



Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London

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First wave of strikes come to an end

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Imperial has one of the largest property portfolios among London universities // Imperial College London

Imperial's property holdings revealed

NEWS

Fred Fyles
Editor-in-Chief

Large property portfolios, rapid expansion, and luxury PG accommodation – Felix investigates Imperial's property holdings.

Imperial College London's property holdings are among the most extensive

of London universities and include a significant amount of student accommodation. Through data obtained from freedom of information requests, as well as publicly available records and statements, *Felix* has found Imperial has large sums of money invested in property currently under construction, and has increased its property portfolio dramatically over the past year.

Imperial owns GradPad, two blocks of high-end accommodation

for postgraduate students, with prices up to £430/week. The College has been accused by some postgraduates of aggressively marketing GradPad at the expense of alternative housing options accessible to all budgets.

Imperial's Expansion

Imperial has been rapidly expanding over the past few years, with a number of developments driven by the move to White City. Alongside the new educational

buildings, such as the Molecular Sciences Research Hub, which will cost an estimated £154.4 million, Imperial has greatly increased its property investments. Last year it increased its holdings in investment property by more than £60 million, from £116.6 million to £179.1 million, largely through the acquisition of a large site in North Acton currently used by Dixon Carphone. Sales of investment property generated £6 million for the College last year, while income

from rent from commercial property increased to nearly £10 million.

Overall, Imperial has increased the total fixed assets it owns – a category that includes freehold land and buildings, fittings, and equipment – from £1.37 billion to over £1.5 billion over the past academic year. This is one of the largest portfolios among London universities – equivalent to LSE, Queen Mary's University of London, and St. Georges

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The
**Leadership
Elections**
2018

imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

#voteicu

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Elections are upon us



So, we've made it. As my Facebook timehop helpfully reminded me the other day, it has been a full year since I started plastering my face around campus in an effort to have the chance to plaster this paper around campus instead. I can't say I look back on those two weeks of electioneering fondly; in fact, they were probably two of the most stressful weeks I've experienced since coming to university. This year things are probably going to be even more intense, since the two weeks of campaigning and voting are going to be crammed into one. If there are any lectures not being cancelled by the strikes next week, I'm sure they'll be taken up by innumerable awful shout-outs, so look forward to that.

As for me, I'm nearly free! This time next week voting will have closed, and we should be about to find out who next year's sabbatical team are. For whoever succeeds me as Felix Editor, I wish them the best of luck, and pray their neurotic tendencies are less pronounced than mine... The next week

is a difficult time for the current sabbatical officers; we're going to spend most of the week listening to our potential successors point out all the things that haven't done, and promise to do a better job than we have. Ouch. I get why it has to be done, but it ain't going to feel good. But it is something the sabbatical team need to hear, myself included. Many people run, not out of some desire for change, or to do good (although those do come into play), but more out of frustration at how things have been going so far. I don't think

anybody puts themselves forward because they're happy with the status quo: you nominate yourself because you have opinions on what hasn't been delivered, and you have ideas about how to deliver them – whether that's improving the counselling service, bringing back SCR breakfasts, or just trying to make Imperial a friendlier place to be.

For all those running, I ask one thing: this week might go by in a blur, but never forget that feeling of anger or frustration that made you run in the first place. The Buddha might

have said holding onto anger is like holding onto a hot coal, but perhaps in this current weather that's exactly what is required. Plus I don't think the Buddha ever had to deal with the Fusion price increase, so I'd take the advice with a pinch of salt.

The sabbatical roles aren't ones you can do adequately without at least a modicum of passion for the job; after all, many of you could probably be earning quite a bit more working for a large faceless corporation, so the decision to work for not quite as much, in a not quite as large, not quite as faceless charity must mean it's something you take an interest in. Hold on to that passion; don't let it be extinguished when you get into your role, but instead use it to push for change, and achieve all the things you don't think we've done.

So if you're running make sure you don't pull any punches; shout loud and clear about what you want to do, and make sure you go ahead and do it. And this goes for *Felix*. Just don't be mean about my editorials. Please.

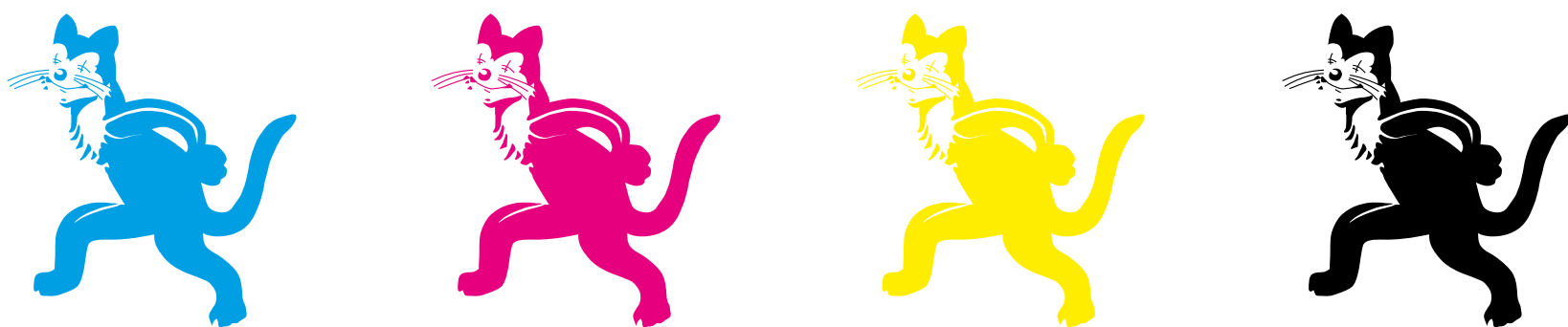


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Felix is recruiting!



We want you – yes, you! We're looking for writers, photographers, editors, illustrators, reporters, computer experts and grammar nerds to join our team. No experience needed – we'll teach you everything you need to know. If you're interested, send us an email on felix@ic.ac.uk

NEWS

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

First five days of strikes end with Imperial calling for review of UUK changes

NEWS

Fred Fyles
Editor-in-Chief

Imperial shift position as lecturers and support staff walk out for five days, with strikes set to continue.

Imperial College London senior management have called on Universities UK to reevaluate their proposed changes to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), amid concerns over data and analysis.

In an email sent out to staff on Tuesday afternoon, Professor Alice Gast, President, and Professor James Stirling, Provost, said the College “are now calling upon UUK and USS to jointly convene an expert group, including both their advisers and leading academic experts, to provide full transparency” on UUK’s proposals. It came four days into industrial action by the Universities and College Union (UCU), which could last up to 14 days.

A proposal by UUK, the organisational body for UK higher education institutions, claimed the current USS pension was operating with a deficit of £7.5bn, and the employee contributions had increased by more than 50% since 2014. This proposal has been criticised by a number of parties, however, including an Imperial working group, who said a “lack of transparency remains a key issue” in the debate.

College has committed to “fully resource any staff” who participate in the evaluation of the

proposals. In a statement for *Felix*, a College representative said: “recognising that this work may take time and go beyond the statutory deadline for changes to be introduced, and if asked to do so, the College has pledged to carry its share of the risk of staying on the current scheme while this work is completed.”

This week saw the completion of the first five days of strike action, with a number of Imperial staff and students braving the cold weather to stand on picket lines. The fifth day of action ended with a demonstration in central London, joined by Imperial staff and students. Last Tuesday, UUK and UCU announced a joint arbitration attempt through Acas, an industrial conciliation service. Talks are scheduled to begin on Monday 5th March.

“In an email, Alice Gast said the College 'are now calling on UUK to convene an expert group'”

Speaking to Professor Stirling at the picket line earlier this week, he told *Felix* the developments over talks were “positive”: “UUK and UCU are getting Acas involved and getting back around the table. I think this is a really positive development, so I am hopeful that we will be able to reach an agreement on this, and a good way forward for our staff.”

He went on to say: “I



Students and staff on the march on Wednesday // Ansh Bhatnagar

think it would be foolish for anyone to predict the outcome of the analysis, so let's do it, and then work out what the best way forward is.”

Rhidian Thomas, Imperial College Union's Ethics and Environment Officer, who has been supporting staff on the picket line, told *Felix*: “For too long, we've accepted the marketisation of higher education as inevitable. It's not just students paying fees who are suffering as a consequence – we're now seeing staff's pensions being gambled on the stock market. In the context of skyrocketing fees, higher student numbers and rampant executive pay rises, it's unacceptable that ordinary staff are expected to bear the cost. As students of Imperial College, we ought to be calling on our senior management to defend their staff and lobby UUK to ditch the proposed pension changes

once and for all.” UCU representatives welcomed the news. Dr Michael McGarvey, president of Imperial UCU, told *Felix*: “During the second week of the strike our members at Imperial have continued their tremendous support and this has been mirrored at universities throughout the country. We have also been heartened by the great support that we have received from our students with many joining us at the picket lines every day.”

“The Imperial UCU membership continues to rise at an unprecedented rate as more and more people realise the enormity of how damaging these pension proposals are, and is now up by more than 25% since the dispute started. Many have joined the union specifically to support the action, and up to a hundred of our members have joined picket lines.”

“On Tuesday the President announced a huge shift in the position of the senior management at Imperial, altering their hard-line stance in supporting the implementation of the very detrimental changes to staff pensions. It shows that the senior management are at last beginning to grasp the level of outrage among staff at

“The UCU said 'it is up to UUK to get to grips with the reality of the situation. Until then our strike will continue'”

Imperial. Why didn't they do this from the outset? If they had used their influence properly we might

have averted the strike. “It is up to UUK to get to grips with the reality of the situation and come to a fair and acceptable settlement. Until then our strike will continue.”

The development came after more than 60 universities were affected by industrial action, with tutorials and lectures cancelled. UCU have tabled a set of proposals, including provision of a guaranteed pension for members and universities accepting a small amount of increased risk.

UCU general secretary Sally Hunt said: “We are pleased the employers have agreed to more talks... We have listened not just to our members, but also to the many university leaders who have contributed ideas.”

A number of university leaders had called on UUK to reopen talks with UCU, in an effort to limit the likelihood of further industrial action.

Investment properties, White City developments, and

Cont

combined – and is greater than that owned by the University of Oxford.

Imperial also has a large number of properties currently under construction: at the end of the past academic year they had £327 million in properties currently under construction – the most out of any large London university, including UCL and King's College London. UCL's rapid expansion has come under fire recently, after academics backed a motion of no confidence in the university's leadership. One of the UK's leading judges said UCL management was "intent on driving through a programme of rapid expansion... exposing it to serious financial and academic risks".

When asked how the College would ensure current levels of growth are sustainable, a spokesperson said: "We have a balanced and sustainable strategy for expansion. We are building a mixture of

investment assets which will provide income in the future as well as academic facilities which will allow us to deliver our core mission." Last year the College invested roughly £200 million in its estate, including projects in South Kensington and White City.

Imperial Accommodation

Imperial has also been rapidly expanding the amount of student accommodation it owns, increasing bedspaces by nearly a fifth over the past five years. The College owns more than 3,500 bedspaces – more than LSE and QMUL, but fewer than UCL or KCL. Space for undergraduate students, however, remains tight: in last year's annual report, the College reported its growth in enrolments was "weighted towards postgraduates to avoid putting strain on our commitment to provide all first-year undergraduates with a

room in halls".

While the College promises to provide all first-year undergraduates with accommodation, its current holdings do not allow it to do so: this academic year, Imperial accepted 2,715 students, but currently only owns 2,484 bedspaces, not including those in GradPad. As a result, Imperial offers students spaces at halls which are not owned and/or operated by the College, such as Xenia, which provides space for nearly 150 students and is operated by the Salvation Army Housing Association (SAHA).

One way Imperial will be trying to make up the shortfall is with new accommodation outside of central London. In 2015 it opened Woodward Buildings, a 19-storey building in North Acton with space for 690 students. Last year it acquired another plot of land in Acton, which will be used to expand the student accommodation on offer to around 1,300

bedspaces. The College says this will be done to ensure it has "the critical mass needed to develop a vibrant student hub". The new hall will form part of the undergraduate first

"Imperial has increased rent over the last few years, with the average now standing at £175/week"

year guarantee portfolio.

It is unclear whether or not the accommodation to be constructed will be as affordable as that on offer at Woodward Buildings, which is currently subsidised compared to similar accommodation nearby. The accommodation available at Woodward is significantly cheaper than rooms available closer

to the South Kensington campus: an en-suite room at Woodward Buildings costs £131 per week, compared to £232 for a room in Eastside Halls.

Construction of Woodward Buildings has allowed Imperial to keep its average rent increase year-on-year to around 2.5%, slightly above the average inflation rate for the period: in 2012, the average room in Imperial-owned undergraduate accommodation was £155/week, compared to around £175/week this year.

The year Woodward Buildings opened saw a sharp increase in rent for central student accommodation, following lobbying by Imperial College Union (ICU) to restructure pricing of halls. Between September 2014 and September 2015, the average rent in central London halls owned by Imperial – including Eastside, Southside, Wilson House, and Pembridge – increased by nearly £30, from £166/week to £193/week. At the time, Tom Wheeler, then Union President, said: "It is fantastic that as a result of our lobbying we have secured lower rent for over 1,000 future students."

According to data

"Woodward still has not had its unsafe cladding, which was discovered in August, replaced"

provided by the College, if all College-owned bedspaces were rented out, it would generate a

rental income of £720,000 each week – more than any other London university bar KCL, which owns around 40% more bedspaces than Imperial.

In a statement for *Felix*, a College representative said Imperial did not profit from student rents: "The College's approach to pricing is to ensure rental income covers the college's maintenance, capital and running costs for accommodation, but does not generate a surplus from student rents. Student rents are set every five years and the College will consult with the Union in the same way when it comes to setting rents for the next five year period."

At the beginning of this academic year, it was revealed Woodward Buildings had failed fire safety tests carried out on its cladding in the wake of the tragic Grenfell Tower fire. While having sections of cladding that failed government-ordered tests, Woodward Buildings were confirmed "safe for occupancy" by fire safety teams. A review of the rest of Imperial's halls found none used unsafe cladding. Woodward Buildings is still awaiting new cladding.

Imperial and GradPad

Postgraduate accommodation has also been an area in which Imperial has realised a profit over the past few years. Imperial owns accommodation for over 1,000 postgraduate students across two blocks marketed under the brand "GradPad", which describes itself as "London's premier provider of postgraduate student accommodation".

The two complexes – Griffon Studios in Battersea, and Wood Lane Studios on the North Site

luxury postgraduate accommodation owned by College



Imperial is rapidly expanding into the White City area // Imperial

of Imperial's White City campus – are owned by Imperial, but operated by UPP, which manages over 32,000 rooms in the UK. Prices at GradPad start at £219/week, but go up to £430/week; all contracts are for 51 weeks. If all rooms available in GradPad were rented out this academic year, it would produce nearly £300,000 in rental income each week – over 40% of all potential income from student rents.

The most expensive rooms at GradPad, which can be found in the Wood Lane complex, are among the most expensive of all university-owned accommodation – 50% more expensive than UCL's most expensive offering.

Felix spoke to one postgraduate student, who lived in GradPad's Battersea property last academic year, who said they had "a good experience overall". They highlighted features like the gym, the convenience, and "the desk staff were really nice and

helpful".

"Imperial has been accused of aggressively marketing GradPad, its luxury PG studios"

However, they also pointed out: "One thing that annoyed me the most was there's no oven in the accommodation. You have hob space, but it gets to a point where you're like 'oh god, why do I not have an oven?' That was really frustrating." Having individual kitchens meant "it was quite an antisocial environment", with "no encouragement of social interaction".

They highlighted how much Imperial had promoted GradPad before they started their course:

"I think Imperial is very pro-pushing people to use GradPad. If you go onto the website there's no advice for PG accommodation, or find-a-friend website; you have to show your own initiative to not end up going there. I had GradPad pushed on me".

They also said they felt international students were more likely to feel compelled to use GradPad: "A lot of people who stay there are international, and I think they get screwed over. The way [Imperial] targets it is very much 'this is the simplest solution, you won't have to worry about it', and I think that appeals to people who are travelling overseas, who can't see the properties."

These concerns were echoed by a number of postgraduate students *Felix* spoke to. One student approaching the end of their PhD at Imperial after moving from UCL said it wasn't an isolated problem: "Neither UCL nor Imperial were any

help finding accommodation, at least not in a proactive way. I tried looking at the Imperial accredited private accommodation page, but the options were scarce and expensive."

Another student, who completed their PhD at the end of the past academic year, told *Felix* that while GradPad had "very nice facilities" and "was worth it if you could afford it", it was not an option for those on the minimum stipend.

"They market it at everyone, including those who may not realise they can't afford it, and they don't give any alternatives for people who have to look elsewhere. Some make the assumption they can afford it, because you should be able to afford what Imperial recommends, even if you're on the minimum stipend."

"While I don't have any problems with GradPad itself – I don't think it's unfairly priced considering the benefits, and compared to similar

halls aimed at young professionals – I take issue with the fact there's no alternative or support for most students who will not be able to afford it. Imperial should do more to ensure the marketing that gets to students provides options for students of all background to allow them to live comfortably and safely, instead of just passing on information relevant to the wealthiest subset and leaving the rest to figure it out."

The only option for postgraduate students Imperial currently lists on its accommodation webpage for those outside Silwood Park is GradPad. While it does have a private accommodation guide, and puts on events aimed at helping people find private accommodation, there is no information specific to postgraduate students.

In a statement, a College spokesperson said: "All students have

access to Imperial Home Solutions, an online website managed by the Student Hub promoting private landlords as well as other purpose built student halls. We do send information on GradPad to students when they accept their place as it can be a more convenient option for overseas postgraduate students as it can be organised before they arrive in the UK - but postgraduate students are informed via the website about the options in the private rental sector as well."

As well as GradPad, Imperial previously had holdings in other postgraduate accommodation. Last year it sold a block of postgraduate accommodation to another provider, which has since marketed it to undergraduates; having acquired the property in 2012, Imperial made a total profit of £9.2 million.



GradPad studios go for up to £430/week // Imperial



Woodward Buildings continues to have cladding that has failed fire safety tests // Imperial

VarsityFest delayed due to poor weather

NEWS

Fred Fyles
Editor-in-Chief

VarsityFest has been cancelled after snow and high winds hit the country.

This year's VarsityFest has been postponed, following heavy snow and cold weather.

In an update, Imperial College Union (ICU) told students: "Due to adverse weather VarsityFest from this Saturday 3 March is postponed." Club captains are scheduled to receive emails about contingency plans, and students are advised to check for updates in the coming days. ICU has posted photographs of Heston Sports Ground buried under a



The sports ground under snow... // Sport Imperial

thick blanket of snow. Organisers have given club captains three options for a new date, and the choice will be communicated to students in the near future. The move follows

the cancellation of this week's Hockey Varsity, which was scheduled to be played on Wednesday afternoon. In a statement, Sport Imperial said "Harrington is now under a

thick layer of snow and frozen over", and it would send an update later in the week on when the match would be rescheduled.

Tickets for VarsityFest should still be accepted for

the rescheduled date, but students who cannot make it will be provided with a refund. Information about the process for refunds will be sent out once the date has been rearranged.

In a statement, an ICU representative said: "Due to adverse weather conditions which are not scheduled to change over the weekend, Sport Imperial and Imperial College Union took the decision today to postpone the annual VarsityFest competition. We plan to re-arrange the event at a different time. We are disappointed that the weather has impacted the event as such, but the main concern was the playing conditions at the grounds and at this moment it is not safe to play sport on frozen ground."

VarsityFest 2018 was scheduled to take place this Saturday, 3rd March.

This year the Headline match will be the Netball 1s, and the Showcase match will be Kabaddi. The majority of the matches were scheduled to be played outside.

The current weather has caused havoc across the country, as strong winds, low temperatures, and heavy snow affected transport links. Hundreds of flights have been cancelled, and the Met Office has issued a red extreme weather warning for snow and wind in southwest England. It said: "Long interruptions to power supplies and other utilities are very likely to occur, along with damage to trees and other structures due to heavy snow or ice." The extreme weather has been prompted by icy Siberian air – dubbed "the beast from the east" – which has engulfed the country.

Imperial confirms teaching missed during strikes will not be examined

NEWS

Fred Fyles
Editor-in-Chief

Senior management confirmed students would "not be examined on any material that you have not been taught"

Imperial College London has confirmed students will not be examined on material missed as a result of the ongoing strikes by the University and College Union (UCU).

In an email sent to all students last Friday, 23rd February, Professor James Stirling, the Provost, and Professor Simone Buitendijk, Vice-Provost (Education), said they wanted to "reassure [students] that no students will be placed at a disadvantage due to the strike". They told students: "We can say with certainty that you will not be examined on any material that you have not been taught."

The email came two days into the strikes, which could last up to 14 days. UCU members voted to take industrial action following proposed changes to their pension scheme by Universities UK (UUK).

The email was followed by another message from Professor Buitendijk on Thursday, 1st March saying: "Every effort is being made to ensure that the overall goals of each module and degree programme are achieved. For Imperial modules and where the College has final authority, I can reiterate my assurances you will not be assessed on anything that has not been taught to you as a result of strike action."

A number of students and staff have voiced concerns over whether or not assessments later this year would include material scheduled to be covered in contact time cancelled due to the strike. In an email sent to Prof. Stirling and Prof. Buitendijk earlier on Friday, Professor Michele Dougherty, head of the Department of Physics,

expressed her worries over "uncertainty and lack of clarity from College", and asked the College to "show sector leadership on this matter".

One issue Prof. Dougherty highlighted was the expectation of departmental staff to minimise the impact the strike was having on students, which she said was "unreasonable and unviable".

Last week, over 700 students from the Department of Physics alone were affected, as nearly 60% of lecture contact hours and nearly 40% of tutorial contact hours had to be cancelled. Prof. Dougherty urged the College to "ensure that productive negotiations are reopened between UUK and the [UCU] without any further delay".

In a statement for *Felix*, a Union representative said: "The Union is glad to see the College is addressing the concerns we have raised on behalf of our members regarding the impact of the current strikes. This is testament to the work of staff and



Strikes have hit campus over the past two weeks // Joseph O'Connell-Danes

student representatives across the College. We hope the College considers the other impacts of these strikes and takes action – urging UUK reopen negotiations between UUK and UCU."

As well as concerns over examinations, a number of student academic representatives have been asking whether tuition fees would be refunded as a result of the strike action. A petition requesting a partial refund

of tuition fees, started by students in the Electronic and Electrical Engineering (EEE) Department, currently has around 2,500 signatures. Students at other universities have started similar petitions, with reports of the number of students demanding refunds increasing by 10,000 per day.

In the email, Prof. Stirling and Prof. Buitendijk said: "We have also heard from a number of students about their tuition fees

and we will address this concern in due course."

UCU is currently taking industrial action over changes to pension schemes, which it says could see academics and support staff losing out on thousands of pounds each year. Universities UK, the governing body proposing the changes, says the move is needed to ensure the sustainability of the scheme – a proposal UCU disagrees with.

PHOENIX

Imperial's arts magazine returns!

We are interested in:

- Poetry
- Prose
- Photography
- Fine arts
- And more...

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

Max Mosley-owned trust funding Imperial lab

NEWS

Joanna Wormald
Deputy Editor

The former Formula One boss' trust that has donated at least £600,000 to Imperial.

Imperial's Centre for Neuropsychopharmacology is partly funded by a family trust owned by former Formula One boss Max Mosley.

The Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust was set up in memory of Mosley's son, who died of a suspected drug overdose in 2009. Since then, the trust has donated at least £600,000 to the centre, which is headed by Professor David Nutt. Professor Nutt's recent work has looked at the potential therapeutic benefits of psychedelic drugs in treating depression.

The trust has also provided funding to Dr. Ben Sessa, a psychiatrist

researching the use of MDMA as a treatment for PTSD. Dr. Sessa was due to speak about his work yesterday at an event hosted by Imperial's Psychedelic Studies society, which was cancelled because of poor weather.

The trust has given more than £1 million to St Peter's College, Oxford, where Alexander Mosley studied. The deputy leader of the Labour Party, Tom Watson, has also accepted donations totalling more than £500,000 from the

trust. Watson is also in charge of Labour's policies on press regulation.

Mosley bankrolls the state-recognised press regulator Impress via the trust. Only a few small publications and websites have signed up to Impress; the majority of national and local publications are members of the Independent Press Standards Organisation (Ipsa).

Mosley's interest in press regulation stems from his successful legal battle against News of

the World in 2008. The trial centred on a News of the World story about Mosley's sadomasochistic involvement with five prostitutes, but Mosley was also questioned on election literature published for the British Union of Fascists, which was led by Mosley's father, Sir Oswald Mosley.

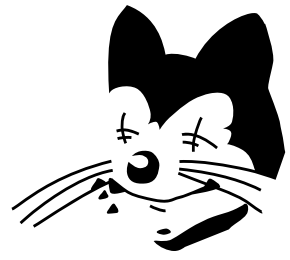
During the trial Mosley claimed to have no recollection of publishing campaign leaflets calling for black people to be deported and accusing

immigrants of carrying diseases such as leprosy, syphilis, and TB. A copy of one of the leaflets carrying the words "published by Max Mosley" emerged earlier this week. Mosley continued to deny his involvement in the 1961 by-election campaign in an interview with Channel 4 News' Cathy Newman. Police are now assessing evidence relating to a possible charge of perjury against Mosley.

The College has not commented.

COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



What a shame it's not Valentine's day...

We'd meant to run this article for our Valentine's Day issue a few weeks ago, but didn't manage to. Oh well! A little bit late, Comment Writer **Bamish Heck** suggests some of the more outlandish things you could do next Valentine's day

COMMENT

Bamish Heck

Comment Writer

Since it was recently Valentines Day, and my lack of organisation meant that I didn't get this into the paper in time for a couple of weeks ago, I thought I'd share some ideas for those of you looking to spice up your next Valentine's Day. Just as with all sexual activity, consent from the participating/affected parties is key.

Restrain and suspend yourself

You will need:

- Ropes
- Sleepsack, or failing that, a cheap sleeping bag (optional)
- A sturdy frame or bar which can support the weight of a person

Sometimes it can be really fun to be fully restrained so you can't move and be suspended from the ceiling. If you get yourself a nice sturdy sleep-sack it should have straps to keep you in place. You can then attach a rope and have someone winch you up. Once you're there you'll be completely at their mercy. So they can play with your genitals or hit you with something, or you can just enjoy the sensation of not being able to move. If you'd like to get a little more skillful and artistic with your suspension, or can't afford a sleepsack, try checking out shibari. It's the ancient Japanese

art of rope bondage. You can be suspended in all kinds of shapes, or just do away with the suspension altogether and be turned into a nice sculpture.

Google keyword: *Suspension bondage*

Watersports

You will need:

- Lots of water or other beverages
- A bath, shower, basement level laboratory bathroom, outside space or a lack of respect for your bedroom furnishings. Take your pick.

This one is relatively

cheap and simple. Drink lots of fluids, then pee on your partner. It's a relatively risk free sexual practice. Urine is usually sterile, unless the urinator has a UTI. There is a tiny risk of salmonella or CMV, but this is very rare. Try not to get too much of it in the eyes if you don't want a bit of stingage

Google keyword: *Urolagnia*

Be a dog person

Optional:

- Pup tail/ tail buttpug
- Pup hood or mask



Yeah, not this kind of watersport... //Flickr

may have a willing sexual partner just at the end of your bed, or buried away in a wardrobe. Just find yourself a fit plushie. Many people choose to just hump against them, or give them a facial. If you'd like to go further, and have sewing skills or an open minded friend at build a bear, you can even sew in a silk orifice, or pull out some stuffing and fit an artificial silicone one. If you are looking to be penetrated, you can fit a strap-on and go to town on that teddy.

Google keyword: *Plushophilia*

Sacrifice yourself as food

Optional:

- Creature with a jaw diameter wider than your hips
- Craigslist ad

Can you imagine a better feeling than being swallowed and digested? Me neither. Maybe you could find yourself a large snake and just let them consume you. If being swallowed whole isn't the deal breaker, you could even organise to meet someone online, who might eat you in smaller chunks.

Google keyword: *Vorarephilia*

I hope I've given you some ideas, or enlightened you somewhat. Don't forget to google the keywords if you're interested. There's a vast wealth of advice and community out there. Happy Next Valentine's Day!

strapon or cocksheath.

Google keyword: *Pup play*

Pound a plush toy

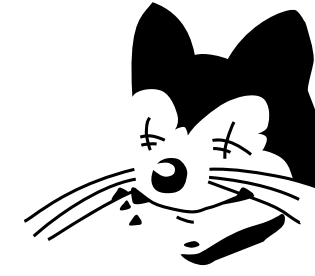
You will need:

- Stuffed toy
- Scissors (optional)
- Flashlight (optional)
- Silk lining (optional)
- Needle and thread (optional)
- strapon (optional)

If you're feeling a little lonely next Valentine's day, don't worry. You

COMMENT

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In The Whites...

Imperial College Musical Theatre Society's latest production features a predominantly white cast pretending to be Latino in a musical intended to promote representation of this marginalised community.

COMMENT

Anonymous

Comment Writer

Acting is about inhabiting another person's life. When stories explore universal themes – most of Shakespeare fits this category – few would disagree that an actor can give an insightful performance in these stories, regardless of their ethnic background.

The appeal of "colour blind" casting, however, collapses entirely when telling the stories of marginalised groups.

Lin-Manuel Miranda's *In The Heights* follows the routines, dreams, and struggles of the mostly Latino inhabitants of Washington Heights, Manhattan. Far from the uneducated, sexualised thugs Latino actors are often forced to play, these characters are fully realised characters written by a man who shares their background. Miranda has used *In The Heights* and *Hamilton* (which very deliberately casts non-white actors as America's founding fathers) to empower actors who too rarely get the opportunity to inhabit three-dimensional characters with their own stories to tell.

In MTSoc's production of *In The Heights*, however, the majority of roles are played by white actors. This includes Benny, a young black driver whose love interest's parents disapprove of their relationship due to his race. One Spanish actor has been cast in the

show, although – to the best of my knowledge – none of the cast or directorial team is Latino.

"It has resulted in an uncomfortable production featuring white performers rapping with generic Latino accents"

This has resulted in an uncomfortable production featuring white performers rapping with generic Latino accents and boasting of their diverse South American heritage. Some cast members have posted on social media making light of the fact that they are pretending to be Latino. Perhaps this indicates self-awareness and embarrassment, but then again, perhaps not.

Other theatre companies have made the same mistake: last year a semi-professional Australian production of *In The Heights* was cancelled after being flooded with criticism for its prominently white cast (which still had more Latino cast members than MTSoc's production). In a tweet, Miranda acknowledged that primarily white productions of *In The Heights* are the price to pay for making the rights available. This does



N.B.: This is not the MTSoc production, in case you hadn't guessed... //Flickr/Steven Pisano

not vindicate the groups choosing to do it.

Ethnicity is not a costume; it is something you live with. Even if you are not painting your face with shoe polish and wearing an afro wig, putting on an ethnicity and taking it off when the curtain falls is just as disingenuous, if not as crassly offensive.

The cast of MTSoc's *In The Heights* is not entirely white. A sizeable fraction of the cast is Asian, but Asians and Latinos are not interchangeable, slightly tan ethnic minorities. This

"Colour blind casting can open up white roles, but is hoggish and oppressive when it erases representation for specific minorities"

short-sighted mistake has been made before – such as when Mexican actor Ricardo Montalban played Khan Noonien Singh in *Star Trek II: Wrath of Khan* – and should not be made again.

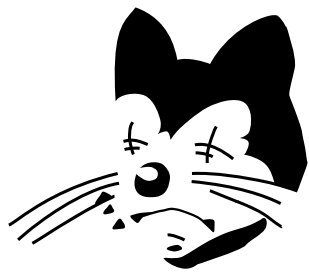
Imperial College is among the most diverse universities in the country, and, to its credit, MTSoc has never shied away from casting their most talented performers as traditionally white characters no matter their ethnicity. Colour blind casting can be good for representation when it opens up

traditionally white roles to all, but is hoggish and oppressive when it means erasing representation for specific minorities within a musical meant to do the very opposite.

MTSoc know that they would not have enough black students signing up for them to cast *Hairspray* appropriately. If they knew they would not be able to give the majority of roles to Latino students, why attempt to put on a musical about Latinos?

COMMENT

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Huel: An ingenious solution for modern life, or the 21st-century workhouse gruel?

Hint: it's the latter. This week Grumpy Bastard has a lot to say about Huel, and why it will doom humanity

COMMENT

Grumpy Bastard*Comment Writer*

This week I've been feeling Christmassy, which is to say vindictive and hateful. It's probably due to the snow falling all over campus that everyone is endlessly posting pictures of on every form of social media they can access. No one is going to get snowed in or freeze to death, which is all the worse for the College in light of the strikes. The sudden snow flurries at this time

of year is incontrovertible evidence that Alice Gast is an evil ice witch, hellbent on using her powers to prevent staff from obtaining a fair pension deal. Think *Frozen*, but with an inability to freeze the only thing that matters: her remuneration package.

Anyway, moving on, this week I have been confronted with the monstrosity that is Huel, as one of my friends has started brandishing his bottle as a replacement for lunch. As with all those that have recently adopted a food fad, they decided that they immediately had to convert me to their way of life, by simultaneously

exalting their new unparalleled existence and denigrating my own. Imagine a pushy vegan, but one that only eats one thing. Huel is described on its website as "Nutritionally complete food, simply delivered." This I agree with, if you want your nutrition delivered with a side of self-hate. Drinking Huel is like choking down a grey soup of misery, because it is in essence just workhouse gruel for the 21st Century. This is probably why I am surprised that it has become fashionable with those of middling income as condemning people to consume colourless, flavourless liquids

is normally the preserve of the ruling classes, or those enduring futuristic dystopias. I still don't understand why they offer different flavours: as the saying goes, you can't polish a turd.

Huel as a foodstuff is consumed as a time saving measure, to increase the efficiency of human life and reduce the amount of time spent preparing and eating food. As an ardent traditionalist, the idea of making our lives ever more efficient can result in only one inevitable trend. The removal of the work lunchtime, or the space in the day that all employers have been obliged to give

their workforce since the beginning of time. By allowing Huel to be adopted across the whole spectrum of society, we face the prospect of being given the barest amount of time to add the powder to our Huel branded shakers, before adding water, shaking it around and chugging it down in a bare 5 minutes. This should obviously be completed while wearing the Huel branded T-shirt that they send out as part of their insidious advertising campaign.

What I'm getting at is, as usual, that whoever uses this product should feel unbearable, soul-crushing

guilt, as they are going to

"Huel is going to ruin lunchtimes as well as tasting terrible"

totally ruin lunchtimes, as well as subject the rest of us to a flavourless future. In the name of inefficiency, I beg you to dispose of your Huel branded shakers, and send this blind futurism where it belongs: back to the smug Scandinavians.

New Year, New News!

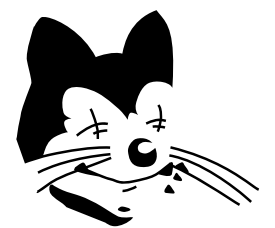
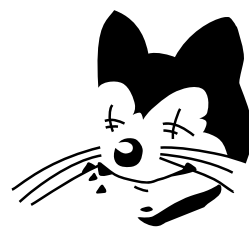
Felix are setting up a weekly newsletter, delivered straight to your inbox. Get all the best news, culture and sports every week.

Get the cat on the go!



Felix

WEEKLY



SCIENCE

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Slicing through the fat: fighting against diabetes

SCIENCE

Jack Hopkins

Science Writer

Too many of us remain attached to electronic devices, hood-winked into thinking that we are the exception to injury or disease. With increasingly captivating online entertainment facilities, high calorie food, and a huge swell of procrastination, the 21st Century has vastly altered the human health paradigm. This environment is the perfect breeding ground for diabetes to develop.

Diagnosis of diabetes has more than doubled since 1996. Type I diabetes is caused from a

total lack of pancreatic-insulin production, while type II diabetes stems from decreased insulin production or insulin insensitivity in other cells. Insulin is responsible for signalling glucose uptake from the bloodstream and storing it as glycogen. Dysregulation of insulin production leads to disrupted blood-glucose control as glucose remains in circulation, unable to enter the cells and leading to a whole host of problems, such as inflammation. Historically the disease has always been thought of as chronic, progressive, and irreversible. However, the promise of a cure for type II diabetes seems tantalisingly close at hand.

Biliopancreatic diversion has been a common

surgical treatment for obesity since the 1920s.

“The science is simple – by reorganising the digestive system to shorten the GI tract, fewer nutrients will be absorbed”

The science is simple – by reorganising the digestive system to shorten the route food takes through the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, fewer nutrients will be absorbed by the

blood. However, it is only recently that its impact on reducing diabetes has been noted. Amazingly, clinical trials conducted on hundreds of patients in the last few decades reveal that GI surgery is the most effective method of combating diabetes: Professor Francesco Rubino and colleagues at King’s College London reported 89% of treated people where managing the disease through diet and exercise alone – without the need for any further therapy!

These incredible results have been narrowed down to five phenomena:

1. Hunger-inducing hormones, such as Ghrelin, which are primarily produced in the GI tract, are unable to exert an effect to the same

degree due to reduced concentrations.

2. Surgery raises circulating bile acid concentrations, which helps to increase the breakdown of lipids and glucose in cells and thus dampen down prolonged blood-glucose spikes.

3. The microbiome (the population of microorganisms that live in your gut) is also affected, reducing inflammation and increasing insulin sensitivity.

4. Increased sensitivity of the mechanism by which the gut detects changes in glucose concentrations and relays information to the brain for the suppression of glucose production in the liver allows the vagus nerve to stop gluconeogenesis earlier.

5. Finally, glucose transporters in the intestinal lining are responsible for glucose uptake having decreased activity. These transporters require sodium to transport glucose into the cell. Surgery bypasses the primary sodium sources in the digestive system (e.g. from pancreatic juices) resulting in lowered glucose uptake.

Further research is underway to identify if other mechanisms remain hidden away, although the effectiveness of the treatment has already been noticed. In 2016, 45 medical societies enlisted GI surgery as the standard diabetic treatment, laying the groundwork for crucial steps forward in opposing type II diabetes and obesity.

Connect with conservation – orangutan genocide

SCIENCE

Steve Allain

Science Writer

In the summer of 2015, I was lucky enough to visit Borneo; here I was able to observe orangutans in the wild, amongst other spectacular wildlife. This was a very humbling experience and one that I will never forget! Recently a portion of the news really caught my attention – for the wrong reasons, however. They reported on a study which found that between 1999 and 2015, a period of just 16 years, the population of Bornean orangutans had dropped by over half. This figure may not sound that alarming, but this enigmatic decline has a very sinister cause:

the exploitation of the natural world to supply the developed world with cheap goods such as palm oil. The biggest contributions to the murder of orangutans include hunting and the logging

“The biggest contributions to the murder of orangutans include hunting and the logging of trees for cash crops”

of trees in order to grow these cash crops. It is estimated that over 100,000 orangutans have been

lost in the period being studied – an average of 17 animals a day. To put this into perspective, it would be similar to losing the entire population of Lincoln in the same amount of time.

Only around half of Borneo’s original forest cover remains, constricting wildlife to smaller and tighter patches of suitable habitat. Where the forest stops, the plantations begin. This in turn is another cause of conflict as orangutans are often shot when they enter fruit and crop plantations, where they are seen as a major raiding pest. Declines such as these are unprecedented in a natural system without anthropogenic pressures, and it will take some time for the orangutans to recover if a suitable recovery programme can be established. Like us, they are slow to mature,



Orangutans are currently under threat // Wikimedia

although they are not as social as other great apes such as chimpanzees. If the current loss of the forest and orangutans continues then there is a very real likelihood that they will be extinct within our lifetimes.

Orangutans share approximately 97% of their DNA with us, and their

name literally translates into the “man of the forest” in Malay. They are similar to us in so many ways but are also unique in their own right too. This raises the question: why do we not show more compassion for these awe-inspiring beings? Collaboration, outreach, and education are the only

conceivable solutions we have for conserving these magnificent beings for future generations to marvel at. Moving away from using products that contain palm oil is just one of the ways that you can help to reduce your impact on orangutans.

SCIENCE

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From skin cells to stem cells?

SCIENCE

Sarah Wong

Science Writer

Stem cells are un-specialised cells that can develop to form almost all cell types in your body – just like Mystique in X-men. Similar to the movies, this ‘shapeshifting’ ability makes these types of cells extremely valuable in medicine. From generating new skin for burn victims, to creating new organs in the lab, these cells undoubtedly have the potential to improve our quality of life.

Nevertheless, these highly un-specialised pluripotent embryonic stem cells (ESC) only reside in rare places within the body, including developing embryos. As they are obtained from embryos, this has raised a number of ethical issues. Thereby, a new method of reprogramming specialised adult cells has been developed: induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC).

Imagine an egg. It has the potential to become a lot of things if you add the right ingredients. For instance, you can make a delicious Victorian sponge, or you can make a piping hot omelette. The Nobel-prize-worthy question is: can you turn the final product back to its original ingredient? Put the egg back into its shell?

This answer is yes! iPSCs are essentially the

“From new organs to regenerating skin, stem cells can undoubtedly improve our quality of life”

product of reverting the cake or an omelette back into its raw, untouched form; a Japanese scientist, Shinya Yamanaka,

successfully developed this reprogramming technology back in 2006. However, this process is extremely difficult, and the efficiency of the reprogramming process is less than 1%. To put this into context, according to Amram Shapiro’s book *The Book of Odds*, there is a higher chance of getting into Harvard than successfully turning a specialised cell into an iPSC.

Such low efficiency hinders the transferal of this technology into the clinic, so constant efforts are being made to improve the process. Recently, a group led by Ganna Bilousova, Ph.D. in the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, US, has uncovered a more efficient way to create iPSCs from skin cells.

By introducing a cocktail of molecules that control how genes turn on and off (modified nucleobases, supplemented with ESC-specific mature micro-RNA mimics), the group has successfully



Stem cells can provide incredibly opportunities for medicine // Wikimedia

enhanced the efficiency of the reprogramming process.

Not only did they create this unique mixture of molecules, but they also optimised the way these molecules are introduced into the skin cells. This means that the adult cells are more receptive to the changes, and less likely to die from the reprogramming process. Additionally, the cell growing regime was fine-tuned by having a low plating density, thus cells are less

crowded and grow faster. These changes allow a maximum efficiency for turning skin cells into iPSCs.

By augmenting both the culturing conditions and the level of reprogramming molecules, these modifications acted synergistically to improve the process. Upon inspection, the results of the gene expression profile hinted that other players, such as SLLA4, may be mediating the process of reprogramming.

Altogether, this allows an ultra-high efficient system where both diseased and healthy skin cells can be turned into iPSCs in a cheaper, faster, and more reliable manner. Nonetheless, this protocol is cell-type specific, meaning more work is needed if we want to use this technique in the clinic or for treating other diseases. So keep eating your greens and head to the gym – growing organs in the lab is not quite here yet!

Understanding apoptosis: the human suicide squad

SCIENCE

Varshit Dusad

Science Writer

Are you aware that human cells also have their own version of a suicide squad? This squad comes into action in times of extreme distress, when cells have extinguished all other means to combat their stress. Their call to action means only one thing – destruction of the cells themselves, and everything inside which can also pose a threat to

the rest of the body. While you may consider this ultimate act of self-sacrifice too extreme, this suicidal death of a cell, also termed ‘Apoptosis’, is used to keep life-threatening dangers such as cancer in check.

The latest findings published last week explained one of the less understood steps of the process of apoptosis: the mechanism of the release of the mitochondrial (MT) genome inside the cell’s cytoplasm. The integrity of mitochondria serves as a checkpoint for the cell to decide if the circumstances are severe enough to

activate self-detonation.

“Apoptosis is used to keep life-threatening dangers such as cancer in check”

It is well known that two proteins – BAK and BAX – play an important role in this programmed cell death. They disrupt the mitochondrial membrane

and cause the release of mitochondrial DNA into the cytoplasm, which further signals the continuation of apoptosis in the cell. This latest study – published by a joint collaboration between Monash University, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, and Howard Hughes Medical Institute – was able to record the expulsion of the mitochondrial genome in real time. They used a combination of multiple microscopy techniques to image cells at a very high degree of resolution. Their images confirmed that BAK/BAX proteins create large pores inside

the outer membrane of the mitochondria. The inner MT membrane pushes out through these holes to escape into cytoplasm with all of its constituents. This mechanism of action is also called “mitochondrial hernia”.

The primary technology which could make this possible was lattice light sheet microscopy. This was developed by Eric Betzig, winner of the 2014 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. This technique improves the older light sheet fluorescence microscopy by increasing image acquisition speed and reducing phototoxicity

induced damage to the cells. According to Betzig himself, this technology will have more impact than his Nobel-winning work on super-resolution microscopy.

Both the results and method of study will impact future work. This strategy of using multiple microscopy techniques to capture cellular activities inside the living cells at such high resolution will improve our understanding of internal functioning. Hopefully, these advances will culminate in practical applications in fields of health and medicine.

Pioneering treatments for healing chronic wounds



Kerecis has been named Iceland's fastest growing startup // Kerecis

In recent times, there have been many advancements in treatment of chronic wounds – we explore a few of the most exciting and innovative technological advances in this field over the last few years.

TECH

Xiuchen Xu

Tech Writer

Chronic wounds differ from normal acute wounds, because they do not go through the normal healing process of inflammation, proliferation, and remodelling; instead they stop at the inflammation stage, and the healing process is stopped completely. Chronic wounds often require amputations, and may lead to death.

Chronic wounds are associated with other

health problems including diabetes, obesity, and poor circulation; thus, it is more prevalent in developed countries. It is estimated that 1-2% of the population in developed countries will experience a chronic wound during their lifetime. In the US alone, there are over six million chronic wound patients, and treatment is costing around \$25 billion per year. However there has been many important breakthroughs recently in the field of treating chronic wounds.

First, a biotechnology company in Iceland named Kerecis Ltd. has developed ways to treat wounds using materials made from fish skin. The

company's products have already been approved by the FDA, and it can be used to treat acute, chronic, and oral wounds. The company's products are made from drying and processing cod skin. Fish skin is naturally rich in omega-3 fatty acids, which yield anti-inflammatory effects that can speed up the healing process. The material substitutes the extracellular matrix crucial for healing and lacking in chronic wound patients.

The extracellular matrix is composed of a variety of polysaccharides, water, and collagen proteins, and the scaffolding provided by the matrix recruits cells which proliferate, differ-

entiate, and eventually turn into living tissue.

Another recent discovery was the importance of miRNA in chronic wound healing. MicroRNAs or miRNAs are short non-coding RNA sequences that can participate in regulating gene expression, through post transcriptional silencing of mRNAs. Recently miRNA has been found to be involved in many different diseases, and chronic wounds is no different. Indeed, it was found that miRNA levels in normal acute and chronic wound healing differs; thus, the under-expression and over-expression of certain miRNAs are responsible for disrupting the normal

stages of wound healing. The miRNAs involved in wound healing are being discovered, and this provides the possibility of gene therapy for patients. However, it is not yet a valid therapy, as there needs to be a suitable delivery system of drugs that can overcome intracellular and extracellular barriers.

Lastly, technology that targets the microenvironment around the wound has been proven to accelerate the healing process. This involves using lactic acid bacteria as vectors to produce and deliver a human chemokine (signalling proteins) to the site of the wound. The specific chemokine being upregu-

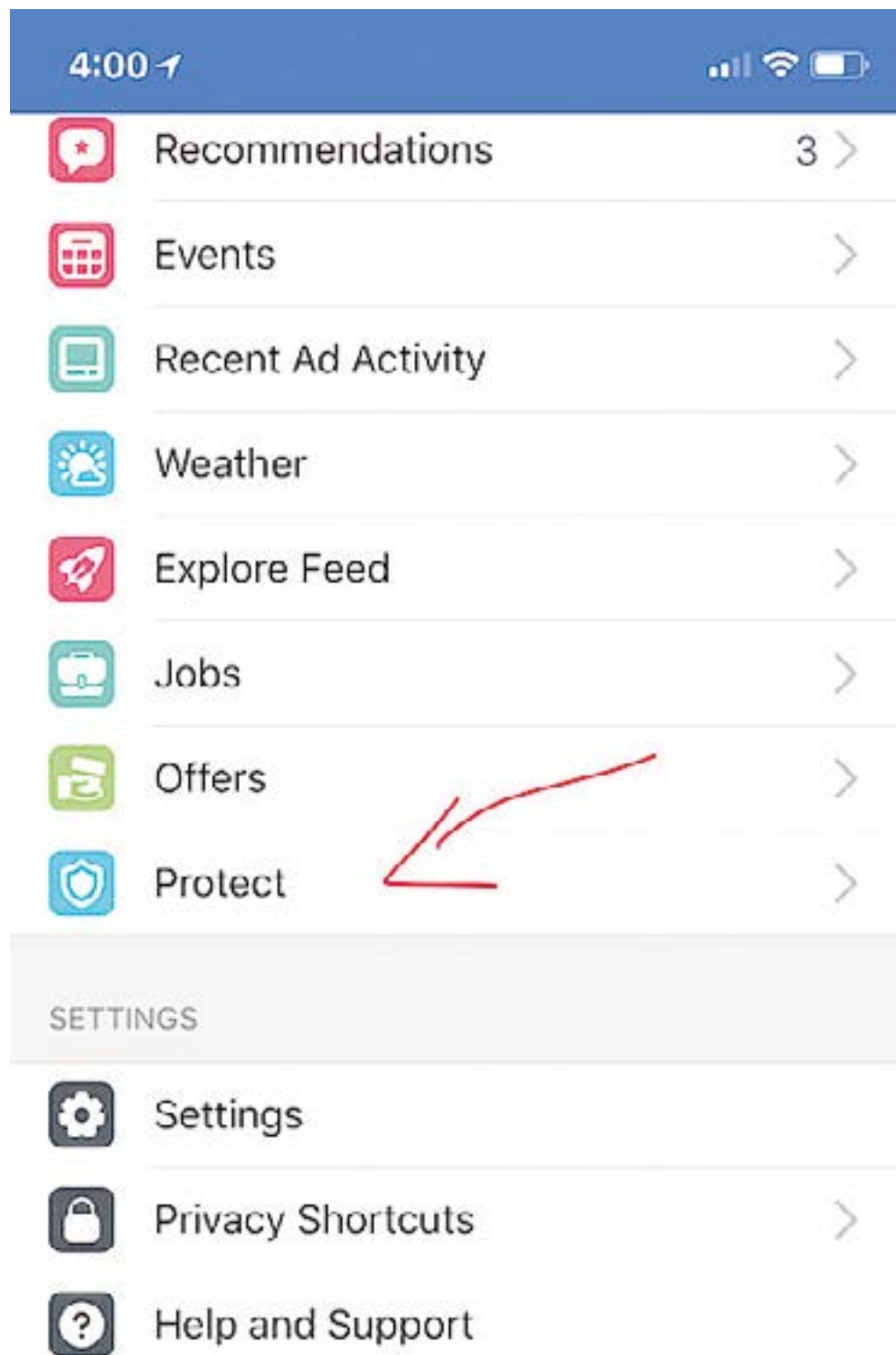
lated is CXCL12, and its degradation is slowed, as the lactic acid produced by the bacteria lowers the pH. The resulting change in the microenvironment leads to more immune cells gathering, and they also become more specialised, producing more TGF β , a growth factor involved in healing.

Overall, there are exciting prospects for the future of treating chronic wounds, although some technology is still in the developmental stage, they are showing great promise. Chronic wounds still affects millions of patients, and the technologies discussed in this article may provide a cure for them.

TECH

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Why Facebook “Protect” is all but protection



Onavo claims to protect your privacy, but does it? // *Online Hacker News*

TECH

Artur Donaldson
Tech Writer

This week, *WIRED* reports that Facebook has been trialling a new feature for the iOS Facebook app, called “Protect”. The little blue shield directs you to the App Store where you will be prompted to download “Onavo Protect”, an

app Facebook bought in 2013. This supposed safety-enhancing app is a VPN – a service which encrypts mobile data and sends it via their servers. It also warns you if you visit malicious websites and can protect your login details when connecting on public networks. What is not clear is why this is of any use while using Facebook’s own app – is Facebook going to warn us if their site starts hosting malware? Do they

not already encrypt login details when we use the website?

The three top reasons you’d turn to a VPN is a) if you you’d temporarily prefer authorities not like to know about your exact cybernetic ramblings, b) if you’d like to safely express yourself wearing a different set of digital galoshes or c) you would like to access something which is not available in less liberal countries.

Onavo fails on all

accounts. Beginning with the last point, for the 20% of the world’s population residing in China, Turkey, Iran or the UAE, places where arguably VPNs are really needed, these services and even the Apple App store itself are barred. On the second, it buries the switch which determines whether your server is routed to their servers or not deep in the user interface making it cumbersome to chance those galoshes. On the first point... don’t even get me started!

If you scroll down beyond the candy wrapping, to the paragraph on “how it works” you find out that your questionable activities are “used to gain insights into the products and services people value”. They spell

this out a little more clearly in their Privacy policy, writing “we may share (or receive) information, including personally-identifying information with (or from) our Affiliates” [i.e. Facebook] and “assist law enforcement when we have good-faith belief that such cooperation is reasonably necessary”. To put this in practical terms for those of you who need it, if you are hoping to keep your romp through the deep web a secret, Onavo could bring some interesting advertising on Facebook. And if you are journalist, watchdog or a lawyer dealing with sensitive information, that app you probably would never notice could compromise your work.

If it is some small comfort, Android users

may be flattered that they were first to get asked for their participation in this bizarre scheme and have been prompted since 2016 to support Facebook’s efforts to capture all parts of your digital life.

Mark Zuckerberg’s has resolved in 2018 to make “sure that time spent on Facebook is well spent” acknowledged “the rise of a small number of big tech companies — and governments using technology to watch their citizens”. Facebook Protect has, in its own small way, worsened this problem of the centralization of knowledge – and with it, power. But there is time yet for to change the world’s largest social network for better.



Ultimately, all that Facebook is selling is an illusion of confidentiality // *Odyssey*

Nikki Shiels in *Picnic at Hanging Rock* // Pia Johnson

A powerful revival of the mystery of *Hanging Rock*

The cult horror tale of missing schoolgirls in Australia gets an inventive twist in Tom Wright's adaptation for the stage at the Barbican Centre.

ARTS

PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK



Where? The Barbican
Picnic at Hanging Rock was on 21-24th February

Vaishnavi Gnananathan
Arts Writer

On Valentine's Day, 1900, three pupils and a teacher from Appleyard College, an upper-class girls' boarding school, disappear during a class trip to Hanging Rock, a volcanic mountain in Victoria, Australia. This is the premise of Joan Lindsay's 1967 novel and Peter Weir's subsequent film adaptation, both subjects of critical acclaim and, arguably, cult classic status. Though fictitious, the story is so compelling

that it is widely believed to be true, thanks partly to Lindsay's often coy and mysterious answers about its basis in reality. Not having seen the film or read the novel I came into the theatre with only a cursory knowledge of the story, but it was impossible not to set expectations high when both the source material and its adaptation have been so successful.

The play starts with five schoolgirls on a sparse stage, narrating the events of Saturday, Valentine's Day, 1900. Despite the setting of the play, they are wearing modern school attire: blazers and pleated skirts that would not look out of place on a secondary school student in 2018. In 1900, after the school group have lunch, four of the girls, Miranda, Marion, Irma, and Edith leave the rest of the group to climb the rock. Miranda is clearly the leader of the group, the one the other look up

to. Edith is the hanger-on; she struggles to keep pace with the other girls and begins to fall behind. As she watches, the other girls vanish into the rock. The five-strong cast

"Tom Wright's adaptation captures a palpable sense of horror"

slowly move forwards as they speak, closer to the audience and closer to the end of the stage. Their narration is interspersed with blackouts. It's incredibly simple, but, somehow, very captivating. The five actors are phenomenal and with only their voices and playwright Tom Wright's words they conjure up images of what might have happened. The empty stage, their ringing

voices and stark lighting help your own imagination to create images far more sinister than what could have been captured on stage. The switching perspective between the girls and the frequent blackout create a story told in cut scenes, reminiscent of horror films.

The aftermath of the girls' disappearance takes on a more conventional storytelling, with the scenes being acted on stage. The narrators become actors in the story. There are searches for the girls and their teacher, yet nothing is found. The school community begins unravelling and headmistress, Miss Appleyard, begins taking out her frustration on Sara, a girl who cannot seem to fit into what society demands of an upper-class woman. Michael, an Englishman, embarks on a solitary quest to find the girls. These scenes are interspersed with blackouts and each

scene is accompanied by a cryptic neon heading above the stage. Through Michael and Miss Appleyard, Wright explores themes of colonialism and power, centring on Australia. What Michael has come to learn of the wilderness of Australia terrifies him. Miss Appleyard's attempts to mould Sara to her will mirrors the attempt to tame and conquer Australia. It's certainly innovative storytelling, but never quite reaches the same intensity as the opening of the play.

The five-member cast is without question one of the greatest strengths of this production – they take on different characters with ease yet manage to keep them distinct individuals. Elizabeth Nabben and Amber McMahon are particularly compelling as Miss Appleyard and Michael, respectively. The almost bare stage with its liberal use of black, the stark lighting, frequent

blackouts and neon titles above the stage all combine to create a tense atmosphere and instil real fear into the audience. Director Matthew Lutton almost takes this minimalist style to an extreme, and there are certainly points where it feels a little overused. However, it doesn't detract too much from the overall effect of the play.

Transferring art between media is always a gamble and what makes an exceptional novel or film could always fall flat on the stage. This certainly isn't the case with Tom Wright's adaptation of *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. He manages to capture a palpable sense of horror with his narrative and also uses it to highlight important themes in the story. The four-day run at The Barbican was painfully short for such a powerful piece of work and it will, hopefully, return to London in the near future.

ARTS

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Mark Dion – theatre of the natural world brings the Thames beaches to the Whitechapel Gallery

Something of a hit and miss, a retrospective of Mark Dion's work is most successful when it embraces the realities of nature.

ARTS

MARK DION



Where? Whitechapel Gallery

When? Until 13th May

How Much? £12.95; £9.50 students

Nicolas Baird

Arts Writer

The artwork in Mark Dion's exhibition, *Theatre of the Natural World*, feels like it was made by someone who loves the idea of the life sciences but hasn't taken a science course since secondary school. He's an American artist who combines a wide range of media into large-scale sculptures, books, and installations. His work deals with the ideas, practices, and institutions surrounding naturalists and natural history; he has filled the three rooms of his solo exhibition at Whitechapel Gallery with an eclectic collection of flags, drawings, text, props, live birds, photographs, mannequins, and posters.

I walked into this exhibition hoping to find relevant, contemporary work engaging with society's complex relationship with the natural world. Instead, I found a series of cinematic stage sets designed to invoke dated fantasies of eccentrics and intellectuals, who, like Dion himself, appear content to co-opt the visual aesthetics of biology and natural history without regard for the discipline or

wonder essential to either field.

In *The Naturalist's Study*, Dion has decorated a room with couches, drawings, illustrations, and sculptures, turning the gallery space into drawing room from two hundred years ago. The décor is intended to evoke the aura of a 19th century naturalist, and the room's props stand in as treasures collected from exotic trips overseas. Some of the work included makes passing hints at a conservationist frame of mind: a black and white series of photographs depicting stuffed polar bears lines one wall. Other inclusions throw the façade out the window: all of the tables are covered edge to edge with books Dion has published, and which are on offer from the gift shop downstairs. No comment, either, on the daring explorers (or their collections) who thrived on the peak of natural history's imperialist wave.

A giant black metal birdcage dominates the first of the gallery's four rooms. In the cage's centre stands the barren trunk of a large tree, and around it lies a collection of books and objects related to the study of birds. 22 live zebra finches (*Taeniopygia guttata*) and up to four human visitors at a time (the maximum allowed in the cage) move through the space, and bring life to Dion's fabricated world of sets and props. The piece, called *The Library for the Birds of London* grasps halfheartedly at one metaphor or the other for the human condition, but its real strength is in



Detail from *The Wonder Workshop*, part of a retrospective at Whitechapel // V-A-C Foundation, Moscow

its physical presence. It's a beautiful piece – black mesh around barren branches – and the care with which Dion and his team have attended to the health and wellness of the birds is made clear in the long list posted on the gallery wall, titled 'Commonly Asked Questions about the Birds'.

In the third room of the exhibition, I found the most exciting and conceptually elegant piece of the night, a work from 1999 titled *Tate Thames Dig*. Dion and a crew of volunteers dredged the topsoil of two tidal beaches near the Tate Britain and the (then still to be built) Tate Modern. Everything they uncovered, from horse teeth to oyster shells, bullets, leather soles, toys, ceramic fragments, rings,

even a message in a bottle, are kept in an enormous, double-sided wooden cabinet. The results of each excavation site are kept on shelves and in drawers on either side of the cabinet. Visitors are invited to walk around the piece, open drawers, and view all the specimens under glass, which are sorted into what Dion calls "taxonomies": organized groups based on material, function, color, topology, and morphology.

A fusion between museum exhibit and archaeological dig, *Tate Thames Dig* successfully brings together the visual aesthetics and physical processes of natural history. Here, Dion finally carries out the tasks of collecting and sorting that are essential to the

work of naturalists and taxonomists. By actually leaving his studio to experience the natural world

"Dion has taken the fantasy of the armchair biologist out of the study and into the sunlight"

and practice the scientific work he celebrates in the rest of this exhibition, Dion adds content and weight to his stage sets.

The fragments of

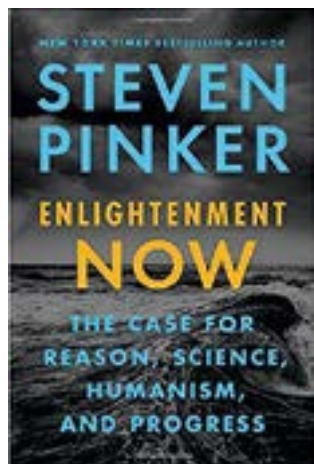
London on display in the collection from the dredging are a celebration of the capital's history and our relationship with nature and each other. The care taken to organize every object is an almost joyful mirroring of the process natural scientists have used to understand the mysteries of life and the world around us. At last, Dion has taken the fantasy of the armchair biologist out of the study and into the sunlight by the Thames. Only by getting dirty and really engaging with the worlds whose language he adopts can Mark Dion get out of his own study and share with us what there is to see.

BOOKS

books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

An intellectual perspective on progress and positivity in *Enlightenment Now*

With the help of the philosophies of the Enlightenment and a wealth of statistics, Steven Pinker's new book seeks to answer questions of the current state of humanity.



BOOKS

Clemens Jakubec
Books writer

Where is the world headed? Are things getting better or are we approaching a darker period of human history? In his new book *Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress*, American cognitive linguist Steven Pinker makes the case for a more positive outlook for the future of humanity.

His argument is mainly based on one thing, namely a recollection of the four pillars of the enlightenment: reason, science, progress, and humanism. Pinker has been a strong advocate for all of them for many years. Today the principles of the Enlightenment laid out by thinkers such as Kant, Voltaire, and Hume have become part of the public mindset and their ideas are so ingrained into people that the actual original ideas have faded into the background.

Therefore, Pinker

argues, it is necessary to reformulate and remind ourselves of all the values the Enlightenment stands for. Humans are not naturally rational animals, but through the establishment of rules and norms, democracies and markets, laws and constitutions, a free press and scientific societies we are capable of living up to the ideals of the enlightenment.

“Are things getting better or are we approaching a darker period of human history?”

One of the four pillars Pinker mentions stands out: progress. In contrast to all the others, he points out, progress is measurable and the question of whether the world is seeing progress and is becoming more enlightened can be subjected to scientific scrutiny. And this is exactly what fills most of the book: statistic after statistic from all sorts of areas from wealth and health to death by poisoning, one of the very few negative trends he mentions. All of them are associated with what most people would call progress of some form and are presented as the objective proof of the effect, which the enlightenment has had on our lives.

The issue is that modern intellectuals hate progress,



The Enlightenment brought drama to art, as well as the ideas of logic and reason we still live by // Wikimedia

Pinker thinks, and accuses the pessimistic attitude of a lot of academics, which resonates with the media, of leading people to focus on the negative aspects of progress.

The key question, of course, is whether all this is just a feeble attempt to distract us from problematic trends or whether it is actually a good ground for optimism. It is neither, I would say. Saying that Pinker turns a blind eye to any of the issues the world faces today would be too easy. After all, he does stress the point that progress has been happening continuously, but that it is certainly not inevitable. Neither can he be accused of mindless optimism; optimism yes, but in no way mindless since he does his best to back up his claims with

empirical evidence.

What he perhaps does fall foul of is a guileless projection of what happened in the past onto the future. Events, trends, and developments that happened in the past under certain circumstances might not necessarily happen in the same way in the future, even if the circumstances remain unchanged. In general, his argument is surrounded by a hands-on buckle-up “yes, we can” mentality. Sure, climate change poses a huge challenge, but we can deal with it and if we just try, progress in all its various manifestations will eventually sort it out. His scientism and unbeatable faith in science in this sense are obvious.

So, are Pinker's arguments reconcilable

with the less optimistic worldviews of many other public intellectuals and the increasingly pessimistic feelings of the general public? I think they are.

“Progress has been happening continuously, but that it is certainly not inevitable”

Obviously, Steven Pinker does not expect us to break down and shed hot tears of joy as we marvel at the wonders we humans have created. I think it is about a shift in

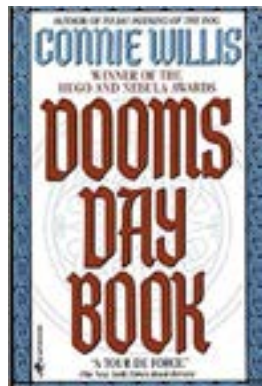
perspective, maybe even just a very slight shift.

As Pinker argues, there is no point in completely disregarding all the evidence for positive change. On the other hand, it is wrong to think that science and reason will sooner or later solve every problem that humanity has and will encounter. What we need is to rediscover all the great things that happened as a result of the enlightenment and that is, I think, what *Enlightenment Now* aims to do. It is a gentle reminder for people who are fed a diet of bad news, that progress is happening and that so far, in spite of war, famine, and disease, humanity has managed to set up a framework, that makes a better future a genuine possibility.

BOOKS

books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Willis' macabre and amusing science fiction classic



BOOKS

Yang Guo
Books writer

How might one interact with people from the distant past if one were allowed to time travel there?

This was the question posed by Connie Willis in her science fiction novel, *The Doomsday Book*. The novel is set in Oxford University, at around Christmas time, 2053. A young woman called Kivrin, a historian, is sent back in time to research

the past.

Concerned about the dangers of travelling back to such an unfamiliar time, a critical professor warns her of all the possible dangers she will face – diseases, poor sanitation, rape, being burned as a witch... Yet all of those worries prove to be superficial when they realize they made a mistake, and she has actually landed in the year the Black Death reached Oxford, in the Christmas of 1348! Meanwhile, a mysterious strain of influenza is spreading quickly back in the Oxford of her time, and in the ensuing panic, it becomes uncertain whether anyone will be able to arrange her rescue.

The best part of the novel is the chapters concerning Kivrin's encounters with people from 1348, which seemed so real that I began to feel attached to the characters and their village. All of this is brought to a devastating end when, one

by one, they began to fall victim to the plague.

Meanwhile back at Oxford, people react crazily to the influenza outbreak, as they try to make sense of it in hilarious ways – much like what Kivrin is seeing a few centuries back.

Funny characters add to the panic and confusion. Amongst them are Mrs Gaddson, an overly concerned mother of a student at the university, who constantly complains of poor living conditions, and how it must have an adverse effect on her son. Later on, she takes to reading passages about doom and plague from the Bible to influenza victims. Although she was entertaining at the start, she became background noise at the end when the author did not allow any more developments on her part.

Another amusing character is Colin, the young nephew of one of the doctors. He walks around disregarding all health



The Black Death still has a lasting impact that will continue beyond 2053 // Wikimedia

regulations and ignores common hygiene practices, and treats the influenza outbreak as some kind of huge adventure. Surprisingly, his personality proves to be useful when he is sent on a mission by the staff.

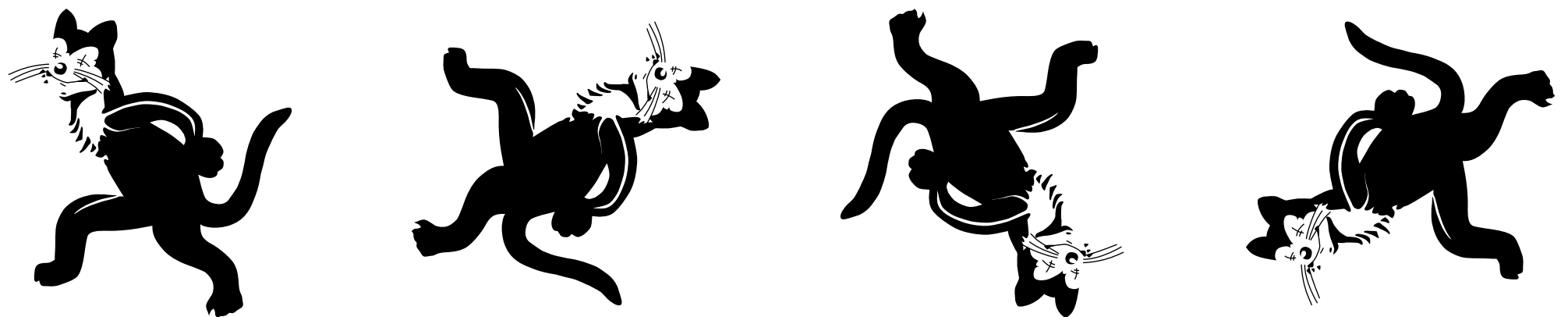
Nonetheless, there are several aspects of the novel which could be improved. I found the pretext for time

travelling unconvincing. Why would anyone be sent back towards such a dangerous time when it is possible to send a machine back instead? Or just consult contemporary sources? After all, a monk who had apparently written it all down after everyone else died was constantly referred to by the characters. There are also some minor factual

inaccuracies, which lessen the book.

The length of the book might be shortened, whilst still delivering the main points, as repetitiveness is a major issue in the strange influenza epidemic chapters. Nonetheless, the book is still worth reading for Kivrin's interactions with a set of memorable medieval characters.

Felix is recruiting!



We want you – yes, you! We're looking for writers, photographers, editors, illustrators, reporters, computer experts and grammar nerds to join our team. No experience needed – we'll teach you everything you need to know. If you're interested, send us an email on felix@ic.ac.uk

Your Union events

Friday 2 March



FiveSixEight. Leadership Elections

Results Party

Friday 9 March
19:00 - 02:00
Metric

Come for the results of The Leadership Elections, commiserate with those who were unsuccessful, and celebrate our democracy!

imperialcollegeunion.org



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

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REYNOLDS BAR

Saturday edition

CLUB reynolds

Saturday 3 March
20:00 - 02:00

Club Reynolds is back for a big Saturday night!

free entry

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imperial college union

Coming up in our bars



metric FiveSixEight. THE UNION BAR

Super Quiz
Every Tuesday
20:00-22:00

Cocktail Night
Every Tuesday
18:00-23:00

CSP Wednesday
Every Wednesday
19:00-01:00

Elections Results Party
Friday 9 March
19:00-02:00

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h

Cocktail Club
Every Tuesday
19:30-23:00

Pub Quiz
Every Thursday
19:30-23:00

PGI Friday
Every Friday
16:00-23:00

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REYNOLDS BAR

Free Pool
Daily
17:00-23:00

Pub Quiz
Every Tuesday
18:30-23:00

Club Reynolds
Saturday 3 March
20:00 - 02:00

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Felix Film's guide to the Oscars – who will win, who

Best Picture



It's been a complicated awards season. *Call Me by Your Name* started out in the lead when it picked up the Gotham Award back in November, but next month the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures decided to award their top prize to Steven Spielberg's *The Post*. Greta Gerwig's *Lady Bird* and Martin McDonagh's *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* then moved to the front of the pack when both picked up Best Film at the Golden Globes, and since then, *Three Billboards* has gone on to win at the SAG awards and the BAFTAs, cementing it as the frontrunner in the race. While *Lady Bird* and *Get Out* remain dark horses in the race, I'd say the only film with a realistic chance of dethroning *Three Billboards* is Guillermo Del Toro's *The Shape of Water*. It should be an exciting night. **Mark Aduol**

Will win: *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*
Should win: *The Shape of Water*
Shoulda been a contender: *The Handmaiden*

Best Director



This year's Best Director race has been one of the most fiercely competitive in recent memory, yet it appears Guillermo del Toro will come out on top for his swirling fantasy romance *The Shape of Water*. It couldn't happen to a nicer guy. Del Toro's direction is superb, yet the most perfect work comes from our current greatest director, Paul Thomas Anderson, in his swirlier, more fantastical, and more romantic *Phantom Thread*. Where Del Toro is inspired, Anderson is flawless, and so should come out on top. Alas this award will continue to evade him as it did the likes of Kubrick and Hitchcock – there's no shame in that. The likes of Luca Guadagnino, Denis Villeneuve, and Sean Baker can rightly feel aggrieved at being shut out by lesser works by debutants Greta Gerwig and Jordan Peele. **Ashley Luckyram**

Will win: Guillermo del Toro (*The Shape of Water*)
Should win: Paul Thomas Anderson (*Phantom Thread*)
Shoulda been a contender: Luca Guadagnino (*Call My by Your Name*)

Best Actor

When people make lists of great actors who have never won an Oscar, Gary Oldman is no doubt a regular feature. And that is firmly where he should remain. Caked in make-up, Oldman bellows his way through Joe Wright's clunky *Darkest Hour* in a performance a world away from his best. Meanwhile Day-Lewis reunites with Paul Thomas Anderson in *Phantom Thread* for the final performance of an astonishing career. The last time the two worked together resulted in one of the finest performances ever seen on screen, and once again Day-Lewis delivers the best work of the year. For his last role he wrongly beat out Joaquin Phoenix to claim a record third Best Actor trophy. For his final ever role, he should be allowed to extend that record to four. **AL**

Will win: Gary Oldman (*Darkest Hour*)
Should win: Daniel Day-Lewis (*Phantom Thread*)
Shoulda been a contender: James Franco (*The Disaster Artist*)

Best Actress



It is all but guaranteed that Frances McDormand will run away with this award for her portrayal of anti-heroine, Mildred Hayes, in Martin McDonagh's drama, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*. *Three Billboards* is told primarily through the eyes of grief-stricken mother Hayes, who serves as a vessel for McDonagh's trademark potion of caustic wit and darkly comedic dialogue. Some have said that by juxtaposing Mildred's superficial black humour with the inner turmoil caused by the rape and murder of her daughter, McDonagh has crafted a tonally inconsistent character. However, one could also argue that the difficulty in authentically portraying a character that is simultaneously heartbroken, vengeful, compassionate, and humorous is reason enough to award McDormand the Oscar. **MD**

Will win: Frances McDormand (*Three Billboards*)
Should win: Frances McDormand (*Three Billboards*)
Shoulda been a contender: Vicky Krieps (*Phantom Thread*)

Best Supporting Actor



If there's one injustice we should be upset about in this day and age, it is without a doubt the exclusion of Michael Stuhlbarg in the Best Supporting Actor category. 'For what film?' I hear you ask – well this is the question. Stuhlbarg has been in three of the stand-out films this year, and for each he could deserve a nomination; but it was in *Call Me by Your Name* he shone brightest, delivering the most memorable moment of a beautiful film. If there were any justice in the world, he would be nominated, and Willem Dafoe would win for his performance in Sean Baker's *The Florida Project*. But the world is a cruel place: Woody Harrelson is on the nominations list, Sam Rockwell will take home the statue, and there is no God. **Fred Fyles**

Will win: Sam Rockwell (*Three Billboards*)
Should win: Willem Dafoe (*The Florida Project*)
Shoulda been a contender: Michael Stuhlbarg (*Call Me by Your Name*)

Best Supporting Actress



As with the other acting categories, the choice for Best Supporting Actress seems apparent: odds are Allison Janney will win for her role in the black comedy biopic *I, Tonya*. There's a chance, however, a different mother may win: Laurie Metcalf would make a more-than-worthy winner for her portrayal of Marion McPherson, the emotional centrepiece of Greta Gerwig's *Lady Bird*. What is perhaps most heartening about this category, however, is how it is celebrating older women who are all too often written off in the film industry. She may bring the average age down, but it would have been nice to see Michelle Williams on the list, for her Katharine Hepburn-esque turn in *All the Money in the World*. **FF**

Will win: Allison Janney (*I, Tonya*)
Should win: Laurie Metcalf (*Lady Bird*)
Shoulda been a contender: Michelle Williams (*All the Money in the World*)

should win, and who've been left out in the cold

Best Original Screenplay

Whether creating an original screenplay or adapting a pre-existing work for the screen is harder remains an open question. What can be said for certain about all the nominees for Best Original Screenplay this year, however, is that they have all managed to create their own sense of time and place. The winner is likely to be Martin McDonagh's *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* – the Academy continues their long-running fixation with people saying improbably witty things very quickly. A much worthier winner would be Greta Gerwig for *Lady Bird* – 93 minutes of delicately crafted dialogue that pays homage to the relationship between mothers and daughters. Paul Thomas Anderson's *Phantom Thread*, with its stomach-turning exploration of power dynamics, is a striking omission. **FF**

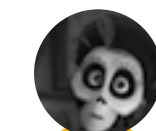
Will win: *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*
Should win: *Lady Bird*
Shoulda been a contender: *Phantom Thread*

Best Adapted Screenplay

When the nominees were announced back in January I wrote that "one could have desperately scribbled down the ingredients from the back of a bottle of Heinz tomato ketchup on a napkin five minutes before the nominations went out and still been in with a chance of an Adapted Screenplay nod". I stand by that statement. *Call Me by Your Name*, from the legendary James Ivory, is the only truly outstanding work. The Academy would have done well to recognise Sofia Coppola's steamy femme fatale reimagining of Thomas P. Cullinan's *The Beguiled* over Aaron Sorkin's unnecessarily tell-not-show *Molly's Game* script. Sorkin has become the Streep of his craft, rewarded over others more deserving based on his reputation. **AL**

Will win: *Call Me by Your Name*
Should win: *Call Me by Your Name*
Shoulda been a contender: *The Beguiled*

Best Animated Feature



It was to be expected that once again the animation category will be underwhelming and underappreciated. With this year's controversial rule change, allowing any member with an interest in animation to cast their votes, it is worse than ever. On the surface this may seem like a step in the right direction, but looking at the nominations this year is tragic. *Loving Vincent* is an amazing feat of animation, and *Coco* is a great movie, tugging at the heartstrings of kids and adults alike, but when they are up against John Cena and *Boss Baby* it just feels like the Academy are taking the piss. Now more than ever the Oscars seem out of touch with animation and although *Coco* is a great movie and deserves to win, *Boss Baby* should win just to wake the academy and the film world up and completely reform this category. **Mikhail Demtchenko**

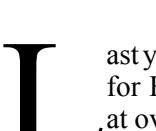
Will win: *Coco*
Should win: *Coco*
Shoulda been a contender: *Okja*

Best Foreign Language Film

A Fantastic Woman is A Fantastic Film, with Daniela Vega spearheading what could be A Fantastic Breakthrough for trans cinema. But in this hotly contested category, it is hard to tell who will win. Going up against Palme d'Or winner *The Square* and *Loveless*, a Cannes jury favourite and bookies' favourite, the Oscar could go any way. With 92 films submitted for this category this year, it is interesting to see how different the Oscar nominations were to the Baftas and those who didn't make the cut. Most notably missing Angelina Jolie's *First They Killed my Father*, Netflix super success *Okja*, and, more tragically, the absence of Bafta winner *The Handmaiden*, which made a strong fight for the Palme d'Or and snapped up the coveted Felix Film Best Picture award. **MD**

Will win: *Loveless* (Russia)
Should win: *A Fantastic Woman* (Chile)
Shoulda been a contender: *The Handmaiden* (South Korea)

Best Documentary



Last year's *O.J.: Made in America*, which won the Oscar for Best Documentary, broke the mould, clocking in at over 460 minutes long. In this ceremony, however, things are largely back to normal: five documentaries, on a wide range of subjects, competing for the crown. *Icarus*, a fast-paced doc on the Russian Olympic doping program, is likely to be the winner. Agnès Varda and JR's documentary *Faces Places* would be a more unique winner, and – given it is likely to be Varda's last film – a worthier one. Frederick Wiseman, who was awarded an Honorary Award at last year's ceremony, should have garnered a nomination for *Ex Libris*, his warm-hearted, tender portrayal of the New York Public Library system, dizzying in scope but intimate in mood. **FF**

Will win: *Icarus*
Should win: *Faces Places*
Shoulda been a contender: *Ex Libris*

Best Original Score



With the Hans Zimmer votes being split between *Dunkirk* and *Bladerunner 2049* at the Baftas Alexandre Desplat managed to beat out competition to take home the award to put alongside his Golden Globe. This comes at no surprise, with Desplat's romantic fantasy style score perfectly accenting the relationships in the movie. However the Oscars could be a different story: with only one Hans Zimmer film being nominated and the academy primed to throw their votes his direction, he may finally pick up his second oscar. There rest of the nominations are not to be trifled with either: with legend John Williams, Radiohead guitarist Jonny Greenwood, and Coen veteran Carter Burwell, this certainly is a stacked category. **MD**

Will win: Hans Zimmer (*Dunkirk*)
Should win: Alexandre Desplat (*The Shape of Water*)
Shoulda been a contender: Oneohtrix Point Never (*Good Time*)



Candidate Manifestos

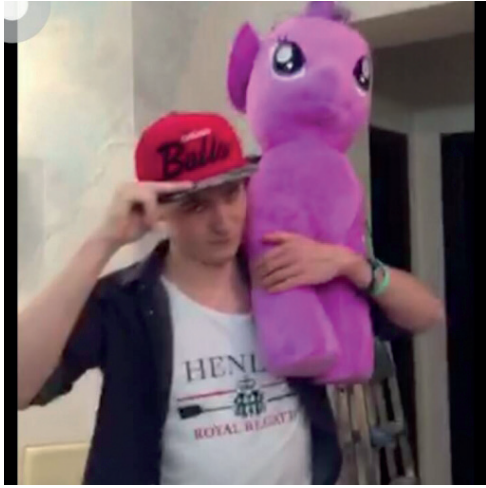
imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

Inside this supplement are the manifestos for candidates in key positions.
To see all manifestos, visit **imperialcollegeunion.org/elections**.

All information enclosed came directly from the candidates, has not
been altered, and any views expressed are entirely their own.

All information correct at the time of print.

Candidate Manifestos: Union President

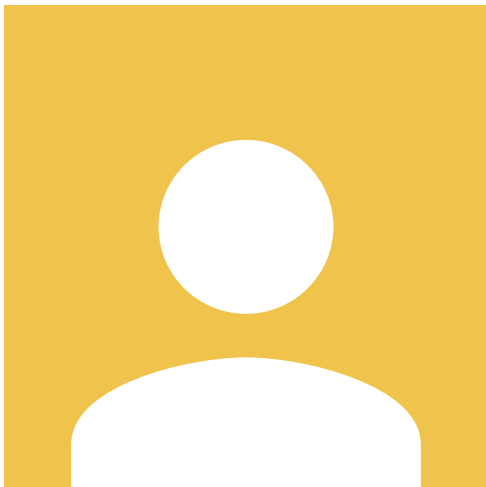


Dmitrii Usynin

Once a symbol of prosperity, truth, and bliss, Imperial College London is now a mere wraith of its past. The Imperial College Union has stood idly by. This will end. Who voted for the abolition of Stella, the JCR's opening times, and overpriced Tanpopo? Who voted for the abandoned library door? And when exactly did ICU relinquish hope and vision? I promise to you I will drain the swamp of disinterest and incompetence within ICU. I campaign for the many, not for the next-to-no-one. I will fight for

your right to prosperity, truth, and bliss. This means replacing 568 and Metric by a Wetherspoon's on my first day in office. This means tearing down Huxley and rebuilding the old Imperial Institute. This means organising student strikes. This means attracting sponsors a la DocSoc, who will pay for my coronation party. People voted for me as the welfare rep for a reason. I will bring back joy and welfare in your life. You may think "why should I trust a man in a unicorn costume"? Because not all heroes wear masks, some wear unicorn costumes instead. Because I am your only hope.

There is so much more I want to write, but this margin is too small to contain it. Let my actions speak louder than any words. Make ICU great. For once. Think of what Trump would say if he was running. - Constantin, campaign manager, Ghostwriter 2k18.



Dex Oseman

No manifesto submitted.



Max Stocker

This college has so much potential to be an amazing place for each and every one of us and I want to be the president who brings that about. I want to make the union our union, not just another branch of the college: I'll improve its communication with the student body, seeking out feedback and suggestions in person and via social media. I'd put pressure on the college to make changes to its dubious endowment fund, it's embarrassing that our institution

conducting world-changing research is a stakeholder in ethically questionable industries. We hold the unflattering title of the most unequal university in England. I find this shameful and will launch a review into the main causes of this and push for the Social Mobility Officer position. The efforts towards improving mental health and well being have been positive and admirable, yet more needs to be done. The counselling service here is not what it could be, one of my main focuses will be to work with the college to reduce wait times, making the service

more efficient and accessible to us all. We also need to realise that we are only treating symptoms here - I will look into the aspects of the college that generate stress, and eliminate them. I believe in Imperial and I know it can be a great university, but we need to work to get there. If you want to see some change, toss me your votes.



Michael Edwards

Catering outlets cut. A counselling service bursting at the seams. Our staff striking on Exhibition Road. It's a poorly-kept secret that something at Imperial isn't right, and it can be hard to tell if students are a priority to this institution. Now more than ever, we need a Union that will actively fight for us. A Union unafraid to take risks in its mission for change. A Union that delivers for ALL its members, no matter how engaged they are. I believe I am the person to lead this Union. I've been an active member of our community throughout my time

here - from three years as a Wilson Hall Senior to two years leading the RCSU as President and Secretary.

My Plan

The "Imperial Experience" * Pressure College to reverse changes to Campus Services and student provision * Open membership of Faculty Unions to postgrads and review Union's postgrad provision * Expand Union presence to White City and other satellite campuses.
Student-led democracy * Create a bottom-up, volunteer-driven Union including officers and reps in decision-making * Work towards 50% student representation on College boards

and projects * Form a new Union Entertainments Committee - more diverse social events

Peer Support * Review the Mums and Dads programme, and support club "buddy schemes" * Support Hall Seniors and Reps year-round * Drive culture change at Imperial to make all students feel welcome and valued

Clubs support * Streamline payment processes and room bookings for club activities * Review spaces for student clubs

For a Union that works for all, vote Michael!

Candidate Manifestos: Union President



Robert Tomkies

Imperial is changing. My broad experience means I am excellently positioned to lead and oversee us through these changes, ensuring that the outcomes you get, are the ones that you want. As RSMU president I currently represent over 1000 students in matters ranging from education and welfare to clubs and socials. In my four years at Imperial I have held positions in sports, DepSocs and a constituent union, alongside helping with departmental mentoring, tutoring and "Mums and

Dads". What do I want? I want to ensure fresh ideas come through the union so that we can make long standing positive change while building on the successes of this year's team. What are my goals? **Finance and Services** * Better funding for your constituent unions, clubs and societies through a centralised sponsorship support centre. * Better food, including halal and vegan, at all hours, at all campuses through conducting a complete catering review. **Clubs and Societies:** * Ethos expansion with usage-based equipment - lets end the over-crowding. * A referendum on the Sport

Imperial mascot - Do we really want a lion? **Wellbeing:** * Wednesday opening of the advice centre and introduction of Skype appointments. * Increase student support for welfare and campaigns at non-South Kensington campuses. **Strategy:** * Guaranteed internal varsity. * Campaign to secure increased student study space available to all through re-purposing the newly vacated chemistry building. For all my ideas and experience see:<http://robforpresident.strikingly.com/> **Rate ideas? Rate experience? Rate Rob**



Maurice Yap

Vote me, Tony Peng, to be your next Bio Soc president.



Mahmoud El-Khatib

To end the tyranny of previous regimes that have forced us to queue outside metric, led to the increase price of fusion and the removal of Stella at the union. I hold previous presidents responsible. It's time for change. When milk turns stale, we throw it out. Vote Mahmoud for president and I pledge to end the union.



Andrew Duckworth

Vote for Duckworth for a stronger union and a brighter tomorrow!#livetheduckworthway

Candidate Manifestos: Union President



Balthasar Braunewell

No manifesto submitted.



Oliver Duffy

No manifesto submitted.



Kyle-James Condon

Imperial College Union is ineffective, it has become rigid and bureaucratic. Change is nigh impossible and the union feels unaccountable and opaque. Along with this there are serious failures to address issues of importance: There is no substantial campaign on the hefty food prices on campus. Prices have increased substantially over Christmas leading food on campus to be a no option for lots of students. For example lunch at the sandwich shop in the JCR could cost you upwards of £6, and that's AFTER they

have removed VAT. * The ICU ticketing system is unfit for purpose. More tickets than are available are regularly sold; in one ticket sale this year the union website crashed a full ten minutes BEFORE the sale. Constituent Unions and DepSocs have resorted to using EventBrite to sell place-holder tickets. * Societies running events which consume large amounts of their budgets for a minority of members is unacceptable. Examples include spending an obscene proportion of budget on an event available to 2% of members (Including committee). Our union needs a change of leadership

to clear the air and renew its focus. As your president I will: * Lobby College heavily on food prices, the current situation is unacceptable. * Deliver on a new ticketing system with up-most priority. * Introduce new union policy to introduce a restriction on proportion of budget spent on a single guest per event. Further restricting artificially inflating membership by advertising large society events to non members. Vote for a new union, vote @Kyle Condon.

Candidate Manifestos: Deputy President (Education)



Alejandro Luy

There have never been so many opportunities for students to shape their own education at Imperial. Vote for me to ensure that the Imperial College Union and its Academic Representatives take advantage of these opportunities to make your education what you want it to be. Choose **#LuyforDPE** for:

Improved Feedback * Feedback at Imperial should be a strength, not a weakness. I will continue the work of the current DPE so that every student at Imperial College receives timely, high-quality feedback. **Student Involvement**

in Curriculum Reviews * As part of the Learning and Teaching Strategy, curriculum are being re-written across college and I am committed to seeing students integrated into the process from start to end. **Enhancement of the Academic Representation Network** * I will develop practical training materials and effective communication channels to ensure that your Academic Representatives have the training and resources they need to represent you well. **Implementation of StudentShapers** * I will spearhead the implementation of the new StudentShapers scheme, which provides paid opportunities for students

(maybe you!) to shape their own educations. **PG Timetabling** This is still an issue, and it really shouldn't be. Just like DPE's before me, I will continue to fight to protect your Wednesday afternoons.

Experience * 3 years as an Academic Representative (2 years as Year Rep, 1 year as Dep Rep) * 1 year as Academic Affairs Officer for the CGCU **International Education Experience** * attended 6 schools on 3 continents.

For more information check out:
My Website: luyfordpe.weebly.com
Facebook Event: www.facebook.com/events/1996084530711055/
#LuyforDPE



Jude Merzah

No manifesto submitted.

Candidate Manifestos: Deputy President (Welfare)



Matthew Hayward

Your welfare matters. Your DPW must listen compassionately, be sympathetic and supportive, and, most importantly, fight your corner to help advance and develop the College's approach to student wellbeing. I am that person - enthusiastic, experienced and determined to represent YOU and push for the greatest improvements to welfare provision. I have experience over my four years at IC in supporting welfare across College while holding positions in community societies, in particular sexual health enlightenment and provision, along with volunteering

and campaigning for LGBT+ affairs especially during Pride in London and Birmingham. **MENTAL HEALTH** * Over 65% waited over a week for counselling service appointments, many over three weeks - with demand for these services ever growing and Health Centre funding cuts reported, I will lobby the College for much needed increases in provision for mental health related therapy. * Working with Mentality to encourage staff and student training in mental health first aid, complementing the active bystander campaign. **PHYSICAL HEALTH** * Designate lunchtime napping and rest areas. * Provide healthier food options across all campuses. * Lobby to

expand Ethos and ensure it is kept for all to use. **ECONOMIC ACCESSIBILITY** * I have first-hand experience of financial limitations at Imperial, and will continue recent work promoting the existence of support funds. **CAMPAIGNS** * Training for liberation officers to help enable effective student-led campaigns. * Actively supporting student societies with campaigning ideas. **UNION** * Work with the DPE to address timetabling issues. * Supplement wellbeing network training and structure with resources to use throughout the year. * Your welfare matters. **Vote Matt.**



Rebecca Neil

Welfare is a major issue facing students and College are finally acknowledging and listening to students. College must deliver efficient, resourced, fully-funded services and be held to account for their welfare decisions. College is currently compiling the Wellbeing Strategy and I plan to make sure this strategy has student consultation, is efficient in providing the services you need and is delivered to its best. You need a DPW that can provide this, and I have the experience, passion and drive to ensure this happens. **Objectives:** * Ensure the Wellbeing Strategy is fully-funded,

resourced and delivered by College across all campuses. * Cut counselling waiting times and review the missed appointments policy. * Subsidise tampons/sanitary products further * Stop talking about personal tutors and make changes * Support student-led, liberation and community officer campaigns * Collect student suggestions/complaints using an anonymous online system * More training, support and development for Wellbeing Representation Network volunteers * Ensure freshers receive adequate information regarding self-care, welfare, well-being and where to find help regardless of where they live. * Run union-wide Mums and Dads events

Experience: * RCSU Vice President Operations - overseeing/assisting the FONS welfare rep network and RCSU welfare week and attending faculty and departmental Staff-Student Committees. * Union Council FONS UG Ordinary Member * Governance Steering Group developing a consultation strategy for the review of the governance of the union * Vice Chair BioChemSoc- LfS Year Rep for 3 years * Experience coaching people with disabilities and neurodivergence. * Lead tutor for Pimlico Connections tutoring disadvantaged students * Trained in Safeguarding * Events officer for Pole & Aerial#VoteBeckysheWontNeil #VoteBecky

Candidate Manifestos: Deputy President (Finance & Services)



Claudia Caravello

Hi, I'm Claudia, a 4th year Civil Engineer with the experience and determination to make real lasting changes to improve your time at Imperial. As CGCU President, I work with CSPs on a day-to-day basis and oversee a budget of £300,000. Additionally, I'm 1 of 2 students overseeing the new drink supplier deals in the Union bars, which means I also have a deep insight into the running and finances of the bars. My promises: **STUDENTS AT THE HEART OF DECISIONS** * Making YOU the decision makers of events and big changes, so

another Bud Light incident doesn't happen again! * Info-graphics on how Union income is spent on **YOU FOOD & DRINK** * Focus on Union food quality and deals * Introduce online ordering system * Bring back SCR breakfast, or start it at the Union * Reduce queues at Library Cafe and College Cafe -Bring back bendy straws **TRANSPORT** * Transport to Harlington on Mondays and Wednesdays * Ensure students get home safe by introducing an end-of-night Union minibus drop off system- Improve minibuses upkeep **CSPs** * Negotiate with College to make more

departmental spaces available to CSPs * Quicker sponsorship contract approval and greater support from Union * Lunchtime drop-in sessions- Useful, quality training, delivered at the right times **EXTERNAL INCOME** * Make the Union less dependent on student spending * Develop online shop to sell to global alumni/prospective students * Advertise facilities to public during the holidays * Generate income from eActivities by licencing to other Unions **Full Manifesto:** voteclaudia.in **Vote CLAUDIA to GIVE VALUE BACK TO STUDENTS!**



Ella Rice

The DPFS is responsible for the bars and services of Imperial College alongside financial responsibilities including sponsorship, marketing and development. **Why Me?** As Manager of the Union's bars, you may recognise me from behind the bar serving you some curly fries or a snakebite. * Worked at the Union's bars for all 4 years of my degree * Jointly accountable for £1.6 million in sales at the bar * Financially managed Summer Ball 2017 * President of Imperial College Fencing Club-Helped secure a 3-year

long sponsorship deal for the club- Secured the Harlington Grant for the club * Regularly made major budgeting decisions for the club's 100 members **Full Manifesto:** electella.com **What I want to achieve - Bars** * Prevent under-staffing - give staff financial intensives to work busy nights * Reduce queueing - increase capacity and make structural changes to the queues into and within the venue * Introduce more Yoyo loyalty schemes for regular products eg. buy five get one free on curly fries, burgers and pints. **Services** * Implement an affordable 'meal deal' across campus. * Update Imperial

App - including a real-time function to determine where it would be quickest to get lunch. * Revolutionise eActivities, club mailing list and room bookings **White City** * Ensure the movement of a community, not just a building * Will work with College to provide student prices for Lunch, Dinner and Bars * Lobby college for on site student cafes, shops and bars **Reduce Waste** * Reduce plastic and food waste on campus to align with the core values of the Union **Elect Experience. Elect Ella.**



Ali Malik

No manifesto submitted.



Alexander Dean

The services Imperial College Union run have a direct impact on students' experiences during their time at Imperial and it is imperative to use students' ideas and feedback to improve them. You need someone with the ideas, the drive and the experience to improve our Union in the way students want. My four years at Imperial have given me the opportunity to meet Imperial students from all walks of life and find out what they want to change. As the current President of ACC Snowsports I organised and ran the largest club tour in Imperial College

history providing experience in dealing with vast sums as well as budgeting. My time as ICSM Lacrosse Tour and Stash has given an understanding into how ICSM clubs function and what they want. Here are a few of my main objects for next year: * Implement online petition system on the Union website to allow students to easily express their opinions on how their Union is being run * Streamline sponsorship process for clubs and societies to allow clubs to get the money they need ASAP * Fix the SALUS injury reporting system * Develop and e-activities app making claiming quicker and easier * Continue the drinks price

freeze in the Union bars * More free phone charging ports at Reynolds and the Union * Develop app for ordering food in FiveSixEight * Reynolds library open until 10pm on weekdays and 11pm during exam periods. Check out my Facebook event for a more detailed description of my objectives.

Candidate Manifestos: Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)



James Medler

Hi, I'm James and in the last three years I have spent two as Snowsports President, and this year as Sports (ACC) Chair. I know that Clubs and Societies are one of the most important and heavily involved aspects of your extra-curricular activity at Imperial, yet there are not adequate resources available to support you. I have seen these problems first hand, currently being responsible for over 50 clubs, and believe I have the experience and know how to find solutions and make it easier to run a student society. **EXPAND ETHOS GYM** *Pressure College to expand gym

space * Investigate external gym and space provider partnerships across London- Pressure college for an investment into a wider range of sport and wellbeing facilities **DEDICATED ATHLETICS HUB** * Join key parts of Sport Imperial and the Union, to make one team accountable for sporting decisions, with a student decision-maker at the top **MORE BOOKABLE SPACE / PROCESS IMPROVEMENT** * Pressure college to prioritise clubs and societies bookings in under-utilised space * Ensure CSPs have the appropriate space for their activity, and what is required to do their activity * Ensure students understand how key

union processes work (ie minibuses), through mediums such as infographics **ONLINE CSP SUPPORT PORTAL** * Create an online space for queries directing you to the relevant people immediately **REGULAR OPEN OFFICE MEETINGS / A FRIENDLIER UNION** * Regular update meetings on my progress open to all * Regular open office times for students to come with queries * Regular visits to CSP activities to see problems first hand



Loris Biancheri

No manifesto submitted.



#voteicu

VOTE NOW

imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

Candidate Manifestos: Council Chair



Lloyd James

It's obvious that College doesn't always have student interests as a priority: cutting catering outlet hours, underfunding the Counselling Service, and supporting brutal cuts to staff pensions exemplify this. The Student Union should be a powerful voice in fighting for students' interests, but too often it fails at this. Union Council (our parliament' - elected students from across the university meet there to represent you) should be leading this fight, but it has a number of key failings: * Meetings often have little meaningful discussion and consist only of rubber-

stamping Reports. * Hours are wasted arguing over tedious bureaucratic details. * New Council members are poorly trained. * Important business bypasses Council without sufficient scrutiny. I'm deeply frustrated by these failings. **So I propose to:** * Mandate existing Council subcommittees to formulate policy proposals to provide Council with more business of substance. * Develop clear procedures to take complex/bureaucratic matters outside of meetings. * Require sabbatical reports to describe planned future activities for Council to scrutinise. * Provide comprehensive training documentation explaining key Council

procedures. * Ensure that all policies due for renewal are examined and revised in plenty of time for scrutiny before expiring. **My experience:** * Involved with Council since 2015. * Previous roles: RCSU President, PhySoc President, both Physics UG and PG Dep Rep. **Lobbied for:** * More accessible Council meeting space (wheelchair accessible and with reduced background noise). * Ending the zero-tolerance policy on late work submission. * Union role representing economically disadvantaged students. **So vote Lloyd for a Union Council that is a vehicle for real, positive change for students.**



Alex Compton

Union Council is our primary student decision making body within the Union, yet few students know about it and even fewer directly engage with it. Your voice matters and I want every student at Imperial to be able to bring their ideas forward. As Union President this year, I am reforming our democratic structures and building a more engaging, effective and open platform for you. I want to continue this work as Council Chair. **If elected, I will work for:** * A more inclusive council - We can utilise technology to

modernise and open up Council's reach. Live streaming of Council debates and regular student polls will allow you to engage more easily and be heard. * An online ideas platform - I will support all students to present their ideas to Council and help you create constructive debates. Through an online ideas platform all students will be able to submit proposals for debate and have the support they need to take forward their ideas. * Strong communication - I will provide a strong student voice on the Trustee Board and will keep you informed about the discussions you care about that take

place at the highest level of the Union. I have the ideas and the experience to support and shape our democratic structures so they work for you. Find out more at: <http://chippyforcouncilchair.strikingly.com/> **Your Voice Matters. Vote Chippy for Council Chair.**

DEBATE

LIVESTREAM

18:30, Wednesday 7 March 2018

**Tune in with your questions
[facebook.com/imperialcollegeunion](https://www.facebook.com/imperialcollegeunion)**

Candidate Manifestos: Felix Editor



Basheer Akhtarzai

No manifesto submitted.



Andrew Djaba

Hi! I'm Andy Djaba, and I'm Felix's current Music Editor. I've been involved in Felix for the last two years, as a writer and editor. I've thoroughly enjoyed laying out pieces every week and I want every student to have the opportunity to get involved! A vote for Andy is a vote for: **EXPERIENCE:** * As a member of the Editorial team, I've got the insight to know where Felix can improve * I've got the experience to hit the ground running and make Felix better than ever! * My involvement in various societies means I know how

the Union works **A VOICE FOR ALL:** * Work closely with the Liberation Officers (BME, LGBT+, Disabilities, etc.) to ensure consistent representation of students from all backgrounds * Collaborate with Constituent Unions to ensure diversity of voices * Hold the College, Union, and sabbatical officers to account to ensure all students' interests are met **IMPROVED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:** * Ensure all students are aware of how easy it is to get involved in Felix * Develop the Felix website further and increase social media presence * Make Felix bigger than ever, with more opportunities to get involved

- editing, writing, illustrating, and more! **INCREASED FRESHER INVOLVEMENT:** * Maintain active presence at Freshers' Fair and ensure those who expressed interest are contacted immediately to retain their interest * Run tutorials and workshops to develop people's skills and increase their confidence * Ensure Felix's fresher issue is in all halls **VOTE ANDY FOR FELIX EDITOR! #FELIXFOREVER**



Jennifer Lea

Hello. You may recognise me from my debut as a FELIX ARTS writer earlier this year. I'm perfect for this role. I am edgy AF. **My pledges:** * Replace FELIX ARTS with FELIX DARTS * Print on sustainable or recycled paper, or make FELIX edible * Actually, replace FELIX SPORTS with FELIX DARTS too - Move the centrefold to page three * Then put a pull-out TV times there, so you know when you can watch some DARTS * Make the font comic sans (2018 is the year of comic sans didn't you know?) * Give out drumstick lollies/

haribo with each copy like the Beano did * Not stop laughing * Weekly £/pint/% alc comparison so you know the cheapest way to DRINK PINTS while watching DARTS * Change the FELIX cat to HAM cat (see video)- Weekly £/gram of ham so you know the cheapest way to have a SANDWICH while watching DARTS * Make FELIX landscape \textit {and slightly rotated} sdrawkca dnA * Marginal weight saving by cutting out all the holes in letters. This will also save the trees. Also you can watch the DARTS through your newspaper. Holes are excellent DARTS targets. * BAN nonogram of ketamine

from puzzles * Use leftover FELIXS to make a big papier mache DARTS ARENA. * Hold a referendum to adopt an official policy on the plural of FELIX (FELIXs? FELIXes? FELII? FELICES? ??? DARTS???) * Crowdfund FELIX articles on GoogleDocs forms (or AmazonDocs @JeffBezos) * Release FELIX on a Wednesday, my dudes * Rename FELIX Editor position to Newspaper Daddy * Remain a member of the European Union* **MatchWordLimitsExactly #voteLea(ve)**



Samuel Hanrahan

No manifesto submitted.

Candidate Manifestos: Student Trustees



Owen Heaney

The Board of Trustees is the Union's highest body, able to overturn any decision made by any other part of the Union. Yet, rather than being an open and democratic body, it is often closed and opaque. Democracy is at the core of what a Students' Union should be, yet the Board regularly implements sweeping changes with minimal or no consultation with anyone outside of its own membership. As the current Council Chair, I have sat on Trustee Board for the past year, and, although a great deal of

good work has been done, there is still much to be done to ensure that the Union is truly democratic and makes decisions which are right for students. I am asking for a second term on the Board so that I have the opportunity to use my experience from this year to make sure that the Union's democracy is strengthened by the Board, not diminished. **If elected as the students' representative on the Board of Trustees, I will:** * Speak up against implementing large-scale changes without consulting students and volunteers * Ensure that the outcomes of the Governance and

Liberation Reviews are implemented in full and in a timely fashion * Open up the Board by making sure that details of its meetings and decisions are published in a timely manner and adequately publicised

A vote for me is a vote for democracy - vote for Owen Heaney as your Student Trustee.



Joshua Jackson

My vision as Student Trustee is for a stronger and fairer Imperial - an Imperial that works as hard for you as you do for it. There is so much about the Imperial experience for which we have the Board of Trustees to thank; they oversee the objectives and direction of the Union, bringing good progress in improvements to campus life year on year. But how can good progress be transformed into great progress? As one who never settles for "good enough", I have outlined key Action Areas to turn good into great: From food

prices on campus to the availability and quality of aid from our Careers Service and even the conditions of department buildings, I am ready to bring the issues that matter to you to the table. Moreover, I am dedicated to making the decision - making processes of the Board of Trustees more transparent and even more accessible to you. Currently, I serve as the Vice President for External Relations and Sponsorship of the Imperial ACS; I am no stranger to representing the interests of a large and diverse ensemble or to the responsibility of making crucial decisions. This year, after considerable

sponsorship success, we have celebrated the fastest rise and greatest increase in membership in our 20-year history! I'm Joshua and I'm committed to working hard on your behalf for the best results on the Board of Trustees, all for a better Imperial. **Place your trust in me for Student Trustee 2018 Vote Joshua**



Abhijay Sood

Trustee Board is the Union's governing body, but there's a good chance you've never heard of it. Every issue in our "democratic" Union, from Bud Light to bookable spaces, ultimately reaches this opaque forum. Their decisions are seldom justified to students. I'm running for Student Trustee with a single issue in mind: transparency. I want our Union to actually represent student interests, make decisions democratically, and be bold enough to challenge College when it gets things wrong. None of these things

are possible when the most senior body in the Union acts with impunity. To this end, I will report on what happens at the Board, record the meetings, and ensure these recordings are easily accessible. **EXPERIENCE:** * Academic Rep at year, department, and faculty level; Rep of the Year 2016-17 * Supported ending the zero-tolerance policy on late coursework - the only Dep Rep to do so. * Introduced undergraduate teaching assistants to my department: paying 4th years to supervise Freshers. * Currently working to ensure space vacated in the move to White City is utilised effectively

for students, prioritising departments without common rooms. Union Council Member since 2016: * Fought to increase bursaries. * Strengthened student input on the College-wide curriculum review, where all course content is being revised. * Compelled the Union to take a strong stance on the UCU Pensions dispute. Chaining a club with record membership - double last year's figure. I'm committed to fighting for you; **elect me and I'll take that fight to the Union, and help ensure it truly backs students.**



Stephen Naulls

Having worked closely with the Officer Trustees this year as a Welfare Officer and member of Union Council, I understand the ways our Union can be fine-tuned to better meet the needs of individual students, as well as our clubs and societies. Working to embed the Wellbeing Representation Network into Faculty's consciousness, overseeing my Campaigns Team, and fighting for changes and further clarity for students in personal tutoring, mitigating circumstances and interruption of studies have been some

of my accomplishments in my role this year. From attending meetings such as Community & Welfare Board and Student-Staff Committees, I have a solid insight into the day-to-day decisions our senior volunteers and paid staff make on your behalf for both Academic and Wellbeing concerns. Similarly, serving as both a Treasurer and Secretary on Club committees during my time at Imperial, I am aware of the challenges facing students stepping forward for senior positions within their Societies having witnessed many of them myself. Based on this, I can be expected to offer a firm

yet pragmatic voice as your Student Trustee; using my experience to best portray the perspectives of individuals themselves or entire Clubs and Societies, whilst framing this within the context I have as a Senior Union Volunteer to determine the most reasonable solutions to problems arising at Board of Trustees meetings. A vote for Naulls is a vote for experience and transparency; a strong and reasonable voice for ALL Imperial students. **Your voice. Your Union. #VoteNaulls #NaullsInHalls**

Candidate Manifestos: Student Trustees



Rana Khan

Hi! Hola! Hallo! Bonjour! Annyeong! Ciao! Ni Hau! Salam! Marhaba! Namastay! Yo! I am Rana Sher, an International student from Pakistan and South Korea and I am running for the position of Imperial SU Student Trustee. **Some axioms about me:** * International Students' Officer(2017/2018)* RAG Vice Chair(2017/2018) * RAG Events Officer(2016/2017) * Pakistan Society Treasurer(2017/2018) * Academic Representative(2016/2017) A bit of self-indulgence: * Campaigned to set up the International Lounge in college space over the Christmas vacation. * In RAG I

got to organise and manage events like sponsored skydives, bungee jumping, jailbreak and break the Guinness World Record. * As the Treasurer of Paksoc, I got an insight into the financial issues that societies deal with along with helping to make society's first boat party a success. * I am an Imperial SU fanatic with fangs gashed in campaigns, clubs and societies. **Syllabus:** * Ensuring that the Union sticks to its democratic agenda. * Urging ICLSU to afford more opportunities for students to enhance their employability. * Ensuring transparency in dialogue between ICLSU and you through relevant media to ascertain students'

complacency w.r.t the management of ICLSU. * Making education more affordable and curbing the soaring tuition fees. * Promoting diversity, equality and integration amongst students. * Upholding freedom of speech and fortifying student rights. * Expanding accommodation halls to harbour more students (including returning students)- to obviate the need for paying higher rents for private halls. Are you looking for a Student Trustworthy more so than a mere Trustee? Yes? Look no further. Curious readers can have recourse to rana.khan16@imperial.ac.uk. Thanks a lot!



Alessio Incitti

Attainment gaps, barriers facing under-represented groups, and gender imbalance are all issues that cannot be tackled by Liberation Officers or individual representatives alone. It takes a strategic organisational approach, involving all levels of ICU governance, to achieve durable progress towards a more accessible and inclusive culture. As your LGBT+ Officer this year, I have been primarily involved in the Liberation Review commissioned by the Union and have contributed to the shaping of an action plan. I have uplifted the voices of

others by representing LGBT+ students on Union Council, the Community and Welfare Board, and College's Equality Diversity and Inclusion Forum, and I have been striving to ensure minority needs are made a priority by other student leaders and senior staff members. I have succeeded in making some tangible changes, such as obtaining College's approval for the relabelling of all single-cubicle toilets as gender-neutral, the review of Union policies, and the improved visibility of LGBT+History Month. My goal as a student trustee would be to bring the voices of under-represented

groups to the table of the Union's highest decision-making body. If elected, I will:* monitor the Union implementing the Liberation Review action plan and ensure direct involvement of marginalised communities * push the Trustee Board to set deadlines for longer-term actions, such as engagement of minorities * contribute to the Governance subcommittee bringing focus to diversity and representation * suggest to the Communications subcommittee ways of steering towards a culture that regards inclusivity as its most central and founding value



Ashley Brooks

Hello, my name is Ashley Brooks and I'm a third year PhD student in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. Whether I've met you before or not, I send out a warm greeting and thank you for considering to vote for me. I believe that the student community is a vital part of Imperial College's campus and life, and indeed, can set the tone for intellectual curiosity and pursuit throughout the College. I would like to bring about a greater presence of the student community as Trustee and see

greater integration within, and across, departments - particularly for students who often work in isolation or very small groups. I would also like to celebrate the international diversity of the community, and help to deliver events that are appropriate and engaging, as well as just a time to wind down and have fun. Having been involved in a number of clubs and societies at College over my time here, serving successfully on the executive committee of an external organisation (Secretary for a Chaplaincy House), as well as being a teacher providing academic & welfare support

for many years, I believe I can make a significant and positive contribution as Trustee. It would be a privilege to represent YOUR views, thanks again for potentially voting!

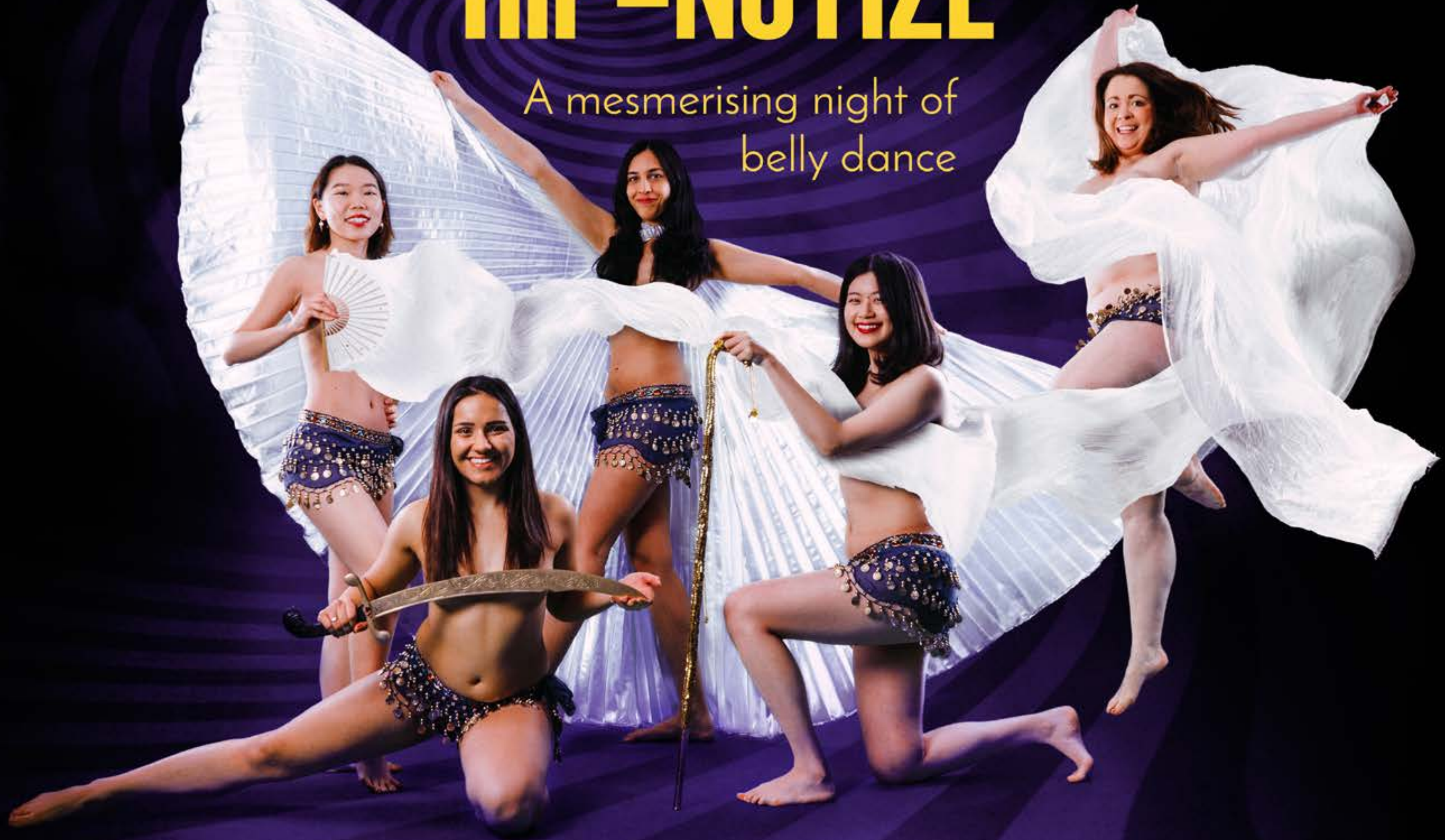


The
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2 March | 12:00

Voting closes
9 March | 12:00

MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Alvvays assert themselves with a spectacular show

MUSIC

ALVVAYS



Support Artist: Spinning Coin. **Venue:** Roundhouse. **Date:** 23rd February 2018. **Ticket Price:** £18.

Neel Le Penru

Music Writer

In fluorescent light, antisocialites...” croons Molly Rankin during a superb live rendition of the track ‘Dreams Tonight’ from Alvvays’ most recent effort, *Antisocialites*. It’s easy to feel she’s describing the crowd as we stand captivated under dreamy stage lights with barely a sense of who’s around us.

The lyric especially resonates with me this time as I watch alone,

my company for the evening stuck in traffic on their way to Camden’s legendary Roundhouse. The venue suits the band well: the five-piece fill the stage nicely, bedecked with vintage guitars, synths, and amps in front of a hypnotic projected backdrop that resembles a 70s *Doctor Who* title sequence.

A distinct step up in size from where they’ve performed on past UK tours, they’re playing the sold-out show with remarkable cool, their effort centred on nailing the technical aspects of their performance. And this too they do with ease, the whole band playing flawlessly, with each instrument clear and audible, and the backing vocals loud enough to beautifully mesh with Rankin’s lead. This is

perhaps a testament to the quality of the sound team at Roundhouse as well as the band.

Either way, they sounded excellent. Even the subtle shifts in guitar tones and synth textures that made their latest record such an engaging cut compared to much of the dream pop scene were perceptible. In fact, the detail and clarity of Alvvays’ sound here rivals some of the live studio performances they’ve done recently for the likes of Seattle alt-rock radio station KEXP.

But Alvvays demonstrate that they are a great live act because they don’t stop at perfecting the technicality of the performance. Rankin’s quips and comments between tracks grab smiles as usual and continue to cement the view propagated by



Helpfully labelled in case they forgot what the instruments were // Neel Le Penru

the band’s online following that Alvvays are the glorious pinnacle of Canadian-indie-pop-cuteness. At one point she asks the audience for recommendations of things to do during the band’s day-off in London: a refreshing disregard of the band’s growing fame.

The 15 song setlist was centred on *Antisocialites*

with nine of the album’s ten tracks performed (a treat for anyone who loved that record as much as I did) but kept things interesting with a performance of a new, currently unreleased song ‘Pecking Order’, as well as a cover of Elastica’s ‘Blue’ in the encore, which they adapted to their jangly sound surprisingly well.

In some ways it was a shame that the band’s dreamier tracks set such a relaxed atmosphere that the audience never fully reciprocated the band’s high energy on their heavier tracks, but all in all Alvvays delivered a fantastic performance that will see them continue to climb to the top of the indie scene.

Franz Ferdinand prove that they can still rock

MUSIC

FRANZ FERDINAND



Support Artist: Albert Hammond Jr; Meggie Brown. **Venue:** O2 Academy Brixton. **Date:** 24th February 2018. **Ticket Price:** £33.70.

Neel Le Penru

Music Writer

Returning to another sold-out Brixton Academy, Franz Ferdinand demonstrated that their new material is just as capable as their back-catalogue of indie anthems at getting nearly five thousand people dancing. The band are touring their recently released fifth album, *Always Ascending*, which is their first in five years. In that

time, the band recorded and toured an album with American electro-pop duo Sparks and then lost founding member and rhythm guitarist Nick McCarthy who has been replaced by new members Dino Bardot (guitar) and Julian Corrie (keyboards and backing vocals).

Nonetheless, the reconfigured lineup sounded as tight as ever on Saturday and cracked through an eighteen song set, half of which consisted of tracks from *Always Ascending*. Indeed, Franz Ferdinand are wearing their new sound and configuration with pride, perhaps as the result of lead singer Alex Kapranos finally fully taking the centre stage as frontman, allowing his bandmates to cement as his backing unit.

That said, the core elements of a great old-

school Franz Ferdinand gig were still present: Kapranos fervently jumping and striding about the stage, the band playing with impressive tightness and energy, and the audience feeding off this as they sang and danced through bangers and ballads alike.

They opened with the title track from their latest LP, before swinging through a mix of songs spanning their discography, culminating in a 10-minute version of ‘This Fire’, from their eponymous 2004 debut, which has long been a favourite gig-closer for the band. The dominance of songs from *Always Ascending* left little room for anything other than the top hits from Franz Ferdinand’s first four records, but while these songs’ familiarity usually gener-



Don’t move, time is slow // Neel Le Penru

ates the biggest response from crowds, there was no sense of dependence on them to drive the gig on this night. Rather, the DNA of the newly remade five-piece that produced *Always Ascending* has made its way into the rest of the band’s material resulting in a decade and a half’s worth of great

songs presented under a revitalised sound and aesthetic.

A particular highlight was the decision to introduce a saxophone player in the encore who performed on ‘Love Illumination’ and soloed in the extended disco outro of recent single ‘Feel the Love Go’. In moments

like this, Franz Ferdinand’s ongoing ability to take the pop-rock quirks that characterise their studio material to a live setting shines through such that, across material old and new, they are able to thrill audiences for a couple of hours – and it’s certainly worth it.

MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Bon Iver has something for everyone

MUSIC

BON IVER



Support Artist: None.
Venue: Eventim Apollo.
Date: 25th February 2018.
Ticket Price: £36.50

Aiden Langan
Music Writer

First things first, 22, *A Million* is the *Kid A* of this generation. With that in mind, it is absolutely necessary to see Bon Iver in their current form. Performing two sets (with a 22 minute interval) at the Hammersmith Apollo with candles adorning the stage, this night was a special occasion – it was intimate and it was homely, despite being just one of their eight shows there over two weeks.

“The crowd is so quiet you could hear a pin drop between breaths”

out quickly, which was immediately noticeable upon arrival. The tight packing beneath the stage made moving difficult; the one way which was physically acceptable to turn was towards the band. Once they came on, however, you didn't want to look away. Starting with the first single off the first album of 2017 (*Flying Microtonal Banana*), ‘Rattlesnake’, the cheers from the crowd soon became the chanting of the repetitive lyrics. Much like a snake itself, the pit

“Looming above them were abstract, psychedelic projections”



He kept his headphones on for MaXiMuM fOcUs // Adrian LaMoury

could hear a pin drop between breaths such as ‘Woods’, you'll experience a mix of feelings seldom seen in a concert, particularly in this day

and age of one-note bands, such as Fishcat and the Twattymen.

There's lots of head-bobbing and even a little bit of dancing in the

crowd; a rare sight for a band you're more likely to listen to while stoned in a dark room with the snow falling silently outside, than in a club or a house

party. The highlights were 22, *A Million* songs ‘33 “GOD”’ and ‘8 (circle)’. Pushing the soundsystem to the limit (and on a couple of occasions, past it) and yet somehow giving me goosebumps in the back of my neck at the same time, those tracks cemented the night as a legendary concert. ‘8 (circle)’ had a massive build up with a beautifully performed trombone solo. It was so good, so magical, it's probably what summoned the snow to London the following morning.

Bon Iver united audiences and genres with a carefully crafted and passionate show. If, by some miracle, you can find a ticket to a remaining night, seize it immediately. You won't regret it.

King Gizz are exactly as you'd expect: fucking great

MUSIC

KING GIZZARD AND THE LIZARD WIZARD



Support Artist: Mild High Club.
Venue: O2 Academy Brixton.
Date: 22nd February 2018.
Ticket Price: £23.75.

Emily Freeman
Music Writer

The queue looped around two corners as fans waited eagerly to pass beneath the dome of the O2 Academy Brixton. Spanning the reader-graph above them hailed the cause: Australian psych-rockers King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard. Performing their only London show in the support of the immense five albums they released last year, the show sold

started to writhe and sway, many fans losing their balance as the sardines attempted to mosh. Looming above them were abstract, psychedelic projections synchronised to the music, which cast luminous colours across the sweat-laden faces of the people beneath.

As the 7-piece continued into their first set, the energy of both the music and crowd remained high, with neither stopping for air if they could avoid it. Following ‘Rattlesnake’ came the band's final single from 2017, ‘Greenhouse Heat Death’, from their New Year's Eve released album *Gumboot Soup*. Swaying turned to jumping. I lost my shoe. Jumping turned to pushing and then back to swaying. I lost my sock. The remaining singles from *Flying Microtonal*

Banana, ‘Nuclear Fusion’ and ‘Sleep Drifter’ came and went, with no relent from the crowd.

Suddenly the movement stopped. The band were no longer above. Replacing the enchanting projections was a big red timer, counting down from 15. What was at the end was anyone's guess. This is the band who record their vocals through iPhones. The band who dedicated a third of an album to a story about a cyborg who eventually destroys the universe through vomiting. This is the band who named themselves King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard for fuck's sake. When the timer hit zero all eyes were on the stage. Fortunately, it just marked the beginning of another set.

This set appeared to be more chilled in its ways,

the music being slower, more relaxed. This memo didn't make it to the crowd apparently, where the frantic movement and energy previously found did not stop. This set included ‘Han-Tyumi the Confused Cyborg’, a track from *Murder of the Universe*, the second

“Swaying turned to jumping. I lost my shoe. Jumping turned to pushing and then back to swaying. I lost my sock”

of 2017's albums; also played from this was ‘Welcome to an Altered Universe’ and ‘The Lord of Lightning’. The final 2017 material exhibited that evening was then produced, the single ‘Crumbling Castle’ and the eponymous ‘Polygonwanaland’, all from the fourth release of 2017. Wrapping up the evening, King Gizz resorted to their critically acclaimed *Nonagon Infinity* (2016). Described as a “never-ending album” by its vocalist Stuart Mackenzie, ‘Robot Stop’, ‘Big Fig Wasp’ and ‘Gamma Knife’, arguably their most famous song, were played in indiscernible fashion to the untrained ear, instead forming a punchy energetic end to a kaleidoscopic, mind-blowing event, as to be expected from this whirlwind of a band.

MUSIC

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An afternoon with a quiet genius

MUSIC

NILS FRAHM



Support Artist: None.
Venue: Barbican.
Date: 24th February 2018.
Ticket Price: £15.

Ilaria Manco
Music Writer

Just looking at the elaborate setup laid out on stage before he made his appearance, it was hard to believe it was going to be a one-man show. Yet, for two hours, in what was the penultimate of four sold-out gigs at the Barbican, Nils Frahm dominated the stage only accompanied by a remarkable array of instruments that crossed genres as much as musical eras.

Jumping between more than six keyboards – which ranged from a grand piano to an organ to a Roland Juno 60 – the musician and composer used his whole body to operate the equipment, turning knobs and pushing buttons on the sequencer and delay pedals with a confidence and precision that didn't fail to impress.

Opening with a few tracks from his most recent album *All Melody* and closing with the older *More*, Frahm appeared comfortable between his gear, taking time in between songs to

“push a few buttons” and change the settings for the following track, while trying “not to mess up” (as he had apparently done the day before). His assertive movements and playful words created the perfect atmosphere for

“An intricate juxtaposition of harmonic and rhythmic layers looped with increasing complexity on top of choral samples”

what often felt like an intimate show put on for a close circle of friends, rather than a public performance in front of a big crowd.

During the course of each track, what often started as a deceptively simple melody, quietly crafted on the harmonic or the upright piano, would – with a few exceptions – quickly evolve into an intricate

juxtaposition of harmonic and rhythmic layers looped with increasing complexity on top of choral samples, expanding in texture to the point of filling up the whole auditorium with warm and reverberated sounds.

His short use of the grand piano as a percussion instrument – skilfully played with some toilet brushes (yes, that's right) – only made me wish he had gone on for longer, perhaps indulging less in the piano solos and more in dancefloor-friendly intermissions like ‘#2’. But, as he himself was happy to admit, people seemed to have a particular affection for those of his songs that consisted of “the same chord played over and over for six minutes”.

And it's hard to deny that it was exactly those songs that allowed his live show to reach a few moments of high lyricism, compared to which the occasional attempts to bring in punchier electronic kicks, although musically interesting, sometimes paled.

Despite that, Frahm perfectly juggled post-classical melodies with mesmerising loops and powerful bass lines like very few can do.

And after all, if a crowd of nearly 2,000 spectators sacrificed a rare sunny day in London to gather in the dark and watch him play, it was going to be worth it.

At £15 for a student ticket, I couldn't have asked for a better way to spend that cold Saturday afternoon.

I have neither the time nor the expertise to write a comprehensive piece, so I'll just relay some of my thoughts and feelings from my journey.



M.C. Escher didn't really do hugs, but if he did, I imagine they'd go like this // Matador

An album for cold weather

MUSIC

TWIN FANTASY



Artist: Car Seat Headrest.
Label: Matador.
Tracks: Honestly just listen to the whole thing.
For Fans Of: LCD Soundsystem; Whitney.
71 minutes

Adrian LaMoury
Music Editor

It's been a while since I wrote a proper review. This isn't a proper review.

Though really, they seldom are. I've listened to this album twice.

Once yesterday while I was working, and once more this morning as I walked through the snow into the *Felix* office. I think it's pretty great.

I have neither the time nor the expertise to write a comprehensive piece, so I'll just relay some of my thoughts and feelings from my journey.

The walk normally takes 35 minutes. This album is 71 minutes long. I was taking it slow today. Honestly I'd never even heard of Car Seat Headrest until recently. Though the name does feel familiar.

I'd hoped that this time I'd be able to pay closer attention to the music, but honestly I was more concerned with trying to stay upright. Making sure I didn't slip and fall and break my leg and die.

I survived. London is very pretty in the snow. For about 45 seconds. Before it turns to sludge.

It's not even new. It was recorded back in 2011 on a laptop. Super lo-fi. I didn't hear it at the time. For whatever reason, they decided to re-record it. I'm glad they did.

My socks are wet. The album is angsty and fumbling and personal and sweet. It's also quite funny. I like it when bands are funny.

I thought these boots were waterproof. Appar-

ently not.

Oh look there's Rhidian. On the picket line. He looks even colder than I feel. I don't know how he has the energy to stand there all day every day. Go Rhid.

I really should listen to that 2011 version.

Okay I lied a bit. My walk didn't really take me 71 minutes. I started the album before I left the house. Before I put my shoes on. Laced them up tight. Today is a bobble hat day. Got to the office with 15 minutes left. No one else was there so I carried on listening.

Sorry, this is hardly a review at all. Though let's be honest, no one reads these. Except the copy editors. Love you copy editors.

This album feels cosy while all else crumbles around me. I like it a lot.

Fred's in the office now. It's good music to soothe an imploding head.

God, I hope the snow melts before I go home.

MUSIC

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A short, mostly wrong history of punk rock, part I

Felix Music's resident punk rock addict gives the first instalment of a comprehensive history of the genre...

MUSIC

Henry Eshbaugh

Music Editor

Punk is hard to pin down; it's not a particular genre or style marked by any particular technical approach to writing music. In fact, most of the time, it's not very technical at all. It's sort of a patched-together set of reactions to a number of musical lineages, which entangled to form the angry, thrasy, alive music we know and love today.

One thing – there always been skinhead punk movements, but I'm not going into them here. This isn't what punk's about; in the immortal words of the Dead Kennedys, "Nazi punks fuck off!" The punk I know and love is fervently anti-racist.

Ok, history. The very first reaction was to 60s and 70s rock. Country, folk, and blues diverged in the early 1900s US; blues grew up in the Mississippi delta, and moved north to Chicago and Detroit, where it became electrified and gained wider

audiences. This was the precursor of modern rock, which evolved in the 40s and 50s. Rock shared with blues an affinity for the same three chords (tonic, subdominant, dominant, or I-IV-V in various arrangements). This sparseness was integral to the sound of the era; however, as rock aged, it left these behind. Gone were the days of minimalism and intimacy; the Guitar God was born, and displays of instrumental technicality came to dominate the live rock show.

This irritated the first punks, who came from the 60s garage-rock scene and kept with them a DIY ethos – bands like the Kinks, the Seeds, and the Sonics. Traditional punk bands like the Clash grew up in this era – tubthumping mish-mashes of power chords and energy.

In the US, experimental post-psych acts like the Velvet Underground and the Stooges were defining a sound of their own; a wave of the sound hit New York City in the early 70s, including the Dictators, the Modern Lovers, and Willie Alexander and the Boom Boom Band. These guys were avant-garde,

experimental, and did not give a shit about the established tastes of the time. Meanwhile, CBGB came and became a happening place – Blondie, the Cure, the Talking Heads, and so on. And in December 1969, a name was born: "Whiny, adolescently repulsive and barely dis-

"Whiny, adolescently, repulsive, and very similar street-punk anthems"

tinguishable street-punk anthems" wrote John Mendelson of the Stooges's debut.

These two lines, post-psych and garage-rock, are the ultimate stylistic source of punk, but punk represents an ethos that transcends any particular sound. Punk is primarily about community and individuality. Authority is scorned; individual, DIY effort is encouraged, and there is a great importance to the notion of "authenticity" – music, writing, art made with no reservations or ulterior motives, art made for art's sake.

Anyways, CBGB, the small Manhattan venue, thrived. The Heartbreakers, the Voidoids, and the Dead Boys all came through those doors, as did hundreds, hundreds, of other acts. Over its 30-something year run open, CBGB became the heart of US punk rock at the time.

In the UK, a shop named SEX hired some people, gave them names and trendy clothing, and formed the Sex Pistols.

They're pretty well known [citation needed]. Along the lines of pop punk, the Ramones paved the way; bands like the Buzzcocks and the Undertones emerged, and had a significant influence on pop-punk and skate punk, which arose – and will be talked about – later.

And the evolution continued; new wave happened, with bands like Ultravox, the Pretenders, the Cars, Tubeway Army, and CBGB acts like the Talking Heads and Blondie, which began moving in a less abrasive and more pop-friendly direction. Descendents include Morrissey, Duran Duran, Interpol, the National, the Strokes, the Killers, Slowdive, and Franz Ferdinand all have a new-wavey, post-punky heritage. These guys played with poppier sounds, synths, and a range of emotion decidedly less than just screaming into the mic.

On the other hand, there was a movement to make punk sound cold and industrial. Post-punk was a parallel movement, featuring Joy Division, the Fall, and the Raincoats. Modern derivatives include Protomartyr and New Order, which formed from the remains of Joy Division after Ian Curtis's unfortunate suicide. These artists are known for droning, plodding, spacy soundscapes and a brooding worldview. Many of these bands hail from the north of England, or other post-industrial areas (Protomartyr is from Detroit, for example) – a soundtrack to the desolate metalscape.

The second wave of ska was also brought about by punks; bands like the Specials, the Beat, and Madness typified the



2-tone "mod" era, and fed massively into the rise of third wave in the US (more later); their music was marked by a reggae-inspired sense of rhythm and HORNS EVERYWHERE. While ska originated in Jamaica alongside rocksteady and reggae, it was precisely this deterritorializing (to quote Deleuze and Guattari) adoption that has sustained the genre. The Specials are also the origin of the cultural touchstone that is Walt Jabsco, a skanking man ("skanking" refers to a dance common at these gigs; the term survives in modern drum'n'bass).

For this installment,

I'll close here, because this underpins a point I'd like to make: lots of punk doesn't sound like what people think punk should sound like. Punk is more an ethos, an aesthetic, a set of positions on religious wars endemic to the music industry, where authenticity, self-expression, and music for music's sake take priority over any other interest (be it corporate, Nazi, or The Man in your favorite incarnation). And that's why punks get so mad about 'sellouts': do whatever you want, just do it for yourself.

Stay tuned for Part 2: hardcore, skate, thrash, and the third and fourth waves of ska.



Andy Warhol

The Velvet Underground & Nico, their debut // Verve

GAMES

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I'm just saiyan: *Dragon Ball FighterZ*

After over thirty years, we finally have the perfect fighting game from the Dragon Ball franchise.

GAMES

DRAGON BALL FIGHTERZ



Studio: Bandai Namco Entertainment. **Director:** Junya Motomura. **Genre:** Fighting. **Platforms:** Microsoft Windows, PlayStation 4, Xbox One

Connor Winzar

Games Writer

Playing this game as a long-time fan of *Dragon Ball Z* and the fighter genre, I can say, without a doubt, that *DBZ FighterZ* feels like a love letter written to its fans. The game has surpassed both limits and expectations of the fighting game genre, going even further beyond with spectacular original soundtrack and gorgeous visuals, while at the same time being a perfect homage to its anime. In all of its Saiyan glory, *DBZ FighterZ* does have a small fault in its otherwise perfectly rendered abs which I'll discuss later. Now lets break it down, in *Lucio* style.

The story begins with the player finding themselves in the (stolen) body of our spikey haired protagonist Goku, due to a global soul disturbance that has resulted in the rest of the God-like *DBZ* cast (especially Yamcha) being drastically weakened. With characters only returning to their full strength when you control them, (in a peculiar, a steroid filled version of *Freaky Friday*) you progress through the story to unravel the mystery that surrounds Android 21 and her army of clones. The story is split into three main arcs, each centred around a different character, leading to an epic showdown with the aforementioned android. For a typical fighter the campaign is quite lengthy, however it's definitely worth a playthrough to unlock Android 21 as a playable character.

Unlike previous games in its franchise, *DBZ FighterZ* also includes the ability to strengthen the bonds you have with certain characters. This improves their abilities and power as well as open up unique dialogue. The campaign also boasts

hilarious interactions between characters, such as the Cell mocking Nappa for missing out on the apparent bargain sale that is going super saiyan, or the Ginyu force going into detail about the health care plan featured in Fireza's (disposable) army. Right from the beginning you gain the ability to select characters that you have rescued, incorporating them into your team of three as you battle against leagues and leagues of clones. With regards to the gameplay, the campaign can get monotonous with the constant pummelling of

"The game has surpassed both limits and expectations of the fighting game genre"

evil clones, however the power up system and unique dialogue makes up for this; especially when beating the snot out of the enemy whilst Vegeta cries



This isn't even my final form! // Bandai Namco Entertainment

out his Saiyan Pride in a testosterone fuelled rage.

Without a doubt, this is one of the best fighting games of this year and maybe this decade, *Dragon Ball FighterZ* brings new innovative combat that feels fresh and exhilarating. Consisting of a basic fighting game control scheme with the three primary attack buttons, being light, medium, heavy, and the fourth being a special move attack, the simplicity of the controls makes it easy for newcomers to pick up. Players fight in 3-person teams with team mechanics such as dynamic switching between characters and assists which can range from basic attacks to super moves. The game lends a caring hand to beginners by its introduction of auto combos which require only one button to be pressed multiple times, providing both decent damage and fantastic visuals. This is not to say that the game is without depth; additional investment of time and effort into mastering more advanced combos and being creative with in-game mechanics can

lead to truly terrifying results. Each character features their own distinct playstyle, for example Android 16 who is a bulky grapple type character and Hit, who is a strong counter-based character.

There is plenty to learn and to discover, with unique in-game cutscenes triggered by certain actions (recreating moments from the anime), as well as some characters possessing unique abilities. Additional features of the combat including 'Dragon Rush' which is

"The simplicity of the controls makes it easy for newcomers to pick up"

your basic dash towards your opponent and 'Vanish' a teleport that acts as a combo breaker.

The epic fantasia that are the super moves truly make the game feel like *Dragon Ball*. Rendered with in-game graphics, they are a sight to behold and to top off these brutal

scenes are cinematics that occur if you defeat one of the opponent's characters with a super or heavy attack, ranging from your opponent hurtling through pillars of rock or being obliterated off the face of the earth.

Despite my unending praise of *DBZ FighterZ* there is an issue beneath its almost perfect form; the online multiplayer can be some of the most rage inducing material on the planet, with connection issues that can make or break a match, completely ruining the spontaneous nature of the gameplay. With patches on their way, these server issues should be resolved soon, but in the meantime the offline options are more than enough to satiate your interest and provide endless fun.

I without a doubt, recommend this game to any fighting game enthusiast or just a casual *Dragon Ball* fan. For me, this game is near perfect but it hasn't reached its final form, it's a combination of everything good about *Dragon Ball* and the fighting genre, however the online latency issues let this masterpiece down.



TFW you submit a lab report before the deadline // Bandai Namco Entertainment

TRAVEL

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The miners make it to the end of the trail

We reach the thrilling conclusion of the story of the RSM miners, and their mission to take on the toughest trail in Europe. Expect raised tensions, dreams of pizza, and too much cheese.



The barren landscape // Georgios Chatzitheoklitos

TRAVEL

Georgios Chatzitheoklitos
Travel Writer

Day 11 – Stage 11A

Having set our minds on doing the alternative high route in pursuit of more stunning views, we agreed to leave at 7am. The girls were punctual as always, and at 7am they went to the boys tent to find them still sleeping! But the boys overslept after having a nightmare with the tent in the strong overnight winds. Agreeing on the shorter, easier low route, we enjoyed a hot chocolate in the refuge before setting off. We were delighted to find that the terrain was even easier than yesterday and we completed the 14km to Refuge di Verdi by midday. We were hoping to push on to Refuge de Prati, 4.5km into tomorrow's stage,

“After 30 mins of debating whether to push on or not, Georgios grabbed the bull by the horns and we flipped a coin”

of debating whether to push on or not, Georgios grabbed the bull by the horns and we flipped a coin... tails we're staying. So we spent the rest of the afternoon by the fire

reading *Asterix & Obelix en Corse* and playing cards with our new German friends, Felix and Caroline – Ironman triathletes who were hiking the GR20 for their third time.

With strong winds forecast to continue for the rest of the day, the refuge staff advised us that nobody should attempt the high route today, since it involves traversing an exposed arête that would be dangerous in high winds

Day 12 – Stage 12

Felix and Caroline somehow managed to convince us to put ridiculous o'clock alarms on again to climb up the mountain before sunrise, but when we woke up and stuck our heads out the tents, there wasn't a star in sight. We concluded it'd be too cloudy for a decent view so happily fell back asleep, setting off at a more reasonable 6am instead. Today's hike involved two main climbs

– the first up to the refuge we considered staying at last night, at 1820 metres (and Punta Mozza slightly higher up), and the other a steeper boulder-studded climb that zigzagged up to Monte Furmicula, at 1981 metres. It was just as we began the final descent towards Refuge d'Usciolu that the rain began, and once it started it did not relent. We miserably pitched our tents in the rain, shivering from the cold, and ate our dinner in bed before going to sleep at 5pm (well trying to sleep anyway...). The night that ensued was one of the worst any of us could recall. Water pooled under our tents and our flip-flops could be seen floating in the outer. Everything got wet, and even in all our layers and our survival blankets we were freezing in our sleeping bags. But it was the boys, and Harry in particular, who had it worst. After feasting on the world

famous Corsican cheese, which according to some authors (see Uderzo et Gosciny, 1973) has the power to defeat an entire Roman legion, he was ill and threw up all over his sleeping bag, hiking boots, and tent. Georgios was not best impressed!

Day 13 – Stage 13/14

That morning was the lowest point of the expedition.

The rain had stopped

“After feasting on the world famous Corsican cheese, Harry was ill and threw up over his tent”

and the sun was shining, but it was still very cold. During the night, the boys covered themselves with their survival bags, as the water pooling below the tent had a freezing effect. However, they didn't account for perspiration and when they woke up, any clothes that were not wet because of the rain were wet because of their sweat. To top that they had to climb a 100m cliff in order to get the icy water needed for the tent to be cleaned.

Tensions between the members were high, and understandably so. No one had a relaxing sleep and as girls were once again ready on time so they had to wait for around an hour, and were not pleased. However, after they learned about last night they were more understanding and helped the boys pack up faster!

Despite our intentions to double today, everyone was feeling quite grim,



We did it! Smiles all round at the end of the GR20 trail // Georgios Chatzitheoklitos

TRAVEL

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Last day team photo with our friends, Mandus and Alex. Cool t-shirts, right? // Georgios Chatzitheoklitos

so we were unsure as to whether we'd be up for the double stage, but we didn't have to decide until the turning, which was two hours into the day. Our kit was wet from the night from hell last night so our bags were heavier and the going was very tough as we scrambled across the arête. We eventually found our rhythm though, and gritted through both stages. It was the afternoon ascent of Monte Alcludina that really challenged us. Before the climb even began we'd already had a long day's undulating hike; the incline was never ending and seemed to get perpetually steeper. As more mountains kept appearing above us, even Harry (who usually powers up the ascents) was left broken and collapsed in a heap at the top! We were glad to see Refuge d'Asinau only a short descent from the peak and spent the evening desperately trying to get

warm in the communal tent space with the other hikers. Another cold night ensued and everyone except Carla (who seems to sleep through absolutely anything) were kept awake by hail and a thunderstorm which left the mountain covered in ice and snow when we awoke the next morning.

“We eventually found our rhythm though, and gritted through both stages of the climb”

Day 14 – Stage 15B

It was a momentous morning – for the first time in our GR20 experi-

ence the boys were ready on time! Perhaps even slightly before Diane and Carla, so they claimed. We set off, actually as planned, at 9am for the high route. Only 8km long, it involved a steep ascent up to Aiguilles de Bavella which provided a beautiful view over the East and South Coast from the rocky towers at the summit. The penultimate day of our expedition and we got our first peek of the finish. The descent was full of day walkers, filling us with anticipation of the small taste of civilisation waiting for us in Village de Bavella at the foot of the mountain. We could almost smell the pizzeria (which had a working oven this time – thank goodness!). Only 2.5km of hiking away, it took nearly two hours for us to complete the incredibly steep, rocky descent involving the use of chains in places. One part in particular involved a giant sloping slab of rock sur-

mounted by an enormous jammed boulder which we heaved our way up on the chain then squeezed through a gap at the top. Once the day's work was over, we booked into the gîte d'etape (there were no campsites in the village) and went straight for pizza. We thoroughly gorged ourselves in the food we'd been dreaming about for days before

a late afternoon nap to revitalise ourselves for the three course evening meal included with our accommodation! It was as if tonight was an appetiser for the luxuries we could enjoy when we complete the trail tomorrow.

Day 15 – Stage 16

Knowing only a matter of hours separated us from the end of the hardest trail in Europe, we relaxed (perhaps too much) at breakfast, feasting on bread and Corsican jams and left to the sound of live Russian music performed by Harry. We took our time, relishing the last 19km of the GR20 with Alex and Mandus, taking in the views for a final time. We all wore our team expedition polo shirts and took group photos at every opportunity. Our legs were weary, especially Harry's, whose ankle was causing him trouble again on the tricky terrain, but we pushed on, reminiscing about our journey across the island. Today the landscape was like that of a different country all together, as we descended away from the mountainous spine of Corsica and down into the forests towards the sea. Even the pools we bathed in 5km from the end were described as 'lukewarm' in the guidebook. They were by no means any description of warm but they

were much more bearable than the mountain lakes and rivers we'd paddled in on previous days. The final few kilometres seemed to last forever but eventually we rounded a bend to a view of Conca not far below us. There was a lot of excitement and pride as we strode down into the village, where we were greeted by... well practically nothing! No glorious finish line or souvenir shops. There was barely even a sign to tell us where the official end actually was! But there was one small bar in the village where we found many of the hikers we'd shared our journey with, and just down the road was Max.

More than 2 weeks of trekking through the Corsican mountains had come to an end. We all agreed it was one of, if not the, best thing we'd ever done. We'd met some incredible people, bonded as a team, learnt some French (perhaps not Diane), seen the geology of the entire backbone of Corsica and, above all, completed the hardest trail in Europe. We're incredibly grateful to Imperial Exploration Board and the RSM trust for funding our expedition, and hope our adventure will inspire other students to undertake similar challenges.



Harry after summiting Monte Alcludina // Georgios Chatzitheoklitos



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FOOD

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A couple of Asian-inspired recipes for you to fry!

FOOD

Andrada Balmez

Food Editor

Writing feels oddly therapeutic most of the time and I am not sure why I stayed away from it for so long – I mean, two weeks is a really long time, but I have an excuse! (I mean, I always have an excuse, don't I?) I experimented with new ideas and tried new ingredients and culinary zones so I can come here today and present new tested recipes. So, without further ado, here we go on a nice journey that to me – an Eastern European – brings to the table food that I am not used to. They are fairly familiar to some students, and who knows, maybe they can come and improve them.

MANGO AND CHICKEN STIR FRY

You will need...

- 800g chicken breast, cut into cubes
- 3 tbsp oil
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 2 tbsp soysauce
- 400g green peas
- 2 tbsp honey
- Salt
- Pepper
- 3 mangos
- 1 medium red onion
- 1 jalapeno
- ½ tbsp. fresh ginger
- 1 tbsp hot pepper sauce
- 2 tbsp lime juice

- 1.** In a large bowl, mix the mangos, red onion, jalapeños, fresh ginger, hot pepper sauce, and lime juice. This is a trickiest part, as you should blend them in order to get a smooth texture – I assume that if you chop them well enough, you can use them in a cruder version, as long as you do not mind it. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
- 2.** An alternative would be to find mango salsa to buy if you look hard enough.
- 3.** In a bowl, combine the chicken, 1 tbsp oil, cornstarch, and half the soy sauce. Make sure that all the chicken is covered and let rest for at least 10 minutes – consider that you might want to keep the chicken in the fridge if it's longer.

I was a bit reluctant about the combination of mango and chicken in the beginning, but now I love it as it is a great mixture between sweet and spicy food. This is obviously not an original recipe, but since I had it for the first time in a restaurant, I tried a lot of variations I could find online and I would like to think that this variation is the best.

- 4.** Boil the green peas for 3-5 minutes.
- 5.** Heat a pan on high. Add the remaining oil and, when hot enough, add the chicken and cook (depending on how big the cubes are this should take 6-10 minutes).
- 6.** When cooked properly, add the boiled green peas, mango salsa, remaining soy sauce, and the honey. Mix well and allow to cook for another 2-4 minutes.
- 7.** Finally, season with salt and pepper.
- 8.** I recommend serving it with some white rice, as you will be able to enjoy the sweet and spicy taste better – but if you really want, you can try other side-dishes, too. Don't forget to enjoy!

Katsudon and egg rice bowl

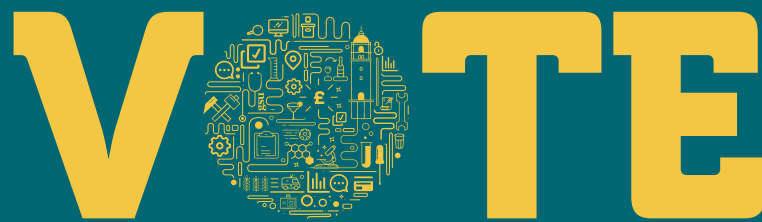
Before saying anything else about this recipe, I have to admit that this resembles much European cuisine and that, generally, there are very many similar dishes in most countries – in the end, this is only a pork cutlet. But the Japanese version has something special to it, mostly because the rice complements so well the soy sauce and the mirin.

You will need...

- Pork chops (boneless, the kind you will find in any shop – not very thick ones, however)
- Salt
- Pepper
- Flour
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup breadcrumbs (originally panko, but it's easier to find plain breadcrumbs than the Japanese version)
- Oil
- ½ cup dashi stock (can also be replaced by ordinary chicken stock)
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tsp Mirin (you can try replacing it with some sweet rice wine, but I cannot guarantee that this is a good idea)
- 1 onion
- White rice
- 1 scallion

As you can see from the ingredients list, but there are a couple that are very specific. I believe that some of them (if not all) can be easily replaced with what you find at any corner shop, but the good thing about London is that you should find them easily.

- 1.** Start by seasoning the pork chops with salt and pepper. After mixing the egg, dust the chops with a bit of flour and then coat them with the egg. Finally, coat them with the panko/breadcrumbs, until you get an even layer. Remember to put the breadcrumbs and egg in a shallow bowl so you can easily do this step.
- 2.** Cook the pork in hot oil – you can check if it's hot enough by seeing if a breadcrumb sizzles. For ~1cm thick chop, you should fry it 5-6 mins on each side or until golden brown.
- 3.** Drain the extra oil on a plate lined with a paper towel.
- 4.** In the same pot (it should still have the oil and all the juice from the meat) add the finely chopped onions until it is slightly caramelised. Pour the stock, sugar, soy sauce, and Mirin over the onions.
- 5.** Cut the pork chops and place over the onion, while the cooker is on medium heat.
- 6.** In a bowl, beat the remaining two eggs and add them in the pan, drizzling them over everything. Cook until they are set.
- 7.** Serve over a bowl of steamed white rice (to be fair, I just buy a pack of pre-cooked rice and I microwave it as I am too lazy to cook rice).



#voteicu

imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

Voting Opens

Voting opens at noon today in The Leadership Elections. You have until noon, next Friday 9 March to decide your student leaders.

Vote now at imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

These elections touch every aspect of student life at Imperial - from funding decisions, to extra-curricular programmes, to the menu in Union bars, the roles have a big impact on the quality of your university experience. We encourage you to have your say.

Our Officer Trustees (Union President and four Deputies) also represent the student body to College on a wide range of issues. The higher the voter turnout, the bigger their mandate - making it easier for them to influence decisions at the highest level.

Let's get the highest turnout in the country

Imperial consistently ranks among the unions with the highest turnout in the country. We're aiming to top the list this year.

How to vote:

- on any device with an internet connection
- login to imperialcollegeunion.org/vote and follow instructions.

Track turnout:

To get live updates on voting throughout the week, visit imperialcollegeunion.org/stats.

Vote now at imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

Debate

Q&A with Candidates

Candidates for key positions will be going head to head in a debate, with opportunity for all students to ask questions.

Join us at 18:30, next Wednesday 7 March as we livestream the event on Imperial College Union's Facebook page.

This is your chance to clarify manifestos and get feedback on the issues that matter to you.

Livestream link: facebook.com/imperialcollegeunion

Results Party

Results Party

After voting closes on Friday 9 March, everyone is invited to gather at Metric for the exciting results announcement.

Come find out who your new student leaders are for the next academic year, commiserate with those who were not successful, and celebrate our democracy as a Union.

The Results Party starts at 19:00. Entry is free.

Vote now at imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

LIBERATION

icu-mentalhealth@imperial.ac.uk

Making sure to look after your friends

Talking to friends can be much easier than speaking to a stranger. Here are some top tips on how to look out for friends who might be struggling.

LIBERATION

Ariana Sadr-Hashemi

Mental Health Liberation Officer

The Under Pressure campaign this week has highlighted the stress associated with studying and various ways to deal with it. However, many students at Imperial struggle with their mental health in silence due to the pervasive attitude that having difficulties with mental health is a weakness. This is also the kind of issue that feeds itself: people assume nobody else is struggling, so they stay silent and then the next person to struggle again assumes nobody else is having difficulty. It is incredibly difficult to break this cycle directly. However there is something we can do: look after your friends.

Ultimately, it's a lot easier to talk to a friend if you're struggling than a stranger (or, even worse, a stranger who may be able to impact your grade). As someone's friend, you can provide them with a comfortable and supportive setting to discuss any difficulties. You're also in a good position to notice the key outward signs that someone is struggling. The Imperial Counselling Service recommends four key areas to look out for:

Behavioural Changes: Are they acting differently? Examples include changes in sleeping or eating habits, withdrawal from social contact and activities, not attending



Checking in on your friends is vital // CC

lectures or society activities as they normally would, and increased use of drugs and alcohol.

Physical Changes: Do they look different? Examples include noticeable weight gain or loss, looking pale or tired or noticeably anxious and worried, and sudden changes in personal hygiene.

Emotional Changes: Have their moods changed? Examples include being consistently more tearful, irritable or sensitive, and more frequent/severe mood swings.

Intellectual Changes: Is what they are saying very different? Examples include continual negative thinking, such as self-deprecating statements or thinking that the worst-case scenario is always going to happen, inability to concentrate, and difficulty following conversations.

As well as being able to

notice these signs, it's also important to have an idea of what to do to support your friends. Here's a brief overview of things to remember:

1. Start the conversation: One of the most helpful things you can do is ask your friend how they are doing, and not just superficially. If you have noticed any of the signs mentioned above, your friend might appreciate the opportunity to get things off their chest. Remember that it is usually easier to have these conversations in private and when you both have enough time to chat. The tone of the conversation is also important: avoid leading questions and don't probe beyond what your friend is comfortable with. You don't need to give advice, as often these conversations are useful on their own.

2. Make sure they're taking care of themselves: Whether it's making sure

that they're having fun with friends, eating right, exercising or sleeping more. Ultimately, taking care of your mental wellbeing is especially important when things are tough. If your friend is dropping the ball on these things, you can text reminders or organise events to give them that extra nudge.

3. Take care of yourself first: This is by far the most important point. You don't need to be on call 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Helping a friend with their struggles requires a lot of emotional effort, and if you're burning out it's ok to take a step back. It's also important to remember that you might not be able to solve the issues your friend is struggling with, and it may get to the point where professional help is needed. If that's the case, recognise that what they need is not something that you can give.

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

LIBERATION

Ariana Sadr-Hashemi

Mental Health Liberation Officer

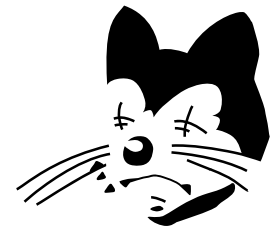


From *Felix* articles to Under Pressure week, my term so far has been full to the brim with mental health talks and discussions. I'm well aware that, as this is the first year my position has existed, most of the things I start are too big for me to be able to finish. That said, I've managed to get bits and bobs done this year.

Firstly, I've been in discussions with the Union Shop about stocking wellbeing related items. So far, they have agreed to stock fidget cubes (with a little description from me about why they're useful) and will review stocking other items suggested by me depending on how they sell.

Additionally, I've been working very hard to put wellbeing and liberation on the map at Union Council. I've passed a paper regarding guidelines to make Union activities more accessible to people with dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD, and autism, and regularly advocated for a meeting room that is fully wheelchair accessible (which, so far, it has not been). I've also seconded papers on the creation of a liberation officer to represent those from poorer backgrounds, now subject to a consultation (please take part!) and the creation of an official petitions system which is now underway. I've also attended meetings of the Community and Welfare Board (essentially the welfare subcommittee of council) and met with members of college staff to discuss everything from having better counselling provision on non-SK campuses (including White City) to putting mental health before academic attainment.

However, my position's time to shine will be during exams next term when I will be doing work with a college-wide campaign centred around the topics covered in my article. Mentality will also have a role in the campaign, so keep an eye out for it!



Hangman



Decisions, decisions, decisions // CC

Record number of sabbatical candidates, amid poor post-graduate job market

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

The number of candidates has soared, as people realise it's easier to get a job at ICU than KPMG.

This year has seen a record number of students running for paid sabbatical positions in the Leadership Elections, as the job market continues to contract.

Overall, more than 30 students are running

for the seven positions, which include Union President, Deputy Presidents, and Felix Editor. It is one of the highest turnouts in recent history,

“One possible explanation for the surge is the increasingly competitive job market”

with all positions being contested. One possible explanation for this surge in candidates may be the increasingly competitive

job market which has seen graduates finding it harder to land a job when out of university.

Adam Karney, Imperial College Union's Head of Democracy Extension, told *Hangman* that the increased number of candidates were “a clear win for student democracy, and not a reflection of the inability of materials students' inability to land jobs in consulting”. Speaking to *Hangman*, he said: “these results are historic, and show just how much our students are committed to deepening democracy, amplifying the student voice, and getting paid a very generous salary for a role where there is very little oversight and you

leave office before anyone can take you to task on the

“One candidate said she was running for the role after failing a McKinsey interview”

things you haven't done.” Speaking to candidates, however, revealed a different picture; Sarah Pliner, a final-year biologist who is running to be Deputy President (Edutainment),

told *Hangman*: “I'd hoped to have a series of jobs in the investment banking industry lined up, but I spent my summers back-packing around South East Asia to make up for my lack of personality, and didn't have any unpaid internships to pad out my CV. With my prospects looking gloomy, I thought I'd put my hat into the ring for a sabb role; from the looks of things this one is mainly about telling students to make SACAs nominations.”

While some might have expected the change in payment from GBP to Yoyo points (as reported in last week's *Hangman*) to have put some students off running, it seems to have only increased the

candidate pool. Janet Beck, a MSc student, said the change was what had prompted her to run: “I've just been telling everyone I'm being paid in cryptocurrency, and now they think ICU is some kind of super cool start-up, rather than the place people go to for curly fries.”

Other reasons students gave for running for sabbatical positions included “I hear you get to use the Student Activities Centre printers for free”, “I didn't get past the interview stage at McKinsey”, and “I genuinely have nothing better to do with my time.”

Voting opens today. You can vote at vote.union.ic.ac.uk

HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

Snowstorm brings short-lived happiness to Imperial students

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

Heavy snow has rekindled memories of childhood amid TFL hellscares.

Heavy snowstorms that coated London this week brought a small sense of short-lived joy to Imperial students.

Students were seen taking selfies in the snow on their way into lectures,

stopping in for hot chocolate at the library cafe, and generally welcoming any change to the routine that breaks up the monotony of everyday life.

Student reaction to the snow – which brought a host of problems with travel and transport, but also rekindled small sparks of childhood joy and nostalgia – was mixed. Tom Marks, a first year bioengineering student, told *Hangman*: “When I looked out of my window this morning and saw a fresh crisp blanket of pristine snow, it reminded me of my childhood in rural Wales, where I'd spend

snow days at my grandma's house, sipping cocoa and watching CBBC. I soon realised that snow as an adult just means getting stuck on a packed District Line train for 35 mins while you wait for a platform to clear at Earl's Court. Yet another memory of my granny ruined.”

James Karnet, a third-year materials student, also had a mixed reaction: “It was snowing pretty hard while I had a break between lectures, so I went out to Dalby Court and drew a giant penis. It was pretty funny, but then I remembered I'm

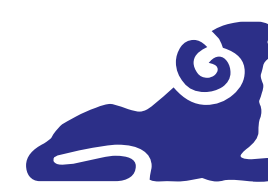


Let it snow (but not enough for the District Line to be fucked up) // Felix

going to graduate with over £50k in debt, and everyone in my group project is a narcissistic megalomaniac, and then I

felt sad again.” Students and staff who are concerned about the possibility of an overdose of whimsy are advised to

take solace in the fact the majority of the snow has turned to horrible grey slush.



ARIES

This week you're the Felix Editor. You get snowed in, and resort to burning copies for warmth. It's what they're best for really.



TAURUS

This week you're on the hockey team, and you're looking forward to Hockey Varsity! Oh, wait...



GEMINI

This week you're the College, and your plan to alter the weather and drive out the picket lines has gotten out of hand.



CANCER

This week you become a scab, crossing the picket line to pick up lunch from Fusion. Fair enough.



LEO

This week you're TFL, and you're looking forward to running a good service in the snow! Oh, wait...



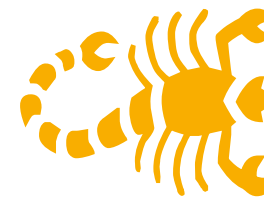
VIRGO

This week you fall in the snow and can't get up. Well, you can, but you really can't be bothered.



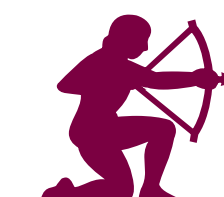
LIBRA

This week your rent at GradPad means you have no money for food. You resort to licking crumbs out of your microwave oven.



SCORPIO

This week you run a joke campaign for Union president, centring around VKs. You win in a landslide.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you're a Union hack, and you can't wait for elections! Finally, a topic you can fall back on to hide your chronic lack of chat.



CAPRICORN

This week you're an election candidate, and you're looking forward to a well-run student election! Oh, wait...



AQUARIUS

This week you take a break from endless lab reports to catch up with an old friend: pure grain alcohol.

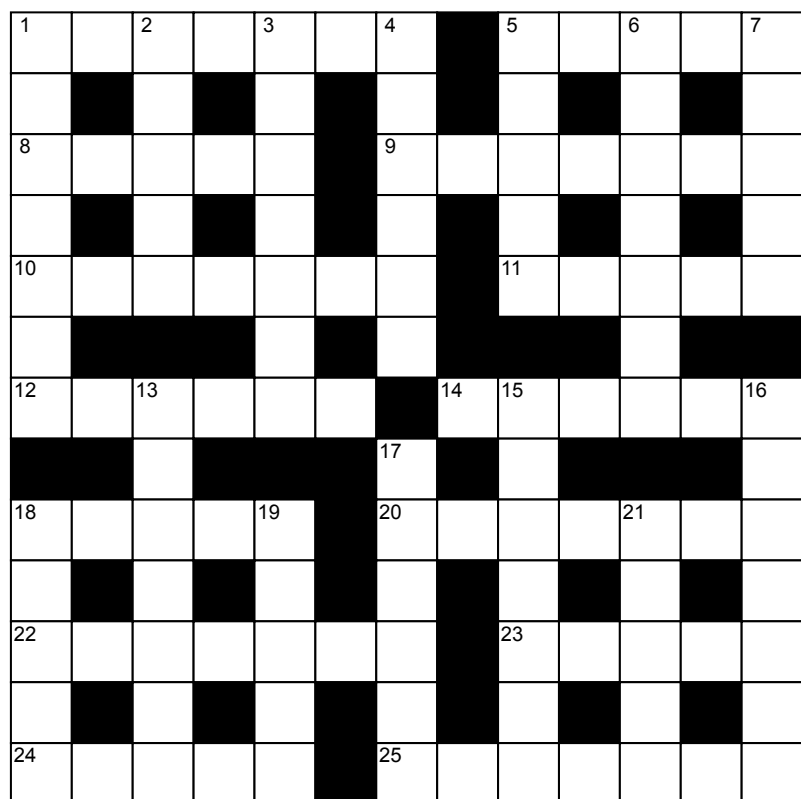


PISCES

This week you're the Horoscopes Writer, and the pressure of being the most-read section of *Felix* is starting to get to you.

PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

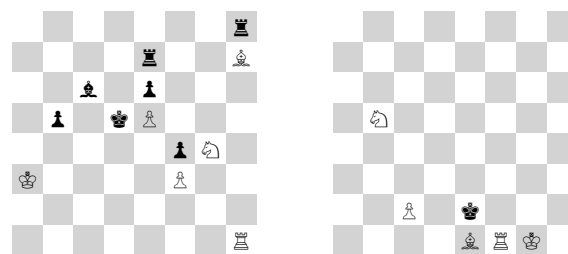


Across

- 1. Moving from place to place (7)
- 5. Cut of a sheep (5)
- 8. City of northern Italy (5)
- 9. Also a cad (7)
- 10. Fruit (7)
- 11. Scottish child (5)
- 12. Stops moving motor (6)
- 14. Adorned (6)
- 18. Inexpensive (5)
- 20. Arabic maths (7)
- 22. Fishing (7)
- 23. Norwegian composer (5)
- 24. Amalgamate (5)
- 25. Most sorrowful (7)

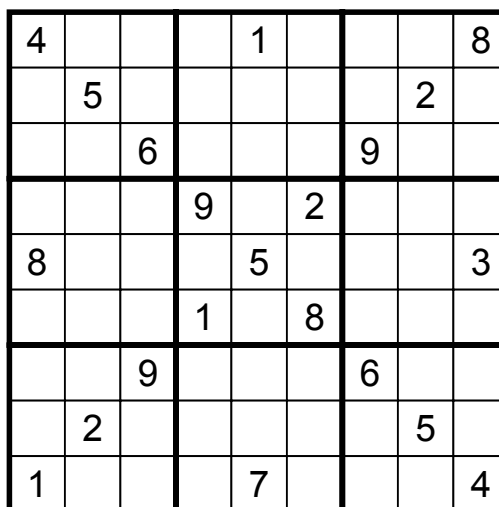
Down

- 1. Ideas (7)
- 2. Anglicised form of Muirne (5)
- 3. Irish county (7)
- 4. Style of art associated with Picasso (6)
- 5. Small fragment of bread (5)
- 6. Satan (3,4)
- 7. Alluring woman (5)
- 13. Engrave (anag.) (7)
- 15. Betrothed (7)
- 16. Depth of a vessel (7)
- 17. Traditional Scottish dish (6)
- 18. Abyss (5)
- 19. Balance (5)
- 21. Cloth for card tables (5)



Chess

White to move first in both problems with a forced checkmate in 3 moves (left) and 4 moves (right).



FUCWIT

1	Nonogram of Ketamine	295
2	Q	230
3	Puzzle Snuggle Cuddle Couple	222
4	TioUdin	207
5	OK	189
7	Luncheon Pals	126
11	The Indoor Sundial	102
19	Maxiane	47
22	Snails	37
23	Konmai	36

Send in your solutions to fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk before midday Wednesday!

Points Available

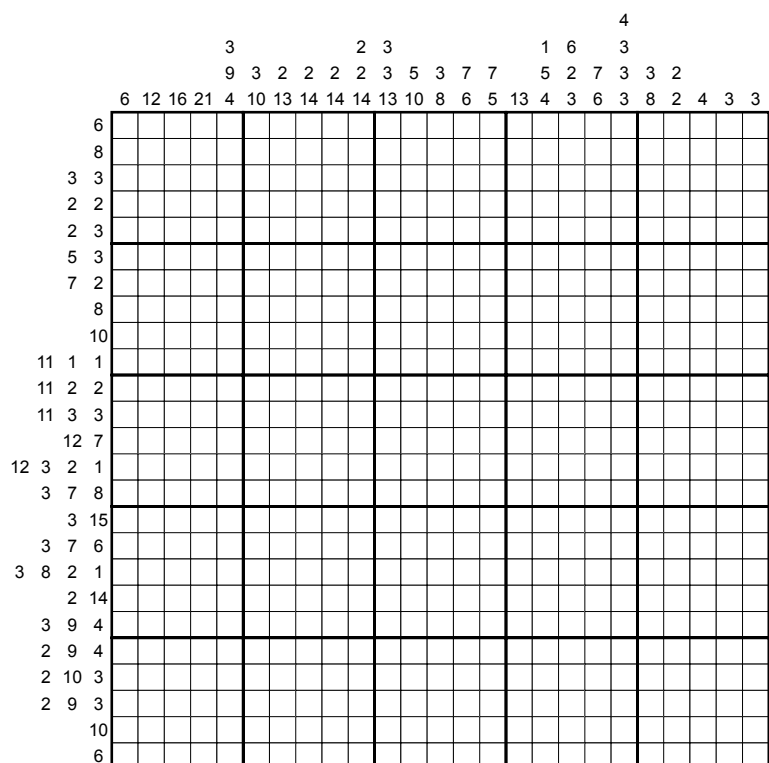
Crossword	4
Chess	6
Sudoku	2
Nonogram	4
Slitherlink	4
Doughnut	6
Total	26

Solutions



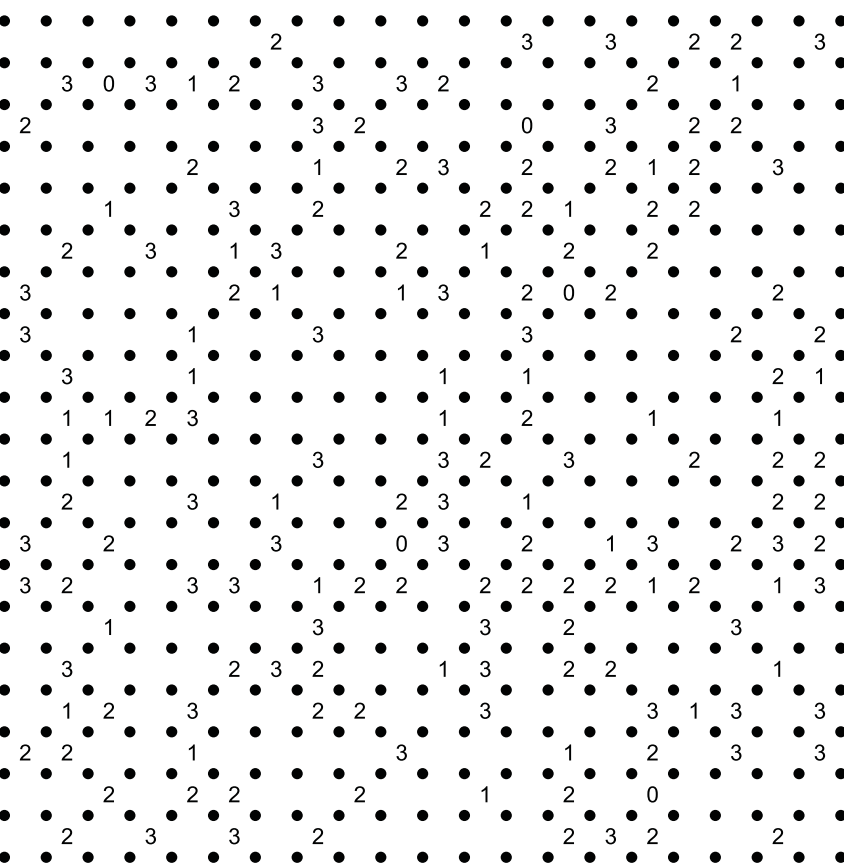
Doughnut

How many pieces can you cut a ring doughnut into with three straight cuts?



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.



Slitherlink

Draw a single, non-crossing loop by connecting adjacent points. The number in each cell indicates how many sides are closed.

SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial Kabaddi head to the National Tournament

Imperial Kabaddi head to the National Tournament to defend their title of National Champions.

SPORTS

Roland Rousselot

IC Kabaddi

The NHSF National Tournament is the biggest Kabaddi event of the year, with universities nationwide coming to play and watch. IC 1s have won the tournament for the last three years. Matches were nine minutes long, and there were two groups, from which four teams qualify for the semi-finals, followed by the final.

1s take home the crown

The IC 1s had a comfortable group, their first game against IC 3s. The 1s annihilated their own clubmates with a 29-2 victory. Building up momentum, they sliced through Manchester and LSE 2s with relative ease. The final group match against the UoB 2s went without incident, until one of the defenders (Felix) dashed out the raider, accidentally hitting his head on the face of the 1s

captain, Karmanya. Chaos ensued as the paramedics took him off the pitch. However, so determined was Karmanya to steer his team to victory, he was back on the pitch for the semi-finals against LSE 1s. He led by example as the IC 1s opened a lead against their long-time rivals (to whom they lost at London Zone), claiming a 12-8 victory.

A tight final was on the cards. Previous winners, the IC 1s, up against previous Runners Up and Central Zone winners, UoB 1s. Game on. Raid after raid. Aggressive defending from both sides. Hunger for points. Arguments with the refs. The 1s took the lead in the raiding but a defensive surge from the UoB side resulted in a series of knock-outs to the IC 1s side. The IC defenders kept their poise, however, and put in some mesmerising tackles. The team held strong for the final minutes of the game. The final whistle was blown. The ref beckoned the teams over. The score – UoB 1s 15-19 IC 1s!

National Champions. Fourth year running.

2s bow out in a great final match

The IC 2s found themselves in decidedly the more difficult of the two groups, facing finalists from previous years: LSE 1s, UoB 1s, and Kings. The addition of Warwick wasn't ideal either – a side known for their aggressive defence.

The first game was close: a slim loss to KCL. Nonetheless, the 2s put forward some stellar Kabaddi. Put on the back foot, KCL was saved by the end of the short game. The next game against LSE saw the return of bad habits from the experienced 2s team. These impacts continued into the next match against UoB, despite the extra five minutes allowed between games for the ex-IC medic referee to go and relocate someone's shoulder.

Three losses meant that the 2s knew they weren't in the semis, so had nothing to lose going into their last match. Warwick – a team with a highly aggressive play-style. The 2s' composure shone through: quintessential clever Kabaddi, forcing



Squad goals // IC Kabaddi

and exploiting the opponent's errors. A spectacular win and a great way to end the day for the IC 2s.

3s keep their spotless reputation

The pressure was on this year for the IC 3s. With such high praise as "literally the best 3rd team in the UK Kabaddi scene" resting on their shoulders, following a stellar performance last year, they were looking to maintain

a spotless reputation in 2018.

They didn't disappoint. After an initial setback with a ten-point loss to wild card team Manchester (who haven't graced the sport for three years...) the 3s rallied to the inspiring words of Neev "PBL" Trehan. A good thing too. Their next match was a biggy: LSE 2s. Arch rivals of IC Kabaddi. The fire in the belly of this relatively-inexperienced team was fuelled, ploughing through the LSE side to an 18-14 victory! Their final match was against the Birmingham 2s but what was shaping up to be a nail-biting game ended with a 14-15 loss.

So do the 3s of 2018 compare to those of 2017? No. They're leagues ahead. IC Kabaddi asked the same critic who gave them such high praise last year and he responded: "I have never, in all my years as a professional Kabaddier, seen a 3s team play like that. These guys aren't the best 3s team on the UK Kabaddi scene; they're the best in the world!"

Women's team fight through injuries

The Imperial women had a tough fight going in with a team riddled with injuries and three members playing for the first time!

Game 1: KCL. The tone was set for the tournament – fast and aggressive Kabaddi. IC started the game with fantastic tackles. Unfortunately, the lead was lost at the end, with KCL winning 15-17.

LSE 2s were next. With the new IC members gaining confidence, this match saw some slick raids and crunching tackles. This was reflected in the result – a 15-15 draw against the LSE 2s. The final was against long-time rivals and the team to beat – LSE 1s. While IC raided hard and tackled harder, the final score stood at 9-18.

The heightened standard of Kabaddi shown by the women was terrific. The women will continue to train hard in anticipation of their rematch against LSE 1s at the City Varsity. Watch this space.



The Kabaddi squad celebrating after their day of success // IC Kabaddi

SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial dodgeball – Wolverines stay undefeated!

SPORTS

Lochlan Allison
Wolverine's Secretary

3 Imperial Dodgeball 1s
1 Herts Dodgeball A Team

Going into last weekend, Imperial Wolverines 1st team were leading the University Dodgeball League South, closely followed behind by Hertfordshire Stags A's in second place. Last Saturday saw the second match of a back to back Imperial/Hertfordshire showdown; the winner of which would most likely go on to win the league. At the previous encounter, we narrowly ousted

a strong Hertfordshire team, 16-12; having to earn every point from an unflinching opposition. Although Hertfordshire lost the last fixture, with a much stronger point difference than us, a win for them could prove pivotal in the conclusion of the league.

The game started and it was clear from the start that Hertfordshire changed their gameplan from the previous match. Instead of single throws which allowed us gain lots of catches, Herts resolved to two ball throws, particularly pinning our two wings, Nithin Thoppuram and Steve Ndumbe. Hertfordshire set the tempo in the first game, catching us off guard and pinging us out individually until eventually, Steve was a lone Wolverine faced with four Herts players. With little time left, Steve

single handedly whittled down the Stags to a single player. The game ended a draw – a fortunate result considering our poor team effort.

After a shaky start, we settled as a team and concentrated on shaping the game to our liking. We won the next few games with fantastic throw accuracy from Vino

"Throw together and dodge alone"

Arulanthanan, Nithin, and Steve after an in game change of tactics.

Hertfordshire answered back intermittently with their own victories. In games where we went down on players, tremendous dodging skills,

for example from our Captain, Filip Sebest, allowed us to run down the clock and minimise the effectiveness of their game victory. We knew our strategy was working as we entered the break; the score at 8-4.

Although we struggled to gain three ball advantage off the start of each match, sporadic catches from Leo Haigh and Lochlan Allison gave us initial number advantages which then allowed our strong throwers to pick off the Stags one by one. We would've been naïve to think Hertfordshire would go down without a fight, gaining small advantages of their own from getting hits off pre-throws and with punishing counters at the half way line.

In the end, we remained absolute as a team, and worked a well-deserved victory from our closest



Wolverine's post-game victory stance. // Wolverines

rivals. With two wins from two against the Stags and remaining unbeaten, we have a fantastic chance of defending our league champions title. However, the season is far from over:

fierce competition from the likes of UCL Pumas and UEA Falcons 1s have the potential to cause an upset. We will however, as always, throw together and dodge alone.

Varsity headliners, Imperial netball 1s on top form

SPORTS

Siu Teo
ICNC Honorary Secretary

45 Imperial Netball 1s
43 Kingston Netball 1s

the end of the first quarter we were winning 14-8. It was clear, however, from the start of the second quarter that Kingston were not going to let it be an easy win for us.

With some great shooting from freshers

Tilly Cole and Emily Snook we were able to hold on to the lead, but by the end of the third quarter we were only up by five. With an interception early on in the fourth quarter from the opposition we knew we

could not afford to make any more mistakes. This was no problem for our other two 1s freshers Aimee Spurling and Anna Seidel who steadied the pace of the game and kept the centre court calm ensuring we did not give

away any more turnovers. The final score was 45-43 to IC which only goes to show how much we have improved since the beginning of the season. If you want to see an even more intense and well contested game

be sure to look out for us as the headlining event at Varsity! It is the first time in history that Netball are headlining, so please show your support for us next weekend in the fight for gold against the medics.



ICUNC squad relaxing after a tough game of Netball // ICUNC

Since losing to Kingston 1s at the beginning of the season (despite great play), we faced them again last week knowing we had something to prove. The match started off fast-paced with solid play from IC, especially from defensive duo Laila Howe and Filippa Furniss, who fought relentlessly taking interception after interception. This meant at

BOTTLE MATCH

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RSM men's hockey hold onto sharpley cup!

SPORTS

Rowan Hedgecock
RSM Men's Hockey Captain

3 RSM Men's Hockey
3 CSM Men's Hockey

After an intense warm up, Royal School of Mines won the toss and chose to play with the sun behind them. It did little good. Four minutes into the game and all the meticulous game day preparations seemed to be in vain, as Camborne School of Mines scored the opener. This only proved to spur on RSM. A goal line save to prevent an equaliser added to the

frustration, but it wasn't long before Henry Sewell set up Rich Price for a well worked goal to raise RSM spirits both on and off the pitch. Celebrations were short lived though, as a quick counter attack from CSM cancelled out the comeback effort and brought the game to 2-1 with ten minutes remaining in the first half. A frantic end to the half saw a stray cross diverted in off RSM defender, Steve Pugh, to gift Camborne a 3-1 lead at the half time whistle.

Rousing words from the older lads rallied the side, and the Royal Miners from London went into the second half with nothing left to lose. A goal-line scramble ended in disappointment as the RSM comeback was denied once more. This

lead to yet another swift counter attack with four Cornish players breaking free – a goal looked certain to cement CSM's victory. Jonny Jones had other ideas as he stormed back to make a last ditch interception to salvage any hope RSM had.

Jonny Jones was the pivotal man once more as he drilled home a short corner to bring the game to 3-2 with 15 minutes remaining. Sensing the game was getting away from them, CSM held the ball in an attempt to run the clock down. This only served to motivate RSM more as Howard Richards nearly broke the backboard with a cannon of a shot to level the match at 3-3 with just five minutes left to play.

Knowing a draw would be enough to



The team ecstatic with the result and retaining the cup // Matthew Hayward

retain the Sharpley Cup, the Royal Miners dug in and defended with their lives to see the game out. As the seconds ticked past 70 minutes, the ball found its way back into the RSM circle and a late

tackle by Captain Rowan Hedgecock awarded CSM's Callum Fraser a penalty stroke with the final hit of the game. It seemed the comeback was wasted, but first year goal keeper Lekan Ogunlana

had been given a different script. A diving save to his right denied the striker his moment of glory, and ensured the Sharpley Cup would return to London for a fifth consecutive year.

Tough loss for RSM women's hockey

SPORTS

Emily Gusterson
RSM Women's Hockey Captain

0 RSM Women's Hockey
13 CSM Women's Hockey

7:30am on Bottle Match morning – the RSM hockey girls were cruising across Cornwall with tunes blasting and everyone feeling nervous and excited. Some were so overcome with the excitement they couldn't handle it and had a little nap.

The match began with the roar of the RSM crowd rightly drowning out the half-hearted CSM attempts at making a noise. The girls fought hard



The squad still smiles with the thought of festivities ahead // Matthew Hayward

for the first seven or so minutes, with the defence putting up an amazing fight. Unfortunately CSM managed to get through and we conceded our first goal. Not to let anyone's spirits get low

the older girls yelled out encouragements and kept everyone's heads up. Our new goalkeeper Qing Hua, who had only started playing a few weeks previously, kept her head in the game. CSM were

quick and strong on the ball, making fast runs which kept our wingers Avni Patel, Yvonne Riley, and Ruth Pike on their toes. Not much(ish) could get past our defenders and our fresher's Minty

Hampden-Martin and Elin Mars-Jones worked incredibly hard along with Bottle Match oldies Evelyn Mason and Beth Grant and put pressure on the CSM attackers, channelling them into the corners where our glorious RSM spectators voiced their approval.

Alice Tidswell dominated her central position, sending out some brilliant balls, and being downright amazing despite being fresh out of two injuries and having driven a minibus 300 miles the day before, along with Evelyn Mason and Ruth Pike (our hockey girls truly are the best). The champagne moment goes to her dive, which resulted in her saving yet another goal. Beth Grant, captain Emily Gusterson, and Louisa Young made CSM work hard and powered

their way past players sending the ball up to RSM guru Beth Holman who showed off her stick skills alongside Yvonne where they gave the CSM defenders a fright in our attacking D.

In the second half we played our best hockey yet and went a full 15 minutes with good possession and a strong attack. Our defence made us extremely proud with fresher Elin earning Man of the Match and Evelyn, Naomi Tan, Minty, and Beth fighting hard right to the very end.

Sadly we lost the game, but we worked hard and (most importantly) had more fun.

(Special thanks to George Decaudevine and Matthew Morris from RSM football who helped with subs).

BOTTLE MATCH

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Undefeated RSM lacrosse team bring back the W

SPORTS

Antony Onwuli
RSM Lacrosse Captain

13 RSM Lacrosse V 3 CSM Lacrosse

With rumours of an injured Rugby team, and with a series of well-fought but unfortunate losses, the pressure was put onto the RSM Lacrosse team to bring back a win for the Royal School of Mines in Bottle Match 2018. Our Bottle Match debut last year saw us win 10-3 at home, but now that we were away, surely a bigger challenge awaited us!

After seeing off the heart-pounding draw of the Men's Hockey, the entire squad commandeered a coach and immediately set off from Penzance to Penryn. Arriving to the pitch with about 30 minutes to warm up did not deter our spirits. We got straight into our warm-up and straight into setting up the goal we brought over from London!

With goals from Arianna Guppy, Charlotte Morphet, and Charlotte Hampson, we quickly found ourselves at the end of the first quarter 4-1 up, with the crowd going wild. Going into the second quarter the game became much scrappier, and the conditions of the pitch did not help with the ground balls – in fact we saw more grounded players than picked up ground balls. Fresher

Stephen Kwong found himself bagging a goal after winning a ground ball and rolling through CSM defences.

With two quarters remaining, CSM stepped up their play (and fouls) and scored at the start of the third quarter. The CSM spectators went crazy as the idea of a comeback swept through their minds. After all, no Lacrosse match is decided until the final whistle, right? In response to the CSM cheers, Ari once again won the draw and scored once again bringing the score to 7-2, silencing the CSM chants, and igniting once again the spirits of the RSM!

Entering the final quarter, with a 7-2 lead, the Royal Miners of Lacrosse went all out with goals left, right, and centre bringing the final score to 13-3. The



Only team to win a game, lacrosse grin triumphantly // Matthew Hayward

Hero and Legend of this amazing match was Arianna Guppy, for her overall dominance of the game. Stephen "The Mighty Kwong" Kwong had also received nominations for his goal, and

Lygon Bowen-West was an unsung hero for his fantastic saves during the game and general shutting out of most goals from the CSM's attack.

We can't wait for the growth of the club over the

next year and of course, our third Bottle Match appearance, next year, at home in Harlington!

To keep up to date with RSM Lacrosse, follow us on Instagram: @rsm-lacrosse

CSM rally means RSM football's drought continues

SPORTS

George Decaudaveine
RSM Football Club Captain

1 RSM Football Club V 3 CSM Football Club

After last year's result at Harlington (1-1, first goal in 6 years), the team was looking to build on that performance and bring home the first RSM victory since 2005. RSM AFC went down to Cornwall undefeated in 7 games with their strongest squad in recent memory.

In sunny but cold conditions on the infamously



Full squad posing post-game // Matthew Hayward

boggy Dracaena Centre pitch, CSM kicked the game off a little cautiously. With the pitch immediately proving the biggest problem for both teams it was clear the game could only be played in one way: the surface

being too uneven to play any building football, RSM AFC decided to pack the middle with a diamond playing two up front. This worked to their advantage as they started strongly setting up camp in the opposition

half. The early pressure told as RSM centre back Sam Mitchell sent a header cashing against the crossbar. CSM's tentative start continued as they gave away sloppy fouls and RSM kept on piling on the pressure from

set pieces. Corner after corner, free kick after free kick, RSM wasted clear opportunities to take the lead – missed chances they would come to rue. On the 35 min mark CSM went long from a free kick within their own half. A lapse in concentration from RSM centre back George Decaudaveine left the CSM striker straight through on goal to calmly poke past the keeper. 1-0 CSM completely against the run of play, but RSM heads didn't drop determined to fight back. The goal proving to be just a blip, RSM continued to play with high intensity, winning most duels and penning CSM back into their half. It was just before the half-time whistle that RSM reaped the rewards for their determined play. A free

kick from George Decaudaveine was whipped into the second post, missing everyone in the box to nestle just inside the side netting. RSM were right back in it and went into halftime hungry to get the win.

The match being very much a game of two half halves, CSM came out for the second half on the better side of pitch and the better team. The pitch really told in the second half as RSM started to come out second best on the duels and this translated on pitch to CSM dominating the second half. A miscommunication at the back and fluky header later they were 3-1 up and kept the trophy. RSM AFC remain on the hunt to end the 13 year drought.

BOTTLE MATCH

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Questionably bad loss for RSM badminton

SPORTS

Mustafa Iqbal
RSM Badminton Player

0 RSM Badminton V 9 CSM Badminton

Following a glorious victory of 8-1 over CSM at last year's bottle match, a fresh rendition of the RSM badminton team was construed with Vimbai returning to take the helm. As the RSM team warmed up, the entrance of the CSM team and their respective warm up procedures struck an unprecedented fear at the hearts of RSM: it would so happen that the 'true' CSM badminton team did not venture to London the previous year, and hence the 1-8 loss of CSM was effectively a forfeit, with the CSM lacrosse team the

substituted victims. This year, the players put forth by the CSM side were highly skilled and possessed flawless technique (albeit their questionable sportsmanship in playing four men and two women in violation of the stipulated rules of an equal mix, in addition to a few members not even being part of CSM, hailing instead from the foreign departments of English and Media), heavily punishing the weaker abilities of the RSM side. As quickly as the impressions of an easy victory were shattered, they were replaced with the good spirits and sportsmanship of the RSM side, who persevered against the unstoppable force of the CSM team, clutching points where possible. The players had to adapt their game to the significantly higher level faced, with more power required to return the opposition's shots, and increased attention to placement as to not allow the opposition

to capitalise on weak clears and high drops shots. So intense was the competition, that in the first game, Vimbai's strings were sacrificed in order for RSM to attain a hard-fought second point. Her backup racket left her at a severe disadvantage for her and Mustafa's remaining games, but they persisted nonetheless. The other two pairs were constituted of Humzah and Annie, and Haris and Evelyn respectively, who all stepped up their game to the competition and played excellently. Although the trophy was lost, with the final score 9-0 to CSM, all of the players thoroughly enjoyed the experience and a high level of badminton was displayed for both the RSM team to improve and spectators to enjoy; leaving all the more motivation to win it back next year (if CSM bothers to send their actual team).



Netball happy with the progress they've made since last year // Matthew Hayward

RSM netball closer than ever

SPORTS

Jen Heyes
RSM Netball President

Emily Friar
RSM Netball Captain

14 RSM Netball V 31 CSM Netball

After a 7am start, a long journey down to Cornwall, and a tense football game, RSM Netball were ready to take on their CSM counterparts. An indoor court was more than welcome against the cold Cornish weather but it meant contending with some very loud supporters. RSM won the coin toss and Laura kicked off the match with the first centre pass. However, the CSM support proved to be just as intimidating as their shooters and we finished the first quarter with a disheartening 10-0 score line.

The late arrival of Charlotte, our goal keeper, straight from her final exams, along with some extra supporters (and our trusty RSM Netball flag) did wonders to boost our moral. We got back on court for the start of the second quarter with our heads held high.

"This new-found energy produced a wild swing in the scores that proceeded to throw off CSM"

This new-found energy produced a wild swing in the scores that proceeded to throw off the CSM support and the CSM team themselves. The RSM supporters more than made up for their lack of numbers by providing more than enough cheer to encourage our shooters, Avni and Alice, to keep

that streak going. Before CSM knew it, we stepped up our game and fought back their advances with incredible finesse. This time the CSM support had nothing on our own - and we definitely gave them something to cheer about. The score in the second quarter was a thrilling 7-7, bringing the score at half time to 17-7.

In the third and fourth quarters, we recognised that we had lost the element of surprise. Although the RSM team fought valiantly, CSM remained the victors of the Bottle Match and the Netball win eluded us for one more year. However, with a score of 31-14, it is exciting to mention that this is the closest RSM Netball has come to winning the Bottle Match so far. Year on year we continue to narrow down that goal difference. The improvement just goes to show how the team is developing and, who knows? Maybe next year is the year that RSM Netball will be crowned champions of the Netball Bottle Match!



RSM and CSM players together post-matches, CSM brandishing their trophy // Matthew Hayward

BOTTLE MATCH

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The Bottle returns to Camborne

Following last year's exciting win for the Royal School of Mines, this year's edition of the Bottle Match sees the boys heading down to Cornwall, for a hotly-contested match that ends in CSM's favour

SPORTS

Harry Allingham

RSM Rugby Player

5	35
RSM	CSM
Rugby	Rugby
Team	Team

The Royal School of Mines made the long seven-hour journey down to Newquay for the 116th Bottle Match against Camborne School of Mines. Although the journey was long, it was made somewhat more enjoyable by the numerous games of chase the ace played. The memory of the loss two years ago and lodge 15 antics was a huge motivation for the boys and we felt confident going into the game following last year's comfortable win over CSM.

Unlike the mud bath two years ago, the pitch was dry and well suited to the free-flowing game of the RSM; following a near perfect warm up the boys were ready for what was undoubtedly one of the most important games of the year. The start of the match saw RSM receive the kick-off and, following a poor exit, CSM went over the line within the first few minutes. The worst possible start. This was compounded by the loss of RSM stalwart Ruairi Dunne to a broken hand. The RSM did however fight back with strong phase play leading to a number of penalties. This drove RSM deep into CSM territory, where we got our just reward



CSM breaking through RSM lines // Matthew Hayward

with Harry Allingham being bundled over for a try from a driving maul to take the score to 5-5.

“Unlike the mud bath two years ago, the pitch was dry and well suited to the free-flowing game of the RSM”

RSM continued mounting pressure and Allingham should have had a second from a driving maul, had it not been held up. Eventually CSM turned over the ball and momentum shifted to them. Numerous line breaks, in particular

from the CSM number 8, took them into the RSM twenty-two; although the defence was strong, particularly from the likes of Will Aynsley, Martin Head, and Nathan Tomlinson, CSM managed to score again to take the score to 12-5 following a couple of disallowed tries, much to the credit of the RSM defence. A late penalty from CSM meant the half-time score was 15-5. A particular highlight from the first half was Alex Amato ‘gerrarding’ the ball into the CSM crowd – shame it missed them all.

RSM came out in the second half still confident of turning around the deficit. However another poor start led to an early second half try from CSM taking their lead out to 22-5. RSM knew they had to score next to get back

in the game. The next part of the match saw RSM play some quality rugby.

“Strong carrying from the RSM forwards sucked in CSM defence, and created space out wide”

Strong carrying from the RSM forwards sucked in CSM defence and created space out wide. Soft hands from the likes of James Field, Colonel Nick UA and Allingham began to create overlaps and, had it not been for a forward pass from fly-half come prop

Amin Omarouayache, RSM could well have scored and found themselves back in the game. This didn't, however, damp the RSM spirits and more quality hands led to more chances, but as has been seen throughout the season, the chances couldn't be converted into points. As time began to run out, CSM regained the ball and took their chances. Two tries and a penalty in the last twenty minutes put the game to bed with a final score of 35-5, making it two unsuccessful away trips to Cornwall in a row.

Although the bottle had been lost, it was not going to stop the RSM boys from having a quality afternoon and evening. The festivities went on well into the early hours of the morning and were finished off with numerous grees.

Bottle Match Final Scores

5	35
RSM	CSM
Men's	Men's
Rugby	Rugby

Rugby

3	3
RSM	CSM
Men's	Men's
Hockey	Hockey

Men's Hockey

0	13
RSM	CSM
Women's	Women's
Hockey	Hockey

Women's Hockey

13	3
RSM	CSM
Lacrosse	Lacrosse

Lacrosse

3	1
RSM	CSM
Football	Football

Football

14	31
RSM	CSM
Netball	Netball

Netball

0	9
RSM	CSM
Badminton	Badminton

Badminton