

Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London

NEWS



Imperial sink to the bottom of the green league tables

PAGE 6

COMMENT



We need to expand Ethos right now

PAGE 9

MUSIC



Taylor Swift's new album is one to avoid

PAGE 19

TV



Our take on Bojack season 4

PAGE 20



The long delays and lack of support from the Union greatly affected Helen's mental health and wellbeing // Felix

Union's handling of sexual assault "more distressing" than assault itself, says Imperial alumna

NEWS

Fred Fyles

Editor-in-Chief

• *Union & College take seven months to conclude investigation*

• *Perpetrator allowed to ascend to a position of authority*

• *Victim says Union's "insincerity and incompetence" was "demoralising"*

After returning to Imperial College Union for a society-related event at the beginning of this year, Helen – a recent graduate – was sexually

assaulted by David, a member of that society's committee. After she reported the attack, the College and Union took seven months to conclude her allegations were true, in which time the perpetrator had become president of the society.

Sexual abuse is widespread on university campuses: some reports suggest that a quarter of female students in the UK have been sexually assaulted, with many more experiencing harassment. Given the scale of the problem, it is reasonable to assume that the College and the Union are able to respond to reports of sexual abuse in ways that are fair, supportive, and put student welfare first. Helen's experience,

however, was defined by miscommunication, lack of a reliable point of contact, and the absence of support for the victim, society, or investigator.

I first met Helen towards the end of September, exactly six months since she had first reported the incident. We spent about 40 minutes in a cafe near where she is now working, and discussed the case. Her responses to my questions were measured and considered, but it was clear that she felt – and continues to feel – angry and disillusioned with her experience.

§

Helen did not raise a complaint immediately, remaining conflicted about the decision for

around two months: "I was terrified that personal attacks would be used to dismiss my allegation: I'd had some wine, I was wearing a low cut dress, I like to flirt with people anyway. This prevented me from coming forwards, despite knowing what had happened was non-consensual," she said.

What prompted her to report it, however, was discovering that David was running to be president of the society associated with the event. Such a role, she felt, would place him in an "inappropriate and potentially dangerous" position of power. This was something she had experienced herself; during her freshers' year at another university, her respect for a student president's authority meant she

was taken advantage of sexually, and she feared this could happen again.

Hours before the society's AGM, she told the outgoing president what had happened; they responded with sincerity and recommended that she report it to the Union. After informing two Union staff members, she was referred to the College, who, during their initial investigation, passed her between three different individuals. While this was because the College wanted to follow the recommended guidelines, providing her with a female staff member when she gave her statement, at no point was she assigned an official point of contact. After giving her statement, she went nearly a month with no contact, despite

Cont. pg 4

EDITORIAL

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL 2

NEWS 3-8

COMMENT 9-10

SCIENCE 11

ARTS 12

BOOKS 13-15

MUSIC 18-19

TV 20-21

FOOD 22-23

LIBERATION 25

C&S 27

HANGMAN 28-29

PUZZLES 30

SPORTS 31-32

Felix Office
Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road
London, SW7 2BB
Tel: 020 79548072
Email: felix@ic.ac.uk
felixonline.co.uk
@feliximperial
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Imperial is only as good as its failures

Amid all the horrific revelations of sexual misconduct that are being unearthed in both Hollywood and Westminster currently, one of the main questions being asked is ‘how?’ How could they have gotten away with it for so long? How much bravery does it take the people who have suffered to come forward? How can we stop this from happening again?

Many of the articles and coverage has focused on individual cases – while this is important, it is also vital to look at what structures were in place to allow them to carry on with impunity in the first place. These men, and many others who committed similar acts, did so in a culture that allowed them to get away with it – a culture that didn’t listen to those who spoke out, or didn’t take them seriously enough.

But while we’re used to looking on from afar at these cases, I want us to focus a bit closer to home. Statistics from the UK police say that 400,000 women will be the victims of sexual violence each year – the majority of these will suffer in silence,

without reporting what has happened. University campuses are no different: the NUS has reported that a quarter of women students have been sexually assaulted, and many more harassed. Those who do come forward are only the tip of the iceberg. About two months ago, one former student who had been sexually assaulted got in touch with me, to tell her story. But while the assault alone would have been horrific enough to endure, what followed when she reported it was far worse: a seven-month long investigation, during

which time she felt ignored, unsupported, and not listened to. She was passed from the Union to the College, and back again, with no single point of contact. She went for long periods with absolutely no contact from those in charge, despite numerous emails. The whole experience greatly damaged her mental health, to the point where she felt she was losing her grip on reality.

She raised the complaint when she found out the perpetrator would be assuming a position of authority in a student society,

but – shockingly – when the verdict came through, the Union said that, since he wasn’t in that position when he committed the assault, it had no impact, and he should remain in post. To me, this shows a complete misunderstanding of how sexual violence works: it’s not really about desire or lust, but power, and how abusers can wield it over others. At a time when this message is being shouted loud and clear from the front page of every newspaper, the fact the Union did not take this on its jaw-dropping.

Any institution is measured, not by its successes, but by its failures. The Union and the College did not do enough, as a whole, in this case, and the results are clear. Whether or not individuals are to blame is a moot point: there were many people who could have intervened, and didn’t, and there are many people at fault. This alumna’s experience sends out extremely concerning messages about how sexual violence is dealt with at Imperial, and whether those in positions of responsibility can really deal with it – how could this have happened?



Fred Fyles – Felix Editor



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NEWS

Students support TEF but fear medal system will have negative impact on graduate prospects

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NEWS

Joanna Wormald
Deputy Editor

Concerns remain over the way teaching quality is assessed as value of student input is slashed by half.

Students largely agree with the principle of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) but are less convinced about the way it is currently implemented, according to a survey commissioned by a consortium of student unions, including Imperial College Union.

The *Teaching excellence: the student perspective* report analysed data from a survey of 8,994 students from 123 higher education institutions. It found 84% of students agreed universities should be encouraged to provide excellent teaching. This is the driving idea behind TEF, which uses three metrics to judge teaching quality and give universities a gold, silver, or bronze rating.

The current methodology considers graduate prospects, drop-out rates, and NSS scores. More than half of students favoured their feedback being used to evaluate teaching. However, the weighting given to NSS scores will be halved in the third year of TEF. This means student feedback will be “significantly less important” in future TEF rankings.

When asked to rank factors that demonstrate excellent teaching, graduate outcomes came bottom. While 68% of students said universities should be responsible if teaching is “not good

enough to enable them to succeed”, only 34% believed universities should be held to account if job rates are low. Just 18% agree universities should be accountable when students drop out.

The vast majority of respondents said the TEF should also consider IT facilities, library services, and course-specific resources.

Most students were in favour of the medal ranking system but 3 in 5 were against linking TEF ratings to tuition fees. Under initial plans, universities with a gold would be able to increase their tuition fees in line with inflation. However this has since been impeded by Conservative plans to freeze tuition fees in a bid to win over young voters (*Felix* 1670).

Problems remain with the medal system. Half of students would reconsider or not apply to their current university if it had a bronze rating. For gold-rated universities, 6% of students would reconsider or not apply. This varied by ethnicity: BAME students were twice as likely not to apply to a gold-rated university compared to white students.

There were also fears that the rating of a university could harm graduate prospects. Students were concerned employers would look more favourably on someone with a 2:1 from a gold- or silver-rated university than someone with a first from a bronze-rated university. Furthermore, variation across departments could lead to gold-rated universities running bronze-rated courses and vice versa.

The Union said: “We’re pleased to have worked in partnership with over 20 other students’ unions to gain an insight into what students think of



Universities minister Jo Johnson announced further TEF changes// Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

the Teaching Excellence Framework, and we’re proud that our research is having a real impact on the debate within the higher education sector. We look forward to raising the findings with College through our Academic Representation Network, highlighting the importance students place on teaching excellence and the quality of resources, rather than employment rates, when deciding if college has met their expectations.”

TEF ratings released earlier this year caused controversy when several

Russell Group universities were given bronze ratings. Imperial was one of eight Russell Group universities that achieved gold status. At the time, Imperial provost Professor James Stirling said: “Excellence in education is at the very heart of our mission. Our teaching must be as innovative, agile and world-leading as our research.”

The survey was conducted by **trendence** UK and gathered quantitative and qualitative data from undergraduate and post-graduate students.

Universities are keen

Unintended consequences

A consultation published in September 2016 revealed concerns that using graduate prospects would disadvantage universities offering courses in fields such as creative arts, where “highly-skilled employment” is less common. This would also be the case where graduates take a gap year or work in lower-level jobs before gaining highly-skilled employment. The report also revealed an “associated risk” of universities accepting fewer women, ethnic minorities, and people from disadvantaged backgrounds on to their courses in order to achieve a higher graduate employment rating.

Non-continuances are more commonly the result of university-related factors other than teaching quality. An “unintended consequence” of the non-continuance metric was also noted: universities may reduce the number of students who are “less likely to succeed” or make courses

to achieve high TEF scores, since many feel

Employers may prefer candidates with a 2:1 from a gold- or silver-rated university than someone with a first from a bronze-rated university.

less demanding in order to improve retention. So the metric is not strongly linked to teaching quality and will potentially lead to accepting only privileged candidates that are more likely to succeed. But the measure remains, with the government insisting that non-continuation rates are “a good proxy for student engagement”.

Student satisfaction is useful in reflecting teaching quality so long as data from the “teaching on my course” questions of the National Student Survey are used rather than overall satisfaction rates. Problems here are largely to do with lower satisfaction scores awarded to female and ethnic minority academics. Not to worry though: government analysis insists there is no significant relationship between the proportion of female academics and satisfaction scores and only a “very small” relationship regarding ethnic minorities.

they are attractive to potential students. However, six universities have recently been reprimanded by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) over unsubstantiated claims in their marketing materials. Leicester University, Falmouth University, Teesside University, East Anglia University, the University of Strathclyde, and the University of West London were all instructed to remove misleading material from their websites, implying that universities were leaders in specific subjects or regions.

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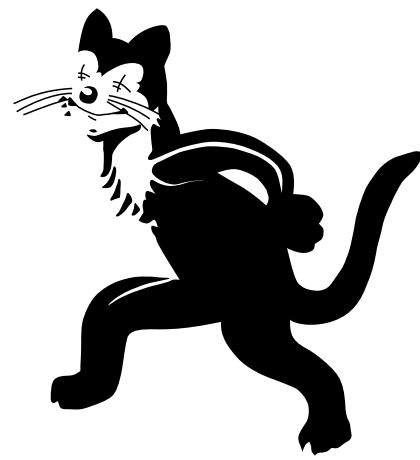


Felix have teamed up with IC Radio to present the *Felix* Podcast!

Each week Rob Garside will be interviewing the team all about how *Felix* is made, and the stories we publish each week.

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NEWS

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Victim says Union "should not take on" sexual assault

After reporting her sexual assault, Helen's experience was defined by miscommunication, lack of a reliable point of contact, and absence of support.

NEWS

Fred Fyles

Editor-in-Chief

Cont.

several emails to the staff members she'd been in touch with.

These periods of radio silence continued throughout the investigation. When she heard back from the College, they said the case had been passed on to another staff member, who then informed her it had been passed back to the Union. She then waited more than six weeks for a Union staff member – who had been assigned to lead the investigation – to get in touch, asking for another statement. Even when the investigation was drawing to a close, she experienced a period of two weeks in which she tried repeatedly to get in touch with the investigator, with no success.

"I spent most of this

time in complete despair. The most painful times were when I knew [the perpetrator] was enjoying events which I stayed away from, out of fear that I would come across him," Helen said. "The other overwhelming feeling was of isolation. I had no reliable contact and would go weeks hearing nothing. I was consumed with the case, while nobody responsible for it seemed to care, or even acknowledge it. This made me feel my grip on reality was slipping."

Helen has a severe, long-term mental health condition which intensifies emotional pain, requiring her to go to hospital every week for treatment. "I've built up resilience, but this experience pushed me back into a suicidal state. At times, I was barely able to sleep or work," she said. "Absurdly, the sexual assault investigation was more distressing than the sexual assault itself."

Throughout the investigation, there was also a complete lack of certainty about when it might come to an end. Given that Helen raised the complaint after finding out the perpetrator may be in a position of authority once the academic year began, it was vital to her that the case concluded before then. For many freshers, this is their first time living away from home, and it can be a period of great vulnerability.

Even after a sabbatical officer – who Helen had approached for help – had notified the investigator of the effect the investigation was having on her mental health, the investigation did not pick up pace. The expected finishing date was pushed back again and again: at the end of August, she was told it would conclude by mid-September; but when this date passed, she was told to expect a resolution by the month's end; this date, too, passed,

and the deadline shifted to the middle of October, by which point the Freshers' Fair had been and gone.

A Union representative told *Felix* that investigations are "often sensitive and complex", meaning they "take a long time to reach an outcome". They said that "a lengthy period of investigation can add to the distress experienced, and we apologise that this has recently been the case". While the College has said "it would not be right" to comment on a specific case, a College spokesperson told *Felix* "we deeply regret if anyone feels that an investigation of sexual assault or harassment has not been handled by the College with the urgency it warrants... we will seek to learn from this experience."

§

What caused these delays? One clear problem was the gathering of witness statements. Helen was able to name four individuals (not including the perpetrator) who might have seen what happened, and their testimonies had to be collected independently. This process continued for months, and not a single person involved was able to submit a statement without some miscommunication. During this time, Helen was forced to act as intermediary, being asked to contact the witnesses herself.

"Coordinating the witness statements was extremely frustrating," Helen said. "I would have a period of silence, then a period of being pelted with contradictory messages. Nothing made sense, and I wondered if I was being lied to. I felt completely out of control."

One witness, Emily, first reached out to the College at the beginning of June, voicing her concern at not having been contacted, and offering to supply a statement. The College replied to her the next day, saying that they would be in touch with her shortly, but she never heard from them. She only managed to provide a statement to the Union in mid-September. Another

"Helen says that her experience pushed her back into a suicidal state"

witness, Nick, a graduate, was first contacted in June, but in mid-September the investigator told Helen that he had not been in contact with him; it was not until late September that he was able to provide a statement. At the end of August, the Union's investigator told Helen that he had been in contact with another witness, Paul; just over two weeks later she was told that Paul had not been in touch. A few days later, Paul confirmed to Helen that he had been in touch with the Union, but the investigator continued to deny that this was the case: receipt of his statement was never acknowledged.

Despite the investigation being passed to the Union in June, and Helen being told in August that the investigator was awaiting a statement from the perpetrator with an imminent, hard deadline, it was not until October that David's statement was

taken.

The key witness, John, was first contacted towards the end of June. An initial meeting with the Union was cancelled, and over the next month he sent five emails to the investigator and visited the Union offices in person three times, with no response. After providing a witness statement, he waited nearly two months to hear a response, during which he emailed the investigator another five times.

When concerns were raised over this lack of contact, the Union cited issues with data protection that prevented them from reaching out to witnesses, saying that they had not been given explicit permission by the College to use the email addresses. Imperial College Union does not have its own data protection policy, and operates under College policy; the decision to delay contacting witnesses was one reached by the two organisations. The data protection concern they raised, however, related to contacting alumni, while John and most of the other witnesses were still students at the time the complaint was raised.

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The Union investigation provisionally concluded at the end of October, more than nine months after the assault occurred, and seven months on from when Helen first reported it. During that time, her case had been bounced between at least half a dozen people, from the Union to the College and back again. The investigator found that "on the balance of probabilities, the allegations [made by Helen] are true," but that

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cases until they show they can handle them fairly

David's position was not "an enabling factor" for the sexual assault – referred to by the investigator as "sexual harassment" – partially because he was not in the role when it took place.

The investigator recommended reprimanding David, banning him from licensed Union premises and requiring him to demonstrate he is managing his drinking, as well as attending a consent workshop. He did not, however, recommend removing him as president.

"I read the recommendations and immediately felt faint. I couldn't believe a months-long investigation could result in a mere slap on the wrist," Helen said. "The focus on drinking was irrelevant and offensive, as it suggests that [the perpetrator's] alcohol consumption was to blame for his actions."

Helen has appealed the recommendations, and is awaiting a decision by the Governance Committee.

§

The Union's constitution states that one of their reasons for existence is to promote the "welfare of students at Imperial College London". While Helen is, as an alumna, no longer a member of the university or Union, her experience sends a worrying message about how sexual misconduct cases are dealt with. Since 2010, the College has dealt with at least eleven complaints of sexual misconduct; while the Union is unable to provide official data on how many cases they deal with yearly, it is highly unlikely that this is the first case they have dealt with, and more cases are likely to occur.

The National Union of Students (NUS) 'Hidden Marks' report, carried out in 2009-10, was the country's first nation-wide report into women

students' experience of sexual harassment and assault. The report made for shocking reading: one in seven women students had experienced serious sexual or physical violence, and "many women students struggle to get through their course without coming into to contact with harassment or violence in one form or another."

What was most significant, however, was the low number of women who report such incidents: just 2% of victims of 'less serious sexual assault', and 4% of those who had experienced 'serious sexual assault' reported it to their institution. A Universities UK task force in 2015 found that non-reporting can be the

"ICU did not recommend removing the perpetrator from his position of authority, since he was not in that role at the time of the assault"

result of sexual violence survivors fearing an "inappropriate or counter-productive response from their university". Even when the individual does come forward, they often "fall through the gaps because staff members are unaware of how to handle such circumstances". The review of Imperial's institutional culture, carried out in 2016, echoed these concerns around non-reporting of discrimination and abuse, which particularly affect

women on campus; one participant said Imperial's 'ingrained misogyny' was "so deep that it had become normal."

For both the College and the Union, there does not appear to be an official policy on sexual violence, although they both list sources of support on their websites. While sexual assault is covered by the College's Student Disciplinary Procedure, there is no specific policy on it, unlike, say, their policy on harassment and bullying. The closest the Union comes to one is their Safe Space Policy, which "aims to create an environment where all students, staff, and visitors feel safe and protected." They told *Felix* that their policy is "clear that we encourage reporting... and have a zero-tolerance approach."

There are clear steps the College and the Union could take to address the issue of sexual violence: Hareem Ghani, the NUS National Women's Officer, has said that "as university communities we should respect the leadership of the victim/survivor in driving a process that we support", while the Universities UK taskforce concluded that having effective reporting mechanisms and well-trained staff were key to encouraging students to come forward.

Fintan O'Connor, Deputy President (Welfare), has highlighted the need for increased support systems, telling *Felix* that the Union "had a duty to do better" earlier on this term. The Union has been working with the College to secure funding to develop a sexual violence support programme, with six Sexual Violence Liaison Officers being trained – two of whom are Union staff – scheduled to be in place in January. They have also implemented active bystander training. In a statement to *Felix*, a



Union representatives had said that they had "a duty to do better" // *Felix*

Union representative said that they acknowledged "there is more that the Union and College can do to reduce the risk of incidents occurring and to increase support for victims". They will be reviewing this case during their governance review this year. A College representative told *Felix* that they will be "consulting with groups who specialise in supporting victims of sexual assault or rape", to ensure they can offer "the best support possible to students".

§

Coming forward is one thing, but the experience that follows is another. The recent spate of high-profile cases brought against those in power – both in Hollywood and Westminster – coupled with the sense of solidarity that campaigns such as #MeToo generate, have resulted in more victims coming forward. But this is only half the battle: students, staff, and alumni

need to know that their experiences will be listened to and acted upon.

While Helen – like many other women – has let countless instances of sexual harassment and assault slide, she had previously reported two sexual assaults by strangers to the police. Although there was not sufficient evidence to identify and prosecute the perpetrators, she always found the officers kind and capable. One of the key differences between how the police and the Union handled her cases was having a reliable point of contact on the police force who she felt was on her side, and always willing to keep her informed of progress.

"If I had known at the beginning what my experience [with ICU] would be like, I would have gone to the police instead," she said. "The insincerity and incompetence I encountered with the Union was demoralising. What troubled me most was the thought of how many other sexual abuse victims

at Imperial have surely suffered similar treatment, and conceivably even had their cases buried by negligence."

An organisation is not best judged on its successes, but on its failures. Helen's experience represents a single person's experience, but even that is one too many when one considers the impact of such cases. "Unless the Union can demonstrate they are able to handle sexual abuse cases efficiently, fairly, and supportively," she tells me, "it is clear to me that it should not take on this responsibility."

Names have been changed.

If you have been affected by anything discussed in this article, please consider phoning The Samaritans (116 123), Rape Crisis (0808 802 9999), or Survivors UK (020 3598 3898) for confidential support and advice.



Despite reporting it in March, it wasn't until October that the perpetrator's statement was taken // *Felix*

NEWS

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial sink to the bottom of People & Planet's ethical league tables

NEWS

Fred Fyles
Editor-in-Chief

Imperial came 141st in the rankings – bottom of the Russell Group – which look at a university's ethical and environmental policy

People & Planet has released its university league tables, which show Imperial College London is among the worst higher education institutions in the country in terms of sustainability and environmental policy.

Imperial was placed 141st out of 154 higher education providers in this year's league tables, making it the worst-performing university in the Russell Group. It achieved an overall score of 18.5%, which is a 'Failed' rating. In contrast, Manchester Metropolitan University, which topped the table, scored 77.6%, and the London School of Economics, which came highest of the Russell Group, scored 64.4%.

The league tables, which have been running for ten years, take a number of metrics into account when deciding the rankings, largely centred around what environmental and ethical policy the university has in place, and the amount of support environmental initiatives have on campus. Half the information is gathered from publically available sources, while half is from data published by other agencies.

"Imperial placed 141st of 154 universities, making it bottom of the Russell Group"

This year's results are a sharp decline for Imperial, which came 96th in the previous version of the table, and was 16th out of the 24 Russell Group universities in 2015. Imperial failed to achieve a full score in any of the metrics used,



Divest Imperial asking students for their thoughts on the rankings // Tom Mrazek

and scored zero on environmental policy, ethical investment, education, and water reduction. It scored highest in environmental auditing and management systems, and sustainable food.

Rhidian Thomas, Imperial College Union's Ethics and Environment Officer, called the results "at once

both breathtakingly poor and entirely fair", saying that "College's chummy relationship with the fossil fuel industry is an ugly stain on its academic record – coupled with its continued pursuit of energy-intensive expansion, there's no wonder it did so badly". He went on to tell *Felix* he was

"hugely proud of the Union's decision to back divestment last year", and looked forward to "the day when College too finds the moral conviction to put its money where its mouth is".

The student group Divest Imperial, which campaigns for Imperial to stop investment in oil and

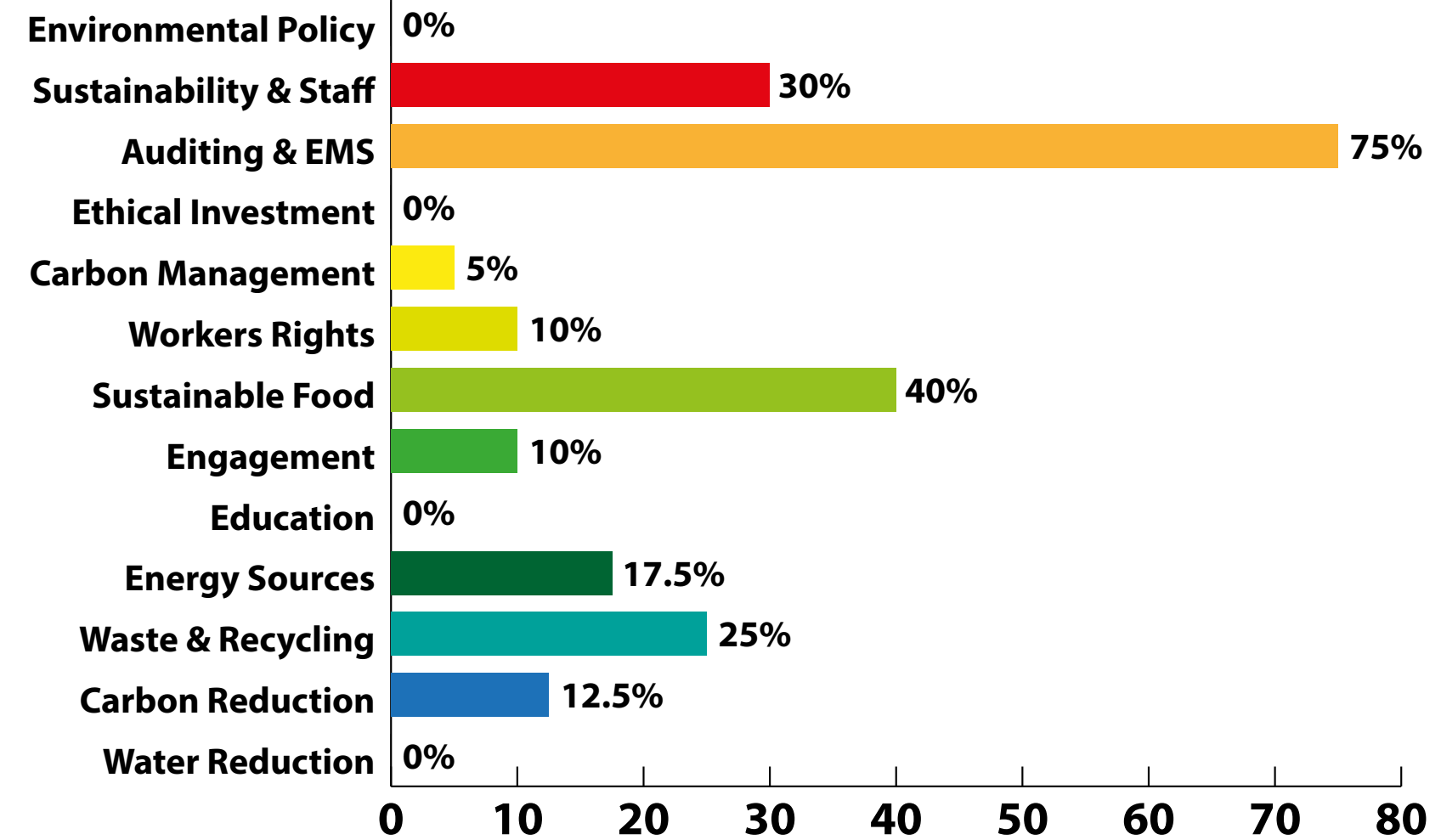
gas companies, called the results "appalling, especially for a 'world-leading' institution which markets itself on global outlook, sustainability and environmental responsibility". It said that for many students the results would be "unsurprising", given that "the constant, visible presence of environmentally and societally damaging companies is simply a fact of life on campus".

People & Planet reported that Imperial has no current policy on ethical investments, and accepted nearly £24 million in donations from the fossil fuel industry between 2009-2014. Imperial reportedly has nearly £9 million currently invested in the fossil fuel industry, including nearly £2 million in Statoil, £300,000 in BP, and £1.5 million in Shell – nearly double what was invested in the previous year.

Divest Imperial said the fossil fuel industries "seem woven into the fabric of university,

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Imperial scored lowest in Ethical Investment, with nearly £9 million invested in oil and gas industries // Felix (source: People & Planet)

blatantly contradicting the aims of the College, and undermining the research into renewables and climate change undertaken here". The group set up a stall the Thursday after the results were released, asking Imperial students and staff to guess where the university had placed.

"Divest Imperial said that the results would be 'unsurprising' for many students and staff"

Imperial also has a large amount invested in arms companies: it has increased its endowment fund investments in Lockheed Martin, for example, which produces weapons for drones, among other products, from £1.3 million to £2.215 million.

Education for

Sustainable Development (ESD) was another metric in which Imperial fared badly, scoring zero. People & Planet describe ESD as "working with students to encourage them to consider what the concept of global citizenship means in the context of their own discipline", as well as encouraging thinking about ethical issues and developing "a future-facing outlook". According to People & Planet, Imperial lacks any form of framework or strategy for ESD.

Imperial has a number of departments dedicated to sustainability and climate change, including the Centre for Environmental Policy and the Grantham Institute for Climate Change. It also states on the website they "recognise the effect that [our] operations and activities have on the environment", and "seek to establish an ethos at all levels and in all departments towards protecting and improving the environment".

However, out of a total community of staff and students numbering more than 13,000, Imperial only

employs a single senior staff member responsible for sustainability. People & Planet also failed to find evidence of an annually-reviewed, publicly-available environmental policy, or sustainability goals in a number of areas, including community involvement and biodiversity.

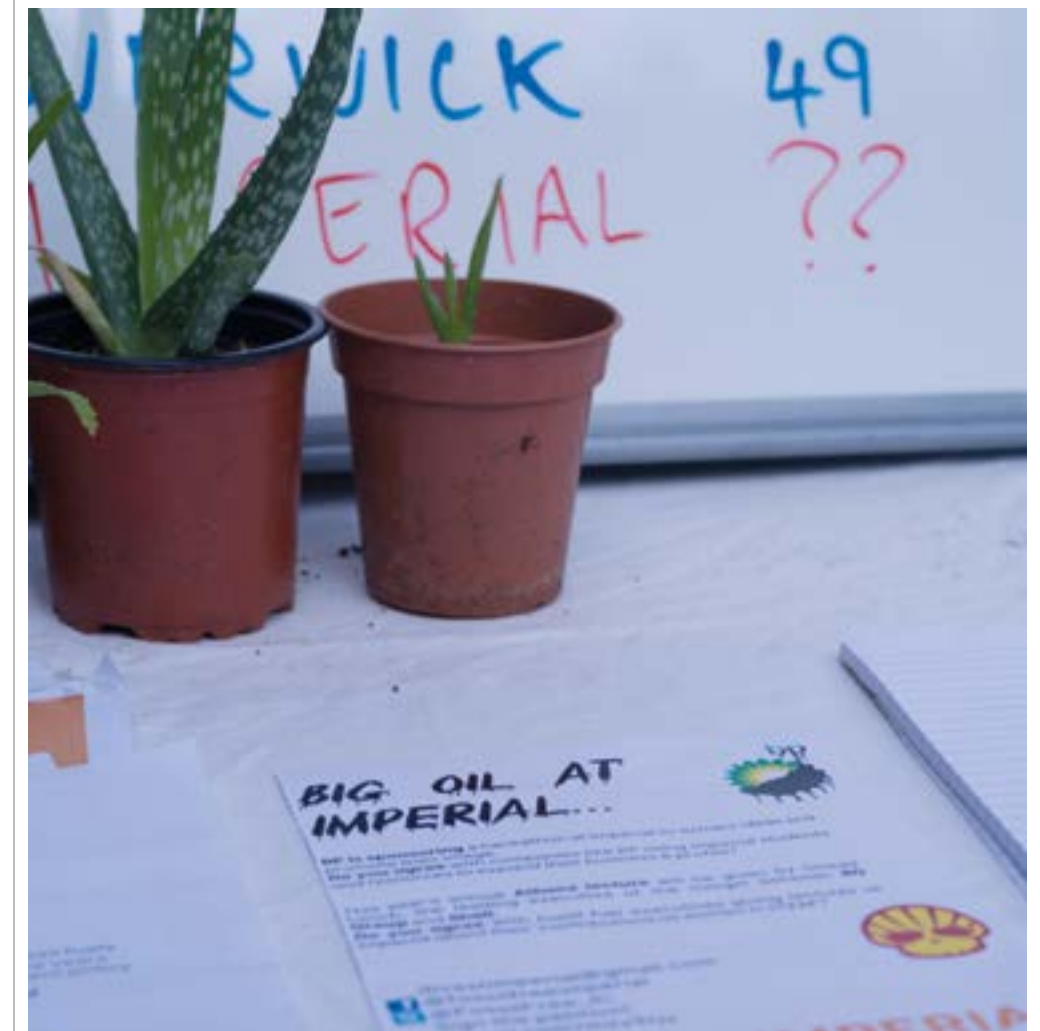
One Imperial academic said that they were "not at all surprised" about Imperial's results in the league tables. They told *Felix*: "It's about time the College takes this as seriously as the other 140 universities ahead of us in the table. We're not only missing a trick, we're beginning to look like an unashamed laughing stock of penny-pinching suits."

In a statement, a College representative said they "recognise that we have a responsibility to carry out our mission sustainably and to minimise the environmental impact of our operations". They referred to their "world-leading research in energy, the environment, and climate change", which produces "fact-based reports that advance the field, inform

the public, and contribute to global policy".

Divestment in fossil fuel companies has become a point of contention across

a number of UK campuses. The University of East Anglia divested last week, following a four-year campaign by students and



Divest Imperial called the results "appalling" // Tom Mrazek

activists. Aside from the ethical arguments against investing in fossil fuel companies, there is also the economic threat of the 'carbon bubble': current valuation of fossil fuel companies is based on the assumption that all reserves will be consumed, but it is likely that international agreements will limit the amount of hydrocarbons consumed. Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England, has warned about the "potentially huge" threat this bubble poses to investors.

The ranking of universities is carried out by People & Planet throughout the summer. Universities have the opportunity to appeal their score before it is published. Sian Berry, the Green Party politician who came third in 2016's London mayoral race, said that the rankings are "important for anyone – staff member or student – who want to improve their university's record on green and ethical issues".

Imperial lagging behind the rest of the Russell Group in the green league tables // Felix (source: People & Planet)

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James Dyson says to "walk away" from Brexit talks

NEWS

Fred Fyles

Editor-in-Chief

The inventor, who gave his name to the Dyson School of Design Engineering, also called for corporation tax to be scrapped.

Sir James Dyson has said the UK should "walk away" from Brexit negotiations, as the possibility of a 'no-deal' Brexit becomes more likely.

Sir Dyson, who gave his name to Imperial's Dyson School of Design Engineering, made his comments on BBC One's *Andrew Marr Show* last Sunday. He said the problems facing the government were due to "the people we are negotiating with", saying that "demanding billions and billions to leave" – the Brexit divorce bill – was "outrageous".

He went on to say it should be easier to hire and fire workers, and argued that corporation tax should be "eliminated", adding "there are ways of getting around paying it...

you should allow profits to be reinvested".

The comments made by Sir Dyson, who supported Leave in the runup to the referendum, provoked debate online: Wes Streeting, the Labour MP for Ilford North, said on Twitter: "No corporation tax and firms able to hire and fire at will. That's James Dyson's vision for Brexit Britain – and families will pay the price."

Imperial state their Brexit approach will be "pragmatic and positive", and they wish to "defend our international values". Professor Alice Gast, Imperial's President, is a member of the Mayor of London's Brexit Advisory Group. She met with David Davis MP, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, and Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, in September to discuss the impact of Brexit on higher education. Imperial is campaigning for continued access to the EU's research networks post-Brexit. In an interview with *Le Monde* this week she said that the prospect of Brexit was worrying.

A Union representative told *Felix* they "campaign to protect the rights of all our members, including

those from Europe and further overseas". They said the Union will work with College to "ensure that Imperial remains a welcoming and inclusive environment for all, and that our students remain part of the international scientific community".

The Dyson School of Design Engineering was launched in 2015, following a £12 million donation from the James Dyson Foundation. Sir Dyson graduated from the Royal College of Art, and made his name with bagless vacuum cleaners. He is currently worth around £7.8 billion. Dyson products were formerly made in Wiltshire, until 2002, when production of vacuum cleaners moved to Malaysia. This was followed by the production of washing machines in 2003.

A "no-deal" Brexit describes what will happen if the UK leaves the EU without a formal agreement in place. While Prime Minister Theresa May initially claimed "no deal is better than a bad deal", this phrase has been markedly absent in her recent rhetoric. However, she still admits that no deal would be preferable.

A number of prominent



Sir Dyson called the Brexit divorce bill "outrageous" // Wikimedia

voices have disagreed: Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, has said that "a no-deal scenario would be bad for everyone, but above all for the UK", while the International Monetary Fund has also said that a no-deal Brexit would cause economic damage to the UK and the Eurozone. Kier Starmer, Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, told the BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme that a no-deal

scenario is "unthinkable", and that "a responsible government would allow us to come to that place".

Earlier this year, a joint report by the University of Sussex and the Resolution Foundation thinktank stated that the average family would lose £260 a year, and predicted increases in prices for groceries and motor vehicles. They argued that these increases would hit low-income households hardest.

The UK is set to leave the EU on 29th March 2019, two years after invoking Article 50 of the Treaty on the European Union. May is currently facing pressure from within her own party on Brexit, as Michael Gove and Boris Johnson sent her a letter earlier this week, expressing their concerns that "current preparations are not proceeding with anything like sufficient energy."

Imperial praised for its approach to cheating

NEWS

Joanna Wormald

Deputy Editor

Dr Daniel Sokol, Imperial alumnus, recommends use of higher standards of proof when deciding cases of cheating.

Imperial College London has been praised for its approach to cheating, amid rising concerns of

plagiarism.

Writing for the *Times Higher Education*, barrister and Imperial alumnus Dr Daniel Sokol lamented the low standard of proof required to convict students of cheating. A guide by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education published last month recommends verdicts be decided on the balance of probabilities. This is the standard used in civil court cases and means students are found guilty if it is deemed it is more likely than not that they

had cheated.

Imperial implements a higher standard of proof, requiring guilt to be established beyond a reasonable doubt – the same standard required in criminal trials. The QAA says this may be appropriate given the seriousness of the offence but could also "be too strict to enable effective decision making".

Dr Sokol has urged more universities to follow this "enlightened approach". He argues that although some guilty students may get away with

cheating due to this high standard, it also means that fewer innocent students are likely to be convicted.

"Imperial implements the same standard of proof required in criminal trials"

He told *Felix*: "Some universities say that students are much more likely to give [cheating] a go because there's less chance of being convicted, but I haven't seen any evidence of that." He also argues the consequences of expelling an innocent student – such as reduced job prospects and emotional and mental distress – are more serious than dishonest students achieving a better grade.

Universities and science minister Jo Johnson last month warned the

seriousness of cheating "should not be underestimated". Contract cheating – where students pay somebody else to write their essays – is on the rise, with one essay-writing company reporting a 20% increase in UK customers over the past two years. Earlier this week, Ohio State University accused 83 students of cheating by using messaging app GroupMe.

COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Imperial should expand the gym at Ethos – it's not that hard

Imperial cannot seriously claim it cares about the mental health of its students and staff while providing them with the smallest sport facilities you can find.

COMMENT

Alan Perfect

Comment Editor

Let's start with an assumed fact, and imagine that we live in a perfect, ideal world in which things work as they should and we don't have to worry about anything. Let's assume Imperial College is committed to tackling mental health issues.

Let's say they are. I mean, they opened a counselling service, didn't they? I've seen mental health campaigns around. Some allocation of resources is going into it, so it must be one of their priorities. Right? Right?

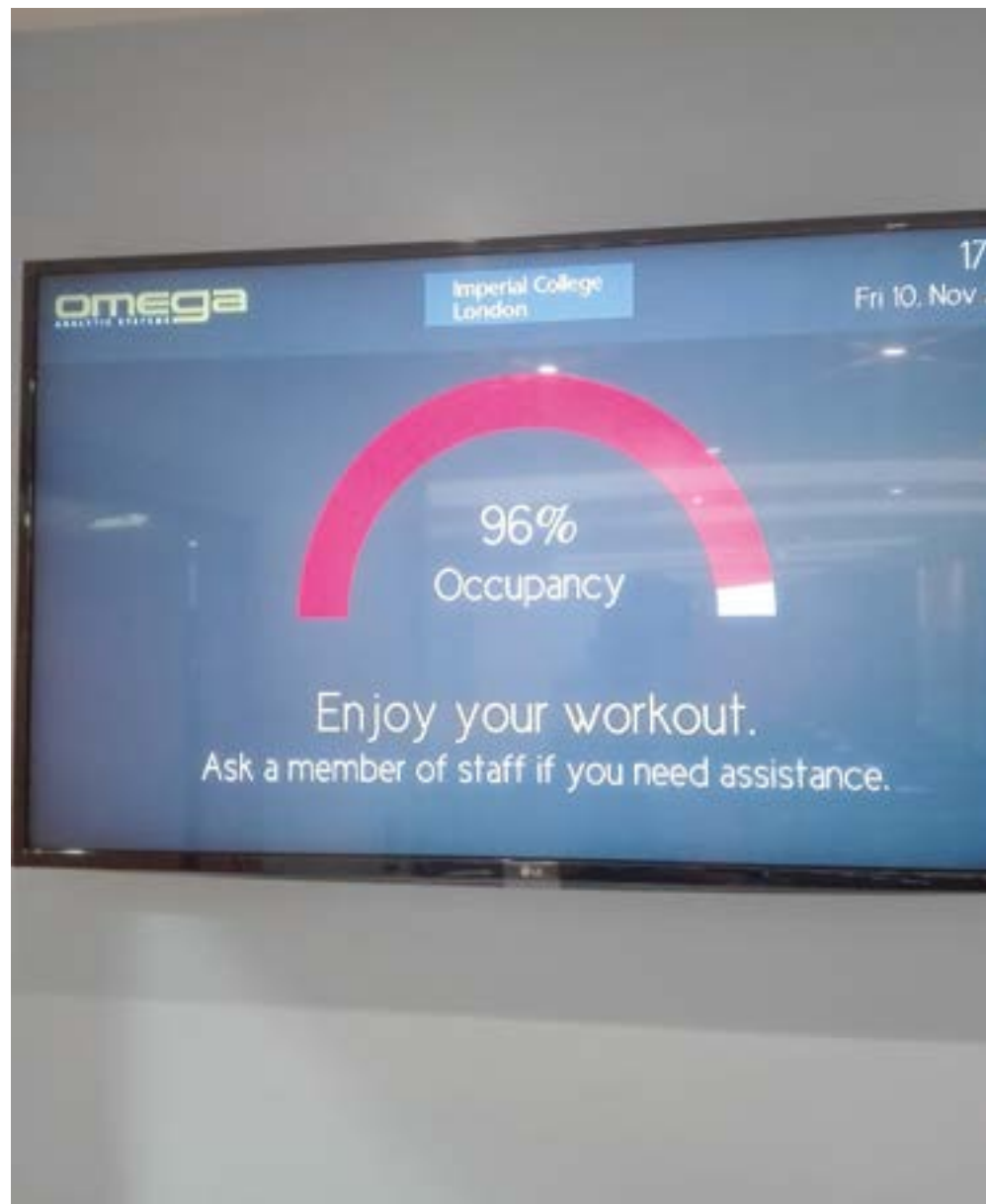
Let's now go through a logical argument. It requires three assumptions as its main ingredients:

- Practicing sport helps to keep your mind healthy.

- Gyms are a standard, convenient way of practicing sport, especially for busy people.

- Imperial College is committed to tackling mental health issues.

Okay, we mix these assumptions in our brand new logical blender, and we get a nice, cold, creamy smoothie called the Ethos Energia gym. You look at your creation and are pretty confident it's going to be amazing. I mean, you followed the recipe: if Imperial wants to help with students' mental health, sport is one of many ways to do so, and gyms are the most standard way of practising sport, it surely follows that they should



Proportion of people who agree with me on this issue // Alan Perfect

invest in having a world-class gym facility, with amazing personnel, state of the art equipment, and accessibility to any kind of student or staff member, regardless of age and gym experience.

“Ethos’ gym size is not encouraging more people to go to the gym regularly”

Except you attempt to try the smoothie and find out something is not right. It's not really that the ingredients are wrong. It's that there are too many people who want to drink it. You find yourself surrounded by 20 people asking to have a bit, and before you know it, you've ran out of smoothie before even trying it.

This is the problem with the gym at Ethos at the moment: it's too small for the amount of people who'd want to use it. Anyone who has tried to go on a

Monday at 5pm knows this for sure. You'll find queues for treadmills and rowing machines. Groups of three or even four sharing a bench. Weightlifters squeezing into the minimal space needed to do a side lateral raise without hitting everyone with a 12kg weight.

Don't get me wrong, I am not saying sharing a bench at the gym is bad (it's actually often preferable). I just don't think Ethos's size is encouraging more people to go to the gym regularly. Put yourself into the

shoes of someone who makes the resolution to start a gym habit. You go the first time, see the 90% occupancy notice, get changed, go in, and observe the panorama. You've vaguely heard interval training is good, so you make your way to the treadmills to have your first session. There are three people waiting. Maybe the first two or three times you are resilient and decide to wait, but if you've had a long day, you might just go back home without starting, completely dis-

“Ethos has a very large waiting area at the entrance. Why not expand into that area?”

couraged by the insane number of people there.

So yes, it is absolutely outrageous that Imperial, with its supposed commitment to mental health issues, has such a small gym for the amount of students and staff there are. And the situation will only get worse as student numbers increase.

Thankfully, there are ways to tackle this issue head on. Ethos has a very large waiting area at the entrance, full of tables and chairs. Why not expand the gym into that area? There is enough space to move all the current treadmills, elliptical trainers, static bikes and rowing machines

there. After that, there is still space to buy many more of all of them. And you'll free up a lot of space upstairs to expand the weights area, buy more machines, and in general just have a much better gym.

Can we just transform the waiting area into an extension of the gym? Of course! Some staff members report that the space is not used a lot anyway. Sometimes large groups of kids do have to wait there, but I'm sure they can wait where the vending machines are. It's only a bit of waiting. You don't need to be treated like a king. The space where the vending machines are can definitely be turned into the waiting area.

And okay, if you're one of those that is going to miss the ping-pong table, get a grip on yourself. It's just a ping-pong table. Surely you can make this little sacrifice for us. Take it for the team. I am confident you can find somewhere else to fill your ping-pong urges (I hear Imperial has a very good table tennis club).

So yes, here I am, asking Alice Gast to expand the gym at Ethos. I trust you can do it. Show us you care about your students and staff.

If you agree with me, please sign the petition. I'm sure most Imperial students and staff agree that there is a problem, so let's try to actually make an impact, even if you will graduate before this ever happens. Link to the petition is: <http://bit.ly/2AIT0hD>

COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Wait – you can be happy and healthy at Imperial?!

It's Self-Care Awareness Week! Take some time out of your day to recognise the importance of self-care, and look at how you can include some in your life.

COMMENT

Shervin Sabeghi
RCSU Welfare Officer

Woohoo it's self-care awareness week! I hope you're as excited about that as I am! No? Okay – well keep reading and see how you feel at the end.

When I first became RCSU Welfare Officer (aka 'The RCSU Condom Guy'), I wanted to put self-care on my agenda from the off. It's something I don't feel is encouraged much on campus; there is

plenty of information and dissemination of services to help us when things go wrong, but nowhere near enough about how to stop things happening in the first place.

But what does self-care actually mean? The idea is, surprisingly enough, how to care for yourself: how to keep mentally and physically healthy, and knowing when to seek help for something you cannot deal with yourself. There are two main strands of self-care. Firstly, it's stopping problems before they start – healthy daily and lifestyle choices will help do this, as well as addressing problems before

they develop too far. Secondly, it's empowering us with the knowledge and confidence to deal with minor ailments ourselves, where possible, since this is inevitably quicker and more personal, and reduces the strain on health services.

A lot of self-care is common sense, really, but it is worth reminding ourselves of it, and to explicitly spend time thinking about our own self-care methods. It is all quite personal, and different things will work for different people, but here are some things I'd suggest:

Health

Disclaimer: not a doctor. (FREMULON!)

- Probably the most obvious thing I'll say: keep active. Be it just walking to and from campus everyday (unless you live in Beit, in which case that certainly does not count), or having some focussed exercise time. Find what works best for you and your timetable, but don't overdo it! Recognise you have your limits.

- Eat healthily: another super obvious one. Healthy eating isn't about restricting what you eat, it's about balance and enjoyment! We're all basically scientists here, so experiment. Play around with your diet and find what makes you feel better. Our bodies all react very differently to different foods, so there is no one-size-fits-all diet.

- Sleep: get enough quality sleep. While there's no fixed amount for everyone, generally, having uninterrupted sleep, in a settled location (i.e. your bed) for a sufficient amount of time will lead to greater daytime energy levels, productivity, and emotional stability (which is nice to have every so often.)

- Pharmacists ≠ just cashiers: did you know you have to have a full degree to become a pharmacist? They are trained to give advice on minor ailments and everyday health issues, but are criminally underused. Next time you have a cold, or an ache, or similar, consider going to your local Boots and talking to someone there (they also have an amazing meal deal – I'd recommend the smoked ham and egg club with Quavers and an Innocent

smoothie.)

Social life/work life

- Don't forget to have a social life: work's hard, and important, but don't forget that connections with people are crucial; they can make you feel valued and build confidence, so don't (regularly) sacrifice socialising for work. It's easy to neglect, so actively slotting in time for socialisation during busy times can be useful

- Don't forget to do work (please forgive the

“We deserve to be happy whilst we study, and stop major issues before they develop”

Devil's advocacy): university can be a constant barrage of temptation to do something that isn't your work and a skill we all need to possess is that of saying 'no'. Sometimes, work really does need to come first and recognising that there will be other nights out, house parties, pub trips etc. is necessary.

General points

- Recognise your weaknesses: we all have them – I know, myself, I'm so bad at prioritising what I spend time on, and often side-line myself with things I shouldn't be doing (like this article maybe...?). By embracing your weaknesses, you can begin to look how to

mitigate them. Be lame and write these things down; make your self-care plan explicit rather than something you sort of do in the background

- Plan ahead where possible: don't let life throw nasty surprises your way for things you could have prepared for. Having a basic idea of what you want to achieve during the next week, and compartmentalising things on paper can help things become less overwhelming.

So, those are my main tips but, hey, what do I know really? I'm just another student. Find what works for you and keep to that. I would also say, though, that it's easy to worry that you're not doing enough of the 'right' things you should be doing, or that you're becoming stressed about your stress. Self-care is important, but it's not possible to always get things right! A major part of self-care is knowing when to get help. The simple idea being: seek help when you can't deal with a problem yourself anymore. The steps in between are very important, though. There are many stages between, for example, 'feeling a bit down' and full blown depression, yet often people don't act until the last stage. There needs to be a culture shift at Imperial so that we don't feel like we should have problems, or accept them as a natural part of being an Imperial student. We deserve to be happy whilst we study, and to feel empowered to stop major issues before they develop.



Taking some time out to evaluate your stresses can be vital // Creative Commons

SCIENCE

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Farming in Chernobyl

New study explores growing crops in the area three decades after the disaster

SCIENCE

Chris Richardson

Science Editor

A leading expert on the long-term environmental consequences of nuclear disasters is to lead a study to help know when and if it is safe to go back into Chernobyl's human exclusion zone. The results will support Ukrainian authorities in developing a timeline for when and where it will eventually be safe to start using portions of no-go land for growing crops.

The explosion at Chernobyl's nuclear power station in 1986 was one of the largest nuclear accidents the world has ever seen and resulted in substantial amounts of radioactivity being released into the atmosphere.

Human exclusion of

the most contaminated parts of the exclusion zone could remain in force for hundreds of years, but parts of the evacuated area now have quite low contamination levels. Some older people currently live in the zone unofficially, having refused to leave their homes. However, the land cannot be officially re-used without a full assessment of the risks.

Jim Smith, Professor of Environmental Science at the University of Portsmouth, will lead a team of UK and Ukrainian scientists developing the first environmental management information system devised for an exclusion zone following a nuclear accident.

Professor Smith will work with the Ukrainian government and other partners in developing the system. He is an expert in modelling pollution by radionuclides, and is helping



Chernobyl is as abandoned as Metric on a Friday // Wikimedia

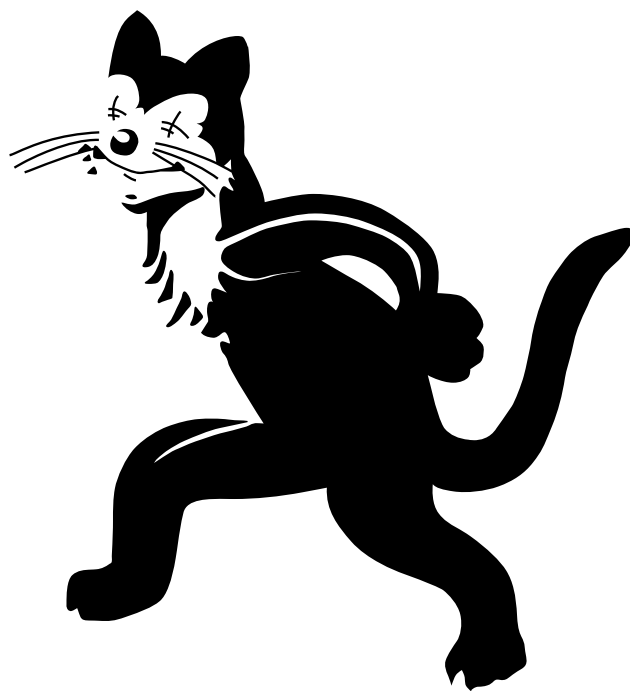
the country to develop a plan for the future. It is hoped that the system

will ensure that decisions on whether and when to allow farming and other

activities to resume in the zone are underpinned by scientific advice.

The human exclusion zone around Chernobyl was put in place due to chronic radiation fallout following the accident. Radiation was detected across Europe – including the UK – and as far afield as Canada. About 135,000 residents were evacuated from the region which then became a no-go zone. The exclusion zone also brought the loss to the country of hundreds of thousands of acres of forestry and agricultural land.

In 2015 Professor Smith published the first long-term study of the human exclusion zone's environmental health, which found wildlife in the Chernobyl exclusion zone was thriving 30 years after the accident. This is thought to be because of the absence of humans.



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YOU!**

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ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Tullus Aufidius and Coriolanus fight for a seat in the Central Library // Helen Maybanks

Politics and the value of rhetoric in early Rome

The Barbican opens its Rome MMXVII season with the seldom performed myth of Coriolanus. An attempt to hold a mirror to the current world of politics falls flat, but the characters shine through.

ARTS

CORIOLANUS



Where? The Barbican
When? 6th Nov – 18th Nov
How Much? £10-57.50; 20
 £5 tickets reserved for students for each performance.

Adam Gellatly
Arts Editor

In his second longest play, Shakespeare chronicles the election to, and subsequent removal from, the position of consul – a magistrate wielding executive power – of Caius Martius Coriolanus, played here by Sope Dirisu.

Coriolanus is elected to consul by his fellow societal-elites: a war hero and defender of the city from the neighbouring Volscians, Coriolanus is, in their eyes, the epitome of the perfect Roman citizen. Not so to the common folk – the plebeians – who despise Coriolanus and attempt to block his appointment to the senate through their tribunes. The play is one of Shakespeare's most complex

works, juggling numerous motifs from class war to the relationship between mother and son, all with the noticeable absence of soliloquies – so often an audience's insight into the minds of Shakespeare's characters.

With no running commentary on Coriolanus's thoughts, the task of inhabiting the title role becomes considerably more difficult, but it is one Dirisu steps up to. He commands the stage with a presence that is palpable from the stalls, instilling fear, awe, or joy when the moment is right. His speeches are delivered with suitable emotion while avoiding becoming hammy and taking his RSC debut in his stride. Crucially, Dirisu avoids portraying Coriolanus definitively as an anti-hero or a villain. Instead, Coriolanus's merits and flaws are left for the audience to weigh, like any good electorate should.

The performances from the rest of the cast range from good to exceptional. James Corrigan struggles in the first half of the play as Tullus Aufidius – head of the Volscian army –

but his relationship with Coriolanus in the latter half is executed well, and provides one of the production's most engaging scenes.

Paul Jesson embodies Menenius with a Brian-Blessed-esque level of joviality, while Hannah Morrish as Virgilia – Martius's wife – performs her role beautifully on the fringes of the action as 'the strong, silent type' to quote Tony Soprano. And Katherine Toy's small role as Valeria provides superb comic relief.

Production value is also excellent. The quick scene changes, from minimalistic urban squalor to equally minimalistic, but ever more polished, luxurious Roman living quarters provide a noteworthy juxtaposition between the rich and poor. All of which is rounded off with composer Mira Calix's score and Alexandra Ferrari's operatic aria to compliment the play's defining moments with tingling beauty.

The star of the show however is Haydn Gwynne as Volumnia, Coriolanus's mother. Gwynne, in conjunction with Dirisu, plays

out the most intriguing and complex mother-son relationship in any Shakespeare play, *Hamlet* included. Volumnia makes no secret of her influence on Coriolanus and her desire to paint him as a war hero to appease the plebeians. On hearing of Coriolanus' return to the city after battle, she remarks "O he is wounded; I thank the gods for't." Her power awards her the stage's best real estate, with Volumnia occupying its centre whenever she speaks, displacing even Coriolanus.

It is here, in the moments mother and son spend together, when the adaptation comes into its own. No truer is this than in Act V Scene III, where an outcast Coriolanus – having vowed to destroy Rome with the Volscians and take revenge on the plebeians – is begged by Virgilia and his son to return home in peace. When neither wife nor child can convince Coriolanus, the task is left to his mother. After pleading with and begging her child to forgive the city, Volumnia takes Coriolanus's hand and

the pair fall into silence. Perhaps ironically for Shakespeare, it is not the role of a speech or a soliloquy to provide the play's most critical and emotional moment, but the stage direction that follows Volumnia's plea: *He holds her hand, silent*. Coriolanus breaks down and succumbs, once again, to his mother's will. His lust for revenge vanishes as quickly as it arrived.

As with Dirisu, Gwynne gives the audience enough material to form an opinion on Volumnia, without dictating their feelings. We're never quite sure if Volumnia's motives are that of an overbearing mother, desperate to see her son achieve his full potential, or a puppet-master attempting to realise his own lust for power through her son.

Regardless of her motives, her plans ultimately fall flat, as Coriolanus is killed by Aufidius in the final scene. Sadly, it is here where the play itself falls flat. Angus Jackson, the director, and production team have made much in the run-up to opening night of the fittingness of *Coriolanus* in the modern political

landscape. Here we have a would-be political leader who cares not for pandering to the electorate, instead insisting 'Action is eloquence'; a tactic that, despite its honourability, bears no fruit. Fitting indeed, in a 'post-truth' world, where populism seems to reign supreme. But the production fails – if you will allow the reviewer – to breathe enough breathlessness into Shakespeare's text at the key political moments. The play's opening riot scene feels disjointed from the rest of the play, and Coriolanus's death – the only in the play – is far too muted to make jaws drop.

Coriolanus sets out to provide an on-the-pulse commentary of current affairs, but comes up short. Instead, the play shines in its character development. From bit-parts to the roles of Volumnia and Coriolanus himself, the actors shine and give the play an abundance of soul that could touch even the most hardened of war-heroes.

Coriolanus runs to 18th November. The Rome MMXVII season runs until early 2018.

BOOKS

books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

A women's alternative to the Booker

Books Writer **Katie Cook** introduces the Women's Prize for Fiction, and gives her take on this year's winner – **Naomi Alderman**, whose novel *The Power* centres around gender and violence.

BOOKS

Katie Cook

Books Writer

If you're only going to read the winner of one fiction prize each year, the Women's Prize for Fiction will always be your best bet. Each year the prize honours one female author whose novel has made the greatest impact on the literary world in the past year. The prize began when in 1991 it was noticed that despite 60% of the novels published at the time being written by women, the Booker prize shortlist didn't contain any female authors that year. Previous winners include Ali Smith's *How to Be Both* and Eimear McBride's *A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing*. If you're looking for a book which marries discussion of complex issues like gender, race, sexuality, and death, with engaging narrative, then the Women's Prize is the right place to look.

This year's winner: *The Power* by Naomi Alderman



"It doesn't matter that she shouldn't, that she never would. What matters is that she could, if she wanted. The power to



Naomi Alderman, winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction // Naomi Alderman

hurt is a kind of wealth."

This is the sentence that sums up the spirit of Naomi Alderman's novel *The Power* the best for me. It is a novel which, at its centre, is about the relationship between gender and power. When I first read the novel this year it changed the way I thought about the world in a way no book has for years. It tells the story of four protagonists in a world where massive social and political upheaval is taking place. Women have suddenly developed the power of electrocution, shifting the balance between the genders. Women take political office, start new religions, and become the leaders of gangs and mafias. Beyond that, men and women must begin to adjust to the new relationship dynamics between them, changing the way they relate to one

another forever.

What I love about this novel is that Alderman refuses to take the easy way out in her narrative. The world doesn't become an instantly more peaceful or gentle place because women are in charge; the power dynamics between men and women remain nuanced, and those with power still abuse it. *The Power* also deals with what it's like not to fit into the gender constraints of society and the pain that can cause, but also shows characters finding comfort and camaraderie in being different.

I think that the genius in this book is that it shocks us, without anything novel actually happening. There has always been a gender based power imbalance, and the imbalance has always affected the way men and women treat each other. However, the way

Alderman reverses this power dynamic forces the readers to see the

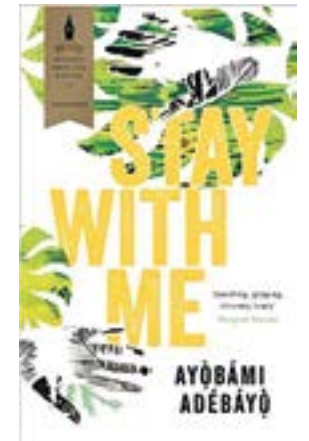
"What I love about this novel is that Alderman refuses to take the easy way out in her narrative."

misogyny in our society with brand new eyes. All the struggles men face in the book are also faced by women in parts of our real world: from sexual abuse and harassment, to being unable to leave the house without a guardian. Here Alderman is asking why

this no longer shocks us.

This novel really asks difficult questions of its reader: Is it possible for a society to truly be equal when there is a difference in physical power between the genders? Are women naturally the more peaceful gender as they have often been assumed to be? Is it possible to have power without abusing it? Alderman answers these questions with sophistication and nuance that the reader will find refreshing.

This isn't a book where the concept outshines the writing, in fact quite the opposite: Alderman delivers on everything she promises. *The Power* is likely to take the place it deserves as a modern classic, and one of the most important books about gender of our generation.



The Women's Prize 2017 runners up: my favourite pick

A Women's Prize runner up for 2017 and another one of my favourite books of the year is *Stay With Me* by Ayobami Adebayo. Set in Nigeria in the 1980s and 90s, *Stay With Me* is about a childless woman's search for meaning in a culture where motherhood is everything. It also examines how infertility affects the main character's relationship with her husband and his family, who eventually persuade her husband to find a second wife.

For me, *Stay With Me* has the charm and character of novels like Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun* (another Women's prize winner), but also provides the thrill of a crime drama, with many twist and turns throughout. Like Ngozie Adichie, Adebayo is able to skilfully transport the reader to the vibrant world of the main character, contrasting the bright and bustling city in which she lives with the loneliness and desperation infertility can cause. This is a novel which I think will help many people understand the pain of infertility, as well as make women who cannot have children feel understood and heard in a world where their stories are often ignored.

BOOKS

books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Hollywood has brought Atwood's dystopia to the screen, and now into reality

Despite being over 30 years old, *The Handmaid's Tale*, with its warning of a future of curtailed women's rights, is as disturbingly familiar as ever.



BOOKS

Alice Peberdy
Books Editor

It seems the morning news is scarcely without another allegation of sexual assault these days. Harvey Weinstein has inspired many stars, mostly women, to share their stories of abuse by people with power. Finally, these hard-hitting topics may finally be discussed at a meaningful level through their association with a billion-dollar industry. These issues aren't old news and they aren't insignificant, but women's rights have not been resolved in over a century.

Margaret Atwood drew upon many feminist themes which have remained universally constant throughout history in her 1985 novel *The Handmaid's Tale*. She imagined the downfall of America into Gilead, an authoritarian patriarchy whose greatest concern is to reproduce. Nuclear waste has caused most women to be sterile and a strict class system has been developed so that the rich may procreate using "handmaid" surrogates. In Gilead, surrogacy is not a

medical procedure – it's even more intrusive. These women are subjected to ritualised rape, leading to one of the most disturbing book chapters I have ever read.

Though many would like to say feminism is no longer an issue, it cannot be denied that in some ways nothing has changed, as evidenced by *The Handmaid's Tale* and the current situation in Hollywood. It's not fantastical to think there are still people who could imagine exploiting another person's sexuality, whether it's their will or not. A problem that was big enough to base a novel on in the 80s has resurfaced in a big way.

"Regardless of its political message, the novel still shines due to Atwood's masterful writing style"

While I see sexual assault as the most striking theme of *The Handmaid's Tale* there are many more which can also be paralleled with present day. Abortion, homophobia, and racism are also covered by Atwood as well as by modern media. Even the political climate that was around while Atwood wrote is echoed by ours. It was a time of conservative revival with Reagan and Thatcher taking control. I'm sure you can picture the equivalents that I'm thinking off. Based upon

this book, society seems to have stalled since its publication. It's been said that a recent TV adaptation of Atwood's novel is even more disturbing than its source, but I think the true horror can be found in how it compares to reality through time.

Regardless of its political message, the novel still shines due to Atwood's masterful writing style. Often it's deceptively simple with a satisfying mixture of short and long, listed sentences. Though easy to follow, there's a hint of mystery, something unfamiliar. Atwood likes to play with tense, often changing between paragraphs. It's not always noticeable, but makes the text all the more unsettling. The narrator, Offred, can seem unstuck in time. Her stories of before start with a strong sense of memory and nostalgia. Then, slowly, she reverts and seeps back to another time, absorbed by it. The whole novel is part of Offred's mind, and Atwood doesn't hold back on reminding us that she is a biased narrator. Offred recounts the same scenes multiple times with different outcomes, a trick Atwood plays with in other works. The reader may seek the truth, ask what really happened to characters, but it's more meaningful to delve into what the narrator believes, what she wishes for, to know when she's lost hope.

Our exploration of the dystopian world is through its characters and their emotions. Atwood doesn't turn her political idea into a battle, revolution or epic quest. It's simply a description of a corrupt government and the effect



Margaret Atwood is a prophet of our times // Creative Commons

it has on its people. No one has grand goals, they only want to survive, and reclaim their identity if they can. Dystopian novels of late have been riddled with teen angst and love triangles. This novel is a call back to the true power of the genre – an exploration of people and how the future needs to be protected from emotional disaster.

"The novel has always been powerful and keeps growing in power as it gains exposure"

Still, Offred isn't a beat down, obedient character. She may act that way, but

in secret she rebels. You can still feel the person she was before the regime through her witty narration and clever references. Atwood's playful voice also adds a little uplift with the inclusion of small but frequent jokes. Even one of the most powerful quotes from the book "Nolite Te Bastardes Carborundom. Don't let the bastards grind you down," was a made up phrase that Atwood found amusing during her school days.

This particular phrase has been taken as a powerful message by many and is a popular choice for tattoos. But the influence of the novel extends beyond body adornment. Last June, Hulu released its TV adaptation which has since won eight Emmy Awards and been renewed for season 2. The striking Handmaid uniforms from the series with their white bonnets and red capes have been worn to protest

changes to Planned Parenthood and abortion laws in America. Vera Wang used the bonnets in her 2017 Spring/Summer collection to comment upon female oppression. Her conservative but slightly provocative designs have been said to look like "armour". This seems to be the influence *The Handmaid's Tale* has – it informs readers of political threats and inspires them to rally together into a stronger entity.

As for the future, I don't see Atwood's work disappearing any time soon. The novel has always been powerful and keeps growing in power as it gains exposure. Hopefully in the next 30 years there will be changes that finally turn the book's themes into history, as there should have been since the its publication. Until then, lessons and inspiration can be found in its pages.

BOOKS

books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

In the relentless tread of time, a man searches for the greater miracle of life

Austrian writer Thomas Glavinic's *The Greater Miracle* explores one man's life when pushed to the extreme in a brilliant piece of storytelling.



BOOKS

Clemens Jakubec
Books Writer

Freedom – a word as awe-inspiring as it is undefined. There are many ways of tackling the issue of what freedom means on a general as well as on a personal level. In his 2013 novel *The Greater Miracle* Thomas Glavinic sheds light on the problem of freedom from a very personal perspective.

The novel is split into two storylines, that run parallel to each other. The first one unfolds in the present day and gives an account of the protagonist, Jonas, trying to summit Mount Everest. The second one tells the story of Jonas from the earliest days of his childhood to the present. He grows up in the Austrian countryside with his mentally disabled brother. Because they are subject to frequent abuse by their alcoholic mother, Jonas and his brother are adopted by Picco, the grandfather of Jonas' best friend. Picco is a wealthy man, to say the least. They live in a mansion, are surrounded

by servants and live an overall very luxurious life. Because of the wealth and power of Picco, Jonas and his best friend Werner are pretty much allowed to do whatever they like. At one point they even blow up the pigsty of a local farmer with no serious repercussions.

Their life seems perfect until Jonas' brother is killed. Jonas hardly recovers from the shock and he feels even worse when Werner dies shortly thereafter in a car accident. As if life could not get worse anymore, now Picco also dies from cancer. Being the only one of Picco's sons left alive, he inherits a fortune. As a young man with a near infinite amount of money on his bank account, he tries to live his life to the

"Glavinic is notorious for exploring the behaviour of people in extreme situations in his novels"

fullest. He travels around the world, restlessly searching for something he cannot quite grasp.

Although the outline of the story resembles a simple adventure novel in some ways, this book is not necessarily an easy read. The two storylines are written in rather different styles. The first one is fast paced and especially towards the end of the book almost hurries the



'It makes sense that Jonas' life and the whole narrative culminate in Jonas climbing Mount Everest.' // Wikimedia

reader through the story. The second one, on the other hand, is written in a more fluent way, bridging long time spans and telling everything calmly and in great detail. These two different styles sharpen the contrast between what happens in the present and what happened in the past, and now essentially is a memory of Jonas.

Glavinic is notorious for exploring the behaviour of people in extreme situations in his novels. In this novel it is Jonas, who grapples with the question of what to do with one's time on this planet. Already as a teenager he thinks: "Time is neutral. Time is indifferent to everything. Time is relentless. Not one second, that is not followed by the next. Not one second, that would not have passed. No matter if good or bad." It seems that what drives Jonas, what makes him spend one year in an apartment in Rome without leaving

the house, or build a treehouse in the dark forests of Norway, is exactly the search for an answer to this question. He travels around aimlessly, not knowing what to look out for, until the search itself appears to become what he has been looking for in the first place. It is in some sense a logical conclusion following from Jonas' life to climb Mount Everest, this beast of futility, which has become both the life goal but also the end of the lives of so many. In fact, when Jonas nearly dies on the descent back down from the summit, the only thing that goes through his head is "go on, keep searching".

It makes sense that Jonas' life and the whole narrative culminate in Jonas climbing Mount Everest. When asked about why he wanted to summit Mount Everest, English mountaineer George Mallory famously answered: "Because it's

there!". That is exactly what Jonas comes to realise, that maybe "Because it's there!" is the best explanation we will ever be able to give for why we do anything.

What I liked about this book is its lack of naivety. Glavinic does not pretend that money is irrelevant for one's happiness. Indeed, what makes Jonas free is his money. Those who do not have to worry about money have the time to focus on finding out what actually makes their lives worth living. Money, quite literally, buys you time. While reading this book, I was constantly reminded of *A Happy Death* by Albert Camus, who also describes the life of a man who acquires a lot of money and then finds himself in a situation where he is essentially free to do whatever he wants. Still, while Camus tends to actually explore the moral implications of this kind of life, *The Greater*

Miracle does come across as a bit of a cliché sometimes. However, Glavinic's brilliant storytelling and the exciting plot definitely make for

"Glavinic's brilliant storytelling and the exciting plot definitely make for a great read"

a great read. What makes his books great is that he describes people in very singular and extreme situations, which inevitably makes the reader think about how he or she would act under those particular circumstances.

IC Sinfonietta

Autumn Concert 7:00pm, Friday 8th December, Great Hall



MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The *Felix* guide to the London jazz scene: the clubs

MUSIC

Alex Montgomerie-Corcoran

Jazz Man, Music Writer

London boasts jazz venues renowned around the world and cozy holes-in-the-wall where you can catch a legendary performer ten years before they become famous:

Troy Bar

Hoxton

Out of all the places on this list, Troy Bar has to be my favourite, just in terms of how full of life it is and the intensity of music the performers provide across genres. The place is known for its open mic on Tuesdays, with the likes of Erykah Badu and Macy Gray having stepped up on that stage. The house band and host are the real attraction; the band will riff with any performer that comes to the stage – despite not knowing what they’re planning to perform – and with the host, they flow in and out



Jazz greats have walked through these doors for decades // Flickr: vjlawson2001

of interludes tightly. The rest of the week is filled with amazing nights: fusion jams happen on Wednesday and Friday, and a reggae night is held on Thursday. The place is open ‘til lam most nights and is worth checking out, even if it’s just to try some pretty decent Caribbean food.

Ronnie Scott's

The most renowned jazz club in London, Ronnie Scott's, delivers the highest quality live

music in the whole of the city. It must be the reputation of the place, because world famous jazz artists down to anxious students always play at their finest, hoping to prove themselves in front of their musical peers. The jam upstairs on Wednesdays is definitely the best night for 50s/60s jazz vibes: hosted by a trumpeter who plays all your favourite licks one after the other, the music goes on ‘til 3am. The jam opens up after the first set, and musicians who want to perform sit

behind the band, waiting to be called up. In terms of the music they play, it can be a bit showoff-y, with performers playing their fastest lines in the highest register possible. But it’s still very impressive to watch, and if you’re lucky, your favourite musician travelling through London might even show up and play a couple tunes.

Vortex Jazz Club

The Vortex holds many great performances from a variety of international

acts; they hold a pretty decent jam session on Sundays also. Lead by a guitarist, which gives a different dynamic to the usual piano combo, the house band perform to a high standard, similar to Ronnie’s, yet without the same pressured atmosphere (or cleanness). It’s quite a relaxed environment, with seats and a small bar with an accompanying view of Gillett Square (one of the weirdest places in Hackney). It’s more of an alternative to Ronnie Scotts (essentially a free version of the club) but still provides excellent music from very competent musicians.

Mau Mau Bar

Notting Hill

Home to the Jazz Re:refreshed residency, Mau Mau Bar hosts all the best up-and-coming London musicians on their Thursday shows. This place gives you the opportunity to hear the next stars in the London jazz scene before they blow up. Groups such as Binker and Moses, Yussef Kamaal,

and the Ashley Henry Trio have come through Mau Mau Bar into popularity. The intimate setting of the stage is slightly raised above the audience who crowd round, giving a unique experience to the listeners; probably the last time that you’ll be able to stand so close to them.

Metric Jazz Jams

South Kensington

Okay, maybe not on the same level as the other places, but the jazz jams at Metric every other Tuesday are a great place for Imperial students to listen to decent live music at their favourite local venue. Plus, it’s probably the only time you’re gonna see Metric filled with not (completely) pissed people. Being a student-lead jam, it’s a very accessible way of playing jazz with people of similar skill levels and the organisers are very welcoming to whoever wants to come up and play a tune. Even if jazz isn’t your thing, they do cheap cocktails too!

The Cap’n Jazz reunion doesn’t disappoint

MUSIC

Kieran Naylor

Music Writer

Following on from the success of the recent American Football reunion, 2017 was graced by another re-kindling of nostalgic spirit from the Kinsella clan in the legendary form of Cap’n Jazz. 28 years from their formation and 22 years after the release of the succinctly titled *Burritos*, *Inspiration Point*, *Fork Balloon Sports*, *Cards in the Spokes*, *Automatic Biographies*, *Kites*, *Kung Fu*, *Trophies*, *Banana Peels* *We’ve Slipped On and Egg Shells*

We’ve Tippy Toed Over (affectionately known as *Shmap’n Shmaz*, obviously), Tim Kinsella spewed his guts out as if not a single day had passed since they were 18. The gravity and importance of Cap’n Jazz cannot be overstated as they are, arguably, the original emo band that pioneered the twinkly, energetic, wistful sound that oh so many bands have since tried, but not quite managed, to emulate.

“We’re only going to play songs from our new album tonight” Victor Villarreal proclaimed at Camden’s Electric Ballroom on November 8th, “make sure you catch it in 1995” before bursting into the chaotic ‘Oh

Messy Life’ with lyrics as coherent as its famously shroom-added writing session. Few frontmen command as much energy and adoration from their fans as an inebriated Tim Kinsella who, in between French horn solos, spent more time on top of the crowd than the stage, repeatedly hurling his tamboourine before realising he needed it for the next song. It was plain to see how much this moment meant to those in attendance; not a single lyric was missed, with many older fans screaming their lungs out in a desperate attempt to relive and recapture some lost youth.

This was a funeral as much as a reunion, with Kinsella announcing “we

played our first show in October 1989 and, barring a miracle of money, this is going to be our last”, clearly evident in his expression how dear and special everything about the band was to him. The jubilant, beaming smile on Nate Kinsella’s face throughout the gig was almost tear-inducing, especially when paired with songs of lost childhood and the inevitability of growing up. As the main show was brought to a close with ‘Ooh do I love you’, the magical atmosphere in the room was overwhelming. We were then treated to an encore with their iconic cover of ‘Take on me’ (you need to check this one out, trust me). Few bands have had

the impact and emotional influence of Cap’n Jazz, and their final night

couldn’t have been a more fitting farewell.



Jesus Christ walked on water, but Tim Kinsella surfed on land // Wikimedia

MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The new Taylor Swift album can’t come to the phone right now. Why? Oh, ‘cause it’s shit.

Bigger and bolder than her previous works, Taylor Swift’s sixth LP is far removed from her country roots. It’s a powerful statement that unequivocally cements her as one of this century’s most mediocre sensations.

MUSIC

REPUTATION



Artist: Taylor Swift. Label: Big Machine. Top Tracks: None. For Fans Of: Drinking bleach, Merzbow, The Gerogerigegege. 56 minutes

Suraj G

Music Writer

It’s not too long since the world was introduced to girl next door and singer-songwriter, Taylor Swift, with her guitar and her country tinged pop. Upon entering the scene, Swift instantly made massive waves in the music industry and pop culture, for better or worse, with singles like ‘You belong with me’ and ‘Teardrops on My Guitar’. The young and oh-so-naive Swift would, in the early 2010’s, evolve into your standard cookie cutter international pop star with the clean, polished image and corporate pieces that labels like PC Music could unironically ship. Singles like ‘We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together’, ‘Shake it Off’ and ‘I Knew You Were Trouble’ were marketing masterpieces, with just the right lyrics and amount of saccharine plastic production to secure mass popularity. Then there were the rough years. With negative media attention and the notorious back and forth with a certain Mr. K. West, the pristine image of Swift had been gradually tainted in the public eye.

The biggest catalyst for Swift Inc.’s latest re-branding effort *Reputation* would have to be the aforementioned bout

with Kanye over the (now, infamous) ‘Famous’ verse on West’s latest project, *The Life of Pablo*. For the unaware, West, in the first 30 seconds, proclaims that he “and Taylor might still have sex” as he “made that bitch famous”. This resulted in a lot of publicised tension between the two parties, the apex being Kim Kardashian releasing a video depicting Swift’s consent to the audacious verse.

“Sonically, this has to be one of the worst produced pop albums in a long time”

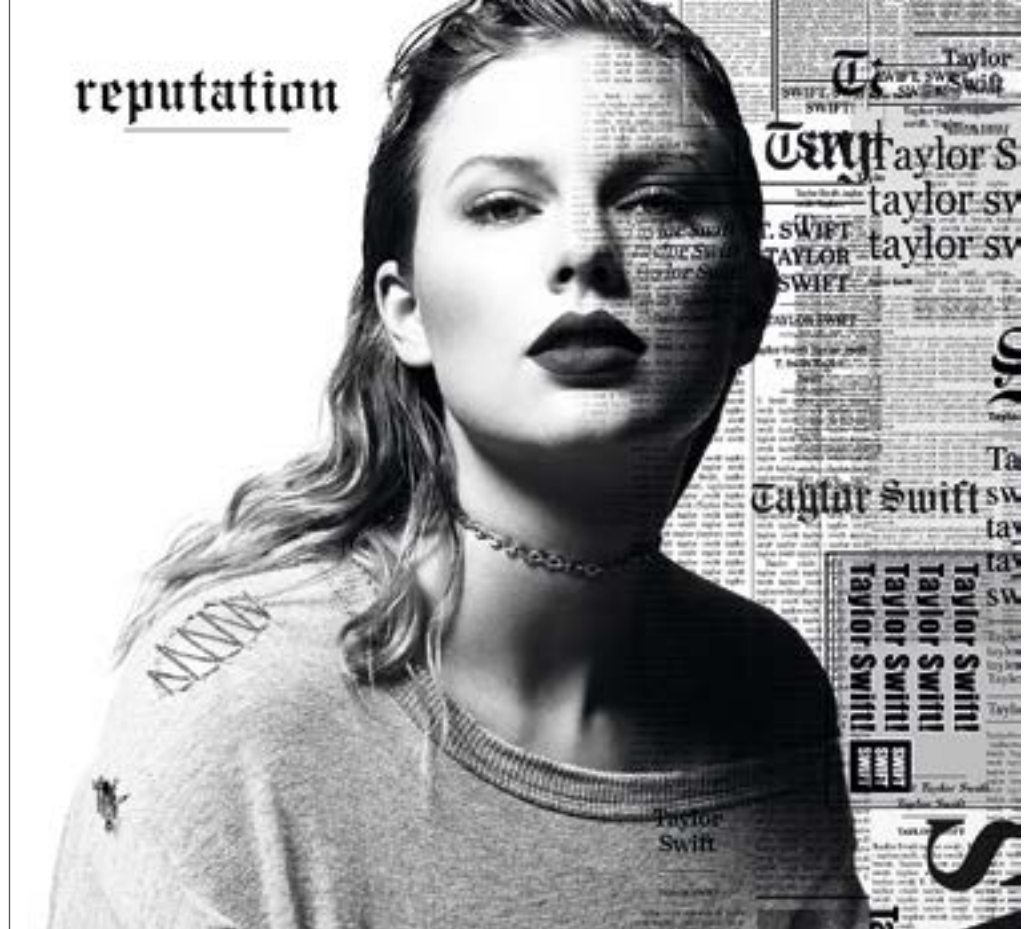
That brings us to today. Swift is now a hip, mature, and self-aware pop star. Or at least, she tries to be. As a declaration of her edginess, she released an hour-long album that immediately fell flat on its face. Her previous material was passable; I wouldn’t actively choose to listen to it, sure, but I could stomach it without a knee-jerk reaction as intense and visceral as I have now. Sonically, this has to be one of the worst produced pop albums in a long time. The sounds that producers Max Martin and Shellback bring on *Reputation* are absolutely grating, with some of the worst mixing I have ever had the misfortune to hear, especially prominent on the first track ‘...Ready For It?’.

The opener presents some sort of cheap imitation of West’s *Yeezus*, with a large, buzzy baseline and

blaring horns. The vaguely industrial production of the start is immediately juxtaposed with Swift’s sickly sweet harmonies, and then synth pads which eventually all end up in a nauseating mix. The mish-mash of bass, horns, distorted snares, and Swift’s vocals at the end resembles something of a sonic train wreck, and is frankly unlistenable thanks to the horrible mixing.

Other deeper cuts like ‘Look What You Made Me Do’ and ‘Gorgeous’ have some laughable production choices. As the album progresses, the Yeezy fetish dies off and Swift quickly settles into her old routine, with some basic synthpop and a smattering of whatever is currently in (in this case tropical house and a trap song featuring Future). They are not in any way remarkable. In fact, they are the very opposite, dull and dross. Swift does an impeccable FKA Twigs impersonation in ‘Dress’, uncomfortably similar in structure and melody of Twigs’ ‘Pendulum’. Somewhat surprisingly, the final track has a

“The final track has a funny jittery piano piece, expressing genuine emotion for the first, and perhaps only, time on the entire album”



In tatters // Big Machine

funny jittery piano piece, expressing some real, genuine emotion for the first, and perhaps only, time on the entire album. Ironically, this was the last track and this atmosphere dies off after the first minute, when an awkward guitar strolls into the mix.

Lyricaly, the album is filled with cringeworthy snippets of half-baked attempts to be shocking. The main culprit here is Swift’s hyper literalism, which left me wincing. I guess only a work of great art from an artist who had mastered their craft could evoke such a physical reaction. Swift forgoes any semblance of subtlety, spouting pure shite in an almost vulgar, brutish way. There are a couple of songs in particular which display Swift’s literary prowess. On ‘I Did Something Bad’, she’s a witch

“Swift forgoes any semblance of subtlety, spouting pure shite in an almost vulgar, brutish way”

being burned at the stake (“they’re burning all the witches even if you aren’t one, so light me up (x8)”). On lead single ‘Look What You Made Me Do’ she explains the reinvention of her image and identity by suggesting that the “old Taylor can’t come to the phone right now. Why? Oh, ‘cause she’s dead!”. Swift also describes her past year as “so Gatsby”. When Swift isn’t being a lyrical bull in a chinashop,

she sings about her relationship and love life, not saying anything new or worth noting.

The biggest achievement of it all was my unending patience to sit through this, and to come into it with an open mind. *Reputation* doesn’t do much well: not the vibe, not the arrangements, and certainly not the lyrics. In fact, it is not unreasonable to say it does *nothing* well. Flat generic vocals mixed in with drab over-produced and poorly mixed music all makes for a product to attract attention, not an album with any intrinsic artistic merit. This is the right product for Swift’s market segment, those preteens from when Swift first broke through, now angry hormonal teenagers who can relate to this vapid mess.

TELEVISION

tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The unbearable melancholy of *Bojack Horseman*

The creators of *Bojack Horseman* have never been afraid to ask difficult questions and explore complex topics. In its fourth season, however, they double-down on this, in an examination of the cyclical, inter-generational nature of trauma. It's the show's most difficult season to date, but ends with a glimmer of hope.

TELEVISION

BOJACK HORSEMAN: SEASON 4



Creator: Raphael Bob-Waksberg. **Starring:** Will Arnett, Amy Sedaris, Alison Brie, Paul F. Tompkins.

Fred Fyles
Editor-in-Chief

The third season of *Bojack Horseman* ended with the question of whether our problematic protagonist would ever be able to move on. Following the death of his co-star and on-screen daughter Sarah Lynn during their drug binge, Bojack sets off in his car, driving far away from those he has let down. Ramming his foot down on the accelerator and taking his hands off the wheel, he drifts along the road, until he sees something that

makes him slam on the break: a group of horses running through the open plains. They are able to do something that Bojack has been unable to – they are moving forward, into the future. Soundtracked by the haunting vocals of Nina Simone singing her heartbreaking 'Stars', it felt like a culmination of three seasons in which Bojack and his fellow Hollywood characters had been circling around the same ideas of desperation.

Season 4 of *Bojack Horseman* sees the majority of the characters breaking new ground – Princess Carolyn is looking into the possibility of balancing her personal and professional lives, taking on a new boyfriend, as well as her new role as a manager (the incomprehensible difference between an agent and a manager is a running gag throughout the season); Todd is coming to terms with his asexuality, and learning to make peace

with who he is; and Mr Peanutbutter and Diane are trying to work through the issues in their relationship amid a gubernatorial race – but for Bojack, this season will explore the root of his cyclical behaviour, reaching further back into the past than it has

"The take-home message is that trauma is often cyclical, and psychic scars generational"

ever gone before.

For the last three seasons, we have only seen what Bojack's formative years were like in passing, but over the course of these twelve episodes we get a much clearer look into the environment that formed



Mr Peanutbutter running for Union President // Netflix

him, and the reasons behind his personality. The take-home message: trauma is often cyclical, and psychological scars can be generational.

Following on from the first episode, marked by a distinctive lack of Bojack, we get him back in the next one. In "The Old Sugarman Place" he begins expunging the ghosts of his past, beginning with his toxic relationship with his mother; Beatrice Horseman (née Sugarman) is an emotionally-manipulative bully, who traumatised Bojack both physically and mentally, but "The Old Sugarman Place" takes us back to her childhood, and things begin to become clear. A brother dying in the war sends her mother, Honey, into a spiral of grief, which is 'cured' by the stalwart of American mid-century psychiatry: a frontotemporal lobotomy, robbing Honey of any personality or vitality. "Love does things to a

person, terrible things," she advises, "Beatrice, promise me you'll never love anyone as much as I loved Crackerjack."

"Aparna Nancherla does sterling voice-work as Hollyhock, bringing a vulnerability and likability to the role"

It's a hard episode to watch, and *Bojack Horseman*'s creators double-down with the penultimate episode, "Time's Arrow", which lets us into Beatrice's dementia-addled mind, filling in the gaps between her childhood and her motherhood. A Barnard-educated

debutante who feels stifled under her father's authority, she skips town with Bojack's father, a lover of the Beats who is planning on writing 'the great American novel'. Looking after Bojack crushes her younger self's dreams, and – with her mother's advice ringing in her head – it's no surprise that she treats him so terribly.

Whether this cycle can be broken is a question raised by the arrival into the show of Hollyhock, who believes Bojack is her illegitimate father. Aparna Nancherla does sterling voice-work as Hollyhock, bringing a vulnerability and likeability to the role, and she immediately fits into the *Bojack* universe. While *Bojack* has never shied away from conversations around mental health, this season develops the topic, looking at the heritability of mental illness: while Hollyhock would provide a meaning for Bojack's life, she also serves as a

TELEVISION

tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk

reminder that he manages to taint everything he touches – above all his relationships with others.

This season is probably the most difficult season to watch of *Bojack* thus far, something that is aided and abetted by some of the experiments in style tried by the creators: in two episodes, we get a markedly different animation style as the writers let us into the minds of the characters. In "Stupid Piece of Sh*t" Bojack's own negative thoughts are expressed as jagged scribbles, as we spend some time in his claustrophobic head, drawn down by cycles of negative thoughts and impulsive behaviours. Later on, in "Time's Arrow", Beatrice's dementia is represented through rifts in reality, with backgrounds fading in and out, characters' faces left blank or scrawled out, and words rearranging themselves.

The zany nature of the world of Hollywood usually serves as a balm for some of the rawer aspects of *Bojack*, but this aspect is somewhat lacking in this season. West coast navel-gazing is explored through Mr Peanutbutter running for governor of California – a plot line that culminates in the episode "Underground", which sees Jessica Biel (described as an "attempted movie star") setting fire to Zach Braff after Mr Peanutbutter and Diane's house falls into a sinkhole generated by fracking. These serve

"Ruthie" is one of the greatest episodes of *Bojack* thus far – a huge achievement"

as welcome distractions from the main thrust of the season, although the attempts to shoehorn in

political issues like gun control can seem a little pasted-on: when Diane sparks a debate about gun control in "Thoughts and Prayers" it isn't given enough time to develop from the personal to the public.

Todd's storyline develops little throughout the season, although since the main theme is self-acceptance, it is unsurprising that this is the case. His arc does manage to introduce another of his schemes in the latter half of the season: clown dentists, who provide enough material to generate running gags for a good six episodes.

Other than these aspects, the remaining characters experience an unremittingly bleak time of it. The cracks in Mr Peanutbutter and Diane's relationship – both literal and metaphorical – begin to really show through, prompting the question of whether their differences compliment each other, or make them intrinsically incompatible. As usual, Alison Brie and Paul F. Tompkins deliver great

voice work, with Brie in particular impressing this season. Her drink-induced breakdown comes around half way through the season, but time can't heal all wounds, and we end with another argument, one that has Brie and Tompkins breaking through their characters' façades – emotionally repressed for Diane, and glibly unaware for Mr Peanutbutter – to deliver emotionally-honest performances.

None of the plot lines, however, can match Princess Carolyn's, as she attempts to settle down with Ralph Cheeseman. Over the previous seasons of *Bojack*, we've come to know Princess Carolyn as a character defined by her strong work-ethic and can-do attitude; as she unleashed the revelation last season that she felt she had wasted her youth on Bojack, she comes into this season attempting to claw back some of what she feels she has missed.



Bojack ends this season with the first hint of optimism we've been given // Netflix

Things, naturally, don't pan out, leading to one of the most emotionally-crippling episodes of the season: "Ruthie", in which we are taken through one of the worst days in Princess Carolyn's life. She begins the day pregnant, in a loving relationship, and in control of her business, but ends it with nothing – not even her precious family heirloom, or at least the idea behind it, is safe from the harsh realities of life. Even the framing device, which gave us some hope for Princess Carolyn's future, is whipped away at the last minute, as the screen cuts to black. It's not only one of the season stand-outs, but one of the best episodes of *Bojack* thus far – a huge achievement when you consider the strengths of some previous episodes.

Amy Sedaris is doing some of the best work

of her career, and this season elevates her performance into one of the best currently on TV. Her performance in "Ruthie" is emotionally devastating, and she absolutely deserves an Emmy nod for it during awards season. She also manages to get her mouth around some serious tongue-twisters – example: "Portnoy finds joy in hoi polloi boy toy!" – of which there are a couple in each episode on average.

Her performance is complemented by a number of newcomers to the *Bojack* universe: Andre Braugher is magnificent as the incumbent governor Woodchuck Coodchuck-Berkowitz; Jane Krakowski, who has emerged as one of the stand-out stars of *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*, is fantastic as Honey Sugarman; and Wendie Malick manages

to take us through the entirety of Beatrice Sugarman's adult development, from optimistic teenager to embittered mother, and through to cantankerous care-home resident, in one of the strongest performances of the season.

But while the season

"Amy Sedaris is doing some of the best work of her career, and her performance is one of the best on current TV"

might be one of the bleakest seasons of *Bojack* yet, it also feels like the most confused: previous seasons managed

to maintain a perfect balance between humour and tragedy, but there are certain episodes of season four that don't really seem to work, particularly when they follow on from the gut-punches *Bojack*-creator Raphael Bob-Waksberg is so adept at delivering.

In some ways, this season was very much needed: all the major characters are left, if not in a better place emotionally, then in a more truthful position, setting things up for another strong season. Despite so much time spent examining his past, the character who seems to move on the most is Bojack himself. The season ends on a hopeful note – the most optimistic in the show's history – suggesting that, maybe this time, the cycle can be broken, once and for all.

Bojack Horseman Season 4 is on Netflix.



Amy Sedaris delivering an emotion-shredding performance // Netflix

FOOD

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Have a sweet tooth? We sure do...

FOOD

Chun Yuan Hii
Food Editor
Andrada Balmez
Food Editor

Admit it, we all need our sugary boost sometimes (though this might be heavily frowned upon by my friend who wrote on healthy eating last week...) Maybe it's just

me, but occasionally, after a nine-to-five day full of labs and lectures, you just want to have something warm, sweet, and – most importantly – quick and easy to make. I once added so much sugar to my tea that my housemate asked me, in a very serious tone, if I was making tea or diabetes. Oh well... Without further ado, here are some simple recipes that work, even after a long harsh day.

PANCAKES,
PANCAKES,
PANCAKES!

The point of university life is that you can have pancakes anytime you want – that's basically all the time.

You will need...

- 5 tbsp. of self-raising flour
- 3 tbsp. of milk
- 2 tbsp. of sugar
- 1 egg
- Some butter
- A pinch of salt

1. Mix all ingredients well.
2. Place some butter in a heated pan.
3. Pour a spoonful of batter onto the pan.
4. Flip the pancake when the surface starts to bubble.
5. Serve when both sides seem cooked (solid, not watery). If you're worried about uncooked pancakes, try not to put too much batter in the pan.
6. Add a slab of butter or drizzle some honey on top and dig in!

Serves 1, because you can never have too many pancakes.

Add blueberries or chocolate chips to your liking, during or after cooking. If you want chocolate flavoured pancakes just add 1-2 tbsp. of chocolate powder. Since I'm not going to show it off to Gordon Ramsay, I'm not usually too fussy over whether the pancakes are perfect circles, and you shouldn't be either. A weirdly-shaped, sweet, flour-based blob is as good as any pancake.

MICROWAVE BOWL
CAKE

Microwaves are truly students' saviors – all those Tesco ready meals it churns out hot and steaming, not forgetting the heavenly sound of popcorn as it's prepared for your stomach. Now add one more item to the list of wonderful things the microwave can do – cakes!

By chocolate powder I mean the regular hot chocolate powder you might find in your cupboard, nothing baking grade – remember: we are striving for simplicity. You can just use any kind of wheat flour: self-raising flour will give a fluffier cake, but normal flour will do too, if you're not too picky. Remember that if you want to get a normal cake, and not a squished one, you'll need to add some baking powder – normally, you add 1 tbsp. of baking powder for every 1 cup of flour, but I'd say you should go with ¼ or even ⅓ tsp. in this case. Milk is any milk – whole, semi-skimmed, quarter-skimmed, anything will do. I'm not too sure about plant-based milk like almond milk though. Guess you'll have to experiment yourself to find out!

You will need...

- 4 tbsp. of self-raising flour
- 4 tbsp. of chocolate powder
- 4 tbsp. of milk
- 4 tbsp. of sugar
- 4 tbsp. of oil
- 1 egg

1. Mix well in one bowl and microwave for 5 mins.
2. Add a helping of ice-cream and dig in while it's still hot!

As for serving size of this recipe... well, I think most cakes, regardless of size, only serve one.

If you're backing away now because you see tablespoons and you don't have that thing in your one-fork-and-one-spoon household, fear not! Just use the simple quantitative skills that got you into Imperial, aka ratios! Using the same measuring tool (cups or spoons), measure out a 1:1:1:1:1 ratio of flour, milk, sugar, oil, and chocolate powder.

This recipe is versatile: you can change the flavour of the cake merely by substituting the chocolate powder. For example, replace with matcha powder for a green tea flavoured cake. You can also adjust the consistency of the cake by changing the dry:wet ingredient ratio. How exactly you do that I don't know, but putting that sentence in makes me sound like I know what I'm doing.

CINAMMON ROLLS

What is the best thing in the world? Besides sugar, I mean (and maybe pizza, and ice-cream, and chocolate and...oh, you've gotten my point!). Yes, you've guessed right – cinnamon! While you might be thinking "but cinnamon rolls are not quick!", let me tell you how wrong you are. If you prepare them in the evening, you can bake them in the morning while you are taking a shower – it doesn't take that long, there's not a lot of work involved, and what better breakfast is there than hot cinnamon rolls?! Being a student is not always bad, right?

You will need...

- 3 cups of flour
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 3 tbsp. sugar
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ cups milk
- 2 tbsp. butter
- Peel from 1 orange
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp. cinnamon - as much cinnamon as you can, actually
- ½ stick of butter at room temperature
- Sugar

1. In a big bowl, mix all the dry ingredients first until they are homogenous. In a separate bowl slowly heat the milk, butter, and orange peel until the butter is melted – you can use a microwave for it, but remember to use a microwaveable bowl if this is the case.
2. Add the liquids to the dry ingredients. Add the eggs – I normally beat them before actually adding them so the batter ends up nice and smooth. Mix well until everything is incorporated.
3. Now, depending on the type of milk and butter you are using, your mixture might not be ready for the next step. If it's too dry, add a bit of milk; if not, add a bit of flour – it has to be solid enough not to stick on your fingers, but not too dry to start crumbling.
4. Let it rest for 10 minutes.
5. Roll the dough until you are happy with how thick it is. If you make it thick, you are going to have a fluffier cinnamon roll. If you make it thinner, you are going to have more cinnamon. It depends on what you want for your end result.
6. Spread the butter on the surface of the dough. Try to make it as even as possible. Sprinkle the sugar and then cover in cinnamon. If you can see the dough through the cinnamon, you definitely need to add more! Now roll!
7. If you want to want them now, just cut the roll in slices that are 2-3 cm thick and bake them for 20-25 mins at 175°C (remember to add some baking paper on the tray so you have less things to clean afterwards). Or, you can save them for the next morning – just make sure to use some foil and keep them in the fridge over night. Preferably, slice the roll in the morning.

FOOD

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Finally – time to celebrate with a nice meal out!

Treat yourself with a meal that is nicer than your usual pasta and celebrate the fast approaching of the end of the term! We've got you covered for all three meals of the day because dinner must be cake!

FOOD

Andrada Balmez
Food Editor

If you are still reading this – congratulations! You've made it through the first term. While it's not a big deal, I feel like I need a pat on the back every time I manage to get more than five hours of sleep, so... surviving for so long made me think that I actually have to celebrate. I mean, I only have three deadlines and two tests coming up, but if I can survive so far, I'll manage to hang on a bit longer. Trust me, so will you.

And now that you've realised what a great thing you've accomplished, I think you want to celebrate, right? I am not saying that you should go bankrupt for one celebratory meal, but I think that you should invest a little bit in it. Treat yourself!

Go crazy! This is why it's called "celebrating", right?
So, here comes the list

"It sounds fancy, it's delicious, nutritious, filling and, if you care about such things – very Instagramable"

of best places to have a celebratory meal – places and dishes tested by the pickiest! Maybe you could just have a day in which you decide to try all these amazing places: walking from restaurant to restaurant in the search of the things that make you happy. Just remember that, if you actually manage to

eat everything on this list, you'll have to go to the gym. Or change half your clothes for a bigger size. But do try some of them!

Best breakfast

Having breakfast out is a bit weird for me as I wouldn't normally wake up early enough to have time to go out and not be late for class when I can just sleep in a bit more and enjoy my cereal. But sometimes, when I have a free day and I cannot sleep, I like exploring what this city has to offer. The good thing is that, for breakfast, there are few places where you have to wait the same length you might wait for lunch or dinner.

This is how I've discovered Chiltern Firehouse (1 Chiltern St, Marylebone) and their *a-maz-ing* breakfast – biggest problems with it are that I don't have time for it everyday and I definitely don't have the funds. But it's a great experience! I've

only eaten there once and I still want to recommend it. And because it's celebratory and it's breakfast out, I'd say try something that you don't normally go for – lobster and crab omlette! It sounds fancy, it's delicious, nutritious, filling, and – if you care about such things – very Instagramable.

Celebratory steak is a must!

My best friend took me to have some steak after I finished my first year – he is a huge lover of steak – and I must admit that, even if the meal itself was somewhat out-of-this-world, the experience itself was more than I asked for. HIX Oyster and Chop House (36-37, Greenhill Rents, Cowcross Street) is not something I would have picked for myself but after having the Glenarm Estate Porterhouse for two to share (yes, I had to Google the exact name), I keep telling myself that

I need to go back at least once more – especially since I've heard that they have a Sunday roast.

I seriously cannot praise this steak enough, and before you take my word for it, you should know that I constantly complain about how tasteless most food is in London. You should seriously find some time and go give them a try – but double check the prices before ordering something as they tend to be quite high (I should thank my friend for also paying for the dinner, right?)

Celebratory dessert

Whenever I am talking about food, I try not to sound too pretentious, but I cannot constrain myself this time and I am going to recommend, in my opinion, the best cake in London – and trust me, I've eaten enough cake in London to know the best when I try it – it's a Godiva cafe. Truth be told, I've

only been to one Godiva cafe (the one in Harrods – 87-135 Brompton Rd, Knightsbridge) and I have no idea if there are any other around, but this one is perfectly placed as it is fairly close to uni.

I've tried all their cakes and I love most of them, but, my favourite by far is the white chocolate baked cheesecake. I eat it at least once a month and I have to admit that it's been consistently good – not just once in while which can happen in some places. The chocolate is not overpowering and it matches perfectly the cheese flavour. You almost feel like you are not eating something sweet, and the consistency is just great – one slice is a bit too much for a single person and this is a shame. It comes with melted chocolate that makes it a little bit too sweet but it's amazing on its own!



iPOP
Quad Union
TAKEOVER

FRIDAY
24 November
20:00 - 02:00
Metric & FiveSixEight

BLACK FRIDAY DEAL
just door entry £2.50
entry & 2 drinks £6.00
entry & 4 drinks £11.00

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on



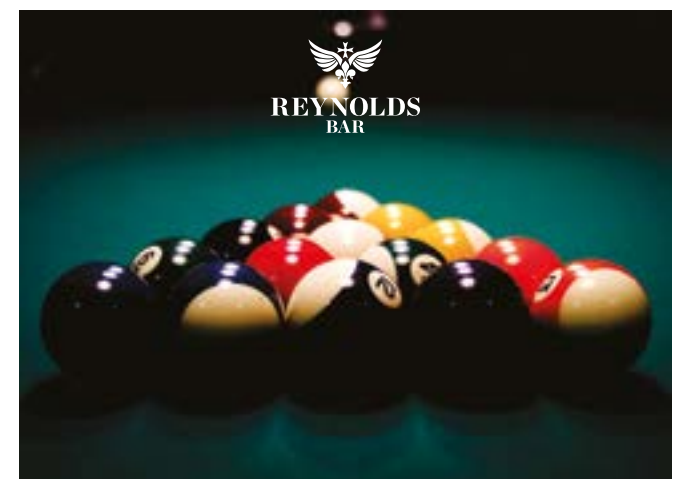
h GSU

Pub Quiz

Test your minds and enter the h-bar Pub Quiz! It's free to enter, and you and your team could win a £50 bar tab. Second prize is a bottle of house wine. Now every Thursday!

Every Thursday
19:30 - 23:00 / h-bar

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on



FREE POOL

Free pool all night long at Reynolds
Just ask at the bar for cues, chalk and balls

Every Day from 17:00

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on



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
19:00-02:00

IPOP Quad Union Takeover

This Friday
20:00-02:00

Find us on Facebook!

fb.com/beitbars



Pub Quiz

Every Thursday
19:30-23:00

PGI Friday

Every Friday
19:00-00:00

Find us on Facebook!

fb.com/hbarpub



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

Cocktail Night

Every Friday
17:00 onwards

Find us on Facebook!

fb.com/reynoldsbarx

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

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on



LIBERATION

icu-disabilities@imperial.ac.uk

Inclusivity, disability, employment – to disclose or not disclose?

Disabilities have a perception of being a 'cost', but they can bring great benefits to the workplace or university.

LIBERATION

Hisham Abdel Aty
Disabilities Officer

As someone with a disability myself, I always thought that it would be reasonable to presume that companies would be less likely to hire someone that would 'cost' them more in terms of time and/or money for reasonable adjustments. Since it's internship applications season I thought I would write this article to give a better, more accurate perspective of the issue – and hopefully attempt to answer the question of whether one should disclose.

It is reasonable to think that companies want to minimise expenses at all costs: we have seen trends for companies to move manufacturing and call centre operations to other countries to reduce costs, right? Surely this is part of the problem: the perception that people with disabilities cost more than your average Joe.

Many research reports have been published about this issue, and all of the case studies agreed that in the end hiring people with disabilities is good for the bottom-line. A recent guidance publication from the Department for Work and Pensions list many benefits to the company: for example, hiring people with disabilities can bring additional skills such as BSL, increase the diversity, enable a better service for the diverse range of customers, and increase the number of high quality applicants. Employers also reported that providing adjustments resulted in



People with disabilities can be reluctant to disclose to their work // Flickr/Uncoolbob

benefits such as retaining valuable employees, improving productivity and morale, reducing workers' compensation and training costs, and improving company diversity. The publication found that since the adjustments are usually low cost, they are much cheaper than the

“All the case studies published agree that hiring people with disabilities is good for the bottom-line”

cost of employee turnover. Not only that, but there is the Access to Work grant, which will cover the cost

for the adjustments if needed.

But let's look at some stats: those with a disability are twice as likely to be unemployed compared to non-disabled people in the UK. This could be due to inaccessible workplaces, negative attitudes from employers, or simply inflexible working hours. But does that mean you should not disclose?

Well, disclosure is simply a word to describe the kind of tricky situation of deciding whether you choose to tell the employer you're disabled; it's not just a case of whether you do it, but also, when you do it. Personally, I ask myself the question “can I do the job without my disability affecting my performance?” If the answer is “yes” then I don't disclose straight away; but otherwise it becomes a case of when you should disclose, because you definitely should! There are many things an employer

can do to help, but nothing will be done if you do not raise your voice. If your disability is rather obvious (like mine) then disclosing as early as possible would mean fewer awkward surprises at interviews and such. However, the above is merely my own personal advice, and above

“It is completely your personal choice whether to disclose, when to do it, and how”

all you must remember it is completely your personal choice whether to disclose, when to do it, and how.

The importance of raising disability awareness

LIBERATION

Hisham Abdel Aty
Disabilities Officer



Before stepping up for this role earlier this year, I tried to look for the Disabilities Officer at the time to ask for some advice. I discovered, after three days of searching, that no one ran in the elections, so the position was not filled. Even though this position seems niche in the Imperial community, it is extremely important for those who need it and for those who may not know that help is there, I found this to be disappointing. This was one of the main reasons I ran. I really want to create a supportive environment and maximise inclusivity and integration. As well as attempt to change the culture about disabilities in the Imperial and wider community.

It is such a critical and hopeful time for those with disabilities, as the White City campus shows great potential for a more accessible environment and better services. I recently went to look around the new campus to ensure that we have the best possible facilities to meet the needs of everyone.

It is important to raise awareness about disabilities within the student body, as well as with staff. This provides people who have not had as much experience with disabilities an insight into the variety of disabilities, as well as the needs of those affected. Thus I have been organising many events for Disability History Month (22nd November to 22nd December), which display the difficulties faced by Imperial students on a daily basis. The events vary from disability sports events to British Sign Language workshops, as well as information stalls and talks! And we need your help – you can volunteer for the events here: <https://goo.gl/ysTtBi>

Diverse@Imperial

29 January – 2 February

The week aims to celebrate and recognise the diversity of talent among staff and students with displays in the College Main Entrance and across our campuses. For this year's theme, "People like me," the team would like to share the stories of people of all backgrounds and identities who make up the Imperial community, particularly from people who may have overcome hurdles – big or small – to come to work or study at Imperial.

This is the perfect opportunity for you to share your story with everyone at Imperial. Complete this survey

imperialcollegeunion.org/diversesurvey

by Wednesday the 22nd of November and be part of an amazing exhibition showcasing the stories of Imperial staff and students.



Winter Carnival



...Let's have & Rock n Roll Christmas this year to celebrate the last day of term!

Super Early Bird Tickets SOLD OUT already!!! Standard Early Birds now on sale...get them before they run out too!!!

Early Bird Tickets - Monday 6th to Sunday 26th of November £2.50

Come to the union shop and get your Christmas jumper today!



what's on

Don't forget to keep an eye on our page to keep yourself updated with all the stuff that's happening! We have amazing things coming up. Have a look on our website, here:

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on

Feeling overwhelmed?



**advice
centre**

Contact us:

advice@imperial.ac.uk

020 7594 8060

imperialcollegeunion.org/advice

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

felix.clubsandsocieties@imperial.ac.uk



All adventures start from the Imperial minivan // ICSEDS

IC STUDENTS FOR THE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE (ICSEDS)

ICSEDS is the technical space society of Imperial. We provide our members with technical skills through our projects, opportunities to get involved in the space community by holding lectures, and we also run trips to industry locations and space conferences. Our projects this year include rocketry, ballooning, engine design, lunar rover, and CubeSat! CubeSat is new this year and is aiming to develop a simple search & rescue CubeSat.

Model Rocketry is our beginners group for

rocketry, where you can build kit rockets and then design a larger rocket in the second term. High Powered Rocketry (HPR) design powerful rockets from scratch, this year aiming for supersonic speed. High Altitude Ballooning design and create balloons to send the payload to the upper atmosphere. Electronics focuses on the application of electronics for the other projects. Rover will be entering the UKSEDS Lunar Rover Competition. Finally, Engine Design Project is a long-term student-led project aiming to design a hybrid rocket engine to be used in one of the high powered rockets.

We also do fun socials,

such as space quiz and film nights, as well as industry talks. So far this year we have seen the return of our Annual Kerbal Space Program Challenge on 7th November! Over the coming year, we're planning trips to space facilities, such as the European Astronaut Centre in Cologne.

So if you love space and want to learn more about it, gain technical skills and connect with the best in the industry, buy membership for ICSEDS, join our mailing list, and like us on Facebook!

§

IC FASHION AND DESIGN SOCIETY

Imperial College Fashion and Design society (ICFAD) started its second year with a vintage shop crawl. Twenty eager shoppers spent the afternoon winding their way through the streets of Soho browsing through floppy hats, military jackets, and various items covered in embroidery and sequins. We ended the crawl with heaps of Hipchips – in other words, colourful crisps served with a surprisingly extensive range of dips, to satisfy our rumbling stomachs.

Our first collaboration with LeoSoc, the Halloween Make-Off, was a great chance for our members to be spookily creative. Some fantastic costumes

were conjured up from fabric, paper, masks, zipties, pipe cleaners, and so much more!

Following on from the success of our charity London based designer and illustrator, running every Wednesday from 15th November until 6th December. Her work has appeared in the windows of Selfridges' Wonder Room, as well as in private exhibitions worldwide!

§

ICU RAG

Every year for 36 hours, Imperial teams are unleashed from Beit Quadrangle, with only their bright Jailbreak t-shirts, RAG goodie bags, and creative costumes to get as far as possible from Imperial without spending any of their own money!

Hitchhike, busk, haggle

to raise money on the streets – with a little bit of lateral thinking, who knows where you will end up! Our Imperial College record is Bali, Indonesia – set in the Big Jailbreak of autumn 2016. Can you beat it?

Enthusiasm will get you far! This year, all donations going towards ICU RAG's four chosen charities: Amar Foundation, Action Against Hunger, Anthony Nolan and Royal Society for Blind Children.

Dare take on the challenge? Make sure you attend the information evening (free pizza) tonight (17th November), 6pm, in LT 300 CAGB (Mechanical Engineering)!

When: Saturday 2nd December 9am – Sunday 3rd December 9pm 2017.

Ticket price - £10!!

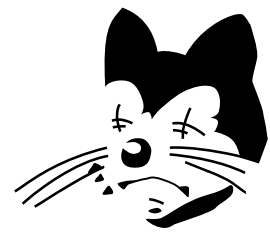


ICFAD hanging outside Pop Boutique during their vintage shop crawl // ICFAD

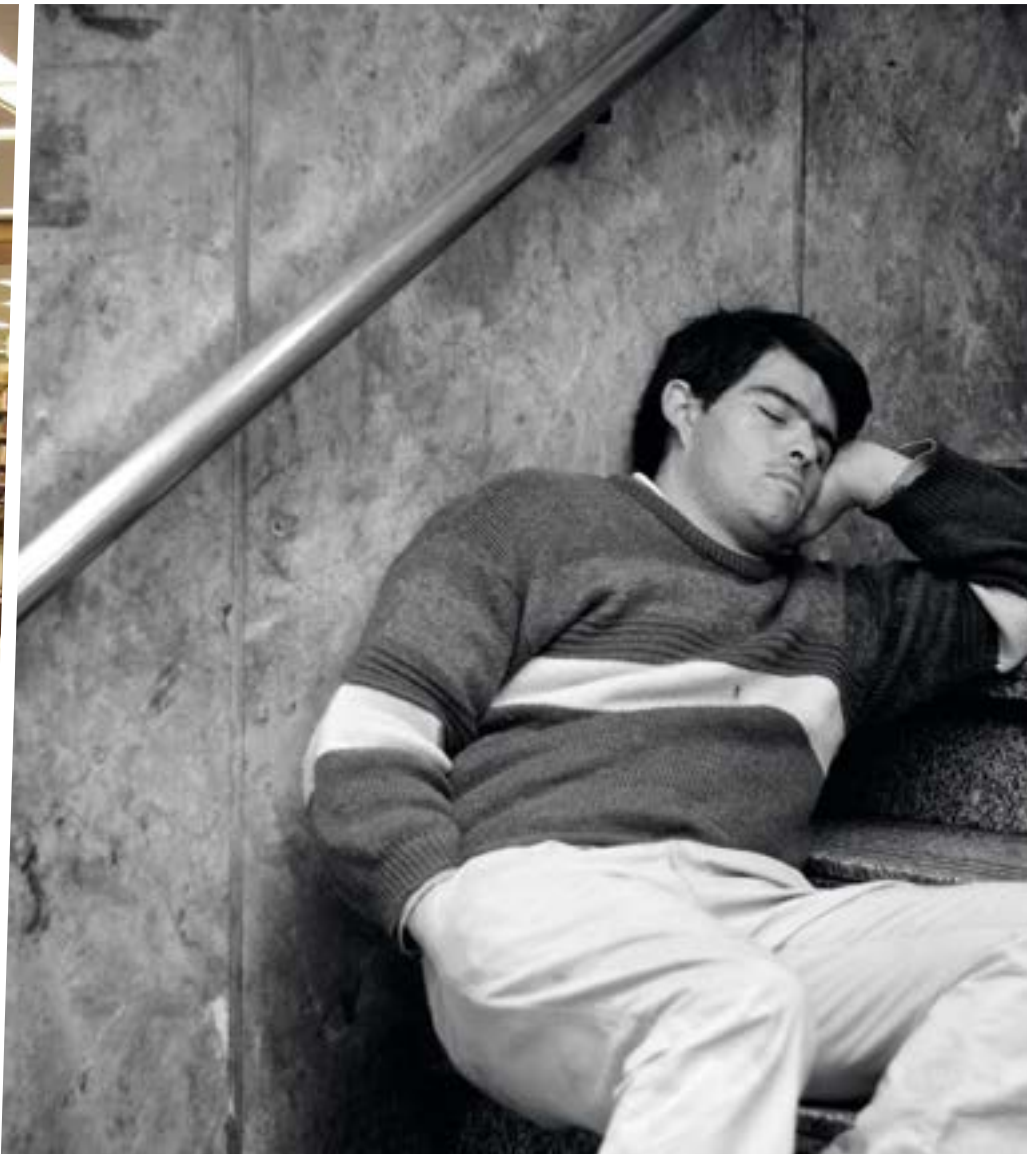
YOUR WEEK AHEAD

So you didn't manage to get anything done in your reading week last week, but why let that distract you from all that's on offer in this week ahead? Go on, live a little!

	MONDAY 20 TH NOVEMBER	TUESDAY 21 ST NOVEMBER	WEDNESDAY 22 ND NOVEMBER	THURSDAY 23 RD NOVEMBER	FRIDAY 24 TH NOVEMBER
GIVE YOURSELF A NIGHT OFF	FROM EXPLORATION TO PRODUCTION	AUTUMN PERFUME WORKSHOP	IC SPEAKERS CLUB MEETING	MAHJONG NIGHT	
<i>Treat Yo' Self</i> <i>All day, every day.</i>	<i>IC AAPG</i> <i>17.00-18.00, Location TBC</i>	<i>IC Derm Society</i> <i>12.30-13.30, SAFB MDL1</i>	<i>IC Speakers Toastmasters</i> <i>18.15-20.15, SAFB 121</i>	<i>IC Mahjong</i> <i>18.00-20.00, EEE 403a</i>	
You've made it through the first half of first term! Well done you! Now go and take a night off, watch a film, eat some nice food, drink some mimosas.	A talk by Mike Mayall – senior advisor at BP and visiting Imperial professor – on the life cycle of a hydrocarbon field. He is a world recognised expert in deep water depositional systems. Food and drinks post-talk!	The 2017 Autumn perfume workshop is a great opportunity where students get to experiment with 10-15 essential oils/ carrier oils, and to take away 2 x 10ml scent rollers blended by themselves as well.	Imperial College Speakers Toastmasters Club helps undergrad and postgrad students improve their public speaking, critical listening, and interpersonal skills! Free for guests!	Description: Come play Mahjong with the society! We teach new players how to play, and run an open club night for more experienced players.	



Hangman



Stop fucking napping in the JCR queue // Flickr/Popshots/Nicolas Alejandro

SleepImperial leads to “inappropriate napping”

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

Imperial College Union held its SleepImperial week last week, leading to an outbreak of inappropriate napping across campus.

The campaign, which aimed to promote healthy sleeping patterns and awareness of the impact of tiredness, was carried out during the past week across Imperial. However, Felix has heard reports

that students and staff, encouraged by the campaign, have taken to sleeping at unusual times, causing massive disturbance.

“A number of students have dragged mattresses into the stacks and set up camp”

Central Library have reported a record number of complaints of people falling asleep in the library. “Normally I

wouldn't mind that much when students nap in here,” one librarian told Felix, “but with a large section of the library being out of commission, and huge increase in the number of nappers, this is really taking the piss.” Traditionally, the library had a dedicated sleeping area – with cushions and duvets – in the fiction section, which nobody ever went to, and few knew existed. However, a number of students have dragged mattresses into the stacks and set up camp. One student Felix spoke to expressed their annoyance: “It's annoying enough to have people leave their shit on the table when they go to the

library cafe for lunch, but now people are going off to ‘power nap’ for four hours, and I just can't deal.”

“Michelle, a second-year mechanical engineer, had begun taking micro-naps in the Tanpopo queue”

The problems aren't only confined to the Library: Michelle

McCrystler, a second-year mechanical engineering student, had begun taking micro-naps in the Tanpopo queue. “I mean, this is such a ridiculously long wait,” she told Felix from her camp bed, “I might as well catch up on a bit of sleep while I wait for my katsu curry.”

A Union representative told Felix that they were “very pleased” at how well SleepImperial had been received. “We are so proud that the hard work of our campaigns team has paid off,” they told Felix, “Here in the Union Offices, we have also taken on the lessons from SleepImperial, and banned caffeine in the offices.” Union productivity has

reportedly dropped markedly.

Jon Smithson, Vice Provost (Micronapping and Sleep Hygiene), said that the College had also made a number of changes: “We've long been committed to the welfare of our staff: earlier this year we converted our media suite into a dedicated sleep-pod, and an on-site sleep coach is available to any staff who want to get better rest. This week, we've taken things further, and given all Sport Imperial staff the week off to sleep.” Felix has heard reports that a number of ACC teams are very happy with this arrangement.

HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

CGCU Spanner Bearer to become paid role

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

Imperial College Union announced yesterday that the Spanner Bearer of the City and Guilds College Union (CGCU) was to be paid in actual legitimate cashmonies.

The Spanner Bearer is the member of the CGCU committee responsible for ensuring the safety of the spanner, lifting it during CGCU BOOMALAKA, and a number of other

completely bizarre traditions that nobody really understands.

Paul Balaji, the current Spanner Bearer, said that the role “has an extremely heavy workload, mostly involving guard duty”, but that this takes its toll on their studies. Furthermore, Balaji reports frequently having to make emergency runs to the Union for curly fries during night shifts, draining his student loan. “I've had to lift that fucking spanner so many times, I no longer have the strength in my arms to do any coursework. As a result, I've got to stay here an extra year, or until the feeling returns to my hands.” The CGCU say that remuneration would help the Spanner Bearer's

financial health as an individual.

A spokesperson for Imperial College Union said that they weren't aware of this plan and that they didn't have £10,000 to give to the spanner bearer, as the Reception desk was starting to look a little shabby, and the money would need to be ring-fenced. A Union spokesperson said “we are committed to student welfare, and will hold a staff development day to brain-storm, mind-map, and think-juice potential sources of revenue.” Rumours that this will include writing ideas down on small pieces of paper and emptying them into an inflatable globe like that one from Crystal Maze are

entirely well-founded.

The College told Felix that they thought that this was a lot of nonsense, but said that “the collaborative nature of bearing the Spanner, working with the bearer of the Bolt, is a very cohesive and affirmative experience for the students involved”. A spokesperson also clarified that the College would not be providing any of the funds, as they had “much more important things to be buying”. When asked for further details, the spokesperson refused to comment (although one staff member in the Faculty Building was overheard yelling “yass new yoga mats”).

It is yet to be established whether the



I mean what even is this thing // Imperial College

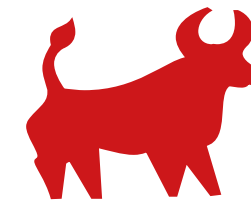
freshly-paid-up Spanner Bearer would be punished for consistently allowing the spanner to be stolen by the RCSU. Suggested punishments from members of the CGCU

have included “don't pay them, for fuck's sake”, “what the hell, they're paying people now?” and “what's a CGCU?”



ARIES

This week you're outraged to read about Imperial's poor standing in the green league tables in Felix. You then throw your copy straight in the bin. It's called recycling you twat.



TAURUS

This week you go to your quiet place, the Sheffield sub-basement, to have a mental breakdown, but it's the middle of winter term, so there's a pretty long queue.



GEMINI

This week you're a student at Imperial, home of world-leading research, and you can't wait to get started on your MSc Petroleum Geoscience project! (Horoscope brought to you by Shell)



CANCER

This week it's the start of cuffing season, so you decide to settle down with the only thing that's ever really loved you unreservedly: your right hand.



LEO

This week you're hugely upset that Greggs chose to replace Jesus with a sausage roll in their Xmas adverts. It should clearly be a portion of curly fries.



VIRGO

This week you're Morrissey. Just stop. Please.



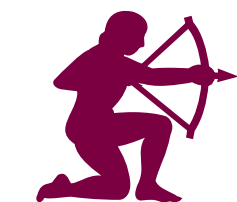
LIBRA

This week you're planning on putting down a deposit on your house, but then you pass by the JCR, and before you know if you've spent £10,000 on sandwiches.



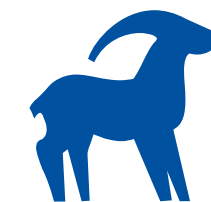
SCORPIO

This week you take inspiration from James Dyson, decide “no grade is better than a bad grade”, and refuse to hand in your coursework. You get a bad grade.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you're the Teaching Excellence Framework, and nobody really knows what you are or why you exist.



CAPRICORN

This week you try and use the fact that the Christmas adverts are appearing on TV to distract yourself from the fundamental meaninglessness of life. It works. Kinda.



AQUARIUS

This week you work in the Grantham Institute, and press people keep asking you for comments on Imperial's position in the green league tables. You've run out of synonyms for “surprised” and “disappointed”.



PISCES

This week you're the Felix Puzzles Editor, and you're bitterly disappointed not to have the back cover. You quietly vow to wage war with the Sports section.

SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

ICXCAC Trail Team summit Mount Snowdon

Cross Country & Athletics' subsidiary takes a trip to Wales.

SPORTS

Fergus Johnson
ICXCAC Secretary

With first term now in full-swing, and some of ICXCAC's athletes getting bored of endless laps of Hyde Park, trail captain Henry had organised a timely trail running tour to the notorious Imperial-owned St. Mary's Mountain Hut in the deepest, darkest corner of Snowdonia National Park.

Having failed to set off before Friday's rush hour, the eager squad departed around sunset (sadly now about 16:30) on Friday, November 3rd, and settled down for the long trip to Wales. Within minutes, well-known underage fresher Aymeric was on the floor. He wasn't laughing (ROFL) but rather in a bizarre contorted sleeping position. The first weeks of term must have really taken their toll.

After half an hour the minibus had made it all

the way to Hammersmith where they successfully organised a pick-up of a job-hunting alumnus. The remainder of the journey was largely uneventful, except for a notable pit-stop at a sizeable supermarket with ID-obsessed till operators. As the drowsy runners neared their destination, the dark Welsh roads became narrower and bumpier. This did not deter wannabe rally-driver/medic Henry, however, who breezed through the country lanes

"As the drowsy runners neared their destination, the dark Welsh roads became narrower and bumpier"

very efficiently (and very safely).

Arriving just after

midnight, the revellers disembarked in a nauseous daze and quickly entered their accommodation for the weekend – it had begun to rain. To describe the hut as bare-bones would be generous, but the runners were simply happy to have arrived before the minibus plunged into a Welsh ditch.

The next day the squad awoke early, with their sights set on ascending the highest peak in England & Wales: the majestic Mount Snowdon. After a short drive to a car park near the visitor centre for "Electric Mountain" (which is in fact dedicated to energy generation rather than some sort of rock band), the adventurers began their climb from a modest altitude of just 110m

Starting out as a group, they soon spread out as the incline became rather severe. On the ascent the group passed many incredulous walkers, and also witnessed a pair unicycling down the track! The runners made good progress – zooming past the tempting café without rest – and the leaders



The intrepid runners celebrate reaching Snowdon's summit // ICXCAC

reached the summit of 1085m in just over an hour, after running the 7.5km without a break.

At such dizzying heights, the front-runners soon grew cold as they waited for the rest of the squad. They found shelter from the relentless bitter wind behind the wall of the large cafeteria and station for the famous Snowdon train. Unfortunately – being off-season – both of these luxuries were closed, leaving the group to face the harsh reality of a long stumble back down.

Once everyone had arrived, the team huddled in a circle and began chanting to warm themselves up. The most popular songs referenced the arm span of lanky fresher Matt (He's Got The Whole Club In His Span), and claimed they were in fact from King's College (Everywhere We Go). After posing for several pics with the stunning views of thick fog and being mistaken for Coventry University Hockey Club the runners began the daunting descent.

On the way down

there were more stops for photos at the route attractions such as "Lion King's Pride Rock" and "The End of the World", and this time they did stop in the cafe, enjoying warming hot beverages despite the shocking lack of contactless payment (and card) acceptance.

Once back at base camp the team annoyed a local cafe by consuming mostly home-made sandwiches on their premises before heading back for some well-earned rest. That evening, the squad re-boarded the minibus and took a short trip to civilisation in Caernarfon for a decent firework display, before returning to the hut for a night filled with the game Articulate and some hijinks (featuring six in a bed).

On Sunday the group split into two, with some hard-core early risers opting to try a run up a much steeper side of the mighty Snowdon in "Everest conditions" of heavy hail and strong winds. The other half lazed in bed before taking a far easier run along the nonetheless undulating

roads, then rustling up a cracking breakfast despite the somewhat limited kitchen equipment.

Before long the team were all showered and it was time to pack up and return to the suffocatingly

"On Sunday some hard-core early risers opted for a run up the much steeper side of Snowdon in 'Everest conditions'"

polluted metropolis of London. That night, all the runners took their time to appreciate the joys of WiFi and mobile signal, but vowed to return to some rural, picturesque trails soon.

For find out more about Cross Country & Athletics, email run@ic.ac.uk.



An uncanny recreation of that scene from Lion King // ICXCAC

SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial Immortals face surprising and frustrating defeat

Their rookie-heavy squad is improving, especially the offense, but faced stiff competition from the UEA Pirates.

SPORT

Francisco Costa

Publicity Officer

33 UEA Pirates
6 Imperial Immortals

The Imperial Immortals came out strong in our second game of the season. During the first quarter of game we were pushing the University of East Anglia's defence back, making them work for first downs. As the game carried on, however, the Imperial Immortals' injuries grew, and – with our small squad size for the game – this made it difficult for us to structure ourselves.

Amongst our injured players was Francisco "what's a training session" Costa who, after only a

few training sessions, was able to make great tackles, stopping two UEA touchdowns. Fran did his best to keep up with the automatic adjustments and coverages at every play, but was unfortunately taken off after his second head injury of

"As the game carried on, the Imperial Immortals' injuries grew, and – with our small squad – this made it difficult"

the game. In the end, after a few lucky breaks and some good plays, the UEA offence put up 33 points against our defence.

On a positive note

our offense had good improvement, making a lot more yards than we made against Kent, as our rookie-heavy offense gets used to the triple option style of play.

A big congratulation to Michael "Alex Moran" Urashima for stepping up to the role of quarterback after our first string QB rolled his ankle. Michael had great play awareness and avoided tackles left right and centre, trying to make the right read and follow the play. Being only a rookie, this level of skill really caught the coach's attention – he was able to pull off great plays, all without wearing red jeans.

Dan "handsome Dan" Grumberg won line MVP this game for his consistency and leadership on the O-line. Dan made sure the rest of the line was aware of the plays at every point, and always managed to execute when making crucial blocks to protect



Immortals taking it on the chin // Imperial Immortals

"Dan made sure the rest of the line was aware of the plays at every point"

the plays.

Once again Harry "floodgates" Lawrence was able to win overall MVP, making plays for both offence, defence, and special teams. Harry scored our only touchdown from a great return at special teams, and he didn't even need Fran to score first this time. Harry gave his all on the

field and really proved his value to the coaches and the team. The final score of the game was 33-6 to UEA Pirates – a frustrating loss for the Immortals that was not expected. We will improve upon this score and show other teams we are to be taken as a serious contender from this season, as we were before.

PHOENIX

Imperial's arts magazine returns!

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