



# Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London

## NEWS



Strikes to hit exam period if dispute doesn't resolve

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*In the Heights* should be open to all performers

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Money makes the world go round // Felix/Imperial

## Imperial senior pay among highest of Russell Group

### NEWS

**Joanna Wormald**

Deputy Editor

Over 400 staff at Imperial earn above £100,000 per year, while senior management take home £5.6 million.

Imperial spends more on the salaries of senior staff than any other Russell Group university, a *Felix* analysis has found. Vice-chancellor pay at Imperial is also near the top of the list.

Data obtained by *Felix* reveals that in 2017 Imperial spent £5.6 million

on 'key management' personnel (KMP) – a nebulous term that typically refers to the board of a university and/or its senior management staff. This figure is considerably more than the next highest spender: the University of Southampton, who paid out £3.7 million.

Imperial has 20 KMPs, given an average salary of £280,000 each in 2017. The University of Manchester was close behind, paying each of its eight KMPs an average of £276,750. The universities of Leeds and Nottingham also have 20 KMPs; their average salaries are £166,850 and £155,000 respectively – among the lowest of all Russell Group universities.

Imperial's position as top spender comes after a 9% increase from £4.9 million spent in 2016, giving an average salary of £257,895 to the 19 then-KMPs. Imperial is not the only university that gave above-inflation pay rises between 2016 and 2017: the London School of Economics and the University of Cambridge top the list with year-on-year increases of 26% and 22% respectively.

Seven universities decreased their annual KMP spend. Many of these were modest cuts but the University of Warwick slashed its expenditure by almost 30% while maintaining seven KMPs.

Last year's highest paid Russell Group

vice-chancellor was David Eastwood, who has been at the University of Birmingham since 2009. Eastwood pocketed £439,000 in 2017 – a 3% increase from 2016. Imperial and Southampton were tied at second place, both paying £433,000.

An Imperial College spokesperson said: "The president's [Alice Gast's] pay is set by an independent remuneration committee, which is made up of four external members of Council. Her last pay rise was 0.7% – in line with across-the-board pay increases for all staff at the College, which were weighted in favour of lower paid staff, as has happened for the past two years."

The lowest paid vice-chancellors were those at the University of Glasgow (a salary of £279,000) and LSE (£278,000 pay packet).

Almost all universities increased their vice-chancellor's salary, though increases were more modest compared with the rise in KMP expenditure; the greatest vice-chancellor pay rise went to Stuart Corbridge at Durham University, who took home £302,000 in 2017 compared to £270,000 in 2016 (an increase of almost 12%). Nottingham maintained a £381,000 sum as Professor Shearer West took over the vice-chancellorship from

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# EDITORIAL

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## Strikes, strikes, strikes

**Y**ou might not know, but this editorial is the last thing I write each week, just before sending the paper off to print. I'm sure you couldn't tell. Just ignore the strange stream of consciousness, the random spelling mistakes (all my copy editors have gone home), and the editor-on-the-verge-of-a-nervous-breakdown style. Trust me, it's all fine.

My Deputy Editor suggested I eschew the editorial this week, and explain I was striking in solidarity with our lecturers and support staff. It's a tempting idea, but this space is really the only place in the paper where I can express myself unhindered. And at least one person reads it (hi mum!), so I thought I'd better do one this week.



Fred Fyles – Felix Editor

assessment period across UK universities, in a bid to get UUK, the universities governing body, to sit down and listen.

If this goes ahead, it will mark a stark shift in the battle between UCU and UUK. Whereas the last couple of weeks have been quite amicable on campus, if UUK does not reach a workable compromise, this new wave of strikes could turn nasty. While students have – in general – been more or less supportive of the striking staff (after all, in the snow last week any excuse to not head into

uni was very welcome), things could take a turn for the worse as examinations and degree completion are threatened.

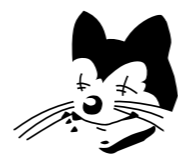
What I would like to do, if I can, is echo some of the points that have been put across by staff and students over the past few weeks: firstly, academics and support staff aren't just striking for the fun of it. These are a group of people who really want to get involved with academia, pass on their knowledge, and help students become more well-rounded, fulfilled individuals. Most of them

could get much better paid jobs in the private sector, but stay on because they have a real passion for their jobs. That this strike action is also difficult for them should be recognised.

Secondly, the ultimate end-goal of these strikes goes beyond individual examinations. It also, really, goes further than staff pensions. If this all falls apart, could be an education system that – in a few short years – is completely unrecognisable; one that is less fulfilling, less enjoyable, and of lower quality. As graduates eschew the public sector for private jobs, our universities will suffer, and the students of the future will suffer too.

Finally, if you feel pissed off, then good – this is what the strikes are designed to do, and it is through frustration that tangible change is often achieved. Just make sure your ire is directed to the right targets. Send an email to the Provost. Get your heads of department to lobby the College. And give your striking staff a wave when they're on the picket line. It could make all the difference.

Oh, and #voteICU.

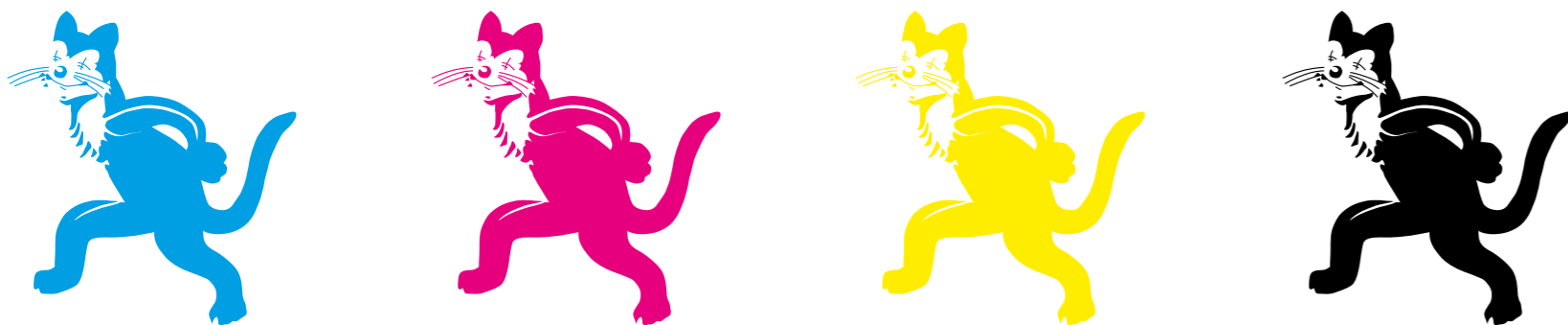


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**We want you – yes, you! We're looking for writers, photographers, editors, illustrators, reporters, computer experts and grammar nerds to join our team. No experience needed – we'll teach you everything you need to know. If you're interested, send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

# NEWS

## Audit on feedback times shows wide ranges between departments

### NEWS

**Fred Fyles**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

*The audit, which assessed first-year feedback, showed some departments had room to improve on feedback times.*

**A**n audit of first year assessments from last term, organised by Imperial College Union (ICU), has found a large range in how promptly departments provide feedback.

While nearly 90% of assessed feedback last term was returned within the recommended ten working day time-frame, there was a wide range from department to department. Overall the Faculty of Natural Sciences returned the

most assessments within the time-frame, with 93% of items coming back to students within ten working days. The Faculty of Medicine, which had the fewest number of assessments, also had the lowest rate of returned work, with 80% of items returned within the time frame.

Broken down by department, there rate of return varied widely: the worst-performing departments were Medical Biosciences and Mechanical Engineering, which had a rate of return of 33% and 50% respectively. A number of departments were completely compliant with the recommendations, with Physics, Chemical Engineering, and Undergraduate Medicine returning all assessments within the time-frame.

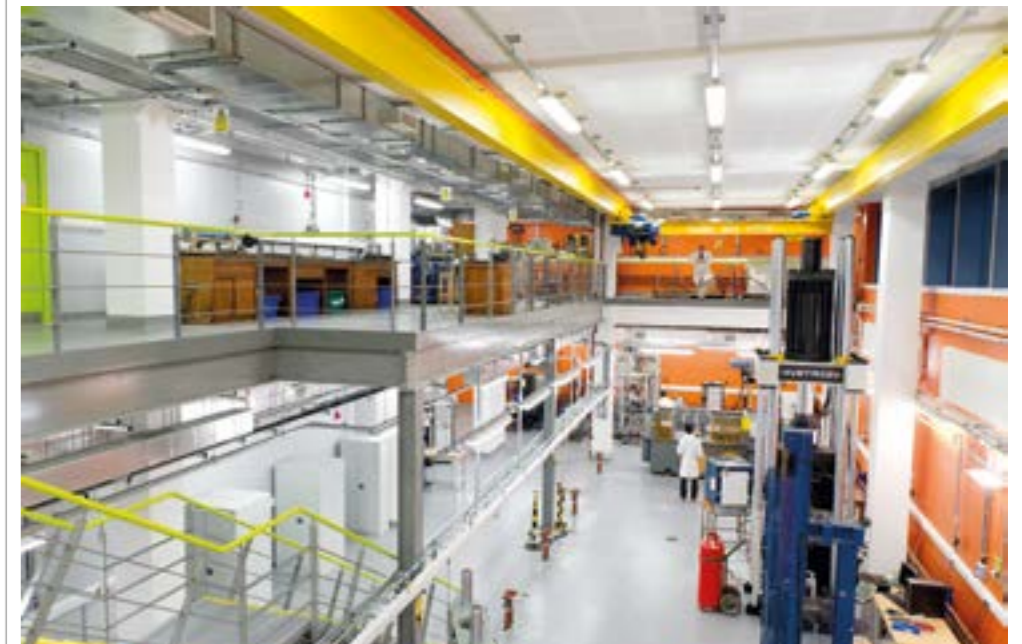
However, where feedback was late, the reasons behind the delay were

only communicated to students in 23% of cases. Many departments did not provide any information to students regarding late feedback.

The audit, the first College-wide attempt to

**“The reasons behind the delay were only communicated in 23% of cases”**

assess feedback timeliness, was organised by Nick Burstow, Deputy President (Education). It follows the recent Policy of Academic Feedback, put in place by the College last year, which stipulates departments should set



Mech Eng was one of the worst-performing departments // Imperial

timelines for feedback delivery, and communicate delays to this feedback as soon as possible. This is the first academic year the policy is in effect.

Burstow told *Felix*: “It is reassuring to see that feedback is generally reaching first year students within the stipulated

time-frame, [but] it is unacceptable that students are not being told when and why their feedback will be late.”

The data for the audit was provided by ICU’s Academic Representatives, and was compared to departmental standards provided by the College.

Burstow told *Felix*: “I would like to offer huge thank you to all the Academic Reps who helped; it would not have been possible without you.”

The audit will be presented at the College’s Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (QAEC) in April.

## Only Oxbridge have more high-earners than Imperial

### NEWS

(cont.)

Sir David Greenaway. Vice-chancellors at the universities of Exeter and Oxford both took pay cuts of less than 1%.

### High-Earners

In addition to the salaries of KMPs and the president Alice Gast, Imperial also has one of the highest numbers of staff earning more than £100,000. Most of Imperial’s 410 high earners fall into the £100,000-£110,000 pay band and 130 are paid more than £150,000. One

individual takes home £460,000-£470,000.

Only Oxford and Cambridge have more high earners than Imperial (485 and 472 high earners respectively). Of these, the majority are again in the £100,000-£110,000 range. The top salaries at Oxbridge however are vastly greater than any other Russell Group university: Oxford employees earn up to £890,000 and Cambridge pays £650,000 to one individual.

The numbers of high earners increased between 2016 and 2017 at the vast majority of Russell Group universities. Notable exceptions are Cardiff

University (12 high earners fewer in 2017 than in 2016) and UCL, which had 452 high earners in 2016 but only 391 in 2017.

A College spokesperson said: “Our success depends on attracting world-class talent and our remuneration reflects that. “Our global rivals recognise the importance of attracting world-class leaders – as do we,” they added.

These figures emerge amid an ongoing row regarding proposed changes to the University Superannuation Scheme – the pension scheme to which most higher

education institutions belong. Members of the University and College Union have been striking across the country to protest against restructuring that could see lecturers and academics lose up to 60% of their final pension.

More than 60% of students support the strikes, according to a YouGov poll, and more than 115,000 students have signed petitions calling for refunds of tuition fees. King’s College London has already agreed to reimburse students using the money forfeited by striking staff. Imperial students have received guarantees that they will

not be examined on any content not covered as a result of the strike.

The pensions dispute has been exacerbated by recent stories regarding high pay received by vice-chancellors. The average salary of Russell Group vice-chancellors is almost £332,000, rising to nearly £356,000 when employer pension contributions are taken into account. Revelations over the salary, benefits and ‘golden goodbye’ granted to outgoing University of Bath vice-chancellor Dame Glynis Breakwell prompted then-universities minister Jo Johnson to set out plans

for a “fair remuneration code” to restore “public confidence”. The code includes requirements for vice-chancellors to recuse themselves from remuneration committees, disclose benefits (such as expenses), and publish data on the wage gap between university chiefs and academic staff. Details of staff earning more than £100,000 would also have to be published and salaries over £150,000 would have to be justified. Failure to adequately explain high wages could attract fines from the Office for Students.

## Strikes set to hit exam period if talks over pensions aren't resolved

## NEWS

**Fred Fyles**  
Editor-in-Chief

*UCU members will strike over the exam period if the dispute with UUK is not resolved.*

University College Union (UCU) has sanctioned another 14 days of strike action during exam and assessment periods if the current dispute with Universities UK (UUK) is not resolved.

The news comes as the third week of strike action comes to an end, with academic and support staff across the country walking out from Monday to Thursday. The strikes are scheduled to continue throughout all of next week.

UCU have been meeting with UUK this week, with the conciliation service Acas as a mediator, to discuss a solution to the current pensions dispute. UUK, the governing body for UK higher education institutions, wants to put through a number of changes to the USS pension scheme. UUK claim that a £7.5 billion deficit means the changes are needed, a position UCU disputes. UCU say the changes could mean members of the scheme – which includes both academic and support staff – lose up to £10,000 per year in pension payments.

While UCU had originally scheduled 14 days of strikes in escalating waves, they say further action may be warranted “in defence of our pensions”. 65 higher education institutions would

face further strike action, which would take place between April and June. UCU have not specified dates for the strikes, but say they would “gather information on when the 14 days of action would be most effective at different universities.”

Sally Hunt, general secretary of the UCU, said: “I want to stress that I consider all this a necessary precaution against the failure of talks to deliver an acceptable settlement. The union would prefer dialogue and I have given my personal commitment to Acas that UCU is serious about reaching an agreement.”

**“UCU have sanctioned another 14 days of strike action during exam season if talks fail”**

How the strikes will affect examinations has been a concern for both students and staff. Last month, Professor James Stirling, Provost, and Professor Simone Buitendijk, Vice-Provost (Education), said “no students would be placed at a disadvantage due to the strike” and they would “not be examined on any material that you have not been taught.” It is, as of yet, unclear how the College will define missed content.

However, this promise has been disputed by some staff. A number of students in the Department of Computing, for example, have been told the examinations were set



Staff put up banners this week outside Imperial // Bob MacCallum

weeks ago, and the email shows “the Provost and Vice-Provost for Education [sic] have apparently no idea how examinations at Imperial work.”

In a statement published earlier this week, Professor Stirling and Professor Alice Gast, President, said they “recognise and regret the impact that the current UCU strike is having on teaching... [senior staff] have been working with Department representatives to advise on the development of local plans to minimise the impact on our students’ education. This work will of course continue.”

Last week the College changed their position on the UUK valuation of the USS deficit, calling for the convening of an expert group by UUK and USS to reassess the deficit. They said assembling the group may push them past the deadline for changes to be made, but they would stay in the current scheme until the work is completed.

In the update to staff, Prof. Stirling and Prof. Gast said they had met with Richard Craster

from the Department of Mathematics, to discuss “how best to take forward our call for UUK and the USS to convene an expert group, including university academics, to look closely at the valuation work, and be fully open and transparent about what they find.”

In a statement, Dr Michael McGarvey, President of Imperial UCU, said: “after nine days of strikes, and despite the weather, the UCU picket lines were just as strong and the members just as determined as they were on day one. The branch at Imperial continues to grow rapidly, now up 36% since the dispute started. While the recent moves by senior leaders at Imperial – as well as those elsewhere – are welcome, if they are genuine in wanting to have a fair agreement on pensions then they have to make sure UUK changes its hard-line position.”

“The current Acas talks between UCU and UUK continue, and UCU’s commitment to a negotiated solution remains

undimmed. So far, however, there has been no agreement at Acas.”

Professor Tom Pike, Imperial UCU’s local Vice-President, said the strike action was “unprecedented”. He told *Felix*: “What has been crystallised from this action is a much broader recognition that the balance between the academic and financial interests of Imperial, with the latter expected to serve the former, has been completely reversed. Senior management have admitted as much, that Imperial’s support of UUK to move entirely to a defined contribution pension scheme represented shifting the risk from Imperial’s balance sheet to individual staff.”

“At this point we don’t know whether the current talks at ACAS are leading to an agreement. We do know that staff at Imperial will never see senior management here in quite the same light. The next item on the agenda, after the defence of pensions has been completed, is a closing not of any suggested pension deficit, but

rather the yawning democratic deficit which has opened wide at Imperial.”

Imperial is one of a number of universities who have broken with UUK’s stance: earlier this week the University of Oxford announced they would reconsider their position. The move comes following a meeting of staff on Tuesday – known as a congregation – in which a debate over the changes was blocked. Hundreds of staff then left the venue, and organised a separate vote on a resolution to change Oxford’s position, which passed 442 votes to two.

Louise Richardson, Oxford’s vice-chancellor, said: “In light of the depth of feeling of so many colleagues we will convene a special meeting of council... and will be recommending that council reverses its response to the UUK survey in line with congregation’s resolution.”

Cambridge, Manchester, St Andrews, and Warwick universities have all also moved away from the UUK position.

## Students raise concerns over organisation of this year's Leadership Elections

## NEWS

**Fred Fyles**  
Editor-in-Chief

*Students have had complaints about organisation, communication, and enforcement of rules.*

A number of students have criticised Imperial College Union (ICU) for poor planning and execution of this year’s Leadership Elections, which finish today.

Students have highlighted problems with communication, organisation, and enforcement of campaign rules.

During the past week, a number of candidates and students have voiced their concern over students breaching election campaign rules. Candidates running for positions in Machine Learning Society

and Finance Society have been accused of breaching election rules by making use of existing mailing lists and unsolicited communications.

While students raised complaints to the Deputy Returning Officers (DROs), many felt their complaints had not been dealt with properly. One student told *Felix*: “The complaints process is not transparent at all... complainants aren’t updated about how their complaints have been dealt with – and if they are, they are only told that complaints are ‘handled’. I find it absurd how there are candidates with clear bribery on their manifesto who have not been disqualified.”

Earlier this week, however, seven candidates were disqualified from the Leadership Elections in response to “persistent breaking of rules and acting against [ICU’s] values despite warnings from the [DROs]”. They

said the students had broken rules by coercing voters, campaigning in languages other than English without a translation, and use of pre-existing mailing lists.”

In a statement for *Felix*, a Union spokesperson said: “We’ve had about the expected number of complaints this year and the DROs have been dealing with them swiftly and effectively; candidates should bear in mind that this is not always visible from the outside. The vast majority of offending candidates receive one warning and don’t reoffend.”

Outside of these complaints, students have also cited problems with the general organisation of the Leadership Elections. Candidates who spoke to *Felix* said there was a lack of clarity from ICU over the timing and details of events, and responses to emails were poor.

One candidate, speaking to *Felix*, said the

elections this year were “disappointing”: “As a candidate, I have time and time again been left in the dark about many aspects of the election process, most notably the election debate, which seems to have been totally forgotten until the last moment – totally inexcusable when Meet the Candidates has been a feature of all recent spring elections.”

“The Union needs to have a good hard look at itself and decide whether it truly believes in democracy or just in window-dressing popularity contests. I for one hope that it chooses the former.”

Criticism was also directed against ICU’s live debate, which aired earlier this week.

On Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, ICU organised their “Debate Lives-tream”, at which candidates for major positions were asked about their plans if elected. Out of the eight positions advertised

as being included in the debate, only four sessions were able to go ahead, after a number of candidates did not attend. In total, out of 30 potential candidates, only six attended.

**“One candidate said he had been ‘left in the dark’ over many aspects of the election”**

Students questioned the timing of the debate. Kelvin Zhang, a first-year computing student, told *Felix* the debate was “very poorly organised”: “if you check the voting proportions for last year’s elections, you’ll see that more than 2/3 of those who could vote at this point had already done so. Most people who will vote have already voted. It’s completely ridiculous that a debate is being organised almost at the end of elections.”

Other students also raised criticism of the moderation of the debate, particularly when the moderator responded to claims about ICU and cut candidates off after a 30-second time limit. Writing on Facebook, one student said it was “quite appalling that a debate between students is being mediated by someone who ‘corrects’ any time the candidates make a criticism of the central Union and staff.”

Zhang said: “the debate format was poor, with the moderator being Union staff...and interrupting

the candidates after thirty seconds, leaving no time to actually hear useful content.

In response, a representative of ICU said: “Please note we have not addressed any criticism directed at the Union, but only corrected factual errors such as Board decisions and the bars having professional managers.”

The debate, which in previous years has been organised by Imperial College TV (ICTV), was organised internally by ICU, after ICTV pulled out of the show, saying they “were unable to receive the required timely support needed from the Union to do the broadcast.”

In a statement for *Felix*, a Union spokesperson said: “We know there have been mixed reviews of the new elections timetable this year, with a small percentage of candidates viewing it negatively; we have consistently received requests from candidates to shorten the timetable in previous years and we’re pleased to have put this new model to the test.”

“Separately, several candidates were understandably unhappy at communication regarding the Live Debates, which we have fully accepted and acknowledged directly to candidates and student societies.”

“We’re happy to receive feedback from all members on the elections, and we’ll be surveying all candidates about their experiences as well. Overall, we’re pleased to have once again delivered a nation-leading election turnout and engaged more candidates and student groups than any other student election in history.”



This week is the last time we have to use this photo! Bring on the new sabbs! // ICU

## Princes Garden Hackspace to close this week

## NEWS

**Fred Fyles**  
Editor-in-Chief

*The space will close this week, as the Dyson School of Design Engineering leave the building.*



The Invention Rooms at White City // Imperial

The Hackspace at 10 Princes Gardens will shut this Monday, following “departmental changes”.

The Hackspace, which is mainly used by students to produce prototypes, will close on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March. Imperial College Advanced Hackspace (ICAH), who operate the space, say the change is the result of their host – the Dyson School of Design Engineering – moving out of the building.

In the email, ICAH said: “During the opening of the Invention Rooms in White City we were adamant that we will not be closing the space in 10 Princes Gardens, and at the time this was our intention. However, we were made aware of certain changes earlier this week that make it impossible to continue to

keep the space.”

They recommend student use the new Hackspace in the Invention Rooms on the White City campus, which opened last year. From 12<sup>th</sup> March, the Hackspace at the Invention Rooms will extend their opening hours, to 10am - 11pm. ICAH say this “is something the community have been

asking for consistently over the last few years.”

While the Hackspace “node” in Princes Gardens is closing, ICAH say they will be opening a new ‘node’ at the Dyson School of Design Engineering’s workshops in ACE150

The move was described as “disappointing” by some students. One

user of the hack-space, a final year student from the Faculty of Natural Sciences, told Felix: “This is very disappointing news. While I think opening the White City space for longer is a good thing, the fact remains that closing the space will be very inconvenient: many people will go to the space to start printing, and then return several hours later when it’s done. This won’t be possible if we’ve got to travel to White City.”

“The Hackspace is incredibly important for a number of students, not only those from the Design Engineering course, but across different departments. This will have a direct effect on the work of students who regularly use the space.”

In a statement, ICAH said “We are committed to making the Advanced Hackspace the best

network of spaces in the world designed to turn ideas into a reality. With our new spaces coming online both at South Kensington and White City we have dramatically increased the scope of what we can offer our users.”

The Hackspace at 10 Princes Gardens is part of the Imperial College Advanced Hackspace (ICAH), which provides a network of facilities across South Kensington and White City. The space offers students the opportunity to use 3D printing techniques and laser cutting, to “quickly prototype small builds and projects.”

The Invention Rooms on the White City campus, which opened last October, is the latest space to play host to the ICAH.

## New Provost named as Prof. Ian Walmsley

## NEWS

**Fred Fyles**  
Editor-in-Chief

*The new Provost will move to Imperial from the University of Oxford.*

Imperial College London have appointed Professor Ian Walmsley FRS as the new Provost.

Professor Walmsley joins Imperial from the University of Oxford, where he is the Hooke Professor of Experimental Physics and the current Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation).

Professor Walmsley graduated from Imperial

with a first-class honours degree in physics. In 2012 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He is well known within the physics world for his contributions to quantum optics and ultrafast optics.

Professor Walmsley is also known for his involvement in collaborations within academia. He leads the Networked Quantum Information Technologies Hub – one of four hubs in the UK National Quantum Technology Programme, a £270 million investment by the UK government to establish a quantum technology industry in the UK. He was also involved in the creation of the £100 million Rosalind Franklin Institute, which aims to

“develop new techniques and instrumentation and apply them to key challenges in the health and life sciences”.

Professor Walmsley said he was “delighted to return to Imperial”, and he was “look[ing] forward to working with colleagues to continue the trajectory of world-leading research...for which the College is renowned.”

Professor Alice Gast, Imperial’s President, said in an email to students: “Ian will be a great asset to the College, and I look forward to working with him.”

Professor Walmsley will replace Professor James Stirling, the current Provost, on 1st September 2018.

## Students complain over library temperatures

## NEWS

**Fred Fyles**  
Editor-in-Chief

*A number of students have raised concerns over the high temperatures in Central Library, which is undergoing climate control tests*

Students have been reporting excessively high temperatures at Central Library over the past week.

Throughout last weekend, and the beginning of this week, students have been reporting excessively high temperatures,

despite the new climate control systems that were installed last year.

In a series of tweets at the beginning of this week, Imperial Library apologised for the high temperatures. They said the temperatures were caused by “the final testing of the new climate control system”, and they were “working with contractors and estates to rectify [the temperatures] as soon as possible”.

In a statement, library staff said “these tests are expected to continue until Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Library staff apologise and thank you for your patience during these works.”

Students told *Felix* the heat over the weekend was excessive: one

student told Felix “on Sunday afternoon the heat was almost unbearable”, while another said he was “worried I might have had a fever”.

Levels 4 and 5 of Central Library were closed throughout summer 2017 and the beginning of the last academic year, as redevelopment work was completed. The main aim of the project was to improve the cooling and ventilation systems, with temperature control being one of the largest sources complaints from students. Works will continue across Levels 2 & 3 next summer, with the total cost reported to be £11 million.

## Imperial to continue to operate cashless-only system at six outlets, despite negative feedback

## NEWS

**Fred Fyles**  
Editor-in-Chief

*A survey, carried out over the last couple of months, found 88% of staff and students surveyed were not in favour of a cashless system*

Imperial College London will continue to use cashless payment across eight of its catering outlets, despite overall negative feedback on the changes.

In a survey carried out between December 2017 and February 2018, 88% of students and staff who responded were not in favour of expanding to a fully cashless system.

Respondents frequently raised concerns about a cashless system not offering enough choice about how to pay, leading to charges on card transactions for some customers, and being less convenient.

The College, after reviewing the feedback “very carefully”, said they would not roll out a fully cashless service to all catering outlets, but “the outlets involved in the trial will remain cashless as standard”, with the exception of the Senior Common Room and H-Bar Cafe, which will operate a single cash-only till at peak times.

Theodor Videnberg, a postgraduate student who has previously written in *Felix* criticising the switch, said:

“Is it disappointing to see that although 88% of respondents are against fully cashless operations,

the college has decided to ignore the complains and ban cash from the majority of its outlets. In the remaining two outlets cash will be accepted only at peak times, thus severely restricting our freedom of payment choice. With this undemocratic decision, the college shows that it does not care about student/ staff opinion and concerns on this issue.”

College initially ran the trial for two weeks at the end of December, across four outlets, before extending it to eight outlets for the next two months. They said the change would “improve your experience by reducing queuing times and creating a faster service”.

In a statement for *Felix*, a College representative



We love a good stock photo at Felix // CC

said: “As part of the cashless trial at our catering outlets, we received 50 feedback responses from students and staff. 88% of these were not in favour of the College’s catering outlets going fully cashless. We have listened to

your feedback, and a fully cashless service will not be rolled out across all outlets.”

In total six outlets will continue to operate cashless payment only: Fuel, Queen’s Tower Rooms, SCR Cafe, Electrical

Engineering Cafe, College Cafe, and the Business School Cafe.

Students and staff will be able to pay via Yoyo, contactless, and chip and pin.

## Student Academic Choice Awards shortlist revealed

## NEWS

**Fred Fyles**  
Editor-in-Chief

*48 staff from across a number of departments are shortlisted for the eight awards.*

The shortlist for this year’s Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs) has been revealed.

48 staff from across a number of departments are shortlisted for eight awards, including Best Teaching for Undergraduates, Best Support Staff, and Best Supervision.



The ceremony will take place on the 14th May // ICU

This year 935 staff members were nominated, with 1,868 nominations submitted in total – the highest number since the SACAs began in 2013.

Nick Burstow, Deputy President (Education),

who is one of the leads for SACAs organisation, told *Felix*: “Our Academic and Wellbeing Representatives did a fantastic job sifting through the huge number of nominations to whittle it down to these

final few.”

A number of nominees have previously been recognised in the SACAs: Dr Steve Cook, from the Department of Life Science, for example, has been nominated for Best

Tutoring this year, having been awarded Best Teaching for Undergraduates in 2015.

Giskin Day, a course lead for the Imperial Horizons programme, and course director for the intercalated BSc in Medical Science with Humanities, Philosophy & Law, has been nominated for the Best Innovation award. It awards staff who have made use of “imaginative use of technology” and “early adoption of new methods”.

Day told *Felix* she was “absolutely delighted” by the nomination: “Student appreciation really boosts the morale of teachers who care about the education experience. It is heartening to see that, in

these days of high fees, students don’t view education merely as a service transaction but as something worth expressing gratitude for. It certainly makes the effort we put into teaching feel very worthwhile.”

Burstow said “it was a pleasure to read through the nominations and see just how much of a positive impact Imperial staff have had on students. It was incredibly difficult choosing just six shortlistees per category, and even harder picking a winner.”

The shortlisted candidates are invited to the prize ceremony on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May, where the winners will be revealed.

# POLITICS

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## Brexit and Ireland: how can we solve the border crisis?

*Brexit is threatening the current status quo with the Irish border. Theresa May has made a commitment to withdrawing from the single market, but what does this mean for Ireland?*

### POLITICS

**Divyen Vanniasegaram**  
Politics Writer

**H**ow do you solve a problem like the Irish border? This appears to be the biggest stumbling block in achieving a successful outcome for Brexit. It seems an impossible square to circle. Theresa May has committed to withdrawing from the customs union and single market, which would mean there would need to be border checks between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland - this being the only land border the UK shares with the EU - whilst also insisting that one of her primary goals is to avoid a hard border within Ireland.

She hopes to do this in one of two ways. The first option would be to set up a customs partnership, which would mean the UK voluntarily mimics EU regulations for goods, doing away entirely with the need for a border. For this to work, the UK would need to maintain a lot of the same regulations it currently follows due to EU membership, which could be achieved through differing regulatory bodies and mechanisms. It would mean the UK would no longer be legally bound by the European Court of Justice but would need to take note and act on some of its rulings to ensure the UK's regulations are running as closely parallel with the EU as possible. This would also allow the



Brexit could be like walking over a cliff edge for Ireland // Flickr/Guiseppa Milo

UK to strike trade deals with other countries by avoiding membership of a customs union.

**“Is leaving the EU worth it if the UK ends up following the same rules as before, even on a voluntary basis”**

However, it does beg the question of whether leaving the EU to gain power and sovereignty for parliament is worth it if the UK ultimately ends

up following the same rules as before, even if on a voluntary basis instead. If the UK deviates from agreed standards, then one would assume that border posts would need to be erected to protect the EU's internal market from goods that don't meet its standards. This option therefore appears incompatible with the UK's ability to use its post-Brexit autonomy to make meaningful decisions regarding standards.

The second option Theresa May put forward in her speech was a customs arrangement whereby a smart border utilising technology could be erected. This option would give the UK more flexibility to deviate away from the EU's regulations

and would mean that when vehicles carrying goods would ordinarily have to stop for customs checks, they would be able to carry on driving without the need to stop. This option is arguably open to abuse, as both sides would need to trust that what was being declared was what was actually crossing the border, with no physical way of checking these goods. A trusted traders scheme would alleviate some concerns but this system could still be open to abuse. This leaves many commentators and the EU skeptical that this kind of system could work effectively.

Given that the options proposed by the UK government have obstacles that could be insur-

mountable, it's important to consider the fail-safe option put forward by the EU in the event of no deal being reached. The fail-safe option proffered by the EU would be for Northern Ireland to effectively remain in the customs union even if the rest of the UK doesn't. This would effectively push the border back to the Irish sea between the island of Ireland and the rest of the UK. This option has been vehemently opposed by the UK government as a threat to the integrity of the UK's domestic economy, as customs checks would need to be enforced between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. The DUP's involvement is significant as they ensure

the Conservatives have enough votes to govern a majority in parliament. The DUP, being a unionist party in Northern Ireland, is completely opposed to any option that would separate Northern Ireland from the UK economically, as this would be an effective annexation of Northern Ireland by the EU in their eyes. It therefore appears impossible to solve the problem of the Irish border given the self-imposed red lines of both the EU and of Theresa May.

This has massive ramifications for the Good Friday agreement, which brought an end to the troubles and is sponsored by both the UK and Irish governments. It ensured an open border where communities, people, and goods could freely cross from one side to the other: now, this border is almost invisible. The current freedoms and peace were hard fought for on all sides and to risk this for Brexit appears like an absurdity, especially when it is already under pressure due to the inability of Northern Ireland parties to form an executive for the regional assembly. Theresa May has conceded that when the UK leaves the EU, the UK and the EU will still have to stay closely aligned. Brexit will allow for bilateral trade agreements, however, these will come with pressures on standards and visa schemes. Brexit will garner minimal gains at best, and could be the catalyst for constitutional crisis in Northern Ireland.



## Student Support Fund

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

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

+44 (0)20 7594 9014

Student Hub, Level 3,  
Sherfield Building

[www.imperial.ac.uk/fees-and-funding](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/fees-and-funding)

## COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## COMMENT

**Giulia Costa**  
Comment Writer

## How can we fix Imperial's inequality?

*Measures such as the ones taken by LSE, Kings and Oxford are a step in the right direction for fixing the problem.*



Let's not turn our back on equality // Flickr/mikecogh

Inequality between students from low and high income backgrounds is a big problem in many universities, especially Imperial. Data published by UCAS last year revealed that Imperial is top in student inequality in the UK, just ahead of Oxford and 8 places ahead of Cambridge. At Imperial, students from high income backgrounds are 11 times more likely to be accepted. These findings should serve as a wake-up call. There is a clear issue and we now must address it. Firstly, why is inequality such a big issue at Imperial? And more importantly, how can we solve it?

Perhaps the issue is in Imperial's location. Being based in the most expensive city in the UK and an expensive neighbourhood within it could be a barrier for students from lower income families. Perhaps moving part of the campus in less central areas of London where living is more affordable would improve the situation.

However, the issue is not only in Imperial's location as inequalities are seen in many universities, especially those that are high in rankings. In 2014, only 23% of state school students went into universities ranked in the top third compared with 65% from private schools. This could be due to high admission grades. Imperial

requires a high A level performance like other high ranking universities. Students from lower income backgrounds are less likely to achieve these grades simply because state schools invested less in performance. This means that bright students, despite having the same capabilities, do worse in exams simply because they attended a school in a different area.

Shockingly, this can be realised by a 'state school penalty', in order to have the same chances of getting into high ranking universities, students have to get one grade higher in their A levels. So, even if disadvantaged students get the same results,

they are less likely to be accepted. This problem is not unique to high ranking universities. In the UK, students from more disadvantaged backgrounds are twice less likely to get into university. Does this reflect a problem in England's application system then? It could be that admissions teams have some implicit bias against students coming from more disadvantaged areas? In 2006, David Cameron suggested adopting name blind applications to deal with the problem and some universities have started to try it out.

Universities are aware of the problem and trying to tackle it. Some have

made big improvements but progress is much slower in top ranking universities, such as Imperial. We should look at universities such as LSE who have started training the admissions team against implicit bias. Kings have started giving offers with lower grades to disadvantaged students to help them get accepted. Some colleges at Oxford have also created a foundation year for disadvantaged students who have grades slightly lower than the required ones. Perhaps the reason Imperial came out as number 1 most unequal is that we just don't do enough to help disadvantaged students. Why did we turn down the proposal

of a working class liberation officer? Why are we not also pushing innovative schemes which address the issue?

However, we can't be too harsh. Imperial does have activities to involve stimulate interest in STEM subjects at state schools as well as an incredibly generous bursary scheme and scholarships. Also, we must not forget Imperial is one of the only universities in the UK willing to act as a guarantor for students who need it. Imperial's shameful statistics highlight a

**"Kings have started giving offers with lower grades to disadvantaged students"**

bigger issue.

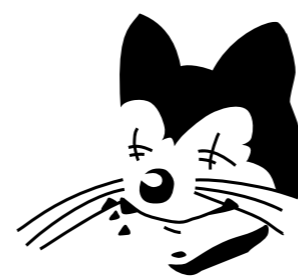
The huge gap has deep roots. Even if they do achieve the grades, students from low income backgrounds are simply less likely to apply. This could simply be because low income students are brought up with different expectations. Children from wealthier families are often expected to go to university. But for a child from a different background, for example, whose parents didn't go to university and was never expected to go himself, it makes sense that he is less likely to apply. Making the problem even worse, students at private schools receive

more support. Also, students from more disadvantaged backgrounds face different challenges so perhaps university is not a priority, especially when they receive no help through the difficult application process. So even motivation wise (without considering the more technical aspects considered before) students from lower income backgrounds apply to university less irrespective of their capabilities. Finally, the problem doesn't end once the students get into university. Students from lower incomes are more likely to drop out of their courses too.

Options like thinking about campus location and changing the application process are great and are a step in the right direction. However, I believe we should also tackle the real root of the problem. We should motivate low income students by showing them university is definitely an option for them and helping make applying less daunting to them. An excellent example of this are organisations which aim to reach out to bright, low income students to help them with applications. Such an organisation is Project Access, has actually set up a branch in Imperial this year. Their aim is to recruit Imperial students as mentors to help disadvantaged students apply. This I think is a great approach to the problem. Students can help students! By becoming mentors, or simply supporting the cause, our experience of getting into university could help decrease inequalities.

## COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## *In the Heights* – a musical that should be open to all

*In the Heights* conductor **Dr Vicente Chavarría** thinks that any performance of *In the Heights* is a celebration of Latino culture, no matter who performs it.

## COMMENT

**Dr Vicente Chavarría**

Comment Writer

Last week's comment article 'In the Whites' (regarding Imperial Musical Theatre Society's production of Lin-Manuel Miranda's *In the Heights*) reignited the old argument of 'whitewashing' works intended to feature or represent non-white or 'marginalised' groups: a relevant and worthy one, certainly, and one we shall be having for years, though one I will not indulge in here. The article did, however, end with a poignant question: "If [MTSoc] knew that they would not be able to give the majority of roles to Latino students, why attempt to put on a musical about Latinos?"

**"Should an under-represented community not welcome a celebration of its culture?"**

In response to this question, may I pose another: Should a community (such as Latinos) under-represented outside of its region of origin (or, as the author of the article called it, 'marginalised') not welcome a celebration of its culture?



The IC production of *In the Heights*// Jeevan Soor; Olly Dove

Both Miranda and Quiara Hudes (author of the musical's book) have previously accepted – and in fact encouraged – educational productions that included cast members "of all stripes". Why, then, should a group of talented young performers who clearly love, respect, and admire the material be prevented from undertaking such a venture by the colour of their skin or the language of origin of their surname? If the production were professionally staged with auditions open across the country (or beyond), then the restrictions and concerns would be welcome. But this is a

different ballgame. As a cast member mentioned, MTSoc's demographic is a representation of that of a large London university. What MTSoc has done is pull off a difficult, beautiful production of a musical that celebrates Latino culture with the team that it has, regardless of colour or ethnicity.

The author of 'In the Whites' described a lack of Latinos in the cast or directorial team, apparently missing the white redhead Chilean playing Carla, or the Nicaraguan-American conductor of the production (and author of the present rebuttal). At no point during the entire

production was any part of Latin American culture treated with anything less than the utmost respect and love. Perhaps the production was uncomfortable for some viewers, including the author of 'In the Whites', but for almost everyone – including this Latino – it was a welcome celebration of a beautifully diverse group of people, one not limited to a preconceived idea of skin colour, linguistic capability/accents, or even national identity. Moreover, *In the Heights* is a close examination of issues like identity, gentrification, inequality, racism, poverty, alcohol-

ism, just to name a few. These are issues which affect people of all generations, races, and origins, even when the visuals do not match the ethnicity of the characters.

The performers on stage did not wear ethnicity like a skin or disguise. They embodied three-dimensional characters as best as they could, in their own skins and voices (beyond a little makeup to age one character fifty years). None of the rappers rapped in accents that weren't their own. At no point was anything done with the idea of caricature, mockery, or stereotyping. What 'In

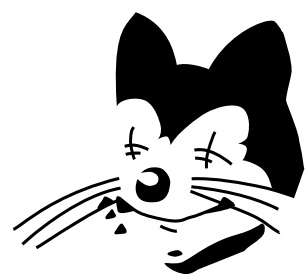
the Whites' missed, most of all, is the exposure to the grounded, real-world Latin-American experience that, unlike other shows, Miranda's musical provides. Most of all, it blatantly ignored the hard work and talent of a top-notch cast and crew who worked ungodly hours to bring this production to life. Of all the lessons *In the Heights* offers, perhaps none is more relevant and powerful than its unabashed *alabanza* of community. What event could give the participants and viewers a better chance to learn about one, and of the nuances of its culture, than by staging one of the finest musicals

**"People should spend more time engaging with the community they seek to defend"**

of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century by one of that community's greatest spokespersons? If that makes anyone uncomfortable, then maybe they should spend more time engaging with people in the community they seek to defend and less time with their heads buried in academic sand. The world, after all, is out there, not in a journal article.

# COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Grumpy Bastard has crossed the line

*In previous articles we laughed at his antics. Oh yes we laughed. Ha, ha, ha, we chortled in rapturous glee. But enough is enough.*

### COMMENT

#### HuelBoi

*Comment Writer*

Last week Grumpy Bastard decided to hate on something I love. As I scrolled through all those words of hatred, I came upon a sobering realisation about trendy haters: you love how they hate stuff for you while you just sit on the sidelines and watch the world burn. It's both very convenient and rather entertaining. Until they cross the line. Until they cross the fucking line.

And no, this isn't about a "seemingly important" topic like worker's rights, authoritarian oppression or any of the other stupid topics Grumpy Bastard

tends to hate on. This is something that's actually important. This is about food. Grumpy bastard hates Huel, which means I now hate Grumpy Bastard. I don't know how it

**"What is to hate about Huel? How can you not love those lovely lumps of undissolved powder?"**

came to this. What is to hate about Huel? How can you not love its soothing Vanilla texture, its unique, ever evolving flavour and

those lovely lumps of undissolved powder that float seamlessly along your shake? What is the problem?

While I do understand that Grumpy Bastard feeds off the mean laughs of Royal Family haters and spicy internet comments from Macedonian nationalists, the rest of us actually need to eat. Ok, some people are pretty organised with their food. They cook healthy meals and can get all their nutrients efficiently while saving money. And yes, some other people can afford to have proper meals at QTR every day.

But that is not all of us. When you're an absolute mess in terms of food organising, Huel comes to save you. When you can't afford Fusion every day, Huel's £1.60 a meal

comes to save you. When you're trying to be a proper vegan but are just really shit at cooking, Huel comes to save you. When you're too lazy to make sandwiches in the morning, Huel comes to save you.

I urge Grumpy Bastard to try it out for a couple of weeks. Have an open mind. You might get nasty farts during the first week, as has been reported by some users. But that's just your body adjusting to the fact that you are now nutritionally complete! Whenever I have it for breakfast, my day tends to be a great day. My mood will be better thanks to all those vitamins rushing through my body. Huel fills you up and keeps you healthy. And who knows? Maybe if Grumpy Bastard converted to Huel, he

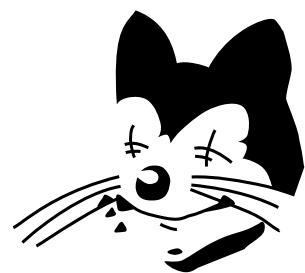


Attaining higher existence starter pack // Flickr/todoleo

wouldn't be so grumpy anymore.

*Disclosure: I am not advertising Huel. Being*

*a mindless fanboy boy is just part of the experience.*



## A letter to the new sabbs

*If you managed to get elected, congratulations. Just don't forget the people who voted for you when next year comes around.*

### COMMENT

#### Anonymous

*Comment Writer*

Dear Sabbatical Officers, If you're reading this before the results drop, good luck. If they've already happened, congratulations! You've all worked extremely hard to get here – many of you had strong opponents, and even those who didn't still took campaigning seriously. Well done.

I'm writing this because the Union needs work, and you're soon going to be in a position to change it. Here are some points you may want to keep in mind over the next year.

The first and most important thing is to not lose sight of why you are where you are. Don't forget why you ran, or who put you there. We may get a lot of students voting in our elections, but it's not as if people are really engaged. That'll only change if you reach out, and if you keep ordinary students in mind when making important

decisions.

**"Don't lose sight of why you are where you are. Don't forget why you ran, or who put you there"**

It's easy to get tunnel vision as a sabb – to forget the university

extends beyond Level 2 of the Union Building. You might fall into the trap of doing a lot of work yourself, perhaps alongside the other sabbs or staff members, but without really keeping students in the loop. My advice would be: involve us. Students need a real say in what the Union does, and nobody elected any of the staff members. Though some of them may claim expertise regarding the university, they aren't the ones who should be making the decisions. You are. We are.

You may not realise it, but it would be easy for you to overrule staff who at the moment wield so much influence. All it'd take is a little cooperation. You're the ones with the mandate; work together, involve us in your decision

**"Don't let people with no accountability tell you what to do"**

making, but for the love of God, don't let people with no accountability tell you what to do.

Finally, you're more than just a role description. You may have many obligations, but you weren't elected because someone read a contract. You were elected to represent us. If something significant happens, something which affects students, all of you have a duty to step forward. People are counting on you. Best of luck.





**#voteicu**

# Results Party

**Friday 9 March**  
**19:00 - 02:00 | Metric**

**imperialcollegeunion.org**



## In light of dark matter: oldest stars lead to detection

*New research on the oldest stars in the universe suggests our understanding of dark matter could be about to take a huge leap forward.*

## SCIENCE

**Sung Soo Moon**  
*Science Writer*

Recent research conducted in Arizona State University suggests that we have the “first direct proof” that dark matter exists, as a team of astronomers analysed absorption lines from the oldest stars in the universe. Dark matter is an invisible stockpile of mass that we estimate to make up about 27% of the universe, and our understanding is that it provides the necessary gravitational forces for galaxies to hold themselves together. This enigmatic building block of the universe is proving highly elusive, yet it is almost six times as abundant as normal ordinary matter. The nature of dark matter and its effects are still not fully known. This is indeed a hot topic in cosmology research, as studying dark matter will give us clues to the nature of the universe itself.

Professor Judd Bowman of Arizona State University led the research, using Experiment to Detect the Global Epoch of Reionisation Signature (EDGES), a radio telescope which began recording data in 2015. The team measured the absorption lines corresponding to a 21cm-wavelength-transition of atomic hydrogen in spectra of distant stars formed as early as 180 million years after the Big Bang. The data show there is a stronger absorption signal corresponding to this 21cm transition than existing models predict. According to Professor

Rennan Bakana of Tel Aviv University in a paper in *Nature* last week, this is conclusive in showing there were interactions between dark matter and ordinary matter in the early universe. The evidence suggests dark matter is generally ‘cold’, or highly non-relativistic, meaning that its speed does not come close to the speed of light in a vacuum. Another pivotal revelation in the study is that dark matter seems to be composed of low-mass particles which are no heavier than a couple of proton masses. “This insight alone has the potential to reorient the search for dark matter,” says Professor Bakana.

Dark matter appears to have cooled down the cosmic gas in the early universe, and so we may deduce that dark matter

**“Professor Bakana, writing in *Nature*, said ‘the potential to reorient the search for dark matter’”**

is at least moderately cold. However, velocities predicted by warm dark matter are potentially detectable. This is a focal point in this field, as many favour the idea that dark matter manifests a combination of hot, cold, and warm behaviours. The evidence so far puts cold dark matter as the leading



Space physics is super pretty...//Wikimedia

culprit, and the best candidate for the particle is the weakly interacting massive particle (WIMP).

As its name suggests, dark matter is invisible in the electromagnetic spectrum, so does not interact with the electromagnetic force; for dark matter to have substantial electrodynamic and nuclear interactions would go against well-understood cosmological models including the Big Bang. The consensus among academics seems to be that dark matter particles are probably something that are yet to be discovered, that uniquely interact gravitationally

**“Consensus among academics seems to be that dark matter particles are probably something yet to be discovered”**

with ordinary matter.

Studying dark matter may well give us information about how the universe came to be, and how it may end. The concept of dark matter is around a century old, yet we still do not know that much about it. General relativity on the other hand, which has been around for a similar time, is well-established with its principles utilised in GPS. Further comparable radio telescope projects include the Hydrogen Epoch of Reionisation (HERA) which will be operational in the next couple of years, and the Low Frequency Aperture Array (LFAA),

which is 2km in diameter, consisting of millions of antennae erected in the Western Australian desert. It should be operational this year. Once these telescopes can replicate results seen by EDGES, we will be able to confirm that the first stars “revealed” dark matter. As we the technology catches up with our desire to understand, this field begins to emerge into relevance. Cosmologists can now start working to prove that anything with a ‘dark’ in front of it is not just an abstract idea for something we do not yet understand, but an actuality.



Left: a sign in Bislama, one of the many languages of Vanuatu; Right: a view of Vanuatu //Wikimedia

## Words and genes

*The fascinating genetic history of the Vanuatuan communities has finally been mapped, and it is much more surprising than previously expected.*

## SCIENCE

**Juan Ignacio Rubio Gorrochategui**  
*Science Writer*

Language and genetics do not usually go hand in hand in human history. Languages are, if anything, an instrument for domination – the epitome of international prestige as well as commercial and political supremacy. As the scholar of Yiddish Max Weinreich once said: “a language is a dialect with an army and a navy”. Empires rise and impose their speech on the individuals they conquer, a speech that is usually forgotten or radically changed when the next generation of conquerors fall on the shell of a state that has initiated its decay. This process happened in Britain, which lost its own homegrown dialect of Latin when the

Anglo-Saxons came to the island; or can be seen in Turkey, where Greek lost its place to a language that was first spoken in the vast steppes of Siberia. But while languages change, the people do not. Many modern British citizens are direct descendants of the worshippers of Stonehenge and Turks from the soldiers that gave Byzantium its greatest glories. However, while their languages faded, the continuous genetic link was untouched, and the newcomers provided only negligible amounts of new genetic material. Until now, this was believed to be a universal phenomenon, the only exceptions being the colonization of America and Australia, which resulted in both tremendous genetic and linguistic changes. And then, the whole scheme fell apart in Vanuatu.

Vanuatu is an island country in the Western Pacific. Not many people

know that the small nation is one of the most linguistically diverse places in the world: 113 languages are spoken by a population of around 270,000. All the

**“Over 100 languages are spoken by the population of 270,000 on Vanuatu”**

indigenous languages of Vanuatu belong to the Austronesian family, a group of languages that stretches from Madagascar to Easter Island, including Malay, Tagalog, and Maori. More than 6,000 years ago, the Austronesian peoples left Taiwan to colonise the Indonesian archipelago. From there, they spread west to Madagascar and east to

the islands that neighbour New Guinea – Vanuatu being among them. The group that moved East gave origin to the Lapita, the ancestors of the famed Polynesians who explored the Pacific from Hawaii to New Zealand. Thus, as Vanuatu is the focal point of the Lapita expansion, it should be expected that Vanuatuan are genetically close to other Polynesian peoples. Instead, they are very similar to inhabitants of New Guinea, who speak a completely different group of languages. This is not a strange occurrence in history; as explained before, conquerors usually impose their languages. It would not be farfetched to think that the original Papuan inhabitants of Vanuatu were invaded by a wave of Austronesians. Vanuatu would then be another case of language replacement; however, the people would still be the same. Except, this time, it

was the other way around. When researchers from the Max Planck Institute of Human History recently analysed the remains of the earliest inhabitants of Vanuatu, they found that they were indistinguishable from the individuals taken in Lapita burial sites from other Pacific islands, and quite different from the modern Vanuatuan. In other words, it seems that Vanuatu was colonised by the neighbouring Papuans who imposed their genetic legacy – itself an event that occurs rarely in human history. What is more astonishing is that the conquerors adopted the language of the people they replaced. This phenomenon is unprecedented in history, and points to slower but steady process of conquest. At first, only a few Papuans moved to the islands, and some adopted the language of the original inhabitants. As the flow of

Papuans increased, there was a gradual change in the genetic make-up of the population of the islands, but the languages remained the same. After thousands of years, the genetic heritage of the Austronesians had all but disappeared, but their language remained, spoken by the people that had replaced them.

The special case of Vanuatu shows facts that have been long held as universal in the study of human populations are not as true as once thought. The complex relationships between human populations are still far from understood, and there are probably still many Vanuatuan in the most remote parts of world, waiting to be discovered. Who knows what other long held foundations of anthropology could be torn to shreds.

# SCIENCE

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## From *Jaws* to jaws: the impact of shark-fin soup

**SCIENCE**

**Olly Dove**  
*Science Writer*

Over forty years ago, a film was released into cinemas that would forever haunt those swimming in the open sea. But the main star of *Jaws*, the infamous great white shark, sadly has more to fear from humans than we do from them. While we may think of sharks preying upon us, in this case it is humans that are at the top of the food chain.

Shark fin soup, a traditional dish in several East and Southeast Asian countries, requires the usual ingredients for a soup: broth, salt, and maybe a mushroom or two. But, as the name indicates, it also requires shark fins. As animal-based

products go, it is not one with a pleasant collection method: fishermen catch individual sharks, before slicing off the fins to be processed, sold, and consumed in the soup. They are not fastidious about the shark species when obtaining the fins, nor are they picky about the treatment of the shark after the fins are collected. The finless individuals are thrown back overboard to face a restricted life at the bottom of the ocean – unable to swim again.

It may seem obvious that there is the need to find a more ethically-sourced soup to serve, but shark fin soup serves as a status symbol, presented at several special occasions, one being weddings. The traditional dish originates from the 10<sup>th</sup> century where it was a Chinese emperor's dish of choice. More recently,

it has slowly begun to dwindle out of fashion as charities, such as the Hong Kong Shark Foundation, continue efforts to increase awareness of the soup's preparation methods.

**“Finless sharks are thrown overboard, to face a restricted life at the bottom of the ocean”**

The mega-corporation Disney even faced the moral dilemma back in 2005, when it had to make the decision on whether or not to serve shark fin soup at its brand-new Dis-



Protests against shark-fin soup // Wikimedia

neyland in Hong Kong. Having originally planned on serving the soup as a sign of respect to local residents, the corporation ultimately decided against it. More recently, several protests have occurred across the continent at restaurants serving the

soup with the use of graphic costumes aimed at deterring customers from enjoying their meals. There have been suggestions that shark finning could help conservation efforts, but whether these claims have legitimate proof or are merely

convenient arguments is yet to be seen. Given the moral implications and other options available, shark fin soup seems a bizarre choice for a meal. Especially given the fact that it's tasteless!

## Grantham lecture: a topical discussion with a distinguished speaker

**SCIENCE**

**Kenza Tazi**  
*Science Writer*

Following the established tradition of his predecessors, His Serene Highness Prince Albert II came to Imperial to promote ocean conservation. The principality of Monaco is known to have led many expeditions under the leadership of Prince Albert I, the current prince's grandfather, and Jacques-Yves Cousteau, the famous oceanographer. These include creating the first modern bathymetric map and a large contribution to the study of the Gulf Stream.



Prince Albert II at UNESCO // Wikimedia

The lecture, entitled “The climate change: a threat to the oceans. The Ocean: a chance for the climate”, covered the main issues facing our oceans due to pollution and climate change, such as acidification. The

Prince spoke of the different initiatives Monaco had recently put into place to safeguard this environment, culminating in the creation of World Ocean Summit taking place this year in Mexico.

He outlined a three-

point strategy towards a solution to these issues: rigorous science, comprehensive protection, and a sustainable economy. On the first point he made allusions to the work being done by Imperial and his foundation.

He then expressed the need for leaders to urge reluctant states to stand up and safeguard the fragile environment that is our seas. Finally, the Prince stressed that the way forward was through a Blue Economy, the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, and highlighted how these solutions were being implemented in Monaco.

He also mentioned the accountability of individuals in this crisis, especially with regards to plastic pollution and travel, and ended with a quote from Winston Churchill: “What is the use of living, if it be not to strive for noble causes and to make this muddled

world a better place for those who will live in it after we are gone”.

Although the points of the lecture were relevant and interesting, the speaker struggled to give them with panache, and failed to answer the questions asked by the audience – namely how young graduates could be a part of this new Blue Economy. Perhaps the Grantham Institute should choose future speakers with an understanding of their topic as well as notoriety if it is to please both its student and staff body, as well as the general public.

You can watch the lecture in full at: <http://bit.ly/granthamoceans>.

# SCIENCE

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## Connect with conservation – A lonely frog

**SCIENCE**

**Steve Allain**  
*Science Writer*

Just in times for Valentine's Day, a water frog named Romeo had an online dating profile setup to search for love. This sort of thing isn't usually newsworthy, except for the fact Romeo has been dubbed 'the world's loneliest frog'. He is the only known individual of his species, and the profile was completed to help raise awareness to the plight of Romeo's species. He has been in captivity for almost a decade and has been calling for a mate ever since. This isn't the first time a lone individual of a species has been known to science: in

September 2016, the last Rabb's fringe-limbed tree frog called Toughie passed away from old age. Like Romeo, he had been in captivity for a long time and unfortunately a female was never found

**“Romeo has been dubbed ‘the world’s loneliest frog’. He is the only known individual of his species”**

for him to mate with.

The story is the same for both species – but how can you only have one individual left? There

are a number of different factors which are causing synergistic effects on amphibian populations globally. Currently, 41% of amphibian species are threatened with extinction, the highest rate for any group of vertebrates. Habitat loss, pollution, overharvesting, and disease are some of the biggest threats facing amphibians. One of the main diseases that caused such rapid declines in both Romeo's and Toughie's species (as well as countless others) is chytridiomycosis. The disease is caused by a highly infectious fungus, and has been implicated in the global decline of amphibian populations.

Unfortunately it is unlikely that a female Sehuencas water frog will ever be found, despite the fact that in the late 1990s they were common



One of the last Rabb's fringe-limbed tree frogs // Wikimedia

in Bolivia. Even if one is found, will she be in a suitable condition to breed? Will he be too old by then? It's sad to think that although Romeo's dating profile has raised both awareness and funds to help protect other am-

phibians and their habitats in Bolivia, it's likely he will suffer the same fate as Toughie. All hope is not lost as an elusive female may still be out there in the Bolivian wilds somewhere and hopefully she can be paired with Romeo.

With raising threat of climate change and other such factors how long will it be until other common amphibian species across the globe are reduced to only a handful of individuals?

# PHOENIX

## From the Ashes

*Phoenix*, Imperial's Art Magazine presents “From the Ashes”, a six-week long exhibition which embodies the cycle of art.

Join us at the opening night, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March, at Imperial's Blyth Gallery, to mark the start of this aesthetic journey.

## Amazon's latest purchase – a 'smart' doorbell

Amazon recently acquired a small firm called Ring in the hopes of raising people's trust in the Amazon Key service.

## TECH

Krithika Balaji  
Tech Writer

Recently, Amazon, an American electronic commerce and cloud-computing company, bought US firm Ring for more than \$1 billion. The firm produces high-tech doorbells that records live videos of the customer's doorstep and sends it to their smartphone. Ring hopes that working with Amazon will allow it to further develop home security products. It was founded in 2012 and has more than 2,000 employees, about a million customers and estimated sales of \$155 million according to the Los Angeles Times.

At the end of last year, Amazon launched a new service in the U.S. called Amazon Key, which has a smartlock and an app that will allow users to let package deliveries into their homes remotely. The idea behind this was to remove the need to wait for couriers that would deliver anytime between a set of hours during the day. It could also be used to give permanent access to family members inside the house, removing the need to hide a spare key under a doormat or inside a potted plant. Installing the Amazon Key by a certified provider is free.

If you were to install the Amazon Key, this is how a typical delivery would look: the delivery person scans a barcode on the package when they reach your house. Amazon's server then sends you a notification that a delivery is about to take place and simultaneously turns the camera on. The courier



Ring's 'smart' doorbell // Creative Commons

sends a signal that unlocks the door, puts the package inside and sends another signal to lock the door. The server then notifies you about the delivery and

**“Understandably there were many concerns raised about this service”**

sends you the recorded video.

Understandably, there were many concerns raised about this service. For starters, what would happen if you have pets that were able to run away when the delivery person opens the door? What about planned thievery, where the delivery person

sets up a bank account with a fake ID, waits for the day when you are out and Amazon has a lot of deliveries, gains access into your house and steals your valuables? This might sound far-fetched but there have been instances in the past where people went the extra mile to successfully steal something. Needless to say, many people are hesitant about using this service.

Since then, Amazon started looking into ways to ensure the safety and privacy of its customers using the Amazon Key, along with ways to improve the smartlock itself. One way is by buying Ring, which owned the smart doorbell technology. The doorbell takes a live video of customers' doorsteps and sends the videos to their smartphones. Amazon hopes that this will help

customers trust their new service by ensuring the safety and security of their homes.

Baird Equity Research analyst Colin Sebastian said: “As Amazon moves

**“The doorbell takes a live video of the customers' doorsteps...”**

more aggressively into the grocery delivery space ... we believe smart security devices will be an important factor in driving user adoption.” When smart doorbells are implemented, one advantage could be that customers can take action against the delivery person if the duration of the delivery is suspiciously long, as they

are watching a live video of the delivery instead of one sent after the delivery is over.

The downside of this is that the doorbell only sends a video of people's doorsteps, and not the inside of the house. While this ensures that the occupants have privacy within their house should the system be hacked, it also means that the customers won't know much about what is going on just inside their house during the time that their door is opened by the delivery person. All they would know is the duration of the delivery.

Also, in terms of ensuring security in homes, the doorbell isn't really useful for house owners with pets. In the case of pets escaping, the doorbell can't take preventive action against this event – it would simply record it and inform the

owner about the event.

**“The company has a long way to go in addressing the concerns of its customers”**

Acquiring Ring is a step in the right direction for Amazon but the company still has a long way to go in addressing the various concerns of its customers in an effective manner. The company will have to provide evidence that the Amazon Key won't be a tool for malicious opportunists or planned thievery before more customers can start trusting and using this service.

## Applications of blockchain technology

Why you should be wary of tech's latest buzzword.



Blockchains have seemingly been discussed everywhere, but is our attention justified? // Creative Commons

## TECH

Hubert Kaluzny  
Tech Writer

“X but on the blockchain”, has become as much of a technological mantra as “Uber but for X” in these recent months. Apart from the sharp peaks and shallow troughs of the price of cryptocurrencies produced by a mutual belief of value, is there any practical use of blockchain technology?

Smart contracts are being used in blockchains to allow the execution of programs, and these programs run on all participating nodes of a blockchain network. Of course, implementations of these smart contracts differ as different cryptocurrencies have different purposes. Ethereum is well known for using an almost Turing complete language, only

limited by an individual's balance. This wildly free platform has allowed the development of several applications, ranging from virtual gambling casinos, crowdfunding platforms and digital rights management to something as superfluous

**“X but on the blockchain' has become something of a technological mantra”**

as CryptoKitties. CryptoKitties allows you to spend some Ethereum in exchange for virtual cats, each of which is unique and able to be bred and traded. The popularity of this game in December of last year managed to slow down the entire Ethereum

network as traffic from the game made up 15% of transactions at peak times.

Should you be worried about virtual cats? CryptoKitties has shown us there are problems with the current networks in place; perhaps it wasn't the killer application we wanted, but one we needed. Current 'crypto-giants' need to invest more in infrastructure to ensure people who are getting introduced to these new ecosystems have the means to do so. Apart from the Ethereum network, there are several other interesting projects in the world of blockchains. Storj uses blockchains to connect people who want to rent out drive space to people who are willing to lease it, using end-to-end encryption to facilitate this. They use a blockchain to keep a track of file permissions and which chunks of files are where, as they are never stored fully

intact to increase security and privacy. The one limitation of this technology is the low-bandwidth connections being used

**“Ethereum is well-known for using an almost Turing complete language”**

for peer-to-peer connections, as maintaining and building infrastructure for a large scale distributed system like this would prove extremely difficult.

During the last Imperial Blockchain Forum hosted by the Imperial Centre of Cryptocurrency Research and Engineering, Sinan Belhawi from MedCoin presented his use of a blockchain in the medical industry. Firstly,

the technology allows a distributed ledger to exist containing all your health information shared between doctors, hospitals and clinics ensuring no loss of information as you change health providers. This is a huge change from the system previously in place, where patients would have to remember things like all the different medicine they have been prescribed or present hand-written notes on crumpled up pieces of paper. MedCoins would then be able to be used as payment between patients and doctors, for services such as video call consultations where the consulting doctor is able to see all your medical history, or allow you to sell your health data to research companies in return for MedCoins.

Blockchains have several utilities; they allow us to operate without supervision from governments or authorities, they can be used to ensure a single correct account of events is kept between all parties, and can execute pre-defined actions under immutable terms. The place which we are at with blockchain technology is one that resembles the days of the early internet, with technological pioneers already working on 'Web 3.0'. There are many challenges that we are to overcome before we can utilise this technology in a meaningful way. Currently there are a lot of projects out there that are using the current popularity trend in blockchain technology rather than attempting to make anything of value. At the moment you're unlikely to be using any blockchains, however with the development of new applications they may become much more widespread.

## Why Blackboard?

*The drawbacks of not using online education to its full capacity.*



Blackboard has turned into a source of stress for many students // Creative Commons

### TECH

**Thushaan Rajaratnam**

*Tech Writer*

**Annika Guez**

*Tech Writer*

Blackboard. The main framework that manages all the course material and information for most departments, and yet it still remains flawed. It is currently the principal exchange platform between professors and their respective students when it comes to sharing notes, tutorials, and all other diversified pieces of information, but does it achieve a clear and structured organisation, and truly correspond to the most efficient way to do so?

From the inconsistency of its usage between lecturers, to the unnecessary restrictions it poses to the students, Blackboard has led to a lot of unsatisfied opinions. Often, the necessary material for a course is not solely available on Blackboard, and yet it is still not possible to access other knowledgeable sources, or personal studying elements, without having an excessive amount of tabs open, forcing us to jump back and forth through our open pages to recall the most basic of details. How is it that a website created for students in order to improve their access and understanding of course information, doesn't actually give us authority on the outline of material, and provides only limited sources of exchange with

the rest of the community? Normalising the structure and leaving the monopoly of the layout to the lecturers can be understood for the sake of simplicity, but when that initial goal isn't met, then

**“Often, the necessary material for a course is not solely available on Blackboard”**

restrictions towards the students on their own university platform probably should not stand. In retrospect, the mere concept

of “shared information” through this interface should be re-evaluated. Instead of having an open and constructive medium between professors and students, current Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) such as Blackboard allow no space for social studying. This creates difficulty in immediate access to specific information or particular answers, leading to yet another open tab on our already busy screen to accommodate for a social website such as Facebook, Whatsapp or Google Drive, with which no clear systematic scheme has been set up, making this whole process all the more confusing. There is a noticeable lack of engagement from the students and a clearly limited interaction with

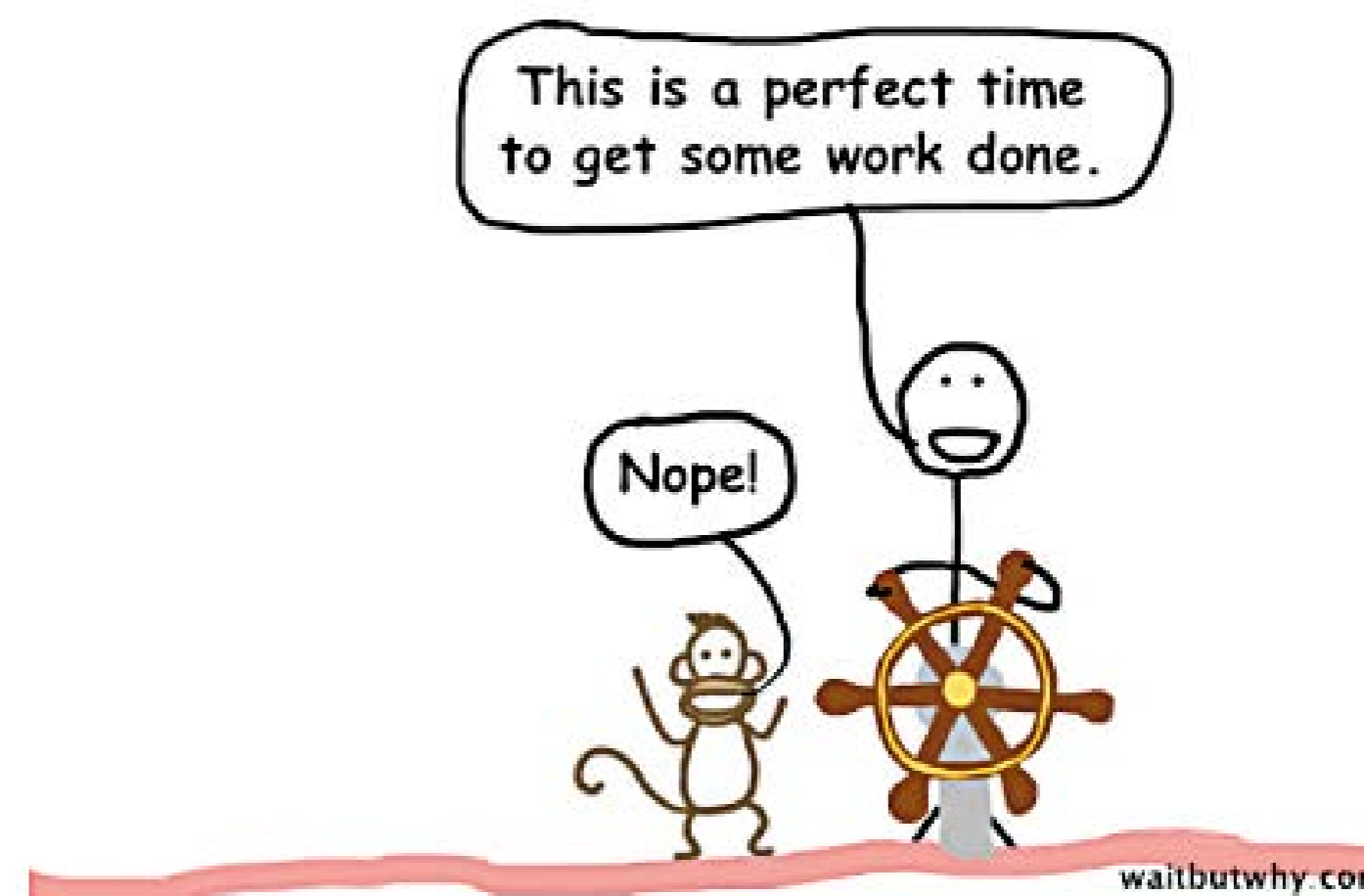
the teachers, which therefore means there is no true sense of co-dependency or community. We are essentially constrained to use a single VLE which

**“The way to access the necessary information shouldn't be another source of stress”**

has not been improved for over 10 years.

The work we are given is hard enough as it is; the way to access the necessary material shouldn't be an additional source

of stress and concern. Instead of having an unclear institution-provided website, why not provide the students with an intuitive system that allows them to organise material in the way they deem best for their work ethics? We should be able to share organised pages of information with one another and collaborate as a group. Improving the user interface and simplifying the layout, giving it a more innate feel, and therefore giving both lecturers and students more confidence to interact with others through this shared platform and take part in open discussions about certain challenging topics. This new collaborative method could allow social data processing and quicker responses from the department to



Issues within blackboard often lead to lots of tabs being open, which doesn't help productivity // Wait but why

feedback.

In the Mechanical Engineering Department, there is a website called Piazza in certain subjects that acts as an open

**“An emerging site, 'Infotree', aims to take into account the main issues with the layout”**

platform where questions from students can be answered rapidly by the lecturer. The public aspect of it allows the informa-

tion to reach all students so the questions are not asked twice, and allows follow-up questions if ever further explaining is required. The way this method was implemented throughout the department was by making it the only option, forcing lecturers to answer solely on this platform rather than to individual emails from the students. To a certain extent, this shared collaborative site allows everyone to engage with the material, and be provided with quick and simple answers to their questions. Indirectly, this also informs the lecturer about the main topics of struggle, allowing them to adapt and shape their course in order to put more emphasis on certain

parts, resembling an interactive feedback system. However, just like Blackboard, the main issue here revolves around the organisation and layout of the information, as the questions are organised in chronological order rather

**“The main issue revolves around the organization and layout”**

than grouped together by relevance to a certain topic.

There is an emerging site called “Infotree”,

created by a third year Mechanical Engineering student, which aims to encompass all these new possibilities, and take into account various other considerations. It will target the main issues when it comes to communication within the department and will dedicate a good part of its functionality to the simplification of the layout. Despite being still in the experimental phase, this platform has the potential to perhaps become a more intuitive, user-friendly alternative to the Blackboard. Infotree is currently focusing on implementing a plug-in which would allow students to import data into their own personal space in order to facilitate their access to it. The

transition of information between Blackboard and Infotree will be effortless and quick, and will give students complete control over how they would want to organise it. It builds upon the current educational website, whilst introducing the possibility for various different sources, not only for the eyes of the individual, but also for the rest of the course if ever one wishes to share some of their material.

As the website is progressively improved, it will allow students in tandem with teachers to create efficient and comprehensive educational pages that will be passed down through the years and constantly reviewed and improved upon,

based on the feedback of the users. Over time, our studies here at Imperial will become easier for all incoming students and allow topics to be explored more thoroughly and in depth to give a fuller understanding of the module and its application. With this new form of interface, the strain on lectures and

**“Infotree will target the main issues when it comes to communication within the department”**

tutorials is expected to reduce, allowing the possibility for a greater presence of online learning as its importance increases, due to the rapid and inevitable digitalisation of information. This surfacing sense of community will lead to a sense of mutual aid where students themselves who have a deep understanding of a particular subject could share informational and demonstrative videos or lectures to the younger years.

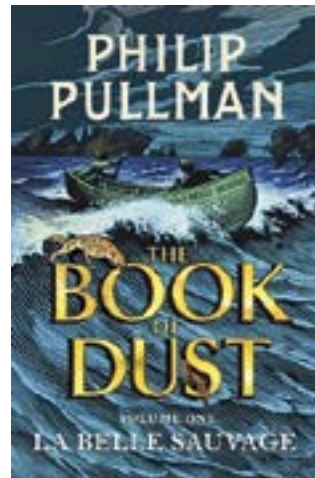
The principal issues with Blackboard are sometimes too present and crucial to be ignored, and giving the students the possibility to control their workspace in a more organised manner could benefit everyone in the department, ridding us of a fair amount of unnecessary effort. Ideally, a website that acts as “a plugin where students can quickly extract and add content from anywhere to just one place” could be a long awaited innovative change, that will keep on developing throughout the years.

## BOOKS

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*La Belle Sauvage: Dust after Darkness*

*Philip Pullman's first book of his new series The Book of Dust, La Belle Sauvage, continues in the world of His Dark Materials and is as good as the original.*



## BOOKS

**LA BELLE SAUVAGE**  
by Philip Pullman

David Fickling. 560 pp.

**Waleed El-Geresy**  
Books Writer

Another year, another Philip Pullman series! Well, not really. The last world-renowned series that Pullman released was *His Dark Materials*, and what a series it was. But that was all too long ago. Those familiar with *His Dark Materials* might think of it as the atheist's take on Narnia. Those who aren't will at least have heard of it since it is the book that the feature film *The Golden Compass* is based on.

The first instalment of his new series, *The Book of Dust*, is *La Belle Sauvage* - in English, *'The Beautiful Savage'*. Pullman returns to Lyra's world, continuing to highlight the shady side of religion in what is a much darker book.

The story carries us on a journey where Lyra - the protagonist of *His Dark Materials* - is still a baby but somehow still very much the same fierce

personality as she is in the original series. Pullman continues in his familiar fashion of having as the main characters a young boy and girl. This time, it is Malcolm and Alice. Though they may be young, the world around them isn't.

His *Dark Materials* is famous - notorious, perhaps - for its portrayal of the Magisterium, a global religious authority, as the main antagonists. In *La Belle Sauvage*, Pullman continues to explore this. Notably, we learn about 'The League of Saint Alexander', a group designed to encourage children to report heretic behaviour. Pullman is adamant about getting his very anti-religious message across and is well-practiced at exploring the authoritative and negative side of

**"Pullman returns to Lyra's world, highlighting the shady side of religion in a much darker book"**

organised religion, which as we know is a heated theme at present.

For example, it would be naïve to assume that most children had no idea of the current situation regarding Islamic terror, or even that they never questioned the existence of God. He does perhaps do this a bit bluntly, and the allegorical veil often wears thin. However, this



Philip Pullman - master of the microcosm // BBC

appears to be his style.

You could be forgiven for thinking that this was a children's book, but its content is fairly mature. Violence and unpleasantness are fairly commonplace. In one scene, Pullman even alludes to the molestation of a child. Pullman should be applauded for the way he balances the mature and the fantastically wondrous, the latter of which makes his writing so irresistible. Reading *La Belle Sauvage* felt very much like a dream: nightmarish in parts, and absurdly glorious in others. Yet despite that absurdity, it is very easy to soak in. There are of course a few watery bits here and there. There are also a lot of passages which are slightly drawn out, such as one describing in detail the way

the trio make their way through the flood, which was slightly unnecessary.

*La Belle Sauvage* introduced some interesting new characters as well as gave us a glimpse of the history of some old ones (Father Coram!). Malcolm, who works as a potboy in his parents' inn, is a likeable character from the start. He is curious without being nosy and has a strong moral compass. He is very down to earth and takes it upon himself to be Lyra's protector. Alice, his companion, is a pleasantly resilient young girl. Alice is the type of girl who seems to be older than her years and despite her ferociousness, she has a unique personality and a good heart, ending up as a very lovable addition to the characters we know and love. Then of course

there is the baby Lyra, who has a personality of her own. If Malcolm and Alice were Claus and Violet Baudelaire from Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, then Lyra would be Sunny - an innocent yet fierce baby who you would have no trouble believing will become the Lyra of the future.

Finally, there is Gerard Bonneville. This is an evil man who brings the darkness to the book. He and his terrifying hyena daemon make for a truly frightening combination. The parts where he makes an appearance were some of the most interesting and exciting in the book.

Do not believe for a second that this book is a shadow of *His Dark Materials*. *La Belle Sauvage* is written just as well, and told in the same gripping

fashion. My only regret upon its publication is the wait until the next instalment of the *Book of Dust*.

**"Gerard Bonneville is an evil man, who brings a terrifying darkness to the book"**

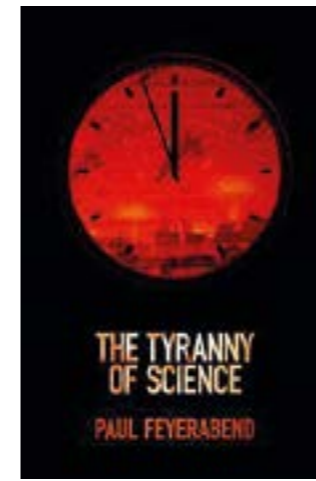
But if you can't bear the thought of the wait till *The Secret Commonwealth* is released then fret not! *His Dark Materials* is due to be made into a full-length BBC series later this year. Here's to many more years of Pullman's beautiful fantasy.

## BOOKS

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## Are we living under the tyranny of science?

*Maybe we all need to take some time to re-evaluate our basic relationship with science.*



## BOOKS

**THE TYRANNY OF SCIENCE**  
by Paul Feyerabend

Polity Press. 180 pp.

**Henry Bennie**  
Books Writer

I've noticed posters around college, and have been leafleted with a manifesto. At first, I was a little taken aback by their

stance: 'We believe the scientific method is dogmatic and prescriptive, and it restricts creativity of thought in science.' The group, calling themselves the 'Against Method Collective', seems to have based their campaign (or so-called revolution) on the writings of the rather maverick philosopher of science Paul Feyerabend. Interested, I thought I'd take a look.

In their materials they mention a text called *Against Method* from 1975 which I picked up from the library but, honestly, found a little too dense for someone not versed in reading philosophy. However, I did find another book by Feyerabend, based on a series of public lectures he gave in 1992 at the end of his life, called *The Tyranny of Science*: it's transformed the way I think about science.

Feyerabend is more than just a dry critical thinker, he is a masterful storyteller. His voice is strong and often makes the reader (or this reader, at least) gasp, laugh, and screw up their face in displeasure. His provocative thoughts are most challenging to those of us who have been fully indoctrinated with the 'scientific' view of the world - many of us at Imperial for sure!

But this is exactly what he is trying to do: enrage us and wake us up from our complacency.

Feyerabend wants us to realise the fallacy in our own scientific thinking. He wants us scientists to remember that we are humans and cannot remove ourselves (and all other influences) from science. He wants us to realise that by ignoring this we are fooling ourselves, but, more importantly, he



Feyerabend asks us to challenge the orthodoxy of science // Wikimedia

argues that our blinkered way of thinking would limit what we could learn.

He starts, like most philosophers, with the Ancient Greeks and then charts the rise of rationalism through to our modern world, in which the mystical 'scientific' world view rules supreme. He argues that some of the very basic assumptions we all make about science are false and that sustainable parts of scientific ideology were created on the basis of superficial generalisations. He argues that this has led us all to absurd misconceptions about the nature of human life.

He pleads for us to understand that knowledge is obtainable by any method, and by understanding this we could relinquish science's hold over all truth, thus coming out from under its tyranny and solve the real problems people face: hunger, poverty, and war.

To Feyerabend, the sciences themselves are not the enemy. They play their part in the real solutions. Feyerabend

thought the problem lies in the scientific method: scientists are taught to be 'objective', approaching the world as an abstraction instead of experiencing the world by other methods. Science encourages us to theorise and dehumanise people, turning us into data or objects to model. This, for Feyerabend, is the true tyranny of science.

But why should we read Feyerabend now?

Science, now more than ever, seems to be under threat and has started to fight back. We have seen presidents dismissing climate change, politicians saying that we 'have had enough of experts', and schools teaching creationism.

People have had enough of science and its absoluteness, its hard inhumanity, and its 'objectivity'. In response, science has entrenched itself. Instead of opening itself up to examination and accepting its flawed nature, the scientific establishment poo-pooed non-believers as stupid and ignorant.

This sentiment was most evident in April 2017, when those devoted to science attended the worldwide political march for science with placards that read slogans such as 'Science reveals reality', 'Science has no agenda', and 'Without science it's just fiction'. Here, scientists were saying that the only way to knowledge is through science: science is the only truth. Thanks to Feyerabend, I can see that not only are these statements too naïve about the nature of science, but also that they are dogmatic and oppressive. No wonder we haven't convinced anyone to come join our evidence-based, peer-reviewed, rational cult.

Maybe scientists should all read Feyerabend, learn to be a little less self-righteous, and open their minds to new ways of thinking. Instead of oppressing ourselves and others with science, we should maybe take note of what Feyerabend said all those years ago and replace the scientific method with the principle that 'anything goes'.

# Dance Imperial Show 2018



**15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Union Concert Hall**  
**Doors 7pm; Start 7.30pm**

## VOTING CLOSES TODAY

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

### Voting closes at noon

Voting closes at 12:00 today, bringing The Leadership Elections 2018 to a close.

Polling opened last Friday 2 March with over 19,000 Imperial students eligible to vote in an election contested by over 700 students across positions ranging from Union President to Felix Editor to Academic and Wellbeing Departmental Reps.

At the close of polling, preparation for the count will immediately begin at Imperial College Union, with results to be announced at Metric at 19:00. If you can't make it, keep an eye on our social media.

Last year saw 6,704 students cast their votes in The Leadership Elections for a turnout of 36.79 per cent.

It's hoped that by the close of polling, that figure will be exceeded allowing Imperial to retain its place as one of the top democratic unions in the country.

### Results Party

All students and staff are invited to Metric tonight 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.

We start in Metric at 19:00 and continue the party in FiveSixEight until well after midnight. Entry is free.



### LSE vs Imperial 2018

Tickets are out now for the first ever LSE vs Imperial Varsity where Imperial College London take on the London School of Economics across 12 different sports.

Get your ticket for Heston Sports Ground for Saturday 17 March. We start at 10:00 with a full day of fixtures. Tickets include transportation, entry to the grounds, and a Varsity T-shirt.

Tickets are on sale until 12:00, Wednesday 14 March 2018. Don't miss out - winner of the inaugural event earns massive bragging rights!

Get tickets at [imperialcollegeunion.org/varsity](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/varsity)



### Spring Carnival 2018

We're still feeling the chill, but with spring just round the corner, it's the perfect time to get your tickets for Spring Carnival 2018.

The Spring Carnival is a great way to spend your last evening of term, and say goodbye to both winter and Imperial before you set sail for the Easter break!

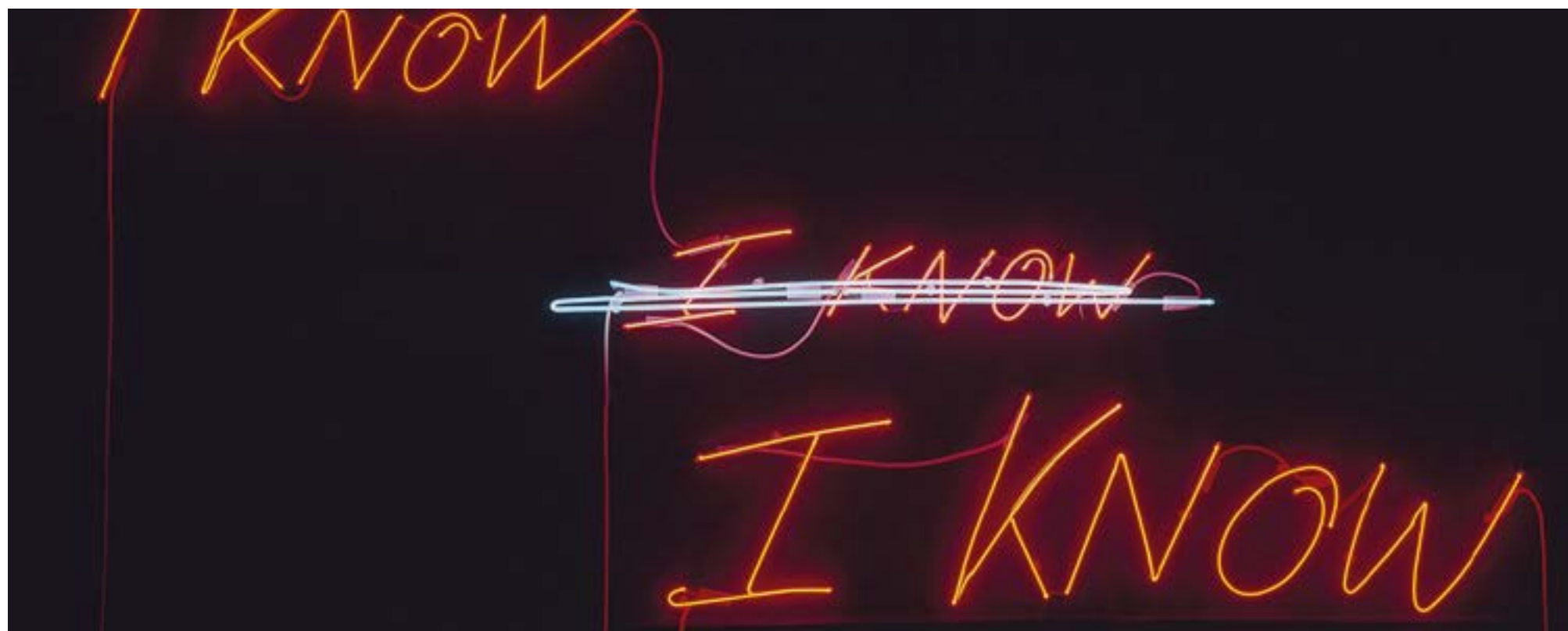
This year's event is sea-themed and will take place at The Union on Friday 23 March. Tickets are being sold in tiers, so buy as early as possible to get the best price!

Get tickets at [imperialcollegeunion.org/springcarnival18](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/springcarnival18)



## ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk



The personal made public: I know i know I know, 2002 // Tracey Emin

## In the eye of the beholder: the male gaze in visual art

*An exploration of contemporary women artists resisting and subverting the status quo*

## ARTS

Indira Mallik

Arts Editor

The term ‘male gaze’ was coined by Laura Mulvey in 1999 in the context of cinema, in an essay in which she described the role of women in film as “to be simultaneously looked at and displayed”: the result of a heteronormative, patriarchal society in which women are expected to take a passive role. The concept of the male gaze was quickly adopted into the cultural lexicon because Mulvey’s observations transcend the movies – in all forms of media the (cis, straight, white) male experience held up as the norm, it is the men who have agency, women are the objects of consumption.

The pincer grip of the male gaze on the art world is exposed pithily by the Guerilla Girls, an anon-

ymous all-female collective, in their 1989 pop-art inspired poster *Do Women Have To Be Naked to Get Into the Met Museum* which reveals that “less than 5% of artists in the Modern Art section (of the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art in New York) are women, but 85% of the nudes are female”.

The disparity between who is object and who is the subject matters because at its heart, the male gaze is primarily about power. In the arts, where the currency is selling a narrative or having a voice, it boils down to who gets to tell the story and in what way, and who must remain a silent character in the story told about them. In a climate where the male gaze predominates, women artists who speak out candidly, not just about wider social issues but their own lives are staging minute revolutions.

Openness, transgression, and intimacy are at the centre of Tracey

Emin’s on-going neon series. Since the 1990s she has created work in which tubes of neon lighting are bent into a simulacrum of her handwriting to spell out phrases of love, loss, and rage. Though the medium has been in use for decades, Emin’s work is memorable because of the sense of personal disclosure her words seem unfiltered: *I know, I know, I know*, one piece admonishes, the writing getting bigger with each repetition, the central phrase angrily scratched out. In day-glo brights Emin makes sentences, which seem as though they could be lifted straight from a diary, intensely public. Made famous by the Turner-shortlisted *My Bed*, she is no stranger to blurring the lines between public and private – some of Emin’s best work has tossed aside female silence – in *All the People I’ve Ever Slept With*, she used the traditionally female craft of quilting to create a cocoon-like tent

on which the names of her lovers, friends and family are embroidered. Despite the confessional nature of Emin’s work, we are never in doubt who holds the power, rather than being exposed, Emin puts herself on display.

The difference between unflinchingly open and voyeuristic work is evident in Jenny Saville’s nudes. In her series *Closed Contact* Saville uses thick oils and heavy brushstrokes to depict her naked body pressed tightly against clear glass, in extreme close up and at a vast scale, fat and muscle slide and squash together to create unexpected shapes. Saville transforms her body into a landscape: the distorted swell of her abdomen and breasts, the curl of her fingers, the ridges of her knuckles become a topography of fleshy tones. These canvases zing with energy, they are sometimes beautiful, often grotesque, always compelling. Paintings by

other figurative artists such as Lucian Freud who also make nudes their focus are rendered staid in comparison.

In the age of social media platforms that demand divulsion, and in a climate where happily body positivity is becoming a little more widespread, Saville and Emin’s art is more relevant than ever. However, it is still depressingly difficult for women artists to share their voices and stories: when in 2012, the Guerilla Girls updated their statistics, 4% of the artists in the Modern Art section of the Met. were women, but 74% of the nudes were female.

The internet has provided artists the opportunity to circumvent old institutions altogether. Funded by feminist production company The Front, filmmaking sister duo Remy and Kelsey Bennett have made it their mission to cast the spotlight on female artists through the documentary

series *Under Her Skin* (available online). In a series of short episodes they follow the journey of contemporary artists looking to break out: from 17 year old Pantetha Abareshi who, like Frida Kahlo did, paints to communicate and transform her chronic pain, to Jane Rule Burdine, who at seventy-one is still active as a street photographer.

In offering the perspectives of many different women what *Under Her Skin* promotes is crucial in the campaign for better representation: the imperative to honour individual, nuanced experiences, filtered not only through the lens of womanhood, but a prism of intersecting identities: those of class, culture, race, sexuality and age. Doing so will not only give a voice to those silenced for so long but create a richer treasure trove of art we can all enjoy.

## Ben Wishaw delivers layered performance as Brutus

*Innovative staging, classic rock and modern costuming, makes The Bridge's adaptation an unique experience.*

## ARTS

## JULIUS CAESAR



**Where?** The Bridge Theatre  
**When?** 20<sup>th</sup> January – 15<sup>th</sup> April  
**How Much?** £15

**Zie Yang**  
Arts Writer

There was a time we killed the King/ We tried to change the world too fast/ Now we have got another King/ He is no better than the last." – I found this play resonated rather neatly (or should I say vice versa) with the lyrics from *Les Misérables*' musical film in 2012. In this modern-dress production of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar in Bridge Theatre directed by Nicholas Hytner, the relations between populism and autocracy was explored with a new layer of complexity granted by the promenade experience.

The play started with live rock music. After Caesar's triumphant return from war, senators Cassius and Brutus feared he had become too powerful and might accept the offer to become the emperor of Rome. Though Brutus hesitated to take action, he was eventually convinced by Cassius. The two planned the assassination with their conspirators. On the Ides of March, Caesar ignored multiple warnings that an assassination might take place, including the one from his wife Calpurnia, and went to the Senate. Suddenly, gunshot tore through the air, and the crowd fell to the ground in shock, revealing the conspirators



David Morrisey as Julius Caesar // Manuel Harlan

holding their guns. Caesar was shot and paralysed on his throne, and then he saw Brutus, his very dear friend among the assassins. Silence fell, tension

**"No two people's experiences of the play will be the same"**

built, and was resolved by the famous line: "Et tu, Brute?" Then, Caesar opened his arms, accepting his inevitable death, and was killed by Brutus' final shot. Brutus delivered a speech to the public explaining the reason of the assassination. He claimed though he loved Caesar, he loved Rome more, and he did what he did for the liberation of its people. Absurdly, when the crowd came to accept and support Brutus for his actions, they exclaimed "Let him

be Caesar!", completely missing Brutus' point, echoing with Cassius' previous statement regarding Caesar: "I know he wouldn't be a wolf if the Romans didn't act like sheep". Antony, Caesar's supporter, was allowed to give a speech at the funeral. Though he promised not to blame the death of Caesar on the conspirators, Antony secretly swore to avenge Caesar, and incited the public against Brutus. Antony teamed up with Octavius and Lepidus to fight Brutus and his accomplices. The war ended with Brutus and Cassius both committing suicide. After Antony found their bodies, he praised Brutus as "the noblest Roman of them all" and returned to Rome to celebrate his victory.

The play made some interesting adaptations to suit its modern-dress production. The assassination was done by gun instead of knife, giving it a more contemporary visual and sound impact.

Furthermore, in the original play, Antony provoked animosity of the crowd towards Brutus and his accomplices by allocating each wound on Caesar's body to a particular conspirator. In this version this was done by allocating the tears on the lining of Caesar's suit left by the bullets.

Marcus Brutus was an ambiguous character. He was driven by both the greater good and self-interest, though he committed a dreadful murder he was nevertheless driven by his morals. Ben Wishaw brought a layer of irony to this noblest murderer, entertained the crowd to disbelieving laughter when he tried to justify his motivation. Michelle Fairley delivered an eloquent and precise performance as Caius Cassius. She was determined and manipulative, cruel but not without tenderness. David Calder sold his Caesar as a populist with authority and ego; his personal charisma won the cheers

of the audience when he marched across the crowd. David Morrisey gave a passionate and opportunistic Mark Antony, and Adjoa Andoh was simply spectacular as Casca.

Bridge Theatre is a very intimate space. The stalls seating was removed for this play to give audience with standing tickets a promenade experience as one of the mob in the play. The round staging limited the stage settings, but this was counterbalanced by the atmosphere created by the lighting and sound designed by Bruno Poet and Paul Arditti, led by the stage designer Bunny Christie. Spatial flexibility was also achieved by the rises and falls of different parts of the stage, which, apart from conveying the play with further dimensions, aided the dynamics of the crowd. You can choose your own perspectives throughout the play – either from the front or the side, and either wide-angle from distant or close-up from beside the stage – and

hear different conversations in the crowd. At the end of the night, you will leave with your unique montage, knowing that no two experiences would be the same.

This play is ultimately about an attempt to end dictatorship with the death of the dictator. We

**"Michelle Fairley delivered an eloquent and precise performance"**

can see in retrospect that the assassination led to a series of civil wars, which resulted in autocracy for the rest of Rome's history. This play has remained so contemporary because history continually repeats itself. What matters is not the fall of the dictator, but who and what follows him.

## Dispatches from the VAULT Festival

*London's answer to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival takes place in the vaults below Waterloo station. Packed with independent theatre and music, the festival, on until March 18<sup>th</sup>, is an opportunity to see reasonably priced innovative productions you wouldn't find anywhere else. Arts editor Jingie Cheng reports on the best.*

## ARTS

## BISMILLAH! AN ISIS TRAGICOMEDY



Dean joined the army, and 'Danny' joined the Islamic State. Dean has been captured by ISIS, and is currently tied to a pole with Danny as his guard. Both men had grown up in the UK. *Bismillah! An ISIS Tragicomedy* is an hour-long conversation between the two, exploring issues in British society, from racism, radicalisation to disenfranchised youth, as well as the portrayal of terrorism and those that join the other side.

Longlisted for the Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award 2015, *Bismillah!* treads cautiously into an area that is rarely touched on by the arts – exploring the psyche of those that leave Western societies to join jihadist causes, and their motivations.

Following a successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2015, this production last week at the Vault festival is the show's London debut. Director Matthew Greenhough performs in his own show as Dean, convincing as a young Northerner trying to find his place in the world, in an environment where good opportunities for young people are

scarce. "I'm not here to kill Muslims" he retorts when Danny accuses him, "I'm here because it's my job. I needed it." After a grim stint working in Wetherspoons, Dean saw joining the Army as his best option to a better life.

But does one's job reflect one's values? Danny seems to think so, and in contrast to Dean, he joined ISIS out of the naive belief that he could help his people, whom he saw as being attacked by the West. Despite their differences, the two bond over working poorly-paid shift jobs and the ridiculous price of a WHSmith meal deal, as well as lousy holidays around the UK and girl problems. Yet, at



'What, WHSmith meal deals cost £4.99?!' // Wound Up Theatre

no point does one feel that the characters are one-dimensional – for example, Danny's violent side kicks in when, in the middle of a very pleasant conversation, Dean expresses disbelief when he learnt that Danny did not drink. There is a sense that these casual comments remind Danny of the experience of never being respected, and triggers him to reassert the power balance in the pair.

Issues in modern British society are woven into

the narrative, including Danny's experiences of religious discrimination and school bullying. Both are youths who feel that they have hit a dead end, with the army and ISIS being viable ways out of their situations. While the show's exploration of terrorism only scratches the surface, it manages to give a nuanced portrayal of the issues that highlight just how complex and multifaceted the problem is – all the more impressive for an hour-long

show. In his post-show talk, Greenhough explains that he wanted to use comedy to tackle complex issues. Dr Sarah Ilott, a lecturer in film and literature at Manchester Metropolitan University who was also speaking at the talk, said that comedy helps to make uncomfortable situations more accessible. Indeed, *Bismillah!* is both hilarious and deeply serious, and a valuable addition to the conversation around radicalising youth.



Trying hard to read your mind... // Daniel Haingartner

## DAS FEST

Philipp Oberlohr knows you. He knows your past, and can predict your future. Or at least, he claims he does. Dubbed as 'Vienna's master illusionist', Oberlohr returned to the Vault Festival with a new mind-reading show, *Das Fest*.

Despite Oberlohr being branded as an illusionist, the show was less an illusionary experience than an interactive mind-reading show. Using audience's stories written on slips of paper, he makes a show of being able to predict their memories and future without reading them.

Oberlohr appears on stage wearing a furry cape, and delivers a speech involving polar bears and Freud. He then splits the audience into two; from one group he asks for a past memory, and from the other he asks for a dare for themselves. These slips of paper were then folded up and left in umbrellas on the stage.

While it is conceivable that impressive sleights of hand allowed him to read these slips without the audience noticing, there were some truly baffling tricks, such as correctly predicting audience members' birthdays and star signs. In between drawing out audience's dares and physically illustrating memories using props, Oberlohr tries to

link these stories together with lyrical imagery and metaphysical musings about the influence of memories and fears about the future.

After a spiel about a house on fire and shoelaces that tie all the elements of one's life together, running back to a pair of shoes in the centre of the fire, Oberlohr picks up a slip of paper and reads off a memory about a flat burning down and the only thing he saved being a pair of shoes gifted by his girlfriend. Details such as these suggest that not every memory he picks up might be true. However, perhaps that was not meant to be seen as 'mind-reading' as much as an accessory to

his overarching theme.

The nature of mind-reading shows requires one to suspend one's disbelief and simply enjoy the tricks. If I allow myself to fully immerse in the possibility of mind-reading, the show was fairly entertaining. No doubt also that Oberlohr was very skilful in executing his tricks. However, the lyrical imagery used to link the individual tricks together are slightly contrived. A coherent storyline or overarching theme is important in shows such as these, and in this case, I believe could have been more fluent. Nevertheless, Oberlohr himself is a very likeable personality, and *Das Fest* entertained.

## ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Jess Thom as Mouth and Charmaine, her BSL interpreter // James Lyndsay

# Deterred by Beckett's infamous motormouth? Not I.

*Tourettes hero Jess Thom gives Beckett's notoriously difficult motormouth in Not I a personal and political spin.*

## ARTS

## NOT I



**Where?** Battersea Arts Centre

**When?** Until March 17<sup>th</sup>

**How Much?** £10 students

**Jingjie Cheng**

*Arts Editor*

Samuel Beckett's *Not I* is notoriously difficult to perform. It is a short, continuous stream of words from the character Mouth that loops in and out of coherence, jumping between sentences, interspersed with repetition and interjections.

In 1972, American actress Jessica Tandy performed it in a New York premiere. She was told by Beckett backstage that she had 'ruined his play' – 24 minutes was far too long. Beckett then decided to direct it himself, hand-picking Billie Whitelaw to play the role. Whitelaw

performed it in 14 and a half minutes. Later, Irish actress Lisa Dwan would become the 'ultimate motormouth', with a record nine and a half minutes in her shortest attempt.

Beckett wanted the play to be performed 'at the speed of thought', and there was no such thing as going too fast, as long as all the words were articulated. But that is not the only difficulty. The script is difficult to learn due to the lack of a coherent train of thought – that is the point, as it is meant to mimic how a mind thinks.

On top of that, there are the very specific stage directions – the performer has to be suspended off the ground in the middle of the stage, and only her mouth is to be illuminated, hovering exactly eight feet off the ground. All other parts of her, and the stage, has to be pitch black. She is buckled into place, unable to move or see, condemned to speak as fast as her mouth would allow. Lisa Dwan

describes the experience as 'terrifying', and 'every performance is knife-edge stuff'.

On the background of such a demanding performance, it is incredibly impressive that Jess Thom, who suffers from Tourette's syndrome, decided to take it on. Tourette's is a condition which causes one to tic, which means making movements or saying things that one cannot control. For Jess, her most common tics are saying 'biscuit' and thumping her chest with her fist. For a play that requires one to be still and deliver a speech with precision as quickly as possible, *Not I* seemed, on the outset, almost impossible for someone with Tourette's to perform.

Despite these difficulties, Jess performs the role brilliantly (in twelve minutes as well!), in this unique production at Battersea Arts Centre that reveals *Not I* in a whole new light and explores

ideas of reclaiming theatre's voice. In a video shown after her performance that charts the development of the play, we see all the innovations that went into these short twelve minutes, to make it suitable for her and to bring out what she intends.

For example, because it is dangerous for her to be strapped into place, a special wheelchair was built for her on a platform that lifts her eight feet off the ground. Because she needs to move, instead of strapping her mouth into place, she wears a dark hood that has a built in light inside that shines on her mouth.

Jess says that she sees herself as "disabled", and given the nature of *Not I*'s text, it seems almost natural that it should be performed by a neurodiverse population. Rigid stage directions and instructions from Beckett aside, Jess' modified production is important – it is an act of reclaiming theatre's voice for the

representation of all, including those who have limitations that appear to be at odds with artistic direction, but which, as exemplified in this case, actually bring new meaning to a classic text.

Throughout the performance, Jess tics freely, sometimes saying 'biscuit' so rapidly and in succession that it fits seamlessly into the pace of the text. There is a tension when that happens, the question hanging in the air: will she be able to continue? When Jess first came across the play, she felt that it resonated with her – the isolation of Mouth that is evident between her bursts of speech, the alienation and the apparent chaos of her thoughts. She identified with Mouth, which seemed to parallel the thoughts running through her own mind at a time when her tics were getting worse. This performance is thus both personal and political – an externalisation of her experiences, and a political act of

reclaiming theatre's voice for the marginalised.

Battersea Arts Centre is the perfect location: an old converted town hall, it has an array of rooms of different sizes. *Not I* uses one of their smaller rooms, and the audience sit (and are encouraged to lie) on cushions on the floor. It is a relaxed performance, and BSL integrated, a feature that Jess felt strongly about. Charmaine, her BSL interpreter, is illuminated next to Jess during the performance, and signs everything she says – including the tics!

The production video and post-show discussion make the experience complete, and I felt that I left with a fuller understanding of the play, of Jess' motivations, and the advocacy that is integrated into the production. It was a fascinating take on what is traditionally a rigid, inflexible and tightly-controlled play – and its legacy is all the better for it.

## MUSIC

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## A brief, mostly wrong history of punk rock, part II

The saga continues, covering '76 to the mid-90s or so. Stay tuned for Part III, where I'll wrap this shit up.

## MUSIC

## Henry Eshbaugh

Music Editor

Welcome to the history of punk rock, part 2. Part 1 was in the last edition of Felix - get caught up online. Now, history.

Anarcho-punk emerged in the UK in the late 70s and early 80s. Crass was one of the foremost bands ("Do they owe us a living? / of course they fucking do!"). Bands like The Mob and Chumbawamba lived in communes and advocated for an anarchist alternative. The subgenre peaked when Crass songs were quoted against Thatcher in Parliament, with regards to the Falklands war. This, along with an attempted prosecution by a Tory MP for obscenity, prompted them to call it quits. The band briefly reunited in 2011 for The Last Supper, which featured a rendition of "Do They Owe Us A Living?" in the original drums-and-vocals style.

Meanwhile, US punk diverged. This was the era of hardcore.

Inspired by John

McLaughlin and Chick Corea, Mind Control was formed in 1976 as a jazz-fusion ensemble. Exposed to punk in the closing years of the decade, the band recast itself as Bad Brains and began tearing up the DC area with blisteringly fast beats and gritty waves of reggae-inspired, distorted skanking.

The DC scene was huge. Minor Threat, The Untouchables, Government Issue, Gray Matter, and Dag Nasty all hail from the area. So does Henry Rollins, who grew up in the area and joined Black Flag in 1981 (which later relocated to the west coast).

The west coast was host to a slew of other acts – the Descendents, The Dead Kennedys, The Circle Jerks, The Germs, Reagan Youth, and Suicidal Tendencies (for whom Thundercat used to play bass) – 'California Uber Alles', in the words of the Dead Kennedys. The Kennedys are known for political raunch ('Holiday in Cambodia', 'Kill the Poor', 'Nazi Punks Fuck Off', and so on). The Descendents had a more melodic style (*Milo Goes to College* is their greatest



The DC hardcore giants takes a chill moment to pose for a press photo in the CBGB restroom // Bad Brains

work – named for the lead singer returning to school for a PhD in chemistry).

There was a spattering about the country – Adrenalin O.D. from New Jersey, Reagan Youth (c.f. Hitler Youth) from New York, and so on. Hardcore came to define the American punk rock sound, and its descendents are readily visible in the contemporary scene.

Perhaps the most notorious member of the scene was GG Allin, who promised yearly to kill himself live on Halloween (he was always in jail, and OD'd on heroin before he could). His antics included nudity, eating and rolling in his own faeces, and violence; his concerts were usually cut short by irate venues. He also put out some great spoken-word albums. RIP GG, you maniac.

The sister genre to hardcore was skate punk, and that was filled up by the likes of Bad Religion and NOFX. Bad Religion's songs are easily

identified by the "oozin' ahhs," soaring three-part vocal harmonies over their riffs (their big experimental albums were *Recipe for Hate* and *Generator* – give 'em a listen), and a big focus on religion; having come of age during a time of exceptional zealotry in American culture, the anti-religion take was controversial, raw, and perfect for the punk rock scene. NOFX, on the other hand, wrote album after album of ridiculous wordplay (see their seminal album *Punk in Drublic*, or one of my favorite albums, *Pump Up The Valium*, featuring hits like 'My Vagina', 'Pharmacist's Daughter', and 'Herojuana'). As a side note, check out the credits on *Drublic*: "Fat Mike - double chin; Eric Melvin - dreads; El Hefe - talent; Erik Sandin - tattoos."

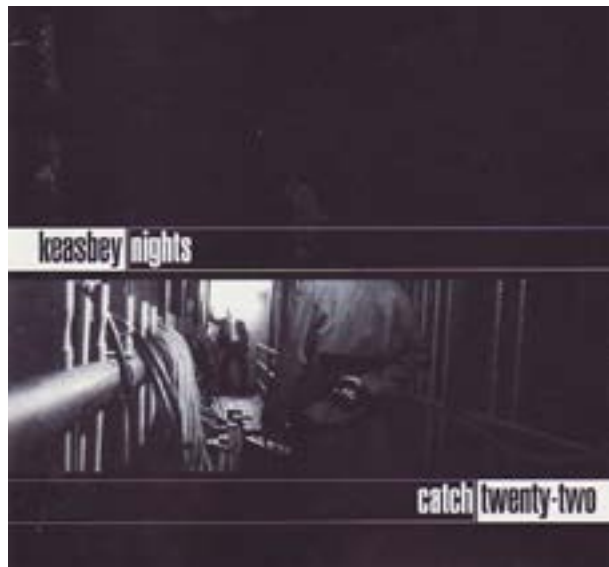
The third wave of ska arose around this time. Green Day's first gig as came in 1987 in Berkeley, at the album launch party for *Energy*, the debut

from (and only album by) Operation Ivy. Ivy was named after the nuclear tests, and played with a skanked guitar sound that slayed – that album is jam-packed with frenetic energy. *Energy* became one of the defining albums of the ska-punk scene, and had a massive influence on future Californian acts like Sublime. The Mighty Mighty Bosstones of Boston and the Voodoo Glow Skulls of Riverside, California were among the first to the ska party. Continuing into the 90s, Gwen Stefani and No Doubt became big - as did Reel Big Fish, Sublime, Less Than Jake, and Rancid (formed with half of the Op Ivy crew). RBF is particularly well-known for their peppy songs and biting lyricism: "I've got a funny feeling / we're all born to lose / and I've got a funny feeling / that this life ain't worth living." Sublime takes a generally more mellow line, but turns up the punk when appropriate.

*40 Oz. to Freedom* is a seminal album ('Smoke Two Joints' and the title track stand out, plus a Bad Religion cover, 'We're Only Gonna Die From Our Own Arrogance'), as is their self-titled album ('Santeria', 'What I Got', 'Under My Voodoo'). Sadly, frontman Brad Nowell died of a heroin overdose in '96, before Sublime became known and loved worldwide.

Catch-22 evolved out of this scene, releasing their debut, *Keasbey Nights*, in 1998, when singer-guitarist Tomas Kalnoky was 18. Kalnoky, after university, founded Streetlight Manifesto, and Bandits of the Acoustic Revolution, which continue to work in the ska genre; as on one of the tunes from *Keasbey*, people often refer to SLM as "fourth wave," though no such wave has properly occurred.

Well, that's all the space I got. See y'all next week.



The ska-punk album that ended ska-punk // Catch-22

# MUSIC

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## There's Too Many Man, Too Many Many Man!

*In the wake of International Women's Day, Music Editor Andy Djaba discusses the unfortunate prevalence of misogyny in hip-hop.*

### MUSIC

**Andy Djaba**

*Music Editor*

This week, Isaac Freeling and I hosted Ella and Tayla from the "Too Many Man Show" on our podcast, "2 Gs in a Pod", (shameless plug!) to have an open and frank discussion about misogyny in hip-hop. It's something I've wanted to write about for a while and, following our discussion, I felt inspired to address the issue. Also, in light of International Women's Day, there's no better time to discuss what we, as fans of the culture, can do to tackle the unfortunate omnipresence of misogyny in hip-hop.

The first step is to acknowledge the sexism in hip-hop. Without getting too deep into the discussion of disparity within the genre, misogyny in hip-hop ranges from the more obvious examples, such as vulgar lyrics, to the subtler instances, such as the lack of female artists on the Wireless Festival line-up or the bad reputation women get for being 'difficult' to work with. Female artists are wrongly assumed to lack the talent of male artists, which in turn deters more women from getting into the genre. Unless they maintain a hyper-sexualised public image, female hip-hop artists simply don't get the same recognition as their male counterparts and, as a result, the narrative that hip-hop lacks conscious



Too Many Man Show // *TooManyMan*

female MCs is further perpetuated.

As a genre, hip-hop has gained a reputation for not being very accepting of women and there is a trend of female MCs being thrown under the umbrella of 'R&B' or 'soul', rather than hip-hop or rap. R&B and soul are generally seen as 'more feminine' than hip-hop and, by throwing any female artist that incorporates singing and melody in her music into the R&B genre, we effectively disregard them and fail to consider them in the conversation of top rappers in hip-hop. Would a woman that makes music in the same way as Drake (singing and rapping simultaneously) be classed as a hip-hop artist and judged in the same way that we rate Drake or any other man that incorporates singing and melody in their music?

As fans of the culture in general, it is important that we are intelligent in our approach to the music.

favourite artists accountable for their problematic lyrics. There are times when I think that hip-hop culture is slowly moving towards eradicating its deep-rooted misogyny. However, it almost seems like, for every step taken towards tackling misogyny, hip-hop takes two steps backwards. Artists including sexist content, such as that of old school Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre and Eminem, would not be acceptable in this day and age and this was evidenced by Rick Ross losing his Reebok endorsement for including lyrics which allude to date rape in his verse on 2013's 'U.O.E.N.O.'. However, while this represented a major step forward, the casual acceptance in the culture of problematic and abusive artists, such as R. Kelly and the wave of mumble rappers who all

seem to have disturbing histories of domestic violence, is another worrying step backward.

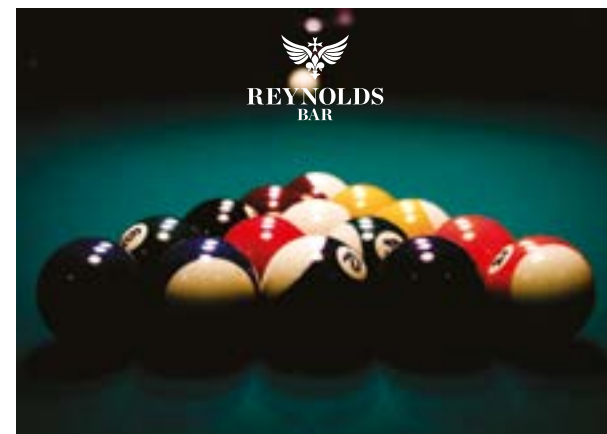
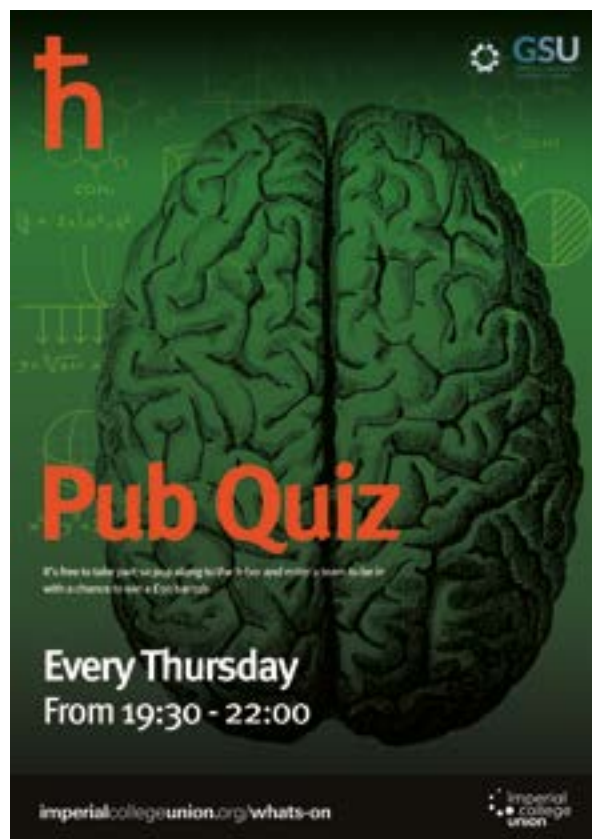
To tackle misogyny in hip-hop, it is important to shine a light on the dope female artists in the scene and celebrate them just as much as we do our favourite male artists. The "Too Many Man Show" is a brand new website and podcast dedicated to challenging hip-hop's gender norms and championing female artists in the genre. Although hip-hop has been a genre synonymous with protest and the plight of marginalised people, the genre has historically been a male-dominated and carried an anti-woman sentiment. The rank misogyny pervading the genre is too often overlooked. This means that women taking up space in hip-hop in general is

a form of activism itself; they're taking up space in a genre that has previously prided itself on its sexist undertones and has been particularly male-dominated for a long time. This makes it all the more important to big up artists like Rapsody, Noname, Little Simz and more that are flying the flag for women within the culture. We need more outlets like "Too Many Man" to ensure that female hip-hop artists aren't ignored. It's also of paramount importance that men get involved in the conversation; it can't just be the women getting behind the movement of challenging misogyny in hip-hop. Men have to support the movement too for there to be noticeable changes to one of the ugliest aspects of the hip-hop culture that we love so much.



# Your Union events

Friday 9 March



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18:30-23:00

### Club Reynolds

Saturday 3 March  
20:00 - 02:00

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# FILM

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## The Oscars 2018: predictable results, predictable

*Gary Oldman is getting old, man, visionary director wins for fish-sex fantasy, and everyone googles "inclusion rider".*

### FILM

**Fred Fyles**  
Editor-in-chief

In the early hours of the morning, UK time, another year in the film industry came to a close, as Jimmy Kimmel closed out the 90<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards. The winners headed off to the after party, cleaners began sweeping the theatre floor of discarded acceptance speeches and candy wrappers, and film enthusiasts began a two-month period of hibernation before the Cannes Film Festival begins, and we start the whole shebang again.

The Academy Awards are, in general, a staid affair, and this year was no different. But while this should perhaps have been expected, it felt like a let-down after what has transpired over the

previous twelve months. At the last awards ceremony, Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway made the most meme-able mistake of their lives, as they mistakenly announced *La La Land* as the Best Picture winner, only for it to be revealed as *Moonlight* mere minutes later. At the time, it seemed like the beginning of a sea change: here's a low-budget, LGBT+ film, with an all-black cast, winning out over a barnstorming celebration of Los Angeles life – catnip for the typical Academy voter.

*Moonlight's* win came after a moderate shake-up of the Academy's membership, which brought down the average age, increased diversity, and made a small step towards gender parity. In October, the membership was shaken even further, as Harvey Weinstein, the dis-

graced film producer, who has been accused of sexual misconduct by more than 80 women, was expelled from the Academy. Since then we've had the rise of #MeToo and Time's Up, as more and more women take aim at ingrained misogyny within the film industry.

As we approached this year's ceremony, there were signs that things would be a bit different: from women wearing black on the red carpet in protest, to Casey Affleck not presenting the Best Actress award amid previous sexual harassment accusations, things were set for this to be a different kind of ceremony.

It wasn't. Not really. Instead of an evening banishing all the old cobwebs of inequality clinging onto the industry, we had several hours of lip service from presenter



The Shape of Water won big! // Fox Searchlight

Kimmel (invited back for another year, hopefully his last), a few clapbacks against President Trump's xenophobic tendencies, and a rather predictable slate of award winners.

Guillermo del Toro's *The Shape of Water* emerged as the main winner from the night, with four awards in the bag, including Best Picture and Best Director. They were well-deserved: *The Shape of Water* is a sumptuous romantic fantasy, conjured up from the imagination of a director working at the height of his powers, which touches on themes like belonging and identity.

Compared to the rest of the films up for Best Picture – *Call Me by Your Name*, a tender gay coming-of-age drama; *Get Out*, Jordan Peele's feature debut that sharply skewers liberal hypocrisy; and *Lady Bird*, which explores the complex relationship between mothers and daughters with thrilling clarity – *The Shape of Water* might seem middle of the road, but the choice to give it Best Picture is still quietly radical. For starters, it's a fantasy film, which the

**"Jimmy Kimmel invited back for another year, hopefully his last"**

Academy rarely chooses to endorse, instead preferring stolid drama. Furthermore, the main leads in the film are a mute woman who communicated only using sign language, a gay closeted man, and an African-American woman – as diverse a line-up as any of the other nominees. And let's face it: it was either this or *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, so we should really just be grateful.

There were a couple of surprises thrown into the mix too: the Best Adapted Screenplay award went to James Ivory for *Call Me by Your Name*, which was as expected, but still a high-point of the night, particularly when *Call Me by Your Name* was shut out of other categories where it deserved to win. Ivory gave a touching

speech paying tribute to his former partner Ismail Merchant, who died in 2005, and with whom he worked in Merchant Ivory Productions.

Jordan Peele's win for Best Original Screenplay for *Get Out* was the biggest surprise of the night, as he became the first black screenwriter to win in the category. For Peele to succeed, particularly when many (us included) thought the award would go to Martin McDonagh's *Three Billboards*, which handles race topics with all the grace of a pick-up truck navigating along a tightrope, was one of the stand-outs of an otherwise boring evening.

Another big breakthrough was the win of Best Foreign Language Film for Chile's *A Fantastic Woman*, which centres around the experience of a trans woman following the death of her older partner. The film is driven by the intensity of lead actor Daniela Vega, who is herself trans, and became the first transgender presenter at the Oscars when she introduced Sufjan Stevens, performing 'Mystery of Love' alongside Annie Clark

# FILM

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## protests, predictable jokes, predictable disappointment

and Moses Sumney.

On the whole, however, the Academy seemed more prepared to pay tribute to diversity and equality in the form of long montages that said little, rather than tangible changes. While Dee Rees' *Mudbound* was held up as a great example of black women making beautiful films, it was only nominated for four awards, and won none. One of these nominations was for Rachel Morrison, who became the first woman ever to be nominated for Best Cinematography in the Academy's 90-year history – in and of itself an embarrassment.

Greta Gerwig's *Lady Bird* went home empty-handed – a travesty – while legendary director Agnès Varda also lost out for Best Documentary. The issue here isn't so much that Gerwig or Varda deserved to win in their categories, but rather, the eventual winners were so predictable and safe, and – in a number of cases – weren't actually the best out of the nominees.

And Kimmel can make as many jokes about Harvey Weinstein as he wants, as the Academy promises to change, but nothing can erase the fact the evening involved Academy Awards being given to Kobe Bryant – accused of sexual assault in 2003 – and Gary Oldman – accused of domestic violence. Donya

**"Frances McDormand manages to salvage the night with a rousing speech"**

Fiorentino, Oldman's former wife, who said the actor choked and beat her in front of their children, asked "What happened to the #MeToo movement?" It's a fair question.

In what could have been a sour end to the evening, however, Frances McDormand, who picked up the next award for Best Actress, managed to salvage the night with a rousing speech. Coming up to the podium to pick up the statue for her performance as a grieving mother in *Three Billboards*, she promised us: "I've got some things to say". She invited all the female nominees to stand up – they made up less than a quarter of the total nominees, including the female acting nominees – and asked the decision makers in the room to take meetings with them, ensuring their stories are told.

She also left us with two words on how tangible change could be achieved: 'inclusion rider'. It's a concept that was explored in a TED talk by Stacy Smith in 2016, who said lead actors and directors could stipulate in their contract that the cast and crew were more representative of society at large. It's a way they can use their power within the studios to push through much-needed changes. And it's this process, more than any award ceremony, that can create an industry in which women and minorities are able to tell their stories. This year, despite the hype about Gerwig, Rees, and others, only six women won the Academy Awards – the lowest number since 2012. Bringing inclusion riders into the mainstream could ensure this is the last time it's so low.



Now that's show business! // ABC



Has anyone seen my Oscar?! // Craig Sjodin/ABC

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Science talks in local pubs

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TICKET RELEASE: April 9 - SAVE THE DATE!

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# FOOD

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## Worth the hype? By Chloe

This week Food writer **Bláithín Dockery** investigates whether *By Chloe*, a new addition to the London vegan food scene, is a worthwhile brand or just cashing in on the “trendiness” of veganism.

### FOOD

**Bláithín Dockery**  
Food Writer

A couple of years ago merely calling a food vegan would have made many of us shudder, picturing something dry and tasteless. However, there has clearly been a revolution as veganism has changed its image from oddball hippies to vibrant health-conscious millennials. With the number of vegans in Britain rising by 360% over the last 10 years, it is no wonder vegan-based menus have been popping up across the restaurant industry. Cashing in on this trend are a number of completely vegan fast food eateries (mainly in east London) that have recently appeared,

**“A neon pink sign said ‘Guac Save The Queen’”**

including Temple of Seitan and What the Pitta! These joints not only attract vegans but also people who are simply curious about how tasty vegan food can be (not to mention getting a quality trendy pic for insta). This major market is attracting more established vegan chains and that is where by CHLOE steps in.

Over in the US, veganism has also had a major revolution, particularly in New York, birthplace of by CHLOE.



The Beet Mine Burger// by CHLOE

Founded by Chloe Coscarelli in 2015, the first by CHLOE opened on Bleeker Street in NYC, serving vegan baked goods, sandwiches and salads. The first location was a huge success, attracting trendy New Yorkers who were eager to try the “next big thing.” Ten more locations opened across the US in the following years, but international expansion was the next goal for the brand. Thanks to London’s vibrant food scene and the success of other NYC-based brands such as Dominique Ansel, it was chosen as by CHLOE’s first international location, where it opened in early February 2018. I was particularly excited about this opening, having admittedly already tried by CHLOE in New York where I was completely blown away by the food. However, I wondered if it would maintain this quality so far away from its original location.

### First Impressions

Arriving at by CHLOE’s Covent Garden

eatery on a warm Saturday afternoon, I was initially surprised by how large the site was, particularly as the New York location is rather small. Clearly there were high expectations for its first international location. Opening the door I was amazed to see a huge queue snaking around the tables leading up to the ordering counter. I knew it was still in its early days (it had only opened a week earlier) but I really did not expect this many people! Luckily the queue moved quickly, and I passed the time by admiring the décor and examining the menu. The restaurant had a very light and airy feeling, thanks to the large windows and white painted brick walls, featuring wooden shelves upon which mini cacti were placed (oh how millennial!). On one wall was a neon pink sign saying “Guac Save The Queen” which was probably some interior designer’s attempt to make the location more “London”. Other quirky features includes the egg shaped seat swings (also seen in the NY restaurant) and a merchandise stand

(because obviously it’s not just about the food—it’s about the brand). When I finally reached the order counter I picked a range of food items to try in order to make a proper judgement.

### The Food

After making a rather grand order: the classic burger, pesto meatball sub and sweet potato fries, I waited patiently for my food to be prepared. After a relatively short wait, I hopped up quickly to collect my order as the staff shouted my name and settled down to begin a food adventure. I first started with the classic burger, made with a tempeh-lentil-chia-walnut patty (try saying that in a hurry). The patty itself was relatively small and flat but overall the burger certainly had that picture-perfect look, complete with a slice of tomato, lettuce and a golden bun. Taking my first bite, I must admit that I was rather unimpressed; the patty was too stodgy and kept crumbling apart. Other flavours of

the burger were better, especially the signature beetroot ketchup. However, I found the pickles slightly overpowering and too sharp. Next up were the sweet potato fries. The fries were okay but weren’t anything special: not particularly crispy and, in my opinion, slightly too soft. The one saving grace was by CHLOE’s speciality condiments including the beetroot ketchup as well as its chipotle aioli. The ketchup was sweet but not overpowering and the aioli had a nice kick and a rich smoky flavour. Finally, I tried the Pesto Meatball Sub, which was what I

really had been looking forward to. Although a slightly clumsier food to eat than a simple burger, I managed to take a generous bite, getting all the different elements in one go. The bread was a sweet soft pillow hugging the perfectly round Portobello “meatballs”, which were settled on a tangy tomato marinara sauce. Topping the meatballs was a nutty, rich basil pesto and creamy cashew “mozzarella.” All together the flavours mixed really well, although it was rather filling due to the dense “meatballs.”

### Worth the hype?

Having amassed a cult following thanks to the “trendy” nature of veganism, by CHLOE’s hype was huge, as demonstrated by the major queue I endured. The brand really stepped up to the mark by choosing one of the most popular tourist destinations in London and creating a picture-perfect establishment, from the pink neon signs to quirky swing seats. However, with the competition for vegan eateries heating up, it’s not just about aesthetics. Although the meatball sub was great, considering the price and quality of the rest of the food items I’m sad to say that by CHLOE was not worth the hype.

### Price

Burger: £9.00  
Meatball Sub: £9.60  
Fries: £4.00

### Best part

by CHLOE’s speciality condiments (really innovative flavours!)

### Worst part

Price/ Classic burger



# TRAVEL

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## Mallorca – more than just a party island!

*Mallorca is a go-to place for relentless partying and beach holidays alike but travel writer Tom Whiting reveals the unexpected side of this Mediterranean island.*



The breath-taking views of Valldemossa you won't see at a nightclub // Salome Bodet Lefevre

### TRAVEL

**Tom Whiting**  
Travel Writer

Despite its reputation as a European party destination, there is much more to Mallorca than drinking the night away in its numerous party resorts, such as Magaluf. With a peak higher than Ben Nevis in Scotland (the highest mountain in the British Isles) and many spots for hiking and climbing, this Mediterranean island offers adventures and excitement for the more outdoor-loving students.

On my recent climbing trip to Mallorca together with the Imperial Outdoor Club (that participates in a wide range of outdoor pursuits) just before Christmas, I experienced a more daring side of the island. While not as popular as mainland Spain for climbing, it boasts routes spanning from 'beginner' to 'expert' levels of difficulty, with more than enough to satisfy months of climbing, let alone a

single week. There are many crags (climbing spots) around the island, although by far the biggest and best one is Sa Gubia. It offers incredible views and routes up to 200 m long, and is well worth the lengthy walk to the start of the climb. While we only managed to squeeze in one day there due to logistics and wanting to visit many of the other areas on the island, we could have easily spent the whole week there as we only scratched the surface of what was on offer, with multiple day-long routes left for another trip.

One of the other mem-

orable crags was Valldemossa, which is situated just outside a small village of the same name and has incredible views over the sea. The only real drawback of the area was that to ascend the rock we needed to climb above the road, so we had to keep our senses heightened a bit more than usual. Besides Valldemossa, we also managed to visit several other climbing areas with great routes and breath-taking views.

Mallorca is also home to some of the best Deep Water Soloing (DWS) in the world, whereby climbers don't use ropes

and rely on falling into the deep water below that cushions their fall. Despite the allure of some of the best and most challenging DWS routes in the world, we decided to stay on the land as the sea can get a bit too nippy in December.

Of course, one of the perks of going to Mallorca during the off-peak season is the low cost: return flights were under £50 and accommodation for a week was less than £10 per night. Plus, the food is far better than what you can expect to get in London for the same price, and if you decide to have a tippie, the wine that

**“Mallorcan views and terrain easily rival those of more famous destinations in Europe”**

you can get for a couple of pounds at the local supermarket goes down a lot better than cheap UK wines (the €1.50 Cava is a particular treat). Although it's pretty much essential to hire a car to get around and explore the island, this doesn't add much to the overall expenses as it can cost as little as £35 per week – and if there are four of you in the vehicle, it becomes ludicrously cheap.

While December might not seem like the perfect time to visit the Balearic Islands, the temperature was still a warm-ish 15°C and far hotter than the UK was experiencing. The slightly lower temperature is also better for climbing as the summer highs

of around 30°C make climbing almost unbearable. It does get a bit chilly at night and when the sun hides behind the clouds or a rock face, but it's made up for by the feeling of achievement that you can get when you reach the top of a climb and can look down on the route you've just conquered.

So if you harbour even the smallest interest in the great outdoors, Mallorca is certainly well worth a visit. The low cost of a trip there should be more than enough to entice a student, but the views and terrain alone easily rival those of more famous destinations in Europe and will hopefully lead to more tourists going there to explore the countryside rather than spending all night on the Magaluf Strip.

*The IC Outdoor Club regularly holds both indoor and outdoor climbing activities, and, as well as organising trips abroad, arranges multiple trips within the UK each term for hiking, mountain biking, climbing, and more. Contact outdoor@ic.ac.uk for more information.*



Sa Gubia crag surely looks welcoming if you're up for a challenge! // Flickr

# TRAVEL

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## When sky is not the limit: nature's light show among the stars

*The Northern Lights are one of the nature's most miraculous phenomena. Travel writer Exploring Hobbit was lucky enough to observe them in Sweden and has shared this unforgettable experience with Felix*

### TRAVEL

#### Exploring Hobbit

Travel Writer

The enchanting Aurora Borealis, or northern lights, frolic in the sky when charged particles from the sun become trapped in the Earth's magnetic field, emitting colourful lights of green, scarlet, crimson, and more. The lights unravel themselves usually on dark clear nights. It is proposed that the best times to see them are near the equinoxes in March and September, when geomagnetic storms are likely to occur more often.

One of the best spots to see the Northern Lights is Abisko, Sweden. Abisko is an extremely small village and as of 2005, its population was only 85 people! In addition, it is very remote and hence blessed with minimal light pollution as the nearest town, Kiruna, is located approximately 93km away. Abisko, and in

general northern Sweden, is consistently ranked as one of the best and most reliable places to see the Northern Lights.

**"Abisko is very remote and hence blessed with minimal light pollution"**

#### Getting to Abisko

The fastest way to get to Abisko from London is by catching a flight to Kiruna. Carriers, such as Norwegian Airlines and SAS, offer this route but they normally stop over at Stockholm for about an hour. There is a shuttle service that goes to Abisko from the Kiruna airport and also from Kiruna town. Depending on the flight, this could be the most economical way to get to Abisko. Alternatively, you can take



The night sky in Kiruna does not disappoint // Flickr

the overnight train from Stockholm to the Abisko train station (Abisko Östra) via Kiruna, which lasts for about 17 hours.

#### What to do in Abisko

Since Abisko is a

small village, there is really nothing much to do throughout the day. Most activities are done outdoors, such as hiking, cross-country skiing, dogsledding, and snow mobiling, although these are usually quite expensive (of course, it is Scandinavia!). At night, you can join the Northern Lights tour, though generally the Lights are visible from any location in the village. Most people walk to the Abisko National Park, where the sky is pitch black at night and thus perfect for aurora viewing.

An alternative to spending your entire trip in Abisko is staying in Kiruna for a couple of nights, which is also a renowned destination to see the colourful lightshow. It is also in the vicinity of more attractions, such as the Kiruna Church and

**"Just like London's weather, the northern lights themselves are very unpredictable"**

the ICEHOTEL. The ICEHOTEL in the village of Jukkasjärvi near Kiruna is the world's first ice hotel and is rebuilt into a different guise each year with only ice and snow. Apart from being a hotel, it houses an ice art hall featuring a collection of suites, ice rooms, ceremony halls, chandeliers, and galleries. It also contains an ice bar that serves drinks in glasses made of ice. Although it could be costly to stay

there, you could still enjoy this amazing attraction by joining guided tours such as the ICEHOTEL 365, which costs 200 Swedish kronas for students.

#### The unpredictable

Winter in Sweden can be unpredictable, especially in the northern part of the country. Raging snowstorms mean unclear skies and therefore curtailed luck of seeing the Lights. Furthermore, trains and flights may be cancelled or delayed for up to several days in such wretched weather. Finally, just like London's weather, the Northern Lights themselves are very unpredictable. Therefore, use a Sky Guide app to find out the dark hours and the local weather of your location. Since dark sky is pivotal, some say that moonless nights would be the best.



The ICEHOTEL seems like a cool place to chill at. Get it? // Flickr

# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

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## 2018 IMPERIAL CINEMA SPRING ALL-NIGHTER

Bring on Spring! There's nothing quite like a night of films to get rid of those wintry chills. Imperial Cinema is showing SIX award-winning films back-to-back from 20<sup>th</sup> March 6pm to 8am the next morning. Don't forget your pillows and blankets!

### 18:00 Coco

Pixar on top form yet again. With a vibrant Mexican-themed setting and a raft of catchy tunes, *Coco* is a treat for the senses that won Best Animated Feature Film at the Oscars. Join young Miguel as he navigates the complexities of family issues in a not-so-familiar land of the dead. Keep the tissues at hand for the Academy Award-winning song 'Remember Me'!

### 20:40 Black Panther

No Imperial Cinema All-Nighter is complete without a superhero

film! Proving that a film with a black director and predominantly black cast can become the second highest grossing Marvel film, *Black Panther* will hopefully mark a sea-change in mentality in Hollywood. If all these political issues are starting to turn you off, we understand. Be assured that it's also just a really kick-ass, fun, visually stunning film.

**"There's nothing quite like a night of films to get rid of those wintry chills"**

### 23:40 The Shape of Water

Love is never easy. Not when he's from another species, and your employer – his kidnappers and only the most funded military in the world – strongly disapproves. Guillermo del Toro (of



Now that's a story we can't miss // Universal/A24/Fox Searchlight

*Pan's Labyrinth* fame) explores what it means to be a monster in this strangely twisted Cold-War-era fairytale, which bagged four Oscars,

including Best Picture and Best Director.

### 01:55 The Post

With such illustrious

individuals as Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks, and Meryl Streep behind it, *The Post* is bound to be a scoop. The true story of Katharine Graham, the first female publisher of a major American newspaper (*The Washington Post*), racing *The New York Times* to expose a government cover-up in the 1960s.

The night is no longer young, and neither are we. The transition to adulthood can be hard, but that's not to mean childhood should be forgotten. Have your heart slowly broken as you watch ten-year olds blissfully enjoying their carefree days even while the burdens of adulthood unravel the lives of the grownups around them.

### 04:05 Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Not all superheroes wear capes. Or save lives. Or even help others. But they all seem to have one thing in common: tragic loss. Frances McDormand received an Academy Award for her performance of a sassy, badass and violent mum seeking justice for her daughter's murder. But beneath the attitude lies a universal motif of tragedy and our reaction to it.

The Spring All-Nighter takes place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March in the Union Concert Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Union Building, Beit Quad. Tickets are £10 online (until 4pm that day) and £12 on the door. Tickets for individual films are available for £3 on the door. Get all-you-can-eat hot food and drinks for an additional £5!

Tickets available at [tickets.imperialcinema.co.uk](http://tickets.imperialcinema.co.uk)

### 06:10 The Florida Project



That's a DEAD giveaway // Disney/Fox Searchlight

# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

felix.clubsandsocieties@imperial.ac.uk

## DANCE IMPERIAL SHOW 2018

For the fourth year in a row the talented dancers at Imperial have come together to show you what they are made of. The DI Show 2018 returns next week!

The show is a collaborative venture between the six dance societies at Imperial (Belly Dance, Dance Club, Dance Company, Funkology, ICSM Dance, Pole & Aerial) brought together under Dance Imperial (DI). Every year exciting collaborations are choreographed to celebrate the differing styles and highlight their similarities. Expect to marvel at the fusions of contemporary & jazz, cabaret belly & tap, and a few more exciting crossovers!

Not a dancer? Or not sure what the dance styles are? Here is a brief overview of what you can expect to see! In this year's show we have: traditional (cabaret) belly dance, tribal fusion belly dance (blending modern dance with traditional belly), Hiphop & foundation (grooves, popping,

locking), breakdance, pole, aerial, ballet, contemporary, jazz, tap, ballroom, tango, latin, salsa, and Bachata. All of these styles hold weekly classes and rehearsals, offering beginner level classes...so if you feel inspired after the show just give it a go. There is just so much dance at Imperial to choose from – if only you could be studying dance rather than stuck in the library!

Whether it be from the winter workshop weekend in November, to choreographer speed dating, creating exciting fusions for the show or the many hours spent rehearsing, the DI Committee has worked tirelessly to ensure its ethos – collaboration between all the dancers at imperial – flourishes. The show promises to celebrate all this hard work.

Bell Dance, Dance Club, Dance Company, Funkology, and Pole & Aerial have all competed in many competitions across the country this year before the show. Between them they have won numerous awards and you will get the chance to view these fantastic pieces on stage!



Come along and see some spectacular dance // Dance Imperial

ICSM Dance have also been working hard behind the scenes and are excited to perform.

If that wasn't enough you will also witness this year's four performance-only collaboration pieces. This is the only opportunity to watch these spectacles in one awe-inspiring show.

Don't want to miss out? Tickets are already selling rapidly so make sure to buy online ASAP (<http://bit.ly/2oi6egX>)!

When? Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>, Friday 16<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm doors open for 7.30pm start.

Where? Union Concert Hall (UCH), Beit Quad  
How much? Students

(bring student ID, any uni): £6 in advance (£8 on the door)

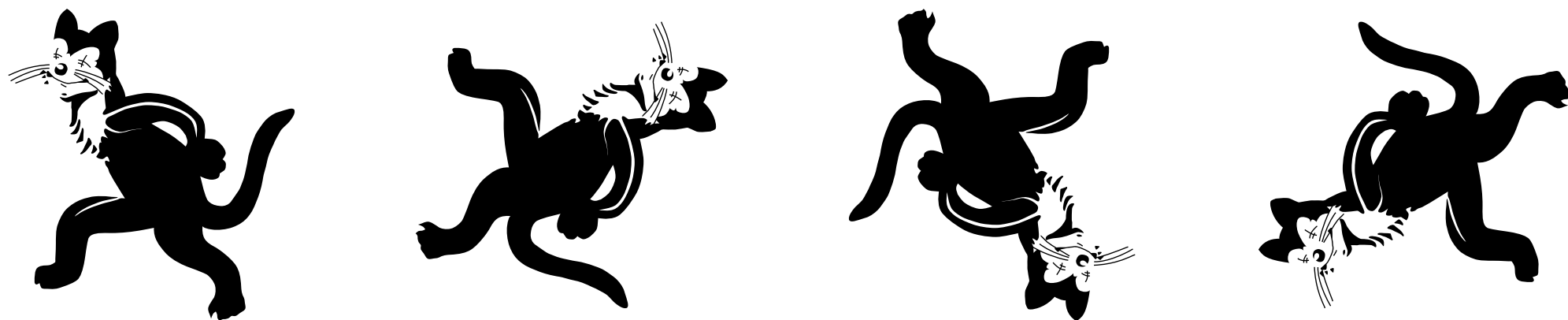
Non-students: £8 in advance (£10 on the door)

To celebrate the show and all the dance success this year there is an official after party at Belushi's in Hammersmith on the final night. All are welcome, so go to our Facebook page

for more details.

If you have any dance related queries, or want to start dancing, please join DI (it's free) and drop us an email at [dance.imperial@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dance.imperial@imperial.ac.uk). Further information can be found online at [www.union.ic.ac.uk/arts/danceimperial](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/arts/danceimperial), where you can also buy your tickets.

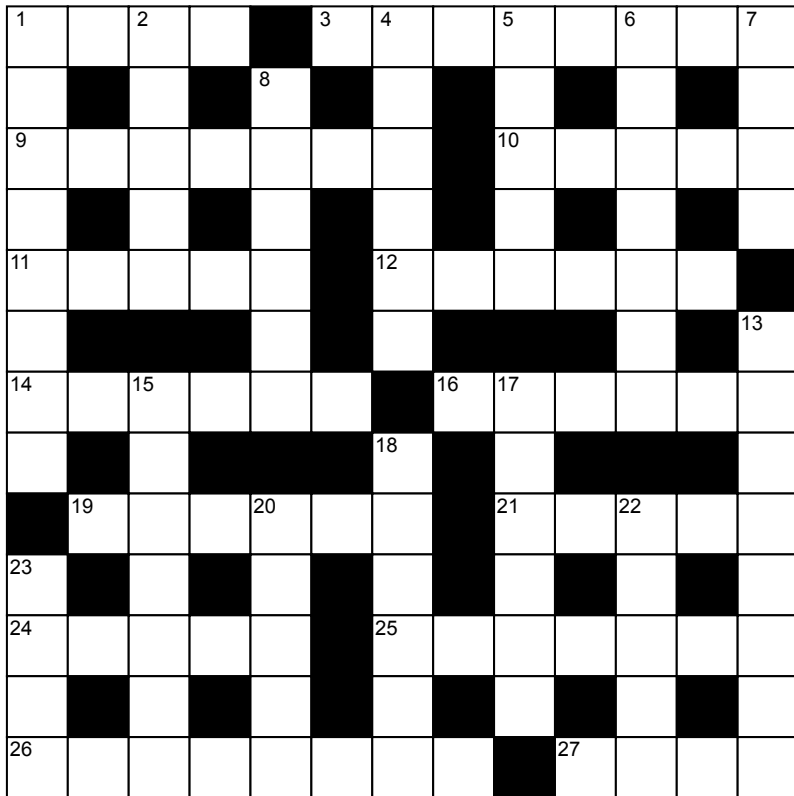
## Felix is recruiting!



**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](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk)**

# PUZZLES

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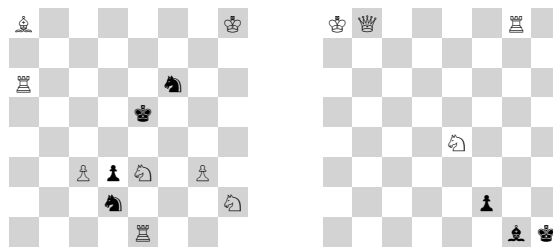
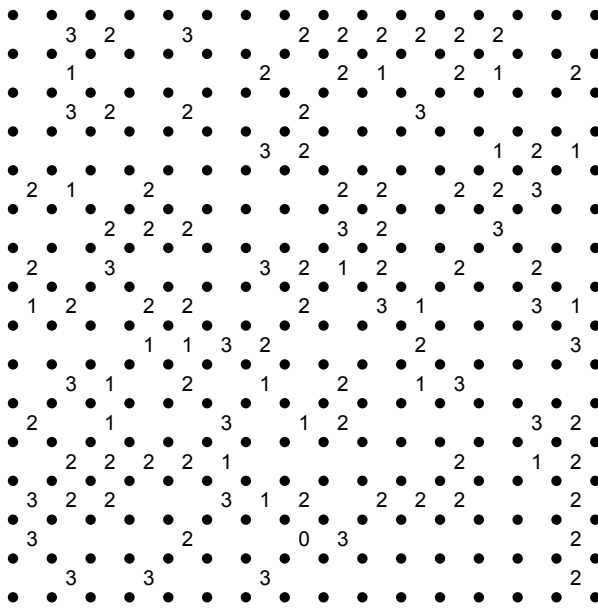
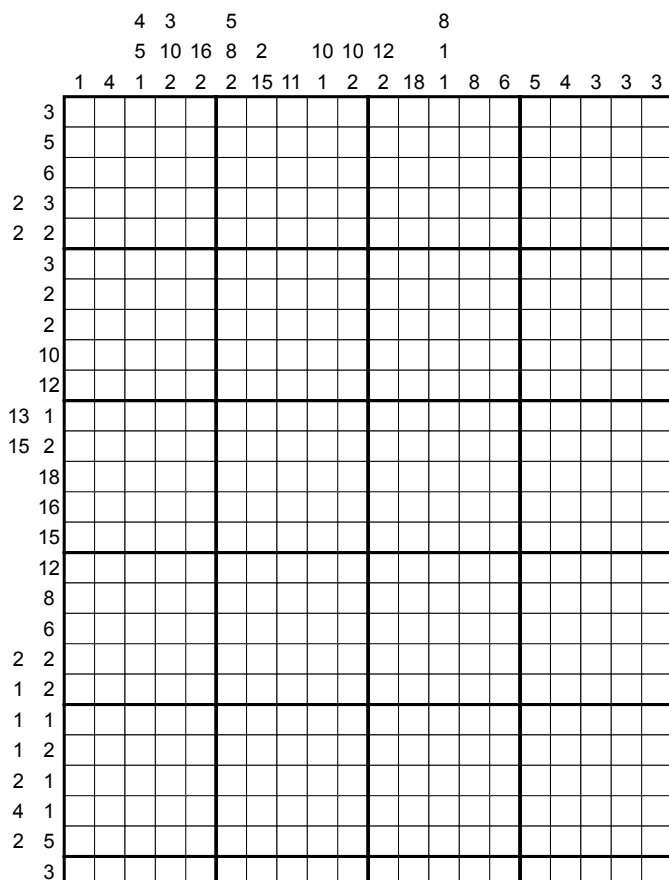


**Across**

- 1. Naked (4)
- 3. Fond of others' company (8)
- 9. Change (7)
- 10. Recipient of funds (5)
- 11. Lobby (5)
- 12. Away from the coast (6)
- 14. Rue (6)
- 16. Roof of straw or reeds (6)
- 19. Serene, unruffled (6)
- 21. Venomous snake (5)
- 24. In front (5)
- 25. Artillerymen (7)
- 26. Trainer brand (8)
- 27. Notion (4)

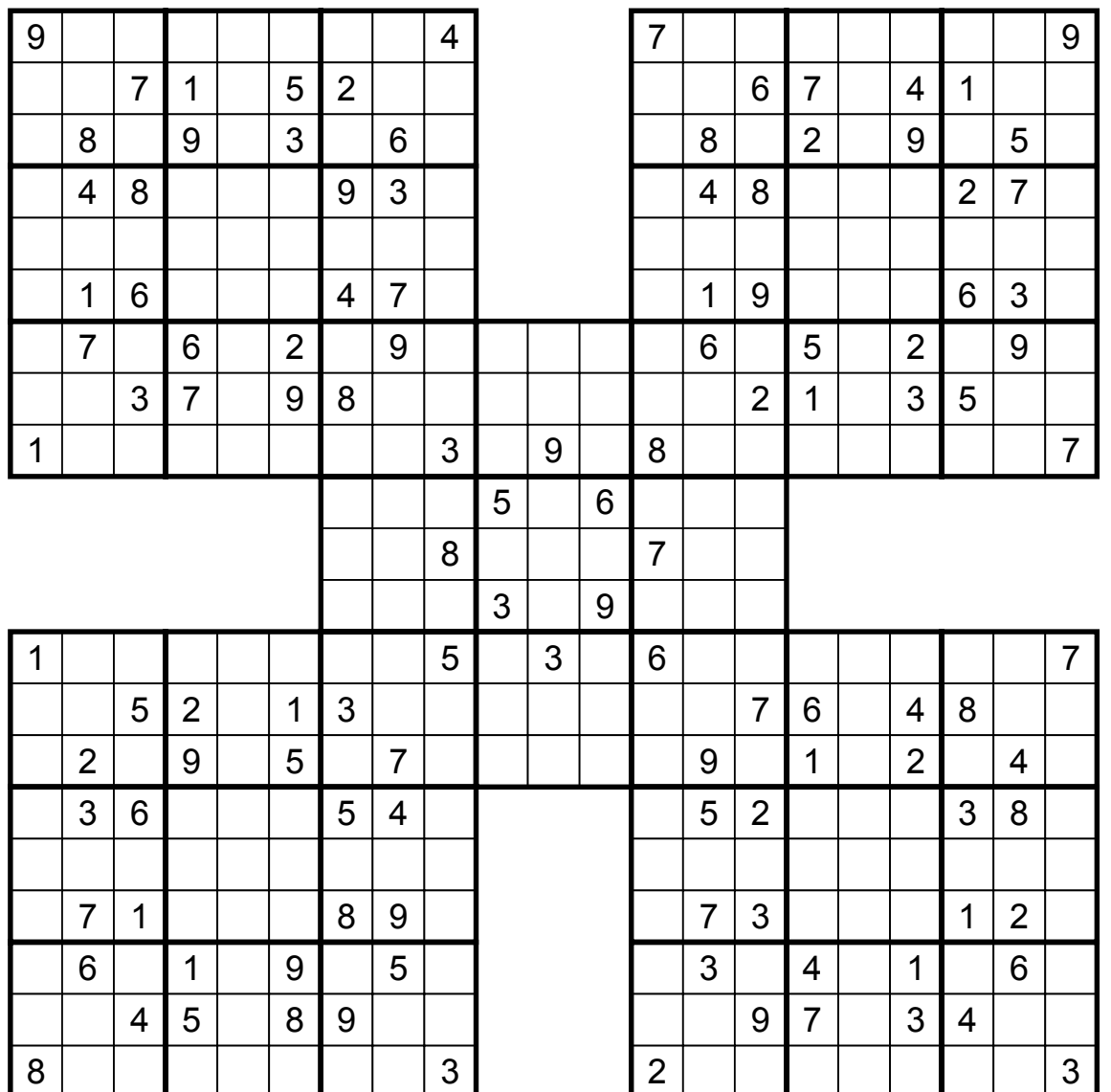
**Down**

- 1. West Yorkshire city (8)
- 2. Famous public school (5)
- 4. Kind of soup (6)
- 5. Urge forward (5)
- 6. Not screw light bulb (7)
- 7. Looked at (4)
- 8. Edict (6)
- 13. Archaism (anag.) (8)
- 15. Large Spanish sailing ship (7)
- 17. Caribbean city (6)
- 18. Proverbs (6)
- 20. Scrounge (5)
- 22. Implore (5)
- 23. Bathroom powder (4)



**Chess**

White to move first with a forced checkmate in two moves for both problems.



**FUCWIT**

1	Nonogram of Ketamine	311
2	Puzzle Snuggle Cuddle Couple	248
3	Q	244
4	TioUdin	221
5	OK	203
6	Luncheon Pals	137
8	Abelian Grapes	127
15	Maxiane	67
21	Snails	41
22	Konmai	40
24	yHt	37
29	Hentai Society	16

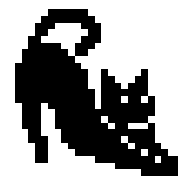
Send in your solutions to [fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk) before midday Wednesday!

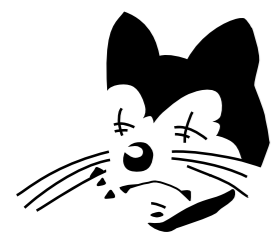
**Points Available**

Crossword	4
Slitherlink	4
Chess	6
Nonogram	4
Samurai Sudoku	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

**Solutions**

Doughnuts: 13





# Hangman



"I knew I should have voted for Sarah" // CC/AI Film

## KnitSock accused of massive campaign of voter intimidation

### HANGMAN

Negafelix  
Editor-in-Chief

KnitSock have been accused of running an extortion ring, with reports of kneecapping and blackmail.

Knitting Society has been accused of breaking a number of election rules during this election cycle, including use of bribery, blackmail, and threats of physical vio-

lence to secure votes for candidates.

Knitting Society, or "KnitSock", have been the subject of nearly 100 complaints over the past week of campaigning, *Hangman* can reveal, as the extent of their wrong-doings come clear. The current committee have been accused of running "a ring of extortion and voter manipulation comparable to that of the Sicilian mafia" by one anonymous Union source, in order to ensure their preferred successors are able to access KnitSock's £21.30 budget next year.

A number of students reported being intimidated

by members of KnitSock over the past week: "I was minding my own business, trying to get to Fusion before it shut, when I was cornered by three girls wearing home-made balaclava. They told me I should vote for Sarah Chung to be KnitSock's president 'if you know what's good for you'. When I told them I wasn't a member they just laughed and told me it was free; they stood over me waving knitting needles until I broke down and voted for Sarah in front of them. They then warned me that 'snitches get stitches'. I was terrified".

KnitSock's actions have

gone beyond mere threats of violence, however: last week at least three students had to be taken

**"Voters were cornered by committee members, and told 'snitches get stitches'"**

to St. Mary's hospital after they had their knees bashed in by unknown assailants. These attacks are also thought to be the

work of KnitSock, since it emerged all three were competing to be on next year's committee. Furthermore, they were done despite it clearly stating in the Elections Pack given to candidates "no kneecapping".

Beyond this, members of KnitSock have been accused of a number of other illegal tactics, including threatening to leak nude photographs of rival candidates, several car bombs which necessitated a bomb-disposal squad, and not leaving five feet between each of their posters on the Sheffield Walkway.

Speaking to *Hangman*,

Holly Hackerly, one of the Union's Deputy Returning Officers, and Vice-Lead on Deepening Democracy, said: "the Union has been made aware of a number of concerns students have had about KnitSock. Democracy is one of our core values, and therefore we take all such accusations incredibly seriously. We will be taking the appropriate action to ensure other candidates are also promoted - perhaps by sending out an email with their names - and wish them a speedy recovery as they regain the use of their legs."

# HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

## Students shocked as Union run competent election

### HANGMAN

Negafelix  
Editor-in-Chief

Students were left surprised as absolutely nothing went wrong during the week of campaigning and voting.

Students at Imperial College London have been left shocked and confused as Imperial College Union (ICU) run an election cycle without mistakes, errors, or major fuck-ups.

As voting draws to a

close today, a number of students have reached out to *Hangman* to express their pleasant surprise that everything has run completely smoothly, and there have been absolutely no problems of any sort.

Harry Ryan, who is running for the position of Council Chair - an arcane role that nobody really understands (*Ed: maybe it's something like the Spanner Bearer?*) - said he had been "dumbfounded" by the lack of developments: "I went into this election cycle really ready to give the Union some flak. I'd drawn up a whole plan, so no matter what they did I'd be able to find some way to criticise them, but this whole week

has been run so smoothly I really don't have anything to say except to offer a heartfelt apology."

Kieran Alay, ICU's Election Fixer and Deepening Democracy Coordinator, told *Hangman* the secret behind the successful running of the elections: "it can be very difficult to run a good student election, but after years of people raising issues, we thought we'd tackle the problem head-on. After convening a working group, we formulated a strategy for this year's elections: organise everything well in advance; make sure people know what they're doing; and keep everyone happy. It's that simple!"



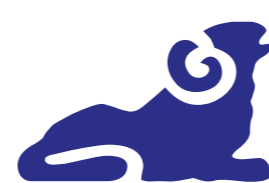
Everything has gone fine // ICU

Not all students were happy with the change, however: Oscar Langley, a second-year biochemist told *Hangman*: "I'd really looked forward to getting incredibly angry at the Union about minor infractions of election rules, but

they had to go and ruin my fun. Now I've actually got to do my lab report instead of procrastinating by picking fights in the Meet the Candidates livestream."

The *Felix* Editor was also concerned by the

lack of drama around the elections: "Well what the fuck do I have to write about in the News section now? Some shite about the library being too hot?! Fucking hell."



ARIES

This week you learn what you thought was called Tanpopo in the JCR is actually called Kimiko, and you feel your whole life has been a lie.



TAURUS

This week you're the election turnout. Will you go up? Will you go down? Will anyone actually care?!



GEMINI

This week you're Memperial, and you seem to be doing a better job of upholding student democracy than anyone else.



CANCER

This week you misunderstand the 'cashless' system in place in the SCR and think they're giving away food. Once you get to the checkout you max out your overdraft.



LEO

This week you read new research saying a healthy diet will still be cancelled out by too much salt. You should probably spend less time with Union hacks then.



VIRGO

This week you spend too long in Central Library, and have to go to the Ethos sauna to cool off.



LIBRA

This week you're the set of Meet the Candidates, and TIME CANDIDATE PLEASE



SCORPIO

This week you're a member of senior College management, and the missed teaching from the strikes is making it difficult for you to sleep. On your huge fucking bed of money.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you take the time to list all the societies that have breached election rules and send them into the Union elections team. They think it's a bot.



CAPRICORN

This week you're the Deputy President (Education), and you want to thank all your wonderful reps for another excellent term! (Horoscope brought to you by Imperial College Union)



AQUARIUS

This week you come to the conclusion you just need to write off 2018 as a whole. All your good intentions from January have already turned to apathy. Here's to 2019!



PISCES

This week you're the Horoscopes Writer, and you're bored of doing horoscopes about how shit the elections are. It's like kicking someone when they're down.

# SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## LION'S CUP – YOU'RE GONNA HEAR ME ROAR

*Imperial taekwondo blitz competition at the Lion's cup, putting them in an excellent position for the national cup!*

### SPORTS

**Angela Sun**  
*ICUTKD member*

What does a 7:20am start, battle crying, and Nando's have in common? A taekwondo tournament weekend, that's what.

On the 11th of February, seven ICU Taekwondo competitors brought home five gold medals, one silver, and one bronze from the Lion's Cup Taekwondo Tournament, held at Nottingham Trent University Sport's Centre.

We left the afternoon before, piling into one of the college's minibuses -which thankfully didn't break for this competition- and arriving in the early

evening. The disorganised half of us hadn't prepared dinner. The solution? Nando's! It's just protein and good carbs, making it the perfect pre-competition food -PS: not sponsored-, as confirmed by our coaches.

With the fire alarm at the hotel going off as we headed to bed, our excitement turned to tension as we dreaded the 7:20am meeting time the next day.

We woke up and the morning was cold. The journey from the hotel was cold. Weigh-in was also cold. Competitors started taking naps on the gym floor. But as the day progressed and the competition started, things started to get heated.

Lion's Cup launched the first poomsae (patterns) competition

of the year. Three golds were obtained by Huey Shan Tey, Junling Ong

**"ICUTKD left Lion's Cup second place in the overall UK Taekwondo University rankings, and first in the Indomitable Cup"**

and Joon-Ho Son, while Bryan Chong achieved a remarkably close silver, and Angela Sun, bronze.

Little is known about Poomsae outside of the Taekwondo world. However, each pattern requires skill, accuracy, and far greater muscle control than sparring, the fighting variant. With so many successes, ICUTKD is without a doubt one of the best university clubs in the country for poomsae.

Triumphant in poomsae, spirits were high, but kicks were even higher as fights began. Four 10mx10m rings were set up in line, cordoned off by massive signs separating competitors from the cheering crowds. Not only did Joon-Ho Son win gold in WTF sparring, but Angela Sun also achieved gold in ITF sparring. Finally, the arduous work and passion of these two first-year students paid



HI-YAH!!! A competitor strutting some moves // ICUTKD

off.

Massively successful, ICUTKD left Lion's Cup in second place for the overall UK Taekwondo University rankings, but more importantly, took first place in the Indomitable Cup, where points are allocated based on wins per number of competitors – a better measure of the quality of competitors. With Student Nationals

coming up this weekend, ICUTKD is hoping to secure the Indomitable Cup, and qualify as many players as possible for the European Student Nationals. So keep an eye out on for the final results!

Special thanks to instructors, coaches, members, volunteers and committee for dedicating their time to getting us to the top!

# SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Imperial beat Oxford at baseball (at least once)

*Imperial Falcons' defend fortress Harlington against Oxford, with only one hospitalisation.*

### SPORTS

**Jonathan Cheung**  
*IC Baseball player*

The Imperial Baseball and Softball club played a league game against Oxford a few weekends ago. Many of the club's players were unavailable that weekend though, so Daniel Kok borrowed a friend from his old university's baseball team to fill in for the game. Despite this *legitimate* substitution, the team was still one player short of a full team.

The game begun and Oxford came out strong in the top of the first inning, scoring five runs against Imperial. Despite the pressure put on the team, the Imperial Falcons had faith in themselves to level the score, "I hope Daniel gets struck out so I don't have to bat next" said

Jake Lee. Jake's optimism carried him to first base, thus passing the pressure to Jonathan Cheung who was making his first plate appearance since accidentally scoring a run for UCL. Discovering abili-

**"Despite the pressure put on the team, the Imperial Falcons had faith in themselves to level the score"**

ties never seen before in training, Jonathan swung hard and sent the ball deep into outfield to bat in the boys on the bases. The score was now tied 5-5. Joe Coulson pitched a

flawless second inning to deny Oxford from scoring any runs. Veteran Edo Lisi scored soon after to take the lead for the Falcons. From Imperial's fielding, you could barely tell that they were a man down. Silky double plays were being made and bullets were being thrown by Captain Kok and Andrew Counsell to first baseman Joe Ronan. Hours of the 'training drill' pepper had paid off; everyone was getting hits and runs to maintain Imperial's lead.

However, Oxford picked up 4 runs in their last half inning. Imperial's 3 run lead had become a one run deficit. Though, Joe Coulson stole his way round the bases to score a game saving run. Two outs, the last inning, and the scores tied... Jonathan found himself at the plate again. With the fate of the game (and a 100% regulation baseball bat) in his hands, he waited for the



Imperial Falcons on the defence at Harlington // IC Baseball

right pitch before making a huge hit to centre field. Described by Edo as a "magnificent walkoff", this clutch hit meant the Imperial Falcons had stolen the win from Oxford at the very last second! Despite his Valiant effort, Jonathan failed to score any runs for himself this game. He blames Joe Ronan for getting struck out at crucial moments. Joe was forgiven when the

**"This lung collapse is bants: we beat Oxford with one less player and one less lung"**

team found out his lung collapsed mid game.

Unfortunately the score to the second game was lost somewhere on the trek home from Harlington and the writer cannot remember who won. Joe Ronan also does not remember the score, but commented that "this (lung collapse) is bants, we beat Oxford with one less player and one less lung".

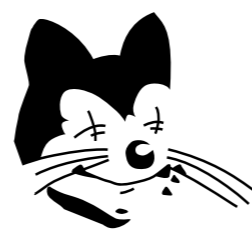
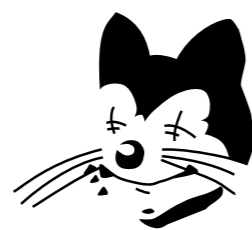
## New Year, New News!



**Felix**  
WEEKLY

**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!**



### SPORTS

**Sorrell Cowen**  
*ICURFC 2<sup>nd</sup> XV player*

29	14
Imperial Rugby 2 <sup>nd</sup> Team	Kings Rugby 2 <sup>nd</sup> Team

So far this season, Imperial 2nd XV have been a force to reckon with, their latest game proving again how strong this team has been. It first started with some fast paced back and forth rugby, both teams showing strong runs of play. Eventually, after an intense 10 mins,

Imperial managed to open the scoring. A strong run by Cowen, followed by several textbook phases, led to ICURFC's welshiest welshman Ifan Dafydd slipping round the outside of the defence to score under the posts. Fraser with the conversion meant Imperial were up 7-0. Not long after, pressure from the Imperial defence caused their 10 (one of the biggest/chunkiest fly halves ever seen, it was very confusing, was he a 10?) to slice a kick. The ball went sideways, straight into the hands of Imperial. It ended with Dowkes pulling off a naughty step and scoring a try whilst pointing and smiling at the guy he stepped. A bit

harsh, considering both the guy's ankles had just been broken. The kick was no good- Fraser had the accuracy, but not the power. He will no longer skip leg day. Unfortunately, just before the break, some strong running from Kings' forwards (and some very debatable tackle attempts from Imperial) meant the score at the end of the first half finished 12-7. The opposition had their heads up and started the second half like they finished the 1st half, with another try. Frankly, it was hard to keep count of the number of missed tackles, with Imperial players flying left right and centre. At 14-12 down, Imperial needed

to do something. Temp coach Elliot Quigley made some power substitutions, which caused a well-needed increase in intensity. Quigley for future England manager? After some attacking pressure, great hands between Gustave and Gianluigi lead to an Italian (Gian) scoring a try, which is a rare sight these days, those poor Italians. It did make up for the awful offload attempt Gian had made earlier. It was just awful. Why Gian, why? With boosted confidence, and after some 'manly' screaming from captain Wheaton after a boot to the face, Imperial scored again. This time it was off a scrum with

no-longer-temp-coach Quigley going blind,

**"With boosted confidence, and after some 'manly' screaming from Wheaton, Imperial scored again"**

dumming like he had never dummied before, and scoring with some serious pace in the corner. The final score from Imperial came from

Kirrane, who proved he was the fastest ginger of the team (sorry Jack and Elliot), by outpacing the winger and full back to score in the corner. It was scored with some well-deserved showboating, as the match finished 29-14 to Imperial, a BP win. A few shoutouts: 1. Well done to Rob for scrapping with almost every opposition player 2. Rohit always crying about people scoring on his wing and him never getting a chance, poor baby 3. Doobie D keeping the bench all nice and warm, it was needed for the 'injuries' (looking at you Koide and Cowen). Overall a tough game, but a great performance by the boys.

## SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Imperial Icicle 2018

Now in its second year, the Imperial Icicle has become a premier event in the sailing calendar. With teams flying in from other countries, the two day affair was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

## SPORTS

**Aidan Bell  
Gutierrez**  
ICSC Social Secretary

On the 17th-18th of February, Imperial College Sailing Club hosted the Imperial Icicle, now in its second year. Spread across two days and hosted at Wembley Sailing Club on Welsh Harp Reservoir, the event boasted 135 races, two massive socials and fantastic catering by Imperial's French and Swiss chefs. The Icicle had a total of 18 teams and even gained international recognition with teams flying in from outside the UK.

The weekend started on Friday night: after the teams had met with their hosts, they headed to Wetherspoons to begin pre-drinking for the house party boldly hosted by one of Imperial's Social Secretaries. The over 100-person strong party proved a resounding success, with teams thoroughly enjoying themselves and staying until the early hours.

Sadly, for the Imperial

sailors there was little chance to sleep with most having to get up at 5:30 AM to start preparations for the day ahead. The first capsizing of the day came early with our Bosun, James McLeod, taking a refreshing dip next to the pontoon before sails had even been hoisted. Despite this, and with

**"The curry came to an abrupt end when an electrical fire resulted in a rapid evacuation"**

remarkable efficiency for sleep deprived students, all the boats were rigged, ready and out on the water as the first teams trickled in. All this hard work was rewarded with a bacon butty, but sadly no sign of wind.

After the briefing delivered by our Race Officer and former Commodore, Joe Burgin, the teams sat down for what they

thought was going to be long wait. However, barely an hour afterwards, Joe decided it was time to launch and that the wind was coming in. Despite accusations that he was being a fool by the rest of the race committee, we went ahead as planned. Sure enough, as the first boat launched off the pontoon, a fair breeze was beginning to make its way across the reservoir.

Once the teams were on the water, the start boat jumped straight into sequence with almost continuous rolling starts. No mercy was given to any team that had fallen asleep and did not turn up to their boats, a move jokingly commented on by Bruce, one of our umpires, as "brutal". Mercy was not shown by the umpires either who doled out spins to anyone breaking rule 42 in the light winds. Unfortunately, the day was not without its challenges, with the wind coming and going and regular 90° shifts. Overall, after a long day of racing, an astounding 60 races were completed with Edinburgh Blue and Oxford Blue coming out on top but with many races left to sail.



A chaotic mark 4 rounding. // Calvin Chan

Once everyone was warm and dry, they headed back to their hosts' to prepare for the night ahead. With everyone in their Disney costumes, the sailors ventured to Drummond Street for a traditional BYOB curry. With over 100 in a private room, the social got off to a fantastic start even if many freshers were left without cutlery. Unfortunately, the curry came to an abrupt end when an electrical fire on the top floor resulted in a rapid evacuation and fire engines called to the scene. We arrived earlier than planned at the club, but the night eventually picked up and many a drunk sailor showed off their enthusiastic moves on the dance floor.

Much to the dismay of Imperial's freshers it was another early start, once again getting up at 5:30 AM to rig and launch all the boats. Despite everyone being hungover, due to the leadership of our Event Organiser and Commodore, Krystal Law, the boats were again prepared for the arrival of the teams.

After only a short post-

ponement, the wind filled in and racing commenced. The first and only boat breakage of the weekend happened early in the day as one of the shackles came undone on the jib. Thankfully this happened whilst still in the start sequence and the boat was fixed by our fantastic umpires in minutes. The wind, although more consistent than on Saturday, still proved shifty as expected on the Harp. This did not stop the race committee squeezing in another 30 races, giving every team 10 races each before moving into leagues.

The teams were split into Gold, Silver and Bronze based on their round robin performance. This saw some excellent team racing with some very evenly matched teams fighting it out. Our race officer made the call to power through all 45 races before the end of the day. Sadly, due to lack of time, we were not able to go into finals. Fortunately, there was still a clear winner at the end of the day, with N.W.A (New Wessex Alumni, basically Southampton Uni's

alumni team), going undefeated in Gold league.

The day came to an end with the winning teams and umpires being rewarded with a healthy quantity of alcohol and N.W.A., the winners, a "beautiful" laser cut trophy crafted in the Imperial workshops. After a long weekend, everyone went home with smiles on their faces for a well-deserved night's sleep.

Overall, the event ran smoothly with N.W.A coming in first place in Gold, Edinburgh Blue in second and Oxford Blue in third and a total of 135 races sailed, in very challenging conditions. Special thanks must be given to all the umpires (Ed Fryer, Bruce Hebbert, Ruth Owen, Bill Wyatt, Paul Robson, Andrew Wishart, Tim Palmer, Enrica Mameli) who gave up their weekend for the event. Also, all of the team at Imperial, especially Joe Burgin (Race Officer), Krystal Law (Event Organiser) and James McLeod (Bosun) who helped ensure the weekend went off without a hitch.

## SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk



The ICXCAC team, all smiles, going into the biggest (and final) race of the cross-country LUCA season. // ICXCAC

## Gold and Silver for London's finest

ICXCAC head to the final LUCA cross-country race of the season. The Imperial teams dominate.

## SPORTS

**Aymeric Regnier**  
ICXCAC member

Last Wednesday, Imperial took on the last LUCA (London Universities and Colleges Athletics) race of the cross-country season, fielding over 30 runners and finishing top of the league for the women and in 2nd place for the men.

As per usual, the club met at Beit in the early afternoon for the traditional face paint and chit chat before taking the tube, this time in direction of Shepherd's Bush as the race was soon to take place in Wormwood Scrubs. This was a vital race as the runners faced the challenge of keeping their places on the team podiums, as the women's A team were in 1st position and had a mere 6 points lead on UCL,

whereas the men's A team were in 2nd position and only 15 points behind UCL, so the rivalry gave these feisty runners all the necessary motivation on their way to the park.

The course began near the Linford Christie athletics track where the club usually trains with Thames Valley Harriers, then entered a wooded section. Once out of the woods, runners were to proceed around the park, mostly on soft ground or mud in our case as the weather hadn't been kind the day before, and on a relatively flat course overall, before arriving to the finish line.

After taking a club picture, the race was about to start and the 15- women- and 16-men- strong Imperial team made its way to the starting line, determined to finish the season on a bright note. As the women ran 2 laps and the men 3 laps, each lap 3km long, it gave the

non-competing squad a chance to cheer on their team-mates and encourage them throughout the race, and by the looks of it, it was not in vain.

Overall the whole club did a great performance with some impressive running, as all 5 of Imperial's A team made it in the top 25, led home by Oliver Newton in 4th, Kirill Mikhaylov in 15th, Fergus Johnson in 19th, Thomas Bayley in 21st and Charlie McFadzean in 25th, followed closely by Matt Douthwaite in 26th.

The women's race was also full of smashing performances, as the Imperial A team dominated the last race of the season: with notably Georgia Curry coming in 2nd place, Kate Olding in 3rd, Women's Captain Anna Lawson in 4th, Sarah Grover in 6th, Anna Wilson in 17th and Club Captain Alex Mundell in 21st, a total success.

After celebrating

those victories with more pictures, a top notch baking degustation and many congratulations, it was time for more celebrations as the end of the cross-country season meant that the league results were to be announced.

The team then made its way to the TVH clubhouse, where the results were to be sorted and the winners declared. This was the moment we had been waiting and working for since the first race at Parliament Hill, and all the hard work was finally about to pay off: overall the Women's Team won the league, with amazing performances throughout the season by many of their finest athletes such as Sarah Johnson, Kate Olding, Sarah Grover, Captain Alex Mundell, Georgia Curry and naturally Women's Captain Anna Lawson, who encouraged her team all along the season and led them to

victory, with also some terrific individual results as Kate Olding ended 3rd of the women's overall standings, Anna Lawson in 5th and Sarah Grover in 7th. Imperial women's B and C teams also did great as they made 5th and 8th place respectively. The immense success was made even sweeter as it was the first time that the Imperial women's team won the league, what a dream team.

On the men's side, the results were also absolutely amazing: the A team ended in 2nd position with a great lead over Brunel and just 71 points short of 1st place. The season was filled with equally strong performances as Oliver Newton, Harry Scriven, Henry Hart, Fergus Johnson, Kirill Mikhaylov, Charlie McFadzean, Chris Thomas, Chris Olley and Men's Captain Lewis Jackson made the men's A Team shine all along the season, with Oliver

Newton finishing in 4th of the men overall and Kirill Mikhaylov in 7th overall. Imperial men's B and C teams also did great as they made 7th and 10th place respectively.

The celebrations went on in the evening as the club had prepared a joint social with Hockey at Sway Bar in Covent Garden to dance the night away.

All in all, it was the perfect way to end the cross-country season and to celebrate the great results achieved by the whole club, after all these months of hard work that paid off. What more could Imperial ask for to begin the athletics season, with the first outdoor event on the 17th of March.

If you have any questions or are interested in joining Cross Country and Athletics, find us on Facebook or email [run@ic.ac.uk](mailto:run@ic.ac.uk).



Jenny and Lauren of Oxford "strike their pose" for the photographer. // Calvin Chan



# SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## London Ice Varsity – Imperial retain the trophy

### SPORTS

**Maciej Psiuch**

*Ice Hockey Social Secretary*

10

Imperial  
Devils  
1<sup>st</sup> Team

3

UCL  
Yetis  
1<sup>st</sup> Team

The ultimate showdown between Imperial Devils and UCL Yetis took place last Friday in Streatham. Continuous pressure put on UCL proved to be too much for them to handle, resulting in a crushing 10:3 victory for Imperial.

Like many games before, it proved to be a challenge, and victory had to be hard fought. In this case, however, “fought” was literal, as there were two altercations on the

ice. We saw four players off to the penalty box at

**“Two megaphones amplified the most out of tune, drunken, rendition of ‘God Save the Queen’ in history”**

one time. The state of play did not suffer, despite the penalty, and by the end of the first period Imperial were leading 3:1. By the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> period, the score was 6:1, with the final score at 10:3. However large the goal

difference was, the game was hard fought and UCL were fighting till the very end.

Ice Varsity is not only about showing the brutality of ice hockey, but also the gentleness of figure skating, as shown by our figure skating ensemble “Angels”. Their performance during the first break between periods left spectators in awe, as they performed Waltz jumps and Salchows through the air. Proving that ice, a substance harder than concrete, can be used for other things than just bashing UCL.

The 260 Imperial spectators attending the event wanting “...bread and circuses” were not disappointed. With plenty of food and beer provided at the rink, everyone was in a good cheer. Which would be proclaimed to UCL on several occasions



Devil's looking cool on the ice. // Imperial Devils

through various chants. With Imperial Immortals (american football) being at the forefront, with the most ingenious and witty chirps.

Usually players are meant to ignore the crowd, but it was made impossible after two megaphones were brought in by Imperial. Making it possible for the most out

of tune, drunken, rendition of ‘God Save the Queen’ in history.

After the game finished, everyone either boarded the rented double-deckers to the union, or went to the after party at KOKO. Imperial Devils celebrated the victory at the union, with some overflowing with joy to such extent, they had to be taken home

early.

Next year, Devils hope to defeat Yetis yet again. And hence will do their best to practice often and not disappoint when the time comes. So if you missed it out, don't worry! Devils will play again in twelve months' time, and it can get only better.

## IC Boxing – Imperial beats Bristol

### SPORTS

**Louisa Young**

*Boxing Publicity Secretary*

After a successful trio hit up the BUCS national boxing championship (almost a record-breaking number of fighters for Imperial College Boxing Club), we managed to churn up a further two specimens of fight-worthy material for Bristol's notorious Fight Night. Jie Rou, a fresher in Civil Engineering decided to move on from Chinese Kick-Boxing to regular old-school Boxing this year and Dave, in his 3rd year of Mechanical Engineering, joined IC Boxing last year, but they were both fighting for the first time.

On Saturday 24th February, Jie Rou and David were accompanied by our two Imperial coaches, George Burton and Terence Akinlade, and made their way down for what was to be a tremendously smashing evening of boxing. The event was a mass sell-out, with over 300 people in the crowds and 10 fights overall. With such a huge turn-out and atmosphere bursting with excitement, the pressure was on for IC Boxing to perform.

First up was Jie Rou, our shining star from Singapore. On a regular day you'll find her smiling and generally being an all-round nice gal. An 'all-round nice gal', until it's time to be in the ring that is! She told me afterwards she felt so bad for punching the other

girl in the face, because the Bristol Boxing Club had been so nice! Well I tell you now, that's not what it looked like in the ring. She maintained some awesome slipping and rolling and her clean-cut style allowed her to catch her opponent out every opportunity she left herself open. In the end, the judges came to an uncontested decision to crown her victorious.

Dave was up 3rd and started out strong, keeping up his defence and throwing well-timed jabs and hooks towards his opponent. He maintained his ground for the first two rounds, but it was very close. The final round was a tie-breaker. Unfortunately, his opponent came back strong, managing to strike a shot, causing the ref to step in and do a



Jie Rou looking dangerous (left in blue headguard and gloves).. // Imperial Boxing

standing count. Dave got hit by a flurry of punches in the last few seconds just as the whistle was blown. It came to a split decision, but unfortunately the judges gave the fight to his opponent.

It was not all that bad

for Dave though, because pre-fight he was already over the moon about the match. The 'match' being not his own but the rugby Scotland v England Six Nations - with a 25-13 final score, why would any Scotsman not be?

Anyway, he took the loss on his chin, and celebrated Scotland's win with plenty of food and bevies at the end of the night. Happy days for everyone!