



# Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London

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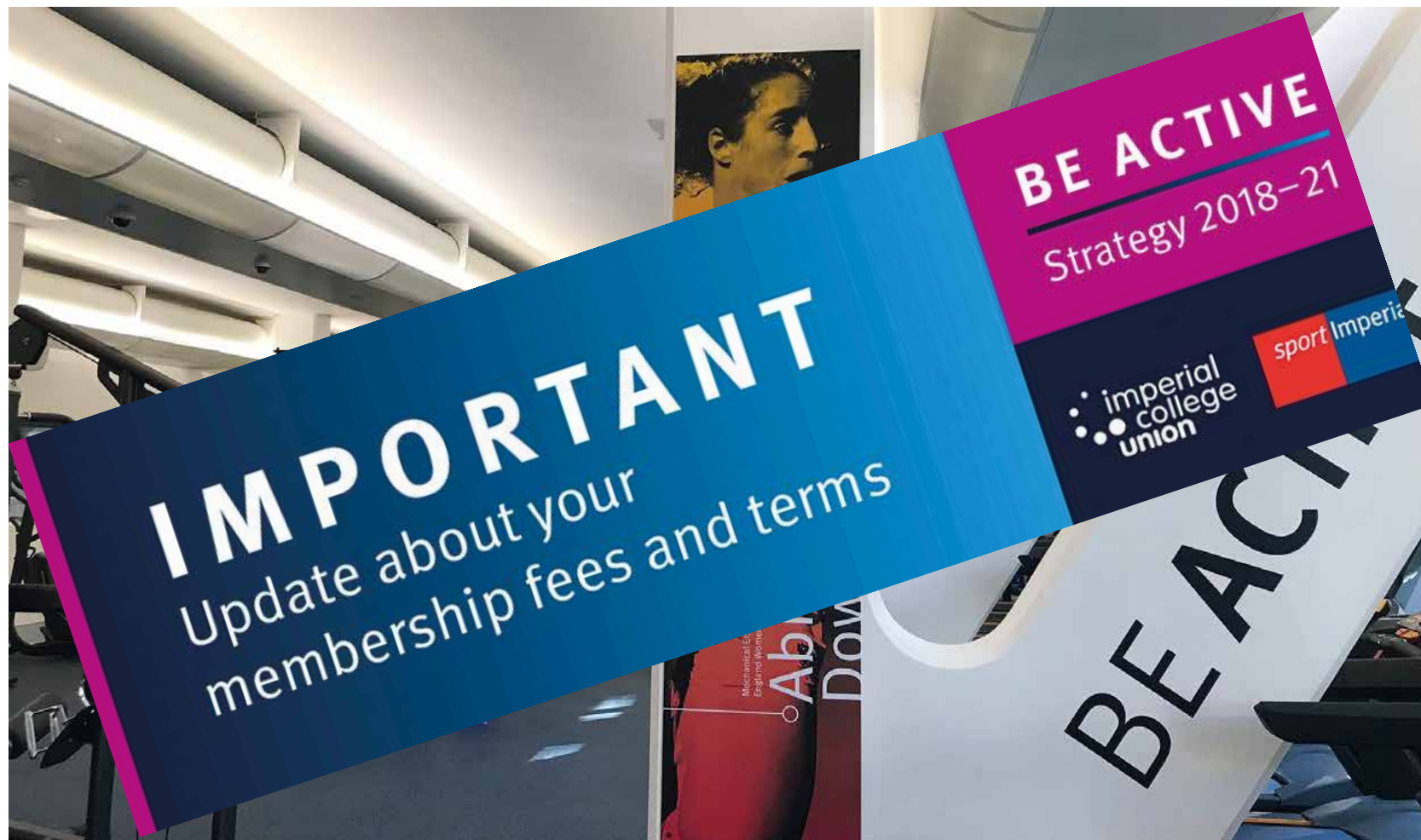
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## Students to be refunded following Sport Imperial screw-up

### NEWS

**Andy Djaba**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

*Sport Imperial blunder sees students who joined prior to September 2018 entitled to £30 gym refund*

Imperial students who paid for gym membership prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 change in pricing structure have been offered a refund due to an error on Sport Imperial's part.

Sport Imperial acknowledged and apologised for the mistake in an email sent out on 5<sup>th</sup> October inviting all students who were members prior to September 2018 to claim their full refund.

Speaking to *Felix*, Will Hollyer, Head of Sport Imperial, said: "We've made a mistake, we want to hold our hands up and apologise. We thought we'd done the appropriate due diligence. The important thing from our side is, we've identified it and we're taking steps to remedy it."

Students for which this applies now face four options:

1. Claim a full refund

of £30 – students will continue to be able to use the gym and pool provided they previously held a membership.

2. Do not claim a refund of £30 - this fee will contribute towards Sport Imperial's plans to develop and improve opportunities for sport and physical activity at the College.
3. Convert the £30 as credit for another Ethos service worth £30 or more - e.g. unlimited class pass, Active Imperial membership.
4. Donate the £30 credit to the Sports Hub – a

jointly-run service by Sport Imperial and Imperial College Union to support and develop student sports clubs. The donations will go into a general Sport Development fund that all sports clubs will be able to apply to.

The price increases, which saw students asked to pay an annual fee of £30 for access to the gym and pool at Ethos from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018, were announced in June 2018, as part of Sport Imperial and Imperial College Union's joint Sports strategy. However, following complaints from students and questions over the legality of such increases, it has since been found

that the change in pricing structure violated the previous terms and conditions. For all members that joined Sport Imperial prior to September 2018, the terms and conditions stated that, following a one-off payment of £40, "gym and swim facilities would be free of charge to Imperial students for the duration of their time at the College".

Concerns about the change in pricing structure were initially raised by a student accusing Sport Imperial of fraud, as reported by *Felix* in October 2018. Following internal and external counsel, Sport Imperial were advised to offer a full refund of the £30 annual membership to every student that had signed up for membership

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# EDITORIAL

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## A wholesome Editorial



Andy Djaba – Felix Editor

If you've had the pleasure of reading one of my Editorials before, you'll know that I hate writing them. With a passion. It has fast become the bane of my existence, hence why I procrastinate and leave them to the last minute. Which is where we are now, after a day of successful procrastination, it is just past 10pm and I'm writing this wretched thing. Ask me to review a Kendrick Lamar album and I'll give you page upon page of in-depth analysis into the inner workings of King Kendrick's mind.

Ask me to write an Editorial and I struggle to string together half a page. Anyway, we move. On to serious business. Front page news this week is the revelation that all students who signed up to Sport Imperial prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> September price change are now eligible to a full refund of the £30 fee. As someone that was particularly disgruntled at the price change, this is a significant move on the part of Sport Imperial and the Union to rectify their error. Although I am still slightly annoyed that I am not actually eligible for a refund myself, I think it's

important to acknowledge that Sport Imperial has realised its mistake and moved quickly to rectify the issue and come up with a smooth remedy. This is also significant because it represents a major change that was brought about as a direct result of the student voice. I'm particularly gassed because Henry Hart initially accused Sport Imperial of fraud through writing a *Felix* article and that article was effectively the first 'domino to fall'. If anything, this is proof of the impact students can have to better their situation at Imperial if they

decide to use their voice, be it through writing *Felix* article or by any other means. Finally, I wouldn't let the disappointment surrounding the gym blunder overshadow the fact that Sport Imperial are making major moves to improve sport at Imperial, an issue that has been present since I joined as an undergraduate in October 2014. Tomorrow is the *Felix* Annual Dinner, the most wholesome of wholesome events. I was going to use this editorial to write the speech I'll say at the dinner but, as per usual, I'll end up improvising that on the fly tomorrow.

Instead, I'll preview my speech with some of the initial ideas I've had so far. Much like my approach to most things in life, I liken running *Felix* to managing my team, Manchester United. Fred was a legend, much like Sir Alex Ferguson, and left behind a title-winning squad (the *Felix* fam). In my tenure, I think I've embodied all of the managers that have come in since Fergie's retirement. I began my tenure just as hapless as David Moyes, moved on to being as ineffective as Louis Van Gaal and I've flattered to deceive, like Jose Mourinho. Now I think I'm having a resurgence, much like Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, and the *Felix* fam is performing like title winners. I also want to take this chance to congratulate Music Editor, Simran Kukran, on securing her PhD placement. A big win for the team! Without Simran convincing me to write for *Felix* in my third year, and then convincing me to run for editor last year, I wouldn't even be involved in *Felix*.

Finally, section of the week goes to Books! Indira has written an exceptional review, so well written that she should probably have my job.



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# NEWS

## Will Mondays forever be meatless?

**NEWS**

**Claudia Caravello**  
*Deputy President (Finance & Services)*

January has come and gone, along with the trial of Meat Free Monday. So what's next? Will Meat Free Monday become a permanent scheme on campus?

Meat Free Monday (MFM) was a student campaign created from a combination of ideas that came from different undergraduate societies, PhD students, and Masters student groups, with the help of many volunteers, Greening Imperial, College Catering and the Union. With huge support from College and the Union, over 35 outlets across four campuses took part, including all College and Union outlets, as well as Pieminister and Silwood catering!

Throughout the month, a wide range of events and stalls were put on, highlighting all the different

reasons you should eat meat one less day a week. While the main aim of the campaign was to reduce our environmental impact; there are also health benefits to reducing your meat consumption, explained on our stall by Dr Cullimore, and financial benefits if you continued MFM at home, as meat is more expensive than grains and veg. Others interpreted it as a fun challenge, and some took it one step further by giving #veganuary a go. Meanwhile, the Animal Protection & Education Society (APES) highlighted the animal welfare benefits by using virtual reality demonstrations, provided by the Animal Equality charity.

Overall, the campaign was a success at getting students to talk about the idea of MFM. There was buzz online, chatter in cafes, and articles written by you in *Felix*! Knowing there would be a split in student opinions, MFM was always advertised as a trial, with the final decision to continue or not to continue being

left up to you! You voted in the Instagram polls, you filled out the online survey, and you told us your comments.

So what was the decision? Will Meat Free Monday become a permanent campaign?

With 523 people taking part in the survey (69.9% of which stated they were meat eaters), 57.7% of you wished for it to continue, while 40.0% did not and the remainder were impartial. However, the Instagram polls of 200 voters swung the other way, with 53.9% wishing for it not to continue. With no clear winner, it was hard to decide whether to turn the Meat Free Monday trial into a permanent campaign or not. What did stand out in the survey, was the demand for more information about the environmental sustainability of the food options, as 84.7% of students considered the impact of their diet on the environment. Furthermore, talking to students highlighted concerns about the lack of options regularly on campus for

vegetarian and vegan dishes, as well as a lack of healthy dishes that had a wide variety.

With all this information, the College Catering service and I have decided not to continue Meat Free Monday, but instead to shift the focus for the remainder of the year to providing a wider range of healthier options (meat and plant based) on campus! Some changes are already being made, such as the introduction of the new salad bar in the Senior Common Room (SCR).

So what do College Catering and I have in plan for you for the rest of the year? Well, get ready for some big changes! Think new, plant-based, sustainable café - a place where you can relax while enjoying fresh, healthy, and, most importantly, delicious meals. Opening in Summer term, inspiration for food options, new service structures, and café layouts is currently being gathered in preparation for this café, with new dishes being trialled in the other outlets



Colourful inspiration from Ethos cafe // Claudia Caravello

to gain student feedback. If you have a dish you love/hate, then let College know by filling out the experience box on the feedback form: imperial.ac.uk/food-and-drink/contact-us. Other ideas being debated include moving the College Cafe hot sandwiches to the JCR, while also adding a salad bar and a rotisserie

chicken stand, introducing 24-hour vending machines which contain meals and snacks to help you power through those late night study sessions, or introducing a pizza and pasta cafe on campus! I'll be keeping you up-to-date regularly, with blog posts and updates on my Union webpage about the exciting progressions!

## Students to be refunded following Sport Imperial screw-up

**NEWS**

(cont.)

prior to the price change.

The sum of the refundable gym fees amounts to over £100,000 and the decision to offer students a refund was taken in December 2018. The refunds are expected to be processed within five

working days.

James Medler, the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) told *Felix*: "This is a really big step in the fact that the student voice has been really listened to and that's going to result in probably a few thousand students getting their money back."

This error in changing the membership was made "with the earnest

ambition to improve sport for all at the College" and comes amidst a slew of positive changes to sport at Imperial. "At £30, we still wanted to make sure that it was affordable, accessible and appropriate," commented Mr. Hollyer.

With all funds generated being directly reinvested in facility and service developments, improvements, such as the full replacement of gym equipment and refurbishment of Ethos, Charing

Cross and Hammersmith gyms, have occurred and plans are underway for the expansion of Ethos gym (thanks to the President's fund). Sport Imperial have also announced plans to introduce an app which will include activity tracking and a reward scheme designed to encourage physical activity, whilst also improving functionality for Ethos bookings.

Mr. Hollyer added: "What we don't want is it to be the defining issue of

the strategy when we've got loads of really exciting stuff. We're just about to change effectively the

whole way that sport is digested and consumed at university with the Sports Hub."



The newly-refurbished Ethos gym // Sport Imperial

**The designer baby debate**

The Power To Control Your Own Evolution, with Robert Winston, Tom Whipple, Gunes Taylor and Inga Prokopenko.

Sir Alexander Fleming Building, G16  
 Tuesday, February 26, 2019  
 5pm - 7pm  
 Food and drink included

Book your space via the Imperial College website.

THE TIMES  
 THE SUNDAY TIMES  
 Know your times

Robert Winston, Gunes Taylor, Tom Whipple, Inga Prokopenko



## Insān - presenting conscious fashion

## NEWS

**Ahmed Elgharably**  
*Insan co-CEO*

### What is Insan? – our purpose and aims

Insān presents a new fashion perspective. We present fashion that is introspective and directed, that tackles important messages and challenges pre-conceived barriers. We are a conscious fashion label that questions and answers.

**“We not only shine light on the issues themselves, but explore mentalities and approaches to tackle these issues”**

We are acutely aware of the problems the human race face in modern climates – from issues surrounding the integration of immigrants, the dissociation and separation ideologies that infiltrate modern politics and the concepts surrounding religious integration and acceptance within communities. Insān aims to present these issues through fashion. We not only shine light on the issues themselves, but explore mentalities and approaches to tackle these issues.

We have chosen clothing as our medium because we see clothes as an extension of our skin. They are the fabric that encase us and surround us in everything we do. This makes it the perfect canvas to present ideas and challenge issues due to the huge scope for which interactions with our art can take place. In wearing our art, and conveying powerful messages, we encourage people to explore and challenge their own beliefs and established cultural attitudes.

We see modern trends and behaviours towards conscious fashion. People are becoming deeply aware and selective of the clothes they choose and the brands they represent. This is because a brand has become much more than a logo – it is a community of human beings with shared ideals, behaviours and lifestyles. Insān presents a lifestyle of consciousness. It is for the individuals that question and enquire – who see suffering and difficulty in the lives of others and wants to do something about it. We are a community who take action, who show creativity and present something that is visually stunning. By challenging the senses and creating visually explorative art - that can be worn – we encourage you to question and challenge

what is wrong in the world and as a result stimulate conversation.

Insān will become a leader in fashion wear and styling by creating fashion that matters. Fashion’s current narrative is a double-edged sword. We are surrounded by fashion that is spearheaded by cheap, fast trends and fluctuation or fashion that is intelligent in its conception and campaigns, but comes attached to unachievable prices. Insān will make high fashion accessible, it will make wearing something meaningful and beautiful achievable. We will be a brand that generates conversation, tackles wrongful norms and challenges what you already know.

**“We are surrounded by fashion that is spearheaded by cheap, fast trends or fashion that is intelligent, but comes attached to unachievable prices”**



Insān // Ryan Myers



A creative house // Ryan Myers

### The inspiration for the name – and what does it mean?

The name ‘Insān’ is a phonetic depiction of the Arabic word meaning human. The reason we picked the name is because we wanted to create something that was true to our message and true to our roots. The name, in its conception, highlights one of the profound difficulties that we aim to challenge. Whilst in the mother-tongue the word ‘insān’ means human, the phonetic is very close to the word ‘insane’ – which depicts madness. In this paradigm we present an interesting narrative - do we take the time to understand someone for the human being they are, including their roots and their beauty? Or do we take the surface-level understanding and see someone who is different, who is strange and who is ‘mad’ in their practices and beliefs? Do we treat each other like madmen, or embrace each other as madmen?

### Our first line

Insān’s first line is one of deep exploration and

gets to the substance of the brand from the start. Our first design is named ‘dancing spirits’ and is a re-imagination of Henri Matisse’s iconic painting *The Dance*. We have used the silhouettes of the dancing spirits in our tees to create a psychedelic masterpiece that promotes unity, oneness and understanding. The image of dancing is iconic in the sense that it comes to the core basics of human understanding. Through dance, music and laughter, we connect and we understand; it is precisely these feelings that are captured in this tee.

We used the technique of spraying due to its anti-establishment connotations. There is something very liberating about holding a can of spray and creating art. Watching those fine unstructured liquid droplets bring to life our stencils is something surreal. The effect achieved is one that gives each piece a story and a uniqueness. The defects and smudges that come with the imperfection of spray as a painting technique are perfect for conveying such powerful messages and creating

a narrative within each and every piece of art produced.

Our second design explores the concept of madness and humanity. The ‘Madmen graphic jeans’ convey an eclectic counter-cultural message. On the front the jeans carry our ‘Insān’ branding whilst the back conveys the ‘madmen’ message. The jeans play on the double meaning of the word ‘insān’ (detailed previously) and explore this poignantly. We used fabric pens to create this design as they unequivocally allow us to explore what human beings can achieve with the simple marker pen. The design is reminiscent of youthful art and doodling – the shading of the margins and borders in the vibrant red is consistent with this. Meanwhile, the bold, almost cartoon style typeface for the branding is intelligent in conveying the message of understanding, like a child at school learns to understand the world around them, we encourage you to understand Insān. The shadow of madness is ever present, however, and shrouds the jeans quite literally from behind.

The final design we will explore is the ‘Immigrant tee’. This tee is very special to us as it was the spark that led to the conception of Insān. Our aim was to tackle the issues surrounding integration of immigrants into British society. We were struck by the negative narratives used to present immigrants in the media. Conversations surrounding “British values” and immigrants incensed us and cultivated a desire to



Madmen graphic jeans // Ryan Myers

challenge these accepted and omnipresent beliefs. We thought, “why not flip this on its head and challenge people for not taking the effort to understand the immigrants themselves, not taking the steps to connect with them as humans and understand their cultures and beliefs?”

The stamp like ‘Immigrant’ print on the back of the t-shirt give a blatant and unapologetic approach to the situation and works to bring attention to the concept. Whilst the simplistic Arabic on the front contrasts this. The Arabic depicts the word “bushri” – another word for ‘human’ but using a different dialect of Arabic. The reason for this is clear – black Arabic writing on a white background carries a vast array of negative connotations in the media and this specific combination has been used as a medium of scaremongering and fear-generation in both

the West and the East. We wanted to reclaim this, reclaim Arabic for the beautiful and encompassing language it is and encourage people to understand immigrants and people in general for who they really are. See beyond the surface.

### What does it mean to be part of the Insan family?

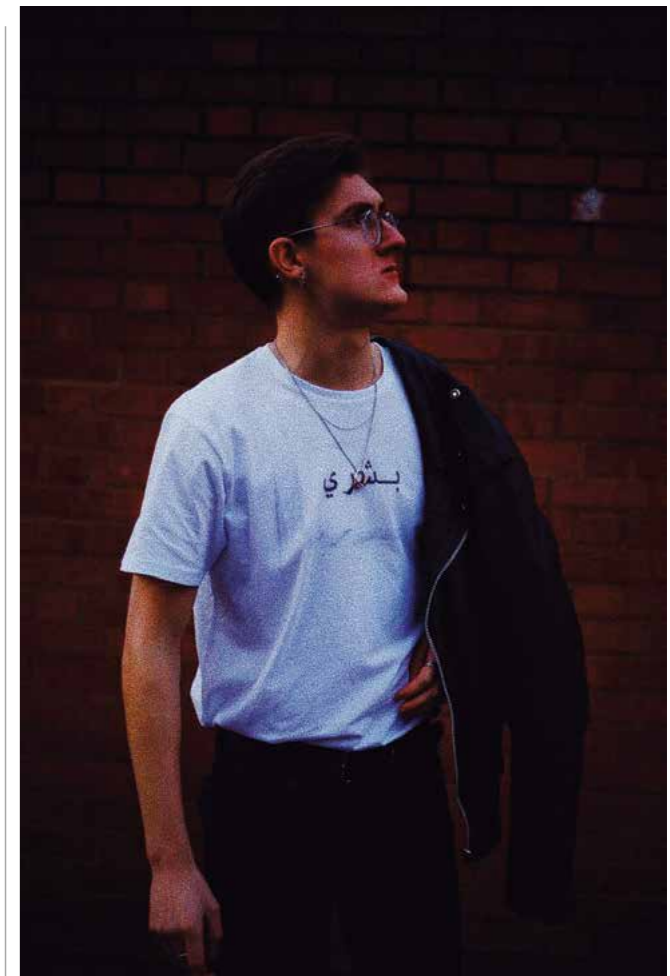
Insān – encouraging people to be a bit more human.

We foster creativity, we nurture inquisition and we develop links between humans. Be a part of the movement to reclaim fashion consciousness and support a brand that actually aims to explore humanity and cultivate human to human interactions.

Insān is more than a fashion brand – it is a creative house that tackles the world’s problems. Fashion is one of the ways

we have chosen to do so. To be part of Insān means to be part of a collective that loves and supports the desire to understand people. We want to eradicate judgment, we want to encourage unity and we want to develop networks between individuals from anywhere and everywhere. This involves listening to you - as fellow inhabitants of this world, interacting with your thoughts and beliefs and listening to what you want a unifying fashion brand to look like. Insān is for the conscious and the active. These are the people we want to build this community with.

If what you have read or have seen has resonated with you, have a look at our Instagram - @insan.madem - and support us by giving us a like or a share. Our DMs are always open for suggestions, criticisms, love and support so please tell us what you think and help



Restructuring fashion narratives // Ryan Myers

us to create something beautiful.

Email – insan.madem@gmail.com

## Positive changes to Leadership Elections 2019 as nominations open

## NEWS

**Andy Djaba**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Nominations for The Leadership Elections 2019 opened on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February with hundreds of opportunities for students to lead Imperial at the highest level, and a slew of positive changes

aimed at improving the experience for both candidates and voters.

This is the biggest democratic exercise at Imperial in which a President and four Deputy Presidents are elected as Officer Trustees to lead Imperial College Union as paid full-time leaders for a year. Other full-time paid positions are *Felix* Editor and Imperial College School of Medicine Students’ Union President, while part time roles include Council

Chair, Student Trustees, and eight Liberation & Community Officers. Nominations are also open for the committees of our six Constituent Unions, committees for CSPs, as well as Academic and Wellbeing Reps at the departmental level.

### Improvements

This year’s Leadership Elections include improvements based on feedback from previous

years. There will be more opportunity for students to get to know the candidates and their positions as there will be a period of campaigning before voting. Campaigning begins 13:00 on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March while voting starts at noon on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

This year’s debate with candidates for major positions will be hosted by ICTV and IC Radio with a live audience of students and everyone will get the opportunity to submit questions ahead of the debate on social media.

Another area of improvement is the complaints process, which has been streamlined and made more transparent, with a clearer appeals process introduced for disqualifications and a daily report on resolutions. There will also be more time for complaints handling after the close of voting, with the results scheduled 24 hours after voting closes. Results are expected to be announced on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March during a party at Metric.

### Stand and lead the change

The impact of these elections on the student experience is massive and all students are encouraged to vote and consider standing for positions in which they think they’ll be able to make a difference.

Nominations close Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, while voting runs from noon, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March – 14:00 Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019. To stand for a role, go to [imperialcollegeunion.org/elections](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/elections)



# POLITICS

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## The World's Largest Election in History - and no one is talking about it!

*900 million people are going to the polls for parliamentary elections in India to determine who rules the largest democracy for the next five years*

### POLITICS

**Avirup Banerjee**  
Politics Editor

The American election of 2020 is still 600 days away, yet even in the British press there is at least one article a day on any declared or even potential candidates to challenge Donald Trump. Yet very little focus has been given by the international press to the biggest election in human history that will take place this spring. India is the world biggest democracy with almost 900 million registered voters and this year's Lok Sabha elections (India's Lower House of Parliament) is a wide open contest, with no clear winner in sight. Before we move forward, let us recognise the important role Imperial College has played in India's widely respected Election Commission. It was an alumnus of our university, Sukumar Sen, who served as independent India's first Chief Election Commissioner and was tasked to do the improbable: conduct a multi-party election in a country that's 80% illiterate in 1950. Of the many challenges that await India in the coming decades, the survival of democracy is not one of them. In the last 70 years each succeeding government has peacefully transferred power. This by no means was a pre-ordained feat – India's neighbourhood is crowded with failed states, military dictatorships and the most powerful communist regime in the world.

In many regards the upcoming election is not one election, but many regional ones with regional leaders confronting regional issues. For India is a microcosm of the United Nations, with 22 major languages (with over a million native speakers each) and significant religious and cultural diversity.

In 2014, Narendra Modi's party (BJP) achieved what no other Indian Prime Minister achieved since Rajiv Gandhi's landslide victory in 1984, that is to win an outright parliamentary majority. Yet, if current polls are to be believed, then coalition governments are set to return. Coalitions in India are never between two parties, but as in 2004 to 2014, the governing coalition consisted of over 22 political parties with a further 8 parties providing external support. The current Lok Sabha consists of 36 parties – now that's a true multi-party system.

In season three of *Blackadder*, set in Georgian England, Blackadder informs Baldrick (representing the common man) that to be an MP a criminal record is a prerequisite. Whilst the UK has moved away from the rotten boroughs of the nineteenth century, in India progress moves more slowly. The wide scale criminalisation of politics has meant that whichever party you vote for, one thing will always be constant, at least a third of MPs will have serious criminal cases against them. Now that is true bipartisanship. However,



The people of India face a choice // Pixabay

saying that, it would be lazy to fall victim to bothsidesism, and not recognise the significant differences and policy records.

A year and a half ago, the Modi-led BJP NDA (national democratic alliance) government

**“Despite +7% GDP growth numbers and low inflation, this election is too close to call”**

was a shoe-in to win a second term, but a year is long time in politics. A disastrous demonetization resulting in over 80% of the circulated currency becoming invalidated overnight, a poor initial execution of a goods and service tax, and communal violence against religious minorities by Hindu fanatics emboldened by regional BJP leaders like Yogi Adityanath have dimmed the halo that Modi inherited in 2014. Furthermore, whilst the BJP government has

seen genuine economic improvements with India achieving its best rank on the World Bank ease-of-doing-business index and strong GDP growth figures (+7%) whilst controlling inflation to below 3%, ultimately Modi has become a victim of unrealistic promises he made back in 2014. Persistently high joblessness, agricultural distress resulting in indebted farm workers and high non-performing asset ratio amongst India's state-owned banks have stifled the true potential of India's economy. Amidst this disappointed climate, the opposition has sensed its opportunity. To prevent a repeat of 2014, opposition parties have united to form an anti-BJP coalition, often with their past enemies, realising that only a united opposition can stop the Modi juggernaut. The past few months have seen the BJP falter in the Hindi-speaking heartland, which played a vital role in their success in 2014. From losing the chief-ministership in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh to even losing key by-elections in the all-important state of Uttar Pradesh.

Yet behind the facade of opposition unity, there is already tension brewing

over who would be the prime-ministerial candidate. The only pan-India political party other than the BJP is the Congress party (which has ruled India for 50 of the 70 years since independence). Consequently, many Congress leaders have publicly said that any prime-ministerial candidate must come from within their party. This has irked many regional leaders who have ambitions of their own. Despite the re-energised spirit shown by Rahul Gandhi, president of the Congress party and the heir to the Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty (no relation to Mahatma Gandhi), the Indian youth have grown tired of dynastic politics. India is a young country, with 65% of the population under the age of 35 living in a highly competitive world. It is no wonder that in the last election, the youth overwhelmingly voted for the candidate who represented meritocracy. Modi didn't have a famous political family nor wealth to buy his way to power - he is a self-made man who, in his youth, used to sell tea on railway stations.

In the wide canopy of mud-slinging attacks, the real issues facing voters are getting ignored. The

rising economic inequality, the abject failure of state education and the absolute absence of public healthcare has been but on the back-burner of political discourse. Instead of real policy debates to reduce crime and the necessary judicial reforms or the necessary policies required to protect the environment, the Indian media has chosen to focus its attention to partisan politics devoid of any substance. Take the recent budget presented by the government – little attention has been paid to the details on how to finance the proposed universal healthcare scheme, despite there being numerous 24/7 news channels. However plenty of media coverage has been given to Mr Modi's rhetorical zingers for example “BC stands for before Congress, and AD stands for after Congress”, with the Times of India dedicating their front page to it. Some things truly are international.

In the past, the Indian electorate has fallen victim to identity politics and voting for leaders based on religion, caste, language and ethnicity. However, time and time again, Indian voters have also demonstrated their ruthlessness against incumbents who failed to meet their promises. Will the same befall Modi?

# POLITICS

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## Lefty YouTubers event draws large crowds

*Last Tuesday's 'Politics in the Age of YouTube' event demonstrated the political progressivism within Imperial*

### POLITICS

**Juan Ignacio Rubio**

*Politics Editor*

Shout out to Something Awful forum poster

SuperMechaGodzilla, who, in 2013, posted a Communist analysis of the film Prometheus, and basically radicalised me on the spot". This was the answer of Harry Brewis (Hbomberguy) to the question on how he was introduced to leftism. With such a starting shot, the Politics in the Age of YouTube event on the past Tuesday 29th of January chaired by ICL Labour Club's President Ansh Bhatnagar was anticipated to be quite a wild ride. Him and three other fellow YouTubers debated for two hours on current politics, philosophy, and the mechanics of video making.

"Conservatives seemed quite hip when I was young. I used to be an

**"We need to capture the narrative, ensure that ours and other yet unheard voices are effectively heard"**

AnCap before moving well to the left." remarked David Jacobs (BadMouse-Productions) to the same

question. Indeed, each of their paths towards leftism were quite different. In the case of Oliver Thorn (PhilosophyTube), it was radicalisation by "an unironic Marxist academic."

The conversation then moved to the reasons why they had decided to start making videos. "Instead of posting hot takes on Twitter, I decided to make something and contribute to the conversation", stated Angie (AngieSpeaks, prefers to go by her first name). "There's a section of the LefTube community oversaturated with content that focuses on making fun of reactionaries. I wanted to go a bit beyond that." Brewis also weighted in: "People have to change their own minds and the best thing you can do is giving them encouragement to do so."

"Not everyone can make YouTube videos. The creators are disproportionately white cis males, and minority voices are very uncommon. There's also the fact that its is very American. I would love to hear perspectives from other countries, though in many cases there is a language barrier [that makes the conversation harder].", said Thorn. Brewis was very hopeful in the power of this new media channel as a tool for the empowerment of leftism: "If Left YouTube had been present 4 years ago, we may had had President Contrapoints [a famous YouTube creator that has done many videos on politics and gender] by now." Angie was also keen to share her experiences in the platform: "One of the great things is that, nowadays, there's a very



Politics in the Age of YouTube // Pixabay

big community of creators and subscribers that can provide feedback to your content. They can tell you when you have made a bad take, especially in videos with controversial topics. I had a recent experience with this, and people were very constructive, except for a couple of people that came after me surprisingly viciously."

One of the main topics discussed was the state of trans rights in the UK. Brewis famously did a day-long Donkey Kong stream to raise funds for Mermaids, a trans-supporting charity that has been relentlessly attacked by transphobes in social media. Why is there such a backlash in this country against trans rights? "England is uniquely TERFy. Maybe because there's a tendency for middle class, white, centrist feminism in our media.", was the

perspective of Thorn. Brewis' reasoning was similar: "It's the tabloids. Every opinionator there thinks themselves as vaguely progressive, and when they find an issue they do not understand they have to have a take on it. Mumsnet is a very British place. In England you have former comedy writers screaming all day about the matter."

And where is the movement heading to? What plans do our creators have for the future? "I am going to keep making weird shit. My content has started being noticed by mainstream media, so there's a bit of space for growing from here.", said Thorn, who has been profiled by The Atlantic and The New York Times. "I hope the LeftyTube communities matures and gets rid of some of its more shitty habits. I would also like to

see a bigger challenge to the liberal hegemony left of the centre.", remarked Angie. Jacobs was also positive about the future, though much work still needs to be done: "We need to capture the narrative, ensure that ours and other yet unheard voices are effectively heard. We are the future. It is a gradual process."

The event finished with a Q&A round with the audience. Hot topics like gun control were discussed. Three of the guests happened to be quite in agreement in their position on the matter: "Gun control has the effect of disproportionately affecting minorities first. I am in principle pro-gun, though I understand the controversy with that. Gun control was first instituted against the Black Panthers.", answered Jacobs. Angie built up on that argument: "If I

lived in America, I would own a gun. Institutionally violence is disproportionately directed against People of Colour.". Brewis nodded in agreement: "It would be very nice if there were no guns at all, but in reality there are. I am with Angie, I hate guns, but if I lived in America I would definitely buy one. Nonetheless, it is a complicated issue."

It was quite a popular talk, judging from the fully packed room, one of the lecture theatres in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building. Imperial students seem to be growing more interested in politics, but will the trend hold? We in the Felix Politics section very much hope so!



## COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



# Why I'm proposing a complete restructure of the Union

*Students have been complaining for years that the Union makes decisions without consulting its members or volunteers. It's time for the old structures to be torn down and for a new democratic, transparent, accessible and member-led Union to take its place.*

## COMMENT

Ansh Bhatnagar

Comment Writer

How much of a say do we really have in what the Union does? Whether introducing sweeping changes such as a whole new representation network (the Wellbeing Rep Network), implementing programmes like ICXP (Imperial Clubs Experience Project), tampering with election timetables (Leadership Elections 2018), or removing meat from the menus (Meat-Free Monday), the Union always acts according to the whims of those at the top. Consultation of members is seldom carried out and even consultation with Union Council members is virtually non-existent. I know this because I have sat on Council for a year and a half, and many fellow Council members agree with me when I say that we feel locked out.

Union Council is meant to be the main representative body of the Union, setting policy and determining the direction of the Union in collaboration with the sabbs (President + Deputy Presidents). However, what has Union Council actually done? I can list a few good results to come out of Council, such as introducing harsher punishments for student volunteers found guilty of sexual harassment, and when it voted to support our staff during the pensions dispute last year.



Imperial College Union // Imperial College London

Having been on the picket lines on the majority of the strike days and talking to staff, I know it made a real difference for them to hear that students back them against the university leadership.

However, the current system is an incredibly inaccessible and inefficient way to create policy. Most students don't even realise that they can write a Council paper. Even when a paper gets to Council, the debate is often poor and gets stuck on small technicalities. People talk over each other and points are left unaddressed. Even after a motion passes this doesn't guarantee change. If the Union doesn't actually implement motions nothing changes! This is a pressing issue as there are numerous motions that have gotten past Council that Union

has not yet implemented.

Last year I proposed a motion for a petitions system that would make it easier for students to propose motions. A watered down version of this was passed in February 2018, with an implementation date of the Autumn Term 2018. At this point in time, it has been "indefinitely delayed". Two separate papers proposing a Social Mobility Liberation Officer were submitted last year amidst reports that Imperial was the most unequal university in England. There was a wide show of support from normal students for the motion – Council decided to instead run a consultation on it. Again, this has yet to be carried out despite it being mandated by Council.

The one time lots of normal students showed up to Council, they were completely ignored.

This is the result not of the specific people running the Union, but of the structure of the Union itself. It's why the situation stays the same every year despite different people being elected into those positions. It doesn't matter who you vote for because the system itself is rotten. Any system that primarily empowers those at the top rather than the mass membership is a fundamentally flawed system, regardless of who is running things.

Now this isn't an argument to not vote in the upcoming Leadership Elections – please make sure you do. The argument is that although the Union prides itself on being

democratic, it thinks that democracy is simply voting in an election every now and then. Real democracy is all year round. Our voices deserve to be heard and our wishes deserve to be acted upon throughout the year, because it's our Union. It is an organisation that is meant to represent us collectively, and it's about time it did. In fact, talks were had in mid-2018 between last year's Union President and volunteers about a radical change in the way the Union is run, with some very good ideas being proposed. The President at the time felt strongly that Council was inaccessible and wanted to bring about something new. However, with the meetings being advertised almost exclusively to Council members and

having very low turnout, there simply wasn't enough momentum to take it off the ground.

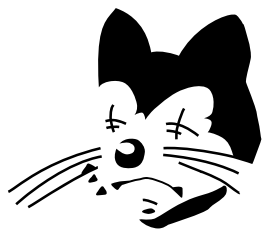
This is why I have proposed a motion to the next Union Council for the Union to set in motion a complete restructure of itself that prioritises democracy, transparency, and accountability. It needs to become member-led – meaning that all us students, together, are leading the way and setting policy. It needs to empower anyone who wishes to get involved and it needs to act upon what the student body wants, effectively and efficiently. However, this is too important a decision to be left solely to Council. The restructure will be developed in a group consisting of a wide range of students such as sabbs, academic and wellbeing reps, CSP committee members, and most importantly, normal students like you. Everyone should get a say in what the new Union looks like: a member-led Union brought about by a member-led process.

This is where you come in. Union Council must first set in motion this process so that we can get started on developing a new system for next year. Contact your Council Reps to ensure they vote for this, contact me (ab4616@ic.ac.uk) if you have any ideas, and most importantly, feel free to turn up to the meeting on Tuesday, at 6:30pm in RSM G1 to talk to your representatives and to show your support!



# COMMENT

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## Fashion is not a real thing

*This week's grumpy bastard's cynicism falls heavy on the industry, almost as heavy as the Supreme brick.*

### COMMENT

#### Grumpy Bastard

*Comment Writer*

I deeply despise fashion. Whether it's the pretentious designers selling a branded brick for a tonne of money, or the gormless idiots that buy it, everything in the fashion world is designed to piss me off. Apparently, however, it is one of the

things many people at Imperial enjoy and have a serious interest in, so as always, allow me to lower my trousers, unclench my arse cheeks and defecate all over your vacuous hobby.

To begin with, I deeply mistrust an art form that mostly involves watching how fabrics hang off malnourished human bodies. Hats off to the generations of fashion designers that have successfully brainwashed young people into

anorexia and unhealthy body images. You are probably responsible for so many mental health issues and eating disorders that I would applaud, except I'm busy ramming cotton wool down my throat. Delicious.

I hasten to point out that as an industry, the suffering fashion imposes on its models is hardly the worst bit. The poor bastards that are employed to create the clothes that you enjoy, and I wear because nudity

is illegal, get to enjoy highly unsafe working conditions coupled with being children. Who needs education when you can be crushed to death in a factory collapse? Certainly not me. However, that is the unfortunate nature of the industry, to produce vast amounts of cheap rubbish and underpay their workers before slapping a big fat brand price increase. I'm not sure what reveals more about human nature,

the fact that people think they can do this or the fact that people buy the damn things anyway.

High fashion certainly exhibits this in spades, with the delightful high heeled clogs by Balenciaga costing an entirely reasonable \$500 a pop, or the aforementioned Supreme brick. One of the methods that these companies use to keep their prices high is destruction of unsold stock. Burberry famously produces so

much flammable crap that every so often, they have to burn millions of pounds worth of product just so they can keep selling it for extortionate amounts of money.

The funny thing is that people will continue to buy this shit. In an effort to live the brand "lifestyle" and flex over all their friends, middle class cunts will continue to invest in this clothing. What a waste of human life.

## The designer baby debate

The Power To Control Your Own Evolution, with Robert Winston, Tom Whipple, Gunes Taylor and Inga Prokopenko.

Book your space via the Imperial College website.

Sir Alexander Fleming Building, G16  
Tuesday, February 26, 2019  
5pm - 7pm  
Food and drink included



Robert  
Winston



Gunes  
Taylor



Tom  
Whipple



Inga  
Prokopenko

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# SCIENCE

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## What next for Science in a No-Deal Brexit

*With more than £0.5 billion a year of research funding at stake, a no-deal Brexit could have catastrophic consequences for the UK's science and engineering community*

### SCIENCE

**Eyad Abuelgasim**  
Science Editor

On 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016, just over a week before the EU referendum, an open letter, signed by thirteen Vote Leave ministers, was published to calm the fears of British scientists, farmers and others who relied on European funds. It pledged: "If the public votes to leave on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, we will continue to fund EU programmes in the UK until 2020." One of the thirteen signatories was Dominic Raab.

However, Scientists were quick to point out the irony of one of the first things Dominic Raab did as the newly-appointed Brexit Secretary. On 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018, he suggested that the UK might not honour the hard-wrangled withdrawal agreement that guarantees continued funding of EU programmes until 2020.

**"Scientists were quick to point out the irony of one of the first things Dominic Raab did as the newly-appointed Brexit Secretary"**

On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Parliament roundly rejected May's deal with the European Union, which lays out the terms for an orderly withdrawal. This historic defeat for U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May makes the prospect of crashing out of the EU without a deal more likely.

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, the Campaign for Science and Engineering, CaSE, published its evidence to the House of Commons Science & Technology Committee inquiry into the implications of a no-deal Brexit for science and engineering.

To date, the UK has secured over €5.1bn of EU Horizon 2020 funding since the inception of the programme in 2014, the second largest recipient of funding.

A no-deal Brexit would mean UK institutions would no longer be eligible for three Horizon 2020 funding lines: European Research Council (ERC) grants, Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA), and SME instrument (SMEi) grants for small innovative businesses.

This would be a huge blow for UK science and innovation. The campaign group 'Scientists for EU' calculated that these streams equate to 45% of the UK's receipts to date from Horizon 2020. That is to say a no-deal Brexit will cost UK research €577.35m (£520.7m) a year in lost opportunity to access these golden grants.

By far the most critical of those funding lines is the ERC. The ERC typically awards grants

of €1-2m to bring about new and unpredictable scientific and technological discoveries. For the very best, creative researchers from anywhere in the world to undertake pioneering research in EU and associated countries, and to build a team around them.

**"A no-deal Brexit will cost UK research €577.35m (£520.7m) a year in lost opportunity to access these golden grants"**

Although the ERC awards are just over ten years old, recipients have won six Nobel prizes, four Fields medals and five Wolf prizes. One in 14 publications from ERC projects rank in the top 1% most cited worldwide.

Imperial is one of Europe's top recipients of funding, hosting 97 ERC grants so far. As recently as December, three Imperial academics won around €6 million (£5.3m) between them to further their research in materials, biomedicine and computing respectively in the ERC's latest wave of Consolidator Grants funding, second out of UK institutions.

Vice-Provost (Research and Enterprise) Professor Nick Jennings said: "These grants are highly sought after and Imperial is consistently one of the

top recipients in Europe.

These projects demonstrate our ambitions to collaborate and work even closer with partners in Europe.

That is why we are supporting and encouraging colleagues to keep applying for new European grants, as we campaign for continued access to European research programmes after Brexit."

The government has pledged that in the event of a no deal, grant funding awarded to UK institutions would be underwritten to make up for the loss of EU funding.

However, as mentioned in CaSE's statement, the Government has yet to detail the administrative mechanisms in place to administer the guarantee if it becomes necessary. It has also yet to confirm that the money for the underwrite will be new money and not taken from existing research budgets.

Mike Galsworthy, co-founder and director of Scientists for EU, writes in his article for *The Guardian* that "even if the UK government were to compensate our research community for the financial loss of ERC grants, it would take far longer than the few months left until Brexit Day to build a fund as prestigious and attractive to global talent as the ERC".

In an open letter published on 4<sup>th</sup> January, over 150 UK universities have warned the Government that leaving the EU without a deal is "one of the biggest threats" the institutions have ever faced. They have urged the Government to commit to replacing these EU

sources of funding to UK researchers in the event of a 'no deal' Brexit.

**"In response to Brexit, Imperial College London has already introduced a new funding scheme to encourage continued collaboration with Europe after the split"**

However, a few days later, 15 notable academics, co-wrote a letter in *The Guardian* criticising what they view as the scaremongering of certain higher education bodies, including the Russell Group, about the effects of Brexit.

They believe, with a clean sovereign Brexit, British universities can still have success with EU funding, like other successful third-party countries (Israel, Norway and Switzerland, for example), and will doubtlessly continue to participate in EU programmes like Horizon 2020 at will.

In response to Brexit, Imperial College London has already introduced a new funding scheme to encourage continued collaboration with Europe after the split.

Imperial is also campaigning for the UK government to guarantee scientific mobility through automatic visas for winners of major research grants, such as Horizon 2020 or UKRI. Imperial is also calling for an expansion and streamlining of Tier 1 visas for highly skilled staff.

Speaking to Naturem, following Imperial's launch of a strategic partnership in education, research and innovation with the Technical University of Munich (TUM) in October 2018, Vice President (International) Professor Dallman said: "We're naturally interested in any mechanism that allows us to continue fruitful collaborations we have established with European partners over the decades".

A survey of around 1,000 staff at the Francis Crick Institute, which Imperial is a founding partner of, showed that an overwhelming majority, 97%, of those who responded said a no-deal Brexit would be bad for UK science.

Britain is scheduled to leave the EU on 29<sup>th</sup> March, but a deal on the terms of its departure is yet to be fully agreed.



# BOOKS

books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Ferrante Reviewed

Books writer, **Indira Malik**, reflects on *The Neapolitan Quartet* - *My Brilliant Friend*, *The Story of a New Name*, *Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay*, *The Story of the Lost Child* - by *Elena Ferrante*

### BOOKS



**Indira Malik**  
Books Writer

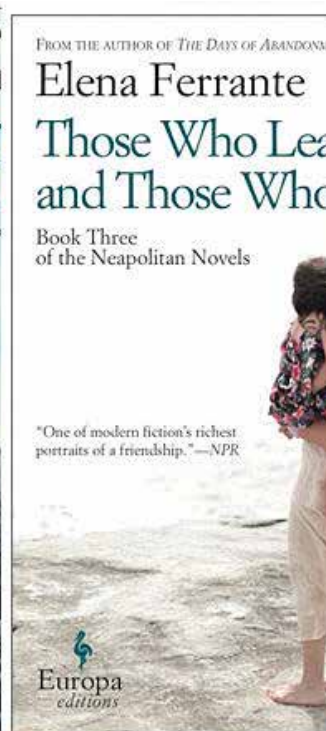
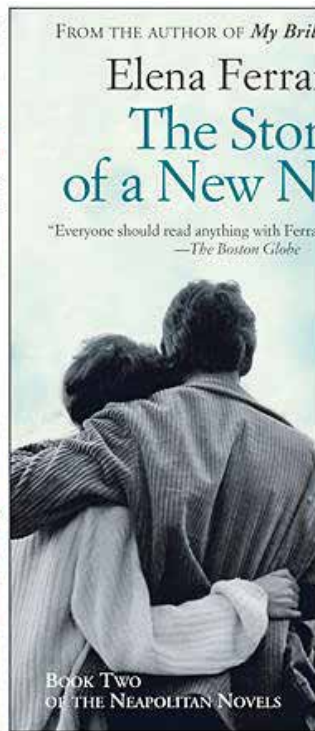
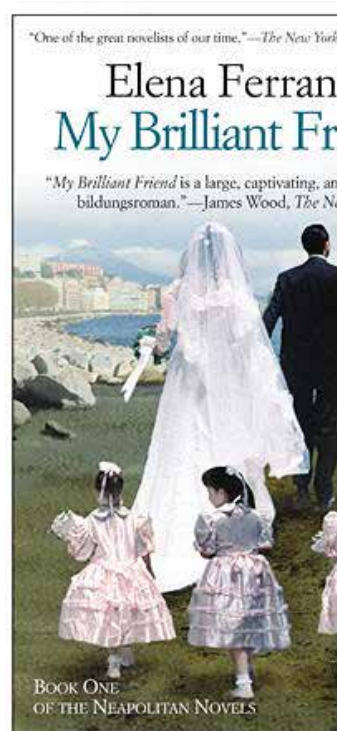
There are some books that you want to devour as fast as possible, sleep becomes secondary to being carried along the twists and turns of a novel's relentless plots. Other books are to be savoured, each sentence in its perfect composition wondered over. Very rarely, a book is both. *The Neapolitan quartet*, I would argue, is the platonic ideal of the form. Epic enough in scope to make any world building fantasy writer envious, and acute enough in its exploration of domestic intimacy, the four novels are of that unusual breed of fiction that doesn't seem to be fiction at all.

The series, which begins with *My Brilliant Friend*, follows the lives of two women born in Naples just after the Second World War. Elena Greco, affectionately called Lenu, the daughter of a porter, and Raffaella "Lila" Cerullo the daughter of the local shoemaker come from poor families, but both seem destined to leave their impoverished beginning behind. The two meet in elementary school where Lenu, a precocious, conscientious girl, if a little timid, is top of the class. In contrast to the well behaved, rather angelic Lenu, Lila is half feral.

Scrawny, brash, and apt to throw stones at the neighbourhood boys, Lila, even to the adults around her, seems just a little scary. Yet Lila's talents extend beyond causing trouble in the streets; by the age of five she has taught herself to read, and can do a dizzying number of sums in her head. Lenu with all her hard work must fall behind Lila and her dazzling talent. Envy, fascination, and to some degree a subconscious recognition that neither of them are like the other children around them, draw the two girls together. Theirs is a fitful, febrile friendship that is to last all their lives.

**"Ferrante's generously peopled bildungsroman is set against a vivid backdrop of mob rule, student riots, the rise of the feminist movement, the dot com boom, and a febrile political environment"**

Ferrante's writing, translated into English by Ann Goldstein, is



Please don't be put off by these horrible covers // Books Like Us

electric. Written in the first person from the grown-up Lenu's perspective, it has a magnetic, confessional quality. I have seldom read fiction that so completely, and so incisively captures a woman's interior life. The quartet wears its feminist credentials lightly, but it is undoubtedly a deeply feminist work. As the protagonists of the books grow older, the portrayal of an unconsuming childhood friendship transitions into an exploration of the joys and perils of adolescence; of first love; of heartbreak; of assault, then in adulthood there is the struggle as a woman to establish oneself professionally; the consequences of staying or leaving an abusive marriage; the decision of wanting and not wanting a child; of chafing against the roles of wife and mother.

This is the story of two lives woven into a

vaguely mystical tale. Lila and Lenu grow up in the drudgery of poverty with the threat of violence constantly looming large. Against this bleak backdrop commonplace moments take on a glittering magic; a dog-eared copy of *Little Women* becomes the roadmap to a future of riches, a trip to the sea takes on the aura of a wild adventure into the unknown. The women themselves become a little larger than life - set at a time and in a city where men beat their wives and children at the drop of a hat, the violence of men is banal, women's anger is a different matter: "men were always getting furious, they calmed down in the end; women, who appeared to be silent, acquiescent, when they were angry flew into a rage that had no end". Lila, a little maenadic at the best of times, strains at the

confines of personhood the most. Her energy and quashed potential manifest themselves in odd, violent ways: at times, copper pots near her collapse into themselves, things by her seemingly catch alight.

All four books are a study of tensions simmering under the surface threatening to boil over. This is, after all, as much a story of Italy in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as it is of the lives of its central characters. Ferrante's generously peopled bildungsroman is set against a vivid backdrop of mob rule, student riots, the rise of the feminist movement, the dot com boom, and a febrile political environment. Ferrante is in particular concerned with class, and money. When Lenu's family scrape together enough to send her to middle school, a whole future opens up to her that will

lead her away from the neighbourhood she grew up to a life of money and culture. Lila, who is thrown out of a window by her father when she brings up the subject of middle school, despite her talents, stays trapped.

**"Half fairy tale, half impossibly real, they are impossible to put down or to forget"**

"What are the ties that bind?", asks Ferrante in these novels that follow two lives that grow apart and come together again and again; half fairy tale, half impossibly real, they are impossible to put down or to forget.



## ARTS

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# Good Dog: Tales of Dignity in the Cauldron of Poverty

ARTS



**Where?** Watford Palace Theatre  
**When?** Until 11th March  
**How Much?** From £13.50

**Calvin Nesbitt**

Arts Writer

Poverty has a drowning effect. Those who are economically oppressed will often find themselves berated for paddling in an overly ferocious manner as they struggle for breath. Whilst the media and large swathes of politicians have failed to give voice to these suffocating communities, many artists are standing up to give insightful, honest and humane responses. Arinzé Kene's *Good Dog* is a striking example of this. Here at the Watford Palace theatre, Kwaku

Mills channels Kene's words to give a dignified and compassionate insight into the daily struggles affecting far too many people in modern day Britain.

Delivered as a monologue, interspersed with noughties grime and garage, the play begins with Mills as an innocent school boy who worships "good" fervently. His steadfast and dutiful responses to the daily challenges of his family's poverty are naive to the point where one is immediately aware trouble will come. Along with his own struggles, Mills's all seeing eye peers from his balcony to bring us stories of a variety of characters from his estate. The local corner shop duo of "Gandhi" and his stray cat are particularly great. Each is judged in turn, being cast initially by the naive child as good

or bad. Although many of the good characters are currently struggling, we are reassured that it is merely a matter of time before their fortunes change. Unsurprisingly this doesn't prove to be the case.

Life begins to wear not

**"Essential viewing"**

only at the growing Mills, whose life we see pass by before our eyes, but also on the supposedly good figures who never find themselves rewarded. More bewildering to Mills is the fact that the 'bad' characters seem to be prospering. This is where Kene's subtle writing shines. The young Mills slowly becomes 'bad', the reason for the quotes being the play's underlying point: one has a sense of respect or understanding for the boy's decisions.



Anton Cross in Good Dog // Wasi Danijj

Rather than leaving him in a continued state of haplessness, his decisions are a clawing attempt for dignity made by a child under immense pressure. The ability of Mills, who is excellent throughout, to translate this reasoning for a range of different characters as he narrates their lives is astounding. Stage centre for the play's entirety is a charred

monolithic cube. Swirls of smoke slowly billow from its carcass-like frame, evoking memories of Grenfell.

A statue to the kind of inevitable and depressing end game that often meets Mill's ensemble of downtrodden neighbours. This air of inevitability that the play is soaked in adds an uneasiness to your viewing. Here it is

the London Riots that will be the play's climax. The intelligence of Kene is to present this political tragedy as a human one.

We see anger as dignity and structural oppression as daily struggle. There is no sense of politics being played, just life as it is experienced. This, along with the interesting range of characters makes for essential viewing.

# Witness for the Prosecution

Another all-round pleasing hit from the queen of crime writing.

ARTS



**Where?** County Hall  
**When?** Until 31st March  
**How Much?** From £10

**Claire Chan**

Arts Editor

Who doesn't remember reading Agatha Christie's books as a child? Murder mysteries, full of suspense and intrigue, invariably with an unexpected twist or surprising revelation in the dénouement. The enduring popularity of Agatha Christie has seen a plethora of film, stage and West End adaptations of her stories, such as Kenneth Branagh's relatively recent *Murder on the Orient Express*.

*Witness for the Prosecution* was adapted for the

stage by Christie herself from her short story, *Traitor Hands*. As the title suggests, the courtroom drama, a small part of the original story, becomes the focus of the play. And where better to set an exciting courtroom drama than an actual courthouse?

Lucy Bailey's production is set in the spectacular Council Chamber of the old London County Hall – and boy, do she and designer William Dudley make use of the grandiose surroundings! From the moment you step in, the austere marble architecture and sweeping staircases immediately conjure the solemn atmosphere of a courthouse. The impression only intensifies on entering the Chamber itself – a soaring domed ceiling,

Lady Justice on the wall, and concentric rows of red leather seats, each with its own tiny wooden desk, looking down upon the small stage area.

You feel like you're actually in court, watching things happen in real time. Discreet, brass-covered speakers are dotted between the seats at ear-level, imperceptibly generating the ambient murmurs of the courtroom. This is quite clever on the part of Dudley and sound designer Mic Pool. Not only does it overcome the acoustic challenges of the vaulted ceiling, but when particular events happen on stage, the shocked gasps that fill the room seem to come from the audience itself. The illusion of being 'in court' is very real – the witness-

es are even called from outside the chamber, and make their way through the audience to the stand.

The trial we're attending is that of the young Leonard Vole (Daniel Solbe), accused of murdering a rich old lady of his acquaintance for her money. Sir Wilfrid Roberts (Jasper Britton), convinced of his innocence, must fight his old rival Myers (William Chubb) in court to save him from the noose. But with all the evidence against Vole, it looks to be a losing battle. And there's Vole's enigmatic foreign wife, Romaine (Emma Rigby)...

It's a suitably melodramatic, if somewhat cliché, plot. At least up until the last fifteen minutes of the play, when everything is

upended in not one, but two dramatic twists! It is an Agatha Christie plot after all. Without giving too much away, it definitely comes as a surprise and leads the play to its thrilling conclusion. If I have one complaint, it's that the twists are almost too out-of-the-blue. Unlike the best mystery novels where you can guess who the killer is, we're almost completely in the dark until the big reveal.

Solbe is utterly convincing as Leonard Vole – you'd never believe the honest-faced young lad capable of murder. Or would you? Opposite him, Rigby makes a captivating Romaine – seductive, sly and ever so foreign with her thick German accent. And Britton looks like he was plucked from the

Queen's Bench Division to play Sir Wilfrid Roberts, with Chubb's dogmatic and slightly prissy Myers serving as his foil. Though she doesn't spend much time on stage, Phoebe Marshall also deserves a special mention for her delightfully vapid portrayal of Sir Wilfrid's secretary Greta.

*Witness for the Prosecution* is definitely a night to remember. It's not exactly subtle or soul-searching with its trope-heavy plot and stereotypical characters, but then again it's never promised to be anything else. With its spectacular setting and dramatic plot, it's entertainment anyone will enjoy, regardless of whether they prefer Nietzsche or Netflix.

## ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk



The audience joining the fight in the barricades // Vault

# Counting Sheep: Join the Revolution!

Counting Sheep is a fully immersive theatrical experience that transports the audience to the events of the Kiev Uprising in 2014.

ARTS



**Where?** Forge – The Vaults  
**When?** Until 17th March  
**How Much?** £26.50

**Maria Portela**

Arts Writer

Mark and Marichka Marczyk, creators and writers of *Counting Sheep*, met and fell in love in the barricades in Maidan Square while fighting for life and freedom. The show is directed by Natalia Kaliada and Nicolai Khalezin, political refugees due to their illegal theatre company, the Belarus Free Theatre, in a country where all theatre must be state-sanctioned. From this unique artistic collaboration arises a powerful political argument for democracy, human rights and peace,

without ever falling into the trap of self-pity. The events in the play are based on historical facts and the personal stories of Mark and Marichka, who also perform (though not as themselves), notably

**"An unique artistic collaboration"**

by giving life to the original soundtrack.

Arriving at the Forge, one of the venues in the VAULT Festival, we find a long table, rustic benches and makeshift seats made from concrete blocks, tyres and wooden planks. Ukrainian and European flags are an important part of the set, as well as an old-looking upright piano with the internal mechanism exposed. Depending on the ticket type, we might sit in the galleries, away from the action, and play the role of Observer; in the benches closer to

the wall, as Protesters, from where we are invited to join the fight; or around the table, also as Protesters, but with premium

**"Electrifying"**

privileges that include Ukrainian food and vodka.

Mark, played by Michael Edwards, is our guide: a Canadian musician with Ukrainian roots, back to the ancestral land during a work trip. His job was to record local music for a new film. With him, we meet the chaos of train stations, observe the nightlife in Kiev and experience the gastronomic and touristic attractions of the city. The actors sit among us, we share a meal and make toasts to some unintelligible sentences, sing, dance and are merry together. Later, as a city of tents emerges in Ukraine's historical Independence Square and pro-European protests unfold around us, we become part of the rev-

olution and witnesses of police brutality, burning destruction and deadly sniper shots. We also meet Marichka, a classical pianist who was due to have the most important concerts of her life the day the revolution broke out. The gigs were cancelled, and she joined the fight. With her, and thanks to Georgina Beaty's astonishingly bold performance, we feel the urge to care for the wounded, the despair at being unable to help, and the anguish of not knowing if the ones we love are safe.

There is an interesting phenomenon of collective compliance to the increasingly complex tasks we, as an audience, are asked to perform. We don't really understand how we went from being comfortably seated to joining in the rhythmic section of an electrifying song, cheering as a couple of strangers gets married, playing musical chairs, holding shields and

helmets among sandbags, bricks and toppled tables, helping strangers to clean the barricades in the aftermath of bloodshed and taking part, horrified, in funeral ceremonies. The transition is subtle and never forced, but the fact remains that an initially reluctant audience (including myself!) ended up as central players in the show. The adequate tone is achieved during the whole performance, now joyful and overflowing with tradition and national pride, now respectful and mournful for the hundreds of lost lives, now resilient and confident in the rebuilding of the country.

From a technical perspective, we couldn't wish for anything more. Smartphones are encouraged and brilliantly used in the show, together with continuous projections of real footage from the uprising that bring realism and a larger dimension to the show. Lights, sound effects and choreograph-

ical stunts are all creatively employed to build a complete theatrical experience. The sets are completely transformed before our eyes, so fast that we barely notice. However, what truly takes the show to the next level is the music, brought to us by the Marczyk couple's Balaklava Blues project. Influenced by trance and electro-pop but with an ethnic touch, this mix of recordings, live performance and electronic manipulation add continuity and unity to the play. There are some beautiful moments of singing and playing, heartwrenching emotion, amazing polyphonies, created with the expertise of classical training and ethnomusicology.

An award-winning "Guerrilla Folk Opera", *Counting Sheep* is an explosive stage experience that dwells on life and death and leaves no one indifferent.



# FOOD

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## Biff's Jack Shack: turning jackfruit into fast food is not just for the vegans

*In an effort to stay current and #OnTrend, resident Felix treehuggers Simran and Rhid try out the first in a series of veggie and vegan food outlets to keep things moving post-Veganuary.*

### FOOD

Thomas Rhidian

Simran Kukran

Food Writers

The past 12 months have been more vegan inspired than ever; in fact, 2018 was the year of the vegan. Last year saw sales of meat-free food increase by a staggering 987%, with everyone from Beyonce to Benedict Cumberbatch getting in on the action. Like it or not, plant based (read: vegan) food is here to stay. But saving the planet doesn't have to mean sacrificing culinary pleasure, or indeed saving your own body; while in days gone by the first casualty of a meat-free diet was fast food, today's veggies and vegans have plenty of options that hit both those

salty and sugary sweet spots. Both authors being vegetarians who've struggled to commit entirely to veganism, who better to give the verdict on vegan junk food?

### The setting

Boxpark Shoreditch: If you've ever been to a container park before, you'll feel like you already know this place pretty well – the usual blend of hipster brunch joints and edgy chip shops are all here. Things are kept nice and simple upstairs: communal bench seating and plenty of natural light give it a relaxed, airy feel. Points for having a well-stocked bar, which would be great on a summer afternoon; we went in the pissing rain instead.

### The food

Biff's Jack Shack (BJS) gets its name from jackfruit, a large fruit native to India. Neither

**“On all counts, the Big Jack burger passes with flying colours – this is no stodgy Big Mac”**

of us had tried jackfruit in any of its guises before. BJS managed to create an entire menu from it, with the classic jackfruit-as-pulled-pork fare joined by innovative jackfruit burgers, wings, and chilli.

### Wings

Our introduction to jackfruit came in the form of buffalo 'wings', complete with blue 'cheese' dip. Immediately, it's clear why jackfruit lends itself so easily to pulled pork; its stringy, fibrous texture is unlike any other vegetable. BJS have a really good stab at working the jackfruit into something chicken-esque, and while it's unlikely to fool a regular at KFC, the wings work well enough to be enjoyable in their own right, complete with sugar cane 'bones'. The chefs seem to really know their star ingredient, with an extra crispy breadcrumb coating guarding against jackfruit's tendency to go a bit mushy. Our only criticisms would be of the accompaniments; the buffalo sauce is a little on the sharp side, even for those who usually douse their chips in vinegar, and the blue 'cheese' doesn't have enough in the tank to



The delicious Samuel Hell Jackson burger // Simran Kukran

stand up to it. Maybe try one of the other wings...

### Burgers

What do you want in a burger? As far as we're concerned, a burger's function is essentially to satisfy that desire for something solid, something heavy, that fills a hole when you're absolutely famished or to fill your stomach before a solid night out. It doesn't have to be meat, or even meaty – a satisfying bite and some decent relish is all we ask for.

On all counts, the Big Jack burger passes with flying colours. The Big Jack is BJS's entry-level offering, and at £7.50 straddles fast food and gourmet burger pricing. This is no stodgy Big Mac, though; everything – from the wholesome seeded bun, to the genuinely fresh and crisp lettuce, to the burger sauce that you'd swear is the non-vegan original – everything suggests quality. The jackfruit patty itself offers

plenty of texture and substance, although you'd be hard pressed to pin down its flavour in amongst everything else. Trying it by itself (sans bun, salad, sauce), the patty's subtle herby flavour is a welcome surprise, and it's something of a shame that it's overwhelmed by everything else.

If strong flavours are your jam, though, you may prefer the creatively-named Samuel Hell Jackson burger. There's a

**“We were unanimous in our feelings towards the aioli: this is the most impressive part of the whole meal”**

lot going on in here, not least the punchy jalapeno peppers – this one's not for korma fans. That being said, there's plenty to enjoy if you're a certified spice aficionado, and the pricing is still reasonable at £9.

And so to our side of choice: dirty fries, complete with vegan aioli and maple cured 'bacon' jam. The latter split the authors – too sweet for one of us, bang on for the other. If you're into that whole sweet BBQ sauce thing then you'll probably love it. We were unanimous, though, in our feelings towards the aioli: this is the most impressive part of the whole meal. As non-vegans, we are no strangers to the garlicky mayonnaise and it is indistinguishable from the egg-based original.

The verdict? Vegan junk food is just as good as your meaty alternative if done right. Stay tuned for further instalments!



Biff's Jack Shack's dirty fries // Simran Kukran



# LIBERATION

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## Brexit and Disability?

### LIBERATION

**Hishi Aty**

2017/18 ICU Disabilities  
Officer

**Sam Hasselgrove**

2018/19 ICU Disabilities  
Officer

**A**s you are probably aware, ever since the invocation of Article 50 on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017, the entire country has been on-edge. Whether you are a ‘brexiteer’ or a ‘remainer’, everyone’s fear of the unknown and split opinions have made the process of leaving ever more... complicated, to say the least.

How are local businesses and multinational corporations affected by this? What would the transition period mean to trade and immigration? Are we going to remain in the single market? What about the customs union? Are we going to have a free-trade agreement? What about the Backstop and Ireland? Are we going to have free movement? What about farming and fishing? What about research funding? When do we get that £350m/week for the NHS? What impact does Brexit have on the lives of people with disabilities?

**“What impact does Brexit have on the lives of people with disabilities?”**

If you’ve been following the Brexit process, all these questions should

sound familiar as they have, and still are, being discussed (rightly so!). But what about that last one? Is there even any relationship between the quality of life of people with disabilities and Brexit? Spoiler Alert! Yes.

### Laws:

The EU Withdrawal Act converts current EU law into domestic law as we leave ensuring enough time for the UK to either modify or remove some or all of the EU laws after thorough thought and discussion. The act also allows corrections to be made to laws that are no longer applicable once we leave straight away. However, which EU laws apply to people with disabilities?

The UK has generally been very good with disability laws and legislations; for example, when the UK passed the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act in 1970, it was the first legislation in the world to recognise and award rights to disabled people. In 1995 the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) was introduced, which included education, transport, and the provision of goods, facilities, services, premises, employment and occupation. However, businesses with fewer than 20 employees were protected if they discriminated on grounds of disability. This exemption was removed from UK law in 2004 after the EU legislation, the Framework Directive for Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation, came into effect in 2000.

In 2008, discrimination against employees due to their carer status or relationship to a disabled person became unlawful in the UK as a result of a European Court of

Justice Judgement. This was an issue that was missed in the DDA and many people had suffered from ‘discrimination by association’. Imagine the impact of being discriminated against due to your relative/child/partner being disabled. Not only would this put massive stresses on the family’s financial situation but also stress the relationships with the disabled person. Not only that but the mental stress that is placed onto the disabled person, knowing that their family is unemployable because of their disability is immense and this is in addition to all the other mental stresses that come with a disability.

### Finance:

There is no doubt that most disabilities incur extra costs to the person. Whether it is healthcare costs, transport costs or equipment costs. The UK government understands this, and has created Personal Independence Payments (PIP) to support people with the extra costs, allowing them to independently contribute to society. The EU’s regulation on the coordination of social security systems means that British citizens eligible for PIP can continue to receive it whilst living in another EU country, extending the person’s independence across the continent.

Not only that but making the country more accessible and removing the barriers faced by people with disabilities in society requires re-planning and costs. The EU supports the UK with these costs through the EU Structural and Investment Funds – which place a great deal of emphasis on anti-poverty and social inclusion measures.

### The Future:

The European Accessibility Act, proposed in 2015, aims to set requirements for products and services, such that they are more accessible. For example, trains and busses to be designed with accessibility in mind and cash machines to have headphone jacks for the visually impaired, amongst other things. Leaving the EU would prevent people with disabilities from benefiting from upcoming EU legislation on accessibility.

Although the UK has been a pioneer in disability and inclusivity legislations, the EU has helped to shape and refine the rules, such that no one is excluded and secondary issues of disability are accounted for. Leaving the EU would not cause a massive change in disability laws straight away; however, the UK would then be able to ‘roll back’ some of the EU laws that protect and enable the independence of those with disabilities. This reduces the power of the voice of people with disabilities as there would be a reduction in the domain of advocacy.

Will the UK decide to ‘roll back’ the laws? I personally think that’s unlikely (or at least I would like to think so), since the UK government has a proven track record of caring for those with disabilities. Also, more recently, The Papworth Trust suggested that the UK is one of the best EU members in terms of treatment of disabled people. Could financial help provided for people with disabilities abroad be affected? I think that would be one of the most likely changes we will see. I do however believe that some collaboration with the EU around disability



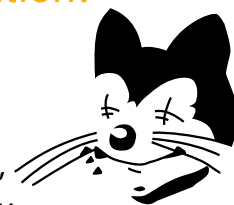
Although the UK has been a pioneer in disability and inclusivity legislations, the EU has helped to shape and refine the rules // Pxhere

will be beneficial as there would be a much bigger pool of experience to enable us to create the best

laws. Even if it’s just for humanitarian purposes.

*Have you ever experienced discrimination?*

**H**ave you ever felt unintentionally, casually or subtly



discriminated against within the college environment? What happened? How did it make you feel? How did it affect you in the long run? *Felix* is trying to start a conversation to better understand the impact this has on people by compiling some experiences from staff and students on campus.

To bring this issue to attention and have your voice be heard please share your story by filling in the anonymous form on the *Felix* website.

**Tell Felix your story**



*Hyde Park Relays  
Entries Close 4pm Today*



**HPR**



*Saturday 9th February 2019 - Enter NOW!*



# SUSTAINABILITY

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Greggs now-infamous meat-free sausage-free roll has caused mixed opinions // Plant Based News

## Lettuce Eat Better

*Veganuary - the challenge to eat a plant-based diet in the month of January has seen more people and businesses taking part in 2019 than ever before. Will this environmentally-minded movement be sustained?*

### SUSTAINABILITY

**Elliot Dryer-Beers**  
Sustainability Writer

Now that Veganuary 2019 has come to an end, it's the perfect time to reflect on the cultural shift veganism and the plant-based message experienced in recent decades. Veganism, it's fair to say, has recently experienced a leap from the fringe into the spotlight, with many reasons underlying its ever-growing popularity.

Over 681,000 people in the UK (approximately 1% of the population) currently follow a vegan diet: a number predicted to increase by 327% in the coming year, while google searches for 'vegan' quadrupled between 2012 and 2017, exceeding both 'vegetarian' and 'gluten free' search terms. Participation in the Veganuary campaign (which has

approximately doubled with each successive year since its establishment in the UK in 2014), has meanwhile peaked again this year with an estimated 300,000 new participants.

Such a dramatic swing has prompted many to wonder: what concerns are driving our blossoming appetite for conscious consumerism when it comes to abstaining from products borne of animal exploitation? Early teachings, such as those found in Jainism, Buddhism and Hinduism, alongside the views of prominent figures including Pythagoras and Plutarch, have traditionally considered moral and ethical issues surrounding the relationship between humans and animals. Are modern minds changing en masse according to these ideas, or is there more to it?

Indeed, much of the modern focus remains (appropriately) on the injustices committed

against animals for the production of meat, dairy, eggs and other animal-derived products, with a growing number of documentaries portraying the treatment of animals used for food production. However, the interest fuelling this modern surge towards plant-based living extends beyond concerns relating to ethics and morals, rather, tapping into mounting worries surrounding the impact of

**"Veganism, it's fair to say, has recently experienced a leap from the fringe into the spot-light"**

consuming and producing a typical Western diet on our health and the environment.

An ever-growing body of science continues to support the positive implications of adopting a plant-based lifestyle with regard to our health and the planet. From the perspective of health, a vegan diet has been shown to offer protection against numerous conditions including obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular mortality. Meanwhile, only those living under rocks could manage to miss the mounting evidence revealing the disturbing and staggering contributions of animal agriculture towards deforestation, species extinction, and global warming. Given the increasing availability of this information to an ever more informed population, the rapidity with which the vegan message continues to chime with a growing portion of society is hardly surprising.

Looking at results from a survey of participants in the 2018 campaign, as

reported by Plant Based News, 43% of respondents listed animal welfare and rights issues as

**"This increase in diversity of thought and awareness in general is hugely encouraging"**

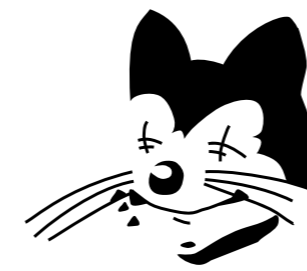
motivating factors when signing up. A further 39%, however, cited health as a driving factor, while 10% of respondents listed environmental concerns as their reason for taking part. This increase in diversity of thought and of awareness in general is hugely encouraging, as it helps reach individuals who otherwise might not have shown any interest in making the change. And, as is so often the case

with new adherents to the lifestyle, the numerous benefits besides the initial motivation that sparked one person's interest tend to become apparent quickly, and lead them to inspire others to consider the source and impact of their purchases.

Altogether, the overwhelming success of Veganuary and continuing rise of interest in veganism as a whole has set a fantastic precedent for 2019, which looks to be the strongest year yet for the plant-based diet. And with high street stores now racing to outdo each other with fresh vegan-friendly products and ranges such as the now-infamous Greggs meat-free sausage roll, Pizza Hut's Jack 'N' Ch\*\*se pizza and Marks and Spencer's Plant Kitchen (comprising 60 brand-new meals) this wave doesn't seem likely to crash anytime soon.

# SUSTAINABILITY

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## A Creative Green

*A unique expression on the waste issue from a unique perspective*

### SUSTAINABILITY

**Anonymous**  
Sustainability Writer

**H**i there,  
I am a bin  
Your humble biographer  
Wherever I may be  
Beside the kitchen sink yawning  
to catch your cereal packet  
or an unwashed peanut butter jar

Standing on the landing at University  
you pass me everyday  
occasionally greet  
me with a screwed up tissue.

*At lunchtime I watch open-mouthed  
as you forage fridges of film-wrapped sandwiches.  
Waste. Produce of haste.*

*You haven't seen what my grown-up brothers do who  
graduated into industry  
or work at the supermarkets on the night-shift.*

*Finished lunch. Yum - a wooden fork and knife.  
At last something but plastic.  
Though they're not going to biodegrade  
In a rubbish dump sealed anaerobically.*

*I have a cousin. He's a bit of a hippie.  
Got his head dyed green.  
Thinks he can take most things  
Calls himself a recycling bin  
He sends two-thirds of his earnings overseas  
for developing nations to deal with.*



Rubbish bin overfilled //...

*Evening. Black Friday.  
You come in with a discounted ready meal  
I feel a fuzzy feeling, like a stocking on Christmas day.*

*I am tired  
But there is no time for rest  
Many miles away  
Oceans churn  
Incinerators burn  
My belly ends and landfill begins.*

## The designer baby debate

The Power To Control Your Own Evolution, with Robert Winston, Tom Whipple, Gunes Taylor and Inga Prokopenko.

Book your space via the Imperial College website.

Sir Alexander Fleming Building, G16  
Tuesday, February 26, 2019  
5pm - 7pm  
Food and drink included

Robert Winston

Gunes Taylor

Tom Whipple

Inga Prokopenko

THE TIMES  
THE SUNDAY TIMES  
Know your times



# INVESTMENT

icu.investmentsociety@imperial.ac.uk



## An Insight into ETFs - The Future of Investing

### INVESTMENT

**Alexander Koh**

Head of Education ICIS  
Investment Writer

Index funds refer to a mutual fund or Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) that track a specified basket of underlying securities (tradable financial assets). Moreover, ETFs are becoming an increasingly popular investment vehicle amongst both retail and institutional investors. More than 4,500 ETFs managed over 4.46 trillion USD worth of assets in 2017. ETFs, in essence, are securities that are listed on stock exchanges and can be traded just like stocks. An ETF tracks a basket of securities that could range from indexes, stocks, bonds, to even commodities. Popular ETFs include the SPDR S&P 500 ETF (SPY) that tracks the S&P500 Index, Vanguard Total Stock Market ETF (VTI) that tracks the market-capitalisation weighted index of the entire U.S. equities market, and the United States Oil Fund (USO) that tracks the price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) light, sweet crude oil.

Since ETFs are traded on the stock exchange, they are priced and traded continuously throughout a trading day. Moreover, ETFs can be sold short or bought long and are traded just like stocks. One main advantage that ETFs offer is the low-cost diversification to minimise unsystematic risk during investing. For instance, mutual funds – professionally managed investment funds which pool small sums of money from various retail investors to buy a basket

of securities – charge higher fees (average of 0.51% expense ratio) relative to ETFs (average of 0.21% expense ratio, with some brokers even offering commission-free ETFs).

Moreover, the passive investing nature of ETFs aims to track the performance of major indexes (e.g. S&P500 or FTSE100), that provides returns that are similar to that of active fund managers that own a diversified market portfolio. According to Jack Bogle, the founder of the Vanguard Group and one of the pioneers of the index funds movement, who believes in the cost-matters hypothesis that posits why index funds are so successful: The net return to an investor is equal to the gross return in the market as a whole, less the costs of obtaining that return. (Surprisingly, Jack Bogle is not a staunch supporter of the efficient market hypothesis that postulates the best way to beat the market would be to invest solely in the indexes.) Given that passive index funds provide a similar return to active fund managers at a much lower administrative cost, the net return for a passive index fund would be higher than the net returns for active investing with fund managers in the long run.

With the rising popularity of ETFs, a multitude of niche ETFs targeted at niche areas of the market such as the biotech and healthcare sector e.g. HealthShares Emerging Cancer ETF or even socially responsible ESG investors.

Since ETFs are generally more passive and track a basket of securities, this has led to



ETF's have been driven by the demand for technology in the industry // Euronext

the emergence of ETFs with high leverages. Leveraged ETFs increase exposure to a certain index or asset class and an example would be the triple-leveraged ETFs that triple the exposure for an investor. Some popular triple-leveraged ETFs would be Direxion Daily Financial Bull 3X share (Ticker: FAS) or ProShares UltraPro Short S&P500 (Ticker: SPXU), with FAS holding a long position for financial sector stocks and SPXU holding a short position for S&P500 index.

Nevertheless, leveraged ETFs have a multitude of flaws and inherent riskiness associated with them. Naïve investors would believe that triple-leveraged ETFs would produce triple the daily return for the underlying investment (i.e. triple the return of the index in the long term). However, in the long term, such leveraged ETFs have a negative bias and would rarely match triple the underlying investment performance. Let's demonstrate this in the following example: suppose we are tracking an index that starts at \$100 and increases by 30% on the first day (\$130) and falls 10% on

the second day (\$117) and falls another 20% on the last day (\$93.6) with an overall net loss of 6.4% over the 3 day period. The triple-leveraged index increases the exposure by 3 times, i.e. a loss of 20% is magnified to 60%. Suppose the triple-leveraged index starts at \$100, at the end of the first day, it increases by 90% (\$190), decreases by 30% on the second day (\$133) and decreases by 60% on the last day (\$53.2). Overall, the net loss to an investor would be 46.8%. This demonstrates the negative bias of a triple-leveraged index which

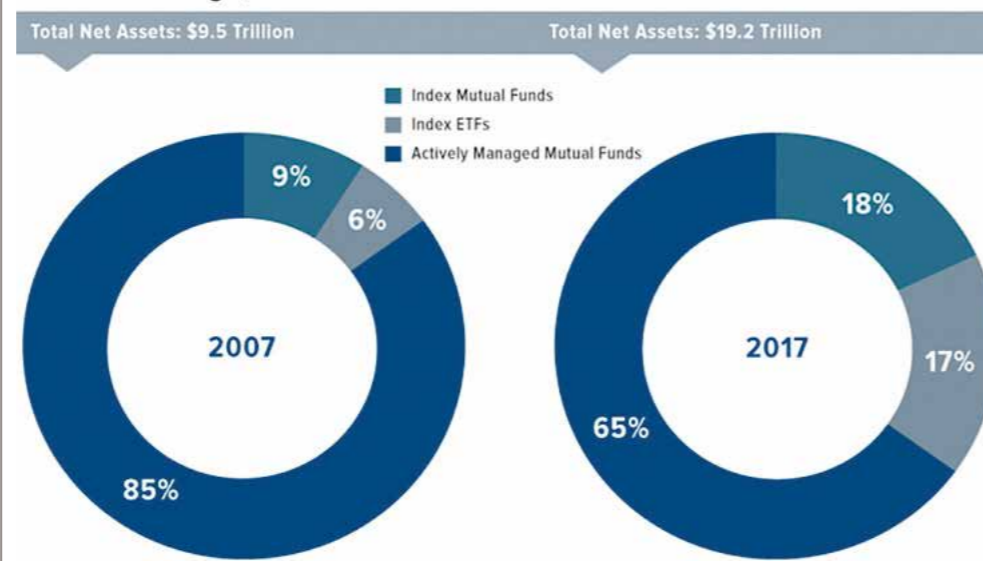
does not simply match triple the underlying investment performance.

The magnified exposure, volatility and

**“More than 4,500 ETFs managed over 4.46 trillion USD worth of assets in 2017”**

negative bias inherent to leveraged ETFs dictates that such ETFs should not be held as a long-term investment but should be used instead by professional traders who use them as a hedge against big market moves in the short term. Jack Bogle criticised leveraged or inverse ETFs investors as “Fruitcakes, Nut Cases and Lunatic Fringes”. While broad-based ETFs can act to diversify risk, retail investors need to be wary of exotic ETFs that tend to suffer from higher volatility.

### Index Funds Have Grown as a Share of the Fund Market



Source: 2018 Investment Company Fact Book, U.S. Global Investors

Will the Fed continue down its hawkish path? // Global Investors

# INVESTMENT

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## Impact Investing in Africa

### INVESTMENT

**Dike Dijemeni**

**Esuabom Dijemeni**  
Investment Writers

According to The Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN), impact investment can be defined as investment made into companies, organisations, and funds with the intention to generate social and environmental impact alongside a financial return. Hence, impact investing in Africa is the deployment of investment in African companies, organisations, and funds with intentions to generate social, health, and environmental impact alongside a financial return. It is important to note that categorical impact investing in Africa is significantly different from charitable aids given to Africa as the latter does not usually drive investment / financial rewards for the charity giver. Impact investment in Africa attracts a broad range of investors, primarily fund managers, development finance institutions, institutional investors, and foundations. There is a broad range of asset classes

which includes: equity, commodity, fixed income, foreign exchange, property, and derivatives. Actual numerical quantification and data on the market size of impact investing in Africa remains very limited.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework developed by United Nations serves as a driving force and framework for impact investing in Africa. An Annual Impact Investor Survey report by The GIIN showed that more than half of impact investors are tracking some or all of their performance against SDGs. Furthermore, there is strong appetite for impact investors to catalyse impact investing towards SDGs. However, the United Nations continues to argue the case for more capital and investment deployment to drive and grow impact investing in Africa and on a global scale. The UN estimates that USD 5-7 trillion is needed annually to achieve the goals.

Impact investing has been hailed as a transformational and revolutionary investment methodology for revitalising and growing African economies. However, the vision is increasingly distant from

the reality. According to a UNDP study “Impact Investment in Africa: Trends, Constraints and Opportunities”, the 9 key challenges facing impact investment in Africa are:

1. General lack of awareness and understanding of impact investment;
2. Difficulty in sourcing viable investments that meet both financial and social/environmental objectives in Africa;
3. Limited availability of innovative fund and deal structures;
4. Difficulty exiting investments;
5. Poor visibility and inadequate recognition of social enterprise status;
6. Lack of capital supply across the risk/return spectrum;
7. Inadequate policy and regulatory environment;
8. Poor linkages between social enterprise, investors, and innovation networks; and
9. Poor and inconsistent impact measurement practice.

In order to address the highlighted challenges facing impact investment in Africa, the Impact Investment Action Plan was developed as shown in

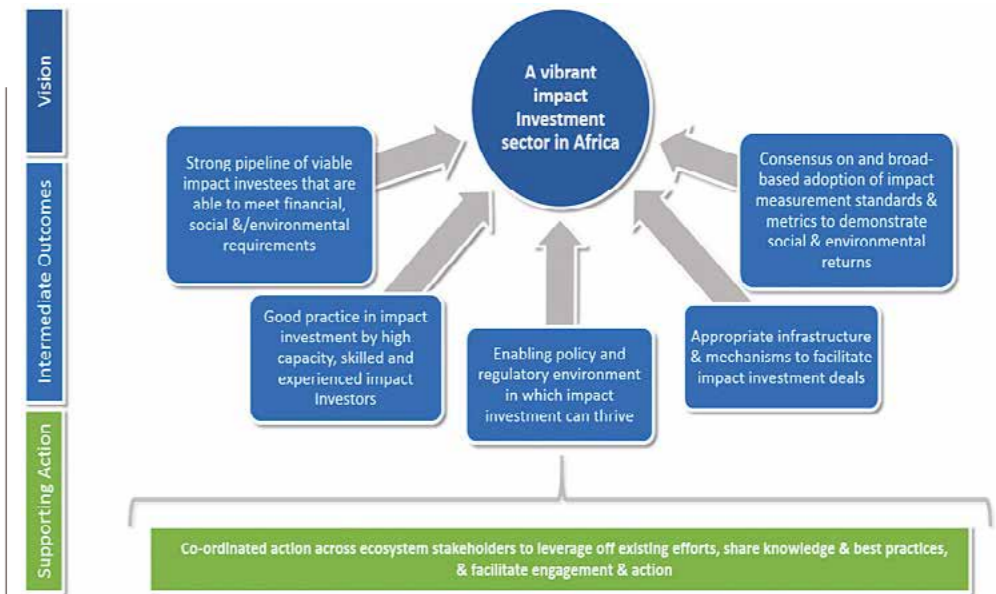


Figure 1 // Impact Investment in Africa

Figure 1. The primary aim of the Impact Investment in Africa Action Plan is to support the development of a vibrant impact investment sector on the African continent. The overarching vision is the development of a vibrant impact investment sector in Africa. The stated vision is further supported with five key intermediate outcomes and a supporting pan-African action plan and action network as in Figure 2.

One of the leading UK impact investment firms with an African focus is Uhusiano Capital Ltd. Uhusiano Capital is a boutique, regulated, financial advisory firm based in London with a specialist team primarily focused on impact investment in Africa. Uhusiano Capital addresses the capital needs for African-based projects and opportunities. The firm is driven by a strong founding principle grounded in the fundamental belief that commercial capital and impact/social capital can come together to generate sustainable long-term projects/funds/products in Africa. Founded in 2016 and incorporated in 2017 by Christelle Kupa, Uhusiano Capital has grown to establish its expertise in three key domains: capital raising, deal flow origination and

strategic marketing. Uhusiano Capital's capital raising team offers an innovative approach to raising capital for exceptional projects and/or companies by utilising its deep and well-entrenched experience in the impact investment community in African markets. By utilising its innovative capital raising approach, Uhusiano Capital is able to bridge the gap between impact investors and impact opportunities in a unique and transformational way. Uhusiano Capital's capital flow origination team are world leaders in harnessing the vast global network to support impact investors, whether new or well-experienced, to clearly and objectively identify the most talented and undiscovered managers and projects in order to achieve their investment objectives: financial and social/impact gains.

and marketing impact investments in Africa simple, effective, and rewarding. Furthermore, Uhusiano Capital's strategic marketing team provides strategic recommendations and deep insights for making meaningful marketing of impact investments in Africa.

In conclusion, Impact Investment in Africa has a gigantic potential to revitalise, recapitalise and rejuvenate African economies, African projects, African businesses and most importantly, African people. However, fundamental understanding of the conceptual imperatives of Impact Investing in African and the practicality and nuances of impact investing in Africa is central and at the heart of whether or not impact investment will deliver on its lofty potentials in Africa. A strong belief in innovative and philosophical driven firms with Africa-focused impact investment and Africa expertise like Uhusiano Capital plays a significant role in translating impact investment concepts into financial returns and social/environmental impacts in African economies.

Uhusiano Capital's strategic marketing team over the years have developed revolutionary strategic marketing solutions and impact investment advisory teams and services to make navigating

Uhusiano Capital's capital flow origination team are world leaders in harnessing the vast global network to support impact investors, whether new or well-experienced, to clearly and objectively identify the most talented and undiscovered managers and projects in order to achieve their investment objectives: financial and social/impact gains. Navigating the African impact investment ecosystem is challenging, difficult, and sometimes almost impossible. Uhusiano Capital's strategic marketing team over the years have developed revolutionary strategic marketing solutions and impact investment advisory teams and services to make navigating

Figure 2 // Impact Investment in Africa



The Leadership Elections 2019

#icuelections

# STAND

imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

## You can lead Imperial

There are over 700 opportunities now available for you to lead change at Imperial, as nominations remain open in The Leadership Elections 2019. This is our big annual exercise as a Union, in which each one of us - the students of Imperial - gets to decide the student experience by choosing the people who will lead and represent us. These positions have a big impact on the student experience and we encourage you to stand for a role if you've got great ideas and think you can make a difference.

You may stand for one of the Officer Trustee positions which include the President and four Deputy Presidents. These roles are year long, full-time, paid positions, with a chance to make some real change. Or perhaps you'd like to be a Liberation & Community Officer, Felix Editor, Council Chair or a Student Trustee. Read about all the roles and find the one that best suits you. Go to [imperialcollegeunion.org/elections](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/elections). Nominations close **Friday 1 March**.



## Last chance to nominate someone great!

We're really pleased to have surpassed 1000 nominations for this year's Student Academic Choice Awards so far. You have just a few more days to nominate brilliant members of staff for the SACAs, so let's recognise, reward and celebrate excellence amongst College staff. The SACAs recognises both academic and support staff, and there are 11 categories you can nominate staff in. This year we have added a few extra categories to reflect more areas of the student experience including:

- Diversity & Inclusion Champion
- Communities Champion
- Student Wellbeing Champion

Every nominee gets a coveted mug and winners are announced at the award ceremony in May. Submit your nomination by Sunday 10 February at [imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas)



## Come along to Union Council

Did you know that any Imperial student can come along to Union Council? Union Council is the highest student decision-making group at Imperial. At these meetings, students can raise issues and have important discussions that will shape the future of student life at Imperial.

Union Council is where policies governing student activities are made and your elected reps are held to account - decisions have an impact on your experience at Imperial so it's good to get involved.

Come along to the next Union Council meeting on **Tuesday 12 February** at **18.30** in **RSM G.01**.

Find out how you can get involved at: [imperialcollegeunion.com/unioncouncil](http://imperialcollegeunion.com/unioncouncil)

Make great memories

# WOLF ROCKS

Friday 15 February  
h-bar | 19:00 - 23:00

**8** February, Friday

**iPOP**  
Beit Bars | 20:00 - 02:00

**PGI Friday**  
h-bar | 19:00 - 23:00

**Battle of the Bands: Heat 2**  
Reynolds | 19:00 - 23:00

**14** February, Thursday

**Pub Quiz**  
h-bar | 19:30 - 21:30

**12** February, Tuesday

**Super Quiz**  
FiveSixEight | 20:00 - 22:00

**Cocktail & Jazz**  
Metric | 19:00 - 23:00

**15** February, Friday

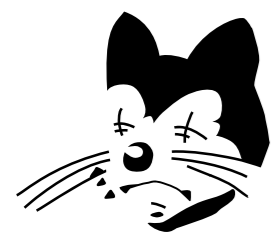
**Common People**  
Beit Bars | 20:00 - 02:00

**Wolf Rocks**  
h-bar | 19:00 - 23:00

**13** February, Wednesday

**CSP Wednesday**  
Beit Bars | 19:00 - 01:00





# Hangman



That damn sign taunts us all... // Imperial College

## A day in the strife - a Xenia student's morning struggle

### HANGMAN

Zack K.W.  
Guest Writer

Think your 5 minute commute from Beit is bad? You could be living in Xenia. Our guest fresher bemoans his daily commute.

How does it feel to commute via Britain's busiest station every day? I give the rundown, in all its 'uncensored' glory.

It's 8:10. My body screams as it's dragged from slumber. Goodbye, sweet dreams of coursework deadlines and failed life goals. Welcome to the

waking nightmare that is reality. The brutality that exists with existence. The jet washers at Xenia blast off my nipples. Good start. Bring it on, world.

It's 8:30. I'm out the door. From jump I get a hit of pollution straight to the lungs - definitely not my drug of choice. A horde of wild cyclists appear, cutting through the lights under the Waterloo double overpass, charging like a pack of hyenas in the African savannah. Right on cue, a convoy of taxis pummel through, leading to clashes filled with curses and seasoned with middle fingers. Narrowly escaping natural selection, I roll out my A3 tube map at the roadside, and make

a short prayer to TFL, my Oyster card and the Mayor of London, before continuing onwards.

8:31. That thirty-minute lie-in is coming back to bite me in the backside. Decisions, decisions: take the escalator and descend into hell straightaway, or to walk through the main station and prolong my suffering for two minutes? To Bakerloo or not to Bakerloo (jk that's not even a question; we don't talk about the Northern line) Most days walking through Waterloo'd be a no-go; with all those bodies outside everything shuts down, so it's shaping up to be a good day.

Spoke too soon.

8:42 If ever I wondered how a sardine felt, the Jubilee line answered that promptly. I tried to type part of this article, but literally, couldn't move my arms. Do Londoners enjoy rubbing up against one another?

**"If ever I wondered how a sardine felt, the Jubilee line answered that promptly."**

"mInD tHe DoOrS!", that damn woman screeches. Everything goes a bit

grey - not sure if that's pathetic fallacy or just all the sweaty vapour condensing on my eyeballs.

A few days later, we get to Westminster, glistening in all our sweaty glory - red and slimy like a new born baby. The doors crisp pneumatic seal breaks, allowing the winds of freedom to gush into the carriage. The oxygen thins as I battle upward towards the Circle and District line.

Some don't survive the climb.

9:?? Again with the lack of personal space. A woman coughs filth in my direction. Suppressing the urge to vomit takes everything in me. It's almost a losing battle.

Decades pass before the first train arrives.

So...many...people. Paralysed with bitterness, I don't even attempt to get on. Limbs stuck in doors. The second train arrives. Hopeless. At this point I give up and walk to St James' Park.

Laughing to myself hysterically, cathartically, it begins to snow. 'Why did I pick Xenia!?' I cry out. People start staring, wide eyes curious, yet devoid of pathos. They simply don't understand... nobody understands...

Editor's note: Ah, the naiveté of a fresher. Wait till they get to second year.

# HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

## Campaign to rename university 'Community College London' sees Queen's Tower under seige

### HANGMAN

Negafelix  
Editor-in-Chief

The Queen's Tower has been held under seige this week by students demanding College-wide decolonisation.

The movement, known as 'Occupy QT' has seen students holding the fort of the Queen's Tower, after ambushing bell ringers present to an-

nounce the Queen's third cousin's quinceañera.

The plan, hatched an executed by the Imperial Left Forum, was undertaken by 15 students, the largest showing of collective political activism within the College, excluding the annual Labour vs Conservative paintball match.

The students in question have laid out a number of demands, including that university remove the term 'Imperial' from its name, henceforth to be known as 'Community College London', in the spirit of comradery.

"This College stands

for everything that was wrong with the Empire," said Roland For-syth-Tremilton, protester and second-year Geology student. "I'd say we tear it down brick by brick, but I have a field report due next week, so I'm happy to settle for a name change."

"Why do we even call it the Queen's Tower?," exclaimed Juniper Lee, secretary of the Left Forum, "it should be named the People's Edifice, or even better, 'Tour de Corbyn'!"

Marr Anderson, College CFO (Chief Frugal Oligarch), was infuriated by the news.

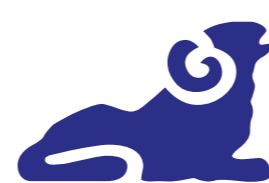
"First that Divest Imperial bullshit, now this," he said, visibly shaking with fury, "Next they'll expecting us be demanding us to pay staff a living wage! Ha!"

He was later seen overheard threatening Sonia Santabello (Deputy President, Figures & Sentences), with an eternal Meat-Free Month on campus.

Reports suggest that College Overlord Janice Fast met with presidents of the Investment and Finance Societies in an effort to quash the inevitable rise of the proletariat.



The bells ring 'The Internationale' // Imperial College



ARIES

This week you decide you want to start a tie club - BNOCs only.

Unfortunately for you, you're at Silwood, so your only options are a few chickens and ducks.



LIBRA

This week you are a bin. Refer to the Sustainability section for clarification.



TAURUS

This week you're Deputy President, Clubs & Societies. You seem to be to only one on CSPB who cares about the budgets.

How to fire people who works for free?



SCORPIO

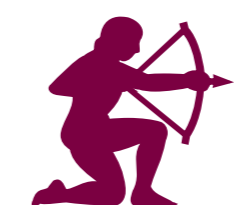
This week, you're the Horoscopes writer. The stars are all chatting shit this week, so at this point you fake it till you make it.



GEMINI

This week you piss in your housemate's orange juice.

Serves her right for eating your avocado.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you're Alice Gast. You're disappointed to hear about 21 Savage's British citizenship - that's one less potential international student to suck dry.



CANCER

This week, you try swapping your usual hoodie for more snazzy blazer. Unfortunately you get mistaken for a French school kid and get shepherd into class. Asseyez-vous!



CAPRICORN

This week you're Sport Imperial. You would've got away with the money too, if it weren't for those pesky kids.



LEO

This week you walk into the Union office with a Snickers, forgetting it's now nut-free.

You get rugby tackled by the DPW before you even get through the door.



AQUARIUS

This week you're the Felix Editor. You hear that Liam Neeson's doing promo at the Albert Hall.. Guess who's not leaving the Felix office anytime soon?



VIRGO

This week you faceplant in the South Ken tunnel whilst running late for your lectures.

Nothing like a rush of blood to the head to get the day started.



PISCES

This week, you're the library security guard. They don't pay you enough to deal with this shit.



# GAMES

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## *Cultist Simulator* devs come to Imperial for ICSF convention, Picocon

*Cultist Simulator is a triumph and Weather Factory is a studio worth keeping tabs on!*

### GAMES

**Harry Black**

*Games Writer*

**C**ultist Simulator, as you can guess from the name, is an indie game designed to simulate creating and running a cult, which was released by Weather Factory on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018. This is all I knew when I opened the game for the first time to live-tweet a playthrough. It's been two weeks since then and I have somehow logged another 60 hours. *Cultist Simulator* is a truly brilliant, and incredibly complex, game!

The biggest flaw I could argue there is within the game is purely how complex it is – and that it makes no attempt to hold your hand. For this reason, I'd advise against going into the game knowing as little as I did – you will enjoy the game much more if you go into the game with at least a vague idea of what the gameplay pattern is and how to progress towards victory. However, the complexity of this game is also its strongest feature. *Cultist Simulator* is a real passion project from Weather Factory, which is evident in the attention to detail and sheer depth available – after 62 hours I don't think I'm anywhere close to scratching the surface of what this game has to offer, and I've certainly not managed to beat the game yet (though I'd like to think I've been close). Not to mention that the game is still being tweaked and in the process of having additional content added – the

creators can't seem to get enough of it either!

The atmosphere in the game is perfect – the aesthetics and soundtrack combine beautifully to create a strong sense of immersion. The music reminds me a surprising amount of Jeff Wayne's *War of the Worlds* album, if that album were to be transposed to be about the occult rather than the alien. I have found myself a couple of times dawdling on the title screen for 15-20 minutes at a time before actually starting a run of the game so I can listen to the music without the gameplay loop drawing my attention. When you consider that all storytelling & advancement is done purely via text, it is incredible that the game has an atmosphere at all,

**“After 62 hours I don't think I'm anywhere close to scratching the surface of what this game has to offer”**

let alone one that seems to perfectly conjure up its Lovecraftian inspirations.

The gameplay itself looks rather simple – you have four main resources you need to manage, including your money; going broke will cause you to fall ill or die. The more different actions you try, the more ‘cards’ you'll



Have you ever had the desire to start your own cult? Well here you go! // Weather Factory

have to experiment with. These cards can represent anything from places, to occult objects, to members of your cult, or even the police detective trying desperately to find the right evidence to shut down your cult. You'd be forgiven for thinking the gameplay was simplistic at first: click on a ‘box’ labelled something like work, give it a card that it would make sense to do work with, wait a short period of time and be told what the outcome was. Even this system is much more complex than it appears to begin with – different card combinations can massively change your outcomes, and some events occur part way through the duration, allowing you to add other cards into the box as well and so alter the result.

I cannot overstate how much I recommend this game – if any part of it at all seems like it may interest you, read up on it a little or watch a

couple of YouTube videos before taking the plunge. I promise it'll be worth your time. There is a quote from an anonymous fan on Weather Factory's website that I rather like: “How to tell if you're in an Alexis Kennedy story: There is no right choice. There is no wrong choice. There is only living with what you've done...” and *Cultist Simulator* once again embodies this

**“In an Alexis Kennedy story: There is no right choice. There is no wrong choice. There is only living with what you've done...”**

feeling. (Alexis Kennedy is one of the two founding members of Weather Factory, alongside Lottie Bevan.)

If you are at all intrigued by the narratives weaved within this game, or the visuals, or in fact anything at all that this game has to offer (and you should be), then you will be thrilled to hear that not just one but both of the founding members of Weather Factory are coming to Imperial for a talk! Alexis Kennedy and Lottie Bevan are two of our wonderful Guests of Honour for the 36th Picocon on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, and considering the theme this year is ‘Intrigue’, it would be pure folly to miss their joint talk!

This talk and those of our three other Guests of Honour, each a fantastic science-fiction author, will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> in Blakett's Lecture Theatre 1, as well as many other Intriguing (please forgive me, but I've been told I

**“Alexis Kennedy and Lottie Bevan are two of the wonderful Guests of Honour for the 36<sup>th</sup> Picocon on the 16<sup>th</sup> February”**

need to work more puns into our Picocon publicity) events – including the perennial Destruction of Dodgy Merchandise, which involves smashing odd bits of pop-culture with liquid nitrogen and a hammer. If any of these things interest you at all then please grab yourself a ticket from the Union store! I hope to see as many of you there on the day as possible.



# GAMES

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## Best Controllers For *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate*

Conner Flynn from *GadgetReview.com* reviews some of the latest Smash controllers available on the market.

### GAMES

**Conner Flynn**  
Games Writer

**S**uper *Smash Bros. Ultimate* is all the rage. Nintendo Switch users have been waiting a long time for this brawler. This game is awesome because every character, throughout all the *Smash* games, is now playable – as well as new characters to hit the scene. New features allow players to battle over multiple arenas and there are new gameplay modes to explore and enjoy.

Fans of the game will already be familiar with the GameCube Controller, and now there's a new Super Smash Bros. Ultimate GameCube controller available for sale. Many, though, will only play this game using a Gamecube style controller; if that's your preference, here are some great choices!



### PowerA GameCube Style Wireless Controller for Nintendo Switch

Being the only wireless GameCube controller licensed by Nintendo, the Power A GameCube controller is the latest and greatest, improving on some of the features of past GameCube controllers. It runs on two AA batteries and comes in three different colors. Another cool feature is the LED light that displays the player number, which also flashes to show you when your battery needs to be replaced. For those who are not fans of replacing batteries, there is also a wired model available. It's also worth knowing that this is the only GameCube controller that can still be used when the Switch is undocked, without using an adapter. It's easy to see why this controller is a hit with the fans!



### Super Smash Bros. Ultimate GameCube Controller

This special edition GameCube controller is reminiscent of the original 2002 gamepad, but with the latest technology built-in. The Super Smash Bros. Ultimate GameCube Controller is a wired controller, you can easily connect it to your Switch with a USB adapter or 8BitDo wireless adapter. This controller features an outline of the *Smash* logo, giving it the game's nod of approval. I have to admit, this one is my favorite! It looks awesome with that Smash logo over black, and it's hard to improve on a classic at any rate.

### Hori Nintendo Switch Battle Pad

The Hori Nintendo Switch Battle Pad connects to the Switch with a USB port, but the technological precision of attack functions are just insane. You can also customize the shoulder buttons to adapt to your favorite form of gameplay. It also packs in Switch system buttons like home, screenshot and +/- . The textured grip will give you better control all around. Like the others on this list, it is a popular choice for playing *Super Smash Bros.* The Hori comes in five different varieties, which mimic some of our favorite *Super Smash Bros.* characters. These versions include: Zelda, Luigi, Pikachu, Princess Peach and Mario. They come in bright colors and all of the controllers, except for the Pikachu model, are translucent.



### PDP Nintendo Switch Pikachu Wired Fight Pad Pro

Are you a *Pokemon* fanatic? Gotta catch 'em all? Or do you just love Pikachu yellow? Either way, you'll love this Pikachu Wired Controller, which combines the best of the GameCube and Hori Controllers. The PDP has system buttons, such as home, just like the Hori, and has a USB connection. What make it unique is the detachable full-size analog stick that can be swapped out for the C-stick. That alone makes this controller very versatile. This is the *Smash Bros.* controller of choice for *Pokemon* fans. My new motto? Gotta Smash 'em all.



While all of these controllers have very similar buttons and designs, they each have a unique feature that differentiates them from one another. Each is a great choice for beating the hell out of your friends (all in fun and in-game of course!) Your choice may come down to a particular must-have function, or just be because that particular controller comes in your favorite color. Either way, you'll have a blast playing *Smash Bros. Ultimate* with any of these.

No matter which you choose, in the end, all that matters is that you have a fun time playing the game – and that you win of course! So get your headset on, grab your controller and fight!



# GAMES

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## Smash Corner-R.O.B- Nintendo's off-brand Johnny 5

### GAMES

**Michael Cognet**

*Games Writer*

Formally known as the Robotic Operating Buddy, he is without a doubt the most mysterious and unique character of the roster, fighter #42, R.O.B.

Never actually taking part in a game of his own, R.O.B. was designed as a revolutionary gaming companion for the original NES. He began as a mechanical toy whose goal was to hype the launch of the console more than having a practical or even remotely useful purpose, with only two games supporting him. Despite his poor applicability, R.O.B. managed to make his first on-screen appearance in

*Super Smash Bros. Brawl* and is now stronger than ever in *Ultimate*. He is a versatile, heavy character with great long- and short-range options.

R.O.B.'s most important tools are his specials, starting off with his neutral Robo Beam, which fires a directable laser. This projectile will keep opponents away with its decent knockback, but can't be used in rapid succession. Its power recharges passively, maxing out when the red LED on top of R.O.B.'s head is flashing.

Next comes the heart of his kit, his down-special, a charged attack which fires a spinning Gyroscope in front of him. Not only can this projectile stay on stage to add pressure, but R.O.B. (or an opponent) can pick it up to throw it again in any direction. One trick is to launch the Gyro on the very edge of

the stage, preventing your opponent from simply climbing up the ledge. But in general, you should use it to harass them from afar.

Even if your opponent comes too close, R.O.B. still has many powerful options, especially with his side special, Arm Rotor. It unleashes a series of quick attacks whilst spinning forwards, followed by a finishing blow which can kill at 100%. And for the cherry on top, this move can also reflect projectiles if timed right, a lesser known fact that can take many opponents by surprise.

And that's not all, because R.O.B.'s side-smash has decent range, making it the perfect tool to hit hard whilst at a reasonably safe distance. You can then follow up with your neutral-air, which you should be using a lot,



**Terminator 6: When Good Robots Go Bad // Nintendo**

to hit your opponent with a fiery blast. All of this can even be done safely off-stage thanks to his up-special Robo Burner, one of the best vertical recovery moves in the game. It will, however, need some downtime to recharge its fuel gauge, so use it sparingly.

In addition to his legendary off-stage mobility and edge guard, R.O.B. possesses an insane combo game. Simple yet effective, both his down- and up-throws can be chained with a multitude

of attacks depending on the situation. You can perform tilts or jabs to get some free damage or try an up-smash to go for the kill, if they are at a high percentage and you are fast enough. But for all you Elite Smashers out there, R.O.B. also has a masterful zero to death combo. It makes use of his Gyro, neutral-air and side-special to erase one of your opponent's stocks in the right conditions (check out Beefy Smash Doods' video for the exact guide).

As a personal favourite, I have to say that R.O.B. is one of the best and most enjoyable fighters to play. But objectively, he does have a lot going for him, with a lot of versatility, power and potential, raising his status up to high-tier. However, he can be easily punished if you are too predictable due to his large hit-box, so make sure to use all your options and mix things up to successfully destroy your opponents!

## Smash Corner-Jigglypuff- The Elvis of the PokéWorld

### GAMES

**Freddie Ugo**

*Games Writer*

This pink puff ball originated in 1996 as one of the first original 151 Pokémon. However, it was her popularity in the anime that got her into the first *Smash* game, and every game since. While not being as amazing as she was in *Melee*, Jigglypuff has definitely improved over her last couple of iterations.

The main game plan with Jigglypuff is to wall out the opponent with an onslaught of aerials while also setting up tech-chase situations that can result in a rest K.O. (more on this later).

Jigglypuff's forward air and back air have a sus-

tained hitbox which stay out for quite a few frames, meaning they are excellent at punishing the opponent at approaching at the wrong time. You should aim to string forward airs together when you want to get the opponent off stage at low percent. Her back air has insane knock-back and should be prioritised at high percent; careful though, as using this mid-air causes Jigglypuff to turn around.

Jigglypuff's up-air is an amazing juggling tool at mid percent and can even combo into itself. It is not a great kill option though, so just use this to rack up damage.

If you find your opponent is attacking you while you're in shield a lot, a great option is to jump out of your shield and immediately down air. If done right this is a

free 14% and probably more if you get off a quick forward or neutral-air. Speaking of her neutral air, it's a great 'get off me' tool, coming out almost instantly and lasting nearly half a second.

All of Jigglypuff's aerials are made extremely good by the fact she has the fastest air speed in the game, coupled with her 6 jumps!

Jigglypuff's special moves are very hit or miss. Her neutral-special, Rollout, charges up a rolling attack that shoots you forward in a line. While sometimes useful as a recovery option, this should be avoided as it is very predictable, and a hit does not do much. Similarly, Sing (her up-special) does not have much use. It makes the opponent fall asleep, allowing you to hit them, but if you have the



**Jigglypuff having an allergic reaction // Nintendo**

chance to hit the opponent with this, chances are you could have just forward smashed them for the kill.

Her side special Pound should be used if the opponent shields a lot as it does massive shield damage, but is otherwise not a great option.

Rest however, being Jigglypuff's down special, is what makes her terrifying in the hands of a skilled player. If you are overlapping a character, it will cause massive

damage and knockback, while also coming out nearly instantly. But if it misses, Jigglypuff falls asleep, and so you should only use rest if you know it will hit. Therefore, if you hit the opponent to the ground and they tech in a direction you predicted, you can chase them and rest for the kill. There are some specific rest set ups that "OneShadyPuff" goes into detail on in YouTube.

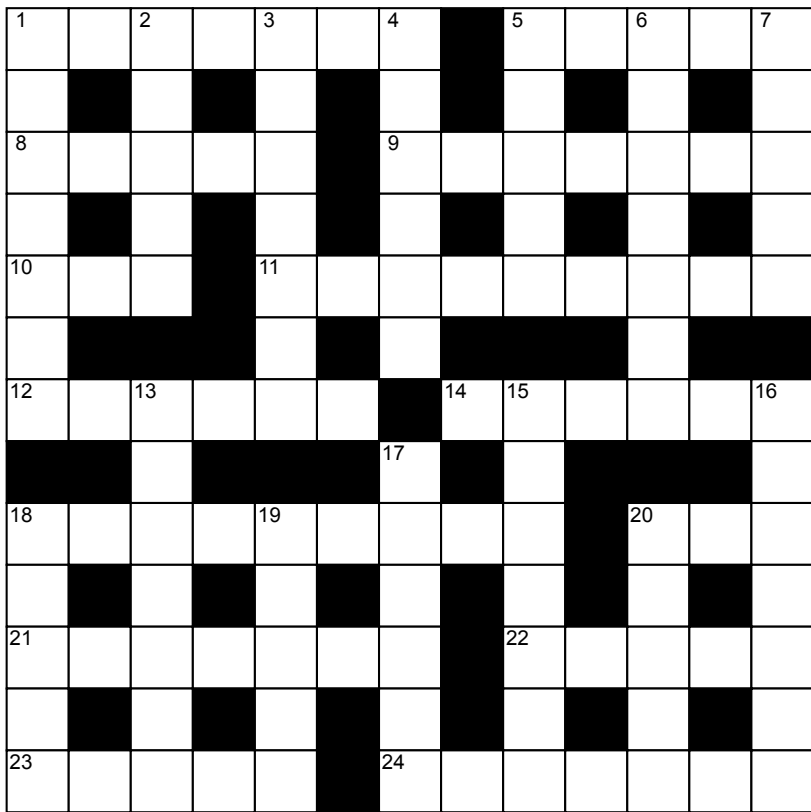
Overall, I would put The Balloon Pokémon in

mid-tier. While she does have insane kill power and great off-stage game, her limited pool of useful moves combined with her being one of the lightest characters in the game makes it difficult to win the abundance of unfavourable matchups she has. Nevertheless, if you put the time into getting good with her you can definitely wipe the smirk off your enemies' faces. Happy smashing!



# PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk



### CROSSWORD

#### Across

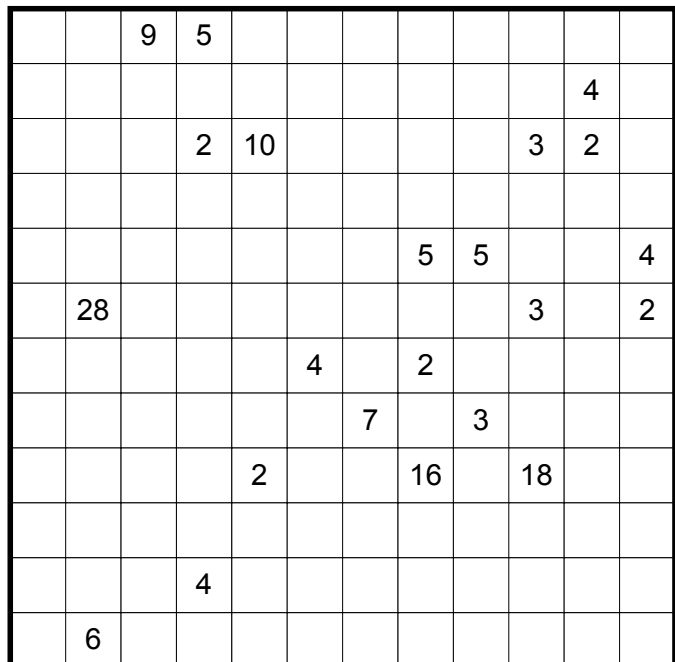
1. House has high EMF (7)
5. Zappy weapon (5)
8. Go over again (5)
9. Study of ears (7)
10. Go astray (3)
11. Speciality of human digit (9)
12. Ferris Bueller (6)
14. World's most thicc river (6)
18. Not how 20 across should be taken (9)
20. British fix (3)
21. English basketball (7)
22. Peruvian cameloid (5)
23. Lather, \_\_\_\_\_, repeat (5)
24. Tarzan's mum (7)

#### Down

1. Reap (7)
2. Stomach wound (5)
3. Natural disaster (7)
4. Grumpy cartoon doggo (6)
5. Spanners and hammers (5)
6. There's no business like it (7)
7. Time crime lime (5)
13. Leftovers (7)
15. Made up of parts (7)
16. Famous cliff with water (7)
17. Plunge (6)
18. Bat navigation tool (5)
19. Backcomb (5)
20. Path (5)

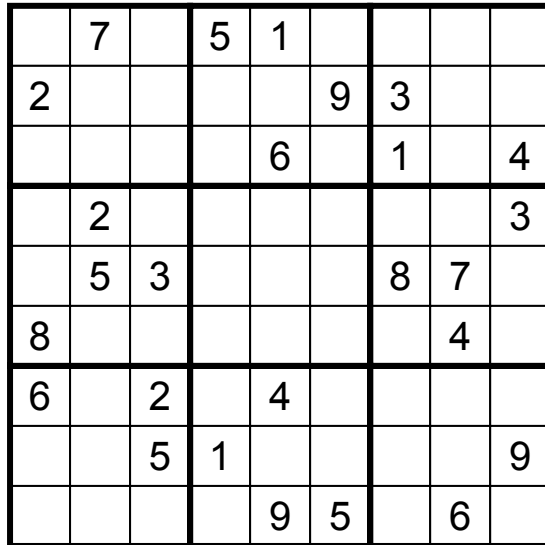
### SHIKAKU

Divide the square into rectangles, such that each rectangle contains exactly one number. The numbers given represent the area of the containing rectangle.



### SUDOKU

Fill all the boxes with a number between 1 and 9. A number can only appear once in a row/column, and only once in each sub-box.



### FUCWIT

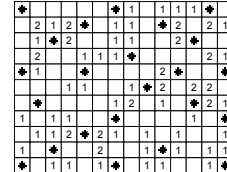
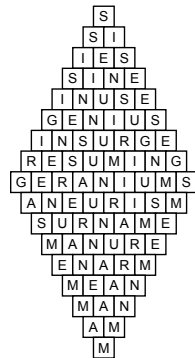
1	Maxiane	62
1	Trollheim	62
1	Wooloomooloo	62
4	DQ	61
4	Shark	61
6	Fleesh and the tooters	57
7	Big H's Boys	56
7	Yeet Infection	56
9	KBLB	55
10	Rock, Flag & Eagle	54
11	S. B. S.	48
12	O1G	43
30	Jumpering for joy	9

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

### Points available

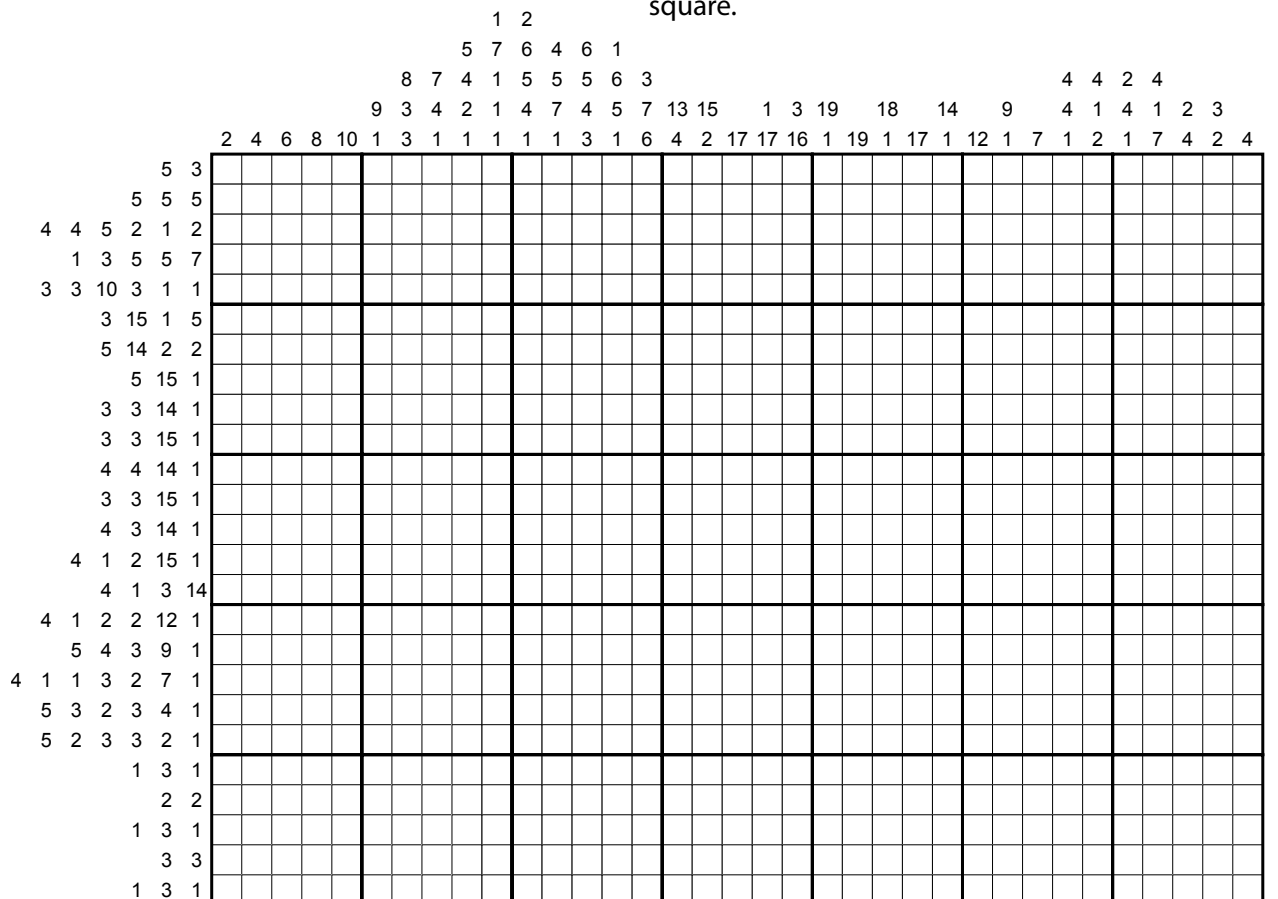
Crossword	6
Sudoku	3
Shikaku	2
Nonogram	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

### Last week's solutions



### NONOGRAM

Colour in some of the squares to make a picture. Each number represents a block of consecutive black squares within that row/column. Each block needs to be separated by at least one white square.





# SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Imperial Sailing invades Warwick and takes on the Turtle

*Imperial Sailing brings half of the club to the sailing competition in Draycote Water, beats the strong winds, survives capsizes and effortlessly wins the social.*

### SPORTS

**Marta Nunes De Abreu**

*ICSC Secretary*

**Anita Plumley**

*ICSC member*

The weekend started earlier for some members of Imperial Sailing, as they left the lecture theatres, packed up their sailing bags and drove up to Warwick on the Friday night. The specially appointed driver (Toby) was trusted with towing two of the club's boats that Warwick Sailing Club had borrowed, and which would later use the mast of one of them.

Whilst the group partied all of Friday night and socialised with other uni sailors, the rest of us were aiming to get a non-optimal amount of sleep before the 6am drive on Saturday. In the morning, the departure was inevitably delayed due to a late fresher, Marta, who still doesn't know how to use an alarm clock.

Still, the sun was starting to come out and, with plenty of sailing freshers to spare, we decided to let our sleepy fresher make her own way to Leamington Spa (the closest train station she could find to the sailing club).

With a minibus packed and another car filled to the brim, we made a start at 7am and managed to have all of 25+ sailing members in Draycote Water for a 9.30am briefing.

On arrival, the expected strong winds, low temperatures and snow were thankfully not apparent right away. Ignoring the promise of stronger winds throughout the day, the boats were rigged with full sails instead of cut-downs. Our teams Imperial Blue, White and Red launched to start racing right away. Shout out to Dan's team spirit (Third Team crew) for immediately after finishing his race, jumping into the car and picking up his sleepy teammate from the train station. Apparently, driving with sailing kit doesn't affect your driving skills.

The races started slowly and in spite of temperamental winds and confusingly marked locations, our teams were

**“in spite of the ever-changing winds and confusingly marked locations, our teams were getting on well”**

getting on well. As the wind built up towards the end of the morning, the rain started and so did the capsizes from our fourth team – Imperial Kobra Hurricane. The team proved itself to be more than nine social sailors, as they attentively listened to their coach – James McLeod (Development



Wholesome squad photo. // IC Sailing

Officer) on how to become unbeatable. However, the advice did not prove very useful, as one of the freshers managed to sail down the opposite end of the lake and missed the start of the race by 4 minutes, getting the club's first DNS (Did Not Start) on a competition event.

The racing came to an end by mid-afternoon when sunlight was too low to carry on sailing. Our club was feeling optimistic about our performance. Overall Imperial Blue and White (first and second team) were both tied in 1st with 100% wins, and Imperial Red (third team) showed good improvement during the day, getting 2 wins in total.

It was finally time to get off the wet sailing kit and dress up for the curry social. As per tradition the social at The Turtle, there was copious amounts of Eliminator prepared for all the sailors. This is the famously alcoholic cocktail prepared by Warwick students, the

recipe of which is closely guarded. Upon hearing the news that this year the teams would be allocated with a certain number of bottles, our members soon started to devise a plan to get a hold of the highest quantity of bottles possible.

Eliminator really lived up to its name, causing some sailors' memories of the night to be foggier than others, accounts of the occurrences vary slightly. All that is certain is that all of the Imperial sailors made it to the curry, and most of us then went on to Kelseys (a nearby club). There, we procured more Eliminator, played pool

and slowly split up into groups to make our way back to our host's house. The accommodation provided seemed too scarce for our 4 teams and a half, leaving members to get creative on how to get a good nights of sleep – we hear someone managed to sleep in the bed of one of the hosts, and someone else booked an Airbnb, conveniently close to Kelseys.

Sunday morning came too soon for many of us, along with incredibly strong winds. Because of this, races were initially postponed and, after Felix tried to test sailing conditions and almost capsized,

were ultimately cancelled. This came as a welcome announcement to the many hungover sailors.

Boats were speedily packed up and we all bundled into our cars and minibuses, happy to finally be out of the wind. Everyone arrived home safely and, went straight to bed.

Many thanks to University of Warwick Sailing Club for organising the event. Special thanks to the designated club drivers for getting everyone (and our two fireflies) to Warwick. Lastly, thanks to Rooster Sailing for providing us with sailing kit during the year!



Sailing the high seas. // UWSC



# SPORTS

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Fresher Matt Ryan competes in the BUCS XC Diving Championships // ICXCAC

## Water Race!

*BUCS Cross Country Championships 2019 sees some spectacular diving action as "optional" lake feature provides joy to spectators and runners alike*

### SPORTS

**Alix Vermeulen**  
ICXCAC Member

On Saturday 2nd February, at 5:45am, 50 brave ICXC runners boarded the coach, ready to set off and compete in the BUCS Cross-Country Championships hosted by the University of Exeter.

At 6:06am, a not-so-brave ICXC over-sleeper arrived and the club was finally able to depart.

After another 3 solid hours of sleep on the bus to finish off the short night, the athletes began to wake up and admire the snowy rolling hills of Devon.

Luckily, the sun was shining and despite the chilly weather forecast everyone was buzzing to reach their destination and conquer the course in what promised to be a thrilling day of racing.

For the girls, braids, hair ribbons, and glitter displaying Imperial's

blue and red were hastily put into position as they approached the race location.

Upon arriving at Bicton College the squad had time to scout out the route, with particular areas of interest including the daunting (but optional) lake water feature followed by a steep hill climb and the dreadful incline to the finish.

With their numbers and game face on, the women kicked off the day of competition with their 6.7km race set to start at 12 sharp.

Just like the racers, the spectators were also warmed up and ready, along with their megaphones, cow bells, vuvuzelas and air horns.

With 619 women lined up and ready to go in the biggest race of the day, they could expect plenty of congestion and lots of pushing and shoving to make their way out of the pack.

Impressive performances included GB athlete Dani Chattenton's

7th place, followed by Alex Mundell in 61st position and Kate Olding in 81st, together with admirable achievements from the rest of the women's team.

The second of the three races was the Men's A race in which the 6 fastest men from each university competed.

Unfortunately, the air-horns were left airless after the Women's race thanks to the phenomenal support and cheering for the rest of the team. This meant that the valiant supporters now had to rely solely on cow bells, vuvuzelas, a megaphone, and their voices to motivate the runners around this gruelling course.

After an extremely speedy race, the 1st Imperial athlete home was Luke Caldwell in an exceptional 11th place, followed by a top 50 for Dan Mulryan who finished 49th, Niki Faulkner in 57th, Oliver Newton in 126th and first-time A-racer Charlie McFadzean in 148th.

Lastly, a total of 522 runners set off for the Men's B (for "Banter") race where the rest of the boys proudly represented Imperial.

After the lake feature saw Women's Captain Charlotte take a graceful tumble in the Women's race, it was fresher Matt Ryan's turn with a legendary dive worthy of an Olympic gold (see photo montage above).

Overall, there were again fantastic results that saw Joe Pomfret in 126th position, finishing with exactly the same time as Thomas Bayley in 127th, former Club Captain Matt Douthwaite in 130th and current Club Captain Fergus Johnson in 137th. Likewise, all the boys were triumphant and congratulated for their remarkable efforts.

As is tradition, post-race baking was in order, and after BUCS XC it was more like a feast. Pistachio cake, croissants, millionaire shortbread, brownies, cookies; everybody had prepared

their best recipes.

Before leaving our camp and taking down the flag, it was time for the classic team photo with an additional feature: BUCS bandanas made from some of the finest race tape they had managed to find on the course.

After a refreshing shower and well-deserved rest, the dress code had changed. Blue and red racing vests off, matching tie-dye T-shirts on.

The team then headed for dinner at an unlimited Chinese buffet (fries, curry, cakes, haribos - was it really Chinese?), passing by Exeter's Cathedral and admiring the longest uninterrupted vaulted ceiling in England on the way.

Dinner was filled with lots of ear, calf, and bicep touching along with more merry antics such as eating a spoon full of a spice or herb that best represented oneself.

Before heading towards the final destination of the night, the team took a mandatory stop at a pub

called "The Imperial".

It was now time to head for the famous BUCS XC after-party at Lemon Grove (University of Exeter's version of Metric) for some boogie! Lots of boogie actually, because with the ridiculous levels of air conditioning it was probably colder on the dance floor than outside...

The following morning, many of the team asked themselves whether their sore legs were from the race or from the outrageous shapes cut on the dancefloor. They may never know.

Before departure for London, some were brave enough to venture into the blinding sunshine quickly enough to see Exeter's cathedral in all its glory.

The club would like to congratulate all the runners for their stellar performances on Saturday and wish them well as they go again in this Saturday's famous Hyde Park Relays and after-party.



## SPORTS

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## Super Bowl LIII: GOAT defeats Rams

*The events that took place on 03/02/2019 will not go down in history, well at least not for any good reasons...*

## SPORTS

**Imraj Singh**  
Sports Editor

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New  
England  
Patriots

3

Los  
Angeles  
Rams

Field general Tom Brady marches down the field throwing short bullets and long bombs. Precise, calculated, commanding and highly efficient. Ain't no mercy for the weak.

This is the demi-god quarterback of yesteryear who overcame the largest point deficit ever recorded in Super Bowl history. He cemented his place in the hall of fame and is the greatest of all time (GOAT). Period. What's he doing now? This week in the life of Brady he polishes his super bowl rings, washes his cat, drops his kids at school and wins the super bowl for the sixth time...

Yes, Brady has done it again. Brady is now the proud owner of his sixth Super Bowl ring,

which is the most by any player. Ever. His legacy and impact on football is far-reaching and those with no interest in Football still know of the legend quarterback Tom Brady. This does come at a cost, as he gets older he is starting to trip on his own legacy. Greatness is expected and perfection is assumed, and although not always charismatic, the novelty of winning the Super Bowl is obviously wearing thin. In the post-game interview, he said: "We've, uh, been this far and lost, which is really tough," then added, "I wish we'd played a little better on offense, but we won... Super Bowl champs." I can imagine a half-hearted fist pump with a "Woooooo!" after that statement. Maybe this speaks to his exhaustion after the game, or his overcritical-ness and pursuit of perfection, but for me it speaks to routine. After 19 years of playing, and -rightfully- being given the title of GOAT, perhaps the routine of year-on-year NFL makes the thought of retirement more appealing. He has nothing left to achieve, and is just padding his

CV, adamant to play till 45 years old.

The yearly routine also comes with the klassik portrayal of the Patriots as underdogs. "Everyone thinks we suck, and you know, can't win any games. ... So, we'll see, it will be fun," Brady told

**"Brady's super bowl creates so much crap, if you gave him an enema he'd only weigh 5lbs"**

CBS after the Patriots' divisional-round win over the Chargers. Fam, you are part of the longest dynasty in Football history. Brady's super bowl creates so much crap, if you gave him an enema he'd only weigh 5lbs. Okay, that was excessive, but there does seem to be a Patriot franchise conspiracy to paint themselves as underdogs. With Bill Belichick at the helm, Patriots have won six Super Bowls and have



What the internet really wanted. // Imgur/codfish787

been 1st in their division sixteen times since he took the position of head coach in 2000. They are a dynasty, with an ethos that can be aptly summarized by Belichick's words after they won Super Bowl LI: "As of today, and as great as today feels and as great as today is, in all honesty we're five weeks behind in the 2017 season." This inexhaustible work ethic is what gives the Patriots a winning season year after year.

The franchise is able to create pro-bowl level athletes from those overlooked, including Brady and Edelman, who were sixth and seventh round draft picks respectively. Edelman was the Super Bowl LIII Most Valuable Player, although originally playing quarterback at college he transitioned to wide receiver and punt returner for the NFL, and was overlooked by many teams. The Patriots recognize tenacity and ambition, and channel it to develop these players into superstars. It isn't just chance.

With all that in mind, this Super Bowl has been the most boring. It is just

**bleurgh.** Patriots win, **bleurgh.** Most consecutive drives ending with a punt in Super Bowl history (Rams), **bleurgh.** Fewest points scored by the winning team in Super Bowl history, **bleurgh.** It was a punt-a-thon (making the title of this piece a bit misleading, sorry!) There were NO touchdowns in the first three quarters, and there were the fewest touchdowns and fewest points scored in Super Bowl history. Just gross. I don't even want to analyze player contribution or dive into analysis about the Rams (who I have failed to mention thus far), this is because the game will be forgotten.

There was one way they could have made it memorable, one way they could have inducted it into public consciousness as a day of awe and spectacle, one way they could have scribed it into annals of time. That would have been with SpongeBob.

A few months ago the creator of SpongeBob SquarePants, Stephen Hillenburg, died. This prompted a petition to have "Sweet Victory" a song from the show to be

played at Super Bowl LIII half time show. Over a million people signed the petition and the stadium's social media accounts also hinted that they'd play the song, and they did! Well... Sort of. They played a 5 second version which was rudely interrupted by rapper Travis Scott's comet, with which he appeared on the stage... This has caused mass hysteria on the internet.

**"They played a 5 second version which was rudely interrupted by rapper Travis Scott's comet"**

Leading to SpongeBob fans and sympathizers disliking NFL's YouTube videos so much they had to re-upload them. Ah the internet.

Tl;dr: Patriots win, Brady is the GOAT, and the internet likes SpongeBob.



Julian Edelman with the Lombardi Trophy. // USATODAY