



Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London

NEWS



EU staff already leaving Imperial following Brexit

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The Royal Brompton feared they would have to close their paediatric intensive care unit // Tom Mrazek

Brompton Hospital to continue heart surgery services after NHS U-turn

NEWS

Fred Fyles
Editor-in-Chief

The hospital, which is linked to Imperial's National Heart and Lung Institute, was previously scheduled to have a number of services cut

NHS England has reversed plans to close three of the country's heart surgery units, including that of the Royal Brompton

Hospital.

Proposals published by NHS England in July 2016 relating to future commissioning of congenital heart disease (CHD) services for adults and children had earmarked a number of units for closure.

Earlier this week, however, the NHS England board announced that units at the Royal Brompton, Leicester, and Newcastle would remain open, subject to certain conditions, a move welcomed by a number of Imperial staff and students.

The proposals, which stated that centres wishing to carry out CHD treatment would need a

number of other services on-site, generated a large amount of controversy. Lord Darzi, holder of

“Proposals from NHS England had earmarked a number of cardiology units for closure”

the Paul Hamlyn Chair of Surgery at Imperial,

and Sir Magdi Yacoub, Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Imperial's National Heart and Lung Institute, said closure would be “a disaster” and “not in the best interest of our patients”.

Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust currently do not provide all services required by the proposals on-site; instead, they work in collaboration with Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, which is located less than a mile away. The proposals also stated that centres would need three heart surgeons, carrying out 125 operations each year.

The Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust have outlined a new proposal for meeting the standards, joining with King's Health Partners, which comprises of a number of hospitals in south London. They plan to develop a purpose-built facility, as well as increase investment at other sites.

They will continue to offer CHD services as they work towards these new plans. NHS England has said that keeping the service open is “conditional on demonstrating convincing progress along the way”. Newcastle

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EDITORIAL

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Felix does ACC...

This week something rather remarkable has happened: the Felix Editor is writing his editorial before noon on a Thursday, rather than an hour before the print deadline. It's unprecedented. I could lie, and say that this is because I'm being super organised, but you and I both know that's not the case. What really happened was that last night Felix did ACC, and I am now too hungover to write anything other than a sentimental barrage of my thoughts and #feelings. This was my first ACC night since coming to Imperial, more than five years ago, a fact that shocked many of the editorial team. I was always under the impression that it was like sports night on steroids, and that anyone who wasn't on the football team would get forced to down pints by pituitary cases painted blue. Was this the case? Maybe. Who knows. I really can't remember that much, other than attempting to do a strawpedo and being hit with that barrage of warm, sweaty air you encounter when you first enter Metric. I also have a distinct recollection of

someone asking me what sports team I was on; I think I said 'yoga'. But after a few hours of incredibly poor quality sleep, I'm back in the office, trying to get this week's paper to print. As I write this, NHS England have just announced that the Royal Brompton Hospital will be keeping its congenital heart disease services open – long-gestating proposals relating to quality of care for cardiology patients would have led to the services being

scrapped, which would have had a knock-on effect on their other units. The Royal Brompton is a world-famous centre for respiratory medicine and cardiology, and closure of these units would have made this a thing of the past. At Imperial, people are often accused of being apolitical. We're told that we don't care enough about the world around us, that we're too busy focussing on lab reports and SCR breakfasts

to get upset about rent strikes or living wage campaigns. But while it's true that most people here are working very hard, developments around the Royal Brompton highlight why it's so important for us to stay tuned in to what's going on. Science isn't divorced from the world – it's a field that is intensely political, hugely contingent on decisions made in Westminster and beyond. Lack of funding for the NHS will have a knock-on impact on the amount of research being done; Brexit has already led to academics leaving Imperial for less Euro-sceptic shores; and what you're supposed to be learning in that aero lecture you're not paying attention to could have a real impact on the world in the future.

So we should all engage with the political sphere, and this starts with education: find out about the issues that will affect you; learn the names of your local councillors; head along to some meetings. Science has got to be political – it can't afford not to be.



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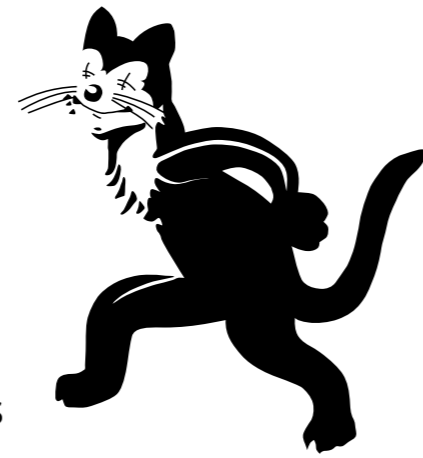
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Each week Rob Garside will be interviewing the team all about how Felix is made, and the stories we publish each week.

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NEWS

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Decision to continue Royal Brompton services welcomed by Imperial students

NEWS

Fred Fyles
Editor-in-Chief

(cont.)

upon Tyne Hospitals and University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Foundation Trusts will also continue to offer CHD services.

In a statement, Bob Bell, the Trust's chief executive, said they "welcome the opportunity to continue developing the benefits of a collaboration with King's Health Partners across cardiac and respiratory medicine and research".

He went on to say that "we are pleased to have been given the opportunity to shape our own destiny", but that "any relocation of services... would involve consultation with many groups, including patients, staff, referrers, commissioners, and other key stakeholders".

While the Royal Brompton will remain open, a number of centres across the country – including

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust – will no longer offer certain CHD

"ICSM Heart welcomed the move, saying it would benefit both patients and students at Imperial"

services.

Lisa-Jayne Edwards and Chris Eichhorn, presidents of ICSM Heart, a student society for those interested in cardiology, said they were "very pleased" by the decision. "The Royal Brompton Hospital, especially, is a centre of interest, study, and inspiration for our members who aspire to be cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, and cardiovascular scientists," they told Felix. "This decision will certainly affect students' exposure to the narrow field of congenital cardiology."



The proposals were strongly criticised by several Imperial academics, including Lord Darzi // Imperial

They went on to say: "Our thoughts as a medical academic society, however, lie with the current and prospective patients. We are glad that a solution has been reached that benefits them overall whilst continuing to provide their future doctors with exceptional training and a solid evidence-base."

The Royal College of

Surgeons, in a joint statement with the Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery, said they supported raising standards, but "these changes should have happened decades ago", and the "endless delays" have caused "great uncertainty to all the hospitals involved, their staff, and the children they care for."

Plans to end CHD services at the Royal

Brompton were fiercely opposed by the hospital, whose representatives claimed that it would cost the trust £47 million – 13% of their income – a figure NHS England disputed. The Royal Brompton also argued that cessation of CHD services would have a knock-on effect on other services they could provide, such as paediatric respiratory

medicine.

The Royal Brompton Hospital is one of the best known centres in the world for cardiology and respiratory medicine. It was responsible for the UK's first combined heart and lung transplant, and is closely linked with Imperial's National Heart and Lung Institute, one of the largest respiratory departments in the world.

Chemistry labs closed following health and safety concerns

NEWS

Fred Fyles
Editor-in-Chief

A number of chemistry labs have been temporarily shut down this week following safety concerns. Four labs in the RCS1 building were closed last

Friday, after a fire audit organised by the Department of Chemistry, and carried out by external consultants, raised concerns over procedures for chemical storage and general housekeeping. The Head of Chemistry, Professor Alan Armstrong, made the decision to temporarily close the labs "so those working there could carry out

"Four labs in RCS1 were closed after an audit raised concerns over chemical storage"

housekeeping activities, such as the removal of waste", a College representative told Felix.

Sources tell Felix that the research groups affected are working with the College and Faculty of Natural Sciences to ensure that the labs comply with safety policy.

A number of students have been affected by the closure, which will

continue until safety compliance is achieved.

In a statement, a College representative told Felix "Disruption caused by the temporary closure of the labs will be taken into account when assessing student projects. Those working in the labs have been reminded of the need to comply with the highest safety standards at all times."

Two of the labs have since been reopened, and the College say that "the others are expected to follow soon."

The RCS1 Building, which is located next to the Sir Alexander Fleming Building, houses lab groups in the Department of Biology, Biochemistry, and Chemistry.

New laws introduced to regulate drones

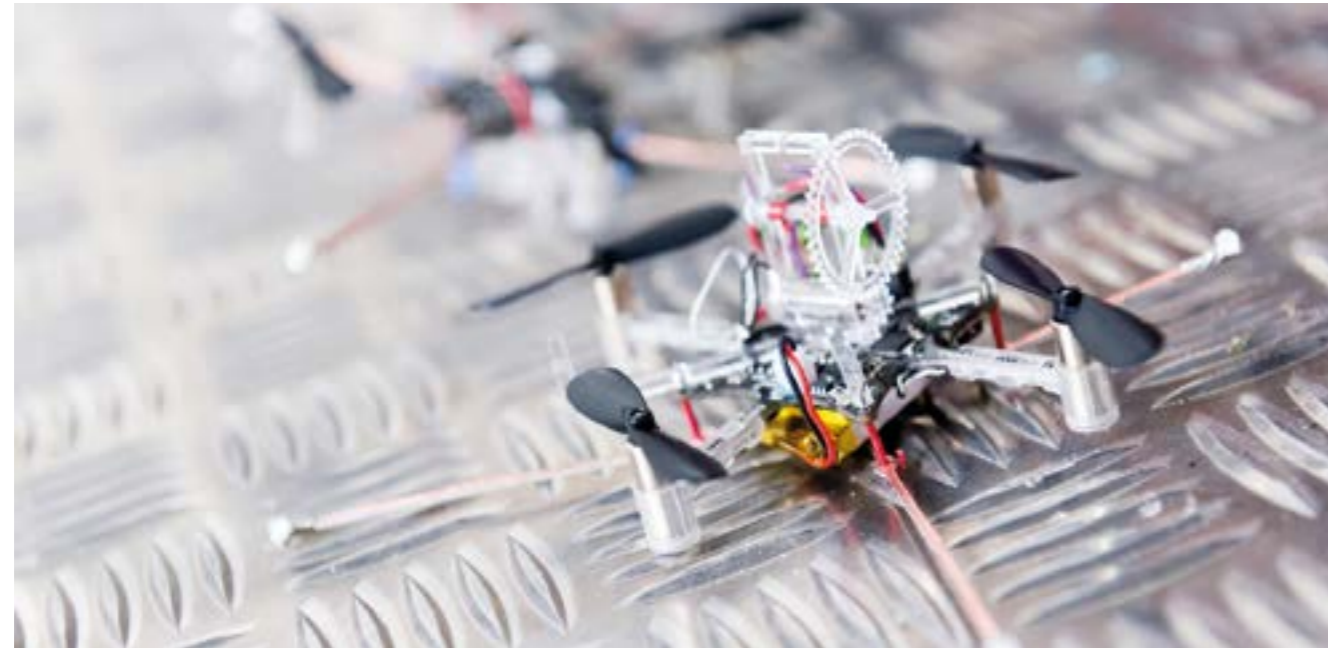
NEWS

Joanna Wormald
Deputy Editor

The Drone Bill will introduce new measures to improve safety.

A crackdown on drones will come into force next year following repeated near misses with aircraft.

The draft Drone Bill, due to be published in spring, will require drone operators to register a flight plan via an app, which will determine if the drone can be used “safely and legally”. Police will also have the power to ground drones or seize them as evidence when criminal charges are brought. The government is also considering a ban on drone flights above 400 ft (already in place for drones weighing more than 7 kg) and using ‘geo-fences’ to create no-fly zones around



It may look cute, but these can cause serious damage to planes // Imperial

airports and other restricted areas.

Peter Zheng, a PhD student in Imperial’s Aerial Robotics Lab told Felix: “This new focus on geo-fencing really does help enthusiasts keep themselves safe, and keep other people safe.

“For researchers, it’s really good to develop geo-fencing technology and guidelines. This will help us be aware of where we can safely test our

technology; being aware of this helps us to be safe.”

The government also recently announced plans to create a registry of owners of drones weighing more than 250g. These operators will also be required to take safety awareness tests. A collision with a drone weighing 400g would be sufficient to critically damage a helicopter windshield and a 2 kg drone could have the same effect on airliners.

“This law comes in at a good time, when the UK is just starting to explore commercial uses of drones,” Zheng said. “All of the developments around the safety of drones allow the public to be more engaged with this community [of drone users]. That’s also good for researchers: there will be more exposure and people will be more inclined to use the technology.”

The rising popularity of drones over recent years has caused the number of near misses to double, with multiple incidents occurring each week. Current regulations require drone operators to maintain “direct unaided visual contact” with their drones in order to prevent collisions. Between January and August 2017, the Civil Aviation Authority’s Airprox Board investigated more than 60

incidents between drones and other aircraft.

A large drone passed an Airbus A319 as it was landing at Gatwick. The incident report said: “A larger aircraft might not have missed it and in the captain’s opinion it had put 130 lives at risk.”

It is not just recreational drones that face problems. In September the British Army lost two reconnaissance drones that crashed into the Irish Sea. The drones were part of the Watchkeeper programme. In 2005, the UK ordered 54 drones at a cost of £847 million to provide surveillance for troops. The programme was due to begin in 2010 but following numerous setbacks, the drones have only had a brief deployment in Afghanistan. A report in July 2017 by the UK Infrastructure and Projects Authority stated the Watchkeeper programme had so far cost £1.1 billion.

Imperial climbs in physical science rankings

NEWS

Fred Fyles
Editor-in-Chief

Imperial climbs to 9th place worldwide.

Imperial has climbed two places in the Times Higher Education (THE) university rankings by their provisions for physical sciences.

The league tables, which were released earlier this week, place Imperial at 9th in the world for physical sciences – a

category THE equates to mathematics, physics, chemistry, and geology and earth sciences. Imperial’s ranking is two places up from 2017, and seven places up from 2016.

The rankings place Imperial 3rd best in the country, behind the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, which achieved global ranks of 5th and 6th respectively, within a top 20 dominated by American higher education providers.

The rankings are based on metrics, including citations, industry income, teaching, and research.

Imperial showed an increase across all metrics, most significantly in international outlook and citations.

The rankings provide a contrast with a number of other subject-based league tables, which highlighted issues with student satisfaction. The most striking of these were the Guardian University League Tables, which placed Imperial 18th in the country for Chemistry, and 30th for Physics. For physics, this was a sharp drop from the previous year’s rankings, in which they placed 8th.

This year physics also experienced a small drop in the Complete University Guide’s rankings, from 3rd to 5th.

This discrepancy might be explained by the methodology of the league tables: while the Guardian league tables take student satisfaction into account, the THE league tables do not – their score for ‘teaching’ is largely based off a survey sent out exclusively to academics.

In the Complete University Guide’s rankings, Imperial came bottom of all universities for physics in terms of student

satisfaction.

Earlier this year, students in the Departments of Physics and Chemistry reported poor satisfaction rates in the annual National Student Survey (NSS), placing last and second-to-last in rankings of departments at Imperial. Physics did particularly poorly, with only 67% of students feeling satisfied with their course, and issues with feedback and marking highlighted.

Overall, the rankings are dominated with American universities, with 115 institutions in the top 500. Australia and China have

climbed the rankings, with 23 entries each. Elsewhere, however, institutions in Germany, South Korea, and Canada have slipped down the rankings.

THE takes into account 13 performance indicators across five categories – the same system used for its overall world rankings. However, while the world rankings place a higher emphasis on teaching and research, the scores for physical sciences are more focussed on the number of citations an institution receives.

EU Imperial staff leaving following Brexit decision

NEWS

Joanna Wormald
Deputy Editor

A number of EU staff have returned to their home countries, as the Brexit deadline draws closer.

Imperial staff from the EU have begun leaving following last year’s Brexit referendum.

Speaking to the *Evening Standard*, Imperial president Alice Gast said she was “very concerned” about the uncertainties surrounding Brexit negotiations, which have caused some Imperial staff to return to their home countries in the EU. Half of the remaining staff have attended presentations about free legal support with around 220

people attending one-to-one advice sessions.

However, she added: “We are still attracting talent because we are a great and very international university and we intend to stay that way,” citing the recruitment of Professor Francisco Veloso as dean of Imperial College Business School, and Professor Simone Buitendijk as Vice Provost (Education).

Despite the challenges ahead, Professor Gast remains hopeful about Imperial’s future in post-Brexit Britain.

“I am optimistic that the value of the higher education community is understood both in Europe and the UK and that will be a motivation to negotiate good solutions to Brexit to maintain those collaborations [with EU member states]. We just have to find the right way to get there,” she said.

“We need to address the challenges of talent mobility. It will come down to good immigration policies that will enable us to bring in talented people,” she added.

“Professor Alice Gast said that she was ‘very concerned’ about Brexit uncertainties”

In an interview with French newspaper *Le Monde* earlier this year Professor Gast said: “With Brexit, Europeans risk being treated here like other foreigners. It will then be necessary to pay close attention to the migration policy that will



Brexit has placed stress on EU staff at Imperial // Wikimedia

be conducted.

“We intend to remain the most international institution. We do not want border issues to jeopardize this situation. If there are border controls, we will commit to always collaborating with people of talent,” she continued.

Professor Gast said research funded by the EU had been of “great value” to Imperial and

that it is essential these collaborations continue. In October last year, Professor Gast announced a European Partners Fund worth £100,000 a year to “develop collaborations in Europe which lead to new science and to applications for external funding.”

One quarter of Imperial staff and one fifth of its students come from the

EU. Their rights and protections while living in the UK after Brexit are still uncertain. Although progress is understood to have been made on the Divorce Bill and Irish border, Britain’s offers regarding the rights of EU citizens living in the UK post-Brexit have repeatedly been rejected by the EU as not going far enough.

Bath vice-chancellor steps down amid pay debate

NEWS

Joanna Wormald
Deputy Editor

Dame Breakwell, who is at the centre of a row over vice-chancellor pay, will resign at the end of this year.

The vice-chancellor of Bath University will step down at the end of the academic year following concerns over her pay, but will continue to collect her salary until 2019.

Dame Glynis Breakwell is the highest-paid vice-chancellor in the country, earning £468,000 a year, compared to a sector average salary

of around £250,000-£280,000. She has been at the centre of a controversial row over the past few months surrounding the “exceptional” salaries paid to vice-chancellors.

After facing increasing pressure from students and academics at Bath University, Dame Glynis will finish her tenure as vice-chancellor on the 31st of November 2018. She will then take a six month sabbatical, thus continuing to receive her full salary until February 2019. The university is also writing off her interest-free £31,000 car loan, which staff claim was a benefit in kind rather than a loan. On top of this, Dame Glynis receives £8,738 a year for a housekeeper to look after her Georgian townhouse

(another benefit in kind that cost £1.6 million) and has claimed thousands of pounds in expenses, including £2 for biscuits. Earlier this year, Labour peer and former education minister Lord (Andrew) Adonis said when all her assets were considered, Dame Glynis “is paid almost exactly half a million pounds – more than three times the prime minister’s salary”.

Although many other vice-chancellors receive exceptionally high salaries – Imperial President Alice Gast takes home £430,000 a year – attentions have focused on Dame Glynis and Bath University due to their poor handling of the situation.

Until October, Dame Glynis – like many vice-chancellors – sat on

the remuneration committee responsible for setting her salary. In the past academic year, Dame Glynis received a 3.9% pay rise, worth more than £17,500. The majority of Bath University employees received pay rises of around

“In the past year Dame Glynis received a 3.9% pay rise, worth more than £17,500”

1% (below inflation). For some, their annual salary was less than Dame Glynis’ pay increase.

A motion to censure the remunerations committee was tabled at a university council meeting in February. Dame Glynis and other committee members were allowed to vote and the motion was defeated by 33 votes to 30.

Complaints prompted an investigation by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. It made 13 recommendations, stating that the remuneration committee needed to be “much more transparent, with significantly greater explanation of its processes and decisions, both to council and more widely”.

Dame Glynis narrowly won a vote of no confidence last week, scraping victory by 19 votes to 16, with two abstentions. Dame Glynis has claimed

this to be an endorsement of her leadership. She has also defended her salary, saying: “I don’t think that it’s unreasonable for people with an enormous amount of experience and a proven track record to be rewarded in the way they are.” Although Bath University has made great progress under Dame Glynis’ chancellorship, applications to the university have dropped while its six main rivals have all received increased admissions applications.

Earlier this year, universities minister Jo Johnson set out plans that would force universities to publish details of staff earning more than £100,000 a year and justify salaries of over £150,000 to a new regulatory body, the Office for Students.

POLITICS

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Actually stop and think about it: tuition fees just don't make sense

The arguments against tuition fees far outweigh any benefits their defendants claim. It's time to scrap them.

POLITICS

Ben Cliff

Politics Writer

The debate over tuition fees is one of the most prevalent in British politics, jostling with the likes of Brexit and the NHS crisis for the spot of most important issue facing young voters at the general election earlier this year. Obviously, as the demographic who suffer the most directly from their imposition, university students are (at least at a glance) overwhelmingly against tuition fees and any proposed increases to them, hence writing an article to a student newspaper in opposition to them could be seen as more than a little pointless. However, I shall attempt to outline some of the plethora of arguments against them that go beyond mere financial self-interest.

For starters, we have the UK's majorly flawed student finance system, which loans students the money for their fees and general living costs whilst at university, in exchange for repayments over the 30 years following a student's graduation, at a rate of 9% of their salary over £21,000 plus interest. This system is certainly a good deal for students, as it almost completely mitigates our losses if our degree fails to add value to our future earnings – comparable to companies that guarantee their customers a refund if the product they bought fails to function as it should.



"Siri, get me a picture of money" // Flickr

"We have the UK's majorly flawed student finance system, which is vastly inefficient: only 55% of money loaned is paid back"

Nevertheless, it is vastly inefficient,

with only 55% of the total money loaned ever being repaid as things stand. For those who back tuition fees on the basis that degrees ought to be funded by people who directly benefit from them as opposed to the taxpayer, this means that around half of that £9250 per student per year is tax-funded regardless. This reduces the effective amount graduates pay to universities via the government loan scheme to less than a quarter of total university income.

These statistics explain exactly why the argument for tuition fees on the

basis that students ought to foot their own costs is absolutely bonkers: they just cost everyone more. As was conveniently pointed out in last month's article in defence of fees, the average graduate can expect an annual salary that is significantly higher than those who do not attend university – they are the people who will tend to go on to pay higher taxes than the general populace. In fact, due to their salary premium, they end up paying an average of £8,000 more in income tax than they borrowed to pay for university in the first place – this is on top

of the money they spend in loan repayments.

A further issue with our current system is the emotive form of debate facilitated by having a loan system. When politicians and public figures are commonly tossing around such phrases as "fifty thousand pounds worth of debt", can they really be surprised when students complain that it doesn't sound particularly fair? Of course, this is regularly followed by the aforementioned statistics

"A more educated population can innovate more and perform more highly skilled jobs"

about degrees adding value to future earnings, but once you've planted the seed of that feeling of injustice, you've already gone a long way towards polarising the argument. All that's needed to finish it off is for another group of people to start calling young people "entitled" and "ungrateful", and lo and behold, you've ended any chance of rational debate and compromise!

Of course, we're yet to even touch upon the actual reason that governments want their citizens to go to university. Though I would hate to generalise, in my experience, those who argue in favour of tuition fees don't tend

to factor in the wider economic benefits of people attending university. A more educated population can innovate more and perform more highly skilled jobs, which in turn means more money is spent and earned in the country, so governments can take in more tax revenue to spend on improving or creating public services, which increases everyone's quality of life. Yes, these effects are difficult to measure and may seem intangible, but they improve everyone's lives, graduate or not. It seems utterly ridiculous to economically disincentivise such behaviour!

Whilst these more nuanced ways of looking at the issue may not appeal to the archaic view that whatever one costs an institution must be paid back directly and precisely, those of us who oppose tuition fees may at least take solace in knowing that our viewpoint makes demonstrably more sense. The entirety of modern Western civilisation is based upon the fact that life does not have to be a zero-sum game – someone somewhere doesn't necessarily have to pay a price so that you can gain a benefit. There are many ways to fix this issue: a graduate tax (which has its problems, but is at least an improvement), or perhaps just generally raising taxation levels slightly to alleviate pressure on other public services as well. One thing is for certain: tuition fees are not the answer.

COMMENT

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COMMENT

Jack Potter

Comment Writer

Recently I heard of the sad news of a lad from my old school taking his own life at the age of 20. As is often the case he was the last person you would expect to hear such terrible news about, always laughing, joking and loved nothing more than going to the football with the lads. Although stereotypes have changed in recent times, there is still social pressure for

Real men don't cry?

Men are still stigmatised when talking about emotional problems. This is having disastrous consequences. We can do better.

men to be independent, strong and bottle up their emotion and worries.

Suicide is now the leading cause of death in men under the age of 50. Let that statistic sink in. Not cancer, not disease, not car accidents: suicide. From this shocking statistic it is clear that men are not getting the help they need and the stigma surrounding men's mental health still very much exists.

It is common for people suffering from mental health problems to hide it effectively and it is nearly always the last people you would

"Suicide is now the leading cause of death in men under 50. Let that statistic sink in"

expect. Two high profile examples of this are Tyson Fury and Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson. Both are seen as highly successful and above all 'tough guys', however both have opened up about having suffered

with mental health problems in the past.

Mental health can affect anyone, but stigmas and social pressures prevent many men opening up and getting the help they desperately need. We live in a society where men feel pressured to conform to an often unrealistic 'macho' image and talking about personal problems is seen as a weakness.

For over 10 years men have been growing moustaches in the name of Movember, an increasingly well known non profit charity which raises awareness for

men's health, including prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health, and suicide prevention. Since the charity was launched the campaign has raised over £440m for research into men's health issues. With charities like this becoming ever more popular, men's mental health is finally getting the publicity it needs.

There is no question that university life is stressful; exams, coursework deadlines, moving away from home, and any number of other possibilities. Imperial have a well established Student Counselling

Service, with counselors available at South Kensington, Hammersmith and Silwood Park Campuses.

So what can we do? In a generation when suicide rates are as high as ever, we all have a responsibility to push for a cultural change. As guys, we should not shy away from opening up about our emotions and we should reach out to others in their time of need.

So come on lads, look out for each other.

If you need support you can call The Samaritans (116 123), or CALM (0800 58 58 58)



COMMENT

Olly Dove

Comment Writer

I don't know if I'm so tired or have grown used to the wind that it now has become the norm to hear utter destruction in the background but I feel like I'm in a dream. I feel like I woke up today in a dimension that was far removed from the island I know and I will be more certain of that later today when the sun comes up and my home is unrecognizable."— Jeanelle Brisbane, at 12.18am on Tuesday the 19th September.

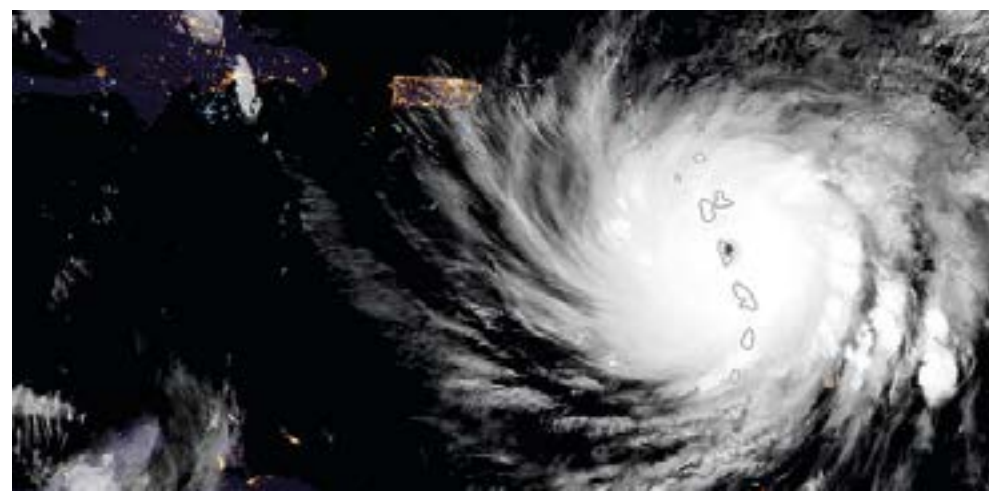
The extract above was taken from a journal

Dominica's hurricane disaster

Imperial student documents the devastation Hurricane Maria left on Dominica.

written during the night that Hurricane Maria hit Dominica, the third largest English-speaking island in the Caribbean. Now confirmed as the worst natural disaster the country has on record, Hurricane Maria took the inhabitants of Dominica, including Jeanelle and her family, by surprise. The eye of the storm, where the severest of weather and winds occur, was predicted to pass safely around the north shore of the island, but instead travelled directly across the country, ransacking communities and ecosystems as it passed.

Fundraising began swiftly after the hurricane took place, seeking to provide food and aid to those in communities affected by the storms. At Imperial's Silwood



Hurricane Maria passing over Dominica//NOAA

Campus, a Christmas Drive was undertaken to collect toys for the children of Dominica. The Drive was organised by Jeanelle, who is a master's student at Imperial, in order to spread happiness to her home that she had to witness change so dramatically.

An advocate for con-

servation, Jeanelle now turns to working on implementing a conservation action plan for Dominica. Prior to September, Dominica was two-thirds virgin forest, meaning that the ecological niches and communities there are of immense intrinsic value. After the hurricane, sightings of Dominica's

rare species become vital in confirming Dominica's ability to heal, as nearly the entire island was stripped of its lush, green forests that housed native species. In the extract below, written a few days after Maria hit, Jeanelle describes the stripping of her home's forests that coated the island, and her

optimism for it.

"My island is still home. She is still beautiful and now you can see every curve that graces her body. She still stands tall and strong like her people. But she is crying."

It will take time for Dominica to recover, but with international help and a strong sense of a community striving together, the island will regain its natural beauty once more.

If you would like to contact Jeanelle for more information about the conservation action plans or with ideas of what could be done, please email j.brisbane17@imperial.ac.uk.

For more information on contributing to the relief for Dominica, visit the website: www.dominicarelief.org

COMMENT

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In praise of Hobgoblin, the Swiss Army beer

Henry Eshbaugh, Music Editor and serial album enthusiast, reveals his true passion – Hobgoblin beer.

COMMENT

Henry Eshbaugh

Music Editor

It's just gone 11 AM, your head is fuzzy, and you roll onto your side to find a half-finished can of Stella. Your body screams for hydration but your head rails against the prospect of drinking lukewarm piss, flat, tasteless, and sticky. Oh, fates! Defeated, you slump back into bed, clutching your pounding head and cursing the decisions that led you to this moment.

My friends, I have, after substantial research, found what I believe to

be the ultimate sesh fuel. Hobgoblin, a product of Witchwood Brewery, is a ruby ale which tastes nice, can be downed with minimal effort towards the end of pres, and, most importantly, is 5.2%. A 500mL (2.6 units) bottle goes for 1.39 in the local Tezzers.

There are some very important consequences of this. Namely, this beats the 3-for-5 deal: 3 for 4.20 (ain't that a beautiful coincidence?), serving up 7.3 units of wonderful, wonderful ale. Few other "nice" beers compete; the popular Doom Bar is only 4.3%, and usually costs in the range of 1.80 to 2 quid per 500mL, and so is much less efficient when



Two goblins enjoying a drink // HobgoblinHQ

you're trying to get out the door to Egg (house music deeper than the scarring in my liver).

Oh, but you observe, you could just stick with trusty ol' 1664 or Stella, or, god forbid, Fosters. They might not have the

percentage, but they do have the volume - you can grab a pack of 4 tallbois for a similar price. But that's only 8 units, so for the cost of drinking something less enjoyable, you've only gained a margin of 0.7 units. Was it

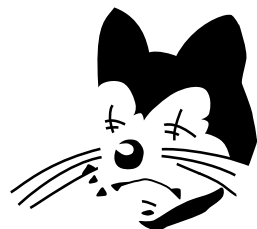
worth it?

And this leads me to my last and most important point - drinkability under varying circumstances. You're heading out to the sesh, so you dunk your cans in your bag and set out on your merry way. But unless it's the dead of winter, those cans are gonna start to warm up. A lager that ain't cold is a lager that ain't enjoyable. Better get the road bevs in before they go lukewarm, and better hope that the sesh on the other end of the journey has a fridge with enough room for your brews.

Cue the hobbo gobbo, a beer which maintains its drinkability and taste over a wide range of tempera-

tures and varying degrees of flatness. Your worries about beer temperature essentially evaporate. I mean, sure, it's still preferable to imbibe chilled (quoth Strong Bad: "a one that is not cold is scarcely a one at all"). But the implication of the act of imbibing warm entering the realm of possibility has profound consequences.

To come full circle: it's just gone 11 AM, your head is fuzzy, and you roll onto your side to a half-finished bottle of Hobgoblin. Oh, merciful gods, yes!



Weddings are shit and the Royals are lizards

Turns out Grumpy Bastard hates weddings and the royals. What joy.

COMMENT

Grumpy Bastard

Comment Writer

When I heard about the engagement of Miss Megahn Markle to Prince Harry, I was non-plussed. I have zero interest in other people's happiness so I only noted the annoying way she spelt Megan. Extra letters are a classically pretentious way of trying to make something normal special. As a reminder to everyone out there that harbours these delusions, we all die, and eventually

the universe will end. No one cares.

My main source of annoyance about this particular topic is the amount I'm forced to see. Normally, I can ignore the Royals by not reading tabloid newspapers. Don't get me wrong, I appreciate the fear and ignorance that flood from the gates of Murdoch's media empire, but unfortunately, they cost money to read and are slightly less economical than actual toilet paper. I'm confident that there will now be daily updates as the national psyche gears up for the orgy of coverage of the actual event. If it was a funeral I might be interested, as I

feed on misery, but if the media essentially expects me to be estatic about some healthy, happy and very wealthy people becoming even happier, they can fuck right off.

Weddings are shit. I'm fairly certain they are religion's version of chicken, where couples, bound by the chains of marriage wait for their counterpart to admit that the relationship has failed and they hate them before an acrimonious divorce. The best man's speech is always terrible, either attempting to be funny at the groom's expense and failing, or accidentally revealing the STI-ridden sex the groom had with the

stag-night stripper. The amount of money spent on idiotic clichés by gullible couples so that they can remember this day for the rest of their lives, if only as the event that burnt a hole in their bank account and destroyed their economic future. Half of the guests don't want to be there and resent the wedding because x or y could do so much better. Admittedly in this case, it is hard to see how either side could do better. One is a successful actress and UN goodwill ambassador, and the other has dressed up as a Nazi and showed his genitals to Las Vegas.

My hatred of this particular wedding is deeply

rooted in the fact that Royals are involved. They are by far the most entitled and useless bastards in the world with a poor history of weddings.

I'm unsure how long Diana lasted before Philip gave the order to closely acquaint her with a dashboard, but I have already planned my response to the divorce/assassination of Meghan in around 20 years. Given Philip's advanced age he probably won't have to a second time. Then again, it is well known that lizards can enter a trancelike state for hundreds of years, so he may be communicating telepathically with MI5 for centuries to come.

Something that garnered a significant amount of coverage from all this shitstorm is the race of Meghan Markle. Quite frankly, the race of Harry's betrothed doesn't matter: all that matters is that the Queen's current host is getting on a bit and they're all out of skins.

Most of all, my focused hatred is directed towards those students that set up bachelor and bachelorette parties for the bride and groom. Fuck your pathetic attempt at the popularity contest that is social media and fuck the society that encourages you. BBC news is truly for the weak minded.



UNDER PRESSURE

Under Pressure 2017 is taking place Monday 4 – Friday 8 December.

Imperial College Union understands that sometimes stress is unavoidable. The **Under Pressure** campaign aims to give you strategies for coping during periods of heightened stress. Check out our calendar of events from **Monday 4 December - Friday 8 December**.

Come and find us at the **JCR** between **12:00 – 14:00** throughout the **week** (except Thursday when we will be at Charing Cross campus). We have events running every day during the week, so take and break and come and relax with Imperial College Union!



A.C.T Now!

Join ACT Now for an evening of inspirational talks from student and alumni entrepreneurs working in the field of social enterprise.

We'll be hearing from Imperial entrepreneurs about their journeys and the challenges they have overcome in setting up an enterprise whilst at university.

Talks will be followed by a drinks reception and networking session.

Find out more online: www.imperialcollegeunion.org/social-action/social-enterprise/inspire/entrepreneurial-insights



ICXP

ICXP is a way for Clubs, Societies & Projects to be **recognised and rewarded** by the Union for their successes. The scheme also provides a clear pathway for clubs to **develop** for the benefit of their members (that's you!).

Clubs will receive points for the completion of a series of goals which will add up to give an overall level of achievement. Each level will unlock rewards, from expert-led training and priority access to an awards night in the spring.

If your club would like to sign up, please complete the form on our website: www.imperialcollegeunion.org/activities/running-a-club-society-or-project/icxp



Rock 'n Roll Christmas!

Celebrate your last day of term in style at the s 1950s Rock 'n Roll themed Winter Carnival! Speak to anyone who's been to a Union Carnival before and you'll soon be thinking twice about booking an early train home.

We've got incredibly exciting acts soon to be announced and 1950s decor that will rock your quiff off.

First wave tickets end this weekend, it will be your last chance to get yours at the special price of £3 - the price will rise on Monday 4 December. Get yours now! imperialcollegeunion.org/winter-carnival

In conversation with Professor Lord Robert Winston

Chris Richardson chats science communication with Imperial's resident Professor of Science and Society.

SCIENCE

Chris Richardson
Science Editor

LRW, good morning.
Good morning.

You are a person of many hats. How would you describe what you do?

Well, they're all crumpled hats, that's for sure! I spend my mornings in the college and afternoons in Westminster, peppered with a lot of educational outreach throughout the week.

The common thread here is communication. What is the role of science communicators in engaging with the public?

It's a very good question. As a science communicator, you're always at risk because you're not necessarily an expert in the field that you're communicating. But the great thing about science is that you can work it out from first principles. For me, science communication is about conveying that science often isn't as difficult as it's perceived to be. In the broader context of society, people need to be able to make wise decisions



I, for one, welcome our science communication overlords // Andy Miah

with respect to various issues. On, say, GM crops, CRISPR, and antibiotic resistance.

Communication is one thing, but we're seeing a worrying increase in evidence denial in our post-truth world. How should we combat this?

It's very easy when you come from a place like Imperial to think that you're a 'master of the universe'. But we need to be modest and humble when communicating with the public. And to be prepared to listen, not just talk. Knowledge itself lacks a moral dimension: that dimension becomes

relevant once we start to harness knowledge, and that is a fundamental message that science communication should get across.

You've previously said that "absolute certainty in either science or religion can lead to serious problems". Why would absolute certainty in science be a bad thing?

We only have to look at Oppenheimer to see that absolute certainty in science is a bad thing. We have to be absolutely clear of what our ethical principles are. To borrow a metaphor often used by religion: we must respect

the sanctity of human life. And that means respecting the autonomy of individuals in a society. Both religion – and science – are dangerous when they're certain.

Your Wohl Reach Out Lab here at Imperial and Utterly Amazing books both target younger audiences. Is there a reason you have adopted this demographic as a strategy?

We are not going to reinvent science education at secondary school, and younger brains are much more plastic, much more open to change. Eight-year-olds have no rules

and often ask all sorts of questions. We need to imprint good attitudes at a young age. That's why I've concentrated on younger audiences.

Can you remember a moment when you were a part of this age group and felt inspired by science?

I was about twelve years old. Back in the 50s we didn't do science until we were much older. A boring old master stood in front of the class with his hands behind his back, wittering on about chemistry. It was utterly, devastatingly boring. But then there was a monumental explosion, and the entire room was filled with smoke. From that moment on all we wanted to do was make explosions! Of course nowadays we're much more reflective, trying to incorporate the concepts behind the fun and explosions.

Let's finish with some quick-fire questions. What's your favourite piece of lab equipment?

A simple light microscope. Once you have

looked down one at relatively low power you can see the beauty of things that you didn't dream possible. That was what really hooked me into my research. I remember being mesmerised by the sight of the fallopian tube, and the exquisite beauty of how the egg is transported. It was the microscope that showed me that.

What do you think about the link between academia and business?

People like Musk are inspirational. Without him we'd be further behind in, say, carbon-free transport. He's changing the nature of the game.

Which area of research currently most excites you?

Neuroscience. The whole notion of human consciousness is of key importance to biology, and to us. If we're really going into the realms of AI and machine learning, then consciousness becomes a very important thing to understand, and we're still very primitive in our understanding.

Science communication as a field is going from strength to strength. Why is that?

One of the reasons why it's evolving is that we're better able to express ourselves. For instance, by honing our ability to write well, and in a way that is engaging. The Science Challenge is helping people to do that, and I am delighted to be involved with it.

LRW, best of luck with the SciChal launch.

Thank you.

RCSU Science Challenge 2018: One small step, one giant leap

RCSU Science Challenge Chair Ansh Bhatnagar explains why everyone should get involved in this year's competition.

SCIENCE

Ansh Bhatnagar
Science Challenge Chair

The Science Challenge is an annual science communication competition run by the RCSU. It is your chance to submit an entry communicating your passion for science, and to win up to £1000. Choose to enter in one of the four categories, answering one of the questions chosen by our panel of judges according to the theme. The theme for this year, chosen with help of a student vote, is "One Small Step, One Giant Leap".

While the theme obviously nods to the famous first words said on the Moon, it is also a metaphor for what happens often in science: that the smallest of changes can result in the biggest of shifts. In almost every area of science, there are countless examples of phenomena like this.

Consider the structure of the universe – why are there regions of the universe which are more densely packed with galaxy clusters than other areas? Tiny fluctuations in energy density at the beginning of the universe were 'magnified' by inflation, and led to the large-scale structure of the universe

we see today – entire regions more populated with galaxy clusters than others, simply because those regions happened

"The smallest of changes can result in the biggest of shifts"

to have a bit more energy due to random primordial fluctuations.

This effect of the small relating to the large is seen not just in cosmology: there are many systems that are extremely sensi-

tive to small changes, such as those on our planet. Climate change presents massive effects: a change in average air temperature of just 2°C is enough to cause large rises in sea levels and vastly increase the risk of major flooding throughout the world, with devastating consequences for ecosystems.

The theme can also be extended to how seemingly small contributions to scientific research lead to milestone discoveries. For example, Photograph 51 is an X-Ray diffraction image of DNA taken in 1952 at Rosalind Franklin's King's College lab. Watson and Crick later used this image to deduce the double-helical struc-

ture of DNA, providing a breakthrough in biochemistry. Without the small step made by Franklin's lab, this giant leap in our

"Seemingly small contributions to science lead to milestone discoveries"

understanding of biology would not have occurred. "One Small Step, One Giant Leap" is a theme that allows for judges to come up with some truly

interesting questions, reminding us of the small, meaningful things that go on in science. Come along to the launch on Tuesday, where the judges will announce their questions. There will be scientific demonstrations hosted by a variety of science societies, as well as free food. Don't miss out on the keynote speech, which will be delivered by Lord Robert Winston, the Science Challenge Ambassador.

You have until 12pm on Monday 22nd of January 2018 to submit an entry. Visit sciencechallenge.org for more information.

PHOENIX

Imperial's arts magazine returns!

We are interested in:

- Poetry
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If you're interested, please email phoenix@imperial.ac.uk

Launch Details

Date: Tuesday 05/12/17

Time: 18:30

Location: City and Guilds LT 200 and Foyer

bit.ly/SciChal

Get your free Launch tickets now

MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

I, for one, hail our faceless corporate overlords

MUSIC
NOW THAT'S WHAT I
CALL MUSIC! 98



Label: EMI. Top Tracks:
All of them. For Fans Of:
Music. 155 minutes

Henry Eshbaugh
Music Editor

Now That's What I Call Music! is a cross-label series of compilation albums of the biggest songs of the year (or, at least, whatever they could get the rights to). Now, historically, I haven't really been their biggest fan, but I found Now That's What I Call Music! 98 to be one of the most moving listens I have ever had the pleasure of experiencing.

So what sets 98 apart from all the rest? Well, someone over there in the faceless marketing department that puts these together has clearly just lost the ability to care. And if watching Kurt Cobain interviews has taught me anything, it's that not caring is totally cool, man! I mean, listen to the opening bars on the second track, Post Malone's 'rockstar' (sic): "I be fuckin' hoes and poppin' pillies / man I feel just like a rockstar," and switches straight into the weed references and making an Uzi go "ratatata". Fantastic stuff. Can you picture a bunch of old white dudes in suits sitting around a table at a meeting, intently and blank-facedly listening to trap talking about racking up lines of cocaine at a house party? Talk about fishes out of water. Their

marriages are failing and they really just don't give a shit what's on the album, do they? Only as long as it sells. How much more nihilistic-punk-rock can you get?

Or how about "Reggaeton Lento", CNCO's contribution? Mmm, that autotuned crowd-vocal chorus just makes me want to sing along like the tone-deaf husk of a consumer I am. Like, I think it's trying to sound generic and played-out, but that just makes it more endearing, you know? Because I for one love flashbacks to middle school dances. Or how about the verse - "You make me sick / you make me sick / you're my doctor" is brilliant - on first listen you'd think it's just a cheesy attempt at a flamenco-inspired pop song, but then you realize they're dropping knowledge about the dangers of

hospital-borne infections! Wash your hands, kids, or you'll give someone

"This album promised 46 tracks of 'music'; I listened, and there was indeed what I would call 'music'. Hence, it's the perfect album, Q.E.D."

MRSA. They're more woke than Kendrick, y'all.

Look, I could go for pages and pages if this thing was gonna be track-by-track. There are



Now That's What I Call Music! 98 // flickr

46 songs on here, and each one is absolutely pure gold. And I know critics of the series will be quick to dismiss 98 as being "just like the rest," but they'd be mistaken. I mean, music is subjective. You don't walk into an album like this with any semblance of a shred of expectation. Each album sort of sets its own

standard, decides through its overall aesthetic and genre to place itself in a particular cultural context, a lens through which we may begin to critically examine. This album promised 46 tracks of "music"; I listened, and there was indeed what I would call "music." Hence, it's the perfect album, Q.E.D.

Alcohol, Authenticity and Arctic Monkeys

With a new album rumoured for 2018, Felix revisits the decade-old Favourite Worst Nightmare.

MUSIC

Ziying Fang
Music Writer

Released in 2007, Arctic Monkeys' *Favourite Worst Nightmare* is a recollection

of a night out, a sly dig at the trappings of fame, and a teary confession of naïve love that wasn't meant to be. Forming the second album of their discography, *FWN* defines a tension in growing up, an age without the serenading eloquence of *Suck it and See* or the matured

confidence of *AM*, but one so keenly aware of the 'joie de vivre' in the simplicity and carefreeness encapsulated in *Whatever People say I am*. (The introspective *Humburg* defies any attempt at labelling it).

Kick-starting the album with the breathless track 'Brianstorm', frontman and lyricist Alex Turner launches into a running narrative of an individual who might as well be called Zarathustra. "Brian" seems to break the proverbial mould, as he leaves "hundreds of blokes" weeping, after their ladies tell him to "use me". Indeed, as anyone who had to spend time around the Beit Quad soon finds, an undercurrent of despairing lust

runs beneath the deceptive surface. In 'D is for Dangerous', Turner observes, with equal parts disgust and schadenfreude, how the lads talk their partner into taking the 'D' whilst "trying to keep their trousers on".

The ladies, for their part, are not as innocent as they look, as they "take off their wedding ring", and whisper "it's red wine this time" to their man for the night. In the frenzy of disguised gentility and feigned innocence, Alex Turner imploringly cries that you won't find fulfilment in these desperate quarters, just as a detective won't find his suspect "in a pair of dead man's eyes". Between the unflinching lyricism and Matt Helders' impeccable

drumming, listeners would find that *Favourite Worst Nightmare* is not so much a glorification of any paint-by-number kit for love, as it is itself a search for the ineffable, lost and heartfelt. From the teary plead in 'Do Me A Favour' where Turner asks for no-pulled-punches in the demise of a relationship, ("Perhaps fuck off might be too kind"), to the snarl at gossipers to leave his past lover alone in 'If You Were There, Beware', the album closes on '505', the emotional depth of which most assuredly propels the band into Rock History. Backed up by an atmospheric organ, Turner paints a portrait of a girl waiting for her weary traveller behind door "505", calm

and knowing with "her hands between her thighs". Another gem is 'Only Ones Who Know', a naked confession and lonely testament to the existence of Capital-t True love, its voice cold and broken like Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah', its crescendo sure and unerring as King Solomon's 'Song of Songs'.

Fiercely subversive and breathlessly frenetic, *Favourite Worst Nightmare* is an impassioned take on growing up, losing a fight, as we all do, in capturing the present against the uncompromising passage of time, where we trade "all the naughty nights" for 'niceness'. Or, in the words of a certain poet, to "play it fucking loud" one last time.



Favourite Worst Nightmare // Independent

MUSIC

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The most disappointing albums of 2017

Next week, we count down our top picks of the year, but first, here's a few of the albums that didn't quite make it.

MUSIC

Adrian LaMoury
Music Editor

Everything Now
Arcade Fire

Four years of relative silence followed the transcendental double LP *Reflektor*. Produced by LCD Soundsystem's James Murphy, the album represented a departure

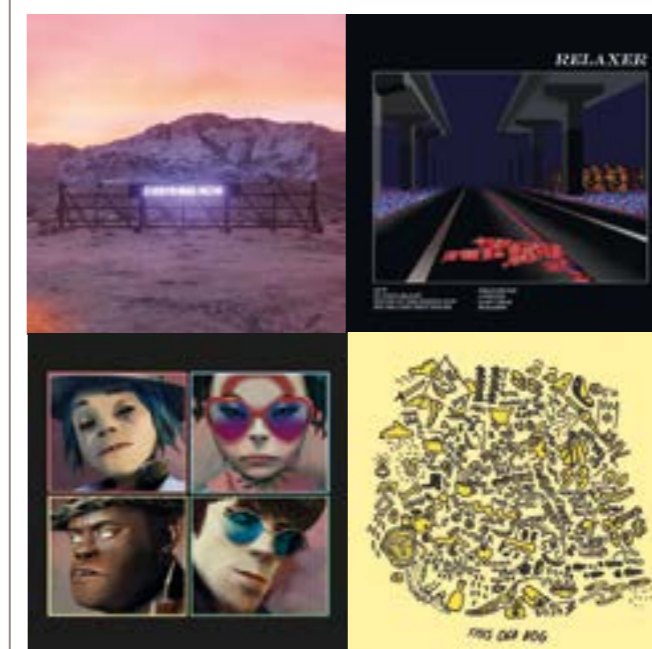
"There's a distinct lack of the oomph and introspective vigour that they're known and loved for."

Humanz
Gorillaz

Controversial one maybe. To give them credit, the hype generated in advance of the release was immense. Posters adorned the balustrades, bus stops and billboards of the country; the disdainful, animated eyes of 2-D & friends (now ironically rendered in three dimensions) patrolled the pavements like it was 2001. Everyone was very, very excited. Sadly, it proved to be underwhelming. Of indulgent

from their rockier roots, instead ushering in drum machines and glitter-pop. July's *Everything Now* was one of this year's most anticipated releases,

length, with a multitude of features and very little coherence, the album felt like more of a mixtape than a fully realised piece that had kept fans waiting for seven years. It's no *Demon Days*.



Columbia // Parlophone // Atlantic // Captured Tracks

RELAXER
Δ Δ alt-J ΔΔΔ

ΔΔΔ I'm well aware that by this point it's no longer cool or original to bash alt-J (Δ), but I'm gonna

do it anyway. The experimental art-rock outfit from Leeds (Δ) entered the collective consciousness in 2012 with their Mercury Prize winning *An Awesome Wave*, which brought disorientating,

face. Sadly, the same was true (Δ) of their latest outing. *RELAXER* starts strongly; brooding opener '3WW' is comparable to 'Intro', and lead single 'In Cold Blood' has the hi-fi auditory muscle of their early work, albeit more radio friendly. However, it's not to last. The second side is barely worth mentioning Δ, but just before the break there's a dreary cover of 'House of the Rising Sun', followed by the seedy standout 'Hit Me Like That Snare', which is... well, it's always the quiet ones, isn't it? Δ(ΔΔ)

This Old Dog
Mac DeMarco

We enjoyed *2*, we adored *Salad Days*, we were ambivalent about *Another One*. Mac DeMarco's latest foray, *Another Bloody One*, sorry, *This Old Dog*, shows us Mac at his best. And worst. And all levels in between. (They're all the same). Remarkably consistent, he's certainly found his winning formula, one that he is clearly content to

"Remarkably consistent, he's certainly found his winning formula, one that he is content to rehash again and again. And why wouldn't he be?"

rehash again and again. And why wouldn't he be? Pitchfork lap it up, and not really caring what people think is his whole thing. Maybe I'm too harsh. I will admit, this record gives us glimpses of a new Mac, one that is wistful and reflective. And the soundscapes in 'Moonlight on the River' are sublime. But still, I can't help but want for something more.

Queens of the Stone Age flex their muscles

MUSIC

Emily Freeman
Music Writer

These people want you to be calm, but I don't want you to be calm - I want you to take your fucking trousers off" lead singer Josh Homme's Californian drawl crooned to the 20,000 strong crowd at the O2 Arena last Tuesday. Queens of the Stone Age, the legendary heavy rock band, embarked on the UK leg

of their *Villians* worldwide tour this month, with two nights in London last week. Some recent hits started the show off, with the 5-piece band strutting about between wobbly light sticks that littered the stage. However, the band felt uneasy when they moved onto their newest songs, including 'The Way We Used To Do', the first single off the Mark Ronson-produced album, released in August of this year. The bluesy performance didn't seem to resonate with QOTSA's diehard audience. This

was short lived though. The band hit back with two classics off their acclaimed 2002 album *Songs for the Deaf*; perhaps their most famous song, 'No One Knows', got the crowd going again (although no trousers were removed). This also marked the first of drummer Jon Theodore's solos, with the new drummer proving his worth whilst Homme had a cigarette break on stage. By now the show had warmed up, and the second single from *Villians* was well received. This hype

continued through the nautical themed tracks from 2013's *...Like Clockwork* and into the *Villians*' track 'Domesticated Animals'. Pink lighting bathed the stage as Homme swooned his way through the closest thing QOTSA has to a love song, 'Make It Wit Chu', which brought a close knit comforting atmosphere to the cavernous O2 arena. This juxtaposed the eerie and wistful 'I Appear Missing' and 'Villains of Circumstances', performed in a near operatic manner with soft blue lighting centring

in on Homme as the songs drew out. The audience was lulled with this sense of finality, but luckily, the end was not yet in sight. Snapping back into some QOTSA classics, they finished the show with 'A Song for the

Dead'. This melodic track showcased the renowned skills of all five band members, whilst they kicked the wobbly lights left, right and centre. The O2 arena was left reeling, but with trousers still intact.



Wobbly light sticks // Kitty Clouston

FILM

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Mudbound – A sweeping epic that plays out like an intricate character study

By juxtaposing white and black families on a single piece of farmland, Dee Rees confronts the brutal realities of prejudice and privilege in the divided Jim Crow South.

FILM

MUDBOUND



Dir: Dee Rees. **Script:** Dee Rees, Virgil Williams. **Story by:** Hillary Jordan. **Starring:** Carey Mulligan, Jason Clarke, Jason Mitchell, Mary J. Blige. *134 minutes*

Mark Aduol
Film Editor

Look out at the world and you'll notice all the things that set you apart from everyone else; the characteristics that make you – and everyone else – unique and different. *Mudbound* however, is a reminder of what we all share – the human struggle to take control of our lives and make something out of our brief existence on this earth. *Mudbound* lets this struggle play out against a backdrop of rural 1940s Mississippi. Two families, one black and one white, occupy the same piece of farmland, but in vastly different capacities. The white family, led by the gruff, straight-talking Henry McAllan (Jason Clarke) are the beneficiaries of racial privilege in the Jim Crow South and the owners of the farm. The black family, headed by a guarded and long-suffering Hap Jackson (Rob Morgan) are tenant farmers who, for decades, have been bound to this land. The Jacksons have worked this land for generations, first as slaves in the antebellum South and later

as sharecroppers, subservient to whichever white landlord held ownership over this modest patch of mud-soaked farmland in the Mississippi Delta.

In *Mudbound*, while no two scenes are the same, the one constant throughout the film is the presence of mud. That grimy, sticky substance that purges purity with pollution and turns fertile ground into a barren wasteland from which nothing good can grow. Here, land is a symbol of relentless hardship and inescapable struggle. It is a burden, always on the verge of becoming waterlogged and taking its servants down with it. Hap works the land not because he wants to, but because he dreams of one

“Mudbound however, is a reminder of what we all share - the human struggle to take control of our lives”

day being able to afford a patch of land that he can call his own. He works the land day and night, breaking it and sowing it; hoeing it and caring for it; tossing the soil till his palms swell; and ploughing the earth till his back breaks. His only reprieve comes in the form of his weekly Sunday church



Mudbound is set in the beautiful Memphis, Tennessee in 1939 // Sundance Film Festival

service where he can maintain the hope that one day, he and his family may break free of this timeless struggle. As he preaches to the other sharecroppers on the farm, Hap lifts a sermon into a hymn and delivers the message that “one morning, we gon’ break this boot from ‘round our neck and shake these chains from ‘rounds our feet’”. The central question of *Mudbound* is whether that dream can become a reality.

On the other side of the farm, Henry; his wife Laura (Carey Mulligan); and Henry’s father, Pappy (Jonathan Banks) live in a derelict cabin without any electricity or running water. Laura, tenderly portrayed by Ms. Mulligan, is introduced as an unhappy 31 year-old woman, still living with her parents, who quickly agrees to

marry the plain-speaking and uncomplicated Henry on the insistence of her mother. The social climate of the era demands that Laura remain subservient to her husband, and indeed she does so, gladly, until she meets Henry’s younger brother, Jamie (Garrett Hedlund). Jaime is undoubtedly the most charismatic character of the film’s ensemble, and his magnetic personality and relaxed confidence do more to evoke the image of James Bond than that of a grounded 20th century farmhand. It’s not long before Laura falls for Jamie, but their simmering romance is quickly put to an end when Jamie ships off to the military, bound for Europe and the war. Over at the Jacksons’, Hap’s eldest son, Ronsel (Jason Mitchell), mirrors Jamie’s choice and also

heads off to the war.

The choice to juxtapose the experiences of black and white Americans, both abroad on the battlefields of Europe and at home in heart of Mississippi, allows *Mudbound* to explore the segregationist politics of the Jim Crow era in a way few other films have managed. In Europe, Ronsel and his all-black 761st Tank Battalion are viewed as liberators. Whenever they roll into a beleaguered village or a besieged town, the locals greet them with rapturous applause and tears of joy. Racial prejudice and injustice are noticeably absent, and all that remains is the immense expression of gratitude from one community of people to another.

Back in Mississippi however, Ronsel is

reminded of his second-class status within American society. Every time he wants to use the

“In Mudbound, while no two scenes are the same, the one constant throughout the film is the presence of mud”

washroom or ride the bus, signboards with the word “coloured” remind him of the institutionally-mandated divide between blacks and whites in the country he calls home.

FILM

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



One of the most striking promotional images of this year, easily mistakable for an oil painting // Sundance Film Festival

The naked reality of such racial prejudice is perfectly captured when Ronsel, having just returned home from the war, casually attempts to leave a shopping store through the front door. He doesn’t get far before Pappy, the McAllan family’s other patriarch, sternly reminds him that “you’re in Mississippi now ni**er, you use the back door.”

Mudbound is adapted from Hillary Jordan’s novel of the same name, and at several moments throughout the film, Dee Rees substitutes dialogue for inner monologues drawn directly from Jordan’s source material. Monologues that puncture the characters’ mud-baked exteriors and give us a glimpse into the truths, drives, loves, and fears that push these men

and women to toil day and night on that mud-swamped farmland.

During one of these monologues, Florence Jackson (Mary J. Blige), Ronsel’s mother, intones that her son “can’t sit still, can’t move”. He is

“Monologues that puncture the characters’ mud-baked exteriors and give us a glimpse into the truths, drives, loves and fears”

trapped in between two worlds: the blood-soaked battlefields where he was praised as a saviour and the mud-soaked farmland where he must stay and work, out of a sense of duty to his family. The only other person who truly understands this inner battle is Jamie, and over the latter half of the film, the two end up finding some sense of comfort in sharing their wartime experiences with one another.

A veteran fighter pilot, Jamie is haunted by a particularly harrowing wartime experience that has left him with a damaging case of PTSD. Whiskey is his medicine and Ronsel is his partner in crime. Barely a scene goes by where Jamie is not halfway through a bottle of alcohol, but even

despite his seemingly carefree attitude, he never forgets that his friendship with Ronsel rests on shaky ground. The Ku Klux Klan was well and alive in 1940s Mississippi and were intent on advancing their supremacist ideology by using any means necessary.

Mudbound is a film that manages to be both intimate and expansive. A story that orbits around the Mississippi Delta, but also drifts into the far reaches of Western Europe. Even though the lives of the two families play out on a single stage of mud-swamped farmland, they overlap in more ways than one. Whereas the older folks are eager to preserve the culture of casual privilege, the younger ones are desperate to

forge a path of their own and escape a future of earth-bound subservience. Dee Rees traces the lives of these characters as they

“Mudbound is a piece of poetry that explores the contours of racial privilege and prejudice in a nuanced manner”

intersect along the lines of a rapidly changing social climate, and in doing so, she crafts a bold and intimate work that resonates well beyond its

historical period.

Mudbound is a piece of poetry that explores the contours of racial privilege and prejudice in a delicate and nuanced manner. It is a film of tender introspection amplified with occasional moments of action. The film is told from the perspective of six characters, and come Oscar season, it will be someone’s job to separate the lead ones from the supporting ones. For now, it is safe to say that with *Mudbound*, Rees has taken the most mundane of circumstances, and crafted a sweeping epic that plays out like an intricate character study. That alone is enough to warrant your respect.

Mudbound is currently on Netflix and is available at Curzon cinemas.



IC Rock Soc

Our guide to the 2018 awards season contenders II: the

In the penultimate entry of our thrilling trilogy, we continue our run-through of films with the biggest Oscar aspirations.

FILM

Ashley Luckyram
Film Editor

As the year winds down I always find myself reflecting back on the best films to emerge over the past twelve months, and this inevitably leads to speculation on which ones might end up with Academy Award nominations and wins. These two categories do not always align, and last week I ran through some of the films that had awards aspirations, but are now considered long shots, or out of the race entirely. The first few prizes of the season have begun to be handed out, with the Gotham Awards on Monday and the National Board of Review revealing their year-end lists on Tuesday. This makes the continuation of this run down of Oscar contenders all the more pertinent. So here we go.

POSSIBILITIES

Cary Fukunaga, incidentally a screenwriter on *It*, will be feeling a whole lot of frustration if *Mudbound* picks up Oscar nominations. Fresh from delivering a tremendous first season of *True Detective* for HBO on television, he wrote, shot, and directed war drama *Beasts of No Nation* for Netflix. It should have been an awards season contender, and in particular Idris Elba, who won the Screen Actors Guild award for best supporting actor for his powerful turn as the Commandant, should have been a major can-



Will *Darkest Hour* be holding the V for Victory at the Oscars next year? // Jack English Focus Features

didate for the Academy Award (he is to date the only actor to win a SAG award and not be nominat-

"This year Call Me by Your Name arrived like a juggernaut"

ed for the Oscar). Instead, the Academy turned its noses up at Netflix's day and date release scheme and refused to acknowledge the film. Netflix are sticking by their release strategy, but have brought in a number of industry veterans with experience of running awards campaigns to help push *Mudbound*. Dee Rees' period drama, following two families in rural Mississippi post-World War II, would be a strong contender for a best picture nomination were it with

Fox Searchlight, Sony Pictures Classics, Focus Features, or Amazon. Yet her film is with Netflix, and it remains to be seen if they can mount a serious awards campaign and win over the Academy with a system that seems to undermine the traditional theatre experience. It is possible that the new influx of younger Academy voters may aid their attempts.

Also benefiting from the shake up to the Academy membership could be *Get Out*. Jordan Peele's suspenseful horror played well at Sundance and then stunned the world, raking in huge sums against a very small budget. Hugely profitable, sheer hype alone may drive it into awards contention. On Monday it picked up three prizes at the Gotham Awards, and on Tuesday it was named on the National Board of Review's list of the best films of the year, as well as winning

best ensemble and best directorial debut. It is worth bearing in mind that films such as *Baby Driver*, *Logan*, *The Disaster Artist*, and *Downsizing*, that are now considered out of the awards race (bar a couple of possible nominations for actor and adapted screenplay for *The Disaster Artist*), were also name-dropped by the National Board of Review. That being said, *Get Out* has a whole lot of momentum behind it right now.

Similarly, *Wonder Woman*, remarkably Patty Jenkins' first film since she guided Charlize Theron to Oscar glory in *Monster*, was a box office smash. Though beyond the surface its content is still formulaic tent-pole material, the current narrative seems to be that this is some kind of great feminist art piece (did anyone see *Elle* or *The Love Witch* last year?), and that may resonate with the new left wing

influx of Academy voters. It is somehow possible that *Wonder Woman* will succeed where *The Dark Knight* failed, and be the first superhero film to earn a best picture nomination. Amazon's hopes will now be pinned on their Summer release *The Big Sick*, which is the highest grossing indie of the year. Playing well at Sundance, Kumail Nanjiani plays himself in the intriguing story of how him and his wife fell in love, in the best romantic comedy to surface for years.

One film that may actually suffer from the changes to the voting body is Joe Wright's *Darkest Hour*. Wright's *Atonement* was a seven-time Oscar nominee, but his latest is not as strong. Following Winston Churchill during his early days as prime minister during the Second World War, this feels like it would have been a lock for a best picture nomination a few years ago, but with the

Academy expanding the type of films it is willing to honour, the only sure thing with this one is Gary Oldman's best actor nomination.

MAJOR THREATS

These films should earn best picture nominations, but will likely fall short in their pursuit of the grand prize. Guillermo del Toro

"Wonder Woman will succeed where The Dark Knight failed, and be the first superhero film to earn a best picture nomination"

Film Editors strike back: Judgement Day: Reloaded

returns with his best film since *Pan's Labyrinth*. That film won three of its six Oscar nominations and is a modern classic. Del Toro has a penchant for fairy tales, and this one is a Douglas Sirk-type romance film concerning the burgeoning affection between a mute janitor and a mysterious Mer-man-like creature. *The Shape of Water* picked up the Golden Lion at Venice, and should certainly receive nominations for picture, direction, screenplay, and Sally Hawkins' lead performance as well as registering in many of the technical categories.

Amidst the glitz and glam of Cannes, the eagle-eyed of us will have picked out the return of Sean Baker as one to watch. Baker is most famous for shooting his sensational *Tangerine* on an iPhone 5c, the same phone the rest of us used for blurry night out photos and questionable selfies. With *The Florida Project*, he does continue to use some iPhone footage, but the majority of this

sublime film, set on the outskirts of the Walt Disney World resort and told from a child's perspective, is shot on glorious 35mm film. This one will have you smiling and crying at the same time, a look that will make you glad you are sat in a dark theatre where no one can see you. A24 succeeded in pushing another Florida-based project, *Moonlight*, all the way to the big prize last year, but ultimately *The Florida Project* will probably fall just short.

Another A24 distributed picture is *Lady Bird*, the semi-autobiographical directorial debut of renowned indie actress Greta Gerwig. Driven by a fierce performance from Saoirse Ronan, Gerwig's direction is assured and authentic. This film emerged unexpectedly strong from the fall festivals, and Ronan will cement herself as one of the finest young actresses in the world with a third Oscar nomination at the young age of 23. Gerwig's original screenplay (which



Got Milk? // BFI

is allegedly 350 pages long and yet has managed to yield a 93 minute film) should also earn a nod, and Laurie Metcalfe is a good candidate for supporting actress. Rising young actors Timothée Chalamet and Lucas Hedges also deliver the goods here.

Eight of the last ten

winners of the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival have gone on to receive a best picture nomination, making it a very good indicator of awards season success. Past winners include *Slumdog Millionaire*, *The King's Speech*, *12 Years a*

Slave, and *La La Land*, all of which won best picture (of course *La La Land*'s victory lasted a matter of seconds as they had to hand over their award to actual winner *Moonlight*). This year *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* pipped runner-up *The Shape of Water* to the prize. Martin McDonagh has a strong track record with dark comedies, but this is the first time it all

truly comes together in a cohesive manner for him. Fortunately, this coincides with his best cast ever, including Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson, Sam Rockwell, Lucas Hedges, and Caleb Landry Jones. There is a searing drama against the backdrop of McDonagh's black humour which makes this film far more effective and profound than anything he has done before. McDonagh delivers an intimidatingly powerful performance as the foul-mouthed mother who takes matters into her own hands when the police struggle to come up with a suspect in the case of the rape and murder of her teenage daughter. She is the favourite to win best actress, adding to her win for *Fargo*. Rockwell may score a first nod for supporting actor. McDonagh's screenplay is a shoe in for a nomination too.

We're gonna reveal our overall winners in next week's Felix grand finale – tune in next week for the thrilling conclusion!



Did you know you can tell a ladybird's age by the number of spots? // A24

"Lady Bird emerged unexpectedly strong from the fall festivals, and Ronan will cement herself as one of the finest young actors in the world"

FILM

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Justice League fails to save the (cinematic) day

The film had a lot to prove from the start, but doesn't manage to impress

FILM

JUSTICE LEAGUE



Dir: Zach Snyder. **Script:** Chris Terrio, Joss Whedon. **Story by:** Chris Terrio, Zack Snyder. **Starring:** Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill, Amy Adams, Gal Gadot. 120 minutes

Saad Ahmed
Film Writer

Justice League had a lot to prove from the get go. With three critically panned films and only one moderate successfully movie in *Wonder Woman*, Warner Brothers and DC Comics had a lot to make up for and improve upon. While *Justice League* is ultimately a step in the right direction, it doesn't quite hit the mark and is an overall haphazard execution. Throughout this review, I'll be constantly comparing this film to other superhero movies. While some of

you may think this unfair, I disagree for two reasons. First, there are enough of them at this point that we pretty much have a benchmark for what is expected; second of all, this is the fricking *Justice League*. They are the most well known superhero team to fans and to the general public, hence they had a lot to live up to.

One improvement over the mediocre *Batman V Superman* is that the story actually makes sense and is not overly complicated. Having said that, it is very simple and conventional; generic bad guy wreaks havoc and the heroes have to come together and save the day. Some of you may argue that this is a blockbuster movie where you should focus on the spectacle and ignore the story. However, other superhero films have been able to go big and beyond while at the same time exploring themes and ideas, such as family and relationships in *Guardians of the Galaxy*, or centering on a character and watching their growth and development like in

Spider-Man Homecoming or any good origin story for that matter.

The main villain, Steppenwolf, is as paper thin as the plot. First of all, a personal gripe: out of all the villains in comic book lore, they went with Steppenwolf, a character so obscure that I'm sure only hardcore fanboys would know who he is. On the one hand, this did mean that the writers could have written him in a new and interesting direction. Unfortunately, they don't really do this and Steppenwolf is as

"One improvement over the mediocre *Batman V Superman* is that the story actually makes sense"



The guy you should be worried about // Warner Bros. Pictures

bland and uninteresting as most Marvel movie villains. Not only that, but he's also 100% CGI, which honestly, is not the nicest thing to look at for the most part.

One area where the film does succeed though is in the Leaguers themselves. All the characters are given an adequate amount of screen time and come with their degrees of personality and quirks. They are also written much better and more optimistic compared to some characters' dark and dreary portrayals in *Batman V Superman*. It might have taken three films, but they finally nail the character of Superman and Henry Cavill is able to bring the warmth and soul that makes Superman such a hopeful and heroic icon.

The overall tone of the film was also more hopeful and optimistic than the previous DCEU entries, save for *Wonder Woman*, which is how I believe superhero adaptations should be and what Marvel gets right. I'm not saying you can't have stories with a

darker direction, but that shouldn't come at the cost of character and story development as is the case in *Batman V Superman*.

For those of you who don't know, the production process was a bit of a mess with two directors having been in charge of the film at different times. For the most part, the film feels like a Zack Snyder movie with its darker atmosphere and operatic aesthetic. Some scenes have a very distinct Joss Whedon feel and while it's alright for the most part, some scenes are just a bit jarring and seem a little out of place.

One of the main issues with this film, however, is the fact that there are no real stakes. The parademons facing the League are just awkward and bland CGI monsters with nothing particularly interesting about them. We never see anyone really have their life in danger, be it the heroes or any civilians. In *Avengers*, for example, there was always a sense of danger and threat in most of the action sequences, either to

the main characters or to any unfortunate bystanders caught in the crossfire. Without these kinds of situations, it's hard to really get engrossed in the *Justice League* and care as much as we should. For some odd reason, there are some scenes which focus on a particular payoff which leads to a lacklustre payoff. If these scenes were scrapped in favour of other things that are more plot-relevant, the movie would have been a touch better.

Warner Bros. are clearly trying to catch up to Marvel Studios and reach that level of success before the superhero movie bubble bursts. With *Justice League*, they were trying to do a course correction from *Batman V Superman* as well as make audiences care enough about these characters to want to see more of them. While the film mostly succeeds in these objectives and is at least somewhat entertaining, it does so in a sloppy and flawed execution that leaves one frustrated for something more.



When the lab group comes together // Warner Bros. Pictures

BOOKS

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Seeing the world through literature – so many books, so little time

Reading goes hand in hand with travelling, introducing you to local novels, new ideas, and amazing bookshops



BOOKS

Pavan Inguva

Books writer

Seeing another part of the world is quite an exciting prospect for anyone: different foods, culture, history, and – most importantly – visiting beautiful bookstores and discovering authors you would not have heard of otherwise. Picking up a book, albeit translated to English, by a local author has been a tremendously rewarding experience. These writers provide an excellent snapshot of their country, drawing upon the area's history, socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, and quite often, their own personal experiences. To read the book and be able to see the actual location or art piece referenced simultaneously magnifies the enjoyment of both the trip (and its memories) and of the read. To that end, I have always made an effort to find a nice bookstore in whichever country I visit and purchase an appropriate book. Examples of such finds include Lafcaido Hearn's *Kokoro* from Japan, Cees

Nootboom's *Rituals* from The Netherlands, and Toomas Vint's *The Sweepstakes of Love* from Estonia, amongst others.

Toomas Vint's *The Sweepstakes of Love*

I bought this book from a small bookstore in Tallinn, half expecting a treatise on love, the human experience, futility etc. Rather, Vint wrote a sophisticated two part series. The first part consists of a semi-autobiographical collection of short stories conceptually similar to what I am sure anyone who enjoys silent contemplation and reading does daily. Picture the inner monologue we all have, narrating our thoughts, feelings, and actions in relation to our changing selves and surroundings. From that description, we add layers of nuance, reflections, and philosophical musings to paint a personal story and occasionally, we might embellish the truth slightly or conceive of stories for other people we briefly encounter. Vint skilfully crafts such a story, describing scenes from his life growing up and living in Soviet-era Estonia as an artist. In an early story, Vint describes the time he attended a Soviet Pioneers camp, exploring the tension that existed between Russian and western parts of the union, resulting in Vint being beaten up. Another story describes Vint's run-in with the KGB after his close friend defects from the Soviet Union, resulting in both Vint and his wife being investigated thoroughly. The second part, aptly titled 'A Flock



Bookstore Dominicanen, a holy place for bookworms// Wikimedia

of Delusions' consists of purely fictional short stories in a postmodern style and is worth a read by itself.

We are remarkably ahistorical about the good or bad that goes on around us. In a bid to move on, people quickly relegate the past events that affected them barely a generation ago. Visiting the KGB museum at the Viru Hotel in Tallinn was a poignant reminder of the extent of control on thought and life by the Soviet State. Reading Vint's description of his own experiences and seeing his art in the KUMU museum (Vint is a painter as well) reinforced the images I saw and provided me insight into Estonian culture and perspectives.

Cees Nootboom's *Rituals*

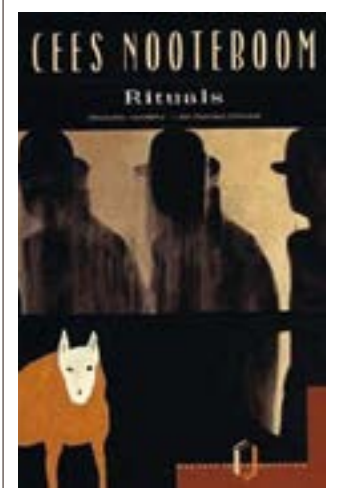
What made this read interesting within the context of seeing the world isn't too much about the content, but rather where it was purchased. This book was purchased in Maastricht at the Bookstore Dominicanen, supposedly one of the most beautiful bookstores in the world. It was quite the sight, seeing a bookstore in a stunning 13th century church: the sunlight strikes the books to magical effects and intricate murals adorn the ceiling.

Rituals itself was quite the fascinating read. Nootboom constructs a sublime narrative, weaving in existentialism in how people structure their lives, the experience of foreign cultures, and then challenges the reader to reflect on how they

themselves approach life. Inni Wintrop, the dilettante, in recognising the meaninglessness of life, floats through it. He entertains himself with art and casual sex and funds it by art sales and trading on the stock market. He is unable to commit to anything: even his suicide attempt failed following his divorce. Nootboom interestingly contrasts different approaches to coping with the existential dread we all have by introducing a father-son pair (the Taads) who, whilst similar in their rigid structuring of their lives in self-contained bubbles, do so very differently. Taads senior thoroughly plans every single minute of his life, striving to extract every moments' full worth in a futile attempt to live a full life. Taad junior on the other hand contrived a unique flavour of oriental

self-mortification, turning to religion and spirituality to cope with the same dread everyone has. I must point out that *Rituals* was not at all depressing and was one of the best reads in 2016 for me.

I would highly recommend these books to anyone looking for a read over Christmas or at the very least, those who want to add a literary element to their travels.



FOOD

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Asian invasion: *Felix* Food takes on dumplings

FOOD

Adrian Lua

Food Writer

CY Hii

Food Editor

Felix Food has been sharing simple and quick recipes for the past few issues, and that's great! Hopefully they've helped you to survive the term in some ways. But don't you occasionally imagine yourself cooking a Michelin-starred dish, unleashing your inner chef, and it no longer mattering if you get a First because you'll be earning millions as a celebrity chef? Great dreams...

Jamie Oliver dreams or not, it's time to grow up. And now that we are in December, with winter break in the very near future, you might finally have time (and no excuses) for recipes more complex than instant noodles or Tesco meal deals.

Wonton or dumplings, whatever you call it, you can't deny that, with its



Impress your friends and family with crispy wontons! // Flickr/Jeff Warren

succulent skin, this juicy, savoury ball of happiness is the ultimate comfort food.

Traditionally, dumplings are eaten when there's something to celebrate – during Lunar New Year's eve or during the first day of winter solstice, where every family

gathers round a table and chats away. Maybe that's why dumplings always give those growing up in these cultures a sense of home and reunion.

London has some great dumpling places, but most of the time they can burn a hole through your wallet.

Why not make it yourself then? 50-60 dumplings for less than £10 sounds like an awesome deal for me. So there you go, impress your friends and family with your hidden cooking talent.

CHINESE FRIED RICE

If, after 50 dumplings, you're still not full, then here's another recipe for you. Scrap those visits to fancy, potential-to-cripple-you-financially Chinese restaurants.

You will need...

- 3 cups of cooked long grain rice (use overnight rice for better texture)
- 2 eggs
- 2 tablespoons of light soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon of oyster sauce
- Vegetable cooking oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 can of spam (can be substituted with 100g of chicken meat or pancetta)
- 1 cup of mixed frozen vegetables (carrots, peas and corn)

1. Whisk the eggs in the bowl with a bit of salt. Heat the pan on a medium-high heat and add a tablespoon of oil.
2. Fry the eggs and break them apart while cooking as if you are making scrambled eggs. Remove the cooked eggs from the pan and set aside for now.
3. Wipe the pan clean with a kitchen towel and 2 tablespoons of oil over medium-high heat.
4. Add in the spam (or meat of choice) and stir-fry for about 2-3 minutes. Add in the mixed vegetables and stir fry for another minute.
5. Add in the cooked rice into the pan along with the light soy sauce, oyster sauce, salt, and pepper. Stir fry for another 3-5 minutes and ensure that the rice is evenly coated with the sauce.
6. Add in the scrambled eggs from earlier and mix them well. Serve hot.

DUMPLINGS

This recipe is terribly tedious, I know, but I also believe that the satisfaction you feel gobbling up those babies will outweigh the trouble. Get your friends and family to make it together and it'll be a great bonding session.

You will need...

- 500g minced pork
- 2 stalks of spring onion
- 5 cloves of garlic
- 1 whole yellow onion
- 1 whole carrot
- 3 spoons of light soy sauce
- 2 spoons of oyster sauce
- 5 fresh shiitake mushrooms (optional)
- Salt and white pepper to taste
- Wonton skins (make them on your own or buy them from an Asian grocery store)

1. Chop the carrot, garlic, yellow onion, shiitake mushrooms, and green onion as finely as possible. A food processor can be used to save time.
2. Mix the chopped ingredients, along with the light soy sauce, oyster sauce, salt and white pepper, with the minced pork in a mixing bowl.
3. Form a meatball the size of a 1p coin and place it on the wonton skin. Wet your fingers with some cold water to help seal the wonton skin during the folding process. Ensure that the skin is not torn while folding. There are several ways to fold the wonton skin which are:
 - Fold one corner to another corner of the wonton skin diagonally to form a triangular shaped wonton dumpling.
 - Fold one corner to another diagonal corner, then pull the bottom corners towards each other and away from the first vertex to form a Chinese gold ingot shaped dumpling.
 - Pinch all four corners together to the middle to form a pouch shaped dumpling.
4. The dumplings can be either deep-fried with vegetable oil until the skin is golden brown, boiled into a soup for about 6 minutes, or steamed for about 15 minutes. Serve with sweet chilli dipping sauce.

FOOD

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Worth the Hype? Shake Shack

Another American food giant trying to take over the UK? Well this time it better be good! Felix is sending its best critique to see whether it's really worth it.

FOOD

Bláithín Dockery

Food writer

When you think of the United States of America what do you imagine? Towering skyscrapers? Sunny Beaches? Famous faces? How about a good ol' American cheeseburger? The burger is an iconic American food, even recently honoured in the movie *The Founder* telling the story of how McDonald's came to be. But don't worry, I won't be reviewing McDonald's today (that hype is way out of my league), instead I'll be taking a look at a more recent import: Shake Shack.

In the US, where the burger reigns supreme, creating a new burger brand which captures the public's attention is no easy feat. However that is exactly what Shake Shack has done. Since its founding in 2004 it has been one of the fastest-growing food chains,

"In the US, where the burger reigns supreme, creating a new burger brand which captures the public's attention is no easy feat"

amassing 136 locations as of October 2017. Shake Shack has all the makings of a classic fast food outlet: a relatively simple menu, including the essential burgers and fries, and food served exceptionally quickly. However in comparison to the more long-standing fast food chains, Shake Shack delivers up a quality meal, with fresher ingredients from "like-minded artisanal producers" (yes this is actually a quote from their website).

In 2013 Shake Shack opened its first London location in Covent Garden, and has maintained a steady hype around its brand, allowing for a further three locations to open in the city and four more in the UK. As the favourite burger of the east coast of the US I began to wonder: is Shake Shack really worth the hype?

First impressions

To get the most authentic experience I visited the original London location: Covent Garden. Covent Garden itself has a palpable buzz, off which Shake Shack was cleverly feeding. The main seating area is centred in the middle of the vibrant market building piazza while the food is ordered and prepared inside the building opposite. The ordering room was smartly decorated with a simple colour scheme, including dark blues and the bright dark green of the Shake Shack logo. The menu itself was quite straightforward and focused on burgers and hot dogs. To get the full experience I ordered a selection, including a



Some of those legendary crinkle fries // Flickr/star5112

ShackBurger, the famous 'Shroom Burger' (raved about by all the vegetarians I know), and crinkle-cut fries.

"The taste was a mix of the squidgy slightly sweet bun, the melty cheesy and the thin meaty patty"

After placing our order we were given a little buzzer – I imagine this was to build the anticipation for our food. To be fair it did work: when the buzzer rang a few minutes later I practically leapt up from my chair and rushed to the food widow where

I was given a sturdy steel tray laden with the steaming vibrant food. The smell of the fries and burgers had me practically drooling but the key question remained: how would it taste?

The food

I decided to start with the classic ShackBurger: a cheeseburger with lettuce, tomato, and ShackSauce. Taking my first bite, I was not disappointed. The taste was a mix of the squidgy slightly sweet bun, the melty cheesy, and the thin meaty patty. It certainly tasted like a burger, but was a huge step up from the classic fast-food chains. The burger patty actually tasted of proper meat and had a slightly crunchy outside, with a nice texture which balanced the super soft bun. However, before I felt I had even started I had finished. The burger is quite small, especially

compared to other burger restaurants which have much larger meat patties making the burgers feel like a proper meal. But not to worry – I had plenty more to get through.

As a 'palate cleanser' I decided to go for the crinkle-cut fries. The crinkle-cut is certainly a novelty, and gives the fries an extra crispy coat. They were exceptionally good, perfectly crisp and soft in the middle, with the right balance of salt.

Now for the 'Shroom Burger.' This was probably the one item I was most excited for, as I had never seen a vegetarian burger like this.

The burger is made from a portobello mushroom stuffed with oozing melty cheese and fried. My god did it look good. My first bite transported me to a food paradise: the hot cheesy middle rushed into my mouth mixing with the juicy mushroom and its crispy coating. If this

is what the vegetarian revolution is bringing, then sign me up.

Worth the Hype?

Shake Shack has been raved about in the US, and now that it has set up a sustainable UK base its hype will only get bigger. The offering of tastier "artisanal" fast food has certainly attracted a large pool of followers. Having tried its offerings I can agree that the hype is certainly worth it.

Price

Burger: £5.50
Fries: £3

Best part

That mind-blowing vegetarian burger

Worst part

Size of the normal burger

TRAVEL

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Calling all cyclists: take your bike on holiday for an unforgettable cycling adventure

Tourists love Thailand for its beautiful beaches, hot weather, and unconventional attractions. However, recent Imperial graduate **Charlotte Pickering** experienced a different kind of holiday – she went to a cycling festival in Chiang Mai and spent a month exploring the city by bike.

TRAVEL

Charlotte Pickering
Travel Writer

Most people think of Thailand as a party destination to go to with “the lads”, packed with cheap nights out, but my trip was a bit different. I’m a lone female traveller who doesn’t understand clubs and booze, but I do love cycling, and Thailand has some great mountains with well-maintained roads. And thus, I went on a cycling holiday to Thailand.

Across the world

Truth be told, this trip wasn’t my idea. There’s an annual cycling festival held in Chiang Mai that I’d wanted to go to the previous two years but couldn’t due to uni – but this year was my year! My exams finished in May, so in mid-July I was to head off to Chiang Mai with my bike. A taxi to the airport would have

been £40+, but fortunately there’s a courier service, Airportr (#notspns), from central London to various Heathrow terminals for only £30. So I packed my bike up into a cardboard bike box, and it was picked up and taken swiftly to Heathrow Terminal 2. Meanwhile, I picked up some Thai baht (local currency), prepared my room to be subtle, and then made my way down to the airport by tube. I have to admit that leaving for a month-long trip to the other side of the world gave me last minute nerves so my flatmate basically had to push me out the door. When I finally made it to Heathrow, I collected my bike and proceeded to check in – other than having to fit the bike box in the lift and through the maze of crowd control stanchions, it all went smoothly. I was very pleased that my chosen airline, Eva Airways, treated my bike very well. Oh, and a minor detail – I walked past Andy Murray at the airport, who was arriving home from the French Open (just casual



The road to the Doi Suthep mountain looks like cyclists’ heaven // Charlotte Pickering

things).

First day adventures

My journey from Bangkok airport to my accommodation was much more challenging. Since my flight was delayed, I was afraid to miss the train to Chiang Mai, so in a mad-panic I booked an Airbnb in the centre of Bangkok. Also, when I picked up my bike at the airport, I had it put together for me in a bike shop, which, on

reflection, was a bad idea. By the time I got it back, it was late, and I had a lot of luggage with me, so I couldn’t cycle to my accommodation; instead, I took a taxi but had to remove the front wheel from the bike to fit. Then unfortunately, after a draining journey, I didn’t manage to get a well-deserved sleep – in the extreme heat and humidity, the AC only worked with the lights on, and my jet lag also didn’t help in the process. But that’s what travelling is all about – stepping out of your comfort zone to gain invaluable experiences.

Chasing cool air

The next day I booked an overnight train to Chiang Mai, but I still had some time in Bangkok before it departed. I ended up visiting a cute little local vegan restaurant (shout out to happycow.net for the recommendation; again, #notspns), where I met a lovely Thai-

“Here’s a tip for you: if you’re going on holiday, book your hostels in advance, at least for a couple of nights. Please. Just trust me on this”

born Chinese lady, who, at 50 years old, was just starting to learn Mandarin to reconnect with her family back in China. I spent the rest of my time at the train station because it was the only place nearby with air-conditioning (it’s REALLY hot, okay?), which also offered various shops and free WiFi for international

tourists (#priorities). Finally, I boarded my train to Chiang Mai with my bike – the process was simple but required extra payment. I took the sleeper train instead of flying or taking a taxi because it’s an iconic part of a trip to Thailand and I also aimed to arrive in Chiang Mai early to have enough time to find accommodation there. Here’s a tip for you: if you’re going on holiday, book your accommodation in advance, at least for a couple of nights. Please. Just trust me on this. My experience wasn’t awful by any means, but it would have been much better if I’d done the bookings in advance.

A month of cycling

Upon arrival in Chiang Mai, I caught a songthaew (a type of passenger vehicle) to the area I wanted to stay in. Fortunately, this time my bike fitted in the car, but since songthaews don’t have

TRAVEL

travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Breath-taking views of Chiang Mai from above are worth every turn of the pedal // Flickr

backs, I held onto my bike to stop it from falling off. There was another passenger, a Swiss girl, and it turned out she was there because of the same festival, though not as a participant. When I mentioned that I had not booked a place to stay yet, she kindly invited me to stay at hers, while I figured it out. We dumped our stuff at hers and spent most of the day walking around the city, eating exotic fruit, and then going on a tuk tuk tour (another Thai vehicle). In the end, we decided it was a scam and refused to pay full price for it. So be vigilant!

“Breath-taking views of the city were well worth the challenging ride”

We eventually arrived in the neighbourhood I was hoping to stay in, and after wandering down a dead-end, we met a friendly Thai lady who gave us a ride on her motorcycle to the right place. Finally, after hours of searching, I ended up at some student accommodation, where I managed to rent a room for the rest of my trip. As

I was moving my stuff from my Airbnb to the new place, my songthaew driver wasn’t impressed with me taking the bike on-board, charging me more for it. But since it was late at night and we were in the middle of nowhere, I had to accept the sudden price hike.

And at this point, my cycling holiday actually started! I spent a few days cycling and walking around with the Swiss girl (who rented a bike, as there are many bike rental shops in Chiang Mai). Then, I cycled up Doi Suthep, a mountain right outside of Chiang Mai. It took me two attempts, thanks to my dodgy knee, which was injured as I was hit by a cab while cycling in London. Nevertheless, even if tiring, cycling up the mountain was an incredible experience. The road goes up to a classic Thai Buddhist temple with breath-taking views of the city, well worth the challenging ride. However, the ride down was absolutely terrifying – going that fast on a bike did not feel safe, but drivers in Chiang Mai are very good around bicycles, so I knew that controlling my speed was the only thing I needed to worry about. In my opinion, cycling is a great way to get around Chiang Mai, since cars and motorcycles are respectful. Also, bike theft

“Cycling is a great way to get around Chiang Mai, since cars and motorcycles are respectful. Also, bike theft is minimal”

is minimal – I did take a D lock for peace of mind, but a chain lock would have been more than enough. Many times I left my bike parked unlocked, or just locked to itself, and it was

still there when I got back. And finally, my favourite restaurant, Imm Aim, had a bike rack outside which held up to 8 bikes, so it’s indeed a bike friendly city.

Time to come back

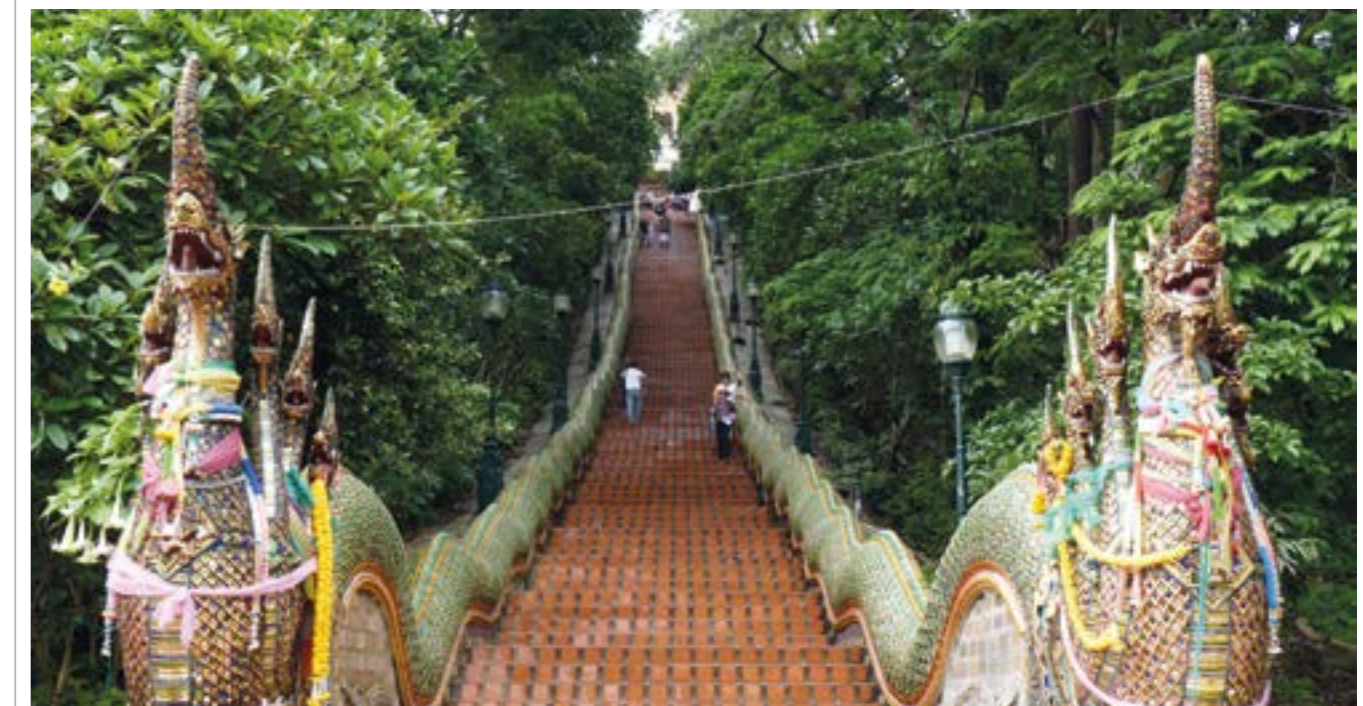
The journey back to London was a bit different. I decided to fly to Bangkok instead of taking the train, so I had to buy a bike box in Chiang Mai. These get sold for recycling, meaning that bike shops might not have any, so if this is something you need, it would be best to seek one out a few days in advance. I was staying overnight in Bangkok so I stored my packed bike at the airport’s left luggage

service, which cost 100 baht for 24 hours. It’s common knowledge that when taking a bike on a plane, the tyres should be flat. However, the airlines normally don’t check this, and the inner tubes don’t tend to explode under the aircraft conditions. But since my bike box had small holes for holding it, the lady who was checking me in noticed that I hadn’t put down my tyres. Unfortunately, this meant that I had to climb upon the baggage scales and put down both of my tyres through this small hole. In the future, I won’t try to be cheeky and will put down my tyres beforehand, especially if they’re visible through the box.

The rest of the trip was easy. Shout out to my mum for picking me up at Heathrow, saving me from paying for the bike shipping. That being said, AirPortr was a great service and I’d definitely use them again. I’d also recommend using the left luggage service at airports, e.g. to store your bike or any other large luggage pieces, if this can help you with your journey. It felt scary giving my bike to people I didn’t know in a foreign country but it meant that I didn’t have to lug a large box around Bangkok again, which is less than fun.



Fresh fruit in Thai street markets – a nice alternative to Tesco Value // Flickr



Stairway to Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, the temple at the top of Doi Suthep // Flickr

Your Union events

Friday 1 December



iPOP
Friday
8 December
20:00-02:00
Metric &
FiveSixEight
Free before 20:00
£2.50 After
£1.50 (minimum purchase)

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on



h Tuesday
cocktail club
02
Li
Long Island
iced tea
Mix & match any
two cocktails
Only
£7.00
Choose from Mojito, Long Island Iced Tea,
Russian Moscow Mule or Cuba Libre

imperialcollegeunion.org/food-drink



REYNOLDS
BAR

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

8 December
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



Free Pool

Every Day
17:00-23:00

Pub Quiz

Every Tuesday
18:30-23:00

Sports Night

Every Wednesday
18:00 onwards

Cocktail Night

Every Friday
17:00 onwards

Find us on Facebook!

fb.com/reynoldsbarcx

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

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on



LIBERATION

icu-environmental@imperial.ac.uk

It's time for us to make a stand on climate change

There's a clear place to start when it comes to Imperial's impact on the environment: it's time to divest.

LIBERATION

Rhidian Thomas

Ethics and Environment Officer

Unless you've been living under a rock, you've likely found it impossible to avoid *Blue Planet II*. Nowhere else is the beauty of the natural world as apparent as in our oceans, and the theatrics 1000 feet below the surface often uncannily mirror the dramas of our own day-to-day lives. We pick sides, and become entirely invested in the fate of a single octopus. All that serves to make the sucker punch, when it comes, all the more gut-wrenching. This stunning tapestry of life and colour faces an existential risk, and we'd really rather not talk about it: climate change.

When it comes to climate change, I used to do what most people would – I ignored it as best I could. The whole thing was too overpowering, and it's often hard to know where to start. As a fresher, though, I took a chance on joining the Environmental Society. Had I not gone to that first meeting, I'd probably have carried on as before, having unconsciously constructed a life that didn't really leave space for caring about climate change.

It's easy to see why we'd like to ignore climate change; after all, it's hardly a cheery subject. There's growing evidence of the toll that climate change takes on



Students need to make their voices heard // Wikimedia

our mental health, even disregarding its physical effects on the globe. A 2009 report found that Americans are already suffering a “pre-traumatic stress disorder” due to the burden of climate change on their minds; the effect is even worse among scientists in the field. Reluctance to think about such a painful topic is pretty understandable.

The other key is the fact that I was even able to ignore climate change at all. Part of this is that the famously unreliable British weather is actually reliably dull by global standards. While other countries are already feeling the impact of stronger hurricanes and prolonged summer

droughts, the UK is likely to escape the worst effects.

“A good first step for the College would be to remove its dirty investments in some of the most unethical and unscientific industries”

The cruel irony of climate change is that the

first to suffer are often the least-equipped to cope. The recent COP23 summit in Bonn – the largest international gathering to take action against climate change – was presided over by the government of Fiji. The tiny island-nation was unable to afford even to host the conference on climate change; how on Earth is it supposed to afford to protect itself against the actual thing? Having contributed approximately zero to the problem, and lacking any infrastructure to deal with it, Fiji and other Pacific island nations will nevertheless pay the price for the lethargy of developed countries. We can only afford to ignore the problem at home because

somebody else can't in theirs.

So what do we do? We have a choice. One option is to trust politicians and big business to sort things out, two groups that can *always* be relied upon to act in humanity's best interests. The other option is that we try to make a difference ourselves. No one person can do it alone; what's needed is a collective effort. Put pressure on things that are within your power to change, and remember that something is always better than nothing.

One thing we all share is Imperial – the clean, green, hi-tech university that recently came 141st in People & Planet's league table of the UK's greenest

universities. We can do better, and as students we should demand that we do better. A good first step for the College would be to remove its dirty investments in some of the planet's most unethical and unscientific industries, the very same ones gleefully paving the way towards climate catastrophe. Divestment sets an example for society to follow, and we can applaud the example our own Union set by voting to remove its funds from fossil fuels. College's reluctance to follow suit is scandalous, and it's up to us to force their hand. If we don't, we risk throwing away all we've ever known: the blue planet we call home.

Here's what I'm up to at the moment!

LIBERATION

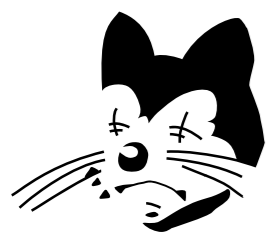
Rhidian Thomas

Ethics and Environment Officer



As Ethics and Environment Officer, my job is to support and facilitate campaigns to make our university fairer, greener, and more sustainable. Below are some things I've been up to so far this term; if you think that there's something I've missed, or that I could help you with, email me at icu-environmental@ic.ac.uk

- Attending meetings with Deputy President (Finance and Services) and Union finance team to scrutinise the Union's divestment plans, and ensure that the targets set out in last year's divestment paper are met.
- I'm in contact with the Union to help shape the Union's divestment branding and publicity.
- As part of Divest Imperial, I'm coordinating the hand-in of the petition calling on College to divest from fossil fuels.



Hangman



Sad reacts only // Stewart Oak

Extra security hired for Business School following break-in

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

Chemistry students managed to tailgate into the Business School cafe, upsetting the MBA students gathered there.

Extra security has had to be installed in the Business School, after several chemistry undergraduates were caught sneaking into their cafe.

The incident occurred earlier this week. A group of second year students, believed to be

taking a break from their fluorescence spectroscopy lab, tailgated through the doors to the Business School, and entered the

"It is believed that the chemistry undergrads attempted to blend in by wearing badly-tailored suits from Reiss"

cafe. It is believed that they attempted to blend in

by wearing badly-tailored suits from Reiss.

One student who spoke to *Felix* said that the experience had left them uneasy to go into the Business School Cafe again: "I was using my personal study table, trying to revise the '5 S's of Good Business' - sell, steal, schmooze, snake, sociopathy - when I heard these two guys talking about organic chemistry in voices slightly above room level. Of course, it was very intimidating - they then invaded my study bubble to ask to borrow some chairs, so I maced them and called security."

Another MBA student told *Felix* "my parents didn't donate vast sums

of money to Imperial so I could rub shoulders with undergraduates. They did it so I could learn about business psychology and do a subject where *Freakonomics* is considered course material."

Vice Provost (Java Supplies), Mike Titchford, told *Felix* that he "understood the concerns" surrounding use of the Business School cafe: "many students and staff feel that the products served in the Business School cafe are of a higher quality, and they are. But we are confident that, thanks to the invisible hand of the market, the full-bodied arabica will eventually trickle down to all students on campus. Even those in the

materials department."

Campus services have now intervened to ensure that security is tightened

"Vice Provost (Java Supplies) told *Felix* 'many students feel that the food served in the Business School cafe is higher quality, and it is'"

up: the secret corridor between the Business

School and the RSM has now been bricked up, and all visitors must present identity cards at the School's entrance. Before entry, students will have to answer a series of questions, including "what is your CID number?", "what year are you scheduled to graduate?", and "what well-used service to society would you most like to disrupt with a start-up that nobody asked for or needs?"

Students affected have already been provided about the counseling and support services available on campus. They have also been provided with a map to said services, since the majority have only know how to get to that weird silver cylinder.

HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

Royal engagement shows we're still really racist

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

Monarchists are torn between their love of the Royal Family and their suspicion of those with darker skin.

The announcement of the engagement of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle has seen the country erupt in a celebration of monarchy, tradition, and casual racism.

The Prince, a former serviceman who is now out of work, but performs

occasional charity work, is set to marry Markle in a ceremony in May 2018. Markle, a successful actor, is also noted for her charity work, privileged upbringing, and possession of melanin.

The announcement received widespread notice in the mainstream media, particularly in the tabloid press. The Daily Mail had the newsroom equivalent of a stroke, as editors were caught between their love for anything Royal-related and their disdain for anything they consider foreign.

Some of the responses to the announcement have been accused of "dog-whistle racism", a label some contest. One

student *Felix* spoke to said "I'm not at all racist, but there's just something I don't like about Meghan. I can't put my finger on it, but she doesn't seem to quite fit into the Royal Family. I love Kate though, she's such a classic British beauty."

Thomas Rhidian, the Union's Ethical Adjudicator, expressed his disappointment in the reaction: "I had hoped that a progressive, forward-thinking institution like the monarchy would have more open-minded fans. It's surprising that people who care deeply about the difference between the Union flag and the Union Jack, and don't seem freaked out



RUN MEGHAN, RUN // Flickr

about Prince George being dressed like a child who died in 1934 would hold such backward views."

But this didn't dampen the mood for some monarchists. *Felix* headed

down to Buckingham Palace, where a crowd of royalists were gathered waving, bunting, and being generally off-putting. One person said "it's times like this that really

unite the country. We can all get together in celebration of a single cause: single-mindedly referring to women with dark skin as 'exotic'."



ARIES

This week you're the *Felix* Editor, and you start charging people to use your office as a study space given the library is closed. £10 a head.



TAURUS

This week you get super excited about the royal wedding, but then you realise you're not going to get a bank holiday. You're a republican now.



GEMINI

This week you're disappointed by the lack of Christmas-themed offerings in the Library Cafe, but then you realise: nothing can make a 8pm jacket potato in preparation for an all-nighter 'festive'.



CANCER

This week you're really happy about how well physics did in the league tables, then you remember you're doing physics, and you're sad again.



LEO

This week, in your support of a hard Brexit, you decide to go against the EU wonks and their health and safety regulations. Your building has its labs shut down. Nice one.



VIRGO

This week, the fact you're reading this means you're one week closer to the end of term, and sweet release from Imperial. Go you.



LIBRA

This week you have a lecture on penguins. You decide to take inspiration from their strategies of huddling for warmth this winter - to ACC it is.



SCORPIO

This week, following safety incidents in your lab, you get a lecture on the dangers of exposure to ICL. You've been here for two years, you know Imperial's bad for your health.



SAGITTARIUS

This week it's the end of Movember. You're relieved to get to shave your moustache off before you're put on a watchlist.



CAPRICORN

This week your popular meme page makes it to BBC News. You still haven't got a blue tick on Twitter though...



AQUARIUS

This week you're a *Felix* reader, and you're pretty sick of all the stories about league tables. Trust me, we're bored too.



PISCES

This week you work in the Union Offices, and you're dreading the imminent introduction of mandatory non-denominational holiday jumpers.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

felix.clubsandsocieties@imperial.ac.uk

2017 Imperial Cinema Winter All-Nighter

Celebrate the end of term with a night full of films and fun at Imperial Cinema's annual cult event, the Winter All-Nighter! Starting in the evening of the 12th of December, five films will be shown back-to-back, finishing at 7am the next morning. Pro tip: Bring a blanket and pillow!

18:30 Thor: Ragnarok

We at Imperial Cinema *love* Taika Waititi. *What We Do in the Shadows* and *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* are both All-Nighter alumni, so to speak. So

there was no way we were going to withhold this from you: Thor, Hulk, Loki et al. getting the full psychedelic absurdist Kiwi treatment. Forecast: Zero chance of taking yourself too seriously. 100% chance of fun.

21:00 Blade Runner 2049

Scott Ridley's 1982 cult classic gets a worthy follow-up that is just as bleak, violent, and visually stunning as the original. Ryan Gosling melts into the universe's fluoro-grime aesthetic as if he'd always been there;

it's a genuinely new, interesting story, rather than a re-hash of Deckard's past, but with an appropriate amount of Harrison Ford sprinkled in.

01:00 Murder on the Orient Express

Gaze upon the glory that is Kenneth Branagh's magnificent moustache and lose yourself in the delicious twists and turns of the Agatha Christie classic. Don't lose yourself in that moustache though, because you might never see the light of day again. The cast is ridiculously star-studded,



Stalin, Thor, and Ryan Gosling walk into a bar... //Entertainment One/Disney/Warner Bros.



That moustache tho... //20TH Century Fox/Universal Pictures

the costumes sumptuous, and the moustache ginormous. Have I mentioned the moustache?

03:15 The Death of Stalin

A black comedy about the horrors of the last days of Stalin's reign doesn't seem like an obvious idea, but who better to pull it off than Armando Iannucci, he of *The Thick of It* fame. Starring such greats as Jason Isaacs, Steve Buscemi, and Michael Palin bouncing off each other, be prepared to laugh a lot (and have some of it

stick in your throat).

05:20 Happy Death Day

Remember that film, *Groundhog Day*? With Bill Murray? Kind of boring, right? Would be better with... MORE STABBING. A college student wakes up on her birthday, goes about her day, and gets brutally murdered. Then wakes up, on her birthday, again. Yeah so it's a little derivative, but the premise is good and it's almost time to go home.

The All-Nighter takes place on Tuesday, 12th December in the Union Concert Hall, 2nd floor of the Union Building, Beit Quad. Tickets are £10 online (until 4pm on the day) and £12 on the door. If you don't fancy staying all night, tickets for individual films can be purchased at £3 each on the door. An additional £5 buys you all-night, all-you-can-eat hot food and drinks.

Tickets available now on <https://tickets.imperialcinema.co.uk>.

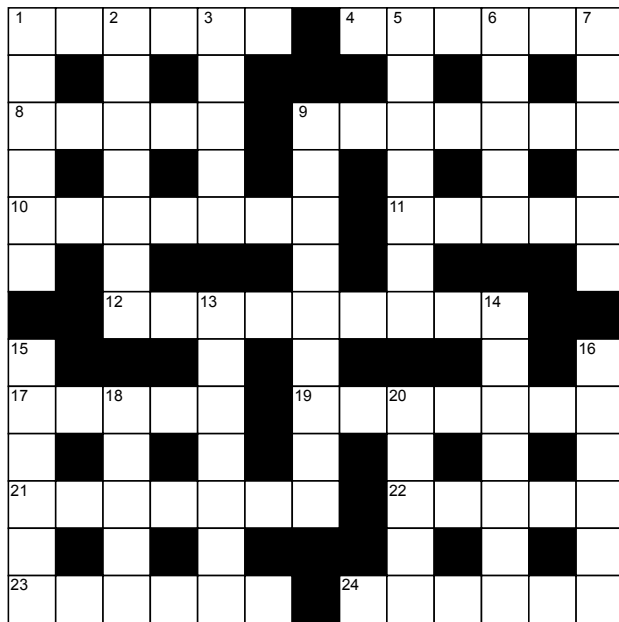
YOUR WEEK AHEAD

We're nearly at the end of term, so take some well-deserved time off, and head along to something fun

	MONDAY 4 TH DECEMBER	TUESDAY 5 TH DECEMBER	WEDNESDAY 6 TH DECEMBER	THURSDAY 7 TH DECEMBER	FRIDAY 8 TH DECEMBER
	CHARITY BAKE SALE <i>IC Baking Society</i> 11.00-14.00, JCR	UNION COUNCIL <i>ICU Council</i> 18.30-21.00, Pippard LT	SYNCHRO XMAS SHOW <i>ICU Synchronised Swimming</i> 20.30, Ethos Pool	LSE-ICL ENERGY JOURNAL LAUNCH <i>ICL EnergySoc</i> 18.00, 2.03 Parish Hall (LSE)	AUTUMN CONCERT <i>IC Sinfonietta</i> 19.30-22.30, Great Hall
	Come on down to our bake sale (in collaboration with UNICEF) on the 4 th and 7 th of December! A range of cakes, biscuits, and more will be on offer. Hope to see you there!	Union Council is the decision-making body of ICU. Come along to make your voice heard! Any students are welcome to attend, and give their input.	IC Synchro are putting on a Christmas treat to celebrate a great term of training! Come along to see a demonstration, and find out what synchro is about! Tickets £2 online, £3 on door	Imperial and LSE EnergySoc have joined together to create: The ENERGY JOURNAL. This edition's theme is Revolution. We've got some great articles, and a great team. Get to know everyone at the launch!	IC Sinfo will be performing Sibelius' rousing tone poem <i>Finlandia</i> , Tchaikovsky's fateful 4 th symphony and Hindemith's <i>Nobilissima Visione</i> Concert Suite. Tickets available online.

PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk



Across

- 1. Dilapidated (6)
- 4. Logic (6)
- 8. City of *Dexter* (5)
- 9. Japanese domain (7)
- 10. Human cutting part (7)
- 11. 1.2p (5)
- 12. Pretty recent (9)
- 17. Fight (5)
- 19. Not close (7)
- 21. Foot food (7)
- 22. Uptight (5)
- 23. Solution (6)
- 24. Wet to the core (6)

Down

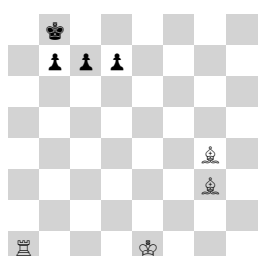
- 1. Highest point (6)
- 2. Chaos (7)
- 3. Happy place (5)
- 5. Went in (7)
- 6. After tree (5)
- 7. Less 19 (6)
- 9. Give up (9)
- 13. Invisible attribute (7)
- 14. Longed (7)
- 15. e.g. Joan of Arc (6)
- 16. Thrown about (6)
- 18. Accompaniment to doom (5)
- 20. Begin with vigour (3-2)

Nonogram

Fill in neighbouring cells in each row/column to make blocks. Each block is separated by one or more empty cells. The numbers indicate the ordered lengths of the blocks to appear in that row/column.

Chess

White to move first in both problems. Forced checkmate in 2 moves for the first, 3 moves for the second.



3 3 2 2 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 2 1 1 2 5 2 1 3 1 1 3 1 6

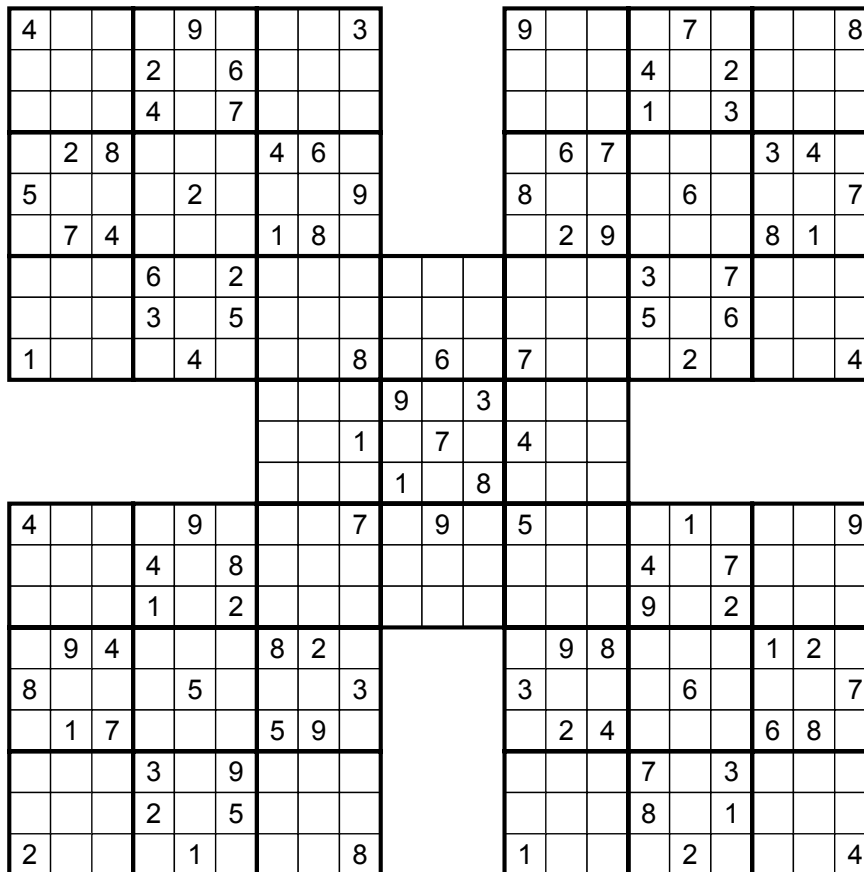
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3 2 1 1 2 5 6 3 3 2 6 3 7 5 2 2 4 2 1 1 1 1 3 2 1 2 2 2 5 1 4 2 3 4 3

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18 5 2
10 10
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8 5 1 1 2
19 1
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2 2 2 1 2 2
3 4 2 1 3 3
7 8 2 1 4
3 1 2 3 1 1 3
2 1 2 4 2
2 4 3 2
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6 3 10
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FUCWIT

1 Nonogram of Ketamine	158
2 Anti-Gravity Acorns	121
3 TioUdin	109
4 Q	105
5 HOTRIG	103
6 Puzzle Snuggle Cuddle Couple	101
7 Luncheon Pals	84
8 Whale and Male	78
9 Sports Night is Moist Night	77
10 Doctor Sudokwho	76
11 OK	60
12 Gave up initially - somewhat inapt with snatch. (6)	56
12 The House Elves	56
14 Imperial Stormtroopers	52
15 I am Miriam	46
17 Abelian Grapes	38
19 25Bee	30
23 Straight outta Skempton	22
23 Wreck-It Ramrod	22

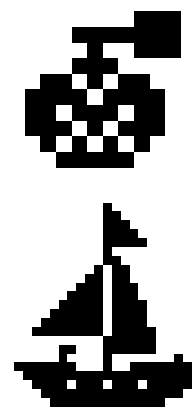
Only top four and new entries shown.

Send a picture of your solutions to fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk before mid-day Wednesday!

Points Available

Crossword	4
Samurai Sudoku	4
Nonogram	4
Chess	4
Bridges	2
TOTAL	18

Solutions



Bridges

Connect all of the circles with single or double bridges. Bridges may only run vertically or horizontally and cannot pass over a circle.

SPORTS

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Brighton-wards and upwards for ICXCAC

50+ Imperial runners take on the Brighton 10k.

SPORTS

Fergus Johnson
ICXCAC Secretary

Sunday 19th November was the date of Imperial College Cross Country & Athletics Club's first road race of the year: the Brighton 10k.

With a meeting time of 6am at London Bridge Station, by the early hours 50 students were already rising groggily from their beds, eyes blearily checking their phones for the quickest route Citymapper could find to transport them across Central London at such an unearthly hour on a Sunday morning.

Impressively, despite attendees using a myriad of different routes to get to the station by the Shard, almost everyone made it

onto the train in time.

Upon arrival on the south coast, the team invaded the local Wetherspoons; not for any pre-race drinks – our athletes are far too disciplined for that – but to make full use of the toilets in order to avoid the notorious queues that inevitably awaited them for the loos beside the race start.

The air was rather chilly, and many members attempted to keep as many layers on as possible for as long as possible before they headed to the start line in just a vest and criminally short shorts. With 1300 competitors in the race the starting funnel was packed, but chip timing allowed some runners to tactically start nearer the back to give themselves the psychological boost of overtaking people during their race.

The race was set



Imperial's sub-37 men were all smiles after the race // ICXCAC

underway promptly at 9:30 and they were off! Crowds of spectators lined the first few hundred metres but the sounds of cheering and support soon gave way to the rumble of racing feet pounding the Brighton roads and rush of heavy breathing. The course was simple – 3km out along the road beside the promenade before returning along the same 3km straight and continuing 2km past the start/finish before a final 180 degree turn (π radians if you must) and a 2km surge to the finish line. The ideal race conditions that greeted the runners were a far cry from the 2016 edition which saw the race cancelled just hours before the scheduled start time due to the high winds of Storm Angus. Clear blue skies watched over this year's event for the duration, yet the shining sun offered little warmth. Fortunately, the exothermic nature of respiration in the mitochondria of the athletes' cells soon warmed them up and spurred them on.

Being along the seafront, there was an inevitable breeze on the course. Nevertheless, with Imperial's athletes tactically forming groups to ease the stretch into the wind this had a negligible impact on their performance.

ICXCAC also provided much entertainment for the locals with the commentator at the finish at one point remarking: "Another Imperial runner! And a dab! And ANOTHER dab by yet another runner from that

"Another Imperial runner! And a dab! And ANOTHER dab by yet another runner from that fine London university"

fine London university"

First home in a navy and red vest was Fergus Johnson in a new personal best of 35:30, closely followed by Sarah Johnson in 35:38, who came 2nd lady overall to win a number of prizes. Imperial's top 5 was rounded out by Men's Captain Lewis Jackson's PB of 35:57, Matt Douthwaite in an impressive 36:23, and Jack McKeon breaking 37 minutes for the first time with 36:54. Georgia Curry (38:02), Anna Lawson (40:38), Alex Stuart-Smith (42:10), and Stephanie Hewitt (42:15) filled out the top 5 places for Imperial's girls.

Post-race, the squad celebrated with the usual cake ritual and headed back to the drinking establishment they had previously utilised for its bathroom facilities. However, to their dismay, the institution had already been invaded by a rival Imperial society: ICSM Light Opera (see last week's centrefold for a profile of the culprits). After a few frantic calls

to numerous pubs in the local area ("yes, we'd like to seat fifty, not fiftyTEEN") the runners found a suitable place back near the start line with picturesque views of the famous Brighton Pier and the gentle breaking waves of the English Channel.

After ample refuelling and a visit to view the questionable "tic-tac" machine in the gents, the post-race celebrations continued with a trip to the beach accompanied by a few more refreshing beverages to "rehydrate" after the day's exertion. A few brave members opted for some shallow paddling, and two madmen decided they quite fancied a (very brief) swim in the refreshing (i.e. ice-cold) waters.

Finally, to end the day the weary athletes returned to where their visit to Brighton began and toasted the absence of ICSM Light Opera before the train journey back to the capital.

For more information about the club, email run@ic.ac.uk.



Sarah Johnson collects an assortment of prizes for 2nd Lady // ICXCAC