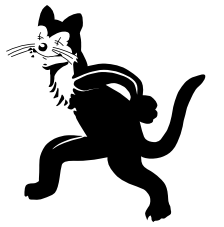


felix ...

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON



King's lecturer
apologises

PAGE 3 **News**

Making
medicine LGBT
friendly

PAGE 5 **News**

A **queer** gal's
cultural guide

PAGE 18 **Culture**

Imperial isn't fun
for **non-binaries**

PAGE 29 **Millennials**

Being **asexual**
on **Valentine's**

PAGE 30 **Millennials**

Truvada |
cultural icon

PAGE 34 **Millennials**

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



Love is love



February is LGBT history month (yes, I know - I only just found out too) and my heart is filled with joy because for the first time ever I'm actually clued up. I also feel more a part of the queer community than I've ever felt before. I can't really explain why, but it is what it is and I'm glad, because being part of this community is such a gift.

It might not seem like it, certainly not when it feels like the whole world is against you, or when there's this invisible wall between your loved ones and yourself, which somehow seems to scramble all communications. It feels like more of a burden when strangers think they have the liberty to tell you how to live, or when in the eyes of the law you are a second-class citizen.

Still, as I'm sat in my office typing up this editorial (so meta), all I can feel is pride - which I guess is

appropriate. I feel proud of being part of a community of such beautiful, kind, strong people. I feel proud of how many of you responded to our call for contributions, how many of you opened up, shared your experiences, the good and the bad; how many of you put yourselves out there and whispered "I'm here. We're all here. For each other."

Though I am concerned that many readers might pick this up and just 'not get it', I also don't really care. Because as long as somebody out there gets to see it and for a moment doesn't feel alone, it was worth it, even if all 2000 copies end up in the trash.

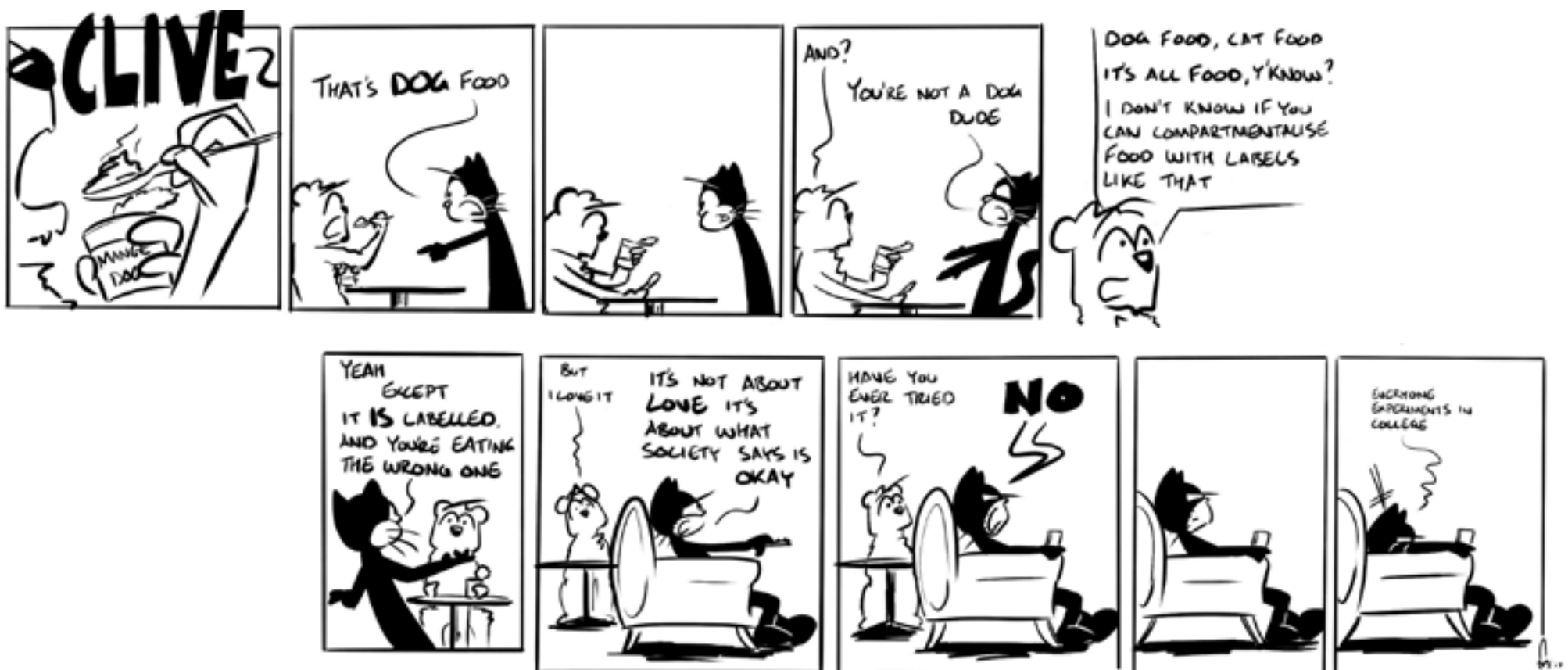
No matter how you feel about this issue, though, just have an open mind. There's some really beautiful, raw content here this week. It could help you understand your friends, your family, and even yourself. And when you're done, go give someone you love a hug.

T H E T E A M

Editor-in-Chief | Lef Apostolakis || Deputy Editor | Mattin Mir-Tahmasebi || News Editor | Matt Johnston || Comment Editors | Vivien Hadlow, Tessa Davey, Jonathan Masters || Culture Ringmaster | Fred Fyles || Culture Editors | Indira Mallik, Tom Stephens, Meryl Anil, Anurag Deshpande, Theo Farah, Simran Kukran || Puzzles Editor | Hamish Beck || Clubs & Societies Editor | Abigail de Bruin || Science Editor | Lizzie Riach, Ipsita Herlekar || Millennials Queen | Tessa Davey || Millennials Editors | Saad Ahmed, Sanjay Battacharaya, Matt Johnston || Sports Editor | Sam Smith || Illustrator | Nathan Macabuag || Copy Chief | Mattin Mir-Tahmasebi || Copy Editors | Ipsita Herlekar, Selin Olenik, Vivien Hadlow, Alex Adler || Cover | Joe O'Connell Danes || Editorial Pic | Fahdi Kanavati

Address | felix, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7 2BB || Telephone | 02075948072 || Printed by | Mortons Media Group Ltd Media Centre, Morton Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, LN9 6JR || Registered Newspaper | ISSN 1040-0711 || Copyright © felix 2016

Corrections | In the article "Zero tolerance policy gets scrapped", which appeared in issue 1655, it should be noted that the newly chosen late coursework submission policy will be a system that caps any late submissions at the pass mark, 24 hours after of which the work is zeroed. This was decided to be a more appropriate and fairer option than a system with a graduated mark reduction.





Israeli ambassador's visit | Wraith speaks up

One-sidedness of the event down to miscommunication

Matt Johnston

Two weeks ago the Israeli ambassador to the UK, Mark Regev, visited Imperial to give a talk to students in an event that was shrouded in secrecy. An article detailing what went on at the event and the build-up to the day itself was published in *felix* last week but since then the chair of the talk, Dr. Matthew Wraith, and his students have contested points in the article (namely Palestinian Society's statement). A piece on the subject can be found in Comment, on page 8.

Most of the criticism stems from the statement issued by Palestinian Society that "it is quite worrying that the College did not think to invite an opposing view to help balance the conversation themselves. This would've lead to a much more open-minded and fruitful discussion with different perspective being expressed". Dr. Wraith, who had a large

part in the initial organisation of the event, has in response told *felix* that he had in fact emailed Mohammed Snober, the Palestinian Society President, with an offer to help in the organisation of the ambassador's visit at the start of the process in October.

Wraith was advised by the Events team to approach the relevant societies but as he didn't want it to be a one-sided event he approached Palestinian Society as well as Israeli Society. He contacted PalSoc asking if they "would be interested in taking an active role in the organisation of this event, helping to establish its central focus, to organise and publicise it beforehand and on the day."

However Wraith told *felix* he received no reply. *felix* reached out to Palestinian Society for comment and they felt that they weren't explicitly asked to provide another speaker. "The initial email proposed helping out with



organising and publicising the event and deciding the focus of the questions, rather than expressing that the event was open for an opposing speaker to be present to challenge the rhetoric presented by the Israeli ambassador (if this was the purpose of the invitation we feel it could've been made clear)", said Mohammed Snober, Palestinian Society President.

The society's silence was due to commitments by their members around that time, both personal and educational

with Snober adding "We didn't want to commit to an event and attach the Palestinian society's name without our full focus and dedication." Palestinian Society also felt that it wasn't wholly on them to provide the opposing view: "While it was much appreciated that the society was approached we do not feel that our lack of involvement gives the College a reason to not invite another speaker. While opening the floor to questions allows for a healthy Q&A to take place, it certainly doesn't turn this event

\\ We do not feel that our lack of involvement gives the College a reason to not invite another speaker \\

into a balanced one, as the audience and speaker don't share the same platform."

Snober concluded that they could've handled the situation better though: "We should have made it clear what was going on at the time and what we'd want from such an event if it were to go through. Hopefully in the future we will be able to get involved in the organisation of such events and ensure they are as balanced as we can make them."

King's lecturer apologises for tweets

Lef Apostolakis

Dr Adam Perkins, the King's lecturer who, last week, sparked public outrage after a series of offensive tweets were brought to the attention of King's Intersectional Feminist Community, has issued a public apology on twitter.

In his apology which was reportedly sent to King's Intersectional Feminist Society last Thursday following *felix*'s investigation, Perkins says: "I would like to apologise

wholeheartedly for any offence caused by my recent social media posts concerning use of the words "human capital" and my discussion of Swedish government data. It was not my intention to cause offence and my posts were part of an ongoing effort to understand disadvantage."

"Research on individual differences variables, such as personality, inevitably entails addressing sensitive topics and scientists should be at liberty to address challenging scientific questions. I now

realise that such discussions of data need to be conducted with extra care and context."

In the original tweets, Perkins shared a statistic of "danish data suggesting that welfare benefits taste sweeter to some cultures than others" and he defended Trump's Muslim Ban saying it "makes sense in human capital terms: people from the banned nations tend to be over-represented in crime and unemployment [sic] stats".

His social media use came under fire not only because

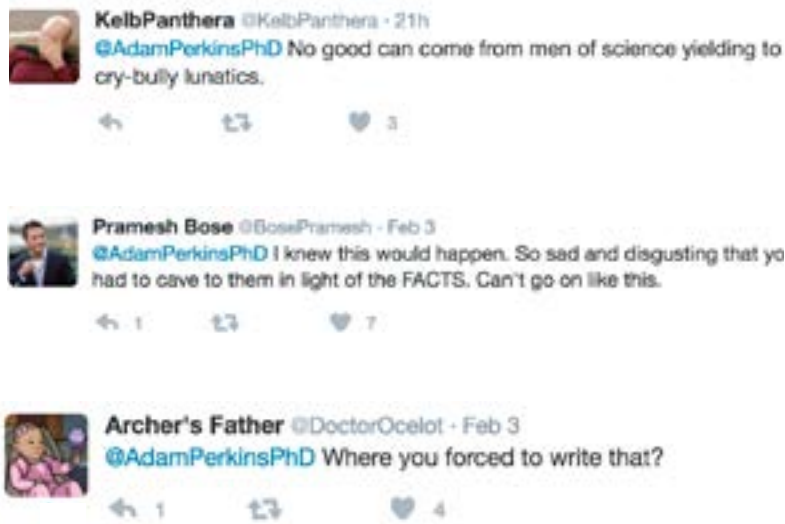
Adam Perkins
@AdamPerkinsPhD

Follow

Danish data suggesting that welfare benefits taste sweeter to some cultures than others: [danmarksstatistik.dk/en/Statistik/e ...](http://danmarksstatistik.dk/en/Statistik/e...)

ACTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT RATES (END NOVEMBER)							
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total	71.8	74.4	75.8	75.3	75.1	74.8	74.7
Persons of Danish origin	75.5	78.0	79.8	79.5	79.3	79.3	79.1
Immigrants	62.8	61.0	60.2	60.9	61.8	62.0	62.0
Immigrants from western countries	66.5	65.7	66.4	66.7	66.7	66.7	66.7
Immigrants from non-western countries	49.7	48.7	48.2	48.4	48.4	48.4	48.4
Overseas	68.7	68.7	68.7	68.6	68.6	68.6	68.6
Overseas from western countries	70.2	71.9	73.2	73.2	73.2	73.2	73.2
Overseas from non-western countries	47.4	46.7	46.7	46.8	46.8	46.8	46.8

RETWEETS 85 LIKES 127



of it's anti-immigration and particularly anti-Somali rhetoric but also due to his pseudo-scientific arguments. felix found the research 'cited' to be either unrelated to the argument presented or unreliable, having undergone a dubious-at-best 'peer-review' process. The tweets eventually resulted in a condemning statement from King's Intersectional Feminist Society and a subsequent petition from King's Somali Society demanding a "formal apology".

"Somali students have expressed hurt and anger that such educator and peer could express so much stigmatised and ad hoc rhetoric directed towards them, fellow Muslims and black communities based on nothing but unevaluated statistics. To critique and express opinion is a freedom of speech, however to expresses [sic] a dichotomy that entrenches racism and divisive intolerance should be unacceptable at King's." The apology was tweeted from Perkins' personal twitter account following criticism

from felix in which it was pointed out that "it is unclear where Perkins' apology can be found; certainly not on twitter." Numerous twitter users have since come out in support of Perkins with responses such as "No good can come from men of science yielding to cry-bully lunatics" and "I knew this would happen. So sad and disgusting that you had to cave to them in light of the FACTS. Can't go on like this." The original tweets have not been deleted.

Union bars get new tills

Lef Apostolakis

So you might have heard - or you might have gathered from seeing the long lines of students stretching from Beit all the way down Exhibition Road - that the Union has updated its tills. The brand new tills and the "fancy new yoyo scanners" which were installed on Monday, are promised to increase speed of service. Though so far they have only increased frustration amongst students eagerly awaiting to be served, but being met with empty tills instead. As per tradition, Imperial students have been incessantly

**\\ When asked how she felt about the new tills one staff member laughed awkwardly and stared intently into the pint of coke she was serving us **

moaning about the "dismal service" at every opportunity. On Facebook, one Computing undergraduate accused Rachel Blythe, DPFS, of "confusing her staff with these, they've been struggling all week". Another one lamented

the abundance of tills, insightfully pointing out that "unluckily one person can't operate two tills." Anurag Deshpande, a final year physicist says, "No one knows how to use the tills and it's taking forever to get served." Blythe has rebuffed criticism by arguing that there's been "a few training sessions for our staff in advance but it can take time to get used to different systems." The felix team, in an attempt to separate fact from fiction, ventured out from the safety of the West Basement and ordered a coke AND a pizza while timing the whole ordeal. We entered FiveSixEight at 1:43pm on a Thursday. The bar was moderately busy. There were two servers: one behind the bar, one serving food. Putting an order in took three minutes and 24 seconds. Getting served our coke took

**\\ The £5 minimum spend has been dropped from Apple Pay, contactless and Yoyo payments **

Student body remains unimpressed

an additional one minute and 30 seconds. Getting our pizza to take away took a final eleven minutes. Our research shockingly proved inconclusive. We also tried squeezing the truth out of the staff on duty. When asked how she felt about the new tills one staff member laughed awkwardly and stared intently into the pint of coke she was serving us. Another staff member said she hadn't had the chance to use the tills yet but that they seemed fine. Coincidentally the Head of Student Voice swooped behind her to pick up his lunch, but ran off before we could get the chance to ask any questions. He's getting faster. Regardless of whether they're any good, they were probably expensive. Our investigative team estimates a cost around the £30,000 mark, but the DPFS has yet to confirm the exact cost of the project.

But enough about the tills. There have been even more radical changes that we haven't even touched upon yet. The £5 minimum spend has been dropped from Apple Pay, contactless and Yoyo payments, (though we were

under the impression that there never was a limit on Yoyo payments anyway). Theresa Davey, who has spent nearly a decade at Imperial says "I've never had a problem with the limit on card payments because I know to give them a stern look and bat my eyelashes". If you're not Davey, though, you'll be happy to know that the chip and pin payment limit has been reduced to three pounds (though if only it had been reduced a further 40p you would have been able to get a snakebi- you know what, no. Just get contactless you lazy fu-) Hey, you can even order a shot of lime cordial, pay 20p for it on contactless and proceed to do said shot of cordial. If that isn't progress, we don't know what is.

**\\ I've never had a problem with the limit on card payments because I know to give them a stern look and bat my eyelashes **



Imperial students launch campaign to make medical curriculum LGBT-inclusive

Michael Wilkinson discusses the **lack** of LGBT training in the **NHS** and the steps that are taken to improve services for the **queer** community

The founding principles of the NHS were that it should meet the needs of everyone, be free at the point of delivery, and be based on clinical need, not ability to pay. Those of us watching BBC's Hospital last week, were reminded of the importance of these values, as we witnessed overseas patients facing exorbitant bills for life-saving treatment.

Unfortunately, the NHS is not meeting the needs of everyone. A recent government report on transgender equality addressed the very real challenges facing trans people in accessing health services, highlighting "the persistent refusal of some GPs to even make referrals to gender identity clinics". A recent survey of Imperial students

**\\ There's the persistent refusal of some GPs to even make referrals to gender identity clinics **

conducted by IQ (Imperial's LGBT+ Society), echoed this, with our trans peers having experienced discrimination from GPs and GUM doctors (sexual health specialists). Understandably this leads to distrust in a profession that ought to be the most trustworthy. One trans patient was even told they would be "taking money away from more deserving cancer patients", an argument gay

**\\ A shocking 24% of NHS staff have heard colleagues making negative remarks about LGB people **

and bisexual men are used to hearing from the Daily Mail (denouncing HIV prevention drug PrEP), but not something we expect from our doctors.

LGB patients face similar prejudices, with Stonewall's Unhealthy Attitudes report revealing that a shocking 24% of NHS staff have heard colleagues making negative remarks about LGB people. A similarly appalling 10% of staff have heard colleagues expressing the belief that LGB people can be 'cured' using conversion therapy, a sadistic practice that has been condemned by most major medical organisations. Doctors have been quoted stating that "being transgender is mostly a mental condition" and "deviations are not to be considered by mainstream society", attitudes that don't belong in this century, never mind our public services.

The belief held by many that LGBT people are now on equal footing with their straight counterparts does not match the experience of the community, particularly regarding access to healthcare. This is largely driven by a lack of understanding, rather than wilful discrimination, with 10% of staff not feeling able to meet the needs of LGB patients - rising to 24% for trans patients. LGBT patients face higher rates of sexually-

transmitted diseases, mental health problems and addiction whilst facing prejudice and ignorance from health professionals that discourage them from seeking help. Dr. John Dean, chair of the committee advising the NHS on gender identity services, explained that "People working in the service try to be empathic; they are certainly sympathetic, but they lack a great deal of background knowledge about gender incongruence and dysphoria." This is symptomatic of a medical education system that is failing to prepare future doctors to support trans people, as well as the wider



Charing Cross Gender Identity Clinic \\ Ted Eytan

queer community.

Imperial is no different in this arena. One might expect an internationally renowned institution to be leading the way in improving quality of care for all patients, but the current curriculum is frustratingly light on LGBT issues. Apart from a vague reference to not discriminating against patients on the basis of sexual orientation or gender, and an acknowledgement that LGBT

**\\ Some lecturers have made an effort to be inclusive in their teaching, but most fail to maintain a basic distinction between gender and sex **

health inequalities exist, there is no teaching on the specific challenges faced by LGBT people. Some lecturers have made an effort to be inclusive in their teaching, but most fail to maintain a basic distinction

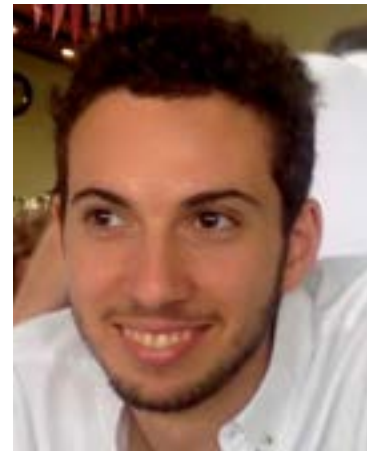
the medical curriculum. We're aiming to include compulsory teaching on gender dysphoria, health inequalities, and non-binary gender identities/sexualities, as well as more diverse sexual health teaching. Medical students are taught to always communicate sensitively and put the patient first, so we are also campaigning to improve clinical communication teaching; small things like asking about pronouns and the sex of sexual partners make a big difference to patients. A laborious review of the current curriculum has yielded a comprehensive plan of where teaching can be improved, which was recently presented to Mr. Lupton and Dr. Harris, the Head and Deputy Head of Undergraduate Medicine.

Thankfully, the faculty have been very receptive to making these improvements, and they are being incorporated into the ongoing curriculum review process. It remains to be seen whether this will result in meaningful change to teaching, but we are hopeful that this will be implemented - and make a real difference to the future LGBT patients of Imperial doctors.

**\\ One of the most cited problems by Imperial medical students was that all gay men in our practice exam questions have HIV **



You're misrepresenting the facts



Saul Coleman doesn't think the Israeli ambassador's talk was covered appropriately

\\ Implying mutual responsibility for the protests-turned-violent-mobs that did indeed occur is unfair and untrue \\

Opening last week's issue of *felix*, I was greeted on page three by an article entitled "Israeli ambassador's secret visit to Imperial". And I'm pleased to say that, on the whole, the article was a very balanced read, just as the event was very civil. The sensitive nature of the discussion had clearly been recognised by *felix*, and was therefore covered appropriately.

Sadly, however, on closer inspection, it became clear that the article was riddled with misrepresentations of the reality of the situation. I was left feeling that journalistic integrity had been sacrificed for the sake of attention-grabbing quotes.

To begin with, the extracts chosen for emphasis in the article did a disservice not

only to the truth, but also to the content of the article. The first extract, "the ambassador likely visited Imperial as part of Israel's wider anti-BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) strategy," is more than a bit strange. Would the author expect other countries' ambassadors not to oppose campaigns to boycott the countries they represent?

The other extract poses an even greater issue. "It is quite worrying that the College did not think to invite an opposing view to help balance the conversation themselves. This would've lead to a much more open-minded and fruitful discussion."

This direct quote from the representative of the Palestinian Society is, categorically, a lie. I personally have two forms of written proof that the Palestinian Society was contacted, by Dr Wraith as well as the Israeli Society, during the early stages of planning the event as far back as October. Furthermore, the fact that the quote was false should not be used to mislead readers - intentionally or otherwise.

Moreover, both the Ambassador and Dr Wraith said very clearly during the visit that the Palestinian counterpart to the Israeli Ambassador, Manuel Hassassian, would be welcome to speak at Imperial. As this talk was predominantly the initiative of the Israeli Embassy, this criticism of the event

organisers would instead be better directed at Manuel Hassassian, who would have been more than able to take the same initiative.

Moving on to the rest of the quote in the bulk of article: "...Further still, the fact that the event was not publicised properly... is, in itself, disheartening." Publicity of the event was a matter of security following recommendations by the police. I do not see any reason that the limited publicity would have caused



bias or swayed attendance - neither the Israeli Society nor the Jewish Society publicly advertised it, yet the event was sold out.

It would be heartening if such security measures were not necessary, but as the article helpfully pointed out, the police were anxious to avoid a repeat of last year's events at King's College and UCL.

But to say that "protestors on both sides clashed at events with pro-Israel speakers" is misleading. Implying mutual

responsibility for the protests-turned-violent-mobs that did indeed occur is unfair and untrue. The violence and intimidation at these 'clashes' was instigated entirely by protesters attempting to shut down free speech - it takes only a cursory glance at the ample smartphone footage to verify this. On both occasions, a police escort was required to enable attendees to leave the location of the talk.

My attention was also drawn to two points in the article where the Ambassador's arguments were unfairly cut short. The first relates to the section of the article about mutual recognition and the Peel Partition. Despite my utmost respect for Dr Wraith, the assumption that his rebuttal was the final word on the matter is misleading. The Ambassador never claimed that the Zionist Commission accepted the Peel Partition plan, as Dr Wraith's comment implies. He said that the Israelis accepted the principle of partition, while the Arabs did not. The important fact that the article leaves out is that the Zionist Commission empowered its executive to negotiate more favourable borders, but did not outright reject the principle of partition. The Palestinian Arab reaction, however, was to reject the principle in its entirety.

The other point relates to the Ambassador's view of the UN: "Everyone agrees at the UN: it's always Israel's fault." Ending the discussion there disregards what he later went

on to point out: "everyone" includes the two previous UN Secretary-Generals, Ban Ki-moon and Kofi Annan, the former saying that "Decades of political maneuvering have created a disproportionate number of resolutions, reports

\\ This direct quote from the representative of the Palestinian Society is, categorically, a lie. I personally have two forms of written proof \\

and committees against Israel."

With all this being said, I thank *felix* for covering such an important topic, and for doing so far more fairly than is often the case. We should be proud that such difficult, yet important discussion can take place so respectfully at Imperial. I look forward to hearing from Manuel Hassassian, and hope that constructive dialogue can continue in such a productive and respectful manner.



The NHS has no idea what it's doing when it comes to trans patients



An anonymous writer discusses the NHS's complete failure to address the needs of transgender patients

\\ For transgender people, a lack of knowledge is to be expected \\

One of the most disconcerting things you can experience when visiting the doctor is seeing your GP open up Internet Explorer and start googling. As a nervous transgender teenager, I was completely terrified. GPs are meant to be a first point of contact for the general population; somebody we turn to for answers, not more questions. But for transgender people, a lack of knowledge by doctors is to be expected.

However, a few minutes and a few searches later (no doubt more training on trans issues than she had received in her entire career) my GP felt enough of an authority on the subject to recommend a swift and decisive course of action. That action? Absolutely nothing; according to a cursory browse of the internet, as well as a couple of pages from a book, she determined that the NHS could not treat me until I was eighteen years

old. Many trans people have such problems getting a referral to a Gender Identity Clinic (GIC).

\\ Located above a Sainsbury's outside the official bounds of the hospital, it serves the entirety of London as well as approximately half of England \\

Although the NHS does in fact accept transgender patients of all ages, I didn't know this - I had no idea that much of what I had been told was completely false. I returned to the GP one year later to claim my golden ticket: a referral to the Charing Cross Gender Identity Clinic. Frankly speaking, I was mentally very unwell but still optimistic for the future.

However, things were not going to be that simple. The time from referral to first appointment at the Charing Cross GIC is currently estimated at twelve months - I personally had to wait closer to 18 months. To make matters worse, the length of time people spend on waiting lists is increasing. Patients at Charing Cross are being

discharged at roughly half the rate they are being received. Clinics in places like Leeds have estimated waiting times of up to four years. Either way, it is a far cry indeed from the imposed legal limit of 18 weeks.

Approximately two and a half years after the first time I visited the GP, with extremely poor mental health, I'm able to attend my initial appointment at the GIC. The clinic itself, having acquired a slightly magical quality in my imagination over the years, struck me as bland and inconspicuous. Although located above a Sainsbury's outside the official bounds of the hospital, it serves the entirety of London as well as approximately half of England. A waiting list of over a thousand people, and I had finally made it!

Having now registered at a certain nearby health centre, more roadblocks for my gender transition readily appeared. The failure of my GP to monitor the levels of sex hormones in my blood for six months, until I personally



intervened, was one of them. Not only is such casual negligence a problem for transgender people, but some GPs may outright refuse to prescribe some medication required by a Gender Identity Clinic, claiming that it is too expensive.

Although problems like these are no doubt intolerable for cisgender patients, it has become the norm for transgender people. In particular, there is the need to essentially infantilise your GP,

\\ For a demographic with an attempted suicide rate of almost 40%, the NHS displays little urgency when treating transgender patients \\

as you have to assume they have zero knowledge in trans healthcare. You have to find out from other trans people on the internet (nobody else is available to help you) and tell your GP the best way to treat you, because they will not know.

I find myself looking at the fourth anniversary of that first visit to the GP in the

summer later this year. With my dosage being increased and my blood levels being monitored properly, hopefully I will be on the correct dosage of hormones by the time that day comes.

For a demographic with an attempted suicide rate of almost 40%, the NHS displays little urgency when treating transgender patients. I have had immense difficulty trying to cope with the NHS system and it has become the defining struggle of the first twenty years of my life.

There are people who will not get through the system alive, or commit suicide shortly into hormone therapy. A former tutee of my father was one such person. I do not know his name, as he was referred to only as "the woman who thought she was a man" in conversation, but perhaps we should take a moment to remember him when we talk about transgender healthcare.





I found a home in the LGBT community

Windeth Elizabo is grateful for the community's ongoing support

The LGBT community is inherently flawed

Elizabeth Windo is cynical of the community's very basis



The LGBT community is the first place that I found people like me. For so many years of my life, I lived in a state of confusion. To finally discover people that shared the same interests and passions was incredible. I've been able to make the lifelong friends that everyone said would exist, based on shared experience and camaraderie. It's also made me much more aware of societal issues - it sounds a little selfish but it's much easier to get fired up and engaged with anti-discrimination efforts when you know people personally affected. The UK is, honestly, one of the best places to be trans. The healthcare system isn't perfect by any means, but they're doing the best with the limited resources that they have. London especially has been wonderful to me. When you're very self-conscious about your appearance, one of the most heartwarming things is when you step onto a tube after agonising about stepping outside for days and no one bats an eyelid. I know some people criticise London for people being rude and unsociable, but if you're in a position where you just want to be yourself without causing a fuss, it's really not a bad thing at all. No one minds, or cares. I never really fitted in at school, and I don't know if I fit in better now, but there are so many more people and the negative ones don't matter as much once you find or make a space that you can call your own and support people

with similar experiences that you care about. IQ, Imperial's LGBT society, has undergone several changes in this area - last year the position of trans & gender variant officer was introduced for the first time. Several other universities, such as UCL and Kings, have done the same, and have hosted inter-university events which really increases the size of the community. I think, for better or for worse, the notion of being trans is now firmly entrenched

\\ I've been able to make the lifelong friends everyone said would exist, based on shared experience and camaraderie \\



in the public consciousness. Even apps like Tindr now incorporates gender options that are no longer just the binary ones. People really try to get it, even when it's tricky, and I'm so thankful for that. I'm proud to be part of this, and to have met so many inspiring people.

Am I happier, after going through this process? Yes. Would I do it all again? In a heartbeat.

The LGBT community is a misnomer. It's a group of disparate people pushed together by societal pressure, and pressure makes things explosive. You only need to look at the agenda pushed by 'gender critical' feminists, or the right wing ideologies espoused by the 'dangerous faggot' Yiannopoulos to see that any pretence of unity is founded on a certain level of respectability politics. In wider society, plenty of people pay lip service to tolerance but do not let that extend to actually causing or being part of change, reaching the stage of 'well, I guess I wouldn't disown my kids if they ended up like that' and never progressing that much further. A community doesn't exist because the name exists.



It exists because you fight for it, because you stick up for the people you care about and love and hope they would do the same. It exists because it's all some people have.

The trans community itself is a fundamentally malformed construct, formed from people

with nothing in common save a shared experience of dysphoria. The intent of the vast majority of trans people is to eventually disappear from this group, to ascend to the point where they can live in society without ever once thinking about their past. For this reason, any community that exists is made up of the early birds hunting for worms, and those a few years down the road that aren't quite able to ascend out of it yet.

\\ A community doesn't exist because the name exists. It exists because you fight for it, because you stick up for the people you care about \\

It's a place where there's the constant looming shadow of suicide and violence, where people go missing and no one quite knows what happened - did they ascend, tap out of life, were they caught on the street and beaten to death? It's a place where you're just a craigslist ad away from finding sex work from some closeted forty year old who subverts his homosexual proclivities by saying 'traps don't count, right?'. This sex work being a stand in for a more steady job, denied by institutional discrimination that doesn't want to deal with the hassle of hiring a potentially mentally ill trans person, with the funds going towards rent and the medical treatments required to one day be able to reintegrate with society and deal with the self hatred and dysphoria.

It's a place that is mine, and I will fight for the continued survival of everyone in it. Am I happier now, after going through this process? Maybe. Would I do it all again? I don't know if I ever had a choice.



The Romanian protests are an unlikely beacon of democracy



Claudia Mihai discusses the recent anti-corruption protests in Romania

\\ It seems unbelievable to the Romanian government that the people have organised so well \\

A brief glance at the main headlines and you can see that the past month has been filled with protests, discontent, and outrage. While the world is watching the United States, Eastern Europe is facing its own demons as formerly communist country Romania is seeing its largest protest since the fall of the regime.

On Tuesday night, the 31st of January, the Romanian government passed an emergency decree that legalised corruption. More specifically, it explicitly decriminalised some offences, including nepotism and official misconduct resulting in financial damage under 200,000 RON (roughly £38,000). It was initially supposed to be effective immediately, but was soon revised to only take effect ten days later. People across the country went into the streets in the middle of that very night;



there were 15,000 in Bucharest alone, asking for the government's resignation. It was only the next day they found out that a temporary replacement government would not have the power to repeal the decree. The crowds immediately

\\ Formerly communist Romania is seeing its largest protest since the fall of the regime \\

changed their requests to explicitly asking for repeal, followed by resignation. The press conference held on Wednesday was also a fuelling disaster. Avoiding questions seemed to be the theme of the event, as the Ministry of Justice replied with "Next question" a grand total of 24 times. The government did supposedly repeal the decree on the 5th of February, following a protest that had already grown beyond the country's borders. However, it appears doubtful that the repeal is valid. Additionally, they immediately introduced the same law for parliamentary debate, where the leading party also holds the majority of seats.

Throughout these events, Romanians have surprised

themselves and each other. They are accustomed to the less than elegant view that Western Europe generally holds of their country and people. They also take pride in their nation's historical achievements. It is the latter feeling that has provided the energy necessary during the past couple of weeks.

Romania remembers violence. So when a certain football gallery was sent to agitate the mass of protesters in Bucharest, to give cause for criticism, the people detached themselves from the violent group. When a few run out of patience after several nights in a row of standing and shouting in the cold, others calmed them down quickly. They supported and protected each other.

It seems unbelievable to the Romanian government that the people have organised so well. So unbelievable, in fact, that government officials have speculated that they have been paid to protest. However, it is solely through social media and word of mouth that these protesters have organised and kept informed. It only took a couple of people with knowledge of the law, reading the decree and explaining it, for it to spread like wildfire.

It is clear that Romanians are aware of how corrupt their politicians are, and they appear to have lost hope as a result. It is why too many choose not to

vote at all. That is obviously the wrong decision, as the consequences are painfully clear now. However, they have now "woken up" as one of their main slogans directly states. Moreover, they are fighting against the overwhelming corruption in a rather traditional manner. It is often in Romanian culture and history that tragedies are transformed into 'tragicomics' so as to better cope. It comes as no surprise then that the protests have shown humorous slogans and puppets representing

\\ I am both ashamed and happy to say that I underestimated the anger that unites us \\

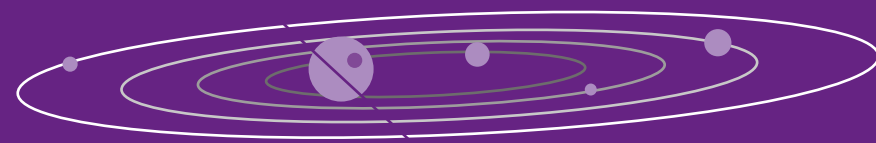
the political individuals at the core of this discontent. Social media also seems to be equal parts serious discussions and memes. I wish I could be home for these events. I only attended the protests in London on Friday and Saturday, and I had not expected too much energy. However, I am both ashamed and happy to say that I underestimated the anger that unites us. Being away from home has not killed our roots.

It was during the evening hours of Saturday that I



found myself protesting next to a gentleman with the somewhat classic look of a middle-aged bohemian. I had not paid attention at first, but amongst the shouts all around me, I overheard that he had attended both the revolution of December 1989 and the Mineriad of June 1990. It is a particular sort of pain I felt then; the kind that arises when I'm reminded that the people who have participated in those events, hoping for a better future, are still here to witness what is happening now.

The communist era of Romania has become a leitmotif in our culture. Some miss the good old times, although most vow it will never happen again. We have either lived through it or been raised hearing about it. However, reading coverage of these weeks' events in the British media, I saw Romania described as "an unlikely beacon of democracy." While flattering, I disagree with the sentiment. It is perhaps through the tragedy of our past that we are more likely to fight for our present.



Ending the Cycle of Junk

Alexandra Lim looks at the science behind our cravings, and why it's easier to stop bingeing than we think

As I type, I'm eating a thin slice of Japanese soufflé cheesecake I made yesterday. But the pleasure I took in eating it triggered a glitch of annoyance. I realised such fine nuances of taste and texture are easily overlooked in today's world where easy access to and high abundance of high-energy, palatable, chemical-laden foods is the norm. These are the reasons that drive the overwhelming prevalence of obesity and metabolic disease.

A study published just two months ago in *Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience* showed that it's just as easy to pull oneself out of debilitating junk food habits as it is to get stuck in it, by examining the effect of food-paired environmental cues on food-seeking behavior. With so much eating done outside of the house, we are constantly bombarded with external stimuli to promote the purchase and consumption of foods high in energy but low in micronutrients.

The two experiments reported in this particular experiment each began with

∥ It's just as easy to pull oneself out of debilitating junk food habits as it is to get stuck in it ∥

conditioning: non-deprived rats received repeated exposure to standard lab nosh, and another paired with highly palatable junk foods such as Oreos, Pringles and jelly snakes. A third set of rats were food-deprived for instrumental training, where rats could press levers to obtain sugary water or pellets in order to test the effect of environment on food consumption being either based on decisions or habitual. Perhaps not surprisingly, experiment one found that the rats on junk food promoted habitual control over behavior, compared to a bland food context. The second experiment is what makes this experiment novel, attempting to reverse this habitual effect, this mindless snatching of M&M's and "oh look they're all gone in ten" attitude, by exploring whether the presentation of a discrete cue paired with food and its environment would restore control over behavior when faced with junk food.

In the second experiment, the rats underwent the same procedures as in the first experiment. However, this time, distinct sound cues were played whenever rats were placed in either junk-food or bland chow contexts, creating specific environmental cues associated with the differing food types. The researchers found that the cue played in the bland chow context improved sensitivity to the devaluation of food, when rats were then presented with an abundance to junk food after having been fed. So there you go: A sound cue paired with bland food is all it took to take rats out of a habitual mode of behavior and back into a mind frame of better self-control. Of course, rats aren't all the same physiologically or mentally as us humans, but this still provides some insight into our relationship with food, proving we can control ourselves than we think. Another slice of insight derived from these experiments: our natural inclination towards fatty or sweet foods are mostly environment-driven, not because our bodies are in dire need 24/7 of all that high fructose corn syrup. We can't always use the excuse that our ancestors, who were much more

∥ With so much eating done outside of the house, we are constantly bombarded with external stimuli to promote the purchase and consumption of foods high in energy but low in micronutrients ∥



∥ Fine nuances of taste and texture are easily overlooked in today's world of high-energy and chemical laden foods ∥

deprived than we are today, needed those foods to keep them going.

And you know what? It's OK to have junk food, my own love for sweets underpinning my passion for both food blogging and science writing. That slice of soufflé cheesecake I just had is now gone. It's simply understanding the factors that drive obesity, this serious impediment to our future peace on Earth, that's an absolute necessity now. This all sounds quite overly dramatic, and maybe I am loopy, but let's revert quite overly dramatic, and maybe I am loopy, but let's revert our focus to appreciation of the small pleasures, like this homemade cake, or pineapple tart (Chinese New Year is still on a roll), or savouring a book and scone at a café instead of hankering after McDonald's and only McDonald's.

Web of Lies



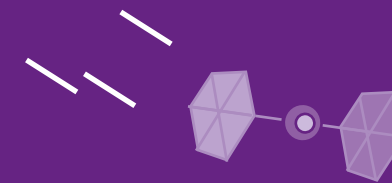
Fact: Goats spin spider-webs. OK, slight embellishment. Science can make goats that produce spider silk in their milk.

Obviously having a few goats minding their own business is better than having millions of spiders in a farm all viciously tearing each other's heads off – which is exactly what happened during the initial efforts to mass-produce spider silk, since apparently spiders are highly territorial and don't play well with others. But how to go about it?

Using a process known as genetic modification, or splicing, DNA from spiders can be artificially added to the DNA of goats – in particular. Scientists have transferred the genes required to spin silk into our unsuspecting furry friends to allow mass-production of an incredibly powerful material. The elegant part is that the gene is inserted in such a way that it is only activated during milk production – so the silk is only made in milk, not in any other part of the goat where it might cause disease.

Those who despise all things spider might wonder why you'd bother making massive quantities of cobwebs? Turns out spider silk is actually a 'supermaterial' – use it to make 'Biosteel', kevlar vests and artificial ligaments... in fact, I think it deserves its own post.

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



China charges ahead environmentally

Sara Hamilton reports on China's new approach towards environmental legislation

I can't speak for everyone, but when I think of China in relation to the environment, an image of coal and smog-full Beijing, with millions of citizens running around in protective anti-pollution masks, springs to mind. Henry Wang, in his talk *Energy and Environment Growth Strategies* hosted by the Imperial Energy Society, brought a ray of optimism in the future of China's energy mix and environmental legislation.

Wang began his talk with an overview of the global energy, environment & climate change strategies worldwide, summarizing many of the facts that are frequently discussed as part of this 'great energy debate' we seem to constantly hear about. He underlined

projections showing the expected global energy demand to rise 50% in the next 20-30 years, coupled with the ambitious aim set in the Paris Climate Conference to limit global temperature rise to 2°C by the end of the century, corresponding to the extremely limited CO2 atmospheric concentration of 450 ppm. Although oil is expected to remain in the energy mix and provide at least half this demand, the renewable industry is predicted to boom, doubling its production within 20 years to make this

∥ China has introduced new policies to help reduce its carbon intensity ∥

decarbonation possible.

Although some countries *cough* thanks Trump *cough* are showing limited action to meet their commitment to these ambitious global initiatives against climate change, the Chinese government, Wang claims, is showing promising progress in accomplishing significant change. A few months ago, China recently released a finalized version of its 13th Five-Year-Plan holding important implications for the future of its energy mix and sustainable growth. Through this plan, the government has set out to reduce its carbon intensity by 15%, following the success in the previous Plan which achieved a similar reduction. As part of this goal, the Chinese government has committed more than US



\$120 billion in an inter-city high-speed rail. The plan also sets out to accomplish ambitious targets in air-pollution control, requiring hundreds of cities to meet 'good' or 'excellent' standards 80% of the time, meaning they must score below 100 in China's Air Quality Index. Furthermore, stricter limits on the emissions of SO2 and NOx have been placed, as well as those of Volatile Organic Compounds

(VOCs). Finally, policies have also been introduced to tackle two of China's most serious but less heard of environmental issues – water and soil pollution.

It hence seems that the environmentally endangered China we know from news broadcasts might soon become a place of the past. Maybe time for some of the countries on this side of the world to follow suit?

Agnes Donnelly

Science won't be Trumped

The past three weeks have meant that the previously enjoyable activity of looking at Facebook has instead become a daily battle of emotions as I brace myself to learn of another Trump shocker. A travel ban on 7 countries, banning organizations from speaking to the public and a petty fight over who had the most fans "ever" at the strange inauguration thing – the headlines just keep on coming from the Trump establishment.

It is nigh on impossible amongst all this mess to determine what Trump's intentions are for his time as President, and that includes what he intends for US science. Demanding lists of climate scientists and electing climate-sceptic Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA are moves

∥ Programmes that can provide useful technologies for Trump's favoured industries are likely to enjoy a boom ∥

that add up to form a clear picture of a president with a real agenda about climate science. But could these actions be indicative of wider government policies to come? Can we expect more interfering from Trump?

At the heart of all science is the quest to determine truth and fact. This does not appear to be a dogma that The Donald subscribes to. If Trump has such little respect for these two concepts (cue Kelly-Anne Conway) it is very unlikely that he sees the concept of science as having

merit in its own right.

Much more likely is that Trump sees science as merely a means to an end, specifically the means to his end of an industrial America. Science programmes that have the ability to provide instantly useful technologies for Trump's favoured industries are likely to enjoy a boom under Trump, whilst those sciences deemed to be interfering or (god forbid) not useful will be ridiculed and side-lined.

This process, of picking and choosing sciences to fund purely on their perceived usefulness in furthering political agendas, has been seen before. Under Stalin the USSR had strict criteria for science it liked and science it didn't. Mendelian genetics and other biological sciences were banned for being un-Marxist practices supported by the

bourgeoisie. Statistical mathematics was abandoned and the law of standard deviation labelled a 'false theory'. Early cybernetics was 'capitalist pseudo-science' and quantum physics 'idealist'.

These clampdowns on 'ideological' science occurred at the same time as the expansion of the Soviet nuclear and astronomy programmes. The glorification of certain sciences seemingly excused the brutal rubbishing of science that fell outside of the USSR's ideals, leaving some Russian sciences years behind the rest of the world. Could the same thing be about to happen in the land of the

∥ The world cannot afford to let science be repressed again ∥

free?

With an administration that says science should be left to the scientists, whilst simultaneously electing anti-vaccine activists to government health panels, this is a real possibility. But this time there would be one major difference. In the years since the 1950's, science has become ever more defined by international collaboration and data sharing. If scientific programmes are attacked in America the detrimental effects will be felt across the globe. For that reason we should carry on steeling ourselves to sift through the Facebook rants and offensive tweets, looking for changes to American science policy. The world can not afford to let science be repressed again.

Your Union events

Friday 3 February



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 10 FEBRUARY
20:00 - 02:00
METRIC & FIVESIXEIGHT

£1.00 On the Facebook Guestlist
£2.00 On the door

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on



h Wine tasting

15 February
17:30 - 19:30

Think pink: Rose wines from around the world.


If you wish you knew more about wine, or knew how to make a better selection, our expert taster will take you on a truly delicious tour of our carefully selected wines.

You'll get to try eight wines from a selected global region. You also get £5 off every small glass of house red or white wine bought in the bar after the session.

£6.50

Deal: Get four for only £20!

imperialcollegeunion.org/food-drink



BATTLE OF THE BANDS

The heats are on! Who will survive? Join us at the Reynolds Bar to decide

Heat #1: Thursday 23 February, 19:30
Heat #2: Thursday 2 March, 19:30
Heat #3: Thursday 9 March, 19:30

£2.00 entry

The line up of each heat will be announced online. There's £500 up for grabs for the winner of the final in March, plus the chance to play at the Union's Summer Ball.

imperialcollegeunion.org/battleofthebands

imperialcollegeunion.org/battleofthebands



Coming up in our bars



Super Quiz

Every Tuesday
20:00-22:00

Cocktail Night

Every Tuesday
18:00-23:00

CSP Wednesday

Every Wednesday
19:00-01:00

Common People

Tonight
20:00-02:00

Good Form

Next Friday
20:00-02:00



Pub Quiz

Every 2nd & 4th Thursday
19:00-21:00

PGI Friday

Every Friday
19:00-00:00

Wine Tasting

15 February
17:30-19:30



Quiz Night

Every Monday
18:00-23:00

Board Games & Film Night

Every Tuesday
18:00-23:00

Sports Night

Every Wednesday
18:00 onwards

Pizza Night

Every Thursday
18:00-2:00

Battle of the Bands | Heat 1

Sunday 23 February
19:30 onwards



Quiz Night

Every Thursday
19:30-22:00

Sunday Roasts

Every Sunday
All day

Find us on Facebook!

fb.com/thefoundryw3

Get exclusive offers, discounts and more on our bars' Facebook Pages.

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on





TONI ERDMANN



\\ Komplizen Film



Meryl Anil

of a steady dose of silly pranks played on anyone and everyone. But after his last student drops out and his dog dies, Winfred decides to take his pranks to his daughter in Bucharest hoping to rekindle their relationship, much to the dismay of Ines.

After the initial visit succeeded in nothing except disrupting Ines's busy corporate life as a management consultant, Winfred leaves Ines only to re-infiltrate her life as Toni Erdmann, the life coach of Ines's boss. Ines, rising to the challenge allows him to play out his prank. Director Ade explained "Humour is often a way of coping with things, and as such it is always also a product of pain", and Winfred uses this as his 'weapon' to reconnect with Ines. The film then follows this interplay between the two, Winfred inventing new pranks and Ines responding to them and raising the ante. It weaves through moments of pure hilarity and stillness as Winfred tries to soften his daughter's rigid life, restore their relationship and to remind her to allow time to breathe. The contrast between the life of Winfred and of Ines is also highlighted significantly throughout the film. Winfred is shown to be concerned with the life Ines has chosen, the tightly filled schedules and her apparent loss of humanity. Ines on the other hand considers her father as weak and naive for having these inhibitions. Throughout the film the two are seen to battle each other to find a middle ground for both their outlooks on life, amidst all

\\ Throughout the film the two are seen to battle each other to find a middle ground for both their outlooks on life, amidst the chaos. \\

the chaos.

Toni Erdmann, despite its title, evolves into a film just as much about Ines as it is about Toni. Ines is portrayed to be an intelligent, strong-willed woman, who has risen above the challenge of her seemingly 24 hour corporate lifestyle, which involves having to constantly please her boss, her clients and apparently their wives. She is a machine, balancing all these tasks seamlessly and being constantly undermined, an issue observed by most women in the male-dominated business world. However, Ines is shown to be, or at least shown to pretend to be, oblivious to this issue of sexism and on questioned on whether she was a feminist, even states "I am not a feminist or I wouldn't tolerate guys like you". She considers herself an equal and acts that way, which leads her to seem cold and unapproachable, having to constantly fight against these pressures and emphasise her presence. This pressure undoubtedly takes its toll and the added complication of having to deal with her father's presence results in her losing control of her perfectly manicured life leading to several phenomenal scenes including an amazing rendition of *The Greatest Love of All* by Whitney Houston and leading up to the confusing yet absolutely brilliant birthday brunch scene.

For a film whose humour is implied through the inability of Winfred to act as Toni, this puts Peter Simonischek, incredible as he is, in a tough situation. However, as the film's accolades have shown, it was to great success. Simonischek was able to capture the awkwardness of the whole situation, whilst not making it completely so, allowing for moments of calm and sincerity. Sandra Hüller too embodied the career driven Ines perfectly. One could think of the entire film as a journey of self-realisation for Ines, aided by Toni. And Hüller



\\ Soda Pictures

\\ Winfred uses comedy as his 'weapon' to reconnect with Ines as he tries to soften her rigid life, and remind her to allow time to breathe. \\



\\ Komplizen Film

conveys this mental progression of Ines exceptionally well. There is no doubt that the two leads carry this film and make it the masterpiece it is and this was recognised by them both winning Best Actor and Actress for their roles at the European Film Awards 2016.

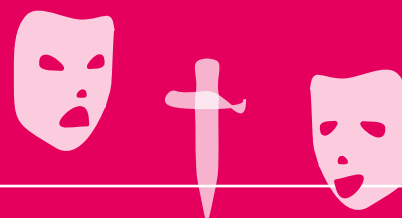
Toni Erdmann, despite being nearly three hours long, is a gem of a film. It's a comedy, with thought and tenderness and is one to watch. And if you're put off by the subtitles, you can wait for the recently announced remake with Jack Nicholson and Kristen Wigg. But we all know how those turn out.

Sight&Sound's Best Film of 2016, *Toni Erdmann* follows the attempts of a father attempting to reconnect with his estranged daughter, with a perfect mixture of **hilarity** and **sincerity**

Toni Erdmann, a German-Austrian film by Maren Ade has seen no end to the praise received from critics worldwide since it's screenings along the festival circuit in 2016. It features in the top film lists of countless film magazines including being named the Best Film of 2016 by *Sight&Sound* and *Cahiers du Cinéma* and is also one of the favoured picks for the 2017 Academy Awards for Best Foreign Picture. Given all this acclaim,

it's hard to imagine that such a film is not the talk of the town during its release given the astounding hype procured by other singing and dancing counterparts.

Toni Erdmann follows the hilarious yet touching attempts of a father, Winfred Conradi (Peter Simonischek), to reconnect with his estranged daughter Ines Conradi (Sandra Hüller). Winfred, a divorced music teacher is shown to live a quiet life that consists



British short films take us around the globe



Jennifer Zheng's *Tough* is a moving portrait of family \\ Jennifer Zheng



Fred Fyles

The shortlist of **BAFTA nominees** for Best British Short Film and Animation are **daring** in their scope, but the quality of some leaves a **little to be desired**

If there is a theme of the nominees for the BAFTAs for Best British Short Film and Best British Short Animation, it would probably be 'journey'. Across the eight shorts, we are catapulted from one corner of the globe to the next, dealing with

themes both big and small. One of the most engaging films, however, deals with the instantly-recognisable institution of the British police force: Charlotte Regan's *Standby* takes place entirely in a police car, with all shots taken from the same angle. Andrew Paul and Alexa

Morden play the officers, and we join them on a whistle-stop tour of birthdays, breakdowns, and promotions, punctuated by hilarious sequences of the two cops rapping along to Skepta. It's not the most profound of pieces, but it's lively and amusing.

The Party, on the other hand, deals with darker matters. From the initial title card telling us it's set in Belfast at the height of the troubles, we know that something bad is soon going to happen. And indeed, it soon does: a group of adolescents celebrate in a small house, and a fugitive who plans on sneaking over the border has managed to sneak into the party to see his friends, unknowingly placing them all in great danger. With its heavy patina of 1970s tones, and shocking violence, *The Party* is a commitment to British realism.

Home, from director Daniel Mulloy, is probably the most-publicised film of the nominees. Released on World Refugee Day, *Home* shows a British family making a perilous journey from their comfortable home life to a war-zone, in a form of reverse migration. Initially, the short resembles an advertisement for Renault, but things shortly take a turn for the worse. Mulloy is good at initially building up a sense of unease, but this doesn't continue until the end, and once the audience has grasped the concept of the short, it doesn't seem to have much impact: it's unclear how the short is supposed to make us any more sympathetic with those fleeing across Europe, especially compared to the harrowing real-life footage that has been present on the news for the last twelve months.

Samir Mehanovic's *Mouth of Hell* similarly tries to evoke the viewer's sympathy, telling the story of a boy with a sick mother who is growing up in Jharia, India, on the surface of a giant underground coal seam fire. *Mouth of Hell*, which mines (pun not intended) the stereotypical image of Indian poverty, is

the weakest short of the selection, and its storyline is trite. *Mouth of Hell* attempts to undertake a complete narrative within under 15 minutes, which is – evidently – easy to do badly. It's a problem that runs through most of the nominees, with only *Standby* managing to balance things well.

This difficulty with narrative is perhaps the reason why the best nominee for British Short Film is a documentary rather than a piece of fiction. Richard John Seymour's *Consumed* takes us on a journey through the modern means of production, taking us on a near-wordless tour of China's manufacturing industry. Starting with shots of landscapes and mines, Seymour shows us the vast environmental destruction caused by human greed, before exploring factories which produce goods for Western countries. A worker tells us that October is the busiest time at the factory because of the Western holidays, foreshadowing the fact that the consumables being produced, rather than the traditional images of computers or iPhones, are actually novelty Christmas items, that will probably be thrown away before the year is out. Comparable with Zhao Liang's *Behemoth* and Jia Zhangke's *A Touch of Sin*, *Consumed* powerfully questions the impact consumption is having on the planet, both in environmental and human terms. Delicate, austere framing is juxtaposed against the sheer horror of what we are being shown, in a manner reminiscent of the photographs of Sebastião Salgado.

Jennifer Zheng's *Tough* also centres around China, but in her animation it is China as filtered through the experience of her mother, who grew up during the Cultural Revolution, and Zheng herself, who was born in Britain. Drawing on the misunderstandings and miscommunications that have inevitably developed as a result of the two women experiencing the world through two different mind-sets and languages, *Tough* explores issues of race, identity, and

\\ Jennifer Zheng's animation is beautiful and haunting, filled with exquisite images: agricultural workers swishing scythes through fields of wheat, while children running through Chinese characters \\

culture. Zheng's animation is beautiful and haunting, filled with exquisite images: agricultural workers swishing scythes through fields of wheat; children running through Chinese characters; Zheng herself folding paper cranes at a kitchen table. The result is a small masterpiece, which is moving in its simplicity.

The other two nominees in the Best Animation category have a more complex animation style, but lack the emotional nuance of *Tough*. In *A Love Story*, directed by Anushka Kishani Naanayakkara, two strange woollen creatures build up a relationship through lengths of coloured string, which bind them together. Over a soundtrack of ambient sounds and plucking thumb pianos, the two woollen heads float through a disconcerting world of fluff, with slightly menacing, almost Lynchian undertones. Jack Clinch's *The Alan Dimension*, meanwhile, brings things back to reality with a charming tale about a suburban man who can predict the future, only everything he predicts is completely banal. Alan's obsession with this foresight threatens to break him apart from his wife, but – of course – everything turns out alright in the end. The animation here consists of cartoon animation against a backdrop of model interiors, and the overall effect is really quite off-putting, detracting from the film's plot.



What's a queer gal to do/see/watch/listen to?

From **under-representation** in the media, to a society that generally pretends we exist only for the titillation of men, what's a **queer gal** to do?!? *B. R. Coli* gives you the low-down on all the culture picks for you and your gal-pals

Angel Haze

A very cool agender pansexual rapper/poet that grew up in a cult, Angel Haze's combination of rap and spoken-word poetry about love will take you through all the forms of heartbreak you've ever experienced. Also, they dated Alec Baldwin's daughter – say no more.

\\ Instagram



Music



\\ Instagram

Tegan and Sara

The gay Canadian twins. You know the ones. They're playing at the Roundhouse the day before Valentine's day. Go!



\\ YouTube

The Internet

Really good music and better music videos with non-gimmicky queer representation. Syd Tha Kid (the singer) is unashamedly really gay. There was no big publicity stunt when she came out. It went along the lines of "well look at me, of course I'm gay".

Film



Desiree Akhavan, director and star of *Appropriate Behaviour*

\\ Peccadillo Pictures

Appropriate Behaviour

Desiree Akhavan directs and stars in this comedy about an American-Iranian bisexual going through a breakup. It'll make you feel worse about your recent breakup but then, strangely, better. It's pretty funny and feels quite real. The protagonist also struggles with coming out to her conservative family as bisexual, which is cool because when does that ever happen in film and TV? Almost never. Even *Orange is the New Black* managed to fuck up their bisexual storyline, dancing around the subject and throwing out buzzwords like "Kinsey" but never actually saying "BISEXUAL".

Available on Netflix

But I'm a Cheerleader

I watched this film the day after I came out to my family. I managed to unashamedly-ish sit on the sofa on my laptop, while the rest of my family roamed around near enough to catch a glimpse of what I was watching. It was the first time I felt near enough comfortable watching a blatantly queer-appealing thing openly near my family – *But I'm a Cheerleader* has some pretty sentimental value.

This film really resonated with me at the time. It might have been the aesthetically pleasing pastels. It might have been the comparison that I subconsciously drew between Natasha Lyonne's character getting sent to conversion therapy camp and my mum telling me liking girls was a phase that therapy would fix it. Or it might just have been seeing RuPaul playing a "heterosexual".

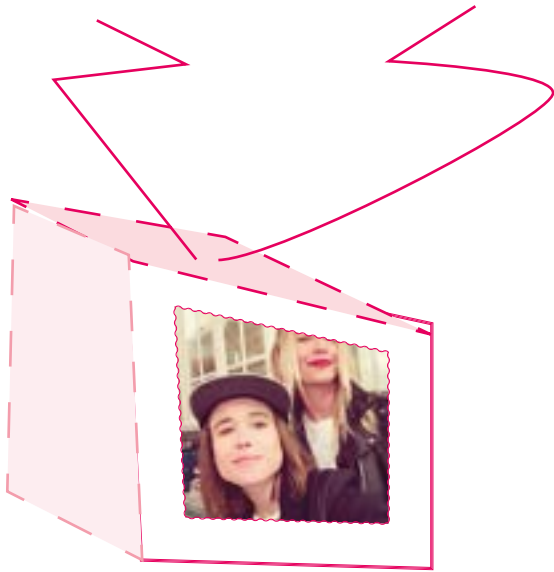
Natasha Lyonne and Clea DuVall star in the camp cult classic *But I'm a Cheerleader*



\\ Lionsgate



Our guide to your gal-pal culture fix



Ellen Page, queen of all our hearts \\ Instagram

Gaycation

We can all agree that Ellen Page is who we all want to be. This show will make you want to be her even more. It will also make you want to travel all over the world, and after watching *Gaycation* you'll know where all the underground queer experiences are, as well as the different anti-gay elements within different countries. Watch if you enjoy any of the following:

- Ellen Page being eloquent and insightful
- Ellen Page wearing snapbacks
- Ellen Page wearing cargo shorts
- Ellen Page wearing oversized shirts

Gaycation is available online at Viceland



Jane the Virgin

Like the love-child of a telenovela and *Pushing Daisies*, this Netflix comedy centres around Jane, a Latina woman who is accidentally artificially inseminated, and then has to decide between the father of her child or her boyfriend. Will she choose Raphael or the other one? I don't care! I'm watching this show for the Latina lesbian gynaecologist who accidentally dates her drug-lord step mum. Highly representative of the messy complicated relationships us queer girls always seem to find ourselves in.

Jane the Virgin is available on Netflix

One Day at a Time

I was drawn to watch this under the misconception that it was about a queer Latina single mum but to save you from the disappointment: she's not queer (as far as we know). It is about a Cuban, ex-military, single mum living in the US with two kids. Where's the queer you may be wondering? Well, one of the kids is a teenage feminist.

It's the first show I've seen that tackles coming to terms with lesbianism in adolescence in such a sensitive way. Most shows take the following approach: "Our show is terrible and is losing viewers. We must bring out the lesbians. One of them must be blonde - everyone knows one of them must be blonde. Have you never seen porn? It's so the viewers remember that the ever so slightly butcher brunette one represents the 'man' in their relationship. Let's make them fall in love with their best never-explicitly-bisexual friend, or go for the 'got drunk, had sex, "oh my god I'm gay"' approach. Ok we've run out of lesbian storyline. What do we do? Ask a queer to write a relatable story about the hardships of queer love? Nah. We'll kill one."

Anyway, *One Day at a Time* is great. It's very heartwarming and covers really great themes in a thoughtful and realistic way, avoiding the familiar tropes faced by lesbians on screen. Again, Hispanic representation is top quality.

One Day at a Time is available on Netflix

Arts



ZINES! \\ Flickr: rawprintclub

Queer Cabaret

SO QUEER. I've had a range of experiences here, all of which have been pretty great. There are about six acts per night, and each is super different. You'll get drag queens, drag kings, non-binary monarchs(?), stand-up, and musicians all in one night, and all fairly-to-extremely gender-bending. Don't go expecting RuPaul-esque drag: some will take their clothes off and reveal a lot of glitter - it's messy, political, unpolished, arty queerness.

Queer Cabaret is on every Tuesday at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern

GRRRL ZINE FAIR

Not explicitly queer - but inherently so - this event has a great community feel to it, and it's an easy way to make friends. Support zines! Meet cool feminists! Read and buy cool zines. Make your own zines and prints! Watch weird bands!

I discovered a band called Garden Centre at GRRRL ZINE, whose lyrics run along the lines of "something cut me in the rubbish / what if it's teeth / what if I found you in the rubbish and therefore you found me". They've also just released their first ever music video of a guy cutting a cob of corn in half in slow motion - they're terrible, but highly entertaining.

GRRRL ZINE FAIR will next be held at Moth Club on the 12th of March

Union Page

Showcase Poster & Pitch applications



We're calling all Student Social Entrepreneurs at Imperial to take advantage of this exciting opportunity to showcase your social projects, initiatives and enterprises. On Monday 20 March, we'll be hosting the first ever A.C.T. Now! Social Enterprise showcase. We're looking for students to submit an application to either pitch or present a poster at the showcase and no matter what stage your enterprise is at you can apply for up to £1,500 funding. Applications for pitching and poster presentations are open now until Tuesday 14 February. To find out more, get involved and submit an application visit

imperialcollegeunion.org/showcase-your-poster

You are Imperial - stand in The Leadership Elections 2017

The Leadership Elections 2017 are your chance to shape the future of student life at Imperial. Every single Imperial student, no matter their subject, degree level, or campus, can cast their vote for the students that will lead the groups that make this student community what it is. Imperial College Union brings together Clubs, Societies & Projects, Constituent Unions, Liberation Officers, Academic Representatives, and Community Volunteers into one vibrant and active organisation.

Nominations open for all positions EXCEPT Clubs, Societies & Project positions, which open Monday 13 February. Any student can run for any of the many positions in The Leadership Elections 2017. Some of the positions are full-time, which means you need to take a year out of your studies or be coming to the end of your course this academic year. Find out about all of the positions and stand now!



imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

Student Volunteering Week is back!

Student Volunteering Week (SVW) is taking place **Monday 20 February – Sunday 26 February**. The aim of SVW is to bring together individuals and organisations from across the UK to celebrate the achievements and impact of student volunteers in their local communities. This year's theme is **Do Good; Feel Good!** We will be doing good in the community at 12 different events and feeling good for doing it. You can learn more about Scratch coding, planting seeds, helping people with dementia and so much more. This will all culminate in the Volunteer Dinner on Monday 27 February.

imperialcollegeunion.org/svw



Student Academic Choice Awards - nominations close 26 February

Do you have a great lecturer who teaches with enthusiasm? A supervisor who offered great guidance and advice to help you with your research? Nominate them for an award. Got a lecturer who gives good, constructive and timely feedback? Share your feedback with us to give them recognition. Has someone taught you in a really unique and innovative way? Tell us more!

Hundreds of students have sent in their nominations already, and we are looking for even more to help recognise the excellence and innovation amongst Imperial's academic and professional staff. By recognising and rewarding areas of excellence, Imperial College Union hopes that the SACAs will continue to promote and develop high-standards of teaching across College.

For more information and to nominate a member of staff, head to imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas

RAG WEEK

Monday 13th – Saturday 18th of February





Rigoletto | Singers outshined by set



ENO's *Rigoletto* \ Alastair Muir

It's never a good sign when the set outshines the main cast. Unfortunately for the ENO's latest rendition of Jonathan Miller's superbly conceptualised *Rigoletto*, this

is very much the case.

Miller takes us back to 1950s New York City, in the shadier Mafia-dominated parts of Little Italy. It is a curiously appropriate retelling of the drama of *Rigoletto*:

powerful men, a woman (or several), and an assassination plot fit right into the scene. The philandering Duke and his posse of henchmen are easily transposed from nobility to gang life; the titular court jester, Rigoletto, becomes a bartender at the bar they frequent. His daughter Gilda remains the innocent girl unaware of the menacing world around her, and her ill-usage at the hands of the Duke and his men point to the subordinate role of women in a very much male-dominated world. The Duke's henchmen exclaim over Gilda's pure and innocent beauty, but have no qualms kidnapping her for revenge on Rigoletto; the Duke himself professes concern for his "beloved angel", but does not hesitate to rape and abandon her afterward. Sparafucile, the contract killer hired by Rigoletto in his vendetta against the Duke, is perhaps even more at home with a fedora and a switchblade than he was in Verdi's 16th century Mantua.

The first performance of this production was in 1982, but the set seems as fresh as ever.

A stylish bar – all oak paneling and mirrors – serves as the Duke's headquarters. The hordes of suit-clad henchmen in sunglasses lend a distinct *Men in Black* air to the scenes. As Rigoletto leaves the bar for his home, the shadowy figure of Sparafucile emerges from a dark and foggy alleyway to make his proposition. The set of the last act provides a great contrast between the well-lit tawdry bar in which the Duke flirts with Sparafucile's sister Maddalena, and the thunder and lightning outside as Gilda looks on, stealing herself for a fatal sacrifice.

If only the cast lived up to these promising surroundings. The three main roles are sung by American singers imported from across the pond, but none of them are particularly outstanding. Playing the Duke, Joshua Guerrero's voice was too phlegmatic to make either a convincing mafia boss or a compelling Casanova. Worse still was Nicholas Pallesen, whose Rigoletto fell terribly flat. It felt like he was merely declaiming his lines with no

emotion behind them; instead of moving the audience to horror and pity, Pallesen succeeded only in arousing faint boredom. Apparently he was suffering from a cold on opening night, but whether he can bring out the role's full potential remains to be seen. Sydney Mancasola was perhaps the saving grace, with her clear but somewhat timid voice quite suited to the role of Gilda. Perhaps ENO should just stick to British singers – Barnaby Rea deserves a special mention for his brooding Sparafucile, as does Madeleine Shaw for her provocative Maddalena.

This run of *Rigoletto* has almost everything going for it: great direction, great set, the 13th revival of a well-loved production. But it is undoubtedly hampered by its uninspiring cast. Jonathan Miller's *Rigoletto* has the potential to be a crowd-drawing classic – if only ENO finds the right people for the job.

Rigoletto is on at the ENO until the 28th of February. Tickets from £12.

Claire Chan

Marginalia are the annotations one finds scribbled in the margins of a text; they can be insightful, witty or rude depending on the commentator in question. *Reading Drawings* is a new collection at the Courtauld Gallery that aims to showcase the equivalent in drawings – inscriptions on sketches dating from the 16th to the 20th century.

Unlike the marginalia in books, where readers jot down their thoughts on the text, writings on drawings are more often done by the artists themselves, and on rough sketches rather than the final masterpiece. As signatures are possibly the most natural mark to make on an artwork, a variety are on display in *Reading Drawings*. Particularly interesting are instances of drawings signed

by someone else. One such example is a sketch of a female nude purportedly by Auguste Rodin: the "uncharacteristically even pressure" in the false signature suggests instead the work of the forger, Hand B. In contrast, the handwriting of a reliable collector helps to identify the creator of a sketch from the 18th century. Unrelated notes on sketches also provide amusing insights about the artists who wrote them. An ancient grocery list from the 15th century makes an appearance, as do a painter's musings about the amount of money he is soon to be paid.

Despite its efforts at making ancient scribbles interesting, *Reading Drawings* remains slightly too academic for the general public. The exhibition is small, with only 20-odd sketches, but manages to suffer from a lack of organisation: the introduction to the exhibition is placed awkwardly in a far corner

and there is no indication as to any order or arrangement in which one should view the displays. Moreover, despite the title 'Reading Drawings', the inscriptions are not actually transcribed or translated for the viewers to read. Without excellent eyesight and knowledge of Latin, Dutch or Italian, viewers can only rely upon the curator's interpretation and comments to make sense of the writing on the drawings; this leaves one feeling rather unsatisfied.

However, *Reading Drawings* is only a part of the much larger attraction that is the Courtauld Gallery's permanent collection of world-famous paintings. Stop at *Reading Drawings* along the way if time permits, but if not – it's no great loss either.

Reading Drawings is on at the Courtauld Gallery until the 4th of June. Free entry to students.

Claire Chan

Reading Drawings



Circe and Ulysses, Stradonus \ Courtauld Gallery



Tango – the word alone conjures images of passion, seduction, and power play. German Cornejo and his sizzling dance crew return to London with *Tango Fire* to set the stage ablaze.

The first part of the show harks back to tango's roots in the milongas of Buenos Aires. Impossibly glamorous, the five couples make their entrance with a slow tango foxtrot that gradually builds up to a fast and flirtatious dance. *Machismo* and coquetry abound; the men show off their moves to impress the ladies, who turn up their noses and trifle with their fans. It's nice to see that Cornejo has also included some diverting male-only sequences, which lend a touch of humour to the scene.

The show is divided into two halves, with 13 pieces in each hour-long segment. Time flies with the mind-boggling variety of sets. With minimal staging and costumes, each performance tells a different story: velvet drapes and opera gloves for burlesque, festoon lights and flowers for an evening party. But the

focus is rightly on the quality of dancing. Between tango performances, the live band, Quarteto Fuego (Fire Quartet), and singer Jesus Hidalgo entertain the audience with their soulful tunes.

One caveat: Hidalgo's emotive crooning is all very well, but it's a bit hard to appreciate the sadness of, for example, *Bajo un Cielo de Estrellas* (Beneath

**\ You don't need to be a tango aficionado for the raw appeal of *Tango Fire*'s bold and flamboyant dancing **

a Star-Filled Sky) with no knowledge of Spanish. English translations are available in the programme, but it's too dark to read during the performance itself – subtitles would have been a nice touch.

The second half of *Tango Fire* is all sexiness and smoulder, with solo pieces allowing each of the five

couples to have their time in the limelight. *Ganchos* and high boleros galore! Ezequiel Lopez and Camila Alegre prove their worth as 2015 Tango World Champions: Alegre is light as a bird in their complicated routines, and their footwork is fast as lightning. Cornejo and his partner Gisela Galeassi are excellent as well, pulling off difficult lifts and spins with dexterity and finesse. On the other hand, the acrobatics of the couple Sebastian Alvarez and Victoria Saudelli are somewhat lacking in grace despite their routine packed with flashy moves.

Cornejo's flair for choreography is strong in the group dances, which are all very enjoyable. There are plenty of fishnets and lace, as is to be expected, but let it not be said that Cornejo is entirely lacking in subtlety. *Oblivion*, an evocative piece in the second half, has an interesting contemporary feel to it – the girls in their flowing white dresses almost evoke the ballet dancers of *Les Sylphides*.

You don't need to be a tango aficionado for the raw appeal of *Tango Fire*'s bold and flamboyant dancing. This

¡Caliente! Burning up the stage with *Tango Fire*



\ Sadlers Wells



is tango unabashedly for the stage, performed by some of the best dancers around. A great show for a night of entertainment!

Want to try Argentine Tango for yourself? Imperial's Latin-American Society is running classes (£4 for

non-members) every Wednesday evening until July. Details on their Facebook page.

Tango Fire is on at The Peacock until the 18th of February. Tickets from £15.

Claire Chan

Asexual on Air

Today, when we live in much more tolerant and inclusive times than those in the

past, it is really important to remember that even a term such as 'LGBT' can sometimes forget to include certain groups of people, necessitating the term 'LGBT+'. One such group that is often completely forgotten about in the discussion of sexuality is in fact the situation when a person does not experience sexual attraction. Asexuality.

While it is of course common for a character in a show to not display any signs of sexuality, just think of most children's shows, what is incredibly rare is a character openly identifying as asexual or

aromantic. One could argue that a character like Sheldon Cooper from *The Big Bang Theory* could be read as identifying as asexual, however, this portrayal is far from helpful or sensitive to the community. It's more written as a result of his lack of social skills or empathy rather than an intrinsic part of his identity.

The only character in mainstream media that I'm aware of to identify as asexual is Todd Chavez from *Bojack*

**\ Even terms such as 'LGBT' can sometimes forget to include certain groups of people **

Horseman, a Netflix original. In the finale of Season 3, after a whole season's worth of Todd and his high-school girlfriend, Emily skimming around the 'Will they, won't they?' trope, their relationship culminates in a conversation in a diner, in which Emily asks about his sexuality and he replies "I'm not gay, I mean, I don't think I am, but I don't think I'm straight, either. I don't know what I am, I think I might be nothing.", not only would this be a big step forward for the asexual community but Emily's response is great too. She simply says "That's okay." She doesn't assume it's something she can fix, it's not something that requires follow-up questions. It's just who he is, and a

program showing how to respond when someone tells you who they are is nearly as important as making these visible in the first place.

How Todd's identity goes on to shape his character, and his interactions with others remains yet to be seen, but I trust that Raphael Bob-Waksberg and the other writers of *Bojack Horseman* will treat it with dignity.

Harry Wilkinson

\ Gage Skidmore



Criminally short | *The Benefits of Gusbandry*



Need someone to enable junk food binges\\ *The Benefits of Gusbandry* LLC



Anurag Deshpande

First debuting as a web-series in late 2015, *The Benefits of Gusbandry* has only recently joined the Amazon Prime arsenal. As a series trying to portray a different side of the relationships between man and woman, how does it stack up?

Built from the ground up by creator Alicia J. Rose, this series of ten-ish minute shorts chronicles the ever-evolving relationship between 40-something Oregonite Jackie, and her so-called 'gay husband', River. Now, to the uninitiated (as I was) this may conjure up images of cringe-worthy sitcom shenanigans. Rather, what we

\\ An often genuine and frequently heartfelt attempt at eschewing traditional relationship paradigms\\

get is an often genuine and frequently heartfelt attempt at eschewing the traditional relationship paradigms one finds on TV.

Certainly, it is tempting to draw comparisons between *Benefits* and the seminal 90s sitcom, *Will & Grace*. While there are certainly echoes of the central protagonists of that series to be found here, *Gusbandry* strives to go one step further by aiming for greater authenticity in its portrayals of its gay characters, and by trying to stray away from some of the stereotypes shows like *Will & Grace* sometimes slipped into. On this front, it hits more than it misses.

"Men crave women in their life, and women crave men in their life, but it doesn't have to be in a heteronormative way. Relationships that are founded and thrive on alliance, acceptance and love – that's really important" says Rose in an interview with *Out Magazine*, distilling the mission statement of the show into one sentence. Interestingly, this is Rose's first major such project. Having previously worked on music videos and as a photographer, Rose claims to have based facets of the show on her own experiences. River himself is said to be modelled after her long-time friend and LGBT

activist Lake Perriguet; who also happens to be Oregon's first non-binary individual. As such, Rose has made clear that it was always very important for her to have an actual gay man playing River.

The series itself starts out at Jackie's 40th birthday party, quickly setting up her character. She's jaded, witty, and with a trail of bad relationships behind her; in short, a typically trope heavy sitcom protagonist. It's here she meets River, initially not realising he's gay and developing a crush on him. Thankfully, this misunderstanding is rapidly cleared up, and what follows is a series of snapshots of different stages of their friendship.

Brooke Totman does an amicable job as Jackie, especially considering that not all her material is stellar. The real star of the show, however, is Kurt Conroyd as River. He effuses charm, and the chemistry between him and Totman drives the show. It makes the more heartfelt moments of the series feel all the more genuine.

In tone, *The Benefits of Gusbandry* is not at all ostentatious, instead opting for a more down-to-earth vibe. This certainly helps it feel realistic, although sometimes gratingly so. In addition, while the humour is generally good, jokes do fall flat a not-insignificant proportion of the time. Most of these are concentrated towards the beginning of the series, however, as the show has

some teething troubles. The aforementioned character interactions are likeable enough, however, that the series managed to hold my interest despite these hurdles.

Frustratingly, however, the show fumbles slightly in its final episode. Not only does it opt for a cliff-hanger ending, which wouldn't be so bad on its own, but it also annoyingly opts for a classic 'misunderstanding' plot. This agonises

\\ It also annoyingly opts for a classic 'misunderstanding' plot. This agonises the viewer.\\

the viewer and just makes it feel like a waste of time.

While *The Benefits of Gusbandry* certainly mixes things up, and strives to show the under-represented sides of the gay community, it still keeps a somewhat limited perspective; falling into the majority of white male gay characters found in TV.

All things considered, *The Benefits of Gusbandry* is a great show, especially making concessions for its length, and the fact that this is creator Alicia Rose's first major project. While the comedy isn't always perfect, it strives to be, and its efforts to broaden the views of the gay community typically found on TV must be appreciated.



I wish my sunglasses could do that\\ *The Benefits of Gusbandry* LLC



London's new music scene

Tired of the same old songs, or just like listening to **live music**? The new music scene in **London** is **vibrant** and **flourishing**, beginning with the **Roundhouse Rising Festival** next week.

Part of the allure of moving to London for music lovers is the incredible access to up and coming artists. Many times while living here, I've high-fived myself after discovering artists who've yet to break into the charts. Vanity aside, the ease with which Londoners can listen to new sounds and find quality acts is exciting and inspiring.

But how to sort the wheat from the chaff? Not every artist at your local is going to be the next Jack Garratt. Luckily, there are passionate people working in the industry that do the hard part

for you.

Next week is Roundhouse Rising Festival at the Roundhouse, Camden. Not only does it host nine days worth of live music from multiple genres, it holds workshops with industry leaders to help emerging talent get an edge on breaking. This year it's celebrating the huge success of rapper Little Simz, who played the festival in 2014. The following year she released her debut album, which reached number 20 on the UK R&B album charts, and she will be headlining the festival this year.

For the acoustically preferred, there's Sofar Sounds. A programme started in 2009, it has spread from London to over 200 cities

worldwide. The exact venue and location isn't released until the day of the event. This exclusive air is added to by only around 50 invites being extended to an applicant pool which can number in the thousands.

Another acoustic evening, Sessions 58 is at the Looking Glass Cocktail Club, Shoreditch. Hosting fresh talent in music, poetry, and spoken word from around the UK, this cosy evening is like being invited to your musical friend's living room for drinks.

If you're reading this thinking "It's February, why would I leave the house?", then London Live TV's *Live Sessions* on Friday evenings is for you. This show broadcasts live performances from local



\\ RoundHouse, pittaya, Flickr

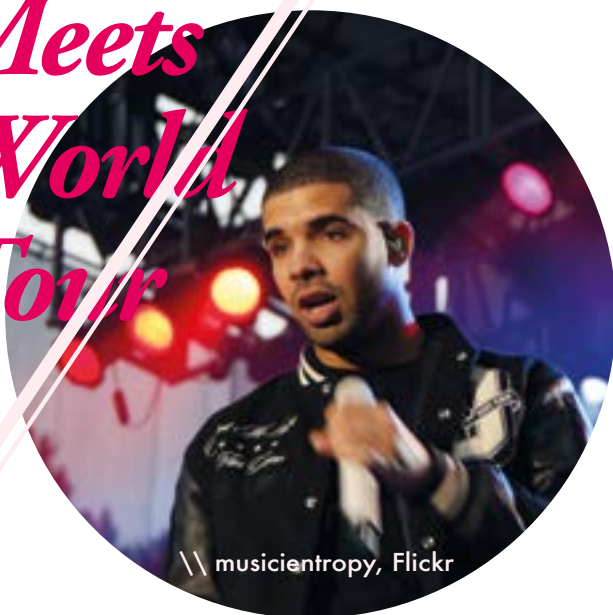
songwriters and bands, which you can enjoy while snuggled in your Primark onesie.

Keeping your hipster card valid in London can be a hard ask, especially when half your week is spent in labs (don't take it from me,

I never have labs), but don't let that stop you from hearing incredible music from all over the city. Fortunately, here in London, there's more to new sound than Spotify's Discover playlist.

Theo Farah

Drake: The Boy Meets World Tour



\\ musicientropy, Flickr

Desiigner's *Panda* played in the O2 arena as I sat high up waiting for Drake to take to the stage, so high up that I genuinely had a nosebleed during the show. I couldn't help but overhear the comments of the girls sitting beside me. "I'm so glad they made a song about my favourite animal", one said whilst her friend dabbled a bit too enthusiastically. I find myself switching from Drizzy fan boy to Drizzy hater on a regular basis. How many hip-hop artists could sell out the O2 for so many dates? On the other hand, his music has infiltrated the mainstream to such an extent that his core fan base is starting to consist largely of a group that don't appreciate many other hip-hop artists. Is this good for the culture?

All of my questions disappeared as soon as the lights dimmed and the horns of

Trophies started to blare. What ensued was an hour and a half of pure energy, with the six god rattling off tune after tune, and the crowd eating up every second of it. From performing the hooks of classic hits such as *Headlines*, *Over* and *The Motto* to more recent bangers, including *Fake Love* and *Hotline Bling*, Drake's enthusiasm had onlookers jumping all night.

Drake flexed his vocals on the slower, more romantic *Find Your Love* and *Feel No Ways*, and well as the more upbeat *Work* and *Too Good*. He proclaimed, "You know you have to play the RiRi tunes to make the gyal dem feel sexy". He switched up the vibe throughout, sensing when to play his more upbeat songs yelling, "I'm tryna do a show for the people, I ain't tryna fuck nobody right now!" at his keyboard player.

Drake's obsession with London and the UK grime scene was evidenced as

he brought London's Dave, Giggs and Kyla out to join him on stage, much to the audience's excitement. Dave joined forces with Drake to perform their hit single, *Wanna Know Remix*. Giggs was the next guest, performing *Whippin Excursion*, and making Aubrey go full fan boy for the five minutes that he was on stage.

In a brief intermission, we were treated to a preview of a Drake and Giggs' collaboration and a giant light-up globe rose through the centre of the stage. Drake returned to the stage to perform *Pop Style* leading nicely into *Know Yourself*. The crowd went off as Drake screamed "I was running through the six with my woes" and it was by far the most hyped part of the of the show. Drake ended the show declaring, "If I die, Imma die a legend".

Andy Djaba





Left or right?

Saad Ahmed talks about how much choice there is in video games and how they add to the overall experience and immersion



Never easy to make a choice, but you still have to do it \\ Micolo J

Video games are unique from TV shows and movies due to the sense of immersion they give players. Having the ability to make choices plays a large part in this. It's not just any old story you get to experience, it's one chosen and defined by you and that's what makes it all the more intimate.

Of course, virtual choices aren't exactly as open ended as you might imagine. Considering how many games rely on the

\\ Recent games have more profound choices where there's never really an easy way out \\

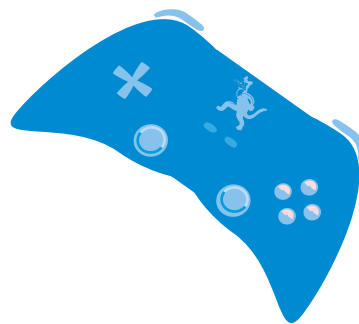
choices you make, there's a limit to how much you can actually do. The first major restriction is, of course, the game's programming. You can't do anything that the game doesn't allow you to

do. But in retrospect isn't real life like that as well? We're restricted by the constraints of society, the laws of physics and what not. It's all for our own good but it's still limiting to a degree.

Some game choices are bullshit to be fair. Like when you confront a boss and it asks you not to fight it but instead rule with it. Say no and you begin the final boss fight, say yes and it's game over. But such things belong in the past, and more recent games have more profound choices where there's never really an easy way out.

It's accepted that there are a number of checkboxes a video game choice needs to tick off to be truly worth including. You need to be aware of all other choices, you shouldn't have the opportunity to remake a choice, and you should constantly be reminded of the choice you made and feel the repercussions from it. The games developed by Telltale Games are particularly well known for getting all these factors right. For example, in one part of *The Walking Dead*

game, you're attacked by zombies and have the option of saving either one of two characters. You can see both of them clearly and both of them are nice enough that you'd rather save them both. The game tailors itself around your decision, maybe not enough to make it a substantial



game element, but enough for you to never forget your choice.

One complaint is that choices don't really matter, especially with Telltale Games. Whatever path you choose, good or bad, there are only so many possible endings and deviations from the story you can have. But honestly, so what? There's a

limit to how much programmers can actually code. And the true fun of choice is the happiness and thrill you get in that moment. It's never really about the ending, it's always about the journey and how you get there. If you really want to go beyond what the game will allow you, then go play a tabletop RPG.

Often, the choices are between generic 'good' and 'bad' choices, usually with the added catch that the evil choices are much more fun. For example, if you've played *Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic*, playing on the dark side is always much more enjoyable. Heck, in the sequel, the dark side's plans actually makes sense. A lot of other games like *Bioshock* have choices like this; do you save the little girl or kill her and get more powers?

These days, there's no right or wrong choice, just a large mix of morally grey ones, which honestly is a bit like real life. There's never really a right or wrong answer, you can never satisfy everyone, you just have

to do what seems right to you. This adds another layer of complexity to gaming, and lets you look into yourself and see how you would react in certain situations. This gives gaming an edge

\\ These days, there's no right or wrong choice, just a large mix of morally grey ones \\

which other forms of media don't have. You don't see some person's version of how things are, you see your version and how you want things to go.

Choice, as much as it's programmed in, is the defining feature of games as a medium. By giving players control, games can intimately engage with their audience and implicate them in deep moral choices or make them feel powerless. With this level of immersion, it's no wonder we keep coming back to playing video games.



Talk dirty to me | Banana Tree

Shanzeh embarks on an Indonesian food trip for an amazing price and, on top of that near college, not eating but rather experiencing a whole spectrum of flavours and making memories



Shanzeh Khurshid

Where did you go?

On their way to the Royal Albert Hall, my friends and I caught up in Banana Tree in Bayswater. I suggested the restaurant because it's about 30 minutes walking distance from campus, and only 20 minutes from Wilson House and Pembridge. Ever since she went on a yoga trip to Vietnam, one of my friends has become a die-hard fan of far eastern cuisine. To appease her, I suggested this place as they claim to serve contemporary Indochinese food, and I thought it would be a nice change from the traditional Chinese takeout we normally get.

First Impressions?

From the minute we walked in the staff were very welcoming and sat us at a spacious table with benches. The seating along with exposed brick walls, and soft low-hanging lighting gave it a very chilled out vibe, like a beach hut fused with a modern restaurant. The ambience certainly was in line with their contemporary Indochinese theme.

Ordering took about 20 minutes, because there was just so much choice! Our waitress brought us five different menus: main menu, vegetarian menu, drinks menu, desserts menu, specials menu, and on the menus themselves there were symbols identifying if dishes are vegan, vegan but with eggs, gluten free, halal, recommended, spiciness levels, etc. After I attempted to decipher these hieroglyphics, read all the menus, and remember everything, I just asked the waitress for help. She had knowledge, which was good because it's such a let-down if the staff do not know about the food themselves.

Food?

For starters we got duck and vegan spring rolls, sesame crackers, and crispy street style dough with a satay sauce. The spring rolls each came with different sauces which complemented their insides. They were cooked well, hot on the inside, crispy on the outside. Standard spring rolls. The sesame crackers tasted a bit like stale bread with the texture of a cracker. I didn't like them much because I prefer prawn crackers. But if you're vegetarian, like my friend who shot-gunned the last one, I feel like you'll like them a lot. The dough was interesting. It wasn't really crispy, more chewy. The sweet satay sauce made it taste more like a dessert than a starter. It definitely felt like street food, and was kind of like I was eating Indonesian churros.

For mains, my friends all got stir fry combos. The combo

came with nutty papaya salad, flavoured rice and cornballs, so it's worth paying for the upgrade. They said it was really good. Not very descriptive of them, but at least they were happy.

I couldn't decide which meat to get in my Laksa soup, so I got them all. Getting a superior combo meant my massive bowl of soupy noodles came with prawn, fishballs, beef, chicken and vegetables. It had a good balance of sweetness from the coconut milk and sourness,

\\ The sweet satay sauce made it taste more like a dessert than a starter. It definitely felt like street food, and was kind of like I was eating Indonesian churros \\



\\ I couldn't decide which meat to get in my Laksa soup, so I got them all \\



probably from the fish sauce and lime juice. They gave it a red chilli symbol on the menu, but it only had a hint of spice to me. Nonetheless it was flavourful and really filled me up. I packed away most of it for my lunch the next day. My friends finished their food, but at the cost of waddling instead of walking to the bus stop.

Because we had tastecards, the bill came to about £10 per person, which I think is a really good deal given the quality and size of our starter and main. As well as that, before 19:30 it's happy hour(s) so drinks are half price too! It did take ages to pay, as there was some problem in the kitchen. The waiter apologised profusely though, which made it better because they recognised we were inconvenienced.

It's good when a restaurant serves good tasting food, but here the food was so much more than just that. It was memorable. Every dish had a

\\ There was a wide range of options on the menu, so it does cater across the spectrum for people who are fussy and like simple tastes, as well as those who like trying new complex flavours \\

strong unique flavour, rather than all the food having the same base taste. There was a wide range of options on the menu, so it does cater across the spectrum for people who are fussy and like simple tastes, as well as those who like trying new complex flavours. It's a chain so there are branches all over London making it easily accessible. I would definitely recommend going, I've already been again twice since!



Bored of the classic waffle? Me too!

Christy Lam

Christy tries to go out of her comfort zone and goes to a new place with a **dress-code** that serves the **fanciest waffles** in town, no matter if they are sweet or not, even if they **do not** reach up her **high expectations**.

You should never make a comment about a restaurant before you've tried it."

That was a strong lesson from a man, a total stranger, sitting at the table next to me, which ended our morning debate over the much hyped-about The Breakfast Club a few months back. For him, it was his holy grail breakfast place. For me, an overly hyped-up place with ridiculous queues serving average American-style breakfast dishes.

While I still have yet to visit The Breakfast Club to this date, his words had struck a spark of fire inside me – the courage to try all these new and exciting restaurants in London, especially those I have been wanting to visit, but prevented by that prejudice I've formed in my head.

One of those restaurants at the top of my list was Duck and Waffle. The highest restaurant in London residing on the 40th floor of the Heron Tower. The restaurant that was so arrogant you have to reserve your table two months in advance, despite it being open 24/7. The restaurant that I have always had a major grudge against for turning me away from a 7:30 walk-in attempt on a Wednesday morning.

It wasn't only their pure arrogance that put out the flame of curiosity deep inside my heart. It was the contrasting reviews from excited captions on how amazing the food is with the glorious sunrise, to paying for the view rather than the only-average food. These voices had been

debating in my head for months and months, kicking the idea of visiting further and further to the back of my mind. But finally, I've decided to find out for myself, with my own taste buds.

It was quite a spontaneous decision. I was sitting at the back of the lecture theatre feeling miserable for myself for sitting through yet another hour of the lecturer's slow, droning voice, and how I deserved a nice breakfast to treat myself. The next moment I found myself on Duck and Waffle's reservation page, desperately clicking on every single date for the next 2 months, in search for a slot at a reasonable time among all the "We apologise: there is no availability at that time." and a handful of 6am slots (6am is NOT reasonable). I laughed at myself for putting in such effort, until the page loaded for the 20th time...

Landed a table at 8:30am on a Tuesday morning a week away.

\\ The sweetness from the maple syrup and the savoury duck was like a match made in heaven //

That was like winning the jackpot.

That morning, we dragged ourselves out of bed bright and early, rubbed our groggy, sleepy eyes in the commuter-packed tube journey to Liverpool Street, and stared up the shiny, glass



building of the Heron Tower. We entered the door to the reception of Duck and Waffle and Sushi Samba, and was met by a hostess with an unexpectedly sloppy attitude, who took my name and pointed us to the right – a security guard.

I discreetly rolled my eyes as the guard swiped his detector under my armpit. Yup, arrogance, check.

Now, the fun part. The glass lift shot us straight up from ground to the 40th floor like those capsules in sci-fi movies. The door opened to a stylish bar, beautiful blue, tiled floors, and a handsome bartender who pointed to yet another reception.

We were led further into the main part of the restaurant: a modern, spacious room with crystal clear, floor-to-ceiling windows, sofas, marble tables and an open kitchen. We were seated right by the



window, over-looking the thick blanket of fog blanking out the view. (Typical British winter weather.)

We made ourselves comfortable, looking around at the other diners who were all adhering to the strict dress code. The room was half-empty (or half-full, if you are the optimistic kind), relighting my grudge for being shooed away from a walk-in. Maybe they wanted to keep that prestigious, oh-we-don't-open-to-random-people sort of image?

Putting that aside, we glanced over the menu and swiftly decided on two of their waffle dishes. For the savoury, their signature duck and waffle, and for the sweet, their caramelized banana waffle. Plus coffee to wake us up.

Our waffles arrived at our table in a moment, while the coffee took their time (coffee

ended up just average so I'll skip that). Both dishes looked absolutely amazing, or, in my words, Instagrammable.

The duck and waffle was a simple construction of half a waffle with a duck leg confit, fried to a crispy, golden brown, a glossy fried duck egg on top and a little jug of mustard maple syrup on the side. Wrapped inside the crispy skin of the duck confit was shreds of juicy, tender meat, surprisingly not greasy. The sweetness from the maple syrup and the savoury duck was like a match made in heaven. The duck had surpassed my prejudice and expectations and earned itself a round of applause. However, the waffle itself was just an average waffle, nothing exciting.

The caramelized banana waffle was a bit of an anti-climax as it didn't have any of the wow-factor compared to the former dish. It was a simple dish of waffles with their house-made hazelnut and chocolate spread, smooth vanilla ice cream and a banana, split in half along its length, caramelized and skilfully balanced on top. Perhaps my expectations were too high – it was just waffles after all.

Thirty minutes had barely passed and we were scraping the last crumbs off our plates. Duck and Waffle, despite the slightly unprofessional service, was an eye-opening dining experience and is definitely worth a visit. Food-wise, stick to the duck and waffle – quoting my lovely companion: "The restaurant is called that for a reason."

Valentine's sweets

Andrada Balmez

Try to do something else for your **special someone** with this step-by-step guide for calorie-heavy sweets and you'll never again buy **chocolate truffles**!

Can you smell it? Try again! I know you can, but maybe you've just got used to it as

it's been here for some days already: LOVE. Oh, yes, you've heard me right. In case you didn't realise, Valentine's is coming in less than a week now. And if you are alone, it's time to worry – you cannot spend one more Valentine's alone. Again! If you are with someone, it's time to worry – you really want to make sure that they do still love you as much as they did in the first day.

As it's said, the path to someone's heart is through their stomach, so you can make sure that the love of your life (this week) will know how much you love her/him by sharing some sweets. And because we are in the food section here, it's easy to imagine that I don't propose you to go and buy some fancy over-priced chocolates, but to bake your love and sweat (maybe less sweat, more love) into something special.

\\ And if you are alone, it's time to worry – you cannot spend one more Valentine's alone. If you are with someone, it's time to worry – you really want to make sure that they do still love you as much as they did in the first day //

Chocolate truffles

This year was the first I've ever tried to make such things and I loved them! I mean, everybody loved them – so much that there was none left after two hours. Easy to make and very effective.

Ingredients:

3 cups high quality chocolate (preferably chips so you don't have to chop it)
1 cup heavy whipping cream
1 tsp vanilla extract
½ tsp cinnamon
cocoa powder – again, look for something that is higher quality, not cheaper

Melt the chocolate for a couple minutes. Keep in mind that you don't have to completely melt it, but to soften it a bit. At the same time, heat the cream to a simmer. Add the vanilla and cinnamon. If you feel like it, you can add some other flavours – mint, rum – but keep in mind that you cannot mix everything so you might need to prepare different batches for different flavours.

On the top of chocolate, add the heavy cream and stir until smooth. Let it cool a bit and then refrigerate it for two hours.

Take the mixture out and, using a teaspoon, roll out little balls of chocolate. Roll them in the cocoa powder and place on baking paper – or any other kind of non-sticky paper. Place in the refrigerator overnight. At this point, you might have to watch over it for the whole night so you can make sure that they'll still be there in the morning.

Also, keep in mind that you

can also roll them in chopped nuts or anything else, really. Maybe you'd fancy some pink decorations you find everywhere this time of the year. Just don't overdo it! Simple is better in this case.

Now, go and impress them!

\\ I don't propose you to go and buy some fancy over-priced chocolates, but to bake your love and sweat (maybe less sweat, more love) into something special //

Chocolate muffins

As expected, this is a bit more complicated recipe, but overall, it's faster as it doesn't require any sitting and refrigerating. In the same time, it has plenty of opportunities for you to fuck up. But hey, at least, you've tried! Don't be intimidated by a couple of possible mistakes. I think I've baked over 100 muffins in my life (if you do some math, you'll see that this is not that much, but... I try to impress you, pretentious reader!) and I still have times when they are just 'OK', not 'perfect'. Preheat the oven to 175°C and spray a muffin tin with cooking spray. Make sure that you have plenty of time and a lot of bowls – I personally always use ten too many bowls.

Melt the butter and 1 cup of chocolate in bowl over a saucepan of simmering

Ingredients:

6 tbsps melted unsalted butter
1 cup chocolate (chips or chopped)
2 cups flour
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
1/3 cup cocoa powder
Nutella
½ tsp salt
1 cup butter milk
1/3 cup chocolate chips
1 tsp cinnamon

water – this is how a real chef would do, but if you feel that's too complicated, use the always-there-when-you-need-it microwave. Stir from time to time until completely melted and smooth.

For the first step you'll

need a rather large bowl. Whisk together the flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder and soda – you may wonder why you need them both; you should go and do some research, that's why you are an Imperial student – salt and cinnamon. In another bowl, whisk the eggs and the butter milk until well combined. Add the melted chocolate and butter and mix until smooth.

Pour the liquid ingredients over the dry ones and mix with a spatula. Make sure that all the ingredients are well incorporated. Add the rest of the chocolate chips and make sure that the mixture is homogeneous, but do not over mix the batter.

Divide the mixture equally in the muffin cups. Put a tsp of the batter, add a tsp of Nutella and then cover with more batter.

Bake for 15-20 minutes.

And now, feel guilty every time you have a bite of one of these definitely-too-much-chocolate muffins, but tell yourself that you'll find your true love despite those stomach rolls – yes, I can see them from over here.

P.S. Try the Callebaut 70.4% chocolate

\\ The path to someone's heart is through their stomach, so you can make sure that the love of your life will know how much you love them by sharing some sweets //





Being non-binary at Imperial is not fun

One Imperial student discusses their time at uni, wishing things would “get better” faster

There is a misconception held by many queer secondary school students that universities are very progressive and tolerant places. The *It gets better* project is all but built on this idea promoted by society that it's okay if times are tough now, because one day you will escape your small town. You will travel to a big city where what once made you different and ostracised will make you popular and interesting. This is a nice narrative, but it's a slow burner, there is no telling when exactly things will 'get

and it took the first term for me to realise the futility of reasoned debate but by then a lot of the damage had been done. It took me two years to start recovering from my resulting severe depression, social anxiety and agoraphobia that resulted.

Male students were more aggressive than their female counterparts, often coming across as personally offended by my lack of femininity. At my first CGCU ball I lost count of the number of times I was asked why I was wearing a suit with some people repeatedly offering to buy me a dress for the next time, insisting it was “too weird” for me to not wear a dress.

In halls I was the first trans person most had met, and for a few, the first gay person. Most laughed and said “they didn't understand, it was too confusing” and that was that, but there were other responses too: “Do you have a vagina?”, “You're too pretty to be gay”, “So you're bicurious?”, and my personal favourite, “No you're not, that's not real”. The people I wasn't out to led to some interesting insights. When asked about trans people one housemate said: “They all

\\ One of these male 'friends', would try and convince me every time he got drunk that I was straight and that homosexuality wasn't a real \\

live in some freak-town somewhere”. I must have missed my eviction notice.

One of these male 'friends', would try and convince me every time he got drunk that I was straight and that homosexuality wasn't a real thing. This lasted two months, and would often happen in crowded rooms. No one ever said anything. How is a queer student meant to feel safe and know they're not disgusting when so many 'allies' sit by and say nothing? What about a non-binary student, with no legal gender recognition, knowing if they do try to make a complaint to hall officers, it'll have to be preceded by a ten minute trans 101 talk, so they can even grasp why you're upset.

The supposed society for LGBT people, IQ had a reputation at the time of being a group of “cis, gay white guys”, and the IQ women's group was hyper-feminine to an extent that I found uncomfortable. I viewed it as just one more place to be harassed, if I wasn't a girl or a guy where was I supposed to go? IQ has since improved greatly, now with trans officers, and the women's group openly welcoming non-binary individuals.

Things alleviated for me in later years, I joined Women's Rugby and the Feminist society – they were the first places I felt safe at Imperial. I'm now in fourth year, and students that didn't understand at all in first year, now share my trans friends. These experiences aren't totally isolated to first year though, I

\\ In halls they bundle up to 300 students in a limited space, take your money, and then wish you luck \\

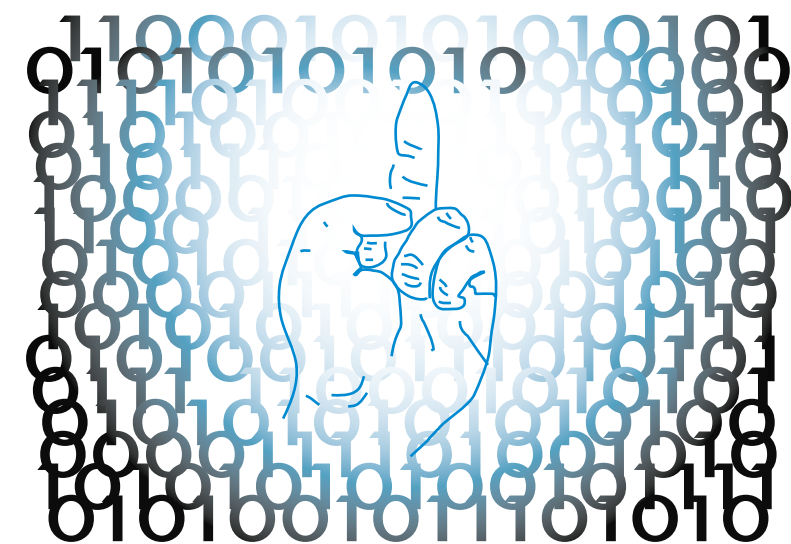
started to try and get people on my course last year to use my pronouns/chosen name, most still call me she/her and by my old name. I got in a fight with a friend who told me I needed “psychiatric help” and he “wanted to save me”. I didn't report it, even the well meaning tutors and students by and large are quite uninformed, for me it just wouldn't be worth it.

Since I cut my hair short, using the women's bathroom (the bathroom I am most comfortable in) is a challenge. I get a lot of stares, double takes, and a couple of times

a week have to explain “I'm not a boy”. In areas where there's drinking it's worse, I've been asked about my genitals multiple times, and recently was half-dragged out of the toilets by a girl.

Imperial doesn't do enough to support and reach out to queer students who are likely to be the victim of harassment and experience poor mental health while under their care. They give us three talks a year on plagiarism and its penalties, but none on what is inappropriate and offensive behaviour towards any marginalised group. In halls they bundle up to 300 students in a limited space, take your money, and then wish you luck. Being made to find yourself disgusting and intolerable for something so inherent to your being, such as your gender identity, such as your sexuality, is a cruel act. Unfortunately I am not alone in this experience, with it potentially having the worst of consequences, 35 to 48% of trans people attempting suicide before the age of 26. This is a widespread problem, and there is a lack of support, education, awareness, and clear punishments for harassing students.

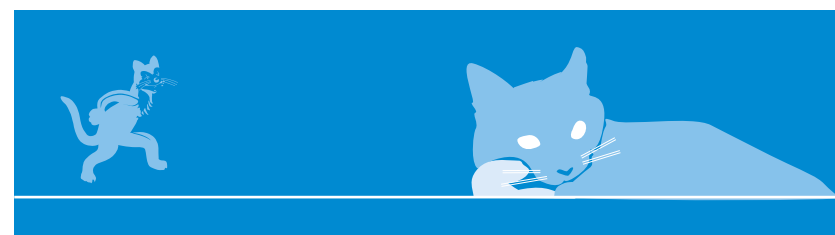
It's taken a few years, but I've eventually found an accepting group of friends who use my correct pronouns and accept me for who I am. You shouldn't have to suffer so someone else can become educated, but there's at least sometimes some positive outcome of it. In answer to the “It gets better” narrative, it may do, but it won't always be an easy journey. I will be graduating this year, and have had some amazing experiences and learned so much but to me Imperial will always be the place that could have been so much better.



\\ Those fresher's are still the same students who were at your school three months ago, it's not like they took a 'how not to be a transphobic/homophobic dick' course over the summer \\

better', and university should certainly not be guaranteed as a boundary of acceptance. Those freshers are still the same students who were at your school three months ago, it's not like they took a 'how not to be a transphobic/homophobic dick' course over the summer.

I was excited about being out and proud from the word go – this was my first mistake. I will say this, I was extremely unlucky. The first two friends I made in halls were very homophobic and transphobic



Fuck Valentine's Day | Asexual and aromantic

Joanna Wormald doesn't really have anything against V Day, but they do mind the complete invisibility of asexuals and aromantics in mainstream culture

The first two weeks in February are an infernal nightmare of constant bombardment with advertisements for jewellery, chocolates, and lingerie – all for that 'special someone'. People in relationships presumably don't mind. Single people complain incessantly about it. For aromantics however, Valentine's Day represents a whole new level of hell. One which is at best an irritation. On a bad day, it can provoke outright nausea.

\\ Hardly anyone knows we exist, which seems strange considering there are more of us than people currently living in the UK \\

We are, put simply, people that do not experience romantic attraction. If you're asexual too (lack of sexual attraction if you hadn't already guessed) you get hit twice as hard since for many people, sex and romance are inseparable. Hardly anyone knows we exist, which seems strange considering there are more of us than people currently living in the UK. Even within the LGBT+ community we are often overlooked. Identities on the aromantic and asexual spectra – those which experience occasional or conditional attraction – are even less well known.

Coming out requires a lengthy vocab lesson and enduring unoriginal and

scientifically inaccurate jokes about plants, mitosis, and robots. Not coming out comes with its own problems – namely the age-old question “When will you get a boyfriend/girlfriend?”. No matter how often you try to explain that you're not interested (or that there are more than two genders) people always seem to think they know what's best for you. The first thing I heard after coming out was “Don't worry, you'll find someone”. It's astonishing that anyone could so spectacularly ignore everything they had just heard. The whole point is I don't want to find someone. Being alone is not an inherently terrible experience. Don't pity us because you assume that being single is a universally sad state of affairs. Explaining this to people usually earns the condescending line “you'll change your mind when you get older”. It gets worse when people think they can change your mind or tell you that you need to be on medication because you're not normal.

As with most minorities, stereotyping is a huge issue. If aromantic asexuals are portrayed as cold and heartless, we're also infantilised. Apathy is not the same as ignorance. We're not all naive and innocent. We understand sex

\\ The first thing I heard after coming out was “Don't worry, you'll find someone” \\

jokes. In fact it's not uncommon for an asexual to be the first person to make a joke just so they can be seen to fit in. Non-asexual aromantics are viewed as promiscuous, especially female aros. And if a non-aromantic asexual enters into a relationship but still doesn't want to have sex, they're accused of being cruel, even abusive towards their partner.

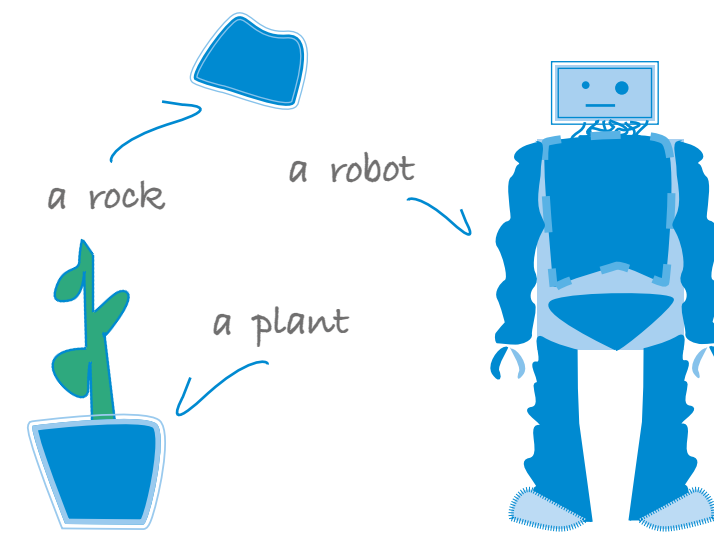
Valentine's Day itself isn't the issue, it's just the most obvious symptom. The problem is the assumption that everybody wants and needs to be in a romantic and sexual relationship in order to be happy and fulfilled. The truth is we don't. Emotional energy is just as rewarding when it's invested in friends or family. Plenty of us are happy without any kind of committed relationship whatsoever. But the concept of settling down, getting married and having kids is repeatedly sold to us as some kind of ultimate goal that we should all aspire to. Sex and romance pervade almost every film, book and TV show you care to name. In the rare case that a character is coded as being aromantic or asexual this is treated as a joke or problem that needs to be solved (think Sherlock Holmes and Sheldon Cooper) or completely ignored (the Riverdale TV show is erasing Jughead's canonical asexuality). This is where invisibility really becomes a problem.

Aromanticism and asexuality aren't talked about. There's no mention of them

in media or in classrooms. You could live your whole life never knowing that we exist. Realising you're not feeling something is a difficult process full of doubt. We know that we're different from most people (although it takes a long time to work out that other people genuinely are interested in dating and not just faking it) but we don't know why. It's not hard to understand why so many of us grow up feeling broken – there's nobody telling us that we're

\\ In the rare case that a character is coded as being aromantic or asexual this is treated as a joke or problem that needs to be solved (think Sherlock Holmes and Sheldon Cooper) \\

Things I shockingly don't identify with despite being an aromantic asexual



not. It's time that aromanticism and asexuality became commonplace concepts. We need representation on our screens and education in our schools. Young people especially ought to be aware that not feeling things doesn't lessen them in any way. We're not broken, we're just not interested. We shouldn't have to constantly explain and defend ourselves. Let us be proud of who and what we

are. Hopefully in future, Valentine's Day won't be such a harrowing time because it will be seen as normal not to want a romantic or sexual relationship. Until then, I'll be following my annual tradition of watching horror movies (where any hint of a relationship is destroyed by a murderous monster) and eating copious amounts of discounted chocolate.



Should the T be dropped from LGBT?

Elizabeth Windo goes over a brief history of the T movement and discusses the place of transgender people within the queer community

It's easy to look from the outside at a pride parade and see a unified grouping of similarly minded people. But under this facade of togetherness, within the LGBT community lies a volatile mixture of groups that sometimes have radically different goals. An example of this is the recent push that has led some, particularly from outside the trans community, to question the place of the T in LGBT.

The 'Drop the T' ideology originally appeared on the website change.org. It

\\ Within the LGBT community lies a volatile mixture of groups that sometimes have radically different goals \\

suggested that within the LGBT community, not only was the 'T' section not a meaningful part of the whole, but that it was fundamentally incompatible with the L, the G, and the B. The argument rested on the fact that the LGB related to sexuality, whereas the T related to gender identity – different things entirely.

The petition itself led to a quick response and dismissal from many people including the leaders of the Human Rights Campaign and GLAAD, a media monitoring organisation founded by LGBT people. These two groups were among those explicitly listed in the petition as bodies that should stop representing the trans

community.

Since then, many other responses have also questioned the 'different ideology' position. While it may be true that sexuality differs from gender identity, the LGBT community has historically been linked due to shared discrimination and oppression based on their attributes rather than being grouped by those attributes themselves. To use an analogy - 'knives are different from forks but we still call them cutlery'. There is also an overlap between the groups – it is not an exaggeration to say that most of the trans community would fall under the LGB umbrella if they were divided. If someone was assigned female at birth, but has always exclusively dated men, if they come out as trans and are treated by society as male, society would view that relationship as a gay one. If they exclusively dated women, it is likely that they would have had significant formative experiences in the lesbian community before transitioning fully – is it fair or reasonable to deny them access to that common space simply because society now treats them as straight? The waters become further muddied with non-binary identities – what would constitute straight in that case anyway?

While the petition has been met by widespread criticism, the movement has gained some support from several trans people. Supporters believe that while the community should remain united, campaigning for rights should be done separately. The motivation for this is that campaigning that focuses explicitly on the trans community is more likely to achieve meaningful progress

\\ The LGBT community has historically been linked due to shared discrimination and oppression based on their attributes rather than being grouped by those attributes themselves \\

likely to live with a yearly income of less than ten thousand dollars per year.

The origin of this petition is unclear, but the movement still crops up and has been associated with several prominent right wing media personalities, many of which are LGBT themselves, such as Milo Yiannopoulos. Some trans people have criticised this as nothing but 'respectability politics', the need to distinguish the parts of the community that have received some societal acceptance with those who are treated less well, and who

\\ Various radical feminist speakers have questioned the legitimacy of someone assigned one sex identifying as another \\

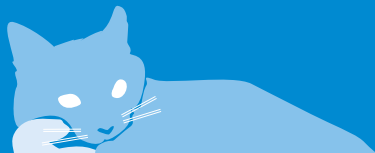
under the pretext of wanting to help trans people on the condition that they do not infringe on women's rights. At other times, it takes a more aggressive slant, with many public-facing trans people reporting significant online harassment from this demographic. Regardless of the way in which it is carried out, the ultimate goal of many such 'gender critical feminists' is to exclude trans people from LGBT and women's spaces, in the same fashion as the original petition.

If there are any hard facts to be gained from this, it is that the LGBT community is not monolithic. There is no single right answer adopted by every member, there is no homogenised belief about what is the correct course of action in every situation. Given the current political climate however, it is the belief of many, including the GLAAD president, Sarah Ellis, that it is more important to focus on unity than refining an existing grouping. In her reply to the original petition, she concluded with the following. 'At a time when anti-LGBT activists continue to attack the basic rights and protections essential to all of our lives, we must stand together, rather than succumb to the ruin of divisiveness'.

than one that targets the entire umbrella. However, organisations such as the Human Rights Campaign have criticised the allegations that the focus of campaigning and support is not on the trans community where it is appropriate. Splitting the focus would at best change nothing, and at worst deprive the transgender community of valuable platforms, numbers, and resources. Estimates place between 0.1% and 0.5% of the population as part of the trans community, many of whom may live in poverty and are unable to spend their time on activism. An investigation by the Center for American Progress found that on average trans and gender non-conforming people are three times more

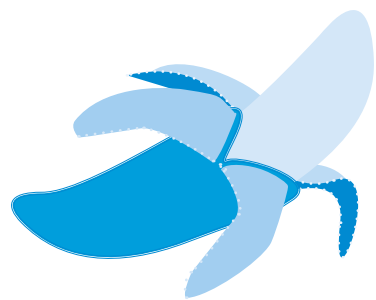
are currently more controversial. While this may be the case, it is important to also consider the historical context. The origins of the 'drop the T' can be traced back a long way, back to the days of Greer's radical feminism. Historically, radical feminism has had a significant overlap with the lesbian community, which has considerable social and academic influence. Various radical feminist speakers have questioned the legitimacy of someone assigned one sex identifying as another. At times, this criticism is done





MILLENNIALS...

felix



SEX

A gay and a lesbian walk into a bar..

... and proceed to shatter any and all illusions you might have about gay sex

B.C. Maile

This week, I met with **B.R. Coli**, a female queer friend, to talk about sex. We wanted to shed some light on the general ins and outs and common misconceptions surrounding gay sex, as well as learn a bit about each other's sex lives and see what common ground we have, and what's different between man sex and... well, woman sex. In adherence to heteronormative gender stereotypes **B.R. Coli's** in pink and **I'm** in blue.

Man-on-man sex

Well I guess it would probably involve one guy putting his penis in the other guy's mouth, or sometimes bum. Maybe some kissing.

Yes that's fairly accurate. Most of my sexual encounters have tended to revolve around oral or bum sex. There is a fairly wide range of things guys do though, hand jobs can be fun. Masturbating two penises together is another one. Rimming is also great if you like that kind of thing.

Woman-on-woman sex*

*We are not sexist and will not refer to it as girl-girl sex

My idea of lesbian sex is that it's probably fairly orally focussed with a fair bit of handy play?

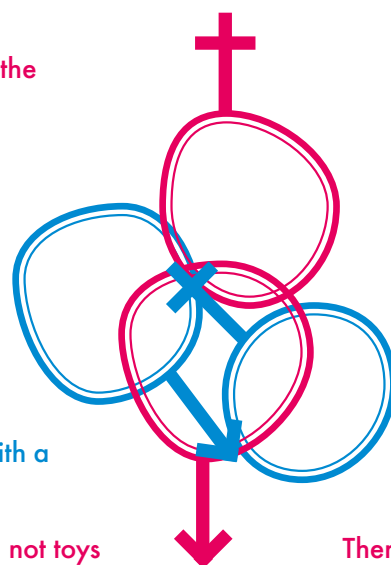
Well oral and manual stuff definitely happens, but more often than not toys are involved. Vibrators, dildos and strap-ons are common. It can be difficult for a lot of girls to orgasm without using a toy of some kind. Do guys use toys much?

OK, I think toys are a fairly common thing for gay guys, although I'd say much less so. They are considered by many to be a bit of a kink.

Tops and bottoms

For guys, there's usually a top (the guy who puts his penis into the other one) and a bottom (the guy who gets a penis put in him). There also tends to be a more dominant and a more submissive partner. The top isn't always the dominant one though, sometimes you get what's called a 'power bottom' who takes the lead in the encounter. For girls, is there a standard behavioural dynamic where partners take distinct roles?

Yes, there tends to be a partner who takes a more dominant role in lesbian sex too. Usually this partner will be using a toy or fingers on a more passive or submissive one. There are some situations where the roles are shared more evenly but I'd say for most, it's an asymmetrical dynamic. Age gaps are also a bit of a thing. Many women only feel able to come out much later in life, and relationships between those women and young lesbians are common.



\\ Well oral and manual stuff definitely happens, but more often than not toys are involved \\

Cumming

Actually a lot of the time you'll fool around for ages without the orgasm being a distinct aim, but it can still be a satisfying and pleasurable sexual encounter without either partner coming. I've always been curious though about bottoms. Do they cum?

Well generally guy sex ends in both partners coming. although sometimes it's just one or neither #helpful. The bottom generally does cum. During butt sex he gets a fair bit of pleasurable stimulation to his prostate. Usually this won't cause a hands free orgasm but it makes it fairly quick when combined with masturbation. Sometimes nobody cums but both partners have a great time. It depends on the nature of the encounter really.

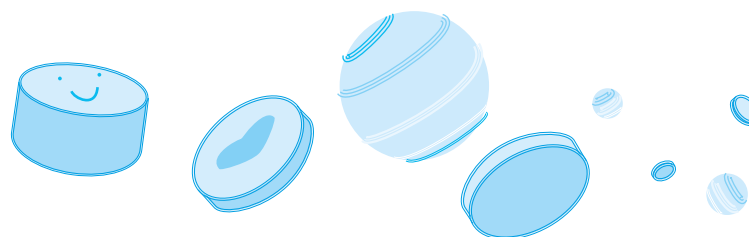
Hookups

There's a bit of a bar scene in London. There are some places where people can go to pull. I'm not super into casual hook-ups but the bars are OK. From my experience, they tend to be geared towards more femme girls and are generally fairly cis-dominated environments. As for apps, the pickings are fairly slim for girls. There's Tinder, which people get some success on. There's also a dating app called Her which is aimed at queer, lesbian and bisexual girls. People aren't generally too willing to meet up on that one though.

I think it can be more difficult for girls to meet each other. There is still a lot of homophobia towards queer or lesbian girls so it can be much more challenging to be open about your sexuality.

I think that's true. The male gay scene generally allows for fairly easy hook-ups. Pulling in bars is fairly common. For me I've met all of my partners through apps. Tinder is also used among gay guys but in my experience, Grindr has yielded much more success. For those who don't know, it's basically like Tinder but everyone swipes right. Sometimes the hypersexual nature of it can be a bit overwhelming though!

Well that's all we have space for! I hope you guys enjoyed and learned something from our chat. There was a lot of stuff I would have liked to include, and many misconceptions about the way 'the gays' get down and dirty that would be great to talk about BUT Rome wasn't built in a day.



DRUGS

Truvada | A cultural symbol

Lef Apostolakis

Truvada is a household name in the gay community. It is the name of a small blue pill containing two antiretroviral compounds, emtricitabine and tenofovir, used to treat HIV. But Truvada does so much more than carry antiretroviral properties. It is charged with symbolism and packed with historic meaning.

Approved by the FDA in the early noughties, it is one of the first 'combination' treatments developed to combat HIV and the second combination treatment that was developed without the highly toxic AZT. For many HIV patients, Truvada was and still is a synonym to life. Before 1997, and despite the development of multiple drugs, HIV treatments were partly efficacious monotherapies, meaning treatment would consist of a single drug. As our understanding of the virus improved we realised that monotherapies allowed the virus to mutate and develop resistance, which explained the poor results.

**\\ For many HIV patients, Truvada is a synonym to life **

However, when the first combination drug was approved by the FDA in 1997, life expectancies improved greatly, allowing HIV positive men and women to live longer, fuller lives. And new

medical developments have been reducing side-effects and improving quality of life ever since.

In 2004 Truvada became FDA approved, adding to our medical arsenal against the virus, and having it incorporated in PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis). In the case of PEP, Truvada is administered (now in conjunction with raltegravir from the NHS) after a high risk encounter (unprotected sex with a positive partner) or a medical accident (accidentally getting stabbed with a contaminated needle).

**\\ HIV massively disproportionately affects marginalised communities that are easily ignored **

In recent years Truvada has also been used on its own as a preventative treatment for HIV and is now commonly used by many gay men. It looks like one Truvada pill a day keeps the doctor away. Or at least reduces new transmissions of HIV by 80 percent, according to the 2016 PROUD study. When one in seven gay men in London have HIV, getting the virus becomes a statistical inevitability. But Truvada has really quickly made the prospect of a future without HIV a lot more concrete. For a lot of gay men, Truvada has come to mean hope.

Sadly it's also becoming

a symbol of the social inequalities that run deep in every community, including the gay community. In the USA, the drug was approved for preemptive use in 2012. Since then, gay men and other high risk groups can be prescribed Truvada in the form of PrEP (Pre Exposure Prophylaxis). But whereas PrEP is covered by most health insurance plans and in some states the drug is freely available to those who are



unable to afford it, there still remain millions of uninsured Americans to whom the cost of PrEP can be as high as 13,000\$ a year. Similarly in the UK, Truvada is only free if it's part of emergency PEP. Getting it pre-emptively as part of PrEP at the moment requires shelling out £400 a month. This can disproportionately impact the unemployed, the disadvantaged, the ethnic minorities, the same way it has done since the very beginning of the HIV pandemic, when by 1990, 30 percent of reported cumulative AIDS cases occurred in black men. Today 39 percent of new HIV

diagnoses in America come from African-Americans.

There's another way in which Truvada brings back memories from the 80s, as it reminds us of the marginalisation of the gay community. In the UK, the adoption and prescription of PrEP was preceded by years of campaigning and a legal battle against the NHS. In the meantime many gay men looked for cheap alternatives abroad, putting their health at risk and conducting their own clinical studies out of necessity. Likewise in the early years of the HIV pandemic, the LGBT community was forced to take matters into its own hands. Through activism and organised action, they made governments pour resources into HIV research and even forced the FDA to speed up and alter the drug authorisation procedure, all while trying new illegal drugs, in hope of finding something, anything, that might counter the virus.

I talked to AJ Pittman, who launched IWantPrepNow, an online resource for anyone trying to access PrEP in the

**\\ People on Truvada are being safe and taking responsibility for their health **

UK, and he agrees. "People were doing this in the 80s. It's 35 years later and governments and world health

organisations still haven't learned. HIV massively disproportionately affects marginalised communities that are easily ignored."

It also raises questions about the future of safe sex. Will PrEP cause the abandonment of condom use or has

**\\ One Truvada pill a day keeps the doctor away **

Truvada become a symbol of empowerment? "People on Truvada are being safe and taking responsibility of their health" says Pittman. "Some people go on Truvada because they're already not using condoms and some people might use condoms a bit less but at the end of the day healthcare professionals advise it's used in conjunction with condoms. Besides there are many other STIs to be worried about."

Still, this doesn't stop some members of the gay community being labelled as 'Truvada Whores'. When asked about the slur Pittman is quick to dismiss it. "No, fuck you, I'm actually being safe" he says cheerfully. "People wear it proudly on their t-shirts. Truvada Whore is a derogatory term that we're reclaiming." Maybe if the NHS sold 'Truvada Whore' t-shirts it could fund PrEP.

Imperial College London



Student Support Fund

If you suddenly find yourself in **financial difficulties** or experience an unexpected change in circumstances, you may be eligible to apply for **emergency financial help** through the Student Support Fund.

**CONTACT THE STUDENT
FINANCIAL SUPPORT TEAM
TO FIND OUT MORE:**

+44 (0)20 7594 9014

Student Hub, Level 3,
Sherfield Building

www.imperial.ac.uk/fees-and-funding

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



CRISIS

Chris

Dear Chris

I've hit a wall, a ceiling in fact. A glass ceiling to be precise. My lab supervisor is a sexist pig and continues to hand the more difficult tasks to my male lab partner. The other day he just came out and said that I couldn't manage any of the 'trickier' procedures, due to my 'delicate feminine nature'.

Like wtf brah? Does he even lift? No for real, I bench press 250. I can take him. Fight me. I dare you.

Anyway, I obviously need to handle this differently. I spoke up the other day and was told off. But I clearly still think it's an issue.

Advice?

Yours,
Barbara Ewenis PhD

Dear Barb,

In times like these I like to think of strong independent women, like Elizabeth Warren. She was warned, she was given an explanation, nevertheless, #ShePersisted.

Sometimes though the only solution is violence. Maybe next time you're in the library, grab that dolly the sheep papier mache sculpture, take it to the laaaaaaaab and smack him with it repeatedly until he sees reason #SheepAssisted.

So many women before you have given up, left science and dismissed their career aspirations. I personally think it comes down to shear pressure. But after your stunt, people will say "Not Baaaarbara, #SheepAssisted."

Don't tell anyone of your violent plans. They'll

try and convince ewe that violence is never the answer. They might ask ewe, 'What would Jesus do?'. But ewe goat to stay strong. #SheepAssisted

So lambast that baaaaaaastard and don't look baaaaack.

Ewe herd me.

Big luv,
Chris xxxx

HOROSCOPES



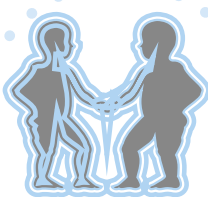
ARIES

This week you decide to stay home and Watch *Titanic*. YOU COULD HAVE SHARED! WHY! How will your heart go on without Jack? HOW?



TAURUS

This week you get into a fight with your bestie cause she says you look just like Kim K, but you were really going for a Celine Dion vibe.



GEMINI

This week you see someone far across the distance, you start crossing the street to eliminate the space between us, you want to show you go on but you realise it's not Celine Dion and lose interest.



CANCER

This week someone says you have excessive sentimentality. You didn't hear them, you were listening to Celine Dion's *My heart will go on* on your ipod nano.



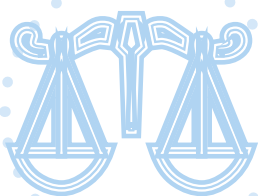
LEO

This week you get Celine Dion's *My heart will go on* stuck in your head. You hum it incessantly. You drive your housemates crazy until finally one of them snaps and kills you. #sorrynotsorry



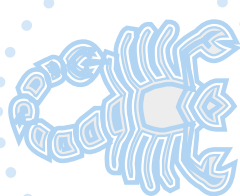
VIRGO

This week your housemate goes missing. You feel incredibly sad, but it's not because of that. Celine Dion's *My heart will go on* has been stuck in your head and how can you even continue living like this?



LIBRA

This week you hear about a Celine Dion epidemic. You dismiss it as a silly rumor until you walk into the library. It's silent, but for someone's muffled humming. What are they humming? Near... far? Where-



SCORPIO

This week you pop to the corner shop to buy some fags. The cashier is singing along to the radio. You recognise the song. Is it Cher? Suddenly Celine Dion bursts into the shop, and shoots the cashier, shouting "Therer can only be one!"



SAGITTARIUS

This week you think you're seeing things. Just the other day you were walking down the street when a car pulls over, Celine Dion jumps out with a gun and into a shop. You hear shots and Celine comes out all bloody. You should quit pot.



CAPRICORN

This week every night in my dreams, I see you, I feel you, That is how I know you go on. Oh no, it's happening to you too. You grab a knife from the kitchen. Your last words are "You can't have me!"



AQUARIUS

This week you fear you are the sole survivor in the city, maybe the world. Everyone else has been claimed by the Celine Dion Pandemic. You don't know if there's anyone out there. You're too scared to turn on the radio.



PISCES

This week once more you open the door And you're here in my heart And my heart will go on and on.



IC American Football clip Falcons' wings

The Kent Falcons were our first game this season, all the way back on the 6th of November. As memory serves, we lost that game in a narrow overtime loss. The team have come far since then, and we showed it this Sunday. The Falcons (no Super Bowl relation) were quickly given the ball after an unsuccessful Imperial Immortals' drive lead to a score for the Falcons. There were evidently some nerves over the new offensive playbook. The hollow bones of the Falcons were then shaken by monstrous runs by Jason 'Book your hospital bed' Patrick Kuilan who won ONLY Offensive MVP, even with the absolutely savage hits on defence where he also plays line-backer. He scored the first touchdown with a bone-shattering run that unfortunately left an

injured Falcon in his wake, the Imperial Immortals wish the Falcon a speedy recovery. A two-point conversion was scored with a leaping catch by Aaron 'don't knock it 'til you try it' Wilson. Aaron went on to make quite a few catches both on offence, defence and Metric (one catch was the touchdown that won us the game), so his plays made him deserving of the honour of overall MVP. This was a joint award given to Lukas '40 yard crawl' Hanns for his plays on both offence and defence that included an excellently-executed reverse play that had him strolling toward the

\\ Currently the Immortals are UNDEFEATED at #FortHarlington \\

end zone. Unfortunately he was hit out of bounds within ten yards but a short pass gave Aaron the touchdown. Defence was as stellar as always with Teddy Tal-e-on-ping-pong (Defensive MVP) leading them to an almost perfect game. A new face on defence was Dan 'not in my swamp' Grumberg (Line MVP) who ate up the Falcons' runs all day. Special teams can be personified by one play of Markus 'My pres' Mohr (Special team MVP), when he bulldozed the unsuspecting kick returner leaving the Falcon spread-eagled (pun fully-intended) on the floor looking up to Markus who was standing above him with a pose that clearly stated: "Don't step to me, fam".

It ain't pretty, this home of ours. It could even be the long lost third Heathrow runway, but one thing is for sure, it's ours; our home. Currently the



Immortals are UNDEFEATED at #FortHarlington, and we will look to stay that way going into our game next week, against top-of-the-league Cambridge Pythons, who we lost narrowly against last week. We are looking for players and chain crew; the latter will pay the handsome sum of £10 to come along,

watch the game and support the referees (and Immortals). Please do get in touch: www.facebook.com/ImmortalsAFC/

#HustleHitNeverQuit
#BecomeImmortal

Imraj Singh

A new hope | First victory of 2017

A man with a Scouse accent, unfortunate bowels and admittedly good tackling technique once said: 'Imperial have never won a game without me'. The record remained standing as IC 1s dominated the set-piece to win a comfortable away victory against Surrey. Man of the Match Tom 'Shuz' Szyzko put in an admirable shift as the forward pack won themselves a penalty try after numerous scrums on the opposition five metre line. Strong defence around the ruck kept Surrey's attack to a minimum, although some

slow folding caught IC off guard out wide a few times. However, excellent scramble defence kept Surrey just short of the line and IC were soon back on the front foot, and a late first half penalty helped Imperial lead 10-0 at the break. A strong start to the second half put IC back in Surrey's 22, and Shuz soon surprised all with a burst of speed and dexterity to batter down the defence and

\\ Excellent scramble defence kept Surrey just short of the line \\

score a textbook reaching-try. Charles Price-Smith, spurred on by a female friend supporting on the touchline, slotted the conversion from out wide. Another try was scored out wide to bring the score to 22-0. IC pushed for the bonus point, but Charles wanted to catch up with his friend on the sideline and promptly got himself a yellow card. With Imperial's defence stretched and some rushed exits, Surrey came back to score two tries before the impending whistle. Final score 22-12. Congrats to Shuz for a stand-out return, and to DNS for a quality defensive game.

Josh O'Donnell





Patriots leave it late to secure historic win

Super bowl came about due to a merger agreement between two of the rival American football leagues the AFL (American Football league) and the NFL (National football league). This became official in 1970 when the NFL we all know and love was created. At that time there were only 26 teams, the rest were added as part of expansion programs (there have been talks of an UK based expansion team with 2022 set as the target date). The first Super bowl was played in Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum with the crème de la crème of the NFL and AFL being the Green Bay Packers and Kansas City Chiefs respectively. Under the coaching of the legendary Vince Lombardi the Green Bay Packers won the game. Quarterback Bart Starr was named Super bowl MVP for his dominant 250 yard, two touchdown performance; impressive in those times. The following year the Packers won again against the Oakland Raiders with the Raiders' line-backers' coach being John Madden, who has his name attributed to the long-running Madden NFL video game series. The more you know...

The Super bowl trophy is famously named the Vince Lombardi trophy, but why? From what I have told you already Vince Lombardi has only won two Super Bowls, Bill Belichick the New England Patriots head coach has already won four (*spoilers* now five). Well you see, it isn't all about numbers. He is the benchmark of what it is to be a great coach, leader and man. Fifty years on and the coaches of today still look up to him. His dedication and passion to win is unparalleled and can be summarised in this quote: "Winning isn't everything; it's the only

thing", he never coached a losing season and had a 90% win rate in post-season. Unfortunately, in 1970, at the age of 57, he passed away due to cancer of his colon. With his sudden passing the newly merged NFL decided to name the Super bowl trophy after the man that had given so much to the sport. On his deathbed he reportedly said that he regretted having not achieved more in his life. With expectations of himself like that, it is easy to understand how he achieved so much. A relentless, unwavering dedication to the sport of American football. An ideal that all players, and coaches must strive to achieve. The

\\ Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing \\

pinnacle of excellence, the Vince Lombardi Trophy. On February 5th of this year, the fifty first super bowl was played (LI for those Romans out there), and as you probably heard, it was contested by the Atlanta Falcons and New England Patriots.

The first half was a very dominant performance by the Falcons with Matt Ryan as quarterback (a position sometimes referred more fittingly as Field General), delivering a devastating aerial assault on the Patriots defence. With short bullet passes and long bombs to his receivers, his cannon of an arm obliterated yards. A big advantage was having Julio 'the freak' Jones that seems to be genetically engineered to play ball, he is six foot three, 220 pounds, with a sub-4.4 second 40 dash time. Perhaps you don't know what that means, but let me assure you he is a beast. Julio managed to couple his power, and strength, with a control and elegance that



allowed him to make some epic plays that included some 'toe drag swag' that kept him inbounds and allowed him to catch the seemingly uncatchable. As well as the catches, the threat of him alone meant the Patriots defence assigned more attention to him. This allowed Taylor Gabriel, Austin Hooper, and Mohamed Sanu, to make some plays. Although a lot can be said about the aerial assault, what I felt gave the offence momentum was the devastating ground and pound run game. Predominantly it was Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman in the backfield, these two running backs are still at the start of their careers with less than five years in the league between them. The Falcons' offensive line punched holes through the Patriots' defensive allowing the two running backs to explode through into the Patriots second level. Jump-cutting, handing off and trucking their way toward the end zone, the duo instilled

fear in the Patriots defence. It cannot be said that the Patriots offence looked drab and uncoordinated, with a player like Tom Brady at the helm it would never be so. It was the Falcon's Defence that played out their skin. This is evidenced by an 82 yard pick six from Robert Alford, Brady isn't one to make stupid mistakes and looking at the tape again you can appreciate how great (albeit

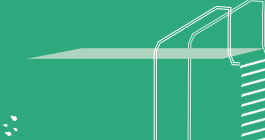
\\ Flying downhill to snag the ball out of the receiver's hands; he seemed to know exactly where the ball was going \\

risky) of a play this was by the Falcons' player. Flying downhill to snag the ball out of the receiver's hands; he seemed to know exactly where the ball was going...

Once in his hands it was open field except from a dramatic attempt at a tackle from Brady. When the half finally came to a close the score was 21-3 Falcons with the only score from the Patriots being a 41-yard field goal.

When it got to half-time the mood in the Union ranged from deep melancholy to exuberant elation. Falcons' fans were over the moon with the dominant first half they had. On the other hand, the Patriots' fans were left with an (almost) insurmountable score deficit and the repugnant smell of defeat in their nostrils. Faith seemed to be all but lost, both in the game and their famed GOAT (greatest of all time) quarterback Tom Brady.

To the non-dedicated and uninterested fans the best part of the night was just starting at the Union: The halftime show. Cue the lights, the music, and Lady Gaga in the most comical of American football equipment flying around NRG Stadium (in a



\\ Keith Allison

harness obviously). It was very early in the morning and the sea of people that occupied 568 were full off chicken wings, burgers and curly fries, as well as American beverages, all organised by the Imperial Immortals (Imperial's

\\ After the great joviality, the team I was supporting in a confident lead and nine am commitments I headed to bed... What a plonker \\

own American Football club). Along with the American beverages the bravest of the brave tried Immortals team beverage 'Slime'. A 'sounds worse than it is' drink whose constituents are beer, cider and lime cordial (actually rather good!). In this state the party started, party lights came on, music was pumped up, and the vibe was all the better with hardened Patriots fans even having a boogie. After the great joviality, the team I was supporting in a

confident lead and nine am commitments I headed to bed... What a plonker.

Having now watched the second half (although not at the Union and as post-mortem). I can somewhat comment on what took place. It was Tom Brady living up to his title of GOAT, and the defence straight balling on an overly complacent Falcons' offence. At the start the Patriots offence seemed to struggle, making the same mistakes and failed drives as the first half. The initial change happened on the defence, when they stopped the Falcons' drives consistently. This was a theme for the rest of the game. Personally, I would say the turning point of the game was early in the fourth quarter when line-backer Dont'a Hightower flies off the edge, evading Devonta Freeman's feeble attempt at a block, then to

\\ In college he played quarterback NOT the wide-receiver and punt specialist he came to play as in the NFL \\

smack Matt Ryan off his feet and force the fumble. The fumble was recovered by the Patriots giving them great field position and momentum. It's fair to say Matty ice was not so cool after that.

The other play of note is Julian Edelman's miracle 'shoe' catch... After the ball was tipped by a Falcons' player, there was a free-for-all which left Edelman sandwiched between three Falcons' players. Juggling the ball, Edelman with the concentration of a monk, managed to keep the ball from hitting the ground even when a rogue foot tried to dislodge it from his grip. A few times he seemed to let go of the ball and it was held there by what seemed to be divine intervention waiting to be plucked from the ether (on second thought it was just slow motion...). Edelman was seventh round draft pick in the 2009 NFL draft. In college he played quarterback NOT the wide-receiver and punt specialist he came to play as in the NFL. Tom Brady was even sixth round pick, and the James White (their running back who now holds the record of most points scored in a Super bowl) was an unknown of the 4th round pick.

The Patriots seem to build their franchise on overlooked players. To take the fire within them from being dntrodden, and channelling it to be great. This can't be all attributed to a chance or some implicit attribute of the franchise. One source is the record breaking head coach that has led the Patriots to win five Super bowls during his time. Bill Belichick, like Vince Lombardi, cares only about winning which can be summarised by his comment after winning one of the (in my opinion) most memorable Super Bowls: "As of today, and as great as today feels and as great as today is, in all honesty we're five weeks behind in the 2017 season." This inexhaustible work ethic is what gives the Patriots a winning season year after year.

I pains me to say it but Tom Brady is the GOAT... The records he set during this Super Bowl are as follows:

Most Super Bowls played in - 7

Most passes over his career in Super Bowls - 309

Most passes in a Super Bowl

- 62

Most completions over his career in Super Bowls - 207
Most completions in a Super Bowl - 43

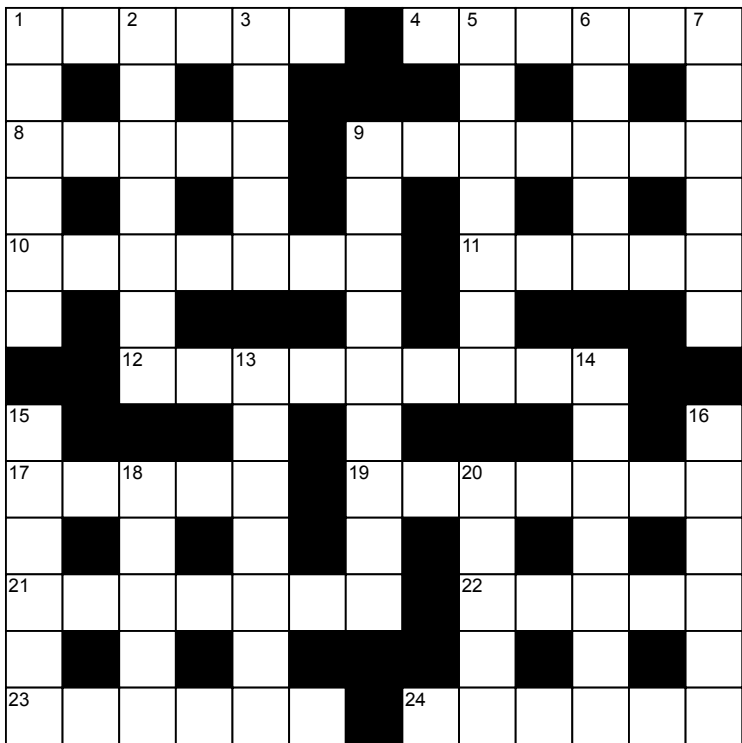
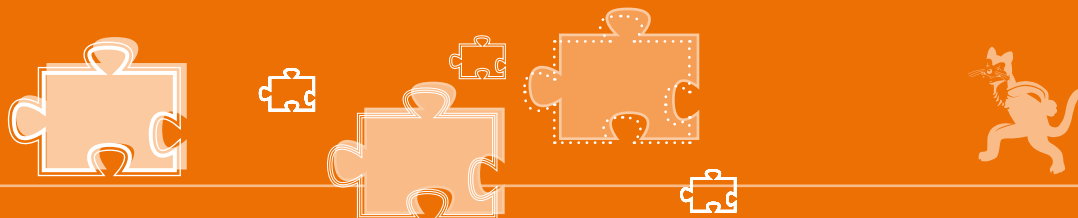
Most passing yards over his career in Super Bowls - 2071

Most passing Yards in game - 466

Most touchdown passes in a Super Bowl - 15

He is truly the greatest of all time; to keep his composure, and to overcome the largest point deficit (25 points) ever recorded in a Super Bowl. No wonder he was named Super Bowl MVP. The final score was 34-28 Patriots, a defensive shutout for the second half by the Patriots, and overtime touchdown sealed the game. Perhaps the best match that will be played in my lifetime, and I missed it! Moral of the story: don't be a wettie, go to the Union and watch one of the greatest sporting spectacles in the world. Celebrate or drown your sorrows, sleep is for the weak.

felix ... PUZZLES

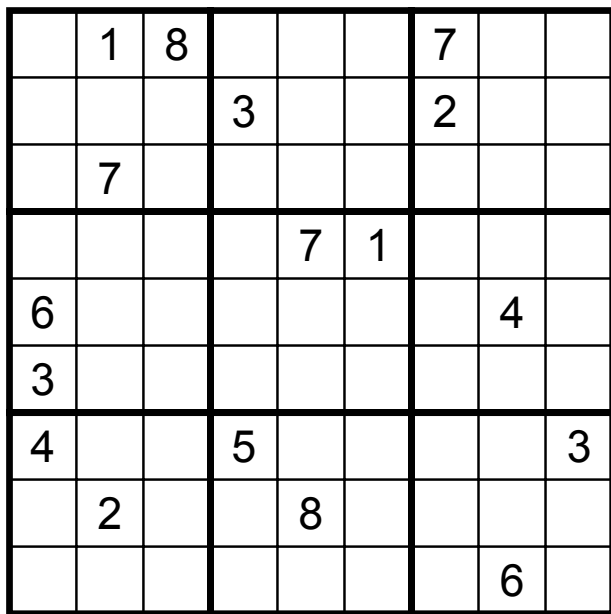


Across

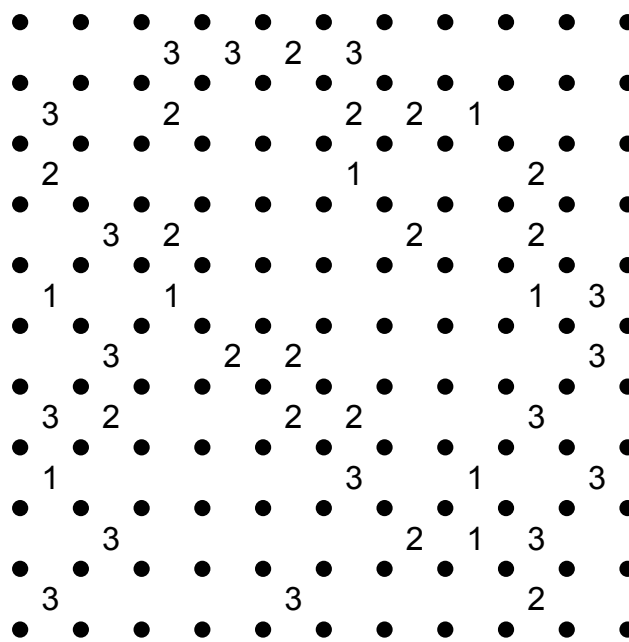
- 1. Licit (6)
- 4. Watership Down animal (6)
- 8. Judged by law (5)
- 9. Gruesome (7)
- 10. Clothing (7)
- 11. Force out (5)
- 12. Devoted (9)
- 17. Term of respect in India (5)
- 19. Generous (7)
- 21. Lacking subtlety (7)
- 22. Bring up (5)
- 23. Overindulgence (6)
- 24. Instructed (6)

Down

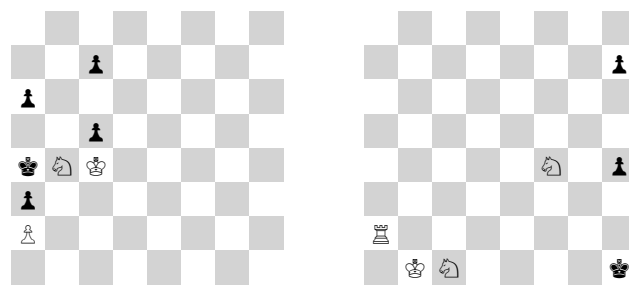
- 1. Deadly (6)
- 2. Aerated (7)
- 3. Below (5)
- 5. Very old (7)
- 6. Scripture (5)
- 7. Pact (6)
- 9. Small things (9)
- 13. Doubtful (7)
- 14. Beloved (7)
- 15. Onto dry land (6)
- 16. Customer (6)
- 18. Mayhem (5)
- 20. Previous name for Asian country (5)



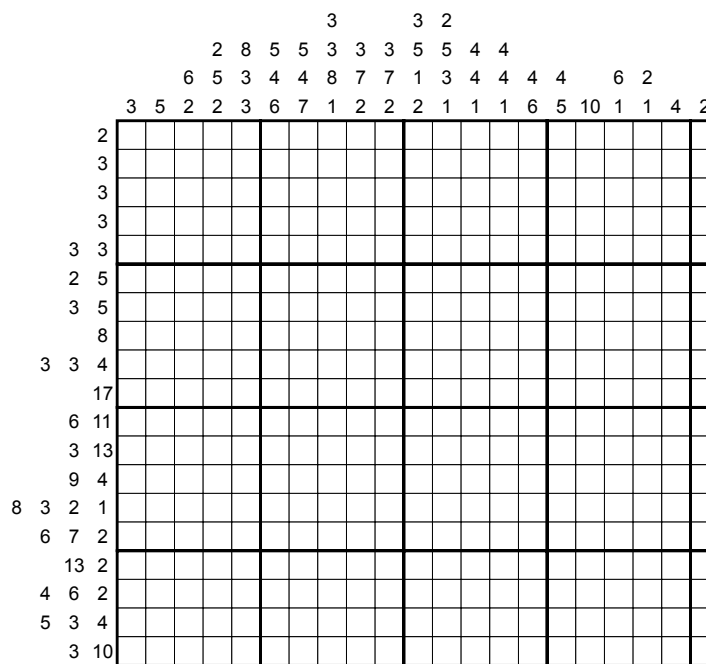
Send in your solutions to fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk before midday Wednesday to get your score added to our leaderboard. Make sure you include the name/team name that you'd like us to use!



Slitherlink. Draw a single, continuous loop through adjacent points such that the number in each cell has that many borders filled. Each point should be connected to two or no other points.



Forced checkmate in 6 moves (left) and 3 moves (right). White to move first in both problems.



Nonogram. The numbers show, in order, the length of blocks to be filled along that row/column. Each block must be separated by at least one empty cell.

FUCWIT

Leaderboard

The Czechmates	269
Anonymous	268
NSNO	262
Willie Rush	262
Schrödingers Cat Strikes Back	249
Sneezing Pandas	194
Les Nuls	159
Guinea Pigs	134
The Gravitons	130
TIA	119
CEP MSC	114
Grilled Cheese Inc.	92
The Anti-Gravity Acorns	78
Kenny Wangler, Cunnyfangler	77
Yellow Fever	77
Puzzled	62
Beasts	60
THE Crystallographer	59
Chemical Brethren	55
DQ	45
The Couple on the Train	41
RollEEEE	40
Civeng Eating	39
The Ultimate Fucwit	38
Big Mahmoud	36
Christo, Jay and Erkin	26
Grand Day in Cullercoats	25
Lube Lords	23
Bananana	20
The Mystical Spankyman	20
Les Baguettes	18
Salmon ft. Kanye	18
Poulet	15
Hillary Killed Harambe	14
Computer Magic	12
Pseudo-coup	12
Shusie-Q	12
Slyther Inc	12
G. Hackman	10
Tessa and Simran	9
Pollux	7
Dairylea Dunkers	6
Too gay 2 f(x)	6
Crosswordy McCrosswordface	5
Singed Potato	4
TP-LINK_M5_B057AD	4
Dat Boi	3
Karet Slat	3
Fanny Schmeller	2

Points Available

Crossword	6
Slitherlink	3
Chess	6
Sudoku	3
Nonogram	3

Solutions

