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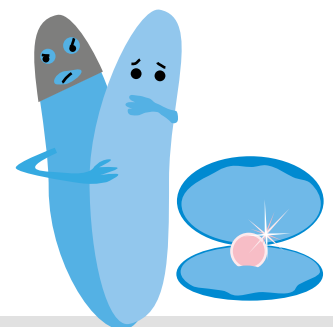
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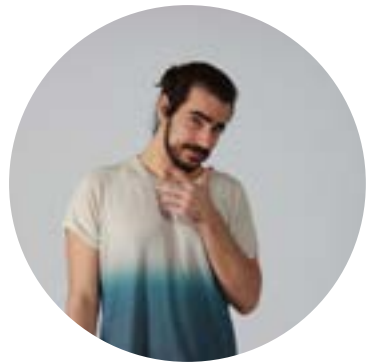
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I will not challenge the status quo  
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## The lady doth protest too much



Warning: I'm really tired, I have a million things to do including packing a suitcase for a weekend escape (yay me), and this editorial has been a pain in the butt to write so prepare yourself for some really wishy washy stuff, cause I'm on course to work 54 hours this week and at this point I just want to curl up into a little hairy ball and die, only to be swept away tomorrow by the cleaners. (That sentence was too long but fuck it)

The plan was to write some inspirational stuff about protesting, about how action is the only answer. I was going to rant about the plague of complacency and apathy that seems to characterise our world today. I was going to encourage you to think, to talk, to discuss, to complain to verbally battle shit out (emphasis on verbally). I was going to make a point that you need to fight for change, that you can't just wait for it to happen 'cause one day you'll wake up and realise that the world has indeed changed but has left you behind and has probably banned

something stupid like nipple clamps along the way too.

But so much shit keeps going down. They came for our education (It's not even particularly good, even VP Education admits to it), they came for our drugs (poppers only narrowly escaped) and now they're coming for our porn? I mean come on! So yes, I'm tired and I just can't look you in the eye and lie to you. I can't even be bothered to type-lie to you.

So here's the truth. Protesting is hard. It's not a one off. It's a way of life. To protest means to live life unapologetically. To refuse to be bossed around. To think freely. To be a protester means spending your entire life, your entire existence pushing, for yourself and for others.

This life will eat you up and spit you out. You will be drained and you will feel dead inside. But it's ok. There's nothing like a short break away from the daily grind to pump you up again and make you ready to start pushing again.

T H E  
T E A M

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# VP Education kicks off teaching consultations

Lef Apostolakis

## Simone Buitendijk calls first 'Town Hall' meeting

Imperial College-wide consultation on the Learning and Teaching Strategy this Wednesday with a Town Hall meeting which saw Vice-Provost of Education, Simone Buitendijk, address the issues raised by Imperial's disappointing NSS scores.

"All of us know that student experience isn't necessarily one-on-one the best way for measuring teaching quality, but at the same time it is important for being judged on it. If you see similar categories year after year after year there are things you need to pay attention to," said Buitendijk.

Indeed, Imperial College has consistently done poorly when it comes to the student experience and this year Imperial dropped from number ten to 21 out of 24 Russell Group universities.

Many of the main issues that plague student satisfaction at Imperial are familiar to most students and include density of curriculum, a stressful assessment process and often poor-quality feedback that doesn't allow time for

reflection or improvement. However, Buitendijk also pointed out the inconsistency of student satisfaction across departments, which only exacerbates the feeling of discontent.

"Some students are absolutely happy with the teaching they're getting. They love their teachers, they rave about the stellar researchers that teach them and how wonderful that is and other students will have exactly

**\\ It's not as if we just found out how teaching should be done. We've known this for a long time \\**

opposite opinions. Some students are completely crazy about their personal tutor and say that person really saved their academic experience and others say [they] really lost out in the lottery for a good personal tutor. They talk to each other in halls, they talk to students from other universities and if we can't

explain why some students have a really good experience and others don't that really leads to disgruntlement. I think we see some of that in the NSS," said Buitendijk.

The strategy so far appears to focus on a few key points. Firstly, emphasis is put on identifying the pockets of good practice across various departments, collecting them and implementing them at a College-wide level. Another area of focus is curriculum assessment. Buitendijk stressed the importance of creating "a curriculum that goes beyond facts", in an effort to equip students with transferable skills for "jobs that don't even exist yet". Finally there will be a push to restructure teaching and learning by making research-backed changes that will elevate teaching to match the level of the research undertaken at Imperial. To achieve these goals, there are long-term plans to not only develop education units that research and assess Imperial's teaching strategies, but to eventually create "central units within faculties".

"Ideally they'll be departments with professors

and chairs, but it's a budding field," said the Vice-Provost. "... it's a long term goal that we can keep in mind, that would help in raising teaching to the same level and prestige as research."

The Town Hall Meeting also gave staff the opportunity to share their thoughts with College and Union representatives through

**\\ They need to get the proper support, teaching fellows will have to be involved and that will take energy, manpower, and ultimately budget \\**

real time polling and a panel discussion. During the discussion, several staff members voiced their concerns.

Sam Cooper, an Imperial graduate and currently an Earth Science & Engineering research associate, pointed

out that the problems the NSS scores have highlighted are widely known.

"We know that class interaction has been the way to go for a very long time... It's not as if we just found out how teaching should be done. We've known this for a long time," said Cooper. "The academics on the whole are reluctant to implement it because it's a lot of work... I think it's all very well suggesting what we should do, but how do you go about persuading difficult-to-herd academics to bother put in the actual time?"

The Vice-Provost's response indicated that financial incentives and training would be used to promote these changes. "...The teachers who are going to do this will get the support to take the time out of other things. The researchers will find this very scary because it is scary to step into something totally new, especially if you have little time for doing it anyway. They need to get the proper support, teaching fellows will have to be involved and that will take energy, manpower, and ultimately budget."

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Concerns were also raised about the effects that such radical restructuring might have on SOLE scores. As some evidence exists suggesting that SOLE rewards enthusiastic lecturing often to

putting too much pressure on many already over-worked Imperial academics. Imperial can be a very high pressure environment, not only for students but also for researchers. We raised questions such as: 'Does the new strategy have mechanisms in place that will look into the welfare of Imperial researchers and lecturers?', 'If someone is not necessarily very good at lecturing, will that have an impact on their career?', and 'How is College looking into how this will affect staff?'

College and Union representatives replied reassuringly. "It's important to create a safe space during this exercise and maybe let go of SOLE scores for a while, because those are the kinds of things that will keep people

\\ It's important to create a safe space during this exercise and maybe let go of SOLE scores for a while \\

the detriment of content, some staff voiced their concerns over scoring poorly at SOLE if they were to try innovative teaching approaches. felix also raised concerns about

behind", said Buitendijk. When asked about the consequences on staff careers in the case of failure to embrace the new teaching framework, it was made clear that the new strategy was more about the carrot than the stick.

Yet these changes might have to progress faster than some might feel comfortable with. With higher education getting marketised and becoming more of a product, especially in the wake of a post-Brexit Britain, improving teaching standards will become a marketing priority.

At the moment, the discrepancy between teaching and research is a problem: "Whenever we come to try and find the marketing messages around the college, it is very much centred around our research expertise and

there's very little that we can actually say about our teaching," said a marketing staff member, suggesting Imperial should take steps to elevate teaching to the level of the research undertaken.

"We're going to do that, once we have something to be

proud of," replied Buitendijk. "I think now it's a little tricky, especially with the NSS results, but as soon as we feel we have something to show for it, definitely."



Everybody loves Mentimeter \\ Lef Apostolakis

## Road accident hospitalises medics

### One remains in critical condition

Lef Apostolakis

Three Imperial students were among the four pedestrians injured last night during a car collision on North End Road. The accident occurred shortly before 18:45 when it is believed, according to Metropolitan Police reports, that a black Audi A3 crashed into the pedestrians.

The three medical students, all in their twenties, and the 56-year-old man involved in the collision were taken to hospital. One of the medical students is in critical condition, while the remaining injured are in non-life threatening condition.

A 19-year-old woman was arrested by officers on suspicion of causing injury by dangerous driving. She is currently in custody. It hasn't been made clear if the woman arrested was the driver of

the vehicle involved in the collision.

A female passenger who was in the vehicle involved received treatment at the scene for minor injuries.

Earlier today, an email was sent out to the faculty of medicine by Martin Lupton, Head of Undergraduate Medicine, for reassurance.

"Dear Students, yesterday evening at 19:10 [sic] there was an accident on the North End Road. A car hit a number of pedestrians, three of whom were students at our medical school"

"In that dark moment, however, there were acts of light. A number of other medical students gave support and comfort at the scene and I want to thank them all sincerely."

"Could I ask that you keep these three... in your thoughts today. As always, please do

\\ A 19-year-old woman was arrested by officers on suspicion of causing injury by dangerous driving \\

contact your tutor or the senior tutors if you need support at the this time."

The email was sent out to stop rumours of fatality spreading among students and to point those in need of support in the right direction. A College spokesperson also said "College staff are monitoring the situation closely and are in touch with those involved to offer whatever support they can."

We approached Alex



North End Road and Mund Street \\ JunctionNikita Kumar

Compton ICSM president for comment: "CSMSU was deeply shocked by the accident on Wednesday evening. Our thoughts are with the injured students and their families and friends. We look to the Imperial community - staff and students - to support one another through this difficult time. Our thanks must go to those who took the time to assist at the accident and care for those injured before the emergency services arrived.

We are working closely with Imperial College Union and the Faculty of Medicine to provide support for all those affected. While we aim to update students as appropriate, we respect the families' wishes for space and privacy. If you have been affected by this incident, please seek support."

If you feel the need to seek support please get in contact with the Student Counselling Service or your personal tutor

## fabric to reopen under strict drug control

### Because who doesn't love soberly flailing about to techno?

Theo Farah

The iconic Farringdon nightclub, fabric, has announced it will reopen its doors, following a hearing at Highbury Corner Magistrate's Court on Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of November. The club was closed in September after two 18-year-olds tragically died of drug-related causes at the venue this Summer. An appeal date had been set for the 28<sup>th</sup> November, after a successful campaign including widespread support from the community, however a settlement has now been reached. The new licensing agreement has been signed by both the club and the council and was approved by judge Robin McPhee.

It includes 32 new and stringent conditions, which

include: roles such as "premises supervisor", head of welfare, head of security and search captains; a new welfare team trained by the drug charity, Loop, to detect clubbers at risk; increased CCTV surveillance for signs of dealing; drug awareness training for all staff; ID scanners at the entrance; no entry for under 19s; and lifetime bans for clubbers caught using or in possession of drugs.

A joint statement has been released, with fabric saying: "fabric accepts that its procedures in relation to searching were insufficient, as were its procedures to prevent the consumption and dealing of drugs within the club itself."

"fabric accepts that the police acted reasonably in making the application for a

review and that the authority's sub-committee was fully entitled to revoke its licence."

The decision has been met with celebration from DJs, artists, and fans of the club. Chase and Status and Annie Mac opined on Twitter, commending the decision as "brilliant news" and "amazing, amazing, amazing" respectively.

Thanks must, in part, go to the huge swell of support from advocates of the club. Following the club's closure in September, the club launched the #saveourculture campaign. At time of writing, it has raised over £320,000, with donations in the £1000s from artists, venues and members of the public. The club acknowledged this in its statement: "We owe everything to our supporters.



"fabric' is loud, hot, and sweaty. Just like your ex" - anon \\ Nick Mehlert

We really would not be here today without your unparalleled support and generosity. So many different people stepped up to put their voices to our cause, artists from all corners of the music community, fellow promoters who have put on huge events from us and clubbers from around the world who all

united behind us."

Perhaps this marks a change in the tide of club closures in London. London Mayor Sadiq Khan recently appointed Night Czar, Amy Lamé, in order to address the loss of much of London's nightlife. Is public support of venues like fabric finally being represented by its political counterparts?

## Union's three year strategy proposal

### Hopefully they've got 2020 vision

Matt Johnston

The Union this week released its plan so far for 2017-2020 and opened it up to feedback from the student body. This is the final round of drafting, feedback, and re-drafting of the proposals, in a process that's been ongoing since the start of this calendar year.

The previous round of consultation revealed, unsurprisingly, that the differing categories of students (broken down into first year undergraduates

(UGs), second year UGs onwards, and postgraduates) had different opinions on what mattered most. 'Fun events' and Clubs, Societies & Projects (CSPs) were most important to first year UGs; in comparison, mental health/wellbeing was more of a priority for UGs in their second year onwards. Postgraduate students felt that CSPs mattered most to them as well, alongside the aforementioned 'fun events' category, whatever that means.

A survey on the Union

website asked for student opinion on a range of topics, from academic experience to the range of services that are offered by both the Union and College put on. Also touched upon are mental health, financial problems and housing issues.

The survey was criticised by some, however, who felt that Student Media was unfairly singled out over other CSPs. One section of the questionnaire revolved around how the various media outlets (including IC Radio, ICTV,

and felix) are performing and on an existential level, what their purpose is. The initial version of the survey that was circulated was fraught with both grammatical and formatting mistakes making some questions impossible to answer properly, or at all. It also asked students to directly comment on the performance of the purely student volunteer-run ICTV and IC Radio. This was later amended to focus just on the performance of felix due to its sabbatical editor. Feedback

on other sabbatical roles was not requested.

The final strategy will be signed off by the Board of Trustees in December and then enacted at the very start of next year.

The survey can be completed via [www.imperialcollegeunion.org](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org) or feedback can be given at sessions at various campuses throughout this month.



# Library gets Dolly the Sheep statue

Steve Bohnel

Ewe have to see it to believe it

Students who have walked through the security gates at Central Library the past couple of weeks may have noticed a strange sculpture awaiting them before they turn into the main study areas.

That strange sculpture, however, is three students' tribute to one of the most significant global engineering feats in the past 20 years.

Dolly the Sheep, represented at the library by a papier-mâché statue covered in newspaper clippings from the time the story broke, is the first mammal to ever be cloned from an adult somatic cell through the process of nuclear transfer.

The feat was accomplished by scientists at the Roslin

Institute, part of the University of Edinburgh, in July 1996. Students Ellyw Evans, Zoe Ohman and Joanna Wolstenholme created the sculpture in Central Library, as part of their science communication coursework.

Two third-year computing students, Louis De Beau and Jonny White, said they knew about Dolly the Sheep and took some time to examine the sculpture at the library.

"We just kind of stared at it for a minute," said De Beau, "But then we moved on. I have loads of work to get to."

White added that, at first glance, the sculpture didn't look like a sheep.

"Our mate thought it was a pig," he said. "Then, when we walked over, and he realised it obviously wasn't a pig, we

laughed at him."

At the sculpture at the library, news clippings from national newspapers lauded the achievement. When the news broke, the BBC reported

**\\ Our mate thought it was a pig, then when we walked over, and he realised it obviously wasn't a pig, we laughed at him \\**

that Dolly would help scientists learn more about aging and genetics, along with the production of cheaper medicines. It also, however,



The statue certainly isn't baaaaaaaaaad \\ Matt Johnston

raised an ethical dilemma about whether humans should be cloned, if the same process worked on them.

But for now, the sculpture in Central Library serves

as a reminder to students, faculty and staff of one of the most important scientific achievements in recent memory.

# What went down at the Education demo

Over 15,000 students participated

Lef Apostolakis

Saturday saw thousands of students and academics take to the streets to protest government cuts and education reforms.

The procession started near Hyde Park and progressed through central London with students holding signs and shouting chants such as "no ifs, not buts, no education cuts"

For its majority the march was peaceful, with only a few isolated incidents which saw some

participants branching off from the main procession, setting off flares outside parliament and calling for a rent strike.

The rally was later addressed by NUS President Malia Bouattia, political commentator and Guardian Columnist Owen Jones and Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn among others.

Jones gave a particularly energetic speech during which he not only addressed the education crisis the UK is facing but also touched upon the threat of fascism

and the response of the left. "We're the sum of the collective effort not least, of our education system and the teachers who keep it running.... A society that fails to invest in education that fails to invest in young people, fails to invest in its own future," said Jones.

The march concluded with celebrations at Goldsmith's student Union of reportedly the biggest student demonstration since 2010.



IC strongly represented \\ Harrison Jones





FREEZE PEACH

C O M M E N T ... felix

# The Trump Effect | Is Political correctness to blame?



Jawaad Farooq offers his verdict on the reason for Donald's rise to power

\\ We also need to realise that if we don't take people's frustrations seriously that frustration can manifest itself in many ways \\

It has been argued that political correctness has created a culture where people are afraid of expressing their views. This culture has been exacerbated by far left labelling and clamping down on opinions it deems do not fit into the liberal narrative. This apparently has led to the feeling of those who preach this 'other' opinion (such as Trump supporters) being delegitimised. Those opinions are an expression of a frustration, and in delegitimising the opinion, the frustration is also not taken seriously. Since the outlet of that frustration is the opinion, and political correctness does not allow the legitimisation of the opinion, political correctness became the target for Trump supporters and a larger motif representing those factors which are keeping these people 'down' and causing the frustration in the first place. If Donald Trump was anything he was politically incorrect, and because he was not afraid to speak his mind, he became a symbol of legitimising their frustrations. Repeatedly Trump made the point that the biggest problem he felt America was facing was political correctness, and it seems his message resonated with his supporters.

In a weird way, although the views he was expressing were reprehensible, the views themselves mattered less than the fact that they were a middle finger

to the politically correct status quo. Perhaps this explains why some people who maybe didn't actually support Trump's views backed him.

What about those who did support him and his views? There could be a number of explanations. Firstly they genuinely were racist and xenophobic people. Secondly their views were a result of misplaced economic woes.

After the fall of the Berlin wall, it was said that

\\ Those opinions are an expression of a frustration, and in delegitimising the opinion, the frustration is also not taken seriously \\

history had ended. There was no other challenger to liberal democracy, and the world would progress towards homogenisation.

But with the rise of liberal democracy, the prosperity brought by that same system hasn't filtered down to the masses. They have not shared in the same prosperity. Median male income today in America

is still less than it was in the 70's according to The Economist. For the white male demographic, the rise in liberal democracy has not been synonymous with rise in their economic status.

But why does that lead to racist and xenophobic viewpoints? For generations white Americans, whose privilege and identity were treated as almost God given, have never had to ask questions of identity, privilege, race and all other questions minorities have had to deal with for their own survival. This survival instinct in my opinion creates a philosophical revolution within minorities who become galvanised to take their equal seat at the table of society. That awakening leads to intellectual self-determination. This coupled with the actual social actions are hard fought victories for the people, and Hilary's supporters, those who uphold the ideals of liberal democracy, are those people. They may not agree with all of Hilary's track record, but they would choose Hilary over Trump because she supports similar ideals.

The white-male demographic has never had to go through similar intellectual and social upheavals because their positions in society and

their identity is treated as a birth right and embedded in the way things work, and that produces a civilizational arrogance and pride. This demographic has not seen the economic prosperity their country has produced and has seen its identity



challenged and chipped away. As a result of this identity complex, they are more likely to seek social explanations for their frustrations which include blaming refugees, immigrants, and all that they feel is a threat to that identity. The slogan 'Make America Great Again' is a throwback to when that identity reigned supreme and so did their bank balances.

Brexit and the Trump vote may show that the masses have voted to reject the ideals of open markets and liberal democracy as long as economic prosperity doesn't filter down to them. This doesn't question liberal democracy, but

rather shows that economic prosperity must come hand in hand with social progression.

Over the course of history we have seen how economic frustrations have manifested in the rise of the far right and caused once consolidated identities and its associated self-pride to be chipped away leaving a vacuum for an ideologically dubious strongman to take control and create an enemy to galvanise their supporters. The target is usually immigrants and minorities. In a world where borders are as porous as ever, and different cultures and points of view are mingling because of the movement of vast swathes of people, it is most important that we remain open minded.

We also need to realise that if we don't take people's frustrations seriously, that frustration can manifest itself in many ways. Donald Trump's win may be one such manifestation. Whilst political correctness should never be a vehicle to completely silence people and their opinions, it should not also become completely overturned to normalise hate which may manifest and encourage hateful acts against minorities who have fought hard for the status quo to be changed.



# Cocaine's bloody trail into the UK



Jennifer Eden criticises the West's obsession with nose clams

\\ It's no surprise that trafficking has become a dangerously attractive market \\

If you haven't already got hooked on a Netflix series then I would recommend *Narco's* - a fast-paced, no frills, straight to the point story of Pablo Escobar and his cocaine empire. From the get-go the audience is thrust into the life of the world's most famous drug trafficker and immersed in the brutality with which he drowned the people of Colombia.

Such horror followed the route his cocaine took to reach the USA, as the trail of drugs is so often a bloody one. Now, decades on and thousands of miles away, it is interesting to probe what the route of cocaine to the UK looks like and how much destruction it really causes.

Much of the celebrity drug, snorted by the likes of Nigella Lawson and Kate Moss, still comes from South America (mainly Colombia, Peru and Bolivia), as the problem was never going to be eradicated along with Escobar in 1993. But the route to the UK is not

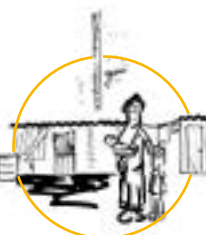
as simple as driving the product up to a different continent. There's an ocean to cross.

Once crossed, the cocaine arrives on the shores of West Africa - a crucial transit point in its journey. It's estimated that 18 tonnes of cocaine pass through this area each year en route to Europe. All this amounts to a staggering wholesale price of \$1.25 billion (more than the GDP of some West African countries), so it's no surprise trafficking has become a dangerously attractive market for people here. The fact that West Africa holds some of the poorest and most politically unstable countries in the world has been exploited, with Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana and Benin being among the worst affected nations. Corruption is rife, security is weak, and government resources are often surpassed by those of the traffickers.

The industry is further facilitated by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Allowing free movement of people and goods between these countries means that cocaine can, in theory, move through the region relatively easily without border controls. Traffickers can also move between hubs and conduct operations with minimal interference.

An example of a country plagued by the problems cocaine brings can be seen in Guinea-Bissau, a disputed 'narco state'. Here, corruption runs from the very top

\\ Corruption is rife, security is weak, and government resources are often surpassed by those of traffickers \\



government politicians all the way down to the police on the ground. Those who are not complicit can become casualties of the trade - these people include journalists, police, military personnel and other officials. Even the President isn't safe, with President Vieira being assassinated in 2009 - while his assassination was not directly because of cocaine, the drug played its part in raising tensions building up to the event.

There is no shortage of terrible acts of violence related to the cocaine trade, often affecting high profile, influential individuals. But in turn, it's the wider implications of such acts that becomes increasingly concerning. If politicians and changemakers are being bumped off left, right and centre, how on earth is a country supposed to govern itself, let alone develop? Not only can nothing ever get done in government where anyone who opposes the traffickers is removed, but the people of Guinea-Bissau cannot lift themselves out of poverty because the cocaine industry crowds out legal forms of economic activity. Lack of legal businesses and job creation then leads to a poorly resourced government, and it's not as if they can start taxing cocaine imports for some kind of revenue. This brings the country to a demoralising standstill whereby legitimate globalisation and self-improvement is thwarted at every turn. And as is always the case in these situations, it's

the ordinary citizens that are affected the most.

Ultimately, what I find most frustrating about this issue is the idea that there are people in Britain who are using the drug with a total disregard for the suffering that has gone into getting it to them. Cocaine's glamorous façade makes it a drug for the wealthy party animals of the west. They are rich, and the cost is irrelevant - even if that includes human lives. Untold misery goes into

\\ If politicians and changemakers are being bumped off left, right and centre, how on earth is a country supposed to govern itself, let alone develop? \\

these wealthy people buying a good time, and countries are kept subserviently poor to the advantage of traffickers and their demanding customers.

To citizens of 'narco states' the consumers must appear to be a blend of selfishness cut with shallow minded ignorance. With further analysis of certain cocaine users, I wouldn't be surprised if that were true.



# They want our data | The UK's Internet Crisis



Dan Slocombe shares his concerns about the Orwellian future we are headed towards

\\ Having a warehouse of sensitive data on everyone at a single location might not be the best idea \\

Edward Snowden said that "Arguing that you don't care about the right to privacy because you have nothing to hide is no different than saying you don't care about free speech because you have nothing to say." And, while we may have nothing to hide here at felix, we have plenty to say.

Theresa May first proposed the Communications Data Bill (Snooper's Charter) back when there were Lib Dems in power to swat it down. But with the political shenanigans of the referendum this June, May has been in the perfect position to pass through a spiritual successor. The Investigatory Powers Act passed last Thursday is, to once again quote Edward Snowden, "the most extreme surveillance in the history of western democracy. It goes further than many autocracies."

This may seem far-fetched until you read a synopsis of what it provides.

\\ We have no idea how effective these measures are against threats to national security \\



It allows intelligence agencies to carry out targeted and bulk interception of communications. It bans only the tapping of MP's phones along with those of other protected professions. It forces Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to hold on to a user's visited top-level domains for one year, e.g. google.com or wikipedia.org, but not specific pages. It allows police and intelligence officers to see these records without warrants. It allows police and intelligence officers to hack into specific devices and bulk hack into equipment for national security matters. It puts in place legal obligation for ISPs to help in the mass data collection and hacking. It makes it illegal for an ISP, or someone working at one, to reveal what data has been requested. So you probably don't want to piss off that one friend headed to Cheltenham this summer.

Surprisingly, there is at least one benefit to all of this: we now have a far more accurate picture of what GCHQ

is doing, and exactly what acts they justify with the organisation-wide motto "Necessary and Proportional". I don't think I need to explain why having a warehouse of sensitive data on everyone at a single location might not be the best idea. Especially given the impact of leaked emails in the recent American election.

We still have no idea how effective these kind of measures are for actually protecting against threats to

\\ Porn is embarrassing, and an easy starting place to begin restricting what people have access to \\

national security - the Paris attacks were organised by unencrypted text messages and that still wasn't picked up on. Enacting this may just lead people onto harder encryption like Tor. And while this should be a discussion over civil liberty it has been estimated that these plans will cost well over a billion pounds.

Even more recently, as part of the proposed Digital Econ-

omy Bill, the government would tell 'adult' websites to add age verification checks at the risk of being blocked for not complying.

On top of this, service providers would be forced to block sites with content that the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) deems not suitable for commercial DVD sale. This would enforce some hybrid of the Obscene Publications Act of 1959 and agreements with film publishers, including the amazing "four finger rule" (four being the maximum number of digits allowed in an orifice).

You may not care about your exotic pornography as much as the felix editor, but having a system in place to gate or ban specific websites based on their content is terrifying. Porn is embarrassing, and an easy starting place to begin restricting what people have access to.

A likely age gating system would involve debit card numbers, which just adds to the backlog of government information on what everyone's doing. It also encour-

ages people to enter very stealable information into shady websites.

Bans can be circumvented with tools such as VPNs, proxies and encryption, which could give cause to ban those as well, which is

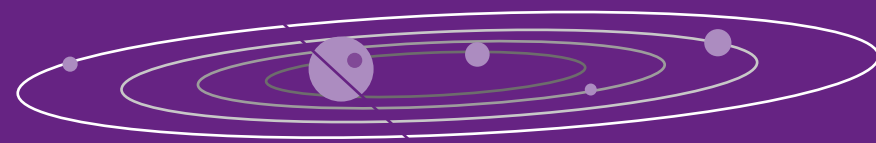
\\ There have already been cases of people being arrested for tweets and Youtube videos that were clearly jokes being deemed offensive \\

worrying since these tools are a keystone of modern journalism and whistleblowing. It is not difficult to imagine a future where satire comes under attack. There have already been cases of people being arrested for tweets and Youtube videos that were clearly jokes, being deemed offensive.

I'm not saying that we are suddenly in some Orwellian dystopia, I'm just worried that we are one step closer to one. But before you whip out your tinfoil hats remember that the European court could still overturn this. Oh, wait...







## Tis the season to be... cryogenically frozen?

After a week of controversy, Abigail Sawyer looks into the chemistry of cryogenics

For starters, here's a myth buster: Walt Disney was not actually cryogenically frozen.

With news emerging this week concerning a terminally ill 14-year-old girl winning a court case against her father allowing her to be cryogenically frozen, I decided to explore exactly what this entails.

First of all, let's get down to the science. When tissues

are cooled, water molecules move around much slower, interact with each other more and begin to form ice crystals. These ice crystals tend to form first outside the tissue cells. This makes the concentration of other substances outside tissue cells much higher and so, by the magic of osmosis, water molecules move from inside the cells to outside. The ice crystals grow and the tissue cells shrink and are damaged by the newly formed ice crystals.

Vitrification is a method used to prevent this damage. Tissues can be cooled and

solidified, being preserved without any damage by replacing blood with a solution that is basically an anti-freeze combined with an organ preservation fluid. It allows tissues to be stored at extremely low temperatures. You can imagine that there are many toxicity issues associated with this. Scientists are currently working on these problems and the companies offering cryogenic freezing, for £160,000 a go, are fairly confident that with time, these issues can be solved!

Now that we've established that there's a theoretical possibility for it to work, can it actually work in real life? Who knows! No one that has been cryogenically frozen has been brought back to life yet, however, success with cryonics



has been shown for IVF as it is used to preserve semen and eggs. There aren't even any cases of animals being successfully revived either, but a rabbit brain was reportedly recovered earlier this year in an "excellent" state. Even with this success, there is no evidence that brain functions, personality, or memories would be recovered.

So, what's the verdict? If you have the money to spare, it might be worth a go. It really depends on how much trust you have in the future of scientific progress.

\\ Companies offer cryogenic freezing for £160,000 a go \\



## Wounds heal with (a lot of) time

Lizzie Riach explores new research into how wounds heal, and why older people are at a significant disadvantage if they injure themselves

Since World War I, scientists have noticed how the speed of healing is much slower in older veterans compared to younger ones. But for an entire century, we had no idea why this was the case, until now.

Researchers at the Rockefeller University have started to unlock this aspect of the aging body by looking at wounds in mice. Usually when the skin is broken due to an injury, skin cells move to the site to repair the break due to the coordination of nearby immune cells. But in older mice, experiments showed

this communication between skin and immune cells to be disrupted, slowing this process down.

Healing wounds is one of the body's most complicated processes, with a host of different molecular pathways. Signalling between cells occurs from the first few seconds of injury to months after healing has occurred.

A crucial part of healing is the formation of a scab, a feature that is in no means there to be picked. Its function is to protect the open wound until a more robust skin layer is formed. These new skin cells are known as 'keratinocytes', and fill in the wound under



the scab until all is healed. In the older mice, the keratinocytes were much slower to migrate in place. The result? Wounds in aged mice often

took many more days to close compared to the young'uns.

The work being done could potentially be used to enhance healing in the elderly if we find out the specific signals required. As Elaine Fuchs, head of the Robin Chemers Neustein Laboratory of Mammalian Cell Biology, says, "our work suggests it may be possible to develop drugs to help aging skin cells communicate better with their immune cell neighbours, boosting signals that normally decline with age".

## Chester the first published Felix



**Fact:** There's a cat that is co-author of a theoretical physics paper.

In 1975, American mathematician and physicist Professor Jack H. Hetherington wrote an entire paper (on low temperature physics, if you were wondering) on a typewriter, only to be told by his supervisor that it would be rejected by the journal he was intending to publish it in - Physical Review Letters - as had written "we" and "us" throughout despite being the sole author.

Rather than re-type his whole paper, he decided to add a worthy co-author instead - namely one F.D.C. Willard. Which of course stands for FELIX Domesticus Chester Willard. Which of course was his faithful Siamese cat.

The paper was accepted and published. F.D.C. Willard went on to publish, as the sole author, an article titled "Two-, Three- and Four-atom Exchange Effects"... and no, I don't understand what that means either. Chester was regularly cited for his "useful contributions" and was even offered a physics fellowship at Michigan State University. Three gruelling years of Natural Sciences at Cambridge and there is some cat that is objectively a more successful scientist than I am. I mean what is the point...

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



## Thames gets seal of approval

Emma Parkin talks seal sightings and how the Thames has cleaned up its act

Over a pint in Clapham, my friend exclaimed that they, along with the entire top deck of the 345 bus, had seen a seal in the Thames on the way to college. At first I was sceptical. Whilst the odd whale has occasionally been known to take a wrong turn, how could anything, especially something as large as a seal, live daily in such polluted water?

Surprisingly, the Thames isn't as bad as you'd expect, despite its history as a sewage sink and the countless chemical leakages. In the almost 60 years since the river was proclaimed 'biologically dead', strict legislation implemented on waste disposal has led to the Thames now becoming the cleanest it's been in more than 150 years. The transformation



even won the International Theiss River prize for outstanding restoration in 2010, out-competing the Yellow River in China, the Hattah Lakes in Australia, and the Smirnykh River in Japan.

Habitat reconstruction projects have helped repopulate the river with more than 125 species of fish and 400 species of invertebrates. Birds now wade from its banks and even large vertebrates such as dolphins can be spotted regularly. The most impressive

re-establishment of a marine mammal population comes from our British seal species: the harbour seal and the grey seal. Over the last 15 years seal numbers have increased dramatically with over 900 seals being estimated to live

\\ Despite increasing numbers, the Thames seal population are still vulnerable \\

along the estuary last year, an increase from the 708 in 2013.

Despite their increasing numbers, Thames seal populations are still very vulnerable to disease. The Phocine Distemper Virus (PDV), which causes fever and breathing problems, has had major outbreaks in Thames seal populations in both 1988 and 2002. Conservationists are now concerned that with the potential for a 14-year disease cycle the virus could rear its head again imminently. No evidence of PDV has been found in the river as of yet.

In order to help conserve the seals, which are top predators in important estuarine ecosystems, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) has been monitoring their progress. In 2012 the organisation tagged 10 harbour seals with GPS systems

and in 2013 they introduced annual population surveys using planes and boats to get counts. However, one of the most important sources of information comes from the public driven Thames Marine Mammal Sighting survey which ZSL has run since 2004. Within the first ten years over 1,300 marine mammal sightings were recorded, all of which were crucial to better understanding our seals.

So, despite its murky appearance, the Thames is a hospitable environment for many creatures. Its biggest problem now is plastic, with campaigns such as #OneLess trying to reduce levels of plastic pollution. If you want to see one of our furry friends, your best chance is currently around Greenwich! You can report your findings to a live online map or via the twitter hashtag #inthethames.

## The galaxy's guide to hitchhiking

Lara Bailey explains why the 'Vela Supercluster' could be the reason for why the Milky Way and surrounding galaxies are constantly on the move

It has been known for a long time that galaxies move, and our Milky Way is no exception. The Milky Way and its 50 neighbours, together referred to as the 'Local Group', have been moving in a particular direction, and until now it was not known why. A team of researchers from South Africa, Germany, and Australia suggest that a supercluster of galaxies is the reason behind the huge gravitational pull.

A supercluster is a collection of hundreds of galaxies, and it's the largest structure known

\\ The Vela Supercluster is much bigger than the previously discovered Shapley supercluster \\

to exist in space. International researchers measured around 4500 redshifts (a change in wavelength, used to measure distance), via the constellation Veta. They took measurements from galaxies either side of a plane of the Milky Way to determine the presence of a particularly high



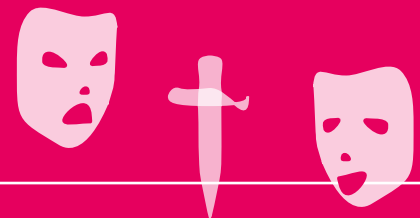
density of galaxies around 800 million light years away. This new supercluster is much larger than the previously discovered Shapley supercluster, around 650 million light years away.

Despite its size, it was only recently found because it was hidden behind the cosmic dust and stars of the plane of the Milky Way. The lead professor of the study, professor Renee Kraan-Korteweg of

the University of Cape Town, said: "I could not believe such a major structure would pop up so prominently."

Superclusters, due to their scale, have a significant impact on the movement of other galaxies. Further research is needed to appreciate the influence and extent of the supercluster, and in particular to explain the direction and velocity of the Local Group's movement. More observations will help determine the contribution of the Vela supercluster to the larger-scale structure of this pocket of our vast universe.





## Films in protest



The Birth of a Nation (1915), One of the most influential films of all time. \\ Epoch Producing Corporation

Do films have the capacity to influence and further change in our society and worldwide? From films like *Cowspiracy* to the infamous *Triumph of the Will*, history answers the question with a resounding, 'yes'.

Meryl Anil

Entertainment, expression, and education - films have it covered. Whilst most people use films for the sake of entertainment to enjoy themselves - to take a break from life's stresses, to escape from reality - they are also capable of inducing the opposite effect: films have the ability to make you more in tune with reality, to affect reality, and also to shape it. The medium of film, especially in the current day, has a lot of power. And this power makes it a very useful tool in furthering change in our society and worldwide.

Films allow a person to express their ideas and thoughts in a way that is accessible to the masses. There are numerous films that have been made over the past years that have had a visible impact in society, and have been used to speak out against injustices. They have been used to start social movements and they have

\\ Films have the ability to make you more in tune with reality, to affect reality and also, to shape it \\

been used in political propaganda. The film *The Thin Blue Line* literally saved an innocent convicted man's life; this documentary, directed by a detective, used witness statements to re-enacted scenes of the crime, which led to the lifting of his sentence, leaving him a free man. In *Super Size Me*, the American fast food industry was put under scrutiny, causing a revolution in the awareness of obesity, its causes and its effects. The film even led to McDonald's removing its 'super size' option from all of its menus. These are some examples of tangible results from a film looking to create change. Usually, however, the impact of films is not quantifiable. It is more subtle and is often left open to interpretation.

Whether it has an observable impact or not, one thing is certain: these films create awareness. Following the advertising tag line 'all publicity is good publicity', as long as someone has seen a film with an aim of informing someone of a certain matter, whether they initially agree with its premise or not, they know of it. This in itself is half the battle. Films like Ava DuVernay's brilliant *13th*, which exposes a 'loophole' in the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment which abolished slavery in the U.S. while allowing minorities in America to still be targeted,

the touching *After Tiller*, which attempted to educate people on pro-choice, and *Cowspiracy*, which managed to make almost everyone who watched it to at least want to try being a vegetarian, have impacts that change the way people think and feel. Something which cannot be put into a statistic but in certain ways is much more important.

While most films that have championed, or had the intention of furthering, a cause have been documentaries, they are not restricted to that category. Fictional films can

\\ Films change the way people think and feel \\

still carry a strong message and connect with people. One could say it might even create more empathy as, being a work of fiction, the director is able to create material to cater to audiences emotions, whereas with a documentary film, usually the directors have to play with whatever material they can get which often consists of what can be thought as 'dry' material. Films such as *The Cider House Rules*, a film about back-alley abortions, and *Rosetta*, which follows a 17-year-old girl looking for employment to escape her

alcoholic mother, they too succeeded in gaining a lot of attention towards their subject matter and in the case of *Rosetta*, political attention to ensure the payment of minimum wage to youth.

A corollary of film being a medium which allows any person to express their ideas and thoughts however, is that any person can make use of film - there is no censorship on their ideas. History has shown that films can have had a disastrous effects on society too. Films such as *The Birth of a Nation*, which arguably led to the re-birth of the Klu Klux Klan through its degrading depiction of African Americans, and the notorious German propaganda film, *Triumph of the Will*, which popularized the cause of the Nazis, are good examples of this. The impact of these films, well known to all, shows the power of film in society. There is tremendous power and in the wrong hands it can do tremendous wrong. But this also means in the right hands it can do tremendous good.

In an age where films and documentaries are churned out in multitudes, there is no lack of informative material out there. Online streaming sites such as Netflix - which has around 70 million viewers, whilst creating a fair few extremely good documentaries of its own - further the

\\ "Just raising the awareness of one person, making him change the way he looks at reality, at life, will show when they meet someone in need. These are the small things that will make a big change" \\

mass of video content available for people to watch. While people are unlikely to pay to go to the cinema and watch a documentary, they are much more likely to do so in the comfort of their own home. Increased viewing means good news for documentary filmmakers, whose main issue is actually getting people to watch their films. As Yariv Mozer, director of *The Invisible Men*, a documentary about the plight of gay Palestinian men, said, "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". And as history has shown, raising awareness is something film can do very well.



## Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them



Eddie Redmayne making new friends \\ Warner Bros/Allstar



Unless you live in a cave, it is quite hard to overlook the fact that *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* is finally out. First of all, it is difficult to walk down an entire street without seeing at least one poster, and secondly because the film has immediately become a source of wild disputes. Surprisingly, it's not a conflict between Potterheads passionately defending the film and the others condemning it - from my experience, it is often quite the opposite. What is the reason behind this and how well did *Fantastic Beasts* actually do?

My first impression after leaving the theatre was that the film was very wrongly advertised as another Harry Potter story. It is easy to see why the fans of the original series might be disappointed - it is absolutely not. You will come across references to Hogwarts and its characters from time to time, but apart from those, expect a story which takes place in the same world with the same rules, but explores a completely different aspect of it. *Fantastic Beasts* is not a children's tale anymore, it is an adult one. So, a piece of advice: drop

your expectations of Harry Potter 8 - there is the Cursed Child for that - and try to accept it as a new era of J.K. Rowling's magical universe.

Based on the trailer, I was a bit sceptical whether the plot would be strong enough to hold your attention for over two hours. After all, it's "only" a hunt for magical animals, isn't it? Luckily, I was more than pleasantly surprised by a presence of another, rather unexpected, storyline which gives the film a good balance of light-hearted and dark moments. Moreover, there are many brief but important scenes which reveal that there is a lot going on under the surface. Of course, I won't spoil it but let's say that it justifies the need for four more parts. Well, at least it does for me!

The beasts are one of the highlights of the film. Some are cute (like Niffler!), others hilarious and yet others, awe-inspiring. It is very satisfying to see they are not there for the sake of CGI show-offs but each have a unique personality and you'll surely find one you'll love (Niffler!). Speaking of effects, one has to admit some of them might be just for eye candy, but *Fantastic Beasts* doesn't rely on digital tricks as its main driving force. And, to be

honest, who doesn't want to have their breath taken away by a majestic Thunderbird?

As for the human characters, I'm sure everyone has been in love with Eddie Redmayne aka Newt Scamander several months before the premiere but the others deserve at least equal credit - charmingly quirky Queenie, slightly creepy Credence, and Jacob Kowalski, the most likeable muggle - oops, meant No-Maj - you'll ever meet. You may feel a bit nostalgic about not being able to watch the characters mature as in Harry Potter, but you can enjoy different aspects of the magical world, like the interaction of wizards with the rest of the world, and the struggle they had to go through for their "deviation". Moreover, with five films in total, you'll eventually grow up with the characters as well!

Overall impressions? My inner fangirl is screaming incomprehensibly, but even if I should be objective, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* is in no way disappointing. Even if you are not fan of Harry Potter, I suggest you give it a go - *Fantastic Beasts* is trying its best not to be like its older sibling, and it succeeds.

Veronika Šigutová

The directorial debut from Czech directors Petr Kazda and Tomáš Weinreb - *I, Olga Heparová* - takes its title from a line in the manifesto left behind by the last woman to be executed in Czechoslovakia. In 1973, at the age of 22, Heparová ran over a group of people with a truck, killing eight, and was executed with short-drop hanging. But the title also acts as an invitation. It invites us to try and get inside the mind of a killer to attempt to shed some light on what, exactly, drove a young girl to commit such a horrific act. A pity, then, that the end result is so dark and unilluminating.

We follow Heparová from

the age of 13, when an early suicide attempt led to her incarceration in a psychiatric ward. This marks the first step in a progression of events marked by increasing isolation and alienation, which Heparová deals with by chain-smoking cigarettes and maintaining an impassive attitude. The scenes come and go in a haphazard order, with individual depressing vignettes making up a more isolating whole; with no music to break up the tension, the internal relentless rhythm of *I, Olga* makes it a trying watch.

Michalina Olszanska's dedication to the role of Heparová cannot be denied, but her character is a glassy-eyed cipher, whose extreme unlikeable nature hampers

any emotional connection we might have. Furthermore, the fact that Heparová is a lesbian seems to serve no other function that to justify the inclusion of several sex scenes that are as gratuitous as they are dull, making *I, Olga* seem more like a pastiche of 'difficult' European art-house cinema than anything fully-realised.

*I, Olga* invites us to explore the nature of human evil. But not even the sumptuous black and white cinematography, which complements the 1960s environs perfectly - and takes more than a few cues from Paweł Pawlikowski's *Ida* - cannot rescue it. *I, Olga* goes to great lengths to prove true Hannah Arendt's claim that the evil really is just banal.

Fred Fyles

## I, Olga Heparová



Eyes of a killer \\ Media Brigade



# Union Page

## Support your social enterprise - apply for up to £300 of funding



Our Autumn funding round for student social entrepreneurs is now open! Apply for up to £300 to support your social enterprise, no matter what stage you're at! Whether you're at the beginning of your enterprise journey, or further down the line, our student social enterprise support fund will give your project a funding boost. Deadline for all applications is midnight Sunday 4 December.

Your enterprise should be tackling an identified social problem on either a local, national or global scale. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with [elanor.henry@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:elanor.henry@imperial.ac.uk).

Information on our definition of a social enterprise and to apply for Social Enterprise funding can be found online - apply now!

[imperialcollegeunion.org/social-enterprise-funding](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/social-enterprise-funding)

## Pick the Headliner & Showcase sport for VarsityFest 2017



Imperial College Union and Sport Imperial are again working together to deliver VarsityFest and we want you to help us shape the event. Earlier in the year we asked all sports clubs to send in applications to be the headline match of the year.

We received great applications from Men's Football, Men's Rugby, Women's Rugby and Netball and now it's up to you to decide on which sport you want to see played as the main VarsityFest match 2017!

You will need to login to our website to cast your vote for the sports club you want to be headline match of the year. Voting is open until Friday 2 December 2016. The second placed sport will be selected as the Showcase Sport and will play their 1st game before the Headliner. To read the applications by each team and cast your vote go to

[imperialcollegeunion.org/varsityfest2017](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/varsityfest2017)

## Help us run Student Volunteering Week 2017



We are looking to recruit a team of volunteers with a passion and enthusiasm for creating positive, social change.

National Student Volunteering Week (SVW) returns 20 – 26 February 2017, to celebrate the successes of student volunteers and to inspire others to join the movement.

We want YOU to join our team to help create a week-long programme of events throughout the local community that will empower Imperial students to make a difference to the lives of others and to recognise and celebrate the efforts already being made.

For more information, visit

[imperialcollegeunion.org/student-volunteering-week](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/student-volunteering-week)





# Garside's window-smashing soundtrack

Punk music, and its offshoots, has always retained a continuing theme of protest against society's wrongs. Here are some of my favourites.

Rob Garside

## G.L.O.S.S – G.L.O.S.S (We're from the Future)



\\ Sabotage Records

**Hardcore** punk music has always been chronically male dominated and well known for its macho culture. G.L.O.S.S (Girls Living Outside Society's Shit) used their sole release to rail against the sexism and homophobia people face in this scene, discussing issues such as gender identity and sexism.

## Left For Dead – Skin Graft

**Punk** has a long standing tradition of bands taking a stance on animal rights, Left For Dead's *Skin Graft* being a prime example. This song is 45 seconds of violent attack on animal testing and wearing of fur, suggesting those whom endorse such acts deserve even worse treatment than the critters involved. The searing guitar and pummelling beats complete this intense experience.

## Fugazi – The Argument

The title track from Fugazi's final album is a strong departure from their raucous earlier work. It instead presents a resigned statement on the Iraq war. Rather than fiery rhetoric, *The Argument* presents a mature view. This track is a beaten protest about how the same arguments always come up and always win. The stripped back nature of this song makes it a wonderful piece of art.

## Dead Kennedys – Holiday in Cambodia

The Clash and Dead Kennedys present a similar, highly political outlook, however they couldn't be further apart. Eschewing the intelligent, prudish style of The Clash and replacing it with a crass, sarcastic voice, this track sardonically imagines how those who would go on holiday in Cambodia would appreciate being dropped into one of Pol Pot's gulags.



Alternative Tentacles \\



\\ Discarded Records

## Doom – Police Bastard

The title of this song speaks for itself. Authority is held in such disdain in punk circles that it is of no surprise that this contempt extends to its enforcers. The whole of the *Police Bastard* EP sounds like it was recorded in a metal bin – with tinny d-beat drums competing with thin, dirty guitars – adding to the vitriol and rage in the EP's title track.

## The Clash – The Guns Of Brixton

Their contribution to modern music as a whole needing little introduction, The Clash's use of reggae influences and keen political lyrics have shaped and inspired many. For me, this is the best example of their signature style, reporting the defiance of communities in the face of racism and police brutality.

## Earth Crisis – Firestorm

It would be hard to justify not including this track. *Firestorm* describes a drug epidemic hitting the narrator's city. Earth Crisis issues a call for punks to militarise with straight-edgers, taking the fight to those who use drugs. The views in this song are ignorant and inflexible, much like many 90's hardcore songs. This makes *Firestorm* a great look into a highly political, aggressive scene teetering on the edge of self parody.

## Refused – Rather Be Dead

**Refused** have always been a political band with strong anarchist leanings. At least, they were until they played Coachella for money reasons. *Rather Be Dead* itself is an angry tirade against all forms of authority and a firm pledge that Refused are prepared to fight the power. This all takes place over tense chugging, palm muted guitars

Startracks Records \\



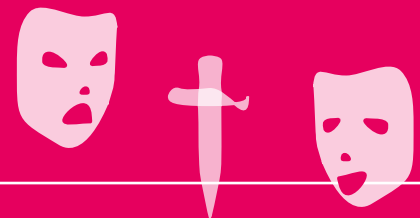


# A WILD, WILD PARTY

A MUSICAL THEATRE REVUE  
30<sup>TH</sup> NOV, 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> DEC  
UNION CONCERT HALL  
FREE ADMISSION







## Breaking the walls of the 'pre-invented world'



LJ Roberts. *Gaybashers, Come and Get It, USA, 2011* \\ Courtesy of Blanca Garcia

In an interview with *The Paris Review* Joan Didion describes the act of writing as "hostile", explaining further: "you're trying to make somebody see something the way you see it...wrench around someone else's mind". The same can be said of any form of art. Truly meaningful art can confront the viewer with things they don't want to hear, ideas they didn't know even existed – it can be a painful process. As Didion puts it: "you want to tell somebody your dream, your nightmare. Well nobody wants to hear it, nobody wants to walk around with it."

Art has a long and rich history with protest. From Picasso's *Guernica*, to the work of Guerrilla Girls protesting the sexism of the art world, artists have used their work to shed light on the injustice of the world around them.

In the 1980s, the AIDS crisis descended on the gay communities of the liberal coastal cities of America – New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles – without warning. These were the cities where young gay men had moved to finally live in relative safety from the violent homophobia of more rural areas. Before HIV, these communities were places where young people found connections that they had been denied growing

up. Seemingly overnight, young people, who were already stigmatised and isolated from wider society, lost friends, exes, lovers. Whole communities were dying of rare cancers. In *H is for Hawk*, Helen MacDonald describes the act of losing loved ones as life becoming "a thing made of holes. Absences. Losses. Things that were there and are no longer". Life in the communities affected by AIDS must've seemed an ever widening chasm, a gaping wound of loss after loss that

\\ In anger, in desperation, gay artists did the only thing they could do: they made art \\

threatened to swallow them whole as well.

At first politicians refused to acknowledge the epidemic; then, they talked openly of tattooing patients with their positive status, of confining HIV-positive individuals to camps; the governor of Texas went as far as saying "if you want to stop AIDS, shoot the queers". A generation was being wiped out whilst their government took no action to stem the deaths.

In anger, in desperation, gay artists did the only thing

they could do: they made art. The ACT UP movement likened the AIDS crisis with the Holocaust, reclaiming the pink triangles Nazis used to publicly label homosexuals. In *One Day This Kid* David Wojnarowicz surrounded a photograph of himself as a gap toothed smiling boy with a prophecy of his future: "One day this kid will do something that causes men...to call for his death... he will be subject to loss home, civil rights, jobs, and all conceivable freedoms. All this will happen when in one or two years he discovers he wishes to place his naked body on the naked body of another boy". Wojnarowicz's writing is lyrical, visceral, and clearly deeply personal. Yet that boy, the young David, could be a figure from a Norman Rockwell painting, an all-American boy, no different from any of the sons of the politicians who were overseeing a kind of genocide; Wojnarowicz's work, for all it's confessional qualities, is universal.

When David Wojnarowicz himself died of AIDS, his funeral was a protest march, which eventually culminated in his ashes being scattered on the White House lawn along with the ashes of other victims of AIDS. It was a heart-wrenching, desperate way of holding the government accountable for its neglect; forcing those who

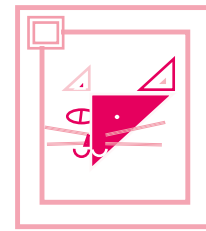
had the power to alleviate suffering, and chose to do nothing, to reckon with the blood on their hands.

"To make the private into something public is an action that has terrific repercussions on the pre-invented world" is the philosophy by which Wojnarowicz created his work. In her astonishingly beautiful book *The Lonely City*, Olivia Laing, terms the 'pre-invented world' as the "existence of mainstream experience, which seems benign... its walls almost invisible until you're crushed

\\ This can only be done by refusing to be silenced; art is a way of speaking up \\

against them".

Much of oppression, of injustice, is about erasure: the refusal to see injustice or inequality, denying a voice to those who are marginalised. In the face of this, 'to make the private public' is a powerful act. *Carry That Weight* is perhaps the most recent iteration of the statement in the art world. In this feat of endurance performance art, Emma Sulkowicz, a Columbia University visual arts student, carried a mattress resembling

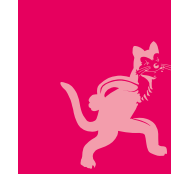


the one she had been raped on wherever she went for months, vowing she would do so until her rapist left the university. It was an extraordinarily brave act in a culture in which women who come forward with stories of their assault are immediately shamed, or accused of lying to destroy a man's reputation. Through the mattress, Sulkowicz made the painful emotional weight of her assault tangible, made it impossible for the people around her not to address her struggles, her demands.

In a world of rising injustice it's easy to think: what good can some splashes on a canvas do? What good are words in a play, or a story?

Building a more liberal world is more than changing laws. It's about changing perceptions. This can only be done by refusing to be silenced; art is a way of speaking up, in Didion's words, it is a way of "tricking [the viewer] into listening to the dream".

Indira Mallik



## We, the people | The *Hamilton* cast speak out



\\ Michele Carla

By now, it's a near certainty you'll already have heard about Vice President-elect Mike Pence's trip to Broadway's hip-hop musical sensation, *Hamilton*. If you haven't, it's all rather simple: Pence went to the show, and following the curtain call, one of the cast stepped forward and addressed Pence directly. Flanked by one of the most diverse casts on Broadway, Brandon V. Dixon (the show's Vice president Aaron Burr) read a speech written by *Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, director Thomas Kail, and producer Jeffrey Seller from a piece of paper: "We are the diverse Americans who are alarmed and anxious that your new administration will not protect us, our planet, our children, our parents, or defend us and uphold our inalienable rights." Dixon went on to ask Pence to "work on behalf of all of us... men and women of different colors, creeds and orientations."

Pence, to his credit (not words I ever thought I'd write), took the whole thing relatively well, revealing that he "wasn't offended by what

was said." He praised the "incredible" show and the "incredibly talented" cast, but added "I'll leave to others whether that was the appropriate venue to say it." But if Pence took the (relatively) high road, his boss opted for a lower one. Through that most Presidential of mediums, Twitter, President-elect Donald Trump claimed that the cast "harassed" Pence, before

\\ We are the diverse Americans who are alarmed that your new administration will not protect us, defend us and uphold our inalienable rights \\

insisting that "the Theater must always be a safe and special place." He's wrong. The theatre is special, yes, but theatre is not safe.

Theatre can't be safe. To be effective, to provoke, to challenge, theatre cannot

afford to be safe. Safe means boring, and boring does not change minds. Boring doesn't challenge people's opinions, doesn't make them assess why they believe what they believe.

*Hamilton* used to challenge opinions, with great success, but with its success has come, inevitably, a neutering. Its audience now is almost entirely comprised of the faithful or those with enough money to afford a seat. *Hamilton's* message – that America is, and always has been, a nation of immigrants, founded on cooperation and compromise – needs to be heard, but the people in that theatre aren't the ones who need to hear it. Hearts are being stirred, but minds are not being changed in the auditorium of the Richard Rogers Theater. Until the moment where someone like Mike Pence walks in – a man who has promoted conversion therapy for homosexuals, a man serving in an administration that has unmistakably aligned itself with the euphemistically-named 'alt-right' (or, in plain English, 'white supremacist') movement. Anybody walking into *Hamilton* does so knowing

full well what they are in for, because you (quite simply) cannot book a ticket for *Hamilton* without knowing anything about it. Somebody like Pence is not a helpless individual, quite the opposite. They hold the power.

With Pence comes an opportunity. A chance to challenge that power, to address how it is used. A direct

\\ Theatre is by its very nature not safe - it shouldn't be \\

address, from a multi-racial cast, many of whom are part of the LGBTQ+ community, to a man who has thus far proven himself anything but their ally, is just an extension of the theatre that came before it. It is a request for respect, a plea to be heard and treated as equals. It is an action with profound meaning, as profound as anything that occurs in the preceding musical. To brand that action as "harassment", to demand an apology, to insist that theatre be seen as a "safe space", is to miss the point entirely. Theatre is a live medium. It

works in the here and now: it may draw from the past, present, and future, but it is inescapably of the moment. Its very nature isn't safe: as a live event, countless things could go wrong. Every effort is made to prevent that, but it is a human medium. The thoughts and ideas of the writer are made flesh by the actors on stage (and the crew behind them), and communicated to the audience in that room. To be "safe", to not provoke in any way, is to waste the immense power that connection wields.

The cast of *Hamilton* knew this. They knew that theatre allows for the speaking of truths, and on this occasion they chose to embody that literally. They stepped forward, and they spoke truth to power. They embraced theatre at its purest – the words of a writer, spoken through an actor, addressed to an audience. In the face of hatred spreading across the world, they made a polite and respectful gesture, using their position to speak for those who could not. It wasn't "safe", because it couldn't be.

Jack Steadman





## Albert Camus | *The Rebel*

In Rick Famuyiwa's *Dope*, Jay-Z's *Blueprint* is described as the "punctuation mark to 90s Hip-hop". It seems to me that, in many ways, Albert Camus' *The Rebel* is the punctuation mark to 19th, and early 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy. Camus is often regarded, rightly, as an absurdist and, more questionably, as a humanist. In his earliest works, Camus took a purely absurdist stance: questioning the meaning of life and whether it was worth living at all. However, his experiences as part of the French

\\ *The Rebel* is the punctuation mark to 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy \\

Resistance during the Second World War galvanised his belief in the importance of safeguarding all human life. In his first post-war novel, *The Plague*, the protagonist pins down the crux of Camus' stance – there is no grandeur or heroism in saving lives; it is simply what must be done. *The Rebel*, arguably the philosopher's most important work, is the culmination of these ideas.

It is an exploration of

\\ Camus rails against the philosophy of justifying temporary oppression for future utopia \\

rebellion and revolution, both metaphysical and historic, in the context of the dominant philosophies and artistic movements of the era. Taking a harsh lens at both the French and Russian Revolutions, *The Rebel* considers the noble birth of rebellion and its ultimate domination and corruption



Albert Camus in 1957 \\ Robert Edwards/Creative Commons

by firm ideology. More than this, it offers a just way to live while making the world a better place.

Moral absolutism and unflinching adherence to an ideology are highlighted as dangerous pitfalls that quickly lead the revolutionary into doing more harm than good. Indeed, this may seem ironic given the previously stated commitment to absolutely protecting life. However, one of the book's great strengths is that this principle is derived logically, with no appeals to morality. The reader is invited to satisfy themselves of this deduction, rather than accept it as an a priori. In fact, one of the great strengths of the

writing is precisely this. No unjustified demands are made of the reader, and the tone is not fierce or overly fanatical.

The titular rebel is characterised succinctly: an individual who sees inequality or injustice being exercised, either upon themselves or others, and desires its end. Camus begins with man's metaphysical rebellion against God. Dostoevsky's Ivan Karamazov is cleverly summoned here to give form to the quintessential rebel. The suffering of a child in this world is considered too steep a price to pay for God and the eternal kingdom in the next one. Ivan's rejection of the Divine encodes one of the

central themes of *The Rebel*, the idea that suffering today cannot be forfeited in favour of some nebulously defined future utopia. Poetically, Ivan's later fate, left unsaid by Camus, also analogises the aforementioned corruption of rebellion. In general, the work argues that ideals must end when they demand the debilitation or destruction of others.

Camus chastises the French Revolution for its eventual treatment of the nobility. He astutely points out the juvenility of the wanton slaughter undertaken in an attempt to tear down the principle of Divine Right and, by extension, God. He then

tackles the philosophical behemoth of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Nihilism. By pointing out the logical inconsistencies within it and its unsavoury aspects, he strives to tear down the seemingly utopian idealism of the time. The false promises of Nazism and Communism are shown to simply be the old wolf of religion in new clothing. Heaven is replaced with some infinitely far off perfect world, where the 'temporary' suffering and slavery of certain people now is justified by the 'eventual' ultimate freedom of all. Indeed, the bravery of this stance must be praised. At the time of *The Rebel*'s publication, much of the French intelligentsia were avid supporters of Communism. Camus was one of the few willing to make a

\\ True rebellion does not deal in absolutes, it is instead a never-ending battle to demand better \\

stand.

Rebellion tends to evoke images of violent conflict. *The Rebel* shows us that true rebellion is the exact opposite. It is not the fight for absolute freedom, which means the freedom of the strong to dominate the weak. Nor does it desire absolute justice, the application of which necessitates a fascistic domination of everything. It is instead a never-ending battle to demand better. It is self-sacrifice, and valuing your fellow man above all else. Vigilance must be maintained for that which would sacrifice life today for an unknown tomorrow. Camus' greatest wisdom lies in recognising that rigid adherence to any ideals is dangerous, and that ideals cannot supplant reality. But, in the spirit of his voice, don't take my word for it, read *The Rebel*.

Anurag Deshpande





# Revolutionary viewing

Protest can be tiring, so of course you need some **downtime**. Fear not, however, your **rebellion** doesn't have to **stop** when your body does. Here are **four** rebels to study while you put your feet up.

Anurag Deshpande



\\Don Graham

## TURN: Washington's Spies

One of AMC's suite of dramas it hoped would take the reigns from *Mad Men*, *TURN* takes viewers to the American Revolutionary War. The show follows the Culper Ring, an unlikely group of farmers who banded together to help George Washington win the war. Be warned though, it is heavily dramatized, so if you're looking for a historically accurate chronicle of the minutia of revolution, this ain't it. On the other hand, if you want a fast-paced drama about some peasants whining about tea and taxes, give this a try.

## Halt and Catch Fire

Another underrated AMC gem (I promise I'm not shilling for them), *Halt and Catch Fire* follows a group of maverick engineers in the early days of the Personal Computer Era. Joe MacMillan, a mysterious engineer who disappeared from IBM, shows up at a small scale PC company in Texas with a dangerous proposition for unsuspecting engineer Gordon Clark. Together with unconventional student Cameron, they set out to reverse engineer an IBM PC and revolutionize the home computing game.



\\Luke Jones



\\Gage Skidmore

## Mr. Robot

Keeping up with the theme of Computing, *Mr. Robot* follows modern day cyber-vigilante Elliot Alderson, played by the always excellent Rami Malek. Elliot, initially a security engineer struggling with depression and anxiety, is recruited into the hacktivism collective known only as 'Mr. Robot'. What follows is a thrilling examination of the modern day security industry, as well as Alderson's own mental state.

## Underground

It's unlikely that you've heard of *Underground*, but if you're interested in historical fiction or an examination of slavery, this is something you need to pay attention to. *Underground* opts to present a very focused story by centering on one group of escaped slaves rather than addressing the injustice as a whole. In doing so, it manages to preserve the humanity of the tragedy and keeps a tight pace. The show manages to present enthralling and engaging action, whilst still managing to respectfully address the subject matter.



\\Gustavo La Rotta Amaya



# FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER



## COCKTAIL NIGHT

From 17:30 till late  
Buy two cocktails for £7.60 or £4.50 each.

## COMMON PEOPLE

A NIGHT OF 90S AND 00S  
INDIE, ROCK AND BRIT  
POP FLOORFILLERS!

Free entry to the first 25  
people who post their song  
choice on the wall!

**FRIDAY 25 November**  
**20:00 - 02:00**  
**METRIC & FIVESIXEIGHT**

£1.50 Guestlist  
£2.50 On the door



Venue	Regular Events	Time	Day
Metric & FiveSixEight	Common People	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	BPM	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	Quiz Night	18:00 - 23:00	Every Monday
Reynolds	Board Games & Film Night	18:00 - 23:00	Every Tuesday
Reynolds	Sports Night	18:00 onwards	Every Wednesday
Reynolds	Pizza Club	18:00 - 23:00	Every Thursday
Reynolds	Cocktail Night	17:30 onwards	Every Friday
The Foundry	Quiz Night	19:30 - 22:00	1st & 3rd Thursday
The Foundry	Karaoke Night	20:00 - 23:30	2nd & 4th Friday





MILLENNIALS...

felix

# Eight signs you're dating a gamer



They've probably spent more time on their PC than they have on you

Even romance has become digitalised now \\ Don Hankins

**Y**our SO (significant other) is simply the greatest, they seem to be perfect in all aspects. You think you've scored the jackpot and can't do any better. But, you have a nagging suspicion about them: you think they might be a gamer. You don't want to believe it, but you can't deny certain features about them seem a little unusual. I'm going to explain certain tell-tale signs which would prove, without a doubt, that they are indeed a gamer.

## 1 | Extreme hardware

They have a really massive... PC, which they use to play games, complete with things you didn't know existed, such as a liquid-cooling video card. Honestly, they've probably spent more time on their PC than they have on you. Of course, they may also have a console which sort of counts but not really. (PC Master race for life!)

## 2 | Pokémon guru

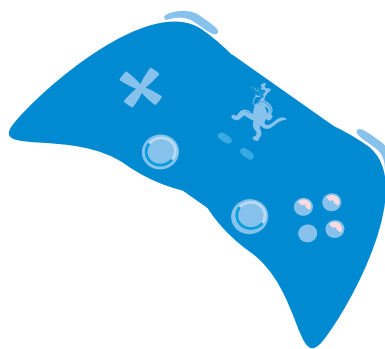
They know the names of all the 800+ Pokémon, complete with typings, movepool, abilities, z-moves, and basically everything there is to know. It massively dwarfs your knowledge of just Pikachu and its signature move, thunderbolt. They will at some point proceed to tell you how, actually, volt tackle is Pikachu's signature move.

## 3 | Non-stop fangirling

When the new fire emblem game comes out, it's all that they'll talk about. Every time you have a conversation with them from that point onwards, they'll use all sorts of names and phrases you haven't even heard of and constantly complain about how the RNG isn't in their favour or something. All you'll be able to do in these discussions is smile and nod like the good SO that you are.

## 4 | Recollection expert

They can recite all the upcoming release dates for a large variety of sequels and indie games in a heartbeat. Normally you wouldn't mind this too much, if only they would also remember when your birthday actually was.



## 5 | Uninspired gifts

Almost all the gifts they give you are gaming themed. You're not entirely sure why you would want an *Assassin's Creed* gauntlet but you accept it nonetheless.

## 6 | Not the APM you want

Whenever you try to spend some quality time with them, they will occasionally deny your request and spout some nonsense about how live games can't be paused and how the opposing team is invading the barracks. Usually at that point, you'd hear a loud clicking noise from their room which they simply explain as 'lol'.

(APM is actions per minute you noob!)

## 7 | Steam sale frenzy

They get really excited at Christmas and Summer, but not because they're excited to see their family again. It's actually because the steam sale takes place around this time and they basically blow their entire bank account on games they'll probably never play in their life.

## 8 | Sisyphean gaming

A lot of your hang out sessions involve the two of you gaming with each other. Or, to be more precise, them beating you at whatever game you guys play with you winning occasionally; you know for a fact it's only because they let you win.

If the person you're dating has even some of these quirks, it's time to face the facts; you're dating a gamer. And honestly, there's nothing really wrong with it. They're people just like you and me (or even your lecturers). If they seem to devote more of their life to games than they do to you, that might mean they have severe prioritisation issues. In this case, it would be wise to have a nice long talk, where they need to re-evaluate their life choices. Or, you can just suck it up and enjoy the experience of repeatedly losing against every single character in *Smash*. Your call.

Saad Ahmed





## Four hours of tapas-style dining later

**felix** follows **Christy Lam** during a gastronomic overload, as she indulges in an arguably hefty amount of delights, including but not limited to those of the turkish type.

Sometimes I wish I could duplicate myself. One to go to those dreaded 9am lectures, one to do the laundry and one to tend to the exploding experiments in the lab. And at the end of the day, we can all gather and dine at one of the many restaurants on my to-visit list. There's nothing wrong with dining on your own, you may say. For most cases, I agree. I can shamelessly walk in, ask for a table for one, then spend the entire meal staring at a wall. I'm totally comfortable with that. But there are places where singletons are a no-no, and this is still true when it comes to tapas-style dining.

Yes, the art of sharing food has finally graced this cold, selfish land where stealing a chip off your companion's plate was once a much frowned upon act. Why keep all the food to yourself when you can order more, fill the table and share the guilt with a friend?

One such restaurant to introduce the sharing culture is Yosma, where I had been dying to visit ever since they opened in August. This latest addition to the Marylebone food scene is a restaurant and bar combining the three main pillars of Istanbul's dining culture: meyhane (a word meaning tavern), mangal (barbeque) and seafood. Think plates of mezze, kebabs and Turkish delights for dessert. If cloning technology had advanced past Dolly the sheep I would've been with my cohort of Christy weeks

ago.

Thanks to my blogger friends, I need not wait until year 2198 to satisfy my hunger for grilled lamb chops and manti (Turkish dumplings). I received an invite to experience the meyhane side of life: the vibrant Turkish culture of food sharing, conversation and bottomless raki, quenching the thirst of the stomach and the soul.

The evening started off with me being late again, sprinting down Baker Street on heels and sweating in the early September breeze. The restaurant was an entirely different world, sheltered from the rush-hour street outside: relaxed, cosy and dimly lit, complete with dark wooden tables and two huge olive trees in the centre, hip music and light-hearted chatter amongst the occasional clatter from the open kitchen.

Cocktails are always the best introduction to any restaurant. Yosma's cocktail menu comprised of a handful of unique cocktails, all inspired by Turkish culture - with names taken from love poems. My favourite was the Sil Bastan, a sweet cocktail with yoghurt gin, Manuka honey, milk acid, egg white and lemon. Yoghurt-flavoured foam floated on top of the bittersweet mixture, strong enough to deflate the stress from a long day. The other one worth mentioning was Yosma, a fruity, bitter, red number with Turkish apple tea vodka, pomegranate, vermouth and raki spices.

With everyone comfortably seated and the shy handshakes transformed into



intimate conversations, we were introduced to the heart of meyhane: raki.

Raki is a strong Turkish, anise spirit, served to pair with the many plates of mezze and to accompany the hours of delightful laughter that followed. To start off, we took a sip of the clear, strong-smelling liquid from the specially-designed glasses. That was a powerful hit to my system. Then, following the traditions, we diluted the remaining with water and ice, looking on in wonderment as the alcohol turned opaque in contact with water. Salgam, a sour turnip juice that tasted rather like pickle juice, was handed around to cleanse the palette from raki.

The mezze plates came one by one, and soon filled the table with more than plenty to share. Each one designed to match the accompanying raki.

The Kavun was more than just melon and feta. Take a bite of melon, a sip of raki and a chunk of soft feta with basil olive oil to cleanse the palette. The hummus was one of the best I have ever tasted: creamy, garlicky and not too much tahini. The Fava looked like panna cotta, but made

with crushed broad beans with olive oil and dill. The Pastirma, which was a dish of paper-thin slices of cured beef, gave a spicy, flavourful kick to balance the raki. The Levrek Marine was a more exotic version of a carpaccio, with marinated sea bass, grapefruit, fennel and green chilli. I was torn between the Köpöglü and the Pancar as my favourite mezze - the former was soft chunks of sweet aubergine in yoghurt and the latter being a beautifully presented dish of sweet, pit roasted golden beetroot in garlic oil.

If you thought that was the end of the meal, you'd be very, very wrong indeed. Turkish cuisine is known for its generosity, meaning more than enough food to satisfy your stomach at appetisers already - with the mains still cooking in the kitchen. So, when the mains were announced it almost felt like an anticlimax, which instantly turned into surprised exclamations as the humongous, monstrous, barbequed whole fish arrived steaming hot on its silver platter, its thick, charcoal-coloured skin scored to reveal the pearly-white flesh beneath. The meat was

tender, fell from the bone with a slight nudge with a fork, oozing with its natural juices with every mouthful. This fish, supposedly meant for two people, was more than a family feast.

The salads that came with the fish did not lack in effort and helped to add a layer back into the food triangle: the Yesil Salata was a simple salad with rocca, a tougher version of our usual rocket leaves, while the Gavurdag was a refreshing mixture of green and red tomatoes with walnuts and mint.

A dinner party cannot end without a sweet note. A selection of desserts was served, along with strong Turkish coffee and Turkish delights. Apart from spending a good amount of time trying to decrypt our futures from the sludge of coffee grinds at the bottom of our cups, we took care to enjoy the traditional desserts. The kunefe definitely had substantial wow-factor with its crispy, golden yellow Kadoyif pastry and its incredible white cheese strings, temporarily silencing our worries for our hips. The Sambali was a chunk of fluffy semolina cake, served with mastic (a fragrant plant resin used in Turkish desserts) ice cream, reminiscent of the lunchtime sponge cakes from my school days. The Armut Pismaniye comprised of half a poached pear balanced on top of a perfect sphere of ice cream, with a cloud of cotton candy and a generous handful of walnuts.

Satisfied after almost four hours of non-stop feasting, talk and laughter, we called an end to the meet-up, exchanged eager hugs that matured from the raki and headed home to rest our bellies for the next day.

Christy Lam



## Following a recipe is not as easy as it sounds

Follow **Andrada** as she tries to follow a recipe, takes a two hour detour and resigns to eating store bought cake while waiting for her pie to cook

Andrada Balmez

The most challenging thing for me is to follow a recipe: I rarely do it, as most of the time I only improvise with what I have in the kitchen or what is given to me (thank you, nice people who stopped eating my food and started bringing their own). So imagine me standing in front of a cookbook, trying to understand how things work - some Chemistry labs have less complicated instructions, I swear!

But the good part is that the food was supposed to be ready in 30 minutes - yes, you've heard me right! Just 30 minutes for a multiple course meal and dessert! And enough food for four people. The student's dream, right?

You may say I'm a dreamer and you are right: no real food is done in 30 minutes, trust me. There were eight of us chopping and doing all the preparatory work - OK, let's be fair, eight people, some trying to do things while the others tried not to be in their way.

Things became rather complicated. Ok, let me start this over, in a more simple manner: My friends and I (eight people in total) decided to have a Friday night dinner, trying to make the food following one of Jamie's 30 minutes recipe: Chicken Pie, French Style Peas, Sweet Carrot Smash and Dessert (supposedly Berries, Shortbread & Chantilly Cream).

The problems started when we decided (we, not just persistent me!) that we didn't want to buy rolled puff-pastry

and we wanted to make our own. This single step took three hours, but if you can follow any googled recipe and not start a flour fight (please, don't!), then you'll be fine in 50-60 minutes. Also, don't let a bunch of incapable students who've never stepped in the kitchen before attempt this part - the pastry

### Ingredients:

Feeds 4 people

### Pastry

250g white plain flour  
1 tsp fine salt  
250g butter  
200ml cold water

Or, use a sheet of ready made puff pastry.

### Chicken Pie

4 skinless chicken breasts  
Butter  
Spring onions (we used normal onions)  
150g button mushrooms  
Flour  
Creme fraiche  
300ml chicken stock  
Thyme  
1/3 of a nutmeg, grated (which we forgot to add)  
1 egg  
2 tsp English mustard

might need to be remade. (No, not everything can be salvaged, unfortunately).



// Veganbaking.net

**Pastry**  
Mix the salt and flour. Add the butter, broken up into small pieces and mix all the

### Smash

1 kg carrots  
Fresh thyme (we also added some basil, just because we like it)

### Peas

2 little gem lettuces  
Butter  
Flour  
300ml chicken stock  
Mint  
500g frozen peas  
1/2 lemon

### Seasonings

Olive oil  
Extra virgin olive oil  
Salt and black pepper

### Dessert

Cheesecake bought and eaten while waiting for everything to be ready

ingredients together. The butter chunks should be sticky and should easily mix with the flour, but please

and the mushrooms. Add them into the pan with the mustard, one spoon of flour, cream fraiche and chicken stock. Stir and then leave to simmer until tender.

After the mixture is simmered, add it into a pan, slightly smaller than the pastry sheet. Cover the pan with the pastry sheet. Quickly beat the eggs and brush the pastry all over. Put it in the oven and let bake for 15 minutes, until golden.

### Smash

Cook the carrots until tender (enough to be easily cut with a fork) in water with a pinch of salt. When tender, drain the water and smash them using a potato masher, food processor, or even a fork, as we did. Yes, you might need some brute force. While doing this, you might want to add a bit of olive oil.

### Peas

Cut the lettuce as finely as possible. Put the chicken stock into a pot and add the mint leaves and the flour and whisk for a little while. When it boils, add the chopped lettuce and the peas. Season with salt, pepper and some lemon juice to taste. Let it slowly cook for 10-15 minutes (when the peas are soft enough).

The final conclusion: no, we were not capable of cooking the food in just 30 minutes and we ended up having a really late dinner, but the instructions were easy to follow so everything ended up being nice and simple and, more importantly, FUN. Yes, cooking is fun when done with friends, so what about you stop reading about it and go for it!

P.S. You might want someone else to clean the pots and dishes afterwards!

### Chicken Pie

Slice the chicken breasts into strips. Add the strips, the butter and some olive oil to a large pan and cook. Meanwhile, slice the (spring) onions





## DRUGS

# The changing face of drug dealing

**T**raditionally, drugs have been bought by ringing up your friendly neighbourhood dealer. You would agree a time and place to meet, either some shady alley or perhaps one of your houses if you were actually friends. Drugs would then be transacted, for a probably

convenient to meet said dealer. Especially when your tasty pile of cocaine is running dry at six o'clock on a Tuesday morning, it's hardly likely they'll be awake and ready. Add into this the improbability that your dealer has a chip and pin machine, and one can see why technology might offer a new and more exciting method of drug collection.

Technology has recently given us marvels such as mobile phones, 3D printing and electric cars. It has also given us the dark web. The dark web, for those unacquainted, is World Wide Web content that is only accessible when using special software like the Tor browser, which bounces communications around a distributed network of relays around the world, making it difficult for somebody watching your Internet connection to learn what sites you visit. As a result, this prevents those crafty police officers from tracking who you're messaging, what porn you're watching, and what drugs you're buying. It is possible to buy *anything* on the dark web, from your mate's Uber account details to your mum's phone number. Tread carefully or your friends will buy you a mail order Thai bride. The system is very similar to browsing through Amazon for headphones. You can view the best-selling cocaine products, highest-rated MDMA, and so on. You can even give feedback after purchasing your drug (or other illegal item),

to ensure that other addicts like yourself are aware of the quality.

The first online dark web marketplace was Silk Road. Launched in February 2011, it was operated by an American whose real name is uninteresting. However, he often referred to himself online as the much more impressive 'Dread Pirate Roberts'. After a lengthy investigation by the FBI, Silk Road was shut down in October 2013. But, you know what they say: you can never keep a good drug/arms dealer down. As a result, Silk Road 2.0 went live soon after, before being taken down once again by the sneaky FBI. We are now on the third iteration of Silk Road.

Competition is fierce in the dark web market. Alphabay is now the largest vendor, but the number of sites available grows regularly. With over 20

select the drug you want and the desired amount you require. Purchases are usually made through Bitcoin (more on that another time), an online currency available for purchase using conventional money. This is to avoid the use of debit/credit cards, another form of accountability.

After this, the largest flaw in the plan appears. The drugs have to be sent somewhere, thus lifting the veil on the oh-so-sacred shadowy nature of the dark web. Despite this, upon filling out

the address you want your drugs delivered to, a few days later your order will be delivered to your door. How exciting! I know I have already compared this process to an Amazon shopping experience, but it really is remarkably similar.

Now at this point, some of you may be asking such questions as, "How is it at all safe to order drugs to an address?", and "Surely it's obvious you're going to get caught?" Both valid questions that I asked when I first heard about the system. Well to address the issue, I did some

'investigation', and found some people who were testing this method, purely for the sake of curiosity, obviously. This is what went down. A quantity of marijuana was ordered and after a few days a box was delivered to the house. Not just any box though. A cellophane wrapped Wi-Fi router box. This was confusing at first; the box was unwrapped and after digging through layers of tinfoil there was a vacuum packed quantity of marijuana. Fascinating. So not only was the package vacuum sealed, it was buried under a mountain of aluminium, placed in a deceptively labelled box and then resealed in cellophane. Naturally, the seller received a five-star rating. Technology appears to be

**\\ I did some 'investigation' and found some people who were testing this method, purely for the sake of curiosity, obviously \\**

**\\ Naturally, the seller received a five-star rating \\**

*If you're struggling with drug use, visit [talktofrank.com](http://talktofrank.com)*



## SEX

# Masturbation [mas-ter-bey-shuhn] :

Erotic stimulation, especially of one's own genital organs commonly resulting in orgasm and achieved by manual or other bodily contact exclusive of sexual intercourse, by instrumental manipulation, occasionally by sexual fantasies, or by various combinations of these agencies

**Y**es, masturbation. We all do it, and those who say they don't are probably lying. Right? Well, actually, maybe not. The *felix* Sex Survey reveals that year on year, about 10% of us never indulge in a little self-pleasure, with that number skewed by around a quarter of the women who never polish the pearl. So maybe we're not all choking

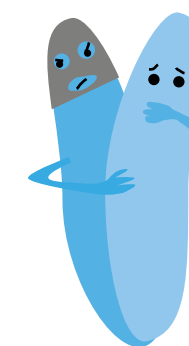
and what you like, which means that those who are stroking the salami regularly are likely to have better sex too. After all, how are you going to show the people

**\\ Are you really that healthy if you're not giving the monkey a healthy spank every once in a while? \\**

you're having sex with what you like if you don't even know yourself?

But wait, I hear you cry! I (am one of the 58% of men, and 72% of women at Imperial that) have a partner - I don't need to masturbate! It's true that the topic of gilding the lily can be a bit of a sticky subject in a relationship. Some people feel guilty about getting off without their partners, and some even go so far as to consider it cheating (because those pesky insecurities call for the thought police). Certainly it's a bit awkward if your boyfriend is working on a problem sheet and you're sat in the corner rubbing one out, but with appropriate boundaries, cleaning the rifle can balance out uneven sex drives and provide some of the me-time

that us millennials forget so often. And moreso, we should be talking about it. We're socialised to have such a high level of shame about flicking the bean, but it's something that almost everyone does. Women tend to fall into two categories: those who vehemently deny that they do it, and those who gather



in groups to swap Lovehoney recommendations. Men are more likely to acknowledge it casually, but God forbid they would have a serious conversation about tossing the turkey (festive! #BlackFriday). But why is this? There's a lot of knowledge to be gained from sharing your experience with others, whether it's a recommendation for a cheaper Hitachi alternative,

or a suggestion for how long to microwave that melon for. Being open with your friends about jerking the gherkin is a good step towards being open with your sexual partners, and that can only improve your sex life.

So now we've established that we should be doing the five knuckle shuffle, let's talk about how, and how often. From our *felix* archives, we know that (unsurprisingly) the men of Imperial are taking the sausage hostage more often than the women are clubbing the clam, with most men flipping the dolphin at least a few times a week. The girls are clearly busier, with most only finding time to double-click the mouse a couple times a week. People are all different, and as long as you're not breaking the law and your bits aren't sore (unless that's what you're into), there's no such thing as

**\\ Sometimes it's a frantic expression of horniness \\**

too much. Just make sure you get those lab reports finished at some point, okay?

The ladies are also much more likely to have gadgetry assistance. Once they get to third and fourth year, most girls will own at least one sex

toy (does it make diddling the skittle more efficient, or are they just too lazy to air the orchid manually?), but men very rarely dance around the maypole using anything other than their hand and



maybe some lube. It's best to mix it up with new sensations sometimes: men-friends, I'm buying you all Tenga eggs for Christmas.

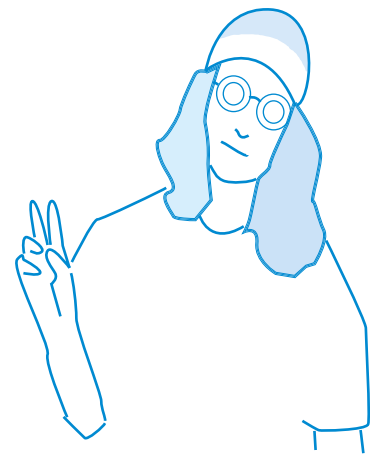
Personally, I like to finish off my days with a bit of Etsy kimono shopping. Sometimes it's a frantic expression of horniness, and sometimes it's time that I set aside for a bit of self-care at the end of the day. Bashing the Bishop is something that you should do for you, as it has the great benefits of making you feel good about yourself, while improving the sex you have with other people (although no-one will ever make love to you like you do). So get out there and make momma proud. Play pocket pinball to your heart's content - you don't need to be ashamed.

pre-determined price, with the purchase method being cash.

There are several downsides to this delivery method. Firstly, if you're not well acquainted with this dealer there could be issues with quality. If you don't know them well, and they're not counting on your repeat business, they're much less likely to give you the high-quality items you crave. And, it's not always







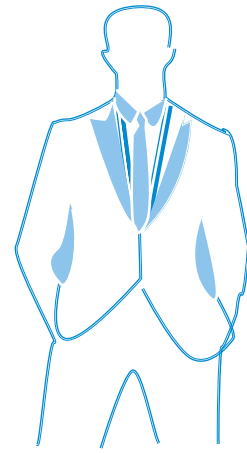
If you're not gluten-free you can't protest with me

Jonathan Masters gets angry at the cultural appropriation of protest culture by the alt-right



Your signs are a disgrace. Go back to art school

Monathan Jasters reminisces the good old days when protests were not so PG13



This week I finally did what my tumblr has been promising for ages: I changed society for the better and, perhaps, reversed a politician's mind all by myself! I held up a piece of A3 paper that I liberated from the library printer, and scrawled a piece of pure poetry in sharpie: "Fuck tory cunts". In that single moment I think I may have solved austerity, found an extra two billion pounds for the NHS, and may have finally assured the election for our lord and saviour Jeremy Corbyn.

I think the problem that many people in the labour party don't understand is that what millionaire Eton-educated conservatives need in order to see the error of their ways is a twenty-something millennial with dreadlocks shouting in the middle of street on a saturday whilst they're all in their mansions in Devon, recovering from a long hard week of doing nothing.

At one point in the protest it seemed like we needed both physical and spiritual nourishment, so luckily my friend Millicent Montagu-Douglas-Scott had brought his guitar ( he is like the best doula I have ever met and I have been to boomtown festival). He knows about three chords, but the passion with which he plays them just defies any rules of musicality of rhythm and he just made protesting even more spiritual and pure. On the physical front, I'd luckily baked soya-lentil-vegan concoction and in no time we were ready to get back to shouting at the millions of

people ignoring us and tutting for blocking the way to Buckingham Palace.

What is disgusting, however, is when people who disagree with my views are allowed to protest. It goes against every democratic right in the western world to allow a protest about abortion or gay marriage and it makes me sick. These people just shouldn't be allowed to protest. They don't know how to protest- it should be about love, unity, and gluten-free snacks, not about something that has been democratically made law by representatives and something that is approved by the majority of the country. That would be like protesting a politician that was fairly elected into office just because you don't like the person. Oh wait...

You know what I miss most about the olden days? Not women knowing their place, or the coloureds not being able to talk back to a fine respecting member of civilised society such as myself, but the fact you just can't crush a liberal protest like you used to be able to. You know what was a good protest? Kent state in 1970. It goes without saying that things got out of hand, but you can't deny that those long-hairs learnt a good lesson about respecting authority and respecting guns. Where we lost our way was being too worried about how the media perceives being strong and decisive as opposed to being a walkover liberal.

Yet again this week we had students crying about the fact that they are having their university paid for and that they have access to higher education, as well the state giving them money to spend on booze and dib-dabs. How about you get a job you lazy hippies? The only reason there's youth unemployment is because these losers with their degrees in communications and art history are too worried about creating safe spaces and not triggering other people in order get some life experience. 'Oh i just want to travel and enjoy life' GET A FUCKING JOB 'I'm not really sure what I want to do just yet' GET A FUCKING JOB 'I have stage four leukaemia' STOP GIVING ME EXCUSES YOU PUSSY AND GET A JOB.

Of course if someone on the

right wing starts to protest about something, then we're racist and bigoted, but as soon as a couple of junior doctors might have to work for the first time in six years, it's no holds barred, right?! When I protested the election of Barack HUSSEIN Obama I was labelled a crybaby, but through my manly, patriotic tears, I continued railing against his attempt to censor free speech and make being white illegal to the present day. Nowadays, however, these sore losers hold their shitty signs against a democratically elected man who has done nothing more than grab a few pussies. Furthermore, you would think with millions of art graduates crying, they could have made better signs. Maybe a few more colours. Maybe a bit more white. Not racist.



CRISIS Chris

Dear Chris,

I have a problem. OK well I guess that's obvious since I'm writing to you for advice, but anyway the problem is to do with my housemate. When we started university, he was one of the most down to earth guys I know, and was always very open minded to everyone and their views. This year, however, there has been quite the change. He has become far more right wing, starting to say that perhaps we should listen to Donald Trump, and that maybe we should stop refugees into our country. I like him alot, but I'm not sure how to get around this obstacle of him having such awful politics.

Yours anxiously, Hillary

Shiliary Shiliary Shiliary,

I'm so glad you could ask this question as I've been getting it a lot lately. Change can be difficult for everyone, especially when it is to do with housemates who you have to spend a whole year with. I think the key here is to be supportive of your friend rather than accusing them of having 'awful politics' just because you don't agree with them or because their views are not based on 'facts'. Facts are so 2012!! What even is a fact!?! They're like magnets: no-one knows how they work.

Going to the specific examples you have mentioned Shiliary, I think we should make it clear here that Trump won an election that was fixed for the Democrats to win. He is clearly the winner that the world needs to tackle problems like 'Climate Change' or 'Aleppo' (whatever

that is). As for the refugee crisis do we really want more 'ethnic' people coming over here? For me this is like putting salt and pepper into the same shaker, like who would do that!?! So if you wouldn't mix salt and pepper why would you invite others to come into our country? It's just common sense!

Anyway, just remember my long standing advice, if someone challenges your views just buckle and start agreeing with them. Which also happens to be the secret to long lasting friendships.

Big luv, Chris xxxxx

HOROSCOPES

Horoscope grid with 12 signs: ARIES, TAURUS, GEMINI, CANCER, LEO, VIRGO, LIBRA, SCORPIO, SAGITTARIUS, CAPRICORN, AQUARIUS, PISCES. Each sign includes a zodiac icon and a short text prediction for the week.





## Stick them with the pointy end

Yes it's a *Game of Thrones* reference, I need something to fill the void until the next season. But even that isn't enough, so it got me thinking. Maybe I should try this swordplay thing? And where better than IC's Fencing team? You will have read about their continued success in previous editions but I'm not one to just read about sports: I went. It's been a busy day, deadlines to meet, papers to read and a thesis that apparently won't write itself. Needless to say, me with a weapon may be a safety issue.

I went along to a Monday night social session, where beginners can come along and be taught the basics by experienced members of the club. I'm welcomed by the President who, after the promise of biscuits to come, introduced me to the poor fellow whose job it is to run me through the background and basics. We start with a short warm up, essentially a glorified keep-away which is entertaining and accentuates the quick footwork I'll be requiring later on in the

session. Whilst the rest of the beginners continue their warm ups, I'm taken away to expand on that footwork.

What followed was a whistle-stop-tour of fencing terms (all French, few remembered). Feet must be positioned perpendicularly, lead with the dominant foot but lunge from the rear, legs bent and no room to take the Piste (fencing pun intended). I get a sense of the many years of history behind the sport, where traditions of duelling are ingrained into each fencer. My trainer, Filip, is clearly enthusiastic and explains each element of the sport with gusto and clarity. Around us, the members of the IC team are battling away in one of three weapons: sabre, foil and épée. IC's success with this particular sport comes as no surprise with constant encouragement and advice exchanged between opponents.

The time comes for me to wade into a fight of my own. One thing you should know about me, I would not hurt a fly. Correction, I could not hurt a fly. I'd happily let it take my lunch money then complete any of its outstanding homework. Needless to



say, this would be interesting. I'm given some club-owned equipment, which is provided free for trainees. This is a massive advantage for those wanting to try fencing out, a sport which could set someone back a few hundred pounds if you decide to invest in your own kit. The accessibility is impressive, but I'm just delaying the inevitable participation. I put on my mask, a fetching jacket and am handed an épée. I looked good. Épée is a thrusting weapon (calm down) and so the point acts as a button allowing a hit on any part of the body to count. Guess it was a bad day to wear shorts

and lunges (helped by my six foot height) score me a couple of well placed points and I start to find a rhythm with the defensive and offensive flow, a natural characteristic of the sport. I lose 5-3 but I find myself wanting to hone my skills and try the other weapons out, but alas my time is up. I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a fencer and I encourage you to join the club which has a strong roster of experienced members on hand. There's a gentlemanly manner to the sport you wouldn't see in most sports and a constant stream of hints and tips to help members advance their ability. Yes you need money for equipment, but the club helps you out. Yes it requires expertise but there are plenty around who can help you out. Yes you get to attack fellow students without repercussion but ... OK, that's a good point but hopefully you get the idea.

*If you ever fancy giving Fencing a go, get in touch with the club via the union website. En Garde!*

Sam Smith

## ICURFC take on Movember

As rugby players we are all about stash. By this we usually mean rugby kit. However, this month the focus is on cultivating a different kind of 'stache. A Movember one. "Classic, another group of people idly taking part in a fruitless activity whilst trying to justify it with

the pretence of charity," you think as you scan the rest of the article, noting the collage of ongoing efforts. I simply moustache you to wait. Whilst growing facial hair will make no difference to the cause championed by the Movember Foundation (stopping men from dying too young by fighting testicular and prostate cancer and preventing



suicide), spreading awareness about the issues and encouraging donations will. So, I encourage you to un-

stiffen that upper lip and support this fan-tache-tic cause! To support the men's rugby team's ongoing efforts, you can

donate at [moteam.co/icurfc](http://moteam.co/icurfc). Thank you!

Aleksei Zaboronsky



## American Football make Pirates walk plank

It has been a rough road for the IC Immortals, recently relegated from the highest tier of American Football in the country, to Division one. Immortals have now had the sweet taste of victory that had been missed so dearly. After a close overtime defeat, Immortals were fearful

of a repeat of the previous season. The idea that the lower division would be a cake-walk was shattered. The fact that the team they were playing, UEA Pirates, had just come away with a convincing victory over the RH Bears did not help to settle their nerves. UEA were predicted to win. The game started off with

Immortals kicking off, the Pirates received and were stopped almost immediately. This was a theme for the rest of the game. UEA were stopped at every attempt to move the ball with Panukorn "Nao Knee Teddy" Taleongpong and Jack "rumple-master" McCarthy stuffing up any attempt at running up the centre. When they gave up on the middle, Teddy (the Thai train), could be seen coasting across the field making big hits with Daim "question-master" Tariq blowing the Pirates offense to pieces. Jason "no fly-zone" Patrick Kuilan managed to get two picks as linebacker, statistics hail the man as a beast.

It can't be said that the defensive side of the ball was perfect, with a lot of

\\ Whilst destroying a Pirates player, with the sound of shivered timbers for miles around \\

opportunities missed by the Pirates' offense. It can be said that the Immortals' offense missed out on a lot more opportunities. It was the rookie (not really rookie, just new to Immortals) offensive duo wide receiver Aaron "don't trust with your daughter" Wilson and quarterback Jason "the human glitch" Patrick Kuilan that stole the show. A fantastic pass and insane catch between the two got the first touchdown of the day. The next came with Jason on a QB scramble

running into the end zone, whilst destroying a Pirates player, with the sound of shivered timbers for miles around. In all seriousness we hope the Pirate was OK. The two point conversion was caught by Ben "Massive hands" O'Brien who really stepped up after being called out by a coach, great game for the kiddo and we look to seeing many more. The final score was 14-0 with a complete defensive shut-down. We defend our house. Next game is versus Royal Holloway Bears.

#OurTurf #HustleHitNeverQuit #MakeImmortalsGreatAgain #BecomeImmortal

Imraj Singh

## Weekend action for IC Fencing

Last weekend was the opening bout of the Imperial Women's first season at Oxford. Unlike our other teams, the Women's 1s are in the Premiership, which is the top league and extremely competitive. In this league it is usual to do all the matches in two or three intense weekends rather than weekly. First up on Saturday was Cardiff, which Imperial won with an impressive score of 130-107. The second match was against local rivals UCL, which Imperial again won 131-113. The final match of the day was against Cambridge where Imperial were narrowly beaten by only nine hits, with an overall score 111-120. There was only one match for the Women's 1s on Sunday, against the

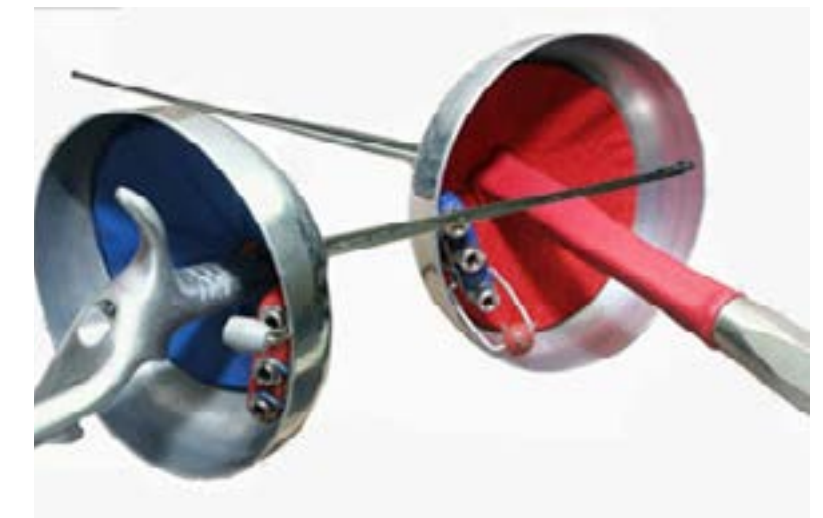
hosting team, Oxford, where Imperial were unfortunately beaten with an overall score of 124-94. This means that the Women's 1s have won two and lost two in their first four matches, putting them in a pretty good position going into the match against last year's Championship winners Surrey. Well done to all the team, especially to Maria Constantinescu and Sherry Xu for their first team debuts

\\ A big thank you to alumnus Zoe Robinson, who made time to come down to watch, coach and support! \\

(even if Maria did miss the bus to Oxford after having overslept). A special mention also to Niamh Spence who had her Imperial debut at the weekend and fenced tremendously, including a 14-5 win. Also a big thank you to alumnus Zoe Robinson, who made time to come down to watch, coach and support the team.

It wasn't just the Women's 1s in action over the weekend though. In Manchester, Jamie Simpson and Harry Peck fenced in the Elite Épée event at the Manchester Fencing Centre. Jamie came 33<sup>rd</sup> out of 59 and Harry, fresh from winning the Irish Open last weekend, claimed bronze - the third time he has done so this season.

This week the fencing teams start their cup



\\ Blade Fencing Equipment

matches; the Men's 1s are fencing Cardiff at home, alongside the 2s who face City University and the Men's 3s are in action against Brunel away. The Women's 2s are fencing Cambridge 2s, also away.

If you want to find out the results before next week's FELIX, check out Imperial College Fencing on Twitter (@IC\_fencing) or find us on Facebook.

Jamie Simpson

