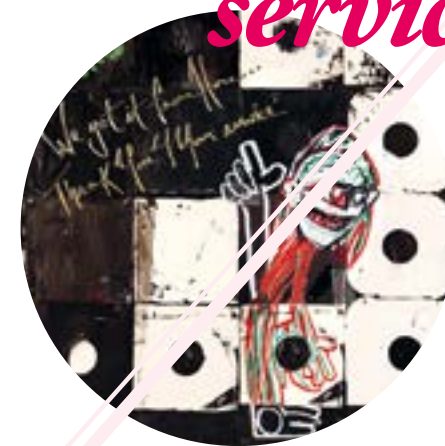
\\ A cutting backlash to the uprising of hate in America that accompanied Trump's success \\

of slavery into unequal legal treatment and mass incarceration of non-whites: "Been on the wrong team so much, can't recognize a win / Seems like my only

crime is having melanin". The album's production shows a finesse that comes from the collaborative style; *Moving Backwards* juxtaposes Anderson Paak's soulful voice with scathing bars from Jarobi and Q-Tip addressing the regressive attitudes of the police: "Thorns in the crown hit the cross I bear / Why they wanna see me hangin' like a towel somewhere". Rarely do we get to hear an album featuring so many icons, including Elton John, Kendrick Lamar, André 3000, and Kanye West, but such is the admiration in the industry for ATCQ. *We got it from Here... Thank You 4 Your Service* is a masterful commentary on race in 21st century America.

Ruby Freeman

We got it from Here... Thank You 4 Your service



\\ Epic Records



FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER



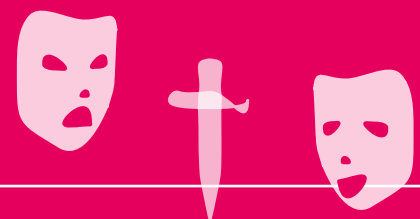
COCKTAIL NIGHT

From 19:00 till late
Buy two cocktails for £7.60 or £4.50 each.



Venue	Regular Events	Time	Day
Metric & FiveSixEight	iPOP	20:00 - 02:00	Friday 18 November
FiveSixEight	Super Quiz	20:00 - 22:00	Every Tuesday
Metric	Cocktail Night	18:00 - 23:00	Every Tuesday
Metric & FiveSixEight	CSP Wednesday	19:00 - 01:00	Every Wednesday
Metric & FiveSixEight	CommonPeople	20:00 - 02:00	Friday 25 November
h-bar	Pub Quiz	19:00 - 21:00	2nd & 4th Thursday
h-bar	PGI Friday	19:00 - 00:00	Every Friday
Reynolds	Free Pool	17:00 - 23:00	Every Monday
Reynolds	Pub Quiz	18:30 - 23:00	Every Tuesday
Reynolds	Sports Night	18:00 onwards	Every Wednesday
Reynolds	Pizza Night	17:30 - 23:00	Every Thursday
Reynolds	Cocktail Night	19:00 onwards	Every Friday
The Foundry	Quiz Night	19:30 - 22:00	Every Thursday
The Foundry	Karaoke Night	20:00 - 23:30	2nd & 4th Friday





Ante Up | a new age of hip hop

Is hip-hop finally casting the spotlight on mental health issues, violence and gender identity?



\\ Antonio Rull

For a form of music so deeply rooted in a culture of self-certainty and dazzling bravado, you might not expect artists of the genre to be tackling sensitive issues relating to isolation, depression, violence and substance abuse. This however, is exactly what we've seen take place with fresh new artists championing the cause to give these issues a well-deserved place in the spotlight.

The emergence of honest and introspective rap is far from a new phenomenon; in fact some of our most celebrated rap artists including Biggie, Tupac and Eminem have been known to rap about the grim realities of their past with brave honesty. In *Death Around The Corner* Tupac plays the

\\ Despite hip hop and rap artists giving their troubled listeners something and someone to relate to, this hasn't come without difficulty and backlash \\

role of a character living in a harsh urban wasteland where the "skinny" people "die" and where his character is fixated on "staying high". His effort to escape this numbing habit quickly spirals into a loss of control, anxiety and paranoia. He draws parallels between himself and his father who he says was "madder than a motherfucker", as he realizes the hereditary nature of his tendencies. Artists have since continued along this stream of self-reflection and social commentary but this has often been paired with equally striking and blooming confidence, and a focus on issues that the artist has overcome, and so serves as a sign of success rather than weakness.

Alternatively artists like Marshall Mathers have indirectly gone about channeling these thoughts through characters elaborately created to touch upon whatever is deemed taboo. This technique has been employed more recently by artists such as Tyler the Creator who plays Wolf Haley, a balaclava wearing alter ego with a taste for "Green paper, gold teeth, and pregnant gold retrievers". Through Wolf he expresses the darker and more twisted corners of his imagination, but never without struggle, as Tyler retorts with "Fuck

money, diamonds and bitches, don't need 'em" on his 2011 track *Yonkers*.

However despite hip hop and rap artists giving their troubled listeners something and someone to relate to, this hasn't come without difficulty and backlash. Artists like Childish Gambino and Kid Cudi have grown accustomed to a storm of critics on

\\ Artists like Drake have been frequently mocked for speaking openly about their feelings of isolation, jealousy, paranoia and irrationality \\

social media labeling them as "soft" and "lame". Often these criticisms have come from fellow musicians and prominent members of the music industry. Incidents like this remain proof that many listeners continue to yearn for the more traditional rhetoric of success, stories of coping in the face of adversity and transforming ones life from rags to riches.

Mental health and hip hop have had a difficult

relationship for decades, with members of the culture insisting the matter being a fallacy, or worse, even a sign of weakness. This had led to many artists rejecting collaboration with those keen to speak out about personal vulnerabilities, or even worse, labels refusing to put out releases where these topics take center stage. Artists like Drake have been frequently mocked for speaking openly about their feelings of isolation, jealousy, paranoia and irrationality. Many of his releases were met with harsh criticism especially after recent tensions when Meek Mill accused Drake of using ghost writers on his album. Meek Mill took part in the back and forth on social media during which he attacked Drake saying "I heard that shit, that shit was very soft. Baby lotion soft". In an environment where hyper masculinity and self-sufficiency are cherished, writing emotionally sensitive songs with the help of ghost writers often means asking for this kind of harsh reception. With this kind of backdrop, recent efforts by rap artists like Kendrick Lamar to speak out about isolation and substance abuse should be recognized and credited. In his track *Swimming Pools*, Kendrick speaks about how alcoholism

begins with an attempt "to fit in the popular" and quickly spirals into a self-medicated need to "drown their sorrows". Kendrick even goes to great lengths discussing the genetic predisposition to alcoholism when he raps about how his "granddaddy had that golden flask". One new artist in particular who experienced the brunt of rigid attitudes towards what a rap artist should or shouldn't be is R&B/Soul musician Frank Ocean, who spoke very openly about being gay in the rap industry. In an interview in 2014, he spoke about the difficulty getting to work with other rap artists in a studio, simply because of their prejudices towards his sexual orientation. Nonetheless, Frank Ocean was able to garner a dedicated fan base with tracks such as *Thinkin' Bout You* where he sings; "My eyes don't shed tears, but boy, they bawl when I'm thinkin' 'bout you" - a subtle nod towards the love interest he sings about. More clearly however, on *We All*

\\ Mental health and hip hop have had a difficult relationship for decades \\



Try he sings "I believe that marriage isn't between a man and woman, but between love and love". Since, Ocean has received praise for his musical work and efforts to challenge the norms within the inner circle of musicians and tastemakers.

On *Real Friends* we hear Kanye West, a man notorious



\\ Shane Hirschman

for his self proclaimed god-status, put his ego in the back seat to discuss trust issues and a looming sense

of isolation. The track opens with Kanye asking questions, which appear to emerge from a deeply seated anxious psyche; "Real friends, how many of us? / How many of us, how many jealous? / Real friends / It's not many of us, we smile at each other / But how many honest? / Trust issues". In this case what is being said isn't particularly profound no matter how honest, but what is important is who appears to be speaking about these issues. For artists like Kanye West to rap about his anxieties to the millions of listeners who tuned in to the release of *Life of Pablo* is a reflection of a time where that has been deemed more acceptable and a time where praise has started to replace backlash.

On his album *To Pimp A Butterfly*, Kendrick Lamar features a track titled *i*, where a percussion heavy 70s soul groove is paired with a chorus of voices singing the lead hook "I love myself / Illuminated by the hand of God,

boy don't be shy / I love myself / One day at a time". Here Kendrick brings something slightly more refreshing and previously lacking to the table. Instead of simply offering listeners the chance to relate to his troubles and struggles, he also offers to pick them up with a message

\\ Frank Ocean spoke very openly about being gay in the rap industry \\

of positivity and a reminder to love oneself.

A few days ago, hip hop pioneers A Tribe Called Quest released *We Got It From Here...*, their latest 16 track album featuring verses from the remaining three members and the late founding member of the group Phife Dawg. The album is a mind-bending excursion through troubles of our modern day, with focuses

on sleeplessness in the digital age (as on *Melatonin*), isolation in a hyper-connected world, racial and political tensions (*The Donald*) as well as dealing with mourning and death. Throughout the album, Phife Dawg, Q-Tip, Ali Shaheed Muhammad and Jarobi White do what drew fans to the group in the first place: delivering an honest reflection of time we live in and standing by it. This is exactly what hip hop and rap music has always stood for. Be it good or bad, for better or for worse, truth and honesty have always held center stage such for artists of the genre. And so, with global shift in attitudes towards acceptance and diversity becoming more prominent and widespread, we can only expect these genres of music to be at the forefront of channeling this progressive change, with better things to come for artists and listeners alike.

Mazen Almaskati



\\ Eli Watson

This is Peckham rapper Nathaniel Thompson's first London headline show, despite over 10 years making music. He says he can't believe this is finally here after all the aggro; it's been a long time coming. Commonly known as Giggs, his accolades include BET best hip hop artist UK, and his latest album debuted at number 2. Previous London shows are not missing due to a lack of interest - the Forum is sold out and the crowd are enthusiastic. Upon entry, it is clear that security is a concern; ticket holders are subjected to thorough bag checks and asked to put all metal objects in a clear plastic bag, then waved over with metal detectors. Inside, security guards litter the crowd. These concerns are not just due to a particularly energetic mosh pit, but probably due to Giggs' past in the Peckham Boys' Gang. Having been sentenced to two years for

firearm possession in 2003, and arrested again, then acquitted, on similar charges in 2012, putting on a London show has come with some obstacles. Previous shows have been cancelled by the police, most infamously leading Giggs to upload a public apology to YouTube in 2013, sarcastically thanking the police for always slowing him down.

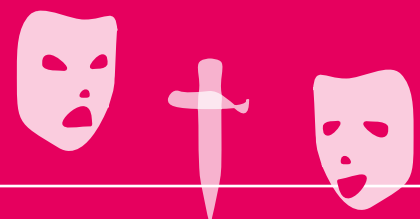
The show is based heavily off Giggs' latest album, *Landlord*. The set is impressive - the front of a block of flats with dynamic silhouettes in the windows coordinated to each track performed. Giggs' lyrics, delivered by his trademark booming voice, get as dark and gritty as his subject matter. Introducing *Just Swervin*, he says this is a song to light up to (but of course, not in the venue) "I put my mum through a nightmare / But now she don't check the news / Because her son wasn't out there / I'm in the house with some houseware" he raps. Aside from this, the vibes are celebratory. Crowd

favourites *Look What the Cat Dragged in* and *Talking the Hardest* have the venue buzzing - empty cups and even a track suit can be seen flying up above the moshpit. The party vibe intensifies with the arrival of grime royalty Kano, JME and Skepta. Iconic performances of *3 Wheel-ups*, *Man Don't Care* and *It Aint Safe* are followed by *Whipping Excursion*, the current single from Landlord. Giggs is joined on stage by all performers of the show for the finale, celebrating as confetti cannons fire. All in all, a triumph.

Simran Kukran



Giggs at O2 Forum Kentish Town



Deconstructing the myth of 'prancing princes'



\\ Michel e Carla

In 1976, tongue firmly in cheek, social scientists Deborah David, and Robert Brannon, outlined the four tenets of American masculinity; "no sissy stuff", "be a big wheel", "be a sturdy oak", and "give em hell". The terms might be joking; the principles behind them are not; emotional constipation, testosterone fuelled posturing, and (violent) aggression form the basis of what sociologists call "hegemonic masculinity", in other words, the socially acceptable heteromascularity of gunslinging cowboys from mid century Westerns. Male ballet dancers do not easily fit into this narrative, whether they have ripped abs or not. Ballet, in the eyes of many has resolutely fallen into the category of "sissy stuff"; "prancing princes" is how the critic Andrew Bland described classical male dancers in 1960. Sadly, the dogwhistle homophobia in Bland's term and ones like it have not stayed relegated to the 60s. In 2003, a sociological study of male ballet dancers found that homophobic slurs were still used to describe male dancers and their work. The almost superhuman athletic feats that might've earned this cohort of real life Billy Elliots acclaim from the Reddit crowd had they taken place on a field, or a track, become the focus of derision when they take place on stage. Why is this the case? Some

have argued that while conventional athletics is about action to achieve a goal, dance is action for its own sake, for the sake of being seen. To be on display, to become an object of the female gaze is a threat to the conventional ideas of masculinity. For some, women are much more suited to the role of object; it's no coincidence that figures in music-boxes, tiny figures spinning on cue are cast as ballerinas. These presumptions on a woman's ability disregards the blood and sweat that make up the

**\\ Dogwhistle homophobia has not stayed relegated to the 60s when referring to male ballet dancers **

performances of real life ballerinas, in favour of the tautly held postures, and the tulle of their tutus. How to fit men into this narrative though? Throughout history, male dancers have been under pressure to embrace effeminacy (and to some degree the assumption of homosexuality that comes along with this) or utterly reject it in a display of over the top machismo. Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* attempts to subvert expectations to encompass

both. In the original *Swan Lake*, a Tchaikovsky classic, Siegfried, a prince who is being married off by the Queen against his will, falls in love with Odette, a girl who is cursed to be a swan by day. Only true love will lift the curse cast by the evil Von Rothbart. *Swan Lake* is one of the few ballets that have taken root in the public consciousness. Rarely do new directors attempt any sort of major revision to the tried and tested format of the 19th century original. It was perhaps Matthew Bourne's inexperience with ballet that allowed him the boldness to reimagine *Swan Lake* as a love story between two male leads.

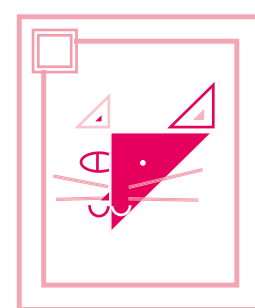
In the Bourne staging, first performed in 1995 in Sadler's Wells, the swans, traditionally a corps of female dancers are replaced by bare chested male dancers in feathered hose, faces done up in war-paint like black make up. Bourne has said he was inspired by the "aggressive, muscular" side of swans; the viciousness that belie their serene exteriors. One of the most iconic sequences from the original is the *dance of the little swans*. In this *pas de quatre*, four (female) dancers, arms linked, perform a piece of devilishly difficult and synchronised choreography. In the Bourne version, the performance sheds its veneer of order; instead of restrained steps in synch, the dancers perform daring leaps,

flapping their arms menacingly trying to intimidate each other rather than performing in harmony. This is a display of hegemonic masculinity, of power, not aestheticism. The movements are exaggerated, discordant with the familiar music, it's meant to be at least a little funny - a send up of how gung-ho masculinity looks in this scenario.

It would've been easy for the whole production to descend into parody, but Bourne's *Swan Lake* remains a story of tortured love. The prince is revealed to be closeted, visions of men haunt

**\\ Bourne's Swan Lake is a tender depiction of a closeted man **

him; in the opening scene, he starts awake from a dream about a strangely alluring man. Later on in the first act, on a night out in a club full of sailors, the prince's dances, thus far subdued, become sexually charged. It is not meant to be; the night ends in a physical altercation which leaves Siegfried bruised and bloody on the pavement. He is rebuffed by his mother, and the woman he was seeing is revealed to be on the payroll of the evil Secretary who is seeking influence at the palace. Dependent,



the prince stumbles into a deserted park, where he meets the Swan King.

The performance by the dancer in the role of the Swan King is by turns menacing and sensual. He radiates a certain wildness in his solo performances. However, the *pas de deux* between the prince and the Swan King are tender, loving. If the *dance of the little swans* is played for laughs, this central relationship is thankfully, not. Matthew Bourne has said depicting a romantic relationship between the Swan King and the prince was not his 'explicit intention', but the homoeroticism is fairly evident. In this production, the characterisation of male ballet dancers comes full circle; rather than rejecting the associations with homosexuality, *Swan Lake* reclaims it. In doing so, it creates a far richer, far truer, and most importantly, a far more interesting depiction of masculinity.

Indira Mallik



As Oreste started, I thought for a fleeting moment that I was in the wrong place. Had I gotten lost among the twisting alleyways of East London? Why was a mascara-streaked, hammer-wielding teenage girl butchering a hapless prisoner on stage?

Then the orchestra struck up the opening chords, and I realised that said girl was meant to be Ifigenia. In Handel's original (though original is a bit of a misnomer, Oreste is a pastiche of music cobbled together from earlier works), Ifigenia is the unwilling priestess of Diana on the island of Tauris, forced to ritually sacrifice all those who land on King Toante's shores. Her long-estranged brother Oreste, driven mad by the Furies for murdering his mother, wanders the world in search of relief and is washed up on Tauris. Ifigenia tries to help him escape from the island with the aid of Filotete - the captain of the guards who has fallen in love with her. This plan is complicated by the capture of Oreste's wife Ermione, and his faithful friend Pilade who have come to Tauris in search of him.

Before I had quite recovered from the initial shock of seeing the temple of Diana represented by a slaughterhouse (complete with a generous splash of blood from the latest sacrificial victim), Oreste himself shuffled into view. Dressed in tatty pyjamas and picking vacantly at his shirt hem, he looked more an escapee from a mental asylum than the tortured "man of noble descent" that Ifigenia proclaimed him to be. But then he opened his mouth to sing, and what a contrast! On that gritty, graffiti-ridden stage, after the gore and horror of the opening scenes, Angela Simkin's voice was unexpectedly beautiful.

The more I watched, the more mystified I became. Director Gerard Jones' production of Oreste is intentionally ugly and stripped-down, devoid of the

niceties of classicism. There is nothing sacred about ritual sacrifice in Jones' vision of Tauris - only madness and horror. I soon came to the conclusion that everyone was insane; except perhaps Pilade, a lone figure of normalcy in a cast of deranged characters.

Despite my preference for a classical style, the modernity of the production was not what perturbed me. As a Beckett-esque absurdist theatre unfolded on stage, the soaring notes and romantic lyrics seemed to be from a different production entirely. "O

**\\ As a Beckett-esque absurdist theatre unfolded on stage, the soaring notes and romantic lyrics seemed to be from a different production entirely. **

fairest eyes of my beloved... For you I shall suffer the joys and ills of Fate!" - How could I believe that, coming from a slaving Filotete who leered after Ifigenia at every opportunity? Jones might have been going for dissonance, but it just did not work.

Oreste is a long, three-act opera, and the ROH made the unfortunate decision to run the first two acts together. By the end of the second act, I had grown quite weary of the characters. Nothing made any sense. Vacuous, twitchy Oreste failed to inspire in me any admiration or reason to believe why the other characters were so willing to lay down their lives for him. When the reunited Oreste and Ermione sang their

passionate "Ah mia cara" duet at each other with an utter lack of emotion, it was just too much. I closed my eyes. That certainly improved the performance; the lovely voices of Angela Simkin and Vlada Borovko carried me

**\\ Had I gotten lost among the twisting alleyways of East London? **

away.

At least the denouement, with its final twist, managed to explain the peculiar actions of the characters in the first two acts - but the belated realisation that it was all intentional was too little, too late. Hilariously, Pilade gave up on the lunacy surrounding him, donned his lifejacket and slipped quietly away in the last scene. Presumably he was off to a saner island.

Despite the somewhat misguided production, the talent of the singers managed to shine through. Oreste is the ROH's annual production of the Jette Parker Young Artists programme, and there was no small amount of talent showcased on stage that night. Angela Simkin (Oreste)

**\\ This production is intentionally ugly and stripped-down devoid of the niceties of classicism **

and Jennifer Davis (Ifigenia) stood out for me especially, accompanied by the very competent Southbank Sinfonia under conductor James Hendry.

If Gerard Jones is aiming to shock audiences with his post-modern production of Oreste, he certainly managed to do so. I'm not very sure what else he managed to achieve.

Is this even the right theatre? | Oreste disappoints



Gritty, and stripped down: Oreste at the ROH \\ Clive Baroda



Claire Chan

Oreste is on at the Royal Opera House until 19th November 2017.

Start time: 7.30 pm

Runtime : 170 minutes



James Joyce | *Dubliners*

James Joyce was a modernist master with game-changing style, literary gonads the size of Dublin and –quite literally– Homeric ambition. Few writers can boast of having drunk with Hemingway, dined with Picasso, and picked a quarrel with Proust. His influence reaches far and wide: people have named everything from rock bands to subatomic particles after his writing. Joyce was something of an enigmatic figure (his last words were “Does nobody

**\\ Few writers can boast of having drunk with Hemingway, dined with Picasso, and picked a quarrel with Proust **

understand?”), and the only thing more inscrutable than the man himself was his work. *Ulysses* was banned for a long time in most of the English-speaking world before being named by critical consensus as “the most important novel in the English language”. *Finnegans Wake*, his masterpiece that

**\\ Joyce's writing is not about twist endings, or dramatic turns of event; rather they are about nothing happening **

took seventeen years to write, has been called “the most colossal leg-pull in literature”, and has even been compared to Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Dubliners, his collection of fifteen short stories, is a pioneering work of modernism. Quietly innovative, the collection redefined how



Dublin by sunset \\ creativecapture.wordpress.com

stories could be told. In it, nationalism and naturalism blend; instead of a conventional beginning in the thick of it, the stories start long before the action; the climax, rather than a final act of showdown in blazing gunfire is in internal ‘epiphany’. The tension and emotion in these small moments of quiet inspection deliver an emotional gut punch that lingers long after the reader has put down the book. The stories are about the largely unremarkable day-to-day lives of the Irish middle class, but despite the banal subject matter, the writing makes *Dubliners* one of the powerful, and poignant works of literature ever

written. *Araby*, one of the most readable stories in the collection, is a simple tale of a boy who is infatuated with a beautiful but inaccessible girl. Filled with a sense of chivalry and honour, he idolises her as a goddess. Hoping to win her love with a gift, overcoming the obstacles thrown his way, he travels to the exotic, far-away bazaar, *Araby*. When he arrives, it’s too late; the bazaar has closed. Alone, our protagonist becomes overwhelmed by a sense of the futility of his endeavour. The bubble has been burst. Why is he here? What silly romantic idea has driven him to such a pointless journey? The story ends in this moment

of disillusionment.

If it feels like I have given away the plot, worry not. Joyce’s stories are not about the plot, and the climaxes are not about such-and-such happening, rather, they are about *nothing* happening, about being stopped in one’s tracks in a way that only sudden inaction can bring about. There is no flashy twist-ending, rather, it is almost as if the characters suddenly realise they are mere automata written into a story, and all their motivations and drives are devoid of any real meaning. It’s a feeling that plagues every one of us now and then, and I feel Joyce tap into this ubiquitous but

oft-neglected emotion with greatest accuracy. Very few writers use characters in a story to relate to our own sense of being a character in a story.

In nearly every story in *Dubliners*, the main character undergoes an epiphany of some sort; taking various forms – guilt, embarrassment, disillusionment, disenchantment, frustration, or sheer despondency. The writing is not tragic but melancholic; with this bittersweet, sheer shadow of an emotion, Joyce explores the full range of human feeling. Literature has given us much of the heroic and the tragic, the comic and the joyous. Joyce lets us sink into those delicate

**\\ Joyce lets us sink into those delicate in-between emotions of melancholy. In these subtle bittersweet moments there are numerous shades of grey that live in-between the black and the white. **

in-betweens, those numerous shades of grey that live in-between the black and the white.

Joyce is the master of the subtle understatement. This is something much needed in today’s age of hyperbolic, bombastic Trumpian rhetoric. In a world where platitudes are strewn left, right and centre (mostly right), where everything is “tremendous”, “huge” or “amazing”, I miss Joycean restraint.

Dubliners is actually rather decent.

Abhinav Varma



TV mourns for *Adonais*



This is what real men look like \\ William Tung

Unfortunately, **men dominate the best roles** in television. So, you'd think that they'd at least be represented with **nuance**, right? Well, that tends not to be the case.

Television has, historically speaking, been a fairly progressive medium. Whether it was *Star Trek* in the 60s pushing for minority rights, or shows like *Will & Grace* and *Ellen* normalising and publicising LGBT rights in the 90s, TV has frequently been willing and capable to push the envelope. One of the areas it has perhaps lagged behind, however, is in its handling of the male protagonist.

There tend to be about three modes for any leading male characters: the platonic, wholesome 'hero', the gruff 'anti-hero', or the squirrely 'nerd'. All three hinge on a limited, traditional idea of what defines 'masculinity'

or, in the case of the third, the lack thereof. The 'hero' is the oldest of these, the classical John Wayne-type with chiselled jaw and chiselled ethics. The 'nerd' is smart but cowardly, well-meaning but lacking the courage to stand up for what he believes in.

\\ There tend to be about three modes for male characters: the platonic, wholesome 'hero', the gruff 'anti-hero', or the squirrely nerd \\

The 'anti-hero' is perhaps the most infuriating of the rejectionist stereotypes, often squandering the opportunity to examine traditionally neglected aspects of the male psyche. Addictions and mental illnesses are trivialised and turned into purely cosmetic affectations, while self-destructive behaviour is fetishized.

As of late, however, series have been making efforts to fully consider the impact of this mind-set, and various

different shows have begun considering the traditionally taboo subject of men's mental health. In general, TV has begun to question its own, and to an extent society's definitions of masculinity. Shows such as *Mad Men*, *Bojack Horseman*, and *Rick and Morty* present incredibly flawed male protagonists that might be superficially likened to 'anti-heroes'. The difference here is that an attempt is made to examine thoroughly the consequences of and reasons for their self-destructive behaviour. In fact, it is a central theme in both of the aforementioned series.

Mad Men's Don Draper is the quintessential picture of the 'ideal man'; suave, successful, and dapper. Yet he is also an adulterous womaniser, a worsening alcoholic and smoker, and running from his past. None of these things are glorified here, and are instead scrutinised. Draper's flakiness and constant need to find new partners is a consequence of his poor relationship with his parents and a result of growing up in a brothel. His alcoholism is a dependency.

Similarly, *Bojack* and *Rick and Morty* present aging protagonists struggling to cope with their depression. Their

fronts of stoicism are quickly revealed to be manifestations of one of the most toxic aspects of 'masculinity': the reluctance to seek help. Over the courses of their respective series, both spiral further into darkness, all the while retaining a coarse exterior and pushing people away. These

\\ More shows are representing experiences that 'masculinity' discourages \\

qualities are what feed into their various self-destructive behaviours.

More and more shows are representing experiences engaging in discussion that is discouraged by 'masculinity'. The underrated SundanceTV show, *Rectify*, discusses the touchy subject of prison sexual assault. The oddly accepted and ridiculed reality of prison-rape is put under the lens here. The protagonist is a victim of this, and the show follows his attempts to come to terms with his experiences and life outside prison. There are no jokes made at his expense and the series does

not shy away from thoroughly dissecting the impact of such an event. A big part of the series is also the reactions of other characters to the protagonist's experiences, and how society attempts to belittle them.

Even Donald Glover's *Atlanta* points out the sorts of toxic masculinity poverty and ghettos can generate, and their natural end-points. The very first episode ends with one of the main characters shooting and killing a random stranger, just to avoid losing face.

On a more real-world level, artist Grayson Perry has made multiple documentaries questioning traditional definitions of masculinity and sexuality. *All Man*, in particular, takes the viewer to various locales typically associated with masculine activities and highlights the dysfunction or contradiction that can reign there.

We've come leaps and bounds since the paper-thin platonic heroes of early dramas and sitcoms, and the ever-diversifying TV industry seems to be gradually engaging with, and hopefully normalising, a diverse range of concepts of masculinity.

Anurag Deshpande





Voltron: Legendary Defender



His acting is a bit robotic, to be honest
\\ Netflix



Saad Ahmed

... ..
A reinvention of a **cult classic** from the 80s, lovingly crafted by the skilled hands of *Avatar's* Lauren Montgomery & Joaquim Dos Santos. How does Netflix's modernisation of the **iconic Voltron franchise** hold up?

Upon first hearing of the *Voltron* reboot, I was sceptical. The focus of the show was to be on giant flying robotic lions that could combine together to form an even larger robot. It made me think that it would be a lesser version of a *Transformers/Power Rangers* mash-up. Two things made me decide to give it the benefit of the doubt. One was the fact that it was on Netflix, which has yet to disappoint with any of its original shows. The other was the fact that the creators of the beloved *Avatar* shows (*Legends of Aang* and *Korra*) were the show runners. I'm happy to say that my expectations were blown straight out of the gate and that I'm now a *Voltron* fan.

The concept of *Voltron* is undeniably cheesy but the show's so cleverly written that it feels more like a natural part of the plot than a gimmick. The overarching storyline is pretty standard; a group of young heroes come together through a series of events and are chosen to be the pilots or paladins of the *Voltron* lions. Their task is to be the protectors of the Universe, with season 1 specifically focusing on the evil Galra Empire.

The series is well structured and tightly paced. Honestly, it feels more like one big movie than a show of several episodes. This makes it ideal for binge watching of course, though it may seem as if it's over all too soon. The energy and action blend smoothly together, making you crave the next installment. The anime-ish art style and combination of cel-shading and traditional hand-drawn TV comes neatly together to make a work of art.

Having said that, some parts of the show are a little generic and tropey. You have the standard coming together as a team, everyone gets separated, and then they get betrayed by a seemingly friendly person. Then again, a lot of things these days are pretty tropey (*cough* *Stranger Things* *cough*) and

as long as the execution's spot on (which it definitely is for *Voltron!*), it can be forgiven. If tropes are something you actively despise, this show may not be the one for you.

Aesthetically, there are a number of similarities between this show and the *Avatar* shows. This is not surprising given they share many showrunners. It's not just the animation style and action sequences, even some

\\ The energy and action blends smoothly together, making you crave the next instalment \\

of the jokes are in a similar vein. Of course, this is brilliant news for anybody who was a fan of either *Avatar*, and desperately needs something to fill the void. While some of the jokes can get a little bit cringey at times, it never feels like too much and is always in a fair balance.

The main characters are also enjoyable and well written. Initially they come across as the usual generic heroes you would expect. However, with each episode, you learn more about their back-stories, quirks and traits; ultimately you end up rooting for all of them. Each pair-up and adventure brings out different sides of the characters and it

can be both endearing and humorous to see the different personalities interact with each other.

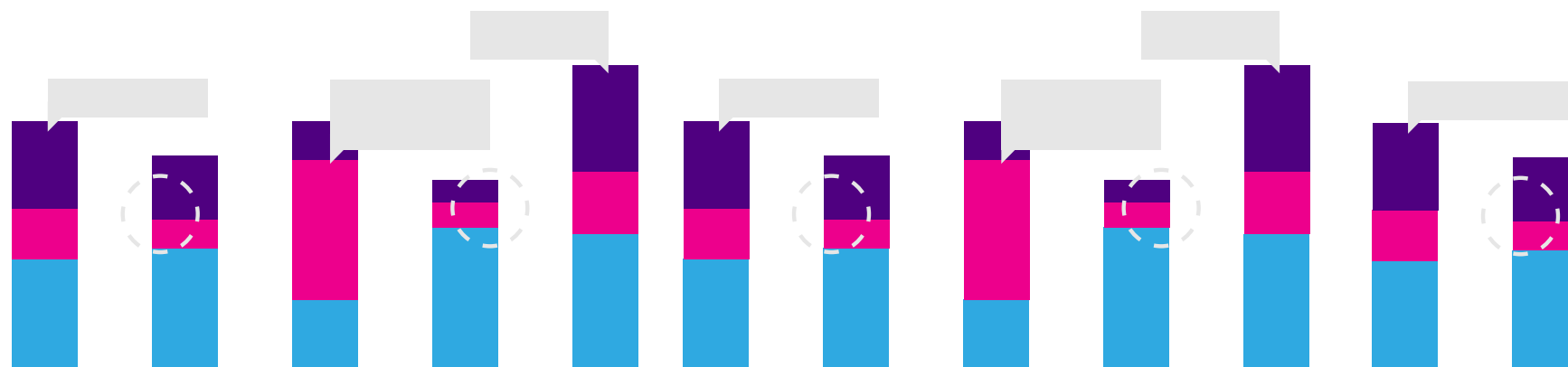
Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the antagonists who are the series' weak point. The Galra Empire serve as the season's villains, basically being the heroes' punching bags either directly or indirectly. They're portrayed as a typical alien race, bent on having the ultimate weapon and conquering the galaxy. They are never given motivations beyond this and are never shown any depth or given any development; basically they're ripped straight from the *Marvel* movies. It feels like their entire race consists of serious, angry war generals, making you wonder why they haven't eradicated themselves from in-fighting.

In the grand scheme of things, this is a small point, which in no way detracts from everything else. I'm not sure how similar or dissimilar it may be to the older *Voltron* shows, but this version is without a doubt an epic, colourful, and funny take on a classic 80's series. In a world where things are becoming increasingly dark and gritty, it's a welcome change of pace to see *Voltron: Legendary Defender* embrace its goofy and outlandish roots while being an epic adventure in its own right.



They look like competent 'heroes' \\ Netflix

Union Strategy 2017-20 - Final Consultation Stage



Throughout 2016, Imperial College Union has been working on its new strategy that will set its direction from the start of 2017 right through to August 2020, the end of the 2019/20 academic year. We have been consulting with students - our members - throughout this year to get their needs and wants firmly integrated into our strategy.

Now is the final consultation stage - this is where you come in.

Over the next few weeks we will be running an online survey open to all students. We want to know how you view the range of services and experiences that the Union and College offer, as well as your academic experience, your Constituent Unions and your experience on non South Kensington campuses. You can win one of three £25 Amazon vouchers for taking part.

We will also be running some sessions at various campuses in the next few weeks where you can talk to us about these topics and give us your feedback in person. These sessions will be run throughout the rest of November - look out for more information about these sessions in the next few days.

We will also be running targeted focus groups to look in greater depth at specific aspects of the strategy. If you want to be involved in these focus groups, especially if you don't consider yourself involved with the Union, please get in touch at union@imperial.ac.uk as we would love to hear from you. The survey will be open until 23:59 Wednesday 30 November.

Find out what's next and take the survey go to imperialcollegeunion.org

You can still Give it a Go

There's still time to try something new with us this term! You can learn a new language with the Igbo Society on Tuesday 22 and 29 November.

Give it a Go enables you to be creative, go explore, get active and discover a huge variety of opportunities at Imperial College Union - get involved!

Being a beginner won't be unusual at any of these activities, so make the most of the opportunities listed in the Give it a Go Calendar.

imperialcollegeunion.org/giveitago



Calling all programmers!

Would you like to have a say on Imperial College Union Systems? Using eActivities and don't know where to direct your feedback? Want to help us develop our home page at imperialcollegeunion.org? Drop our Deputy President (Finance & Services) a message on dpfs@imperial.ac.uk to find out more.



Mass Volunteering - get involved

Community Connections is the Union's programme that enables and empowers you to take action on social issues that you feel passionately about via volunteering or student led social enterprises.

People volunteer for a whole host of different reasons - gaining new skills, expanding their CV's, taking action on an issue they feel passionate about etc, and let's not forget, volunteering is about having fun and meeting new people too!

In the coming weeks lots of Mass Volunteering will be going from volunteering in our first event with GoodGym: Helping White City Adventure Playground, to getting involved with the Dinner Club project - feeding the homeless in the community.

These Mass Volunteering opportunities will be taking place across London, so are a great way to meet people from other Imperial College London campuses. For more information about Mass Volunteering and to search for a volunteer role

go to imperialcollegeunion.org/volunteering



Fallacies of masculinity in games



According to video games, masculinity means being a buff alpha male with a simple, strong but silent demeanor. Is this what masculinity is all about?

Master Chief, all fire power and no talk \\ Darwin Yamamoto

In the olden times, the world was in a very different place. Just look at old stories and folktales to get an idea; they always sprang out of the aspirations and concerns of the time. After centuries of storytelling, it can get pretty tricky to cut those bonds. Obviously, society has massively evolved and moved on from then, however video games are still struggling to catch up.

Everyone knows female representation isn't exactly ideal in games, but the same is also true for men. Both physically and attitude-wise, we're almost always given a one-dimensional portrait of men in

\\ When you've got action heavy adventures, you get impossibly bulky and beefy characters \\

video games. While there are plenty of games out there that feature mentally strong and psychologically deep male characters, the majority of

video games substitute brains for brawn.

Games are, first and foremost, a visual medium, and when you've got action-heavy adventures, you get impossibly bulky and beefy characters. Predominantly all male characters are depicted this way, as muscular and hulking. You could look at this as appealing to the gamer mindset, giving them an opportunity to be someone with great physical prowess that would take years of effort to obtain in real life. I, myself, don't find these designs personally threatening, though it doesn't mean that such representations aren't downright silly and, potentially, prevent games from being treated seriously as an art form. Besides, men aren't the only people who play video games, so it's no good having this unrealistic masculinity portrayal as the standing norm.

Even more harmful than the appearance of these characters is their attitudes. A lot of characters have as much personality as those created by Stephenie Meyer. It sort of makes sense why characters are written this way; males have traditionally been portrayed as destructive (just

look at history). However, it's one thing to beautifully portray the glory of physical hardship, it's quite another to use violence as a means of getting from one point to another.

There are female characters with violent tendencies, for sure. But it's so much more common to see male



characters with a 'shoot first and ask questions later' mentality. It's understandable that this is catering to the somewhat aggressive nature that resides in everyone, but at the same time it's doing a brilliant job of painting a very grim image of male nature and masculinity in general. I admit, these are games after all, and it'd be boring as heck if every conflict was resolved by talking it out. The issue is most games have very

'13-year old' thoughts of how men resolve conflict. Also, when violence has no context or reason, or is the only way to go forward, things become problematic.

Yet games are slowly becoming more and more story driven and with this births more complex characters who bring out different and more appealing sides of masculinity. For example, in the *Mass Effect* series, the character of Shepard brings a lot of depth to the quintessential leader role as he deals with the dichotomy of leadership: ruthlessness and nobility. Both sides deal with the burden and eventual aftermath of choice. This caters to a man's instinct to take charge and lead, not necessarily like an alpha male, but more so as someone in an influential and superior position.

Another character who highlights a different side of masculinity in video games is Nathan Drake from the *Uncharted* series. This series reminds us that 'boys' know how to do one thing very well: have fun. Nathan Drake is vibrant, well dialogued, and a fun every-man, taking the adventure from one stage to the next. Adventurous characters like him remind us that

it's the journey, with trials and obstacles along the way, that matter. It's man's nature to journey outward and explore; while this isn't much possible in modern society, films and video games help satiate this

\\ Boys know how to do one thing very well: have fun \\

thirst for adventure. While some games may still have the aforementioned faux that tarnishes the image of masculinity, games like *Uncharted* play up the other features that can appeal to us.

Games have still a long way to go, especially compared to other forms of media. While at the end of the day, games are just simple fun, it can be difficult to ignore the ways they misrepresent men and masculinity. It's inevitable that games will grow with their audience, but until that time, it's best to praise and enjoy the developers giving depth and complexity to male characters while ignoring the ones who can't get their heads out of seventh grade.

Saad Ahmed



MILLENNIALS...

felix

Breakfast in the Sky

felix joins the creator of the Cronut®, Dominique Ansel for breakfast mid-air - it doesn't get much better than Salted Honey Tarts, Cookie Shots and Eton Mess Lunchboxes.

Christy Lam

For those who have been reading my articles, my stories always come with a surprise, and this story is no exception. A few weeks back, the morning lecture of my dreams came into life with a very fortunate invite from PR – an intimate press-exclusive breakfast with Dominique Ansel, the creator of the Cronut®, on the London Eye! I gasped and stood up from my chair in excitement, catching awkward stares around the library and worried glances from my lab partners, thinking I had gone mad from the endless literature search.

In case you were wondering, Dominique Ansel is a French-born pastry chef and owner of the Dominique Ansel Bakery in New York, Tokyo, and finally, finally, finally in London in September. He shot to fame with his many signature creations, including the Cronut®, the Cookie Shot and the Frozen S'mores, forming 2-hour long queues outside his Tokyo branch every day just for a flake of that Cronut deliciousness.

After a sleepless night in anticipation, I marched to the Waterloo at 8:45 the next morning in the freshest grey sweater in my wardrobe, a heart pumping with adrenaline and, of course, an empty stomach. I was led to a bar beside the London Eye where I was fed champagne (yes, champagne), business cards from fellow bloggers and Dominique Ansel's chocolate

mousse, fresh from the bakery in Belgravia, served on silver plastic spoons. I was sent to the London Eye some 20 minutes later with a group of 15-or-so bloggers, all almost skipping with happiness as we reached the capsule.

It took a bit of pushing and shoving to get everyone into the moving capsule. But no one was bothered as we were greeted with a beautifully decorated capsule, with the bright September morning sunshine and Dominique Ansel himself, grinning to us from the back of the capsule with no sign of tiredness whatsoever from the last two rounds of breakfast.

In the center was a table with a white-striped tablecloth, yellow flowers and white wicker baskets presenting some of Dominique Ansel's best creations: the Cronut®, Welsh Rarebit croissant, the DKA, the Eton Mess Lunchbox and the Salted Honey Tart.

Dominique waited patiently before stealing the spotlight from his creations back to himself. He gave a brief introduction of himself, his bakery and the pastries on the table, passing around a basket of DKA's while he spoke. The DKA, Dominique's Kouign Amann (one of his signature items), was a small Breton pastry with a crispy, caramelized crust on the outside and a flaky, buttery crumb within.

We were halfway up looking over the glorious morning view of the whole of London when the feast started. Hands frantically grabbed the



pastries, clearing a quarter of the table in 30 seconds. I bit into the salted caramel and cocoa nib Cronut®, the flavour of the month. My standards set by the several Cronut dupes that have inhabited London since the Cronut craze was instantly thrown away by the real deal. It was exceptional. The pastry itself, with a coat of sugar on the outside and a ring of icing on top, was incredibly light, with clear layers of thin, flaky pastry revealing a velvety salted caramel cream in the center. We were overwhelmed by the explosion of senses, aided by the level of excitement in the capsule, and nodded to each other with wide, glistening eyes.

I grabbed my next target which I've been drooling over for years on Instagram – the

Cookie Shot. On the small white squared dish was a chocolate chip cookie in the shape of a shot glass with a coating of dark chocolate inside. By the side was a jug of cold, sweet, vanilla-infused milk, poured into the crunchy-and-soft cookie cups, filling to the brim. This delightful piece of kitchen engineering is available across all his bakeries from 3 pm on the dot, right in time for a child's after-school snack.

While I was sipping the milk from my cookie, a pair of bloggers next to me located their hands on an Eton Mess Lunchbox, Dominique's take on the British dessert. Inspired by Korean lunchboxes, the clear plastic boxes were filled with black pepper mini meringues, "strawberries" made of mousse and jam,

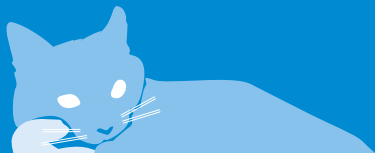
fresh basil, fromage blanc, meant to be shaken into a mess before savouring.

The Salted Honey Tart was a closer lean towards traditional French patisserie. Paying homage to London's local honeys, the crumbly almond frangipane surrounds a light, sea salt milk cream, adorned with an intricate chocolate décor designed to look like the roof shingles of those rooftop honey farms. Two types of honey filled the spaces within the chocolate structure, showcasing the contrast in fragrance and flavour.

Time always seem to fly by when you are having fun and so the breakfast

// I grabbed my next target which I've been drooling over for years on Instagram – the Cookie Shot //

session ended as we were approaching the base. Wait! What about the leftovers? Dominique had us covered by distributing around bright orange takeaway boxes, which we all filled up with the leftover treats to our hearts' desires. In went 2 Cronuts, a Salted Honey Tart and a DKA as a souvenir from my once-in-a-lifetime breakfast lecture for the hungry prisoners in the Chem.Eng. library.



MILLENNIALS...

felix

Me man. Me want Steak.

Intrinsically manly, some might argue. *felix* investigates the rise of sous-vide technology, and how it can turn the most manly of dishes into something more refined.

Sanjay Bhattacharya

Steak: at its finest, a juicy, browned hunk of meat, bursting with flavour, and apparently quintessentially manly. At its worst, a drab, uninspired piece of "grilling" that disappoints in every mouthful.

At their most basic, steaks harken back to the most simple of cooked foods that our proto-chef ancestors would have cooked - meat on hot coals. Cooking a steak like this, directly on a bed of embers, is an experience to try if you haven't already - the end result is something that really makes me feel alive.

The only problem is, crunching your way through bits of burned on charcoal isn't exactly tasty. That, plus the wide disparity in the degree of doneness in the steak ruined what should have been a beautiful dish.

I have cooked steaks in many ways, and the underlying problem with so many is that whilst they may look beautiful, browned and crisp

// At its finest, a juicy, browned hunk of meat, bursting with flavour //



on the outside, there is never the same degree of perfection in the inside. I've done pan fried, reverse seared, roasted and almost every variation. Don't get me wrong, they were all tasty - but the beautifully tender middle was spoiled by the band of grey, overcooked meat around the edge - a simple flaw with

direct heat cooking and the fact that no steak is perfectly uniform - some areas will cook faster than others.

The only method yet to satisfy my desire for pink, tender meat from edge to edge is sous-vide - waterbathing a vacuum sealed piece of meat for anywhere from 1-72 hours, with amazing results.

I was fortunate enough to be given an immersion circulator (read: heating element, pump and temperature feedback) for my 21st, and good god of food, it transforms steaks. It gives you something that in the restaurant world we desire exceptionally highly - consistency - as by cooking at 54.5C, you guarantee a perfect medium rare. No more "2 minutes on each side" or anything so non-scientific: sous vide gives you unparalleled control. A water-bath followed by a quick blowtorch is all that's needed. Such a simple, glorious food as steak can be turned into the most precisely cooked creation, without much hassle at all.

Chances are, you'll all have something sous-vide in the next few weeks - more and more restaurants and eateries are turning to it to deliver the best result. And yet, some days I will still turn to my trusty old skillet, or light up the charcoal.

Home Comfort

Caught something you wish you hadn't? Aside from some Acyclovir, this is the next best thing. *felix* takes a look at the classic flu-buster: Chicken soup

Andrada Balmez

Do you remember when you were five and after a few cold autumn days, you got so sick that you couldn't get out of bed? But, miraculously, your mum knew exactly what to do so you would feel better. More often than not, it was *suspense*

chicken soup, and in just an instant, you felt better! Now I don't say that it was the soup or you really wanting to go out again, but you get my point.

I know that soup is not the most common meal in college - I actually haven't seen anyone eating soup here, but I must say that this is the food that reminds me of home, family

and childhood. So, just in case you want to be hit by some nostalgia, I'll show you my Soupe Recette.

Ingredients:

Olive Oil
Chicken - either 2 breasts or 4 boneless thighs
2 large carrots
1 onion
200g Green beans
2 eggs
Medium semolina
Handful Parsley
Other veggies, if you really love them
Salt, pepper and other condiments you like

First, you need a large pot. Add a bit of oil, and get it hot. Add the chicken and cook it on medium heat for about 5

minutes. Add water until half of your pot is full. Let it boil, while you handle the veggies.

I prefer big pieces of carrots, so I just cut them into 4-5 chunks. But if you prefer small pieces, just chop them smaller. Peel and cut the onion in quarters. Add the beans, carrots and onion to the pot. Top up the pan with water if necessary.

Now, time for the funny part! Beat the eggs in a bowl. When they are quite mixed, start adding some semolina. Keep mixing and adding semolina until you get a pretty thick

paste - it shouldn't fall off the spoon quickly when turned upside down.

Check for the pot from time to time and make sure that everything is covered in water. If not, just add more. Cook everything until the carrots can be cut using just a spoon - nice and tender. Now, using a spoon (it strikes again), add the semolina mixture into the hot water, one spoonful at a time. You will get floating spheres of semolina, which makes your dumplings.

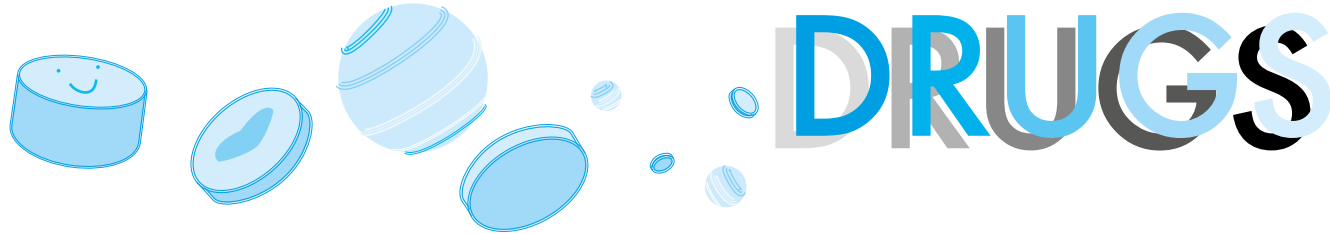
After all the semolina is added, check again that there is enough water. Wait 5-7 more minutes and you're done! Good job - you've finished, probably, your first soup and it doesn't even look like the soup you are used to! Add salt and pepper (maybe some chilli) and the chopped parsley leaves and enjoy.

// Miraculously, your mum knew exactly what to do so you would feel better: chicken soup //



M I L L E N N I A L S ...

felix



Steroids | Dem gains come at a price

Taking advantage of a November Tuesday evening free for coursework deadlines, you head down to Ethos to the gym. You're in decent shape, feeling good about yourself, and you're satisfyingly still just about able to hit the same maxes that you could in the summer when you were working out every day. But then you look over at the guy working out next to you. He's ripped as hell; his biceps are bigger than your head, his abs could be used to grate cheese, and he's got the deepest V you've ever seen. You instantly feel inferior, your arms now feeling weedy and weak, and you vow to work out every day until you're hench, the way you ought to look.

After all, who's gonna look at you twice like this?

So you start hitting up the gym on the reg, knocking back the protein shakes, and doing more and more reps in the hope of those sweet, sweet gains. You start to bulk up, muscles building and tightening, and people are impressed, checking you out wherever you go. But the gains are disappointing: you keep looking over at this other guy at the gym and he's still way bigger than you. You ask yourself how you could get this built; you're never going to be good enough for anyone until you're a big as him. And then you think to yourself: steroids may be the answer.



What exactly do steroids do, though? And what's the harm?

Anabolic steroids are effectively synthetic testosterone that stimulate the growth in muscle and bone tissues, which are taken by many people to improve their athletic performance and to stimulate faster muscle growth. Steroids are often seen as a bit of a miracle drug, and we would be kidding ourselves if we pretended that they're not being taken widely both in professional sport and amateur peacocking.

There are dozens of common types, that are usually injectable or taken orally, although patches and implants aren't unusual. These steroids are usually prescription-only drugs, bought online, and used illegally, often in periodic cycles. They all have two things in common: they do boost muscle growth and repair,

and they have some pretty nasty side effects.

As these drugs affect a sex hormone, they affect men and women in very different ways. Both men and women are prone to paranoia, mental health problems, and bursts of anger (roid rage is real), with women being significantly more prone to these effects around menstruation.

And steroid addiction is no joke. After long term steroid use, natural testosterone production ceases, making you effectively dependent on a supplementary source. One consequence of this is atrophy of your no longer required gonads – shrunken testicles really is a thing. As if that weren't bad enough, in men they also increase growth of breast tissue, stop sperm production, kill libido, and cause erectile dysfunction. These are not things to play

with if you prioritise your sex life, let me tell you. In women, they do kind of the opposite. Clitoral enlargement, excess hair growth, and lack of menstruation are all common consequences, and well as an enhanced sex drive.

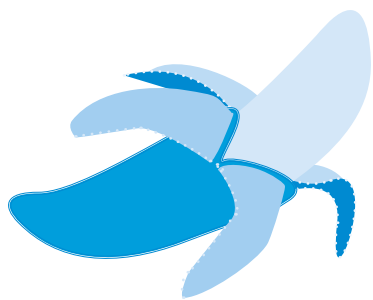
Both men and women will experience some level of acne, balding, and steroids are known to cause liver and kidney disease, heart disease and enlargement, blood pressure problems, and a reduced immune system. If you're using them to build muscle, you'll get less athletically fit, and your eyesight may suffer.

And they're pricey as fuck too – that's your entire social budget blown. But that's okay, because when you're this into sculpting the perfect physique, you don't have time to be going out partying anyway. And it's all worth it for that glorious bod, right?

Although women do take steroids, the stereotype of the typical user is usually a man, because using steroids to enhance a muscular physique is a very male dominated thing. The physical image of masculinity is generally very desirable in men, while women are socially pressured to avoid masculine traits in favour of the desirable femininity. The images of stacked men that we're bombarded with as the ideal are not realistic, with steroids no doubt playing a significant role in producing this aesthetic.

Men are under a huge amount of pressure to conform to this masculine ideal. So many men that they feel that they need to bulk up to be seen as attractive, manly, or to be taken seriously, and steroids provide a route out of this insecurity with a shortcut to self-esteem. Steroids certainly work if your goal is to get big, but are they really worth it?

If you're struggling with drug use, visit talktofrank.com



SEX

Masc4Masc | *felix* seeks real man

Lef Apostolakis

Masculinity. Is it good? Is it bad? Will it get you laid, or do you just think it will? In short: who knows? But we did some research (and asked a lot of people) to try and at least vaguely answer some of these questions.

It was really interesting talking to straight men about masculinity and whether they think it impacts their desirability. Obviously our sample isn't necessarily representative of the global population, or even the British population, but hey, we tried.

Characteristics typically associated with masculinity such as a good physique, athleticism, financial security and confidence were acknowledged for playing a part in male desirability but other more traditionally feminine traits, such as kindness and sensitivity were also considered important factors. Guys felt that there is some pressure to be masculine, strong and to pick up the bill, but they also felt that women don't really care much for demonstrations of bravado.

// For city boys, mashing it up will probably help //

Does that illustrate a shift away from masculinity norms? Maybe. At the end of

the month in Southbank, there will be a whole weekend dedicated to addressing the challenges and issues surrounding the masculine identity. Tackling about stopping violence towards women, addressing the silence surrounding male mental health and generally the social constraints that

// When it comes to hooking up, it's the unbearded male with the strong jawline that has the advantage //

define masculinity.

"But will looking masculine get me laid?" It's complicated brah. Looking purely at the sexual appeal of yo' face, a 2014 study showed that masculine faces were more desirable in urban environments, suggesting that traditional Western masculinity norms are socially constructed and break down in novel societies. Another study found that beards are more sought after in cities with larger populations. So for city boys, mashing it up will probably help.

At the same time, don't over do it. Beards, for example, are trendy and all that, but a recent study suggests that when it comes to hooking up,

it's the unbearded male with the strong jawline that has the advantage, as beards signify age, maturity and social status, attributes sought after in long term partners.

"Ugh this is so heteronormative." I was literally about to— Anyway, scientifically, it's strongly suggested that gay men prefer masculine



men (just as straight men prefer feminine women). This pressure, contrary to popular belief and despite (or maybe because of) the gay stereotype hypermasculinises THE GAYS. As Greg Brown from ASAPScience explains, if masculinity is the approval and acceptance from other men, then gay men (who for obvious reasons constantly seek the approval of other men) are hypermasculine.

So it's fair to say the male gay scene has a particularly odd relationship with masculinity. It glorifies and

fetishises it. Masculinity becomes the main object of desire, the ideal to aspire to, the end goal. Being masculine becomes an even greater commodity: If I had a pound for every time someone begged me to let my monobrow grow, I'd probably indulge in weekly eyebrow threading.

// Do you have a big dick? Prepare to be adored //

Masculinity is constantly sought after and applauded. Gay culture is full of such examples. Just take a look at the porn industry (or just take our word for it). It is overflowing with hypermasculinity, and a quick look at the 'dating scene' will verify that this is not an isolated phenomenon. Hook-up apps are full of unabashed masc4masc profiles: users looking for masculine men, real men, MEN.

As a gay man, you will receive positive reinforcement for every 'choice' you make that enhances your masculinity. Do you have a beard? Do you have body hair? Are you tall and muscular? Are you an authority figure? Do you do SPORTS? Is your voice nice and bassy? Do you have a big dick? Prepare to be adored. You will be felt up in clubs, invited to threesomes and called daddy (probably).

On the other hand, your

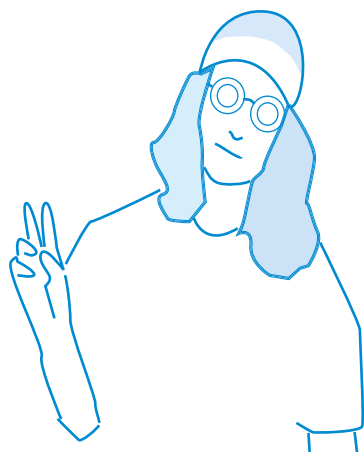
stock will lose value for every choice you make that embraces your feminine side. Do you look like a prepubescent girl? Do you sway your hips when you walk? Do you indulge in elaborate hand gestures? Is your voice high pitched? Do you dress flamboyantly? Sorry, no femmes (unless you're so hyperfeminine you fall into a fetish category).

It is a very weird situation to be in. Imagine you've just come out, thinking you've left all those people who belittle your masculinity because of your sexuality (gay men aren't real men), only to find people who passively aggressively belittle your masculinity (I'm not into camp men. I just don't like it when gay men play into the stereotype. If I wanted a flamboyant man, I'd be straight).

Yeah. Kinda awkward at best. Soul-destroyingly disgusting at worst.

// Sorry, no femmes (unless you're so hyperfeminine that you fall into a fetish category) //

So does masculinity affect your sexual success? Probably. Should you be worried about it? Probably not. Just be yourself, 'cause at the end of the day, it doesn't matter how much you're getting, if you feel dead inside.

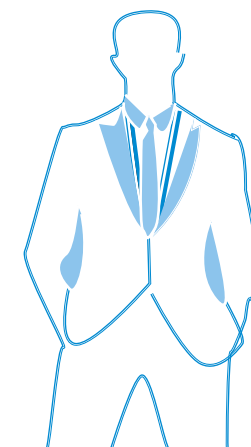


My tumblr didn't see this coming

Jonathan Masters mourns the impending doom that a Trump presidency heralds

The people have spoken so STFU

Monathan Jasters snaps at the left, demanding it shuts up, sucks it up and bows down



VOS

Okay, give me a second. I just need to mop down all the tears off of my keyboard. Okay.

It's not that bad – I mean George Bush had two consecutive terms and even if he did do 9/11, we all got through it and had Obama and okay I don't believe any of what I'm writing. This is literally the end of the world. EVERYONE IS RACIST AND STUPID HOW CAN ALL THESE INBRED MORONS VOTE FOR AN ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT CANDIDATE THAT IS AS STUPID AS THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES.

This wouldn't have happened if we had nominated Bernie. He would have changed everything: tuition loans would be free as soon as he came into office; all racism would have disappeared; he would have put a tax on Wall Street and all corruption in banking would have disappeared; and world peace would have been declared and everyone would hold hands in a coalition of love and harmony. Bernie was just better – even though he didn't have anywhere near the amount of Capitol Hill experience, or senior leadership experience, he was funny and charismatic.

As soon as I found out, I messaged all 40 of my Tumblr followers and we launched a protest outside the American Embassy immediately after I'd put my tofu in the fridge to marinate overnight. How dare they allow a person we don't like become democratically elected? We spent hours chanting "Not my President" and "Fuck Trump", and for some reason the people in the embassy

didn't come out and congratulate us for being the noble saviours of the political system. Although I felt valiant in protesting something that happened in politics that I don't like, the actual idea of working in politics and trying to enact change sounds a lot harder than posting think pieces in my blogs every few weeks.

The biggest shock for me was that my entire social media feed seemed to be totally against Trump, and all the websites that I read and frequently comment on were saying he was really bad, and yet there was a mysterious electorate that appeared from nowhere who wanted change. Um hello, did you not see the past eight years? We had a black president who solved every problem! He sorted out the finance sector so nobody cheated, and now everyone in America has free healthcare – I mean I guess drone bombing was kind of bad but he said it was necessary and I mean Snowden did break the law even if he discovered that we were being spied upon.

Anyway, I am retreating to my bomb shelter in which I await the apocalypse and hope that death will come before I starve. I think Quorn has a long shelf life anyway.

Surprise surprise, the liberal left are complaining again! It seems as though anti-establishment figures are only allowed if they follow their ideals – well guess again you guardian-reading-champagne-socialist whiners! I for one welcome our new overlord – for too long have the rich and famous of the USA been placed under the tyranny of taxes, because they should pull their own weight? Maybe those disadvantaged masses who never had access to that privilege should stop scrounging off the state and get a job. Yeah, I said it.

It's also high time that the left stopped ignoring the pestilence that is immigration. We've all heard the crock about how America is the melting pot of cultures, but guess what buddy? TOO MANY COOKS SPOIL THE BROTH. Look, I have plenty of Mexican friends as well, and even they say that there are too many of them – literally ask my gardener José he's always saying "Odio los blancos" (I think blanco is an ethnic name but I don't speak beaner). Furthermore, is it really too much to ask just to be able to control our borders? All we want is a barrier that protects our money, wealth, lack of corruption in our politicians (Hillary I see you #Jail2017), or absence of gang warfare from these Hispanics. Just to clarify, I'm not racist, but do we really need more piñatas? We invented Taco Bell to steal their secrets, so do we need them anymore? Answer? NO! DEPORT

THEM NOW!

He also told us he would make China pay for their currency manipulation, and although I don't know what that means, I've never trusted those lot. What's wrong with an alphabet that we can actually read, huh guys? Trying to exclude us from your little club? Well bye-bye trade with the USA! Also, all they make is iPhones, and I already have one anyway so they can stop selling them to us anyway. Apple is as American as, well, apple pie, and they would love to create more factories and jobs in a country with an actual minimum wage. They only moved to China because Obama wanted to tax them unfairly – now there's a republican in the White House, they will return and pay their dues I'm sure of it.

All in all, I wish The Left would stop treating politics like a fucking game, and respect our desire to Make America Great Again. Stop whining and bow down to your new master. I mean President. Not racist.

*This is not hangman



CRISIS

Chris

Dear Chris,

I wonder if you could help me. I've got really dry skin but I don't feel comfortable using moisturiser. It always smells like flowers or fruit and I'm just not into smelling like a girl. What can I do? My painful knees and elbows are really getting in the way of playing rugby and downing pints, while the blood from my knuckles is getting all over the planks of wood I've chopped to construct shelves. What can I do?

Yours,
Ash E.

Hey Ash!

I know that moisturiser and grooming is for women. A true man should never care how he is presenting himself, it's how much destruction you leave in your path that counts. Although, since it seems to be getting in the way of your manly duties, I guess I should help you out. Your first option is using moisturiser formulated 'For Men'. This is a bit of an oxymoron, but some people understand your struggle - Bulldog is my favourite. You don't have to stoop to the levels of a cream, you have the following options: Kiehl's Facial Fuel*, Nivea Men Express Absorption Revitalising Lotion*, Loreal Paris Expert Hydro Energetic Tattoo Lotion*. Also available is Max LS Power V Lifting Cream* - yes, this is a cream, but is acceptable since it sounds like you could drive it on Top Gear. (If it doesn't sound like it would fit in a garage, you will grow breasts.) If you're on

a budget, or don't want to tread into Women's territory to procure your solution, the following options can be found in your Man Drawer. You could try blood or sweat (no tears, obviously). Alternatively, you could try spit, or another certain manly bodily fluid. From your truck or motorbike, you can find grease or petrol. You mentioned you have some DIY projects going; you could use Drywall (before it dries). You also get your fix as you snack with chip fat. If it burns your skin, you're doing it right!

You could just deal, suck it up and be a man.

Big luv,
Chris xxxxx

*felix can confirm these are all actually available

HOROSCOPES



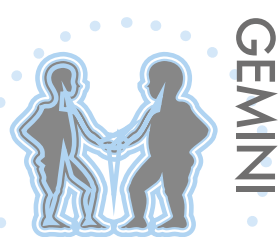
ARIES

This week you crack and decide you've had enough of your course. Simple solution, go on a spontaneous getaway somewhere. Simple problem, you've only enough money to get you to zone three.



TAURUS

This week you're still reeling after the US election and the imminent apocalypse. You bulk buy tinned goods. Not because it's the end of the world, mind you, because it's great value.



GEMINI

This week Mercury is in retrograde, making you lazy, angry and even worse at cleaning. Your housemates will not understand and simply call you lazy. BUT THEY'RE WRONG BECAUSE HOROSCOPES ARE REAL.



CANCER

This week you bench 140 kg so you reward with steroids injections before being creepy at a club. Good work brah your not very in tune with the felix brand but we love you in our own weird way.



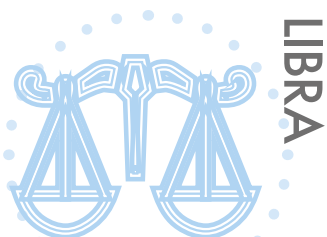
LEO

This week you read the Union's NSS recommendations and are hopeful that change is round the corner. Then you remember that Imperial is apathetic and only ever cared about the library heating. #Occupy4thFloor



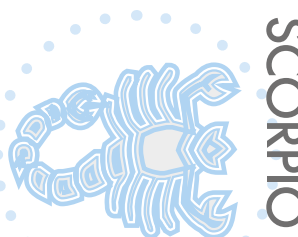
VIRGO

This week after meeting the boy of your dreams, you start to get this warm feeling that just won't cease; however, after it starts to get painful you realise it was actually just appendicitis.



LIBRA

This week you buy the new \$200 book filled with just Apple products. No words. Just pictures. Still better value than half your course textbooks.



SCORPIO

This week you win the lottery. You still can't afford to put the heating on.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you do an unintentional #MannequinChallenge in the middle of your lecture. You lay down motionless for a whole two hours. Sports night hit you hard.



CAPRICORN

This week you decide to listen to the messages your body is telling you. Unfortunately those messages are just to eat more doughnuts.



AQUARIUS

This week you're subjected to a set of initiations for your sports club. Mentally intense, physically draining and requiring lots of alcohol to complete, your degree was perfect training.



PISCES

This month you will feel a weird sense of existential dread. This is not a joke.



Snowsports venture north of the wall



snowsports competition just outside Edinburgh. To put it simply, it was seriously incredible.

Starting and ending with a charming coach trip with our snow-loving buddies from Middlesex, Kings and Queen Mary, the weekend was truly huge. Each day, following some of the best nights of our entire lives with 2,000 other snowsports students from all over the UK, we'd smash a Wetherspoons fry-up then head off to the dry slope to cheer on our champions.

The highlight was ERASMUS legend Tristan de Kerchove progressing to the freestyle semi finals as he threw some unreal tricks, including the infamous 'Cork 7'. This is an unbelievable achievement considering it was on the dry slope, a

surface he is completely unfamiliar with. Kerchove has well and truly cemented IC's place on the university snowsports map and as our Hero.

Naturally, amongst the aforementioned huge nights was the BUDS ball. Donning our sexiest suits, all 2,000 hit up one of Edinburgh's finest dining establishments to enjoy some mountain raclette and cheese cake. This, of course, descended into yet another unforgettable night to round off what will go down in history as one of ICSC's greatest weekends.

It was an all round great weekend watching the best racers and freestylers from all over the country smashing their competitions in the day, and then taking to Edinburgh at night to celebrate.



Thank you to everyone who came for a lovely game of BUDS. To everyone else, you can still get in on the fun, we've got spaces left on our Christmas ski trip. This year we're heading to the world renowned Val Thorens in the French Alps from the 16th to

the 24th of December for the low base price of £399. If you want to get involved head over to our Facebook page or email ski@ic.ac.uk.

Henry Cavanagh

Something big went down this weekend: 25 of Imperial Snowsports' finest and loosest made the annual pilgrimage to BUDS, a massive national

Golden weekend for IC frisbee at regionals

The indoor frisbee season has well and truly got underway, and the Imperial disc Doctors (dD) were able to send three teams to the men's indoor regionals, one of only two teams in the region to be able to do so. Having won this competition last year, expectations were high, but the team wanted to take a steady approach for continued success.

The first few games for the 1st team were straightforward, generally playing lower-ability teams. There was one must-win game against an under seeded UEA 1s side; a loss here would've put the tournament win out of reach. dD were definitely up for

this and came out strong to go 3-0 up, a lead that they would hold, eventually winning 7-3.

Sunday saw the team finish the group stages beating Cambridge 2s 8-2. Next was a semi-final against Cambridge 1s, a fixture with some history after we broke their winning streak last year. dD came out strong as usual and won a place in the final against St Mary's, a one dimensional team with several tall receivers. Once again, dD came out with a great defensive setup

\\ A satisfying repeat of mixed regionals two weeks ago \\

to put pressure on those long throws and competed well in the air. Despite falling behind early on, dD's patience and clinical offence saw them through to win the final 7-5, with a Callahan (Ultimate Frisbee's equivalent of an own-goal) to secure the game.

dD 2s had a mixed pool with two 1st teams and two fairly even 2nd teams. They were able to see off both of the second teams in their group to hold seed, including not conceding in an 8-0 victory over UCL. This placed them in the 9-16 bracket in which they fought well and had a noticeable victory beating Cambridge 2s, a satisfying repeat of mixed regionals two weeks ago.



dD 3s had a relatively difficult group, where they were both learning to play as a team and playing tough opposition. They were noticeably growing as a unit throughout their fixtures and were able to compete well in the round robin and even though they beat both Hertfordshire and UCL 2s, they were only able to finish 20th (out of 22). Room

for improvement but they should be buoyed by great performances against two second teams.

The whole club can be proud of what they have achieved, and the men are looking forward to nationals in February. Meanwhile we send our best wishes to the women competing in their regionals this weekend.

Anthony Featherstone



IC snag draw against UCL before teeing up

The 9th of November saw the rugby 1st XV arrive at their ever windy fortress Harlington to face UCL. After a brief hiatus during the warm-up, the team were out for a few minutes before heading back into the changing room to slide on their 'mysteriously moist' playing shirts.

At kick off, IC came out figuratively (and literally)

steaming as they applied pressure on the opposition. Touchline support saw the four biggest tackles of the season so far in the space of two minutes. Each individual battle put UCL behind the gain line. Although IC struggled for possession, it was clear UCL had little to offer from their backline as their forwards continued to pick and go from multiple rucks. Despite this, a ragged

ball out to their backs and a dropped tackle saw them head under the posts for their first points. Not disheartened, IC were soon back in UCL's red zone, with Josh O'Donnell finishing off a fantastic display of physicality from the squad's favourite ginger, Sam Moorby.

IC's lineout was struggling to find a rhythm, with plenty of lost possession. This wasn't helped by fly half James Field, who decided to question whether the ref knew what sport we were playing. He confirmed we were indeed playing gentlemen's rugby, by raising his right arm to place Field in the sin-bin. This put the team under pressure and placed the opposition on IC's try line. A lapse of concentration from bewildered Alex Clayton

allowed UCL to jump over the line for an easy try. IC came out firing after the restart. Eventual Man-of-the-Match Clayton exploited isolated attackers to steal their possession twice at

\\ Strong attacking play from IC's forwards had the team breathing down the UCL team's necks \\

the breakdown, making up for his previous faux pas. Despite the struggling lineout, IC's scrum started turning the screw and UCL's pack couldn't handle the pressure.

Several scoring opportunities came and went, but IC's defence meant the opposition wouldn't be scoring soon. Strong attacking play from IC's forwards had the team breathing down the UCL team's necks. Last play of the game. Continuing to connect phase after phase, the opportunity eventually came and full back Alex Hawkings crossed the whitewash to put IC even. Windy conditions tipped the ball off the tee twice so Charles Price-Smith, replacing regular kicker Henry 'Topknot' Allingham, lined up the drop kick, drifting just wide of the posts. A valiant draw to finish and a perfect set up to a team pub golf trip, leaving the majority of the team handicapped (pun fully intended).

Alex Clayton



Top of the Peck-ing order

Last weekend, fresher Harry Peck competed at the Irish Open, an international men's épée tournament in Dublin. Although he has fenced regularly at an international level for both the cadet under-17s and junior under-20s, it was Harry's first senior international event. Starting the day with no ranking Harry ended up in poule one, where he achieved five victories out of a possible six, losing only to Giannotte from Luxembourg whilst defeating fencers from Ireland, Australia, Slovakia and Germany.

The first round acted as seeding for the second round, where Harry found himself in poule six. He won three of five matches, beating competitors from Slovenia,

the USA and Poland along the way. The losses came courtesy of a fencer from Singapore and his Brixton clubmate, also in the pool with him, from Bulgaria. After these two rounds Harry found himself in 29th place going into the direct eliminations out of 64 fencers.

In the first round of knockout matches, Harry faced off against French fencer Martelly, seeded 36th. Refereed by Imperial's own Jamie Simpson, Harry

\\ Not bad for someone who has just got into the top ten of Great Britain \\

overcame his start to finish incredibly strongly winning the match 15-12. This gave Harry a really tough match in the last 32 of the competition against the 3rd ranked fencer Zorzato from Poland. The result of the match was even clearer than the first, a comfortable win for Harry 15-9, setting him up against his Great Britain and Brixton teammate, Aml Sinclair. Again Harry breezed past his opponent earning himself a place in the quarter final of the competition against the Portuguese fencer Arede.

This match proved to be the tightest so far, coming down to a sudden death point. But Harry again proved his ability to be triumphant, winning 13-12. The semi-final against the Romanian Dragomir was

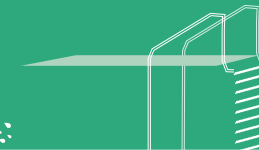


a return to form for Harry, winning 15-10 and setting up a nail-biting final against another of Dragomir's fellow countrymen. The final was back and forth, neither fencer taking a substantial lead. The Romanian led Harry for long periods of time, however our Brit pulled ahead at a decisive time in the match to

win 15-13 and take the title of Irish Open Champion! This moves Harry just outside the world top 200. Not bad for someone who has just got into the top ten of Great Britain.

Congratulations Mr Peck!

Jamie Simpson



One of us One of us One of us

One of us One of us One of us One of us One of us One of us One of us One of us One of us One of us

You can be a

felix CAT CAT CAT



Write for sport

Or for anything else really, we're not picky*

*That's a lie

felix@ic.ac.uk

Records tumble in Aachen

The 37th Internationales Wasserballturnier Aachener SV 06 is arguably the most important event in IC Water Polo's 2016 calendar. After meeting early in the morning on the 4th of November, the team travelled in convoy through France, Belgium (unintentionally), the Netherlands, and finally Germany. After arriving at a university campus where the only signs of life were an unsuspecting man in a kitchen and a karate class, the team were nonetheless confused. None more so than TJ Leo Pashov, who insisted we were still in Belgium. The men had drawn strong opponents in the group stages, namely Essen and the home favourites Aachen. The women also had Aachen, with DJK SV Poseidon

Duisburg for company but with their squad totalling only three players, they were going to have a tough time playing a seven-a-side sport. Once the Germans finally showed up, a team bonding session alleviated concerns. Having borrowed players,

\\ Imperial won by a favourable margin \\

the women made a nervous start, with club President Tina Trigle tackling teammate Ozzie, stealing the ball and passing it to the opposition. The guys were also having problems, with a 'moving goal' blamed for the dip in shooting form. No success on day one, but with some

members of the squad having not played competitively before, it was not all doom and gloom. There were some positives. David Moores and Tobias Dawson completed the club's first successful 'Protokol' in two years, making an impression on the locals with their interpretation and button pressing skills. More positive, hopefully lasting, impressions included personal achievements for Andrew Duckworth and Ronan Tanguy, who were complimented on their water polo assets (cheeky) by an interested local. An after party followed; a great chance for International Relations officer Sam to find out that local teens thought quite highly of British students.

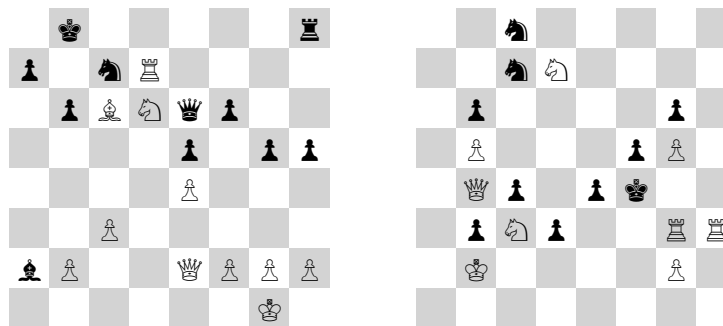
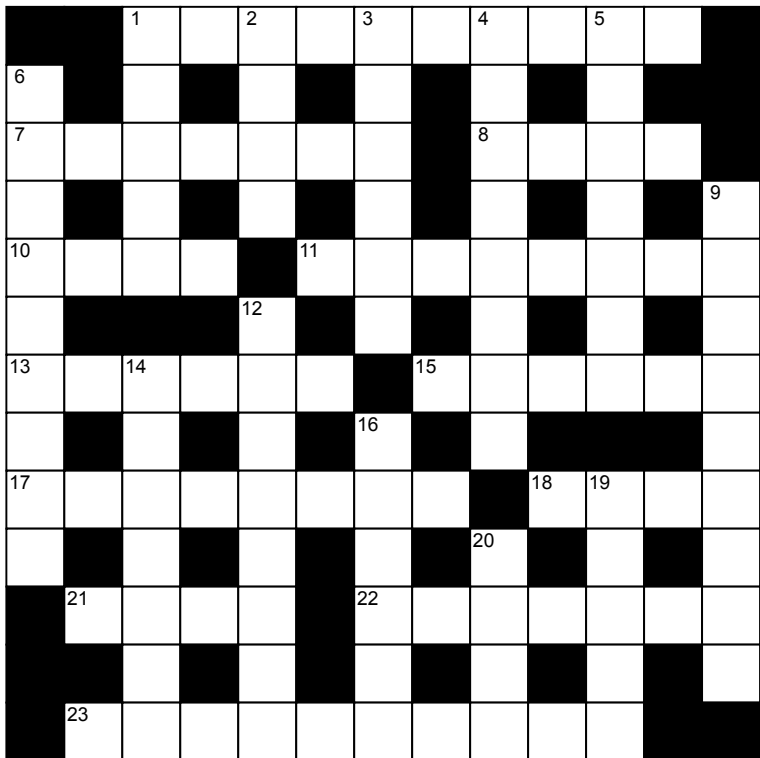
With the words of the great Mickie Krause still ringing in their ears, the guys lined up on the Sunday morning full of optimism. Despite Sam's



best efforts to deflect tame opposition shots into his own net, one Imperial goal (scored by Ramon, dedicated to Jenny Lea) led to another and before we knew it, Imperial won by a favourable margin. Next game also saw success, everything capped off with a debut international goal from Jon Arizti. Finishing with a 50-50 win ratio, the highest ever from an Imperial

team in the tournament, the guys could go home happy. The girls unfortunately come away without a win, despite Laura's best dabbling efforts. Overall, a successful trip. Huge thanks to Social Sec Massive Tobias Dawson for organising everything. Can't wait for next year. Or fines night.

David Moores



White to move in both problems
Forced checkmate in 3 moves (left) and 2 moves (right)

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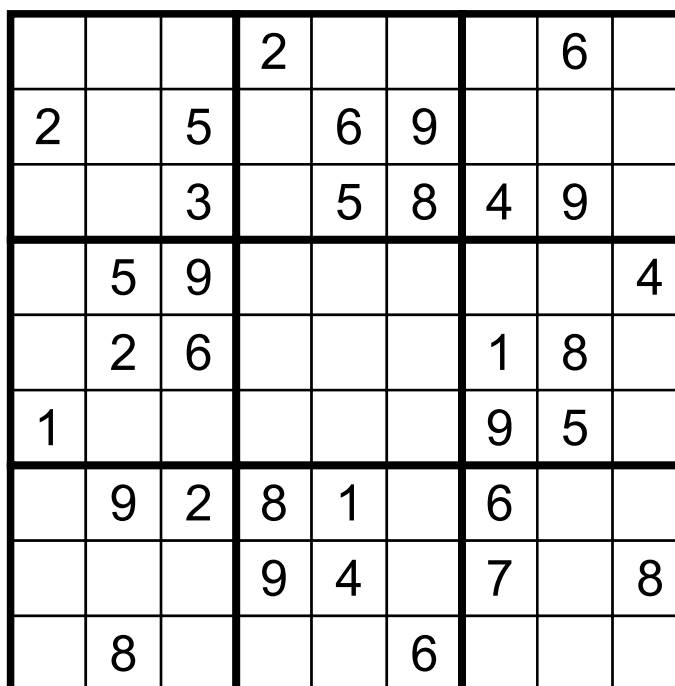
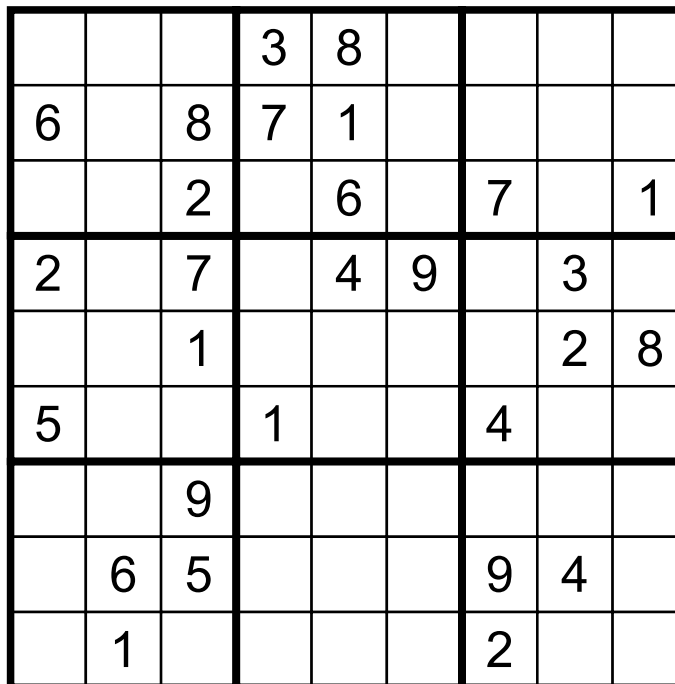
Leaderboard

Anonymous	94
The Czechmates	91
Willie Rush	88
NSNO	77
Sneezing Pandas	68
Schrödingers Cat Strikes Back	67
The Gravitons	44
Guinea Pigs	40
Puzzled	40
The Ultimate Fucwit	38
CEP MSC	26
Bananana	20
Grilled Cheese Inc.	19
RollEEEE	19
Chemical Brethren	17
Grand Day in Cullercoats	15
Poulet	15
Hillary Killed Harambe	14
Les Nuls	14
TIA	14
G. Hackman	10
Ludi	9
Big Mahmoud	5
Fanny Schmeller	5
Singed Potato	4

Points Available

Crossword	5
Chess	6
Slitherlink	4
Sudoku	8

Send in your solutions to fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk before midday Wednesday to get your score added to our leaderboard. Make sure you include the name/team name that you'd like us to use!



Solutions



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1. Unintended (10) | 1. Something worth having (5) |
| 7. Discard (4,3) | 2. Karate blow (4) |
| 8. Become bigger (4) | 3. Sully (6) |
| 10. Duty list (4) | 4. Bedtime drink (8) |
| 11. Precious metal (8) | 5. Embellished (7) |
| 13. Root vegetable (6) | 6. Ragged figure (9) |
| 15. Open-toed shoe (6) | 9. Informal conversation (5,4) |
| 17. Out of date (8) | 12. Pit (8) |
| 18. Prepare for publication (4) | 14. Esteem (7) |
| 21. In this place (4) | 16. Finally (2,4) |
| 22. Store of weapons (7) | 19. Duffer (5) |
| 23. One not given to travel (4-2-4) | 20. Norway's capital (4) |

