



Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London

NEWS



What changes are coming to College Catering Service? **PAGE 4**

FOOD



Mumbai Mix: Bringing India to your doorstep **PAGE 17**

LIBERATION

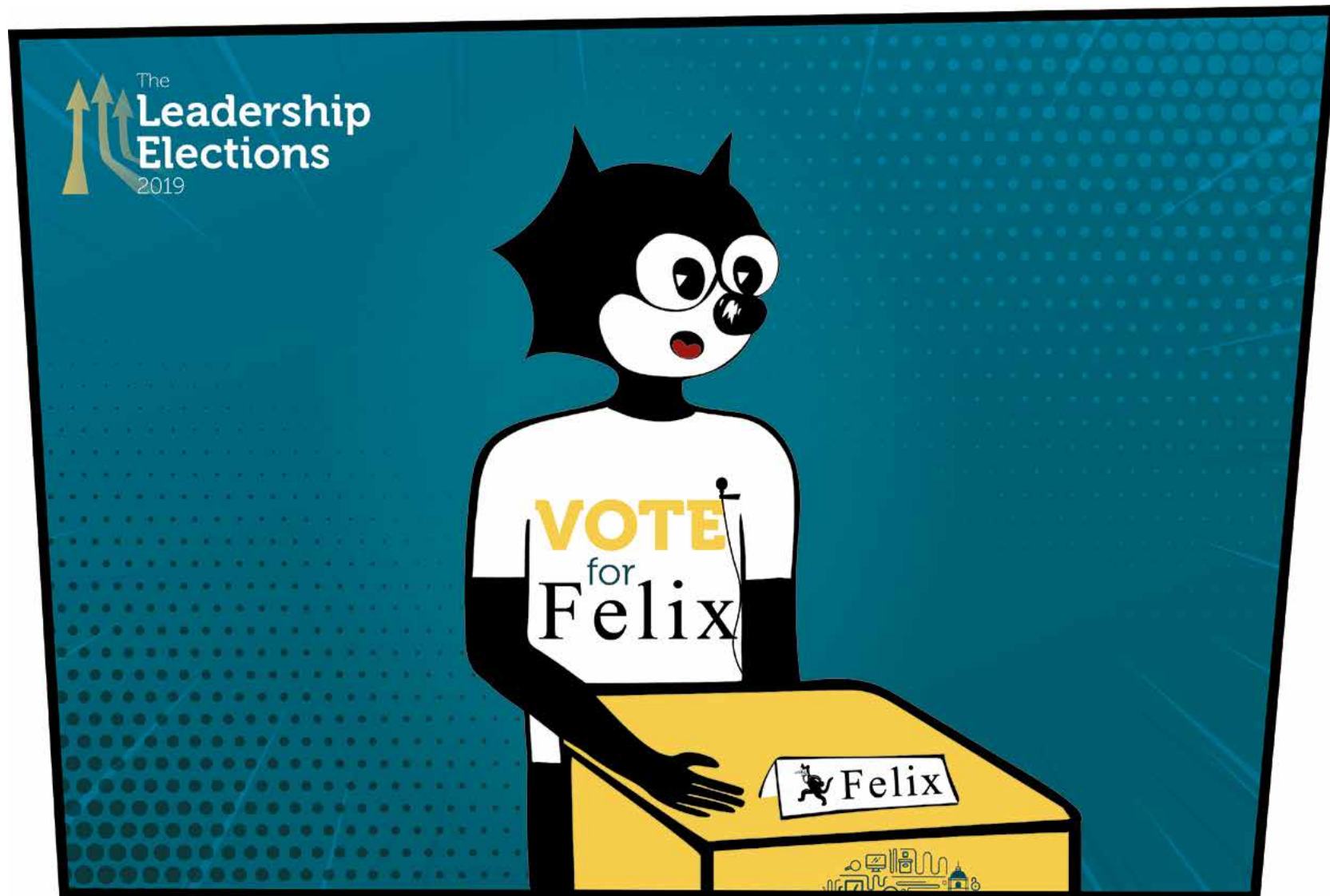


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BOTTLE MATCH



Royal School of Mines bring back the bottle **PAGE 40**



Meet the Candidates!

With nominations closing and the 2019 Leadership Elections well underway, come to Metric from 4-7pm on Wednesday 6th March to "meet the candidates" at the annual live election debate

NEWS

Isabelle Zhang
News Writer

Whenever you have bought food or

drinks on campus, attended any society or sports club, or just used any non-College facility in the last year, you have engaged with the Union.

Imperial College Union is the organisation that aims to represent the views and interests of all Imperial College students,

by advocating student issues to the College, and enhance the student experience by hosting events and activities. All clubs and societies, student bars and shops, student campaigns, and departmental representatives fall under the umbrella of the Union. You may have seen

STAND adverts around campus - these are for the annual Leadership Elections that end in a fortnight, on 15th March, to elect students into key positions in Imperial College Union. These elections are both for conventional roles and Sabbatical positions. The conventional

Union positions include everything from departmental representatives to club presidents and other voluntary positions that students hold alongside their studies; while students lucky enough to be elected to one of the Sabbatical roles will take a year off their studies or

Cont. pg 3

The Leadership Elections 2019

Nominations close noon today. Voting opens noon, 11 March.

imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

Details inside

EDITORIAL

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

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A long, long week



Andy Djaba – Felix Editor

This week might be the week that Felix actually doesn't make it to the printers in time. I have come disastrously close in the past but this week I am genuinely worried that I am writing this Editorial in vain. The reason I'm worried is because it is past 10pm and I'm only now writing this Editorial. I know what you're thinking... "But Andy, I swear you always write your editorial late? 10pm on a Thursday is pretty good for you." This is true, writing my Editorial at 10pm on a Thursday is actually decent by my usually pretty unpunctual standards. However, this week's issue of *Felix* is an important one - it includes the annual review of the Sabbatical Officers (excluding myself) - and I am yet to write up three pages of the four page pullout. Hopefully, you'll get to see this Editorial but I'm still sifting through almost three hours of audio recordings of my interviews with the Sabbs, so it's realistic that this issue never sees the light of day...

eye-opening for me and gave me a really insightful look behind the scenes in the Union. It is clear to me that there is a lot wrong with the structure of the Union and how things currently operate. Chief among these issues is the interaction and relationship between the student-elected Officer Trustees and the Senior Management Group (SMG). Together, the OTs and SMG form the Leadership team within the Union, however there has been an apparent disconnect between the two at times this year. The conversations I had

with the OTs indicate to me that this disconnect is something that has been recognised by members of the Union and steps are being made to mend this relationship. When I interviewed each of the Sabbs, I made a point of asking how realistic they think it is to affect meaningful change as a Sabb and their thoughts on being left out of big decisions made by College and the Union (recent examples include the decision to stop serving evening bar food at h-bar and the decision to stop the trial of Union Breakfast). I asked these

questions because I think it's important, particularly with elections coming up, for the student body at Imperial to know the truth about what being a Sabb entails so that they can make informed decisions in the coming weeks. The overall sentiment was the Sabbs was that it is very realistic to affect meaningful change and there was a general frustration at being left out of big decisions, especially because these decisions often reflect badly on them. A common criticism that I've heard of the Sabbs is that they are too weak and this extends to a long-standing criticism levelled against the Union - it has too close a relationship with College, which makes it impossible for it to effectively lobby College on behalf of the students. I hasten to remind the Sabbs that they are supported by 20,000 students and, collectively, the student voice is loud enough to force College's hand and ensure that the university is run in the interest of the students. It's crucial that this is not forgotten in order for meaningful improvements to be made for the lives of the student body at Imperial.

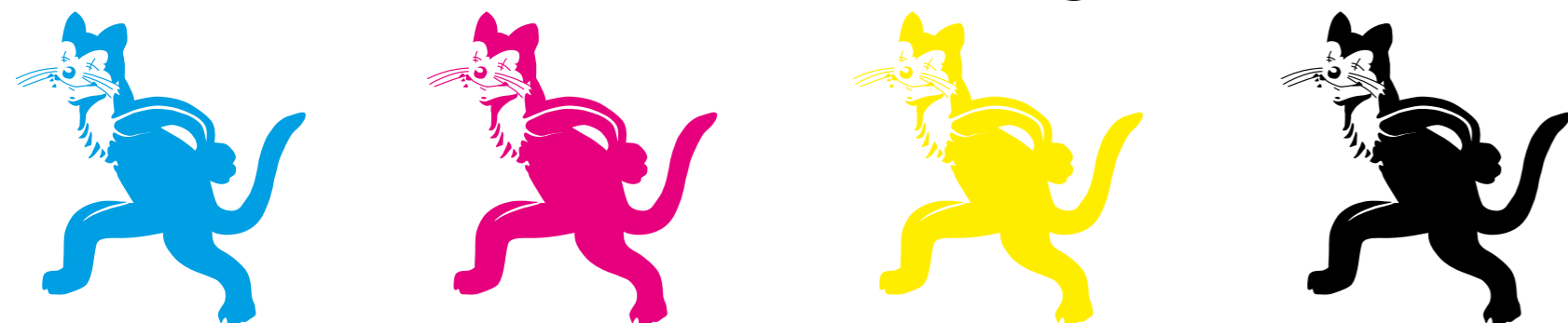


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Felix is recruiting!



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

NEWS

The Times hosts "Designer Babies" debate at Imperial

NEWS

Joanna Wormald
Deputy Editor

On Tuesday 26th February, Imperial College welcomed Lord Robert Winston, Dr. Güneş Taylor, Dr. Inga Prokopenko and Times Science Editor, Tom Whipple, for a lively and spirited debate

Imperial's partnership with *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* continued this week with a discussion of 'designer babies'. Tom Whipple, science editor of *The Times* and chair of the event was joined on the panel by IVF pioneer Lord (Robert) Winston, Dr Güneş Taylor from the Francis Crick

Institute, and Dr Inga Prokopenko, a reader in

"The discussion was dominated by the feasibility and safety of using gene editing to alter human embryos"

human genomics. "Designer babies: the power to control our own evolution" was the second event in a year-long partnership between the College and *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. The discussion was dominated by the feasibility and safety of using gene editing to alter human embryos, as well

as tackling the "deeply uncomfortable question" of how to avoid this technology being used as a form of eugenics against disabled and neurodivergent people.

"Late last year, Chinese scientist He Jiankui claimed to have successfully edited the genes of twin girls to prevent them from contracting HIV"



From left to right: Lord Robert Winston, Dr Güneş Taylor, Dr Inga Prokopenko and Tom Whipple // Imperial College London

Late last year Chinese scientist He Jiankui claimed to have successfully edited the genes of twin girls to prevent them from contracting HIV. Research published this week suggests the twins may also be better at learning and creating

memories as a result of the procedure. As part of the collaboration, Imperial students and staff have been given a one-year digital subscription, which also allows users to view additional content as

well as exclusive offers and events via Times+. The subscription can be activated via an email link sent out last November. A new link can be requested by contacting thetimespartnership@imperial.ac.uk.

Meet the Candidates!

NEWS

(cont.)

remain on a year if they are currently in their final year to take up a full-time, paid position.

The Sabbatical positions include the Union President, one of four Deputy Presidents with individual mandates and spheres of responsibility, the *Felix* Editor, responsible for the weekly publishing of this very paper, and the President of the ICSSMSU.

Nominations for all of these positions close

today, March 1st, at noon.

As part of the campaigning for Sabbatical roles, a live debate between candidates running for these positions will be hosted on March 6th, from 16.00 – 19.00 at Metric. The debate will be a chance for the candidates to elaborate on their vision and motives beyond the limits of their manifestos and flyers. Candidates will first be given some time to introduce themselves, and will then be interviewed about their manifestos and plans in the role. The debate will be chaired by Charles Titmuss, *Felix* Comment Editor, who

hopes to question candidates "about the future of the Union, the state of the Union, and what they will do to change it."

The debate this year comes with many improvements from last year's, which did not have ICTV running the event. The year before last, 2017, ICTV was involved in the debate and produced videos of the debate for each role, which can now be found on the Imperial College Union YouTube channel. Though this was not organised last year, ICTV has been invited back to the debate this year, ensuring all debates

"Charles Titmuss hopes to question candidates 'about the future of the Union, the state of the Union and what they will do to change it'"

can be watched by those who are unable to attend live, allowing more students to make informed decisions about their vote.

Another way for students to keep up with the debates will be through the *Felix* Twitter account (@feliximperial), which will be live-tweeting throughout. Students are encouraged to submit questions they have for Sabbatical position candidates, to bring up issues they are concerned about and change they want to see in the Union. These questions can be submitted ahead of the debate at <https://goo.gl/2Q8m4k>.

Voting begins on Monday March 11th and closes on Thursday March 14th. The results of the election will be announced the following night on March 15th, with a Results party thrown to celebrate the conclusion of another year of Leadership Elections.

These Leadership Elections will govern how the Union is run for the next academic year, students are therefore strongly encouraged to vote and have a say in their university experience for the next academic year and for years to come.

What changes are coming to College Catering Service?

NEWS

Claudia Caravello
Deputy President (Finance & Services)

Following lots of student feedback, the Union and College Catering are excited to announce some new options coming to campus!

Why are things changing?

In the past couple of months, the Union and College have been working together to gather a lot of data on food services through surveys, such as the Student Experience Survey (SES), Meat Free Monday (MFM) survey, and Catering feedback form, as well as through informal conversations and listening to what was popular in student elections. With over 3,100 responses, food choice and price were ranked as the most

important factors to students. Meanwhile, in the 2018 Leadership Elections, multiple candidates ran on manifestos which promised to work on altering the food selection available on campus. The Union has worked hard with College to take this feedback and act on it, improving current catering services, introducing new outlets – all launching over the next few months!

So, what's new this term?

Meal deals! Following student feedback, and the successful implementation of meal deals in the Union's newsagent 'Shop Extra', College Catering is introducing meal deals to the Junior Common Room (JCR) shop. Matching Union prices, you can get a sandwich/wrap/bagel/pasta pot with crisps/fruit and a canned drink or water, for only £3.50 for students! Additionally, fresh hot dogs will also be appearing in the JCR shop too. All these new options will be

released on Monday 4th March.

As well as new additions to the JCR shop, there will also be some changes to h-bar. The h-bar College dinner café service will be extended from Monday-Thursday to Monday-Friday 5-7pm, ensuring a dinner option will be available to Postgraduates, Undergraduates, and staff every night of the week. This change is to be implemented on 4th March, following the recent announcement that College Catering will be stopping its h-bar evening bar food. The Union is pushing back on College on the decision to cease this service, and the Deputy President (Finance & Services) has requested the finances in order to scrutinise the decision. Additionally, the Union will be conducting research in the next few weeks with the postgraduates and staff to identify what aspects of h-bar are most important, feedback on the food and drink, and how the offering could be improved to encourage more people to use the venue. This data will strengthen the case the



Hot meat sandwiches in the JCR Deli // College Catering

Union will make to the College to pressure them into continuing to provide bar food and help better tailor the offering to the users at the same time. The Union is also prepared to work with College to discuss alternative options to try and minimise the impact on everyone who uses the bar, while also not compromising the long-term offering to you. This could include the Union taking over the evening kitchen to provide food to the students, however this option would take longer

to implement, requiring additional resources.

Another change involves the introduction of a waffle station at the h-bar café lunch. From 4th March, you will be able to witness waffles being freshly-made right in front of you at the new waffle station, before having your choice of toppings to cover it in! This is being trialled as a response to user feedback to College Catering around the dessert choices.

The developments

don't just stop there. Put Monday 18th March in your diaries because a pizza place is coming to campus! With several departments specifically highlighting the demand for pizza amongst their students and requesting it be offered, as well as being one of the most ordered takeaway foods ordered on campus according to survey, it was no surprise it was the favourite food option in the Summer Ball food poll, winning with 65.9%. The Union



Visual of Neo Pizza from inside the JCR // College Catering



Visual of Neo Pizza from Sheffield Walkway // College Catering

had been working with College to install a pizza vending machine for the past few months, before the idea was expanded into a full pizza shop. Following this, 'Neo Pizza' will be replacing 'Fuel' in the JCR, offering options of slices, whole pizzas and meal deals. A whole 12" pizza will cost £7 for students, subsidised by College, with staff price equalling £8.40 and visitor price being £9.33. The meal deals will cost students £3.50, again subsidised by College, and include a slice of pizza with a side salad and a canned drink. Meanwhile, the salad bar will be relocating to the JCR shop on the other side of the JCR, where you will still be able to customise your own salad boxes.

"Neo Pizza" will be replacing 'Fuel' in the JCR, offering options of slices, whole pizzas and meal deals"

Due to the changes, Fuel will be closing after 12th March. From 13th - 15th March, all students will be able to use the Senior Common Room (SCR) for meals and to access the salad bar there, covering the gap between 'Fuel' shutting and the new JCR shop salad bar opening.

What's already been introduced?

Some changes have already slowly been introduced since January. The SCR has a brand new salad bar, for which the demand was recognised through student and staff feedback collected verbally and online, as well as the SES survey highlighting the desire for healthier options. On top of this, popular food items have also been introduced on campus. The JCR shop has added giant sausage rolls into their hot food cabinets, and the JCR Deli now serves hot meat sandwiches.

The Library Café has also refreshed its look, introduced an express queue for cold foods following feedback on speed of service, and started serving more freshly cooked food rather than heating up frozen items in the oven [photo

below]. Not the only café to change, the Queens Tower Rooms (QTR) has now become a dedicated hub to Asian cuisine, with speciality chefs, alongside the usual meal deals.

"A plant-based cafe is coming to campus. Borne out of student demand for healthier food expressed in the Student Experience Survey"

Will there be more changes next term?

You've probably already heard me hint that a plant-based café is coming to campus. Borne out of student demand for healthier food expressed in the Student Experience Survey, as well as Meat Free Monday highlighting the lack of hot vegan and veggie dishes available on the South Kensington campus, the Union and



Library café's new fresh, hot food counters // Claudia Caravello

College are working together to launch a plant-based café at the start of Summer Term, located where College Café currently is. Taking inspiration from various restaurants and cafés around London on aspects of menu, flavour, layout and sustainability, this café will serve hot and cold vegan dishes, sandwiches, and drinks, alongside a hydration station of free naturally flavoured waters. New dishes for this outlet are currently being trialled in the SCR. If you have a dish you love/hate, then let College know by filling out the feedback form: imperial.ac.uk/food-and-drink/contact-us. Eco-friendly reusable Tupperware will also be available to purchase at this café, with bonus Yoyo points being awarded if you use this Tupperware or bring your own, instead of using a disposable box. This reinforces Greening Imperial's campaign to raise awareness of our individual environmental impact, and also increase the university's overall sustainability.

College Café will remain open until the Easter Holidays, with the last day of service being 17th April, before being transformed into this new

plant-based café! The fresh, hot, meat sandwiches, currently served in College Café, have already slowly begun migrating over to the JCR Deli in preparation for this change.

So, what else does 2019 bring? Rumours say Pieminister will be replaced by Starbucks in the Autumn Term! But don't worry, the pies won't be going far... they're just moving into the hot cabinets in the JCR shop too.

Lauren Dennis to be honoured at We Innovate Final

NEWS

Isabelle Zhang
News Writer

The WE Innovate program, a part of the Imperial Enterprise Lab, will be hosting its Final Showcase next Thursday, March 7th, from 18.20 – 21.00 in the City & Guilds Building. WE Innovate is Imperial's flagship

female entrepreneurship education program and, since its inception, 253 women have taken part, 34 ventures have been incorporated, £3.2 million of funding has been raised, and 17 external awards have been won by the participants.

The program is open to female students from all levels and faculties. Participants take part in a six-month program that includes a series of master-

classes covering pitching and customer discovery, talks by business leaders, networking opportunities with investors, and one-to-one mentoring. At the Final Showcase, five finalists will pitch to a panel of expert judges to win one of three prizes.

The three winners win a share of the £30,000 prize fund, that they can use to kick-start their projects. The judges, experts in entrepreneurship, academ-

ics, and industry, make their decision based on each finalist's five-minute pitch and five-minute Q&A session.

WE Innovate is part of Enterprise Month, which includes showcases, competitions and exhibitions. Other events in Enterprise Month are the Venture Catalyst Challenge finals and the Schools Science Competition Final, aimed at secondary school students.



Lauren Dennis, who passed away in November 2018 following a battle with bowel cancer, will be remembered at the event // Imperial Enterprise Lab

POLITICS

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Labelling The Independent Group MPs “traitors” is exactly why they left

There is a powerful rationale for the actions of the 8 Labour MPs that left the party last week

POLITICS

Calum Drysdale
Politics Writer

When The Independent Group MPs left, they were in disgust at the state of their own parties. Let us consider the personal toll this must have taken. Many MPs grew up knowing that they wanted to be in politics, and what party they wanted to be a part of. They will have spent years working in small dingy rooms as researchers, walking miles a day canvassing, and putting on smile after smile on the campaign trail. Why did they do that? Don't tell me that it was just power lust. These people believed, rightly or wrongly, that they could make our country a better place. They believed in their cause and they believed in their party. So put yourself in their shoes, just for a second, and imagine how hard it would have been for them to turn their backs on everything that they had built. Why would they do that? The conduct of some Labour supporters provides us with an insight into how far our two major parties have fallen.

Last week, published in these very pages, was a tub-thumping condemnation of the actions of the 8 Labour MPs that chose to leave. The article claims that their departure is “good riddance” and makes a number of other extraordinary and, in some cases, false statements. I fear the author has drunk too deeply from the well of



A new party in town. // *The Daily Echo*

ideology. I hope to offer a humble refutation to some of his more egregious claims and, potentially, restore some balance to this conversation.

One of the tragedies of the decline of the Labour party is that its former tolerance and inclusivity proved to be the root of its transformation into the bitter and twisted party obsessed with ideological purity that we see today. Corbyn has been a Labour MP since 1983, and, when his party was in government, he voted against them 428 times. Yet, he was still accepted. It was accepted that Labour was home to those on the left and, while the more centrist leadership at the time did not agree with him, they never threatened to chase him out of

the party or to deselect him as an MP.

Indeed, the irony of Corbynites condemning Chuka Umunna as having betrayed the party that got him elected, is compounded by a tweet from Corbyn himself. In 2010, when power was nowhere in sight, Corbyn wrote “u vote 4 ur MP”. Now that the boot is on the other foot, it seems such values have swiftly faded away.

Forgetfulness regarding uncomfortable truths seems to be a trend as the article goes on. “[7 Labour MPs] took the unprecedented step of leaving the Labour party and forming a new centrist ‘party’, taking the incredibly bland name ‘The Independent Group’”. In one sentence, he brushes over historic party schisms, such as the

Labour MPs that left to form the SDP, he is guilty of misleading the reader by saying MPs have formed a party - a position he repeats despite later acknowledging it is false and adds a pejorative slur that says more about the intolerance rife in Labour than anything else.

If these are your voters and party members, then I have sympathy with Umunna and others when they looked across the aisle and joined with Conservatives who shared in their values of “[reducing inequality] through the extension of opportunity” and “[creating] fairer, more prosperous communities” rather than engaging in open anti-Semitism.

I know that this is a claim that will rouse

many people but it is one that I will stand by. Corbyn has a history of being anti-Semitic and it is on his watch that the party has become a place where Jewish people are not welcome. If you are in any doubt over this, I refer you to the incident in 2012 when Corbyn protested the removal of a mural of a group of Jewish caricatures playing Monopoly, the board resting on the naked backs of faceless men. I, however, prefer to listen to the Jewish Britons themselves who have expressed time and time again that they are being targeted. If Corbyn became PM, almost 40% of Jews would consider leaving Britain and The Jewish Chronicle writes “Corbyn threat is much greater than far right”.

Do I believe that The Independent Group is perfect? No. Of course not. It has been rightfully pointed out that saying that people of colour have a “funny tinge” is not a great way to start off. I believe that she should face investigation and potentially expulsion. But I think the author makes a mistake typical of the blinkered state that many Jez supporters exist in. We do not need our parties to be completely ideologically pure. We need them to represent our interests and the fact that, despite 72% of Labour members supporting a second referendum on Brexit, only the threat of more defections has convinced Corbyn to back a People's Vote shows that Labour voters have forgotten this.

The author writes that The Independent Group is just “another regressive Third Way tribute act from the 90s”. The tragedy is that he hasn't noticed, too busy insulting other people, that his own party has turned into a bad hangover from the 70s. Maybe we could do a bit less mudslinging and a bit more talking about policy?

POLITICS

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VZ, Bernie, and Cohen on TV

American economic imperialism continues. Bernie Sanders announces a 2020 run and immediately breaks to the lead. Michael Cohen testifies before Congress, almost coherently.

POLITICS

Gritty

Son of God

The profligate son returns, crucified for calls to revolution and arisen after three days (and two months or so). Keeping with the theme – three independent stories from the past two weeks.

Venezuela. This is the classic American foreign policy pincher – place excruciating sanctions

on “non-compliant” democratically-elected governments to manufacture a human rights crisis, then use the human rights “crisis” as a justification for “humanitarian” intervention (to install a pro-US government). This two-step recipe quickly builds a failed state, which is convenient for the installation of multinational oil company infrastructure on VZ land. Right outta the ol’ playbook.

Bernie is running – his 2016 money machine rebooted, and the other candidates have collectively (more or less) shit the bed. These are

anti-establishment years; adopting left-populist policy-focused platforms (as I have argued before) is the most viable 2020 electoral strategy for Democrats. So long as Schultz doesn’t spoil the election (quisling centrist limousine shitlibs don’t have the balls to reject the Church of Fiscal Conservatism), we have a frontrunner.

Big fun news this week – the Cohen testimony. Donald Trump’s former personal attorney and “fixer” voluntarily appeared before the House yesterday in an open hearing. His testi-

mony directly implicates Trump Jr., Roger Stone, as well as Trump himself in conspiracy to commit bank and tax fraud, among other improper actions (including participation in “catch-and-kill” schemes, and several allegations of flagrantly racist remarks out of Trump’s mouth – such as “Name one country run by a black man that’s not a shit-hole”).

Most of the spice is in the prewritten statement. The questioning was mostly grandstanding. Republicans hilariously tried to paint Cohen as a “liar” unworthy of

congressional testimony (Trump’s lied at least 8200 times since taking office). Democrats, on the whole, failed to ask substantive questions. Special creds to AOC for a properly prosecutorial cross-examination towards the end. Otherwise, tune in for a good view of just how inane American politics can get.

“This two-step recipe quickly builds a failed state.”

Over the next few weeks – more humdrum squabbling, more Dem oversight. Looks like Trump Jr. will be charged next. The Democrat primary field will evolve; Bernie will consolidate his lead or start to flame out. So long as India and Pakistan don’t bomb each other, presumably, we’ll be back next week.

Alas, I ascend to the Kingdom of Heaven, where I shall partake copiously in my own blood, and play darts with thunderbolts, aiming to strike down Henry Kissinger.



LSE Festival – An Exhibition of Policy and Social Science Research

The event looks for solutions to tackle the problems affecting the planet in the 21st century.

POLITICS

Isabelle Zhang

Politics Writer

The LSE Festival, running from 25 February to 2 March, is a week-long series of events aimed at engaging the public with social science hot topics. This year’s theme is New World (Dis)Orders and focuses on the changing global situation: a new emergent world order where the US is no longer the biggest world power; rapidly-developing technology and its implications for our

democracy; the politics that shape our interpretation of the world...

As part of the LSE Festival, the LSE Global Health Initiative hosted a panel on February 26 addressing a major question about antibiotic resistance policy: how can we reshape existing global healthcare structures, and coordinate international and interdisciplinary action, to combat new antibiotic resistance dangers? The panel, titled “The Drugs Aren’t Working! Confronting the Crisis of Superbugs” provided broad view into a scientific crisis whose

solutions lie largely in policy and regulation.

The panel consisted of professionals from International Development, Health Policy, Government, and International Relations backgrounds, each offering solutions to the crisis from their disciplinary perspective, resulting in a comprehensive analysis of this policy-science crisis intersection.

From a healthy policy perspective, for instance, a panelist argued that the issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is too interdisciplinary for government plans to be

easily implemented. This is despite the estimate that investments of USD\$2 per person per year would be enough to prevent 75% of the related deaths, costing much less than the World Bank estimate of antibiotic resistance costing the global economy USD\$100 trillion by 2050. Why is investment into AMR treatment so difficult? The International Development panelist contends that investment into drug development is inadequate because the usual incentives for pharmaceuticals to create drugs do not apply to AMR. Antibiotics cannot

be stockpiled, and must be made universally accessible for widespread treatment, making it unlikely that pharmaceutical companies can earn back a profit from the expensive process of developing drugs.

Other than panels, the LSE Festival includes an exhibition and prize-giving ceremony of an LSE student and staff social science research competition. These entries are on show in the form of posters, photographs, and research abstracts. Entries cover a vast range of subjects, from “China’s Two-Faced Rhetoric” to

“Policing of Live Music in England and Wales”. Film screenings, live debates, child-friendly events, and student-led drama performances are also part of the festival program.

More information about the Festival and available events held on its last day (tomorrow, 2 March) and the research competition exhibition can be found on the LSE Events website. Entry to all events are free but may require booking ahead.

COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Is it #TimesUp for #MeToo?

Arts Editor **Claire Chan** thinks that the #MeToo movement has had unintended negative consequences

COMMENT

Claire Chan
Comment Writer

It's fair to say that the #MeToo movement has been the most significant social upheaval of recent times. Triggered by the much-publicised downfall of Harvey Weinstein, the tremendous outpouring of stories of both sexual assault and everyday sexism faced by women on a regular basis became a force too powerful to simply be ignored. All of a sudden, the floodlights were on sexism, sexual misconduct and abuse of power like they had never been before. More and more women came forward. It was finally reckoning time for all manner of powerful figures – CEOs and politicians, celebrities and TV hosts – who, like Weinstein, were once thought 'too big to fall'.

#MeToo has radically redefined how we behave, think, and speak about gender, sex, and power. But like any other revolution, it has its downsides as well. Last week, I wrote a review of fanSHEN's interactive jury game, The Justice Syndicate, in which participants get to decide the outcome of a sexual assault case. There was a clear power imbalance: Huxtable, a top paediatric neurosurgeon, was accused by Hodges, the mother of one of his patients and a struggling single mother of two. The evidence was designed to be equivocal, as is often the case

in many actual sexual assault cases, where

"#MeToo has radically redefined how we behave, think, and speak about gender, sex and power"

non-penetrative assault can leave no signs, and



Overreaction or assault? // Sarasota Police Department

where physical evidence is often lacking.

fanSHEN didn't have the explicit aim of discussing the #MeToo movement. They merely wanted people to 'think about a challenging topic' and consider how they responded to 'situations of fundamental disagreement'. Nonetheless, the way in which my fellow jurors responded to the simulated case was telling. Despite the paucity of evidence (both physical and circumstantial), many participants were quick to point the finger at Huxtable. Indeed,

although it seems obvious, it was difficult to point out to them that the mere existence of a power difference doesn't automatically mean that power is misused.

In the case of Harvey Weinstein, the case against him was solidified by the scores of women who came forward to testify, exposing his systematic abuse of power over years. But not everyone offends so serially and egregiously. What if

"More than other crimes, cases of sexual assault elicit strong emotional responses"

there is only one victim, and the accused has no prior convictions? Do we believe the victim? And if so, how can we let the accused get off scot-free?

To be sure, it's a hard call in any criminal case, not just sexual assault ones, when corroborating evidence is lacking. More than other crimes, however, cases of sexual assault tend to elicit strongly emotional responses. In this case, I certainly felt that my fellow jurors' prejudices severely clouded their decision before they'd even viewed the evidence. The game developers told us about a

previous session that ran just after the allegations against Brett Kavanaugh had been made public. That game jury quickly found Huxtable guilty, but it wasn't even about the specific case anymore. In the wake of #MeToo, I fear that emotions are running so high that it is easy to bypass rational thought and jump to conclusions – a dangerous situation when assigning blame. There is little room for reasoned debate about such topics.

And yet reasoned debate is precisely what is needed when societal norms change. What was considered acceptable a generation ago would now be seen as sexual assault. Consider the iconic WW2 photo of the US sailor kissing a nurse on V-day. Last week, a day after George Mendonsa (the sailor's death, a statue commemorating the event was vandalised with graffiti reading #MeToo. Whether or not that kiss was wrong, there certainly is a great deal of uncertainty now about how men and women should behave around each other, in both social and professional spheres.

Sadly, the outraged response that #MeToo provokes does not lend itself well to open discussion. I find it disturbing, too, that the wave of fury extends to people who challenge the overwhelmingly positive reactions to the movement as depicted in the media. Those who voice doubt are subject to a swift and

COMMENT

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vitriolic backlash. Last September, for instance, Norm MacDonald's appearance on 'The Tonight Show' was cancelled after he said he was 'glad #MeToo had slowed down'. Perhaps not the most sensitively worded, but hardly warranting a show cancellation. Actor Henry Cavill was, equally, roundly castigated on Twitter

"Instead of dialogue there seems to be a growing culture of avoidance and silence"

for being confused about when flirting could be misinterpreted as sexual assault. Both were forced to back-

track on their statements and make very public apologies. One wonders just how sincere those apologies were.

Instead of dialogue, there seems to be a growing culture of

#MeToo

This hashtag elicits considerable amounts of fear // Flickr

avoidance and silence. Unsurprising, when just voicing dissent can get a man in trouble, and a single accusation could ruin his career, or at least bring it to a grinding halt for the months of trial.

What counts as harassment in the workplace nowadays? There's been talk of a 'Pence effect' in Wall Street, named after U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence, who avoids dining alone

with any woman other than his wife. Back in 2017, I thought this ridiculous, but given the highly charged climate we now live in, I can see why men would avoid putting themselves in situations which might be potentially compromising. Unfortunately, this only makes Wall Street (and other places) more of a boys' club than it already is, and hardly helps gender equality in the workplace.

In our little jury, the discussions were overwhelmingly dominated by the women in the room. The five men present were all noticeably quiet. Were they afraid to speak up because the case concerned sexual assault? To me it reflected the silencing effect that #MeToo has had: keep your head down and stay out of trouble. Some might celebrate the increased dominance of female voices at the cost

of men's, but it would be short-sighted to say that this is an actual advance in gender equality. True and lasting changes in attitude are not achieved by creating an atmosphere of fear. To effect social change, a conversation needs to happen. And it won't happen by merely silencing people or having them make

"Conversation needs to happen. It won't happen by silencing people"

lip-service apologies. Men's voices and voices of dissent have to be heard too, and their concerns addressed rather than dismissed.

Want to be on the *Felix* team this year?



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‘Should we subsidize pre-schools?’ - a debate between man and AI

Spoiler alert: the AI lost, but not without putting up a good fight.

TECH

Krithika Balaji

Tech Editor

Earlier this month, IBM Research and Intelligence Squared U.S. sponsored an event where Project Debater, IBM’s AI debating machine, and Harish Natarajan, a debating expert, discussed whether pre-schools should be subsidized. Both sides had fifteen minutes to prepare on the topic given on the spot. There was a four-minute opening statement, a four-minute rebuttal round and a two-minute summary. At the end, while the majority of the audience declared Natarajan to be the winner of the round, Project Debater’s performance was praised by many.

Project Debater made its opening argument by supporting the idea of subsidizing pre-schools, citing findings on the positive effects of subsidization from studies and historical research. The AI grounded its argument on the idea that subsidization should stem from a moral and political obligation to the public, citing findings from researches that showed that an early investment in an individual’s education will lead to a more successful life in terms of health and income. It also cited how those individuals will be less likely to lead a life of crime, which will increase the safety of a neighbourhood.

Natarajan made his opening argument by



Project Debater vs Harish Natarajan // cnet

siding with the opposition, saying that subsidization doesn’t effectively address issues like poverty and crime rates in a country. He argued that it is simply a ‘politically motivated giveaway to the middle class’, who probably already have their children enrolled in a pre-school. He argued that other programs would be more effective in tackling such important issues.

Throughout the rest of the debate, both sides provided interesting and insightful views on the topic, though they varied in style and approach. Project Debater used data to support its arguments, while Natarajan used his experience and skills to ‘reframe the debate about where government dollars could be best used to ensure social equality.’

The winner was the one who was the most effective at convincing

the audience about the persuasiveness of the arguments put forth and was determined through a live, online polling. Before the debate, 79% of the audience believed that preschools should be subsidized while 13% disagreed and 8% were undecided. Afterwards, 62% agreed that preschools should be subsidized while 30% disagreed. Natarajan won.

The thing to note, however, is not who won at the end, but rather the fact that both sides only had fifteen minutes to prepare for this debate and didn’t know of the topic beforehand. This means that the AI was not only gathering the most relevant information needed to support a side and formulating that into a paragraph, but was also actively listening to what was being said by Natarajan and responded

to him with its “own, unscripted reasoning” to convince the audience of its position. This is an important step forward on the long road to teaching an AI to master a human language.

“Both sides only had fifteen minutes to prepare for this debate and didn’t know of the topic beforehand”

Another interesting point to note is that 58% of the audience members said that Project Debater ‘better enriched their

knowledge about the topic at hand’, while only 20% said the same of Natarajan.

In a discussion after the debate with four-time Emmy award winner John Donvan, Natarajan, Dr Ranit Aharonov and Dr Noah Slonim (latter two being part of the primary researchers behind Project Debater), it was unanimously agreed that it was a historically significant evening. Aharonov explained that Project Debater should be seen to have huge potential in ‘[understanding] both sides of a problem and presenting all the pros and cons so you have a wider view of the topic and then can make a better decision’.

In other words, the primary researchers working on Project Debater aren’t building this AI in order to argue

better than a human, which many viewers were rightfully concerned about, but rather so that it can present sides of an argument that a human might not even have thought of due to their biases/prejudices. The true potential of this would be to augment human decision-making, without replacing the human decision maker.

Slonim added: “Ultimately, what we saw was that the interaction of man and machine could be enriching for both.”

While this is a very long-term goal that can only be achieved once the AI works effectively, that evening was a huge step forward in a more short-term one of ‘[mastering] the complex and rich world of human language.’

BOOKS

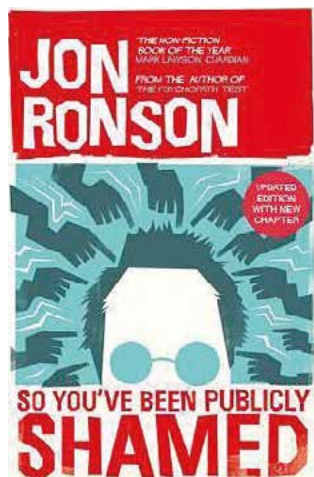
books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

So You've Been Publicly Shamed: The guillotine of modern life?

From democratisation of justice to weapons of destruction, our voices create a stage for shaming at an unprecedentedly large scale

BOOKS

Jia Qi Tan
Books Writer



As suggested by the title itself, *So You've Been Publicly Shamed* explores the world of the internet with compassion seemingly absent and every flaw amplified. In it, the author Jon Ronson details his interviews with those who were victims of ruthless attacks, perhaps for a bad joke or an immature photo posted online, and sheds light on the aftermath of those shamings, from jobs lost to rape threats.

We, once the voiceless, are given voices by the internet and social media, given authority as we see fit and given roles, such as social control police. We stand up against injustices, criticise the fraudulent, and topple the giants - things we never thought possible - all with this combined force. But

slowly, it has evolved into intensive scrutiny, where we search for that one politically incorrect statement and tear its owner apart, all in the pursuit of justice.

Ronson starts off with the example of Jonah Lehrer, a pop science author exposed for misquoting Bob Dylan and subsequently criticised for his apology speech for which he received \$20,000. He was fired from his job, and his 2016 release *A Book About Love* was immediately probed for potential plagiarism and factual errors and received largely negative reviews.

Another example highlighted in the book is when PR executive Justine Sacco tweeted, "Going to Africa. Hope I don't get AIDS. Just kidding. I'm white!" Although poorly phrased, it was obvious that Sacco intended the statement satirically. In fewer than 140 characters, that tweet blew up on the internet and flipped Sacco's life upside down. Criticisms, accusations, threats, personal attacks all flocked in as social media influencers rallied their followers to do the same. Those who spoke up for her, pointing out that it was merely terrible attempt at humour, were immediately labelled racist. Then, Sacco was notified that she had lost her job.

All of those consequences just because of a tweet seems like a

hefty price to pay for a 140-word mistake. There is no forgiveness in this dictionary that is the world of the internet. In real life, if one were to make a mistake, it is social convention that we accept an apology and move on. But this is not the case when things are taken online, especially when the world judges you with the first thing that turns up in the search engine, however untrue that representation may be of you.

"We, once the voiceless, are given voices by the internet and social media"

It is perhaps an intrinsic human flaw that hiding behind a blank avatar brings out the worst in us and strips us of empathy and respect. It could be that we are so eager to elevate ourselves that we resort to the humiliation of others to satisfy this need. More often than not, we have confused activism with conformity and blatant bullying. It is distressing to see that we can be so sensitive about what is politically correct that we can treat others so wrongly for that reason. As Ronson puts it, "We are defining the boundaries of normality by tearing apart the people outside of it."

"We are defining the boundaries of normality by tearing apart the people outside of it"

Jon Ronson's writing reads like a documentary in literary form, combining aspects of journalism, advocacy, and expression of his personal opinions. It is expected that he sets the theme around a central idea, with a few main building blocks that portray different cases of online shaming. But I find it strange that he mentions many tangentially related topics with interesting potential but only covers them briefly. For instance, he includes his experience in a shame-eradicating workshop and Texas Judge Ted Poe's controversial use of humiliation when issuing sentences. One subject that I found particularly fascinating and had hoped to read more about is how women and men are treated differently as victims of shame, with men facing mainly the consequence of getting fired whilst women receiving rape and death threats. It would have been better if Ronson had made a clear choice, either structuring the book in a more streamlined manner or addressing



Jon Ronson // Flickr

those tangential subjects more thoroughly and adding another layer of depth.

"Jon Ronson's writing reads like a documentary in literary form"

This book was released almost four years ago, and many things have changed since then - Justine Sacco has landed a job; the users of Ashley Madison were publicised; doxing

and cyberstalking have bloomed. It is hard to predict what trajectory we are moving towards, but one thing is for sure, to quote Ronson, "The great thing about social media was how it gave a voice to voiceless people. Let's not turn it into a world where the smartest way to survive is to go back to being voiceless."

ARTS

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Tartuffe: The Imposter

John Donnelly successfully adapts Molière's classic 17th century satirical comedy for the modern-day stage, now showing at the National Theatre.

ARTS



Where? Lyttelton Theatre
When? Until 30th April
How Much? From £15

Shivani Gangadia
Arts Writer

Popular and well-received by the public when it first showed in 1664, but quickly banned due to the backlash from religious groups for the portrayal of someone outwardly pious but truly a sort of lecherous con artist, *Tartuffe* was a masterpiece of satire on the sham of religion and its trickster nature. In this new version, it's a thinly-veiled commentary both on Brexit Britain, and also the widening gap between the rich and pretty much everyone else. In the past, where the play may have ended with Orgon and his family playing the victim, here we leave with an indescribable sense that *Tartuffe* is a sort of victim, and Orgon's bourgeoisie lifestyle and the allowances that are made for him because of his wealth, were more of a problem that *Tartuffe*'s deceptive behaviour.

"Thinly-veiled commentary on Brexit Britain and the widening gap between the rich and pretty much everyone else"

It just shows how transferrable the subject matter is – it really is an incredible thing that a play 350 years old can still feel so incredibly relevant to today's socio-political issues. From ironic religious hypocrisy and deluding the gullible to the unjust abuse of wealth and power, Molière's work of art has it all.

"Molière's work of art has it all"

Relocated to luxurious modern-day Highgate, in possibly one of the most beautiful and opulent set designs I've ever seen, Donnelly's version deftly shows that the moral issues the play explores are not a thing of the past at all. Perhaps what has made the play such a staple in the world of theatre is the universality of it. Donnelly makes it even more accessible for all audiences by abandoning the original, perhaps more complicated, rhymes in favour of modern-day language to suit the temporal setting. This gives us more of an opportunity to focus on the comedy and incredible physicality of the production, such as Olivia Williams's Elmire leaping around the room trying to seduce *Tartuffe* and expose him whilst her husband lies hidden on the sofa. The play has a slow start (still interesting though), and the second scene really takes off, with fantastic performances from all the cast.

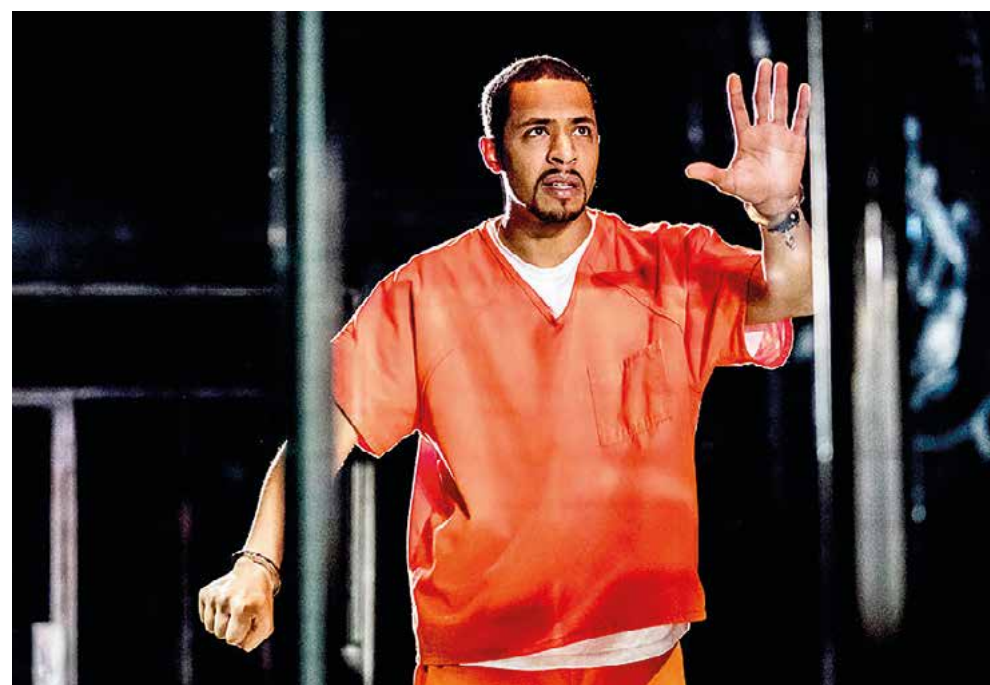
The real stand-out performance of course comes from Denis O'Hare, for

his skilful portrayal of the enigmatic charlatan *Tartuffe*, a remarkable balance between charisma and oddity. With an obscure, slightly dodgy Euro-something accent, bizarre polka dot underwear/printed t-shirt outfit ensemble, and vague spiritual ramblings, he somehow manages to weasel his way into the family and dupe the man of the house, Orgon – even turning him against his own relatives with

"A real stand-out performance from Denis O'Hare, the enigmatic charlatan *Tartuffe*"

seemingly little effort.

The play snowballs from here, with the rest of the family scrambling to help the deluded Orgon see *Tartuffe*'s lies and deception. Kitty Archer confidently plays Orgon's daughter who finds herself being blackmailed into a marriage, Geoffrey Lumb as her socialist street-poet lover Valere, and another of my favourite performers of the night, Kathy Keira Clarke as Dorine, the shrewd housekeeper and close friend of the family, whose description of *Tartuffe* as an "edible fungal growth" had everyone in stitches (you had to be there – so go!).



Ukweli Roach as Angel Cruz // Johan Perrson

Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train

Kate Hewitt directs a compelling new version of Pulitzer prize winner Stephen Adly Guirgis's dark comedy prison drama.

ARTS



Where? Main House
When? Until 30th March
How Much? From £10

Shivani Gangadia
Arts Writer

Set in the high security wing of Rikers Island, *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train* boldly contrasts the stories of two inmates and the circumstances that led them there. On one hand, we have new prisoner Angel Cruz, played by Ukweli Roach, who shot a religious cult leader "in the ass" for brainwashing his friend – he's frightened, confused, and doesn't really know where he stands or what's going to happen to him. On the other hand, there's veteran inmate Lucius Jenkins, played by Oberon K. A. Adjepong, a serial killer who endures life on death row by God-fearing preaching and unreciprocated philosophical discourse with sadistic, no-nonsense guard Valdez.

The dialogue goes from sharp and witty to deep debates fluently, and the men argue about forgiveness, faith, redemption, responsibility, and crime. The delivery was spot on, from Adjepong's powerful performance as almost-too-righteous and aggressively committed to his cause, to Roach as superficially cocky but in reality terrified. There's also fine work by both Joplin Sibtain and Dervla Kirwan, who play the archetypal callous warden and arrogant defence lawyer respectively.

The set itself, expertly designed by Magda Willi, was evocative – a catwalk-type stage running through the middle with seating on either side, and perpendicular sliding glass doors to signify the divisions between jail cells. Young Vic plays are always interestingly staged, but this design lent itself particularly well to the context. Aside from the 'jail cells' and a chair, there is nothing else – it is totally bare, with no clutter, both exposing the characters symbolically, and also allowing their

emotion and acting to do all the talking, so the audience can really appreciate it. It is interesting to see when the doors move together and apart from each other, they are representing the compression and decompression physically, mirroring the character arcs. The dense writing really thrives here, and as Willi says in an interview, they didn't need much décor to make it work. The sound design starts off slightly abrasive, with the cacophony of trumpets with lights out during scene changes, but you get used to it.

In short, the play is addressing important questions of facing up to your wrongdoings and holding yourself accountable, and whether redemption is ever possible, which I'm sure everyone can relate to (just maybe not on a scale this extreme). There are no easy answers, and whilst you won't leave the theatre knowing exactly what the message of the play was meant to be, it provides a lot of food for thought – and really, what more could you ask for?

ARTS

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Truly a production worth any price // Nobby Clark

The Price

Glowing performances, powerful emotions and a wonderful set design result in a priceless production.

ARTS



Where? Wyndham's Theatre

When? Until 27th Apr

How Much? From £20

Nina Litman-

Roventa

Arts Writer

In Arthur Miller's 1968 play *The Price*, four people quarrel over the price of old furniture. Yes, that is essentially the drama's synopsis. Four characters in a New York attic, debating the value of relics of the past, piled up floor to ceiling – from ancient dining sets, chairs, wardrobes, and old fencing equipment to an out-of-tune harp. But don't be fooled: Jonathan Church's 50th anniversary production of Miller's play is far more than that. Despite a seemingly mundane plot, *The Price*, starring David Suchet and Brendan Coyle, is as absorbing as a thriller. Visually extravagant and

deeply emotional, it tells a story about resentment, the cost of success and the difficulty of making peace with the past in a heavily materialistic world. As Arthur Miller put it himself: "The play is about people who make decisions in life and the price they pay for those decisions".

The play's storyline is deceptively simple. Victor Franz is a 50-something, utterly frustrated and bitterly disappointed policeman, trying to sell a houseful of old furniture piled up in an attic that was once his childhood home. Despite once being a promising scientist, he dropped out of college to look after his father ruined by the Great Depression. He sees neither meaning in the past nor hope for his remaining years. At the same time, he lacks not only the courage to retire, as this would force him to recognise his failure to generate anything worthwhile through his career, but also the will to start over. Victor

resents his older, long-estranged brother Walter, who stayed in college and enjoys a career as a successful surgeon. Yet even Walter fails to find meaning or significance to his prosperity and fame. Over the course of an afternoon, duplicity and family secrets are

"David Suchet's manipulative, versatile yet charming portrayal is the play's icing on the cake"

revealed. Walter, Victor's alcoholic wife Esther, and Gregory Solomon, the 89-year-old Lithuanian Jew and antique dealer hired to appraise their possessions, force the beat cop to face a painful and long-stifled question, namely the value, or 'price' of his

sacrifice.

Both brothers are magnificently played. As Victor, Brendan Coyle – whom you might recognise from *Downton Abbey* as John Bates – impersonates perfectly the weariness of a man forced to acknowledge the pointless and meaningless fate from which he will never break free; a frightening warning of how rapidly one might waste their life. Adrian Lukis also portrays Walter perfectly by capturing his fears, unease and the guilt of having gotten away. The whole cast is undoubtedly exceptional, but it is truly David Suchet's manipulative, versatile yet charming portrayal of Gregory Solomon who is the play's icing on the cake. Although it is in fact a supporting role, Suchet's glowing performance turned this comic and eccentric character into the star of the entire show. Suchet played to perfection a seemingly harmless 89-year-old with extreme joie de vivre and

incredible manipulation skills, but also with a vulnerable and wise soul. He was certainly missed in the second act, where he spent most of the time off stage.

Simon Higlett's set design was a masterpiece with massive amounts of chairs, tables, armoires,

"The price we are willing to pay for our success and ambitions"

and mirrors stacked up to the ceiling, giving the impression that all actors would eventually be swallowed up by the pile of old furniture. Sara Stewart, playing Victor's alcoholic wife Esther, successfully conveyed the perilous atmosphere as well as the stuffy and discomfiting nature of sitting in a graveyard of objects, which, although once loved, are now worthless. "Time is a terrible thing":

in this line, Gregory Salmon truly encapsulates the whole essence of the play.

On the surface, *The Price* is about how much the antique dealer will pay for the long-neglected pile of furniture. But beyond the obvious, the play addresses the price involved in self-sacrifice, the price we pay for our success and ambitions – as well as the cost of dividing families. Although it is now 50 years old, the play's message is more relevant than ever in our current throw-away society. Miller compels us to reflect on the dichotomy of material wealth and affluence versus personal integrity, something which affects every one of us, yet something no one seems to care about. Finally, the play reminds us that while we are truly the authors of our lives, we must remember that there is always a cost attached to our decisions.

ARTS

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Ovid's Metamorphoses

ARTS



Where? VAULT Festival
When? Ran till 24th Feb
How Much? £15

Jingjie Cheng
Arts Writer

How many ways can one make age-old tales fresh and exciting? In 80 minutes, international theatre company *Pants on Fire* tells a selection of stories from Ovid's epic *Metamorphoses*: Jupiter transforms his mortal lover Io into a sad cow in a gas mask, Theseus is tended to by a gaggle of giggling nurses in a military hospital, Cupid is a little puppet evacuee who shoots Apollo and Daphne across a party while the gramophone plays in the background.

Peter Bramley's production transports these mythological tales to the setting of the second world war, with all its associated military costumes, characters and paraphernalia. When Eurydice dies and Orpheus is devastated, he follows her with his lyre, charming all in his way – to the Underworld, which in this case is actually the London Underground. The image of characters emerging from

and descending down the escalators of the tube was cleverly done and very funny.

Indeed, the fantastical nature of the show relied on an array of colourful, ingenious props, and a creative use of set. Four whiteboards were moved around between and during scenes to create a changing space, from the interior of a room to waves at sea. Props used were very amusing – as Ariadne sings of her loneliness after Theseus abandons her, cardboard waves move in unison as two puppet fish join in the chorus.

Probably the most memorable story of the show was that of Narcissus, who is recast as a Hollywood heartthrob who falls in love with his own face on screen. Everyone in the audience probably has the image of actor Max Gallagher on screen smiling seductively in different angles seared into their minds. His seductive acting was so funny that when he reappeared on stage later playing the cello for another story, the audience laughed at his very appearance.

It was clear that the cast was having as much fun as we were. The seven actor-musicians move fluidly between roles in different stories, equally adept at playing instru-

ments as singing and being godly. Lucy Egger's original music was fantastic, helping to tie the otherwise disparate stories together somewhat.

Ovid opened his poem with the phrase "I intend to speak of forms changed into new entities" – and indeed, the stories presented in the show emphasise the transformations between man and nature. Daphne turns into a tree, Narcissus into a flower, Io into a cow. Bramley chose to open his show with the story of Tiresias, Apollo's prophet famed for his clairvoyance. Tiresias predicts that there will be a war in the future between man and nature, a theme that came across as too didactic and in-your-face by the end of it. It is an important theme, and very relevant today, but the importance of harmony between man and nature could be more subtly dealt with. The ample opportunities offered by the stories of fluid metamorphoses between man and nature were not fully harnessed to bring across the point in a more elegant way.

Ovid's Metamorphoses has received critical acclaim since its debut at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2010 and then off Broadway in 2011. It certainly does not disappoint.



Typical millennial problems // VAULT Festival 2019

Tacenda

ARTS



Where? VAULT Festival
When? Ran till 24th Feb
How Much? £15

Jingjie Cheng
Arts Writer

Would you watch the same day played out again and again? Lizzie and Joy are best friends, but as Joy is crashing at Lizzie's flat, they are getting on each other's nerves. Joy is trying to get bored businessmen interested in her free sanitary pads campaign, while Lizzie's music classroom is about to be turned into a shiny new computer lab. The two meet up later to attend their friend's 30th birthday party, taking out the frustrations of their day on their friend and each other.

This same day is played out multiple times during this show with tweaks in their dialogue, interactions, and therefore outcome. In one version, the two hide their respective bad days from each other, only to take it out on strangers at the party later. In another, Joy is brutal to Lizzie, saying "You look shit. No, seriously you do." Even Joy's taxi ride

to the party is played out in different ways – she chats about her bad day, or plugs into her earphones to avoid any conversation at all.

It is difficult to understand the point of the show from the outset. The different versions of the same day don't follow any particular progression, and none result in better outcomes than any other. "Tacenda is an archaic term referring to things better left unsaid," reads the show's description. "This is theatre about why we sugarcoat our words... Tacenda will force us to relive our mistakes until we have the nerve to be straight with each other." If that was the point, it didn't come across as such. None of the scenarios had the characters being more honest than others, only differing degrees of nastiness to each other.

This was precisely what I thought turned out to be the message of the play in the end. That despite tweaking this and that choice of words, leading to a shift in interactions, and therefore outcome of the party and their days, none turns out 'better' than another. Whether Joy and Lizzie were honest with each other did not change the fact that someone would always mess up in the party after – just in

different ways. Whether Joy placidly accepted the manager's dismissal of her campaign, or swore continuously at him, or played the compassion card of corporate social responsibility, her campaign was not accepted. What changed was how she felt about it after.

In the same vein, whatever Lizzie said, her music room was going to be taken away from her at school. But it was in the situation where she stood up to the head teacher that made her feel better about it after. In a way, there was an element of fate in how the scenarios were presented – we cannot change how things turn out, but we can change how we approach them. It was also interesting to see how minor changes in what characters say to each other transform the atmosphere of a certain situation. The setting of contemporary London and very millennial characters also made it feel relevant to our mundane daily lives.

In all honesty, it got rather tedious by the fourth scenario, and I was thinking, do I really have to watch this again? But that feeling grew on me at the end, as it emphasised the Sisyphean feel of getting through our millennial struggles. Too close for comfort? Maybe.



Tales from 8AD, brought to WW2 // VAULT Festival 2019

MUSIC

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Ariana Grande's *thank u, next* is a mature and conscientious pop classic

Only half a year after the release of pop landmark Sweetener, Ariana Grande is back, this time reflecting on the turbulence and tragedy of the preceding months.

MUSIC

THANK U, NEXT



Artist: Ariana Grande.
Label: Republic. **Top Tracks:** literally everything except 'bloodline'. **For Fans Of:** Straight up good pop music. *41 minutes*

Alex Large
Music Writer

I thoroughly enjoyed Ariana Grande's last album, *Sweetener*. With a majority of the production handled by Pharrell, the project had an eccentric and colourful atmosphere, and was far more interesting than your standard pop album. And it didn't just sound great; considering the context of the release (her first album released after a terrorist attack at her Manchester concert which left 27 people dead), the lyrics and song topics displayed surprising strength and positivity. The release also took place only a few months after her breakup with rapper Mac Miller, her boyfriend of two years, over concerns with his worsening substance abuse problems. Considering the turmoil of the preceding year, the emotional tone of *Sweetener* was celebratory and inspiring; even the songs about her pain were made optimistic and hopeful.

Not only did *Sweetener* contain songs demonstrating a mature and healthy approach to dealing with the trauma of the past year, it also featured a handful of incredibly gorgeous

and heartfelt love songs dedicated to her new fiancé, Pete Davidson. Her infatuation was clear in a number of tracks (including one named after him), and the potent mix of lovely production and moments of lyrical tenderness (take "my whole life got me ready for you" or "I'm tryna turn two single people into a couple") combined to create a euphoric atmosphere that showed that, after a painful year, everything was promising to work out.

Tragically, shortly after the release, things fell apart. A month later, Mac Miller died of a drug overdose - only four months after their breakup. Another month later, Ariana's engagement was over.

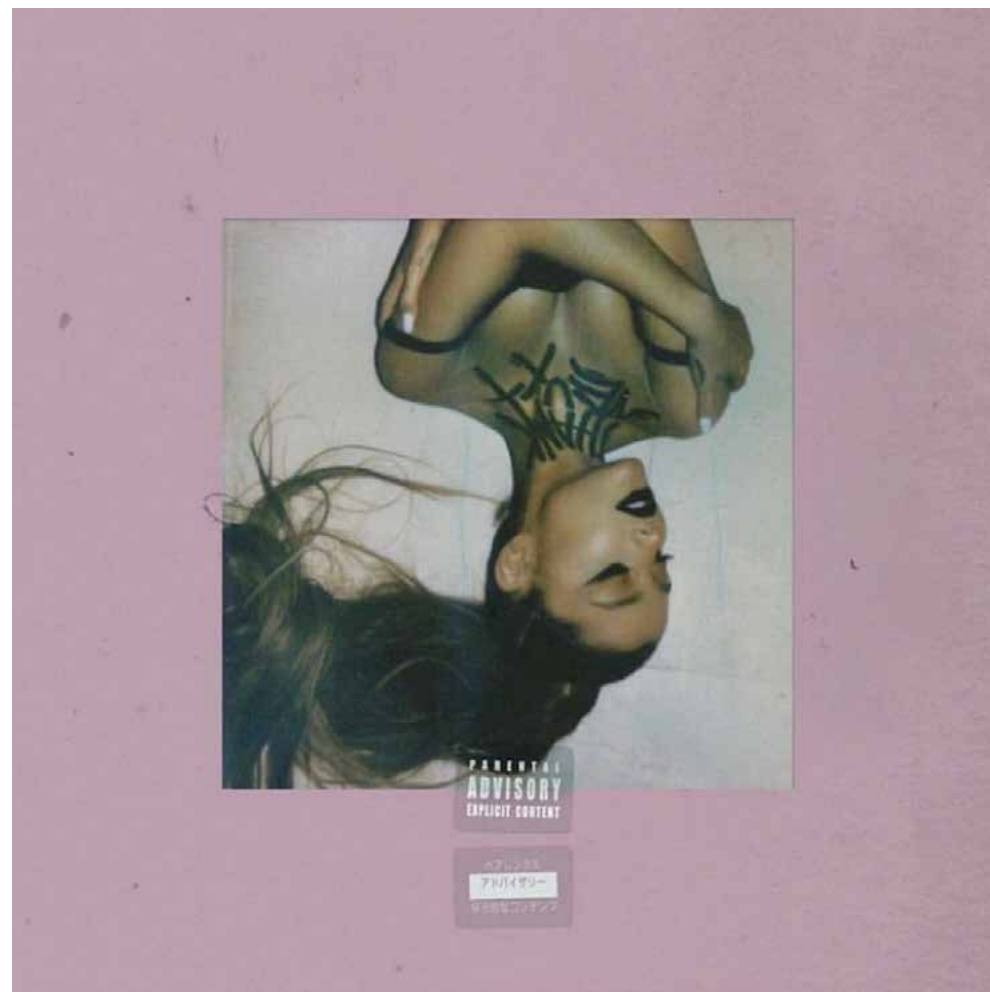
One might have predicted that there would be a long wait before new music was released. Nobody could have guessed that, only a month after the end of her engagement, Ariana would release a song showcasing a staggering amount of strength and maturity.

It really can't be overstated how incredibly positive and decorous that song, 'thank u, next', really is. In the track, she names her previous partners, thanking them individually for making her who she is now. Going as far as to directly name Pete and Mac in the opening lines is both brave and sad, showcasing impressive emotional maturity and warmth of spirit. The song took over the radio, and I would argue that a significant part of the success was

due to the genre-defying sincerity, honesty and emotional intelligence of the song. Many pop songs are reductive, cynically produced for mass-appeal; here is a song that sounds more like emotional healing, showcasing bravery and soul-bearing rarely heard in the Top 40.

After this, the album was announced, surprising considering how recently *Sweetener* was released. And it's even more surprising that, considering the short time-span between releases and the undeniable trauma of the past six months, Ariana has released an album that is so good. It understandably feels more emotionally vulnerable than *Sweetener*, with more songs showcasing clear heartbreak and pain. And unlike *Sweetener*, where new love provided the antidote to pain, here the turmoil is ridden out alone. Without distraction and infatuation providing relief, Ariana finds comfort in herself, from within rather than without. And it is this self-reliance that makes the album even more inspiring.

Unlike *Sweetener*, where Pharrell's (undeniably fun) production clashed with the few songs produced by other artists, creating a disjointed and confused overall sound, the production here is consistent, and coheres to paint the picture of a person going through the rises and falls in emotion essential for healing. There are moments of extreme sadness, followed by a gradual build in strength and confidence, and then again followed by a crash



Upside down, boy, you turn me inside out and round and round // Republic

in spirits. It feels realistic and cathartic, as if this accurately reflects the emotional journey Ariana has been through.

Where *Sweetener* featured a small handful of unnecessary songs, and some which were great but self-contained, with topics that didn't contribute to an overall narrative, *thank u, next* contains no filler, and every song feeds into the story of a person navigating through trauma. In addition to consistent production and lyrical content, this is also the first album where Ariana is the only featured vocalist, again contributing to a cohesive and consistent sound.

In addition to contain-

ing no unnecessary tracks, there are a number of fantastic ones. 'imagine' is a gorgeous and wistful album opener, 'fake smile' has jaw dropping bridges and choruses, 'ghostin' is the heart-breaking emotional nadir of the album, 'in my head' is somehow both crushingly sad and hopeful. And that's not even mentioning the excellent singles released to promote the album; the inescapable title track, '7 rings' and 'break up with your boyfriend' are all great, with the latter providing a light-hearted end to the album. The only song I personally think falters is 'bloodline', and even so my main issue is with the cheap-sounding

horns; other than that it's another great song that contributes to the narrative of the album, and would be missed if deleted.

Sweetener was a great album with a number of fantastic songs but a slightly confused message and sound. *thank u, next* takes death and heartbreak and creates art, an album chronicling emotional turmoil and ascension from despair to a place of stoicism and sanity, in a similar vein to Beyoncé's excellent *Lemonade*. Ariana takes extreme pain and transfigures it into something beautiful, complex and worthwhile.

TRAVEL

travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk



The most photographed mountain in Iceland, Kirkjufell // Aina Naim

Snæfellsnes Peninsula - Iceland's hidden gem

TRAVEL

Aina Naim
Travel Editor

The recent explosive rise in tourism in Iceland is nothing short of amazing. In fact, the Icelandic government is struggling to control the burgeoning tourism industry as more and more curious tourists make their way to the lone nation island to find out what the hype is all about. While Iceland has a lot of charming popular locations scattered around the island, especially the south coast, a lot of visitors are still oblivious to an enchanted region that is hidden in plain sight, the

Snæfellsnes Peninsula. Located just north of

“It is often dubbed as ‘Iceland in Miniature’ by locals and travellers alike”

the capital city Reykjavik, the peninsula offers an abundance of natural geographic landscapes that are unique to Iceland and thus, it is often dubbed as ‘Iceland in Miniature’ by locals and travellers alike. From volcanoes and glaciers to black beaches

and lava caves, the peninsula has the most varied attractions compared to any other regions in the country. Because of its convenient location, many travel companies in Iceland offer assorted tour packages for the peninsula, though they have varying attractions listed.

While you can find multiple black beach spots in Iceland, Snæfellsnes’ very own Djúpalónssandur black pebble beach is truly distinctive as it is decorated with unique rock formations from the lava field near the beach. As with other black beaches found in Iceland, it is also one of the well-known locations in Icelandic sagas and folklore for trolls and the Huldafólks, Iceland’s version of elves.

It is believed that the rock formations belong to the bodies of trolls that were turned into stones when exposed to sunlight.

When visiting the Snæfellsnes peninsula, the breathtaking Snæfellsjökull will most likely be in the backdrop throughout the journey, looming over the peninsula as if it commands control over it. Indeed, the glacier-capped stratovolcano, located in the similarly-named Snæfellsjökull National Park, serves as the main attraction of the whole peninsula. It is primarily known for being the site where the protagonists discovered an entrance to a passage leading to the center of the Earth in “Journey to the Center of the Earth”, an epic

1864 novel written by acclaimed novelist Jules Verne.

Another unmissable

“Kirkjufell also holds the title of the most photographed mountain in Iceland”

landmark that can be found on this peninsula is located near a small town called Grundarfjörður. Known as ‘the church mountain’, Kirkjufell also holds the title of the most photographed mountain in Iceland and was featured

in the blockbuster TV series, HBO’s Game of Thrones. Its oddly-shaped peak jutting out would certainly turn heads and the nearby waterfalls accommodate the scenery faultlessly for that perfect Instagram shot.

With so many beautiful sites and landmarks dotted across the peninsula, it is no wonder that a lot of Icelanders regard Snæfellsnes as the only part of their country that practically has everything the country can offer. This, along with the fact that it is just a 2-hour drive from the capital, proves that the peninsula is the perfect spot for travellers who are short on time when visiting the lovely country.

FOOD

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Mumbai Mix: Bringing India to your doorstep

A Felix favourite at the weekly Farmers Market, vibrant Indian street food stall Mumbai Mix needs your help to grow their business.

FOOD

Dimple Samani

Mumbai Mix

We are Mumbai Mix! An Indian street food stall known for its long queues and vibrant aromas (that's not us bragging – it's feedback from our customers!) For anyone that hasn't met us yet, we are part of the Farmers Market that is located on Queens Lawn every Tuesday. We write this piece following an encounter with Andy, the *Felix* Editor, who happened to stumble upon our stall for a late lunch one Tuesday. Following a series of conversations, he proposed the idea of a page dedicated to Mumbai Mix in the next edition of *Felix*! We were ecstatic at this proposition as we rarely get to present ourselves on paper. This article gives us the opportunity to showcase ourselves both as a brand as well as on a personal level. For our regular customers who probably have some understanding of our background, this article will piece together some of the puzzle. For those that have never been to our stall, this gives you an insight into Mumbai Mix, its founders and the principles on which the business operates.

“Known for its vibrant aromas”

Mumbai Mix is a family run business founded in 2014 by a team of mother (Mohini) and two daughters (Deshna and Dimple). We offer a range of Indian dishes commonly found on the streets of Mumbai. However, our rich cultural background (Indian, Kenyan and British) influences our choice of ingredients and cooking practices thereby giving a contemporary and unique edge to every dish we serve at the stall. The most popular dish is the Dosa wrap – a lentil and rice pancake with a slow roasted potato and onion filling that is served with an array of freshly made chutneys: coconut-coriander, roasted red pepper and tamarind & date chutney.

“The most popular dish is the Dosa wrap”

We take great pride in our menu because we are particular about every aspect of our cooking process from the choice of ingredients to the creation of our own spice blends (masalas). For example, our core ingredients are sourced from local farmers because this has environmental, economical and nutritional benefits (and we know we have a responsibility towards protecting the environment!). Using locally sourced ingredients also gives us the advantage of creating unique versions of the Dosa batter and its fillings enabling us to rotate

our menu. For instance, our autumn special is a squash and pumpkin filling whereas the spring special is a Wild Garlic Dosa with a Rainbow Chard and Paneer filling. Our menu also consists of a Vegetable Biryani and potato curry, freshly made samosas and our exceptional masala chai (spiced Indian Tea).

“We like to please our customers and make each and every one of them feel special”

We like to please our customers and make each and every one of them feel special. We also try our best to give them a unique experience each time they visit the stall. We do this by tailoring the “spice level of their Dosa and the sweetness of their Masala Chai according to their request. Most of all, we also like to natter and get to know our customers. Most of the time, we recognise our regulars but we also have awkward moments where we claim to recognise new customers! New customer or not, it is always a pleasure to serve the staff and students of Imperial College. We have to admit, you are a chatty lot and love Tuesdays for that reason.

Mushy things aside, we have to focus on the



“Our core ingredients are sourced from local farmers” // Mumbai Mix

business side of things sometimes. Although we are growing as a business, our time is predominantly spent within the kitchen. That leaves us very little time to focus on all things “admin”. For that reason, we are reaching out to students who may be able

“We are reaching out to students who may be able to support us with the following tasks: photography, videography, market research and digital marketing”

to support us with the following tasks: photography, videography, market research and digital marketing. These will be paid tasks and we will be happy to provide references upon completion of the tasks. If you are interested in these roles, please contact us with a CV on the following address: info@mumbaimix.co.uk. If not, come by the stall and try our delicious food!

Contact details

www.mumbaimix.co.uk

Facebook: Mumbai Mix

Instagram: Mumbai_Mix

Twitter: Mumbai_Mix

Email: info@mumbaimix.co.uk

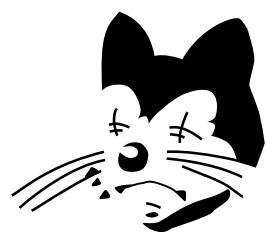


“Mumbai Mix is a family run business founded in 2014 by a team of mother (Mohini) and two daughters (Deshna and Dimple) // Mumbai Mix

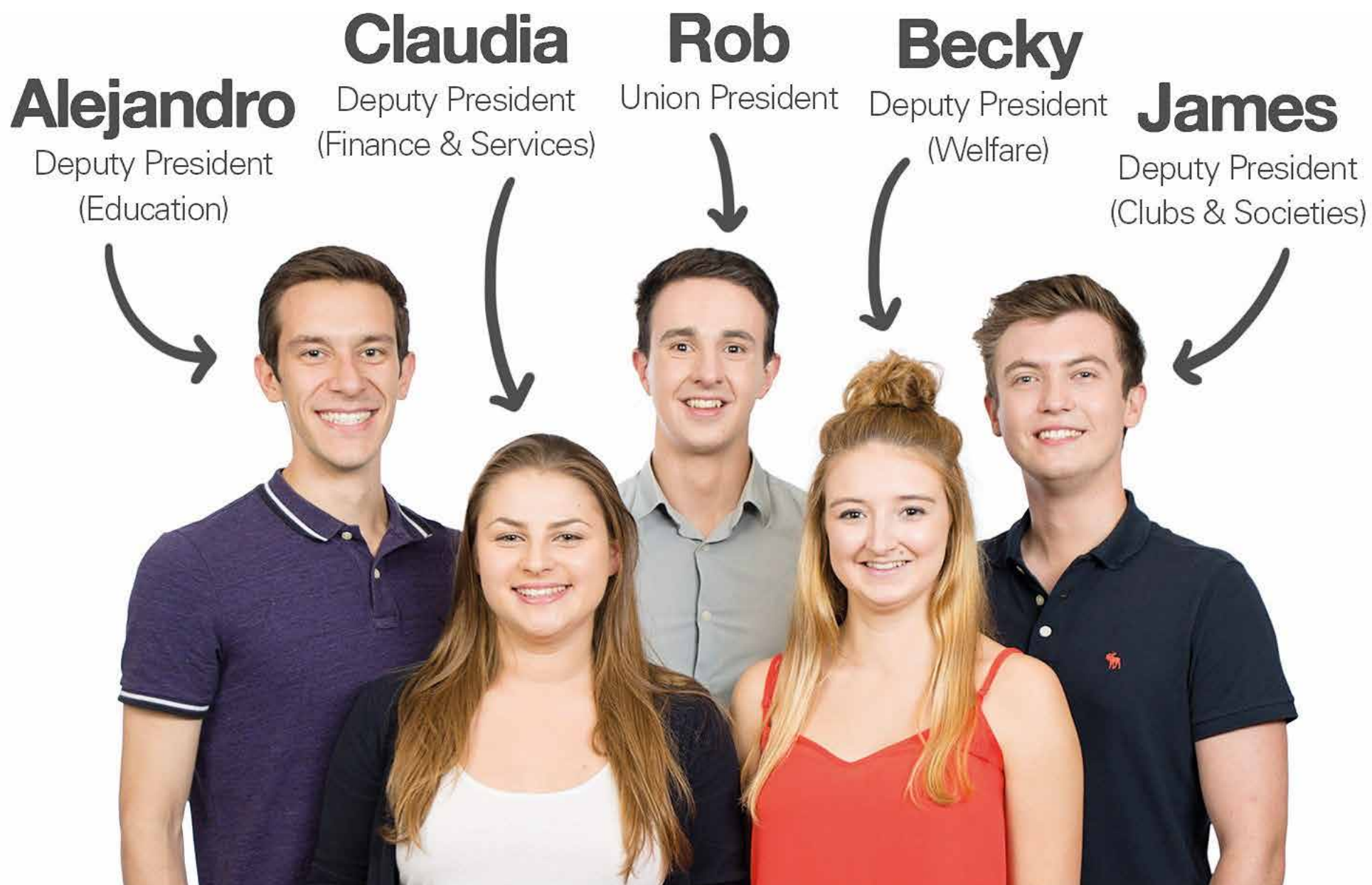


“The only time you’ll get





Sabb Review



Imperial College Union Officer Trustees // Imperial College Union

Felix's Annual Sabb Review

As they approach the six-month mark of their tenure, this week, Felix is reviewing the performance of Imperial College Union's Sabbatical Officers

SABB REVIEW

Felix Editorial Team

This week, in keeping with tradition, *Felix* is reviewing the sabbatical officers! Having begun their tenure in August 2018, it is

now time to review their performance as we reach the sixth month of their occupancy of Beit quad. For those of you not in the know, the Sabbs are the elected representatives of you the students and it is their job to enact the manifesto commitments that they were elected on last year. The sabbatical officers

being reviewed were the Union President, the Deputy President (Finance & Services), the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), the Deputy President (Welfare), the Deputy President (Education) and the ICSM Student Union President. The *Felix* Editor, despite also being a Sabb has not been

reviewed in this pull-out and confidently assumes that you, the reader, can judge his performance for yourself.

The purpose of this review is to establish what they have achieved in their time representing the student body and comparing that to what they initially pledged within their manifestos. It is finally

time to work out whether that was just so much hot ink off the printer. Additionally, this chance to chat with senior union officials allowed us to get an in-depth look at the goings on in the union and get the sabbs perspective on the direction the Union is headed particularly in light of the scrapping of SCR breakfast and the

removal of food service from H-bar. If the purpose of the sabbatical officers is to represent the student will at the union, do they agree that this slimming of services means they do not have the influence they need?

SABB REVIEW

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Rob Tomkies - Union President



★★★★★

Because you're President, when you run on a manifesto, you have quite a lot of broad points and part of it is shaping a team that will be able to do it rather than necessarily taking on every single project yourself because it's simply not possible". I feel like this perfectly sums up Rob's performance. He has been an effective leader, taking a more hands-off/wholistic approach to the job and ensuring that he appropriately supports the Officer Trustees below him. Having said that, he has also done well to achieve the majority of his main manifesto points (see below; the stars indicate partially completed manifesto points). Outside of his manifesto, Rob has been involved in various projects, including governance, disciplinary review, Graduate Students' Union review, policy review and Officer Trustee role review.

Felix: Do you like the direction the Union is currently going in?

Rob: I don't think I would have run if I thought it was perfect – manifestos are almost entirely about change, I ran on the idea of change. I agree with the vision, maybe I have questions on how to get there. Overall, the big impact and the big pieces we do are the right ones.

We've recently seen examples of the sabbs being left out of big decisions made by college/union – what are your thoughts on this?

Union decisions- it's part on us, recently we've completely redeveloped the way that the Leadership Team works. That side has definitely been a challenge so far but I think that the approach that we've taken in the last couple of weeks in tackling that has been really positive and we are actually beginning to see a way forward and a framework that may work. The College side is really frustrating. In all honesty, we sit in too many meetings as it is. College is so large, it's impossible to be at every table, the challenge is making sure we're at the right table at the right time, which I think largely we are.

Manifesto

What do I want? I want to ensure fresh ideas come through the union so that we can make long standing positive change while building on the successes of this year's team.

What are my goals?

Finance and Services:

- ✓ Better funding for your constituent unions, clubs and societies through a centralised sponsorship support centre*
- ✓ Better food, including halal and vegan, at all hours, at all campuses through conducting a complete catering review.

Clubs and Societies:

- ✓ Ethos expansion with usage-based equipment – lets end the overcrowding. TICK
- ☹️ A referendum on the Sport Imperial mascot – Do we really want a lion? CROSS

Wellbeing:

- ✓ Wednesday opening of the advice centre and introduction of skype appointments.*
- ✓ Increase student support for welfare and campaigns at non-South Kensington campuses.*

Strategy:

- ✓ Guaranteed internal varsity.
- ☹️ Campaign to secure increased student study space available to all through repurposing the newly vacated chemistry building. IN PROGRESS

James Medler - Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)



★★★★★

James' performance as DPCS thus far has been something of a masterclass in "how to sabb" and highlights the importance of adequately researching the role and what it entails prior to writing your manifesto. James has seen major "wins" in his first six months largely because his manifesto built on the work of his predecessors. These wins include the refurbishment and expansion of Ethos gym. He has also managed to secure almost £500,000 funding for the Union Concert Hall and is currently working on a "big project management piece" looking to adapt the structure of the Union itself. James told *Felix*: "A lot of the problems that people have with the Union are 'it's not very effective', 'we're not very efficient at dealing with projects', 'we're not very good at replying to emails'. All of that is down to the fact that, under our current model, there aren't enough people to do all of the jobs. It wasn't designed in a way to deal with problems effectively."

Felix: Do you think sabbatical officers are adequately supported?

James: I feel our current structure and current way of working isn't effective enough to support the sabbs in the way it should be. Everybody has the same view of wanting to support the sabbs and wanting to do these new projects and wanting to get it done but the way we're currently set up means that's not always possible. I think everybody is aware of that and it's a pain. I don't think we're quite structured right, I think there should be more flexibility within our structure so teams can work more collaboratively.

Manifesto

EXPAND ETHOS GYM TICK

- ✓ Pressure College to expand gym space
- ✓ Investigate external gym and space provider partnerships across London
- ✓ Pressure college for an investment into a wider range of sport and well-being facilities

DEDICATED ATHLETICS HUB TICK

- ✓ Join key parts of Sport Imperial and the Union, to make one team accountable for sporting decisions, with a student decision-maker at the top

MORE BOOKABLE SPACE / PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

- ☹️ Pressure college to prioritise clubs and societies bookings in under-utilised space
- ☹️ Ensure CSPs have the appropriate space for their activity, and what is required to do their activity
- ☹️ Ensure students understand how key union processes work (ie minibuses), through mediums such as infographics

ONLINE CSP SUPPORT PORTAL

- ☹️ Create an online space for queries directing you to the relevant people immediately

REGULAR OPEN OFFICE MEETINGS / A FRIENDLIER UNION

- ☹️ Regular update meetings on my progress open to all
- ✓ Regular open office times for students to come with queries
- ✓ Regular visits to CSP activities to see problems first hand

SABB REVIEW

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Claudia Caravello - Deputy President (Finance & Services)



★★★

Claudia has arguably had the most difficult time as a Sabb. Analysing her manifesto, although she has made some changes that she said she would, there are substantial gaps. This is not completely her fault and complaints of "friction" between her and members of the Senior Management Group (SMG). She told *Felix*, "within the Union, between the senior staff and the Officer Trustees, there is a disconnect. We have highlighted it and we're addressing it. In most cases, it's actually not too bad. I happen to have experienced most of the extreme ends of this." Claudia also doesn't feel the Officer Trustees are adequately supported, making her "feel very lost". She revealed, "it has really taken a knock on my confidence. The Union environment had got quite toxic at times. It felt very lonely. It's been quite a big battle coming back from that." Claudia's experience as a Sabb highlights the problems with the structure that exists within the Union and the need for adequate support, both pastoral and operational, for the Officer Trustees. SMG has been described as her "biggest obstacle" when trying to "make a change", however this has been identified and strides are being made to remedy this issue.

Manifesto

My promises:

STUDENTS AT THE HEART OF DECISIONS

- ☹️ Making YOU the decision makers of events and big changes, so another Bud Light incident doesn't happen again!
- ☹️ Infographics on how Union income is spent on YOU

FOOD & DRINK

- ☹️ Focus on Union food quality and deals
- ☹️ Introduce online ordering system
- ✓ Bring back SCR breakfast, or start it at the Union*
- ✓ Reduce queues at Library Café and College Café
- ✓ Bring back bendy straws

TRANSPORT

- ✓ Transport to Harlington on Mondays and Wednesdays
- ☹️ Ensure students get home safe by introducing an end-of-night Union minibus drop off system
- ☹️ Improve minibuses upkeep

CSPs

- ☹️ Negotiate with College to make more departmental spaces available to CSPs
- ✓ Lunchtime drop-in sessions
- ✓ Useful, quality training, delivered at the right times

EXTERNAL INCOME

- ☹️ Make the Union less dependent on student spending
- ✓ Develop online shop to sell to global alumni/prospective students
- ☹️ Advertise facilities to public during the holidays
- ☹️ Generate income from eActivities by licencing to other Unions

Alejandro Luy - Deputy President (Education)



★★★★★

Alejandro has had a successful six months in the role, completing the majority of his major manifesto points. He started off the year by re-writing the training for academic representatives, which was met with widespread praise. Since then, his progress hasn't slowed. He told *Felix*, "I've been working very closely with the Student Shapers team to develop the whole program. We've developed everything from the criteria for a project to what the partnership between staff and student should look like". Alejandro's response to the news that h-bar would be cutting its evening bar food service, without consultation with the Officer Trustees, is indicative of his optimism. He prefers to see this as an opportunity to look at providing a better offering to students through the Union. However, this could also be perceived as being unwilling to effectively lobby College for changes that would benefit the students. It is a fine balance indeed.

Felix: How realistic is it to effect meaningful change as a Sabbatical Officer?

Alejandro: We are very privileged to have the level of influence that we have as sabbatical officers. The Officer Trustees have very close working relationships with College - in those relationships, we're perceived as essential voices in the process of developing anything. We have a lot more influence and opportunities for impact than I first anticipated

Manifesto

Improved Feedback

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

Student Involvement in Curriculum Reviews

- ✓ As part of the Learning and Teaching Strategy, curriculums are being re-written across college and I am committed to seeing students integrated into the process from start to end.

Enhancement of the Academic Representation Network

- ☹️ I will develop practical training materials and effective communication channels to ensure that your Academic Representatives have the training and resources they need to represent you well.

Implementation of StudentShapers

- ✓ I will spearhead the implementation of the new StudentShapers scheme, which provides paid opportunities for students (maybe you!) to shape their own educations.

PG Timetabling

- ☹️ This is still an issue, and it really shouldn't be. Just like DPE's before me, I will continue to fight to protect your Wednesday afternoons.

SABB REVIEW

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Becky Neil - Deputy President (Welfare)



Measuring Becky's achievements in the first six months in the role highlights a major issue with the nature of the role as an Officer Trustee. You write a manifesto with lots of ambitious points but, when you find yourself in the role, you are met with a multitude of other tasks that you hadn't previously foreseen. These tasks can include anything from large projects handed down from your predecessors that end up taking up the majority of your time, to minor administrative tasks which can easily build up. You may also be met with more opposition than you had anticipated, or find yourself inadequately supported (as has been echoed by the other Officer Trustees). As a result, much of Becky's manifesto points are under the "work-in-progress" status and will be the focus of the remainder of her tenure. One major failing on Becky's behalf is the engagement of the Liberation & Community Officers. Although Becky is well-intentioned in that respect, it has become apparent that the whole structure of the Liberation & Community zones needs widespread reform before it can effectively deliver results to the students. Having said that, Becky launched the inaugural Liberation & Community Week and has supported the officers as much as the flawed system has allowed her. Areas where Becky has underperformed actually further highlight the lack of adequate support provided by the Union - case in point is the petition system, which still hasn't been implemented because the Systems team is overworked and unable to support Becky there.










Felix: What have you and College delivered?

Becky: I helped make a disabilities rent subsidy happen so that means that anyone with a disability that has had to be in halls in South Kensington gets around £100 subsidy because they can't live far away. I had input in the new mitigating circumstances policy. I got that changed a little bit and they've definitely looked more carefully at what they're doing. The student support strategy is happening but it's incredibly slow.

Manifesto

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

Objectives:

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

Dan Faehndrich - ICSMSU President



With the ICSMSU being run as a separate Constituent Union under the umbrella of Imperial College Union, it is slightly more difficult to make sense of the impact that Dan has had in his role as ICSMSU President. On the surface, it appears he is doing an excellent job, ticking off all of his main manifesto points to some degree. ICSM is facing a challenge due to the impending Curriculum Review, which is also affecting many other faculties. In addition, the SU is looking to implement a culture shift within ICSM by increasing its inclusivity and, hence, improving its offering and ensuring the SU functions to cater to all students. Speaking to *Felix*, Dan said: "Communication has been the biggest, most pressing issue throughout the year. We've realised that there were a lot of key areas that we lacked. It wasn't just general communication but the way we communicate with different bodies of the College and ICU and help them understand how we function, us understanding how they function so we can slot in and work better".

Another challenge that ICSM has been faced with is the growing cohort of students. One of the resultant impacts of this is the size of the first year cohort "basically outgrowing the lecture theatres and spaces". In response, Dan says, "with the new curriculum coming in next year, we're looking at how we can shift the way we're using spaces, shift the class numbers to work round that and that's something that we've been having constant input on with faculty. Putting out consultation to students about how they'd like to see space repurposed is a key part of that.






In response to complaints regarding the 'clubs and socs' room in Reynolds, Dan explained:

"In progress. It's all gone a bit slowly but we had the clubs and socs room itself redone and now we're looking at how we use the space in the clubs and socs room more effectively. Unfortunately, in the interim, that's moved into the common room, where the microwave is and we have had that raised to us very recently. It's something we're going to try and sort out, hopefully making sure the facilities like the microwave are accessible in the next week or two"

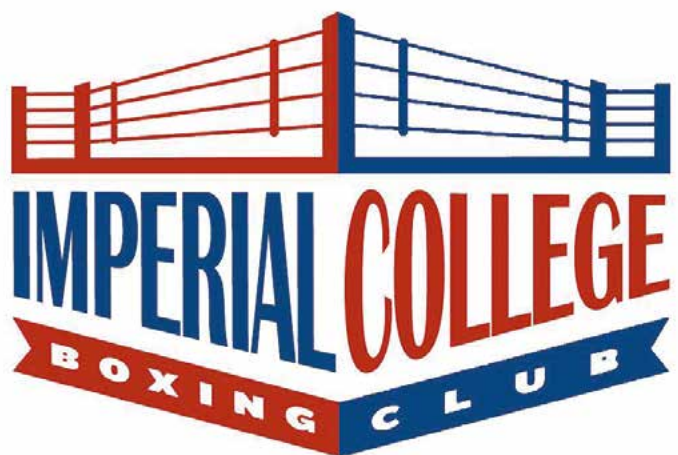
Felix: You mention maintaining and developing student consultation. Firstly, do you think you've done that and how have you done it?

Dan: I have done it, I'm very happy with it. We started off last year, we used mainly SU officer-student engagement so we had our welfare officers, our president, deputy president and our academic officers all-round the table discussing. We tried three main different types of consultation since then. The most effective one we've had so far that hasn't just involved elected reps has been going out to our various hospital sites and doing engagement with the third years out there. Getting them together in a room, talking to them about what the curriculum review is, what we've got so far and what they'd like to see changed or what support they'd like from the faculty for them to be able to carry out their roles as academic mentors and supervisors

Manifesto

-  Establish both academic and extra-curricular provisions to mitigate any issues faced due to the growing cohort of students
-  Maintain and develop the Student Consultation on the Curriculum Review to create the best teaching experience for our current and future ICSM students
-  Develop our Entertainments and Extra-Curricular activities to be inclusive for all students
-  Develop our comprehensive Welfare strategy and Wellbeing Representation Network to be accessible to and cater for students of all backgrounds
-  Promote opportunities for leadership training both to those who are in charge of your time here at ICSM, and to all students to develop their skill set for their time at ICSM, and future careers

3 rounds out of us”



SUSTAINABILITY

artur.donaldson15@imperial.ac.uk

Greening Imperial Week 2019

A light-hearted guide to this fun series of events

SUSTAINABILITY

Charlotte Griaud
Sustainability Writer

Last year, Imperial was placed 141st out of 154 universities in the “People and Planet University League”. This league table ranks universities based on environmental and ethical performance. It is saddening that we have such poor reputation on environmental and ethical stances.

Greening Imperial is an initiative to turn this around. It is a collaborative project between staff, students and Imperial College Union (ICU) which aims to encourage our college to improve its environmental and ethical performance.

Our long-term goal is to transform Imperial into a university that is respected also for its sustainability.

Dr Neil Jennings, a member of the Greening Imperial Steering Group and a Partnership Development Manager at the Grantham Institute, points out that “Greening Imperial has brought about a number of positive changes over the last few months such as the coffee cup levy and the ban on single-use plastic cups.” But he has acknowledged that “there is still a lot more to be done and this will only be possible if staff and students continue to work together to push for further improvements in the environmental and ethical impact of the College. Greening Imperial Week, led by ICU, is a great way to bring people together to celebrate success and discuss ideas for future improvements.”

In order to celebrate our achievements, Greening

Imperial will be hosting ‘Greening Imperial Week’, which starts on the 4th of March. The Student Union, Ethos Gym, and Greening Imperial will be providing you with a week of events to share our accomplishments this year, whilst also raising awareness on how our lifestyle impacts the planet.

Our project is inspired by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. These are global goals and targets set for 2030 to achieve a better and more sustainable future. The

“Get involved in our watt bike competition on Monday to get a chance to win a Fitness Tracker”

overarching goals that are relevant to Greening Imperial week include climate action and protecting life on land and water (SDG 13,14,15).

Each day will have a theme, ranging from fashion to cycling, with events for all to participate. Here’s a quick overview of what will be on throughout the week:

“Move more Monday”

It’s easy to be a couch-potato but taking in the environmental and ethical impact of the College. Greening Imperial Week, led by ICU, is a great way to bring people together to celebrate success and discuss ideas for future improvements.”

In order to celebrate our achievements, Greening

Greening Imperial Week

Monday 4 March - Friday 8 March

4 March Move more Monday

12-2 Watt Bike Competition
WINA FITNESS TRACKER

Dalby Court
12-2 Dr. Bike Workshop
Queens Lawn

5 March Veggie & Healthy Tuesday

12-2 Healthy and Veggie Stall
SCR and JCR

5-6:30 What the Health?
Film Screening
Location TBC

6 March Waste less Wednesday

12-2 Waste and Recycling Stall
SCR and JCR

2-3:30 Food Waste Workshop
CAGB 651/652



So many goals to achieve! // UN

you’re looking for some tips on where to cycle in London, where to buy a bike or simply want to get your bike up to scratch, then come to our events on Monday. You can also get involved in our watt bike competition on Monday to get a chance to win a Fitness Tracker or complete our quiz and stand a chance to win a prize (https://imperial.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ahZ15qM84G0e9q5)

“Tasty and veggie Tuesday”

There is scientific evidence that eating too much red meat is environmentally damaging and poor for health. This day is dedicated to inspiring more students to eat vegetables more, and reduce the amount of meat consumption throughout the week.

“Waste less Wednesday”

Are you used to buying vegetables and fruits in plastic packaging? Grabbing an unrecyclable coffee cup to go? Have a go at being waste free this Wednesday by avoiding items such as plastic water bottles. We’ll be selling reusable water bottles and telling you all about the sweet deals on campus this year for coffee and lunches when you bring in

your own reusable coffee cup or tupperware.

“Trendy Thursday”

We’ve partnered up with Fashion Revolution to bring you a sustainable ‘Clothes Swap’. For those wanting to refresh their wardrobe, this event is perfect: for every item you bring in, you get to pick one out for FREE. On top of this, Honest Clothing will also be launching their digital clothes swap platform at Imperial. If you’re looking for a new top, you can simply check the Facebook group and you may find someone giving away exactly what you want. Then simply swap on campus and voila!

“Forget me not Friday”

To wrap up the week, Greening Imperial will be setting up stalls to share their initiatives and provide opportunities for everyone to get involved. If you would like to be a part of the sustainability movement at Imperial be sure to visit the stalls between 12:00 and 14:00 in the JCR and SCR! We’ll also be having an Imperial start-up hosting a Sustainability Writers Workshop titled “Creating a sustainable future facilitated by a knowledge hub”.

We hope that by the end of the week everyone will feel more inspired and empowered to live a sustainable lifestyle.

If you would like to get involved or learn more, contact: enviro@ic.ac.uk or check out our webpage (imperialcollegeunion.org/campaigns/greening-imperial-week) and like our Greening Imperial Facebook page!

SUSTAINABILITY

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Land of Hope and Glory

The film screening of a vegan documentary gives a graphic but true look inside the British animal agricultural industry

SUSTAINABILITY

Monami Miyamoto
Sustainability Editor

On Tuesday, VegSocs from Imperial, LSE, Kings and Middlesex University collaborated to host a film screening of “Land of Hope and Glory”, followed by a talk by the producer, Ed Winters. Ed Winters, also known as “Earthing Ed” is one of the most well-known faces of UK vegan activism, and has been featured in numerous other vegan documentaries. The documentary is one of the multiple efforts to expose the cruelty behind the animal agriculture industry.

“The images shown were graphic portraying the reality of intensive farming”

During the short but dense 45 minutes of the screening, many students were taken behind the scenes of intensive farming units. The images shown were graphic, portraying the reality of intensive farming: abused, diseased and suffering animals. In addition, the deep, grievous tone of Ed’s narrative that accompanied these videos further intensified the atmosphere in the room. Anyone who had bore

witness to those footages could no longer leave the room and simply say ‘I didn’t know’, because we did, and it was almost impossible to pretend that none of the cruelty was happening. The film is available to view for free on YouTube via Earthing Ed’s channel.

“It was non-confrontational. Just thought provoking.”

What I personally found even more compelling, however, was Ed’s talk that followed. Although I initially had the impression that he might expound his views on veganism, he actually began the talk by frankly admitting that he, not only ate but, loved meat during the first 21 years of his life. He talked about his frequent trips to Domino’s and KFC. This was unexpected, and I’m sure some of the non-vegan students that attended the event felt more relatable to him. By introducing himself as someone who, like many, simply didn’t know the cruelty of animal farming, Ed instantly caught the attention of the whole room. This was then followed by his journey into veganism and his new profound sense of needing to change.

What I personally really loved about his talk was that from the beginning he made it clear that his aim was not to make us all go vegan, but rather, to just get us to look at the reality and ask ourselves ques-

tions. Why have we arbitrarily decided that some animals like dogs and cats should be adored pets, but cows and pigs are for us to consume? Tradition and cultures aren’t necessarily ethical or just – slavery and female genital mutilation are cultures in some places. What gives us the right to say that these animals exist just to serve humans? Just because we don’t see the killing, does that mean we can pretend it doesn’t exist? What matters more, satisfying our palates or the life of an individual? How can there be a humane way to kill if all organisms strive to live? These are just some of the prompts that he raised during the evening. It was non-confrontational. Just thought provoking.

“How can there be a humane way to kill if all organisms strive to live?”

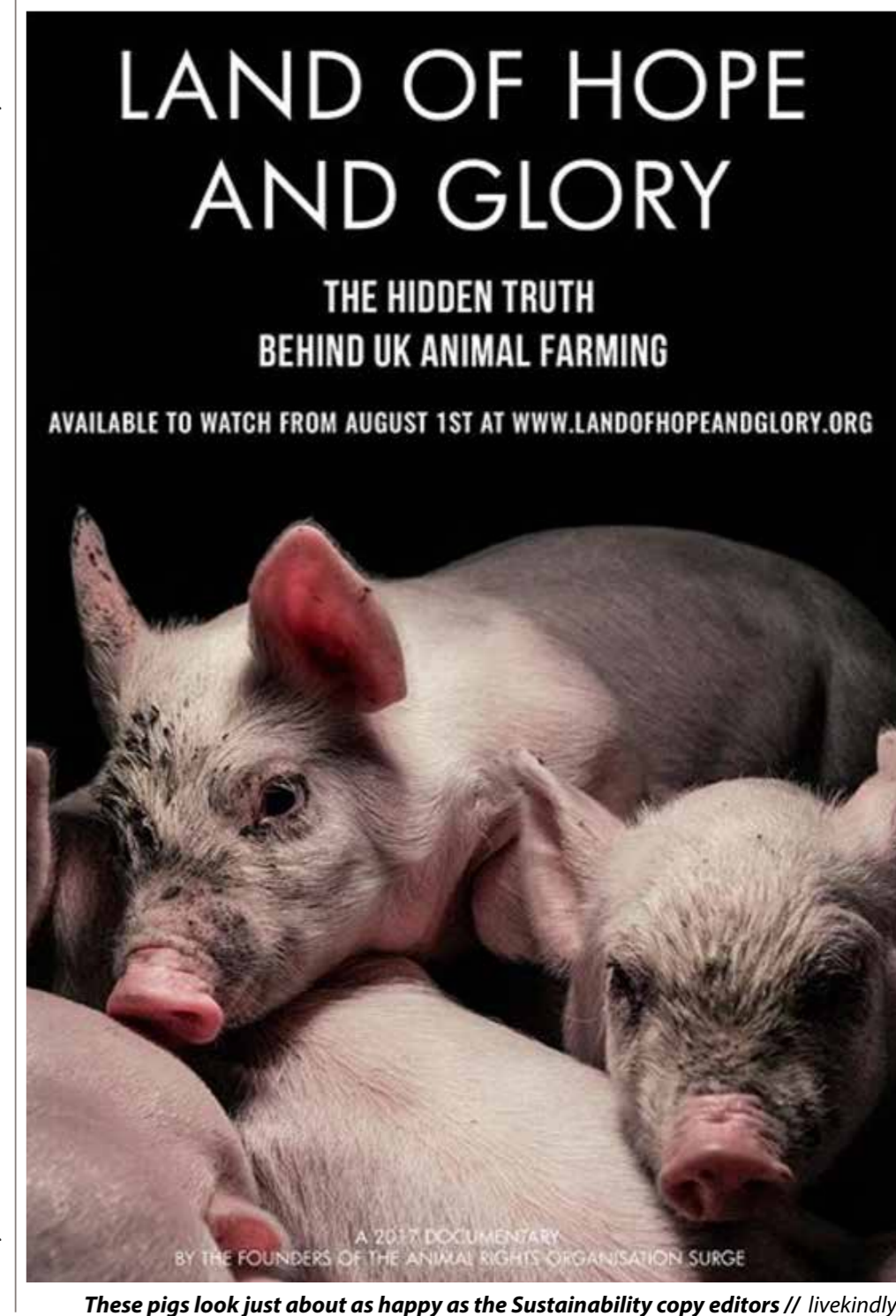
One question that I thought reflected the complexity in making veganism mainstream, was whether vegan/vegetarian people should be purchasing the vegan/vegetarian options at chains such as McDonalds. These fast-food restaurants are unlikely to have ethical sourcing at the top of their priority, and purchasing from them could feed in to their business which thrives off of intensive agricultural farming. However, if there isn’t enough demand for these products, they

will stop selling them, which consequently gives off the impression that being vegan/vegetarian is still not a societal norm. In response to this question, Ed explained that purchasing these products from chains as McDonalds may be a necessary ‘stepping stone’ in putting veganism out there. If big companies could take on

veganism, it could have a more profound impact on society as opposed to a specialised, niche market that only vegan people would purchase from.

As the amount of meat consumption has increased rapidly in the last few decades, it seems necessary for us to take a step back and look at how this has impacted the lives of billions of animals.

Telling someone to go vegan is most often not an effective or compassionate approach. But on this night, I truly felt the power of simply witnessing and questioning as a means of getting people to shift their own perspective.



INVESTMENT

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What are derivatives and how are they used?

INVESTMENT

Tom Alston

*Investment Editor
ICIS Editor in Chief*

Warren Buffett has described them as “financial weapons of mass destruction”. Robert Kiyosaki said that the sub-prime Mortgage Backed Security (MBS) disaster was a result of them “exploding in financial institutions such as AIG and Lehman Brothers”. So, what exactly are derivatives?

A derivative is a financial security with a value that is dependent or derived from an underlying group of assets. The derivative itself is a contract between two or more parties with its price determined by the fluctuations of the underlying asset. The underlying asset can be anything from stocks, bonds and commodities to even interest rates and market indexes. Most derivatives are traded over-the-counter (OTC), since they are mostly unique and unstandardized. However, some standardised derivatives feature on exchanges, but they are more regulated. Essentially, they were created as a means of hedging risk (reduce risk faced by organisations and individuals). There are two main derivative types used in the financial industry; futures and options. Futures are financial contracts obligating the buyer to purchase an asset or the seller to sell an asset, most commonly a physical commodity or financial instrument, at a predetermined future date and price. Options are sold by an option writer



Bank of England governor Mark Carney, second left, talks about the US-UK deal in London on Monday// FT

to an option buyer. They are typically purchased through brokers. The contract offers the buyer the right, but not the obligation to buy (call option) or sell (put option) the underlying asset at an agreed future price during a certain period of time or on a specific date. There are many different types of option from lookback option, which is path dependent option where the option owner has the right to buy or sell at the lowest price over a period, to a binary option, in which the contract pays a fixed amount or nothing at all. The type of option used wholly depends on the needs of the two parties.

Most derivatives are used to hedge risk. The contracts can guard investors against adverse price movements. A hedger seeks to protect a position in the spot market by taking an opposite position in the derivatives market. However, derivatives can be used for speculation. Speculators take a view on the market's direction and seek to make a profit from price movements by buying or selling futures contracts. Although this

method may involve a high degree of risk and usually have short holding periods, it is often more attractive than the underlying asset because the contracts can be highly geared. Put simply, this means that a small expenditure gives the holder a big exposure to the market. This leads the investor with the potential for large profits but also large losses. It is this speculation that dominates criticism of the derivatives market. Before the financial crash of 2008, the Credit Default Swap (a special type of derivative) market was over 20 times larger

than the market for the underlying security, Mortgage Backed Securities. There have also been numerous occasions in which derivatives have been used to gamble on bankrupt companies. Akshay Shah, previous managing director at the Blackstone's GSO hedge fund unit, terrorised European credit markets by spearheading a series of unconventional trades using derivatives. His secret formula involved:

GSO buying a Credit Default Swap contract on a struggling company from another hedge fund. The CDS is like an insurance contract: it pays out if the

company defaults

GSO then approaches the company and offers it very attractive financing (a low interest loan for example) with an unusual condition: it must default in a way that will trigger a pay-out on the CDS contract.

The company carries out this proposal, for example by paying interest on a bond a few days late, causing little concern to bondholders but “triggering” the CDS contracts.

The hedge fund then has to pay a lump sum to GSO given the company has defaulted.

Despite the negative

aspect of this type of financial product, they are still a key lubricant in the global financial industry. Recently the UK and US market regulators have finalised a sweeping long-term agreement to jointly oversee each other's derivatives market, providing a “bridge over Brexit” that removes concern of turmoil in the event of a no deal Brexit. The deal will mitigate any risk of huge disruption to banks and institutional investors who are dependent on derivative contracts to hedge against movements in interest rates, currencies and commodities.



Derivatives lead to the bailout of insurance firm AIG// **Business Insurance**

LIBERATION

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LGBT+ History Month

LIBERATION

Christopher Carter
IQ Treasurer & Campaigns Officer

As LGBT+ History Month draws to a close, IQ (Imperial College LGBT+ Society) is looking back on a successful month of inclusive and inspiring events. From film nights and quizzes, to bar nights and art exhibits, we've spent this month bringing Imperial's LGBT+ community together to celebrate the accomplishments and reflect on the struggles of those who have come before us.

We've had a busy month, kicking off with a Bar Night at South London's oldest surviving gay venue, the Royal Vauxhall Tavern. With drag acts, stand-up comics and many other talents

on display, it was a great night for all who attended. Our members attended screenings of two films shining a spotlight on queer relationships, *The Favourite* and *Disobedience*, hosted by Imperial Cinema, and visited "The Oscar Wilde Temple" at Studio Voltaire, an ambitious and immersive exhibition celebrating one of the earliest forebears of gay liberation. The exploration of queer art and expression was continued in an Arts and Crafts event co-hosted by IQ and Leonardo Fine Arts Society.

We liaised with the Careers Service to hold the inaugural LGBT+ Careers Event, a hugely successful event that connected students with LGBT+-supporting employers, followed by some of our members attending a panel hosted by the IC Investment Society, featuring senior professionals discussing



"More Color More Pride" //IQ

their outstanding work to improve the inclusiveness of their workplaces for LGBT+ people.

LGBT+ History Month culminated with National Student Pride, an annual celebration of the young LGBT+ community at universities from across the UK, and the world. With three days of parties, debates, recruitment fairs and exhibitions, it's the largest celebration of LGBT+ youth in the UK, with over 1700 students travelling to London to take part in the festivities. This year was no exception, and it was a great weekend for all the Imperial students who got involved.

Alongside LGBT+ History Month, February has also been Black History Month in the US. To celebrate this, we've adopted the redesigned pride flags introduced by the "More Color More Pride" campaign. These new flags, first raised in Philadelphia in 2017, introduce black and brown stripes to the iconic rainbow flag. These two simple stripes aim to acknowledge and celebrate the role of people of colour in the LGBT+ community, who have too often been marginalised, ignored and intentionally excluded. We're also planning on changing our logo to not only better reflect our

identity as Imperial's LGBT+ Society, but also to ensure that our logo represents every member of the LGBT+ community at Imperial, regardless of race, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Our community has made such incredible progress over the years, but there is still more to do. IQ will continue supporting the LGBT+ community at Imperial and throughout London, welcoming truly everyone into our society. We'll keep running events, raising awareness, and fighting to make Imperial a more inclusive place. There's never been a better time to get involved with IQ and the LGBT+ Society, so we hope to see you all soon!



"A successful month of inclusive and inspiring events" //IQ

An update from our LGBT+ Officer!

LIBERATION

Jehna Devraj
LGBT+ Officer



Imperial has three main avenues of LGBT+ representation: IQ: Imperial College LGBT+ Society, Imperial 600 (Imperial's LGBT+ staff network) and the Union Liberation & Community LGBT+ Officer. Having a society, a staff network and an officer can be both a strength and a hindrance; it is always beneficial to have more people advocating for queer issues, but it can be confusing for students seeking support. As such, integration of LGBT+ voices across the college was a significant priority this year.

When I was elected LGBT+ Officer, as well as IQ President and Trans & Gender Variant Officer, it marked the first year of unified representation for Imperial's LGBT+ students. In my various roles, I have managed to further develop several initiatives. First, for the upcoming elections, I am working with the Union Elections team to include a statement whereby students can self-select to vote for Liberation & Community Officers. This will not disenfranchise any students, nor collect demographic data but, instead, allow the L&C Officers to be more representative of their respective communities. Students will be asked to only vote for L&C roles that represent them. I am also working with the IQ committee to ensure the Union LGBT+ Officer is involved with IQ in a more overt way. In previous years, there has, at times, been a complete disconnect between the two entities. In addition, Imperial 600 has worked with IQ and myself this month for LGBT+ History Month events, thus furthering LGBT+ collaboration and unity on campus. Lastly, as IQ Trans and Gender Variant Officer for the second year in a row, I have been working on getting a fund set up for trans students to assist them with buying transition related items that aren't covered by the NHS. This is currently in the works and should be announced in another *Felix* article shortly!

Finally, if you feel excited to show your pride or your support for the LGBT+ community at Imperial, drop by the Union Reception to pick up a rainbow lanyard and ICU trans and pride flag stickers. A limited number of pronoun badges will also be available while supplies last (they/she/he, others upon request). Also remember that you don't need a PhD for a gender-neutral title -- StudentHub will happily change your ID card by removing the title or changing it to Mx if you'd like. If you have any questions about LGBT life at Imperial, drop me a line at jd4914@ic.ac.uk or come to one of the upcoming IQ: Imperial College LGBT+ events!

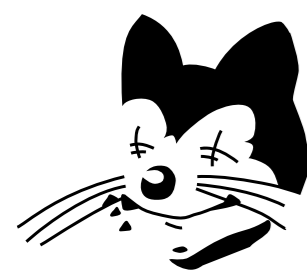


"There's never been a better time to get involved with IQ and the LGBT+ Society" //IQ

POSTGRADUATE

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That Awkward Silence



POSTGRADUATE

Anonymous
Postgraduate Student

Mental health provision, awareness and destigmatisation is as much a College issue as it is a national one; yet we still find it uncomfortable or difficult to talk about.

Recently I attended a

workshop from the Royal Society of Chemistry on Wellbeing and Resilience; though it was not exactly what I was expecting - I guess I didn't pick up as many tips on how to support my own mental health as I had hoped as the session focused mainly on our ability to support a struggling friend or colleague rather than oneself - it did help to contextualise how I have felt previously when trying to explain the route of some of my own mental health problems. In amongst the useful tips on how to alter our language to be more appropriate, the heartbreaking national statistics about mental health illness and provision and techniques

which could help start a conversation about mental health, we discussed the main problem: the way we are programmed to listen to each other.

What do I mean? Well, the very thought of silence seems to make people feel genuinely uncomfortable so we - in this case the listeners - feel obliged in a momentary silence to jump straight in with comment/suggestions/ideas/anecdotes to solve our friend or colleague's problem. In doing so, we are never giving anyone the space to feel heard before we take all the air time and, let's be honest, never really find out the full extent of the problems. To make matters worse, not only have we been

programmed by society to always fill silence, dare I say that in our College community as scientists we have a certain disposition to think of logical solutions to seemingly simple problems, as though it is our place and position to determine whether something causing our friend or colleague stress or worry is ours to judge the level of "simplicity" to it.

My point is thus, taking the time to listen thoughtfully and completely is something which takes more skill and practice than we truly give it credit for; sometimes it is difficult to see past our own personal view of a situation. For example, this week is Eating Disorder Awareness week; I struggled with Atypical Anorexia for around five years but it can be almost

impossible to explain the fear, pain and anxiety that thoughts around food would have on me to another person, which in itself discouraged me from talking. Say I did finally reach out for help and I was advised by a friend/colleague that all I needed was to "eat more", I can promise you this is neither helpful nor supportive and I had actually already figured that one out for myself. This may seem like a stupid analogy, maybe it seems obvious that it would be unhelpful to tell someone with anorexia to eat, but then why did I hear that very phrase so often? Fundamentally everyone was so desperate to help and it truly came from a place of caring, but also of misunderstanding, and we do this far too often without even re-

alising. Often someone struggling with a mental health problem knows the "simple solution", jumping into a conversation when someone is confiding in you to tell them something they may already know may actually at times be counter-productive because it can feel dismissive.

This is not to say you shouldn't talk to anyone or never give advice; rather the opposite, sometimes the support from a friend is the first step to recovery. But maybe, when there's that inevitable awkward silence or a problem seems to have a simple solution, bite your tongue for a few more seconds and encourage your friend to keep talking a little bit more - there might be more to it than the first break in the explanation.

Super-talents need super-food – a PG perspective on h-bar cuts

POSTGRADUATE

Ute Thiermann
GSU President

Life is our best teacher about how the biggest crises can be turned into the most fundamental opportunities for change. If there is one good thing about the h-bar food-cut tragedy, then it is the chance to take a step back and rethink how we provide and procure food at Imperial in general. The recent decision to cut the SCR breakfast and the evening supper service in h-bar are only examples of the many ways in which students, and staff, are increasingly challenged if they want to follow a healthy life-style.

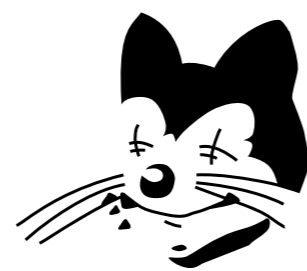
Scientists provide us with endless evidence about which diets are conducive to short-term and long-term health. We know that without a drastic reduction of animal-proteins, saturated fats, salt and sugar, we increase the risks for coronary disease and cancer, not to mention the impact on the planet's ecosystem. The low quality of food provided at Imperial makes any person sluggish, bloated and demotivated to switch on the brain-cells we rely on to solve cutting-edge scientific problems. And let's not even go into detail about the increasing part of the population sensitive to highly-processed and industrialised food. For example, 10 to 15% of the population suffer from Irritable Bowel Syndrome.

"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well" (Virginia Woolf)"

Yes, we need to fight for the h-bar to continue the evening supper service. But let's also lift our gaze and look beyond h-bar and into the future - should we really make this a battle about the access to a few more fried mozzarella sticks and chicken wings on the South Kensington campus? Or should we engage all College stakeholders, bring them

together around one table and restructure the dietary culture of our institution across all our campuses? If we are seriously determined to improve the wellbeing of our people, we need to start at one of our top priority human needs which is the convenience of access to healthy food. As a worldwide leading university full of top talents, Imperial College has the responsibility to provide its people with a nourishing food allowing us to thrive as a community. Moreover, we need to return to understanding food as an opportunity to socialise, to build a community and enjoy just being human.

Supervision



POSTGRADUATE

Anonymous
Postgraduate Student

The PhD student - supervisor relationship is a strange one; it is rare that in a workplace you would have a single boss for three to four years or have the flexibility to come into work at 11am and have the freedom to take three hours for lunch if you so wish. Then again, a PhD isn't a normal job; it is understandable that

your PhD supervisor doesn't have to behave like a normal boss. When I started my PhD, I expected that I would have to manage my own time and experiments. That said, the frequency with which I feel like it is me and Google rather than me and my supervisor working towards a solution is still unexpected (despite the fact my undergraduate degree thankfully prepared me for this).

We're often warned of the dangers of a boss that is too hands on, but have you ever considered a boss that is so absent that he's often considered a visitor in his own lab. I often feel like I see more days without the mention of Brexit than days with the mention of a lab meeting. And don't even get me started on the things that I seem to be expected to do outside

POSTGRADUATE

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PhD Survival Tip: Mindfulness Through Art

POSTGRADUATE

Iman Ibrahim
Final year PhD Researcher
at the Centre for Environmental Policy

Undertaking PhD research can be a daunting experience. Not only does it challenge you intellectually, but it can put a strain on your mental wellbeing. A study published last year revealed that one in two PhD researchers experience psychological distress, while one in three is at risk of a common psychiatric disorder. Impostor syndrome, deadlines, stress,

isolation and myriad other negative thoughts or emotions can be overwhelming. Oftentimes this can leave us feeling helpless and stuck. No one is, nor should be alone in this.

I myself struggle with depression and anxiety. Thankfully, the services provided through Imperial College and the Health Centre have helped me survive these past few years. The problem isn't gone, but there are ways to overcome them in times of elevated stress. Mine was art, and I think it could be yours too. There is plenty of research to show the positive effects of art towards mental wellbeing but I'd like to

share my experience, so I won't get into the details.

"Do you have hands? Excellent. That's a good start. Can you hold a pencil? Great. If you have a sketchbook, open it and start by making a line, a mark, wherever. Doodle! - Chris Riddell"

During my most intense relapses, I picked up a pen, drew some random lines and I never stopped. It took me a while to figure out what my style was until I came across the Zentangle movement. It is essentially doodling,

is kind and interested in my work. When present, he is friendly, approachable and willing to share knowledge. A person who takes an interest in my personal life and wellbeing. It is just unfortunate that without the postdoctoral staff leading the way, mistakes could end up being detrimental.

There are many people who have it worse than I do, and I appreciate that. It could be worse, and this independence is teaching me so many skills I probably would not learn otherwise. What I dislike is that a PhD experience is often completely dictated by the "luck of the draw" that comes with supervisors. We need a system at Imperial that somehow smooths over this variability and addresses the often-unpredictable behaviour that PhD students have come to expect.

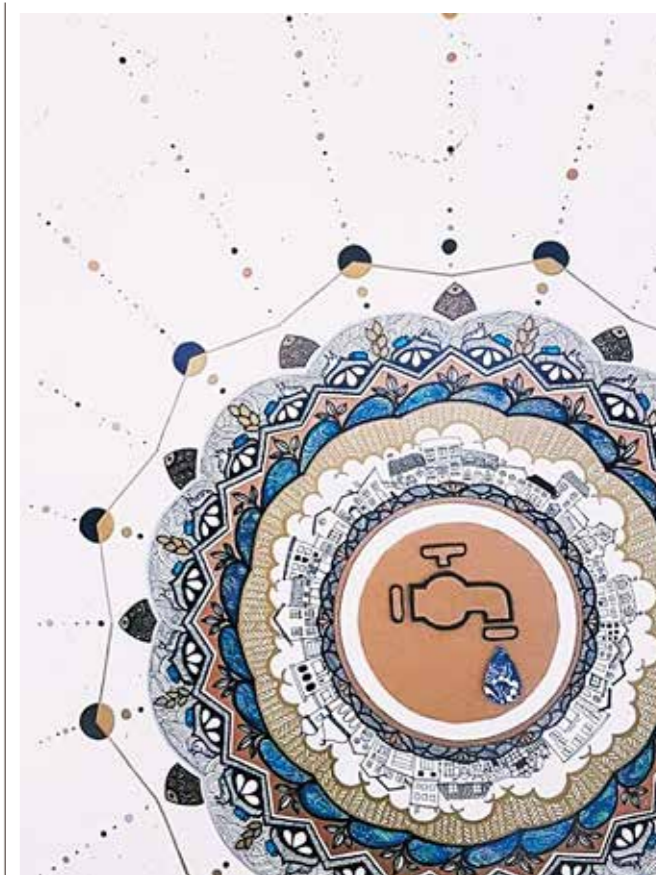
"A boss that is so absent that he's often considered a visitor in his own lab"

On the flip side, we're talking about a nice person here. A man who, though thought to be an illusion,

but with the assembly of structured patterns using shapes, lines, curves and dots. There is no planning and you do not need to be artistically skilled. All you need is a pen and paper. I combined this method with creating mandalas - a spiritual symbol in Hinduism and Buddhism that represents the Universe. Filling up the mandalas with repeated and connected patterns helped me focus on the process and realign my thoughts. Once the mandala is completed, the sense of achievement brings back positivity and motivated me to carry on.

There are no limits to what you can do with art. I took my mandalas to the next level when I entered the 'Research as Art' competition hosted by the Graduate School last summer. I combined my art with my research and produced *The Ripple Effect*. I spent 48 hours drawing a giant mandala by hand on an upcycled table top.

My PhD research explores interventions within human behaviours that can create a 'ripple effect' to improve the quality of the water



The Ripple Effect // Iman Ibrahim

environment. This is represented within the layers of the mandala showing the multiple components in the agricultural system and their connections to the water environment. This also provided a narrative of the magnitude of the endeavours involved to bring safe and clean drinking water to our taps. This mandala won me first place at the competition.

Of course, you don't have to go big. Start small, carry a small notebook around and a reliable pen. Take some time to

shut down and draw. Just let it flow. Experiment with different media and don't worry about making mistakes. In the words of Bob Ross, "we don't make mistakes, just happy little accidents."

If you'd like to get some pointers and give doodling a try with me and my friends, come by the Mindful Mandala corner that will be at the Imperial Lates: Wonder Women, Thursday, 7th March 2019, 18:00 - 21:00. Tickets can be acquired through Eventbrite.



Example of Zentangle // Iman Ibrahim

Try this: 30 Day Doodle Challenge

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Mind | 16 Transport |
| 2. Tasty | 17 Good |
| 3. Adventure | 18 Curvy |
| 4. Sun | 19 Night |
| 5. Water | 20 Earth |
| 6. Bear | 21 Measure |
| 7. Faces | 22 Green |
| 8. Bloom | 23 Road |
| 9. Surprise | 24 Wild |
| 10. Happy | 25 Time |
| 11. Travel | 26 Fruit |
| 12. Home | 27 Holiday |
| 13. Warmth | 28 Pets |
| 14. Shapes | 29 Hello |
| 15. Lines | 30 Space |

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

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Imperial College takes over LSE

War strategies, politics and assassination plots

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Alessandro Bullitta
ICMUN Secretary of
Operations

A delegation of the ICMUN society took part in the LSEMUN, held on the main campus at LSE in early February. This is different than most of the MUN conferences as it's completely focused on Crisis committees, an unusual and slightly underrated 'mode' in MUNS. In Crisis, delegates don't represent countries or international organisations, but individual people in various historical or fictional contexts; everything is based on your ability to devise a good strategy to achieve your goals and react to random events that can easily stop your rise to power. People in the same cabinet cooperate and usually have a common purpose. However, betrayals are frequent and everyone should always watch their back to survive (yes, characters can be fictionally killed): your number of choices is limitless, as long as you communicate your clear strategy to the committee.

For example, as one of the conspirators in the 1605 Gunpowder plot, our delegate ingratiated himself with the king, then faked his own death, hoping to lure King James to the funeral of a casket full of gunpowder. However, a traitor betrayed us to the Crown's spies and the king sent a body double. Yet all was not lost. King James, now emboldened, attended the state

opening of Parliament the following day and, with more gunpowder stashed below the House of Lords, was blown up. Funnily enough, due to a miscommunication between spies, an innocent greengrocer was accidentally blown up also.

In the EU Parliamentary Elections Committee, our delegate represented Tsipras, who was nominated as the spitzenkandidat for the GUE/NGL group and campaigned along Frederica Mogherini, the nominee of the Social Democrats (S&D) for the same position. The far-right ENF gained the largest number of seats, but it was left out of power because the S&D abandoned the GUE party to combine forces with the EPP, resulting in a host of centrists assuming the top posts in the Commission. While someone manufactured a scandal about Nigel Farage and Silvio Berlusconi hanging out in a brothel, which led to the now famous hashtag #NaughtyNigel, Pablo Iglesias and Tsipras decided to support the ENF's candidates as a protest vote against the Social Democrats who decided to betray them.

Another real-life *House of Cards* episode took place in the Financial Crisis Committee, where our delegate managed to imprison some of the world's most important CEOs as part of investigations following the 2008 crisis. Fast-forward and the role of District Attorney was changed to FBI Director, leading to meddling with internal elections, thanks to some foreign countries, in order to make Obama lose the 2012 elections to the former CEO of JP



Middle Earth, 2019, coloured //ICMUN

Morgan.

In contrast to the previous two crises, the Algerian War Committee was particularly bloody (one delegate was killed twice on the same day, as two different characters). Our delegate managed to stay alive as the Algerian minister Lakhdar Ben Tobbal, while organising the resistance against the French army. Although there were many successful killings, including that of President De Gaulle, a truce brought forward by the French had to be accepted. Nevertheless, the conclusion was quite shocking, as the enemy managed to build a nuclear bomb which was launched on Algiers. A drastic decision which, had the conference continued, could have favoured the Algerian cause: our delegate was ready with part of the army to counterattack, so who knows how it could have ended?

“One delegate was killed twice one the same day, as two different characters”

Finally, things were a little different in the *Lord of the Rings* Committee - it was essentially a mix of *Dungeons and Dragons* with Model United Nations. On the one hand, one of our delegates declared his character a god, which resulted in his untimely death, while our other elf character managed to restore the kingdom of Mirkwood after rising up the ranks from a viceroy to a high elven king. Finally, the side of good prevailed against Sauron's army thanks to the dwarf betrayal of Sauron (yes, you read that right) at the end of what was a fulfilling and certainly special weekend.

Most of us were new to this new kind of conference, but we indeed managed to perform very well: with one best delegate award, a commendation and, most importantly, only one loss suffered (I know, it sounds weird saying this). Our experience was yet another example of how ICMUN delegations can leave a mark in these conferences.

To find out more about ICMUN, visit us every Thursday from 6 to 8pm in Huxley 308, check our Facebook page or email modelun@ic.ac.uk

IMPERIAL COLLEGE
CHOIR

Imperial College Choir Spring Concert - Mozart *Requiem* and Haydn *Te Deum*

Imperial College Choir is one of Imperial's largest choirs with over 100 members, including both staff and students. If you want to hear what over a hundred angelic voices sound like (singing in a beautiful setting too) come along to our Spring Concert on Saturday 9th March at 7:30pm in the gorgeous Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square. Advance tickets are just £5 for students, or £8 on the door. Tickets are £15 in advance and £18 on the door for non-students so this is a steal! They can be bought on the Imperial College Choir Union website at imperialcollegeunion.org or a physical ticket can be bought from a member of the choir. We will be singing Mozart's *Requiem*, a beautiful piece that is sure to give you goose-bumps, and Haydn's *Te Deum Laudamus*, a striking piece of music you won't easily forget! We would love a good turn-out to match our efforts, as well as the efforts of our esteemed conductor, Colin Durrant. There will also be professional soloists and musicians to complement our singing and make the experience even more heavenly. It promises to be an enjoyable evening for both choral music fans and classical novices alike, even if you just come to see your mates perform.

Additionally, if you are a fan of choral music then there's still time to join Imperial College Choir! We are non-auditioned and no singing experience is required, but if you do have some (singing in the shower counts), then even better. We will hold a summer concert next term, as well as three termly concerts next year. If you would like to join this year, just speak to one of our members online. Our committee can be found on our Union website. We rehearse on Thursday evenings, usually in the Great Hall.

If you're a little too busy this summer term then fear not, as you will be able to find us at Fresher's Fair next academic year, where we will be happy to chat about all things choir, and we will also run free taster sessions at the beginning of the next academic year.



Use your voice



#icuelections

ELECTIONS LIVE DEBATE

Prepare to ask questions
and meet the candidates!



16:00 - 19:00, Wednesday 6 March

Metric, Beit Quad, South Kensington Campus

Submit your questions here:

imperialcollegeunion.org/electionsdebate

 Facebook livestream @imperialcollegeunion

Union Page



#icuelections

Last chance to stand!

imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

Time is running out

Nominations close **today, noon Friday 1 March**. If you've been thinking about running for a position and you're reading this before the deadline, now is the time to stand.

There are plenty of positions available to you, regardless of your year, campus or experience. Why not stand for an Officer Trustee position, such as Deputy President (Education), who campaigns on academic matters, leads the Academic Representation Network, and influences the College's Learning

& Teaching strategy. Or consider a Liberation & Community Officer role, such as Disabilities Officer. In this role, you could work to improve the experience for students with disabilities whilst at Imperial.

There are over 700 positions available in your Clubs, Societies & Projects and our Constituent Union committees. Help lead the GSU, CGCU, RSMU, RCSU, ICSMSU by standing for positions on those committees. Or represent your peers as an Academic or Wellbeing Departmental Representative. Submit your nomination at imperialcollegeunion.org/elections before the deadline.

ELECTIONS LIVE DEBATE

16:00 - 19:00, Wednesday 6 March
Metric, Beit Quad, South Kensington Campus

Submit your questions!



Meet the candidates

Come along to the Elections Live Debate and meet the candidates for major positions in The Leadership Elections 2019. You will have the chance to ask questions of the Officer Trustee candidates and others, as well as find out more about how the candidates plan to tackle issues concerning the student body. Submit your questions in advance at imperialcollegeunion.org/electionsdebate.

If you are unable to make it, you can catch the livestream of the debate on our Facebook channel: @imperialcollegeunion.

See you at **Metric, Beit Quad, South Kensington Campus** on **Wednesday 6 March, 16:00-19:00**.

Voting opens **noon, Monday 11 March** and closes **14:00, Thursday 14 March**.

imperialcollegeunion.org



Your Union Events

Friday 1 March

Make great memories



COMEDY night

4 March | The Union Bar | 20:00 - 23:00

1 March, Friday

Beit Me I'm Famous
Beit Bars | 20:00 - 02:00

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

6 February, Wednesday

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

4 March, Monday

Comedy Night
The Union Bar | 20:00 - 23:00

7 February, Thursday

Pub Quiz
h-bar | 19:30 - 22:00

5 February, Tuesday

Super Quiz
FiveSixEight | 20:00 - 22:00

Open Mic Night
The Union Bar | 19:00 - 22:00

8 February, Friday

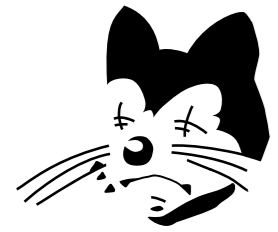
BPM
Beit Bars | 20:00 - 02:00

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

[f beitbars](https://www.facebook.com/beitbars) [f hbarpub](https://www.facebook.com/hbarpub) [f reynoldsbarcx](https://www.facebook.com/reynoldsbarcx)

imperialcollegeunion.org





Hangman



it's already torture having to come here // Imperial College

Kinky Klub endorses member's campaign for Deputy President (Welfare)

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

NegaFelix meets with one of the most controversial front-runners in the hotly contested Leadership elections.

Self-declared masochist Sintan O'Farrell has announced that he is running for Deputy President (Welfare), apparently after having a eureka moment when working as a Liberation

officer.

"Although it was great first job, I just don't feel like it is stretching me like it used to anymore."

He claims to have been drawn to the role by the opportunity "to represent the student body in their dealings with the Union

"I just don't feel like it's stretching me like it used to anymore."

when it comes to both mental and physical health" and by unsubstantiated reports that the Senior Management staff intend to use him as their whipping boy.

His duties will include managing the Counselling Service and lobbying for more money to be spent on improving the student experience.

"I know some people have a really hard time here and I just want to try and help them have as good a time here as I have," he enthused. "My motto is 'when life gets

Despite his ambition Sinn has not put all of his eggs in one basket. He has an offer to work at Goldman Sachs if this does not go through. "Obviously it is not my

"My motto is 'when life gets hard, I get harder'"

hard I get harder' and it has served me well."

Previous holders of the role, when contacted in HM Prison Dartmoor, are still said to be unable to comment, despite vacating the role years ago.

"I'm attracted to jobs that others say are impossible"

first choice. I am attracted to jobs that others say are impossible, I think it is part of my charm."

Speaking at the launch of his campaign, sloganed "Lay all of your hurt on me", Annika Rakin, Dominatrix of the Kinky Klub, expressed her satisfaction with his campaign "Sinn is the kind of guy who's not afraid to get down and dirty," she said enthusiastically, "he's a natural for the job."

Despite some minor gaffes he is said to be "optimistic" about his chances. "I mean, let's be honest. If not me then who?"

HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

Union punishes student for alleged shooting attempt in Beit Quad

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

PhD candidate Ariel Ulvo has been punished after being found with an electron gun

The Union has doubled down on its decision to suspend an alleged armed student by the ankles last week Friday, as claims by security he was armed in Beit

Quad were found to be ridiculously unfounded.

It was claimed that the suspect, Ariel Ulvo, a second year PhD candidate in the Department of Materials, has created a Facebook event stating "Clean record, or else", in which he threatened to bring a gun into the Union building to 'clean house'. Sources within the Union told NegaFelix that Mr Ulvo was in fact found with an old electron gun from an old TV. Further research, involving reading the event description, found that the Facebook event was

"I am fucking sick of being the only goddamn one cleaning the stupid evaporator"

actually an aggressive PhD lab cleaning session, which was going ahead due to Mr Ulvo's frustration at being the only one who cleans the apparatus.

"I'm fucking sick of being the only goddamn one cleaning out the stupid evaporator," he thundered. "I was @-ing all those bum ass fools who think I'm a maid or something."

When asked why he set the venue of the lab cleaning to the Union, Mr Alvo responded, "I heard the Union had some spare bleach lying about that they were looking to get rid of, so we were gonna take it off their hands."

Alessandro Goy, Deputy President (Incrimination), was adamant his

team had made the right call. "What we're not gonna do is make me look

"This is not the first blunder the Union has had regarding drugs in recent years."

bad here," he said, "I have a brand to protect here, and if I have to keep potentially innocent ruffians out of this building, I will

do it!"

This is not the first blunder the Union has had regarding drugs in recent years. Last year a meeting of the Meat Appreciation Society was raided, as security confused seasoning spices for heroin.



ARIES

This week you're a third year medic. You decide to explore the wider world, broaden your horizons.

Try starting with the Central Library.



TAURUS

This week your housemate slips Imodium into your soup as revenge for peeing in her orange juice.

No wonder you've been so uptight.



GEMINI

This week you just realised it's no longer LGBT+ History Month.

Looks like 11 more months of that musty old closet for you.



CANCER

This week your girlfriend wants you to talk dirty to her.

Good thing all you ever do is chat shit anyway.



LEO

This week you're a Library Café cashier. Shit, now h-bar's out of food, all those damn people are heading your way.

Make like the DPCS and disappear.



VIRGO

This week you try to sleep with your Aerodynamics lecturer.

How you gonna teach lift if you can't even get it up?



LIBRA

This week you're Deputy President (Welfare).

Fuck them students; let them eat cake.



SCORPIO

This week you call up your barber for an appointment.

It's time for your regular dose of toxic masculinity.



SAGITTARIUS

This week your man shoots his shot.

According to the Met he seems to only be firing blanks.



CAPRICORN

This week you have an existential crisis.

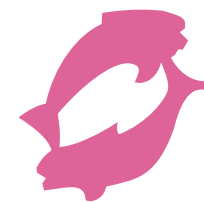
Is it really selling out to go into banking if everyone else does it?



AQUARIUS

This week someone pisses on your feet in Metric.

You thought R. Kelly had been arrested though.



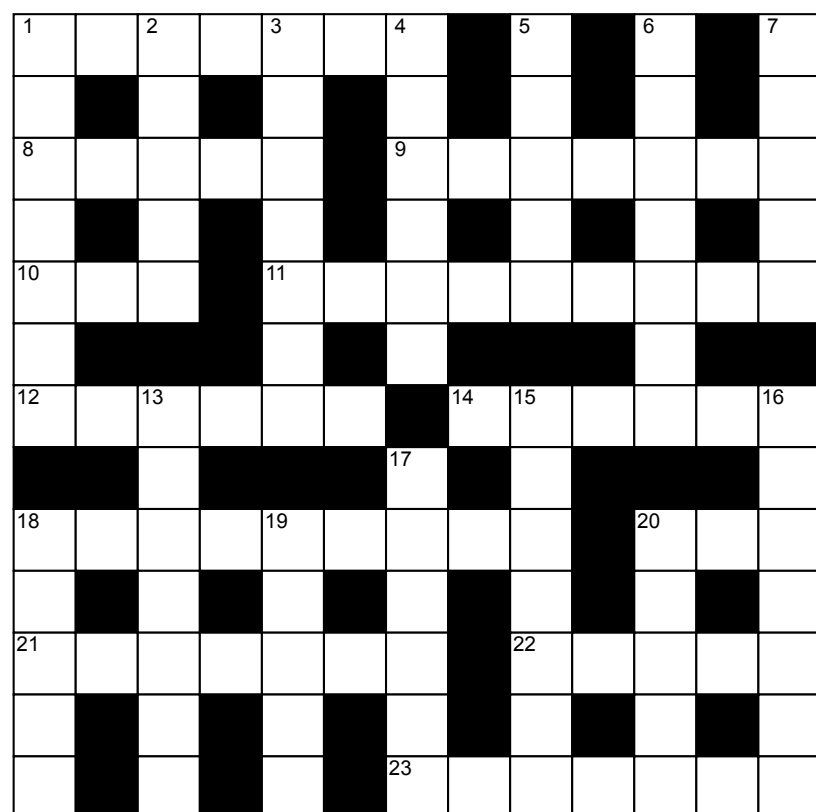
PISCES

This week you nominate yourself for Union President 5 hours after the deadline.

As per College policy you get 40% of the vote. Chin up.

PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk



CROSSWORD

Across

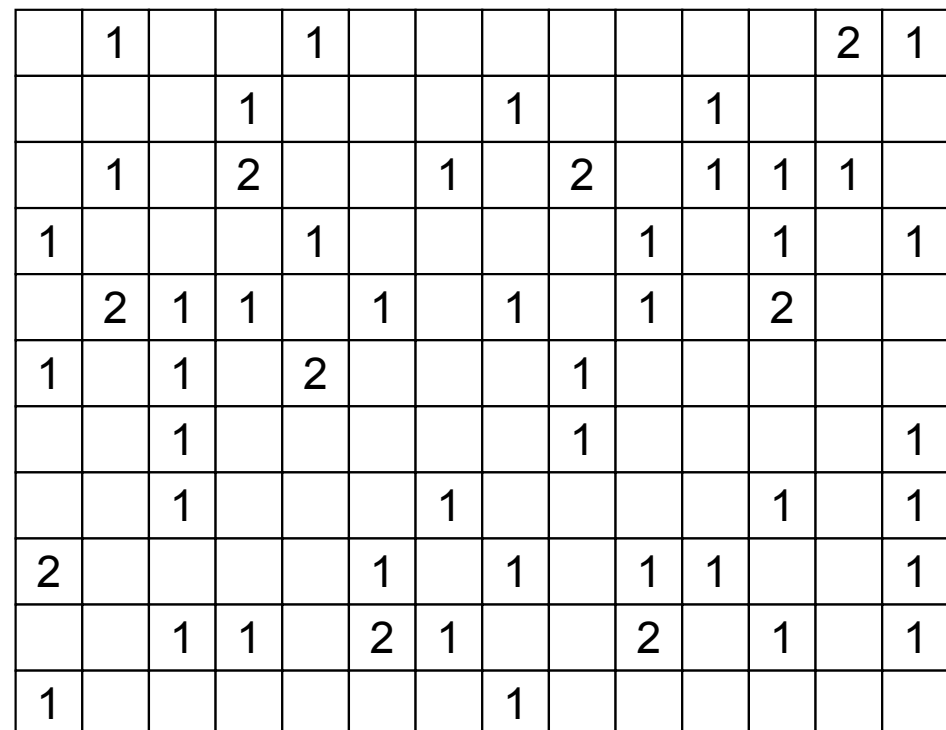
- 1. Writers of yore (7)
- 8. Designated driver (5)
- 9. Capital of Iraq (7)
- 10. Established (3)
- 11. Every three months (9)
- 12. Dual speakers (6)
- 14. Drawing utensil for children (6)
- 18. Crafters of eyewear (9)
- 20. Expert (3)
- 21. Highest ranking army official (7)
- 22. Used for drying (5)
- 23. Played against noughts (7)

Down

- 1. Mum's daughters (7)
- 2. Mechanical humanoid (5)
- 3. Extravagant 17th century style (7)
- 4. Home of footlongs and metro trains (6)
- 5. Cuboid of precious metal (5)
- 6. Old person (7)
- 7. Before tomorrow (5)
- 13. Gone forever (7)
- 15. Italian rice dish (7)
- 16. Long pasta (7)
- 17. Scottish language (6)
- 18. Piano with pipes (5)
- 19. Witch's pronouncement (5)
- 20. 16 on a chessboard (5)

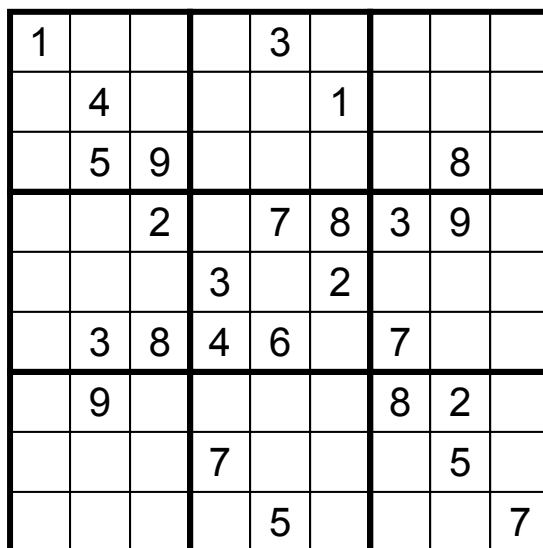
MINESWEEPER

The number in a cell represents the number of mines adjacent to that square (up/down, left/right, diagonal). Find and mark all of the mines to clear the board.



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

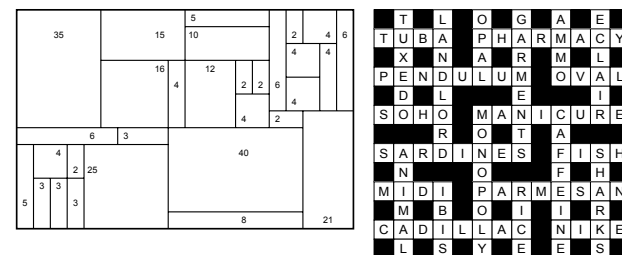
1	Maxiane	107
1	Trollheim	107
1	Wooloomooloo	107
4	DQ	105
5	Yeet Infection	101
6	Big H's Boys	98
7	O1G	88
8	Rock, Flag & Eagle	83
9	KBLB	82
10	Fleesh and the tooters	80
11	S. B. S.	74
11	Shark	74
13	Quizlamic extremists	73

Send your solutions to fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk before Wednesday midday to take part in the leaderboard!

Points available

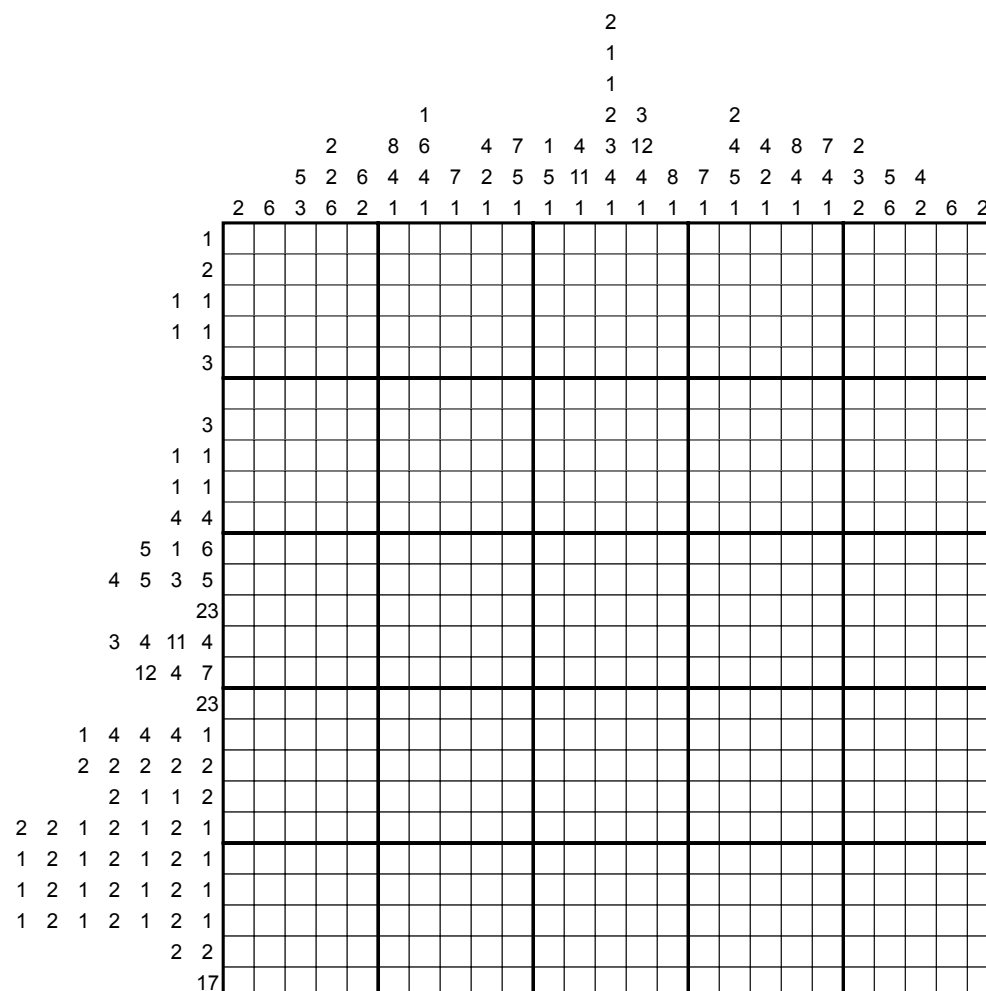
Crossword	5
Sudoku	3
Nonogram	3
Minesweeper	3
Total	14

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

Self-eliminations and shiny silver for IC Fencing

SPORTS

Ben Fry

IC Fencing Vice President

Valentine's Day: 22 fencers, 6 competitions, 4 Imperial self-eliminations, 3 days, and 1 silver medal!

On the evening of Valentine's, while most people were with loved ones, 9 fencers set off to Sheffield to show their love of fencing. They were attending BUCS Individuals where university fencers compete in an individual competition to determine the best fencers in the country.

The first day of the competition was Men's Epee and Women's Sabre, and after winning a bronze medal last year in the Epee we had high hopes this year. After a mixed set of results in the poules the first self-elimination arose - Filip had drawn Louis in the round of 128.

Filip won the bout 15-8 and proceeded to come 16th overall.

Another self-elimination was on the horizon as James (last year's bronze medallist) fenced our strongest epeeist Harry in the round of 32. The bout finished 15-8 to Harry who finished in 6th.

Meanwhile in Women's Sabre, Fran (an epeeist by training), was progressing very well in her second weapon, finishing 13th overall. The remaining fencers joined everyone in Sheffield that night with many enjoying some excellent competition preparation with a night out in Sheffield...

The second day saw the Women's Foilists and Men's Sabreurs compete. A tough round of poules lead to our 3rd self-elimination when Michael faced Filip in the round of 128. Filip, possibly still inebriated, managed to win the very close match with a final score of 13-15.

Filip won the next round as well after a quick nap, finishing 32nd overall.

Women's foil had only two entrants from Imperial - one unfortunately didn't make it past the group stage but Ailsa, unencumbered by the thought of having to fence an Imperial student, fenced a strong last 32 match before finishing 14th, being knocked out by the eventual winner.

The third day was our final chance of medals in Men's Foil and Women's Epee. During the poules, Aaron, our best foilist, only conceded 2 hits (and scored 25) ranking 2nd going into the direct elimination round. This led to the 4th Imperial self-elimination of the weekend as Peter ranked 63rd faced Aaron in the round of 64 - Aaron won the bout 15-3.

In the Women's Epee, both Rocío and Fran got to the last 16 but were knocked out in closely

fought matches with Rocío finishing highest in 10th place.

Back to Men's Foil and all other Imperial fencers were out, meaning Aaron was our last hope of a medal. A very close quarter final bout saw Aaron come back from 10-13 down to win 15-14, followed by a more straight forward semi-final win, guaranteeing himself a silver medal. The final was close fought to start, but 3 minutes in, Aaron's cramp caught up with him and a brief medical break was required. He fought on valiantly but after a long tough day, gained second place, losing the final 15-9.

Despite some unlucky draws and tough matches, the fencers should be proud of their fencing and their fantastic support and coaching of each other. Returning a silver medal was an excellent end to the weekend, and a result to beat next year!



Smiling with silver // IC Fencing

Parries, pancakes and parties in Paris

SPORTS

Carolina Colagrossi

IC Fencing Webmaster

Every year in Paris, the Challenge X-Systra - a student run fencing competition organized by the École Polytechnique - hosts students from all over Europe. Those who love the sport don't shy away from a three hour train, and so, this year went eighteen Imperial College Fencing Club members to Palaiseau, Paris.

If it was already cold in London, it had nothing on the snow-covered campus in Palaiseau. Those who love the sport also don't shy away from

climbing up a deathly hill dragging equipment and suitcases behind, because ain't nobody got time (or money) for an Uber.

On Friday, the individual events began. After a long day of pancakes (and some fencing), the results were as follows: Women's foil - Marie Obrowski 34th, Eshaya Lim 28th; Men's foil - Marcel Buen 38th, Ben Fry 31st; Women's epee - Georgie Stroud 15th, Carolina Colagrossi 13th; Men's epee - Rohan Kamath 50th, Kirill Khraponichev 41st, Zoltan Hanesz 19th; Women's sabre - Grace Collins 19th, Sherry Xu 6th; Men's Sabre) - Nicholas Walker 43rd, Raymond Wang 30th, Emre Ozer 28th, David Dai 22nd, Apostolos Pa-

nagiotopoulos 16th.

On Saturday, the team events were on. The best part about team events were the names of teams: Imperial Collage, Imperial Stormtroopers, Caught off guard, The Three Moustiquaires... The Women Sabre's team final saw Unisport Austria against Most Likely Toulouse, including fencers from Kings and our very own Sherry Xu.

The two teams fought valiantly - every time the board lit up, the audience would hold their breath, waiting for the judge's ruling. When the right hand would lift, a roaring cheer would erupt from the seats, with many rooting for Most Likely Toulouse.

The last bout saw the

points raise to 44-42 for Most Likely Toulouse. The excitement in the room was almost unbearable, but Most Likely Toulouse surprised the

opposition with a last second retreat and counterattack to win the match! That night the partying was strong with the Imperial fencers, who

celebrated bringing home a team gold medal by making the most of the open bar and fireworks...



Looking fine, after all the cheap wine // IC Fencing

BOTTLE MATCH

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Lacrosse secures the W!



Lacrosse is all smiles after their win! // RSM Lacrosse

SPORTS

Stephen Kwong
RSM Lacrosse Captain

12 v 6
RSM CSM
Lacrosse WIN

Feeling the pressure of being the first team to play on the Saturday of Bottle Match, tensions were high but the raucous support on the side lines (great banners and chants all round) quickly calmed the nerves before the

game began. The RSM supporters had witnessed unfortunate losses the day before and the RSM Lacrosse team were eager to give them a good performance and win to start the day correctly. Their answers were swiftly answered as the CSM cheers were almost instantly extinguished - 3 goals were scored by the RSM in the early minutes due to some great drawing from Arianna.

The first quarter ended with an excellent 6-1 score line to the RSM. The second and third quarter continued in a similar fashion, with the highlight being a great pass from Arianna almost half the

pitch up to Claudia who quickly scored after taking the ball on the crease. Goals from Arianna, Annie and Matthew during this period led to a commanding 12-4 lead to the RSM by the end of the 3rd quarter. At this point, however, it seemed as if CSM had suddenly discovered some newfound energy as the RSM team lost some vital players to hockey and they quickly rallied, scoring 2 goals past an increasingly angry RSM Goalkeeper. In the end though, RSM were not to be denied, and to the dismay of many CSM fans the RSM played keep-ball until the final whistle and the game ending 12-6.

After a summer of nearly's, Football has finally come home...

SPORTS

Tom Hughes
RSM Football Captain

12 v 6
RSM CSM
Football CAME HOME

Following a run of excellent league results, RSM Football went into the big one in high spirits. It had been 14 years of pain since their last varsity victory, although on the back of a draw and narrow loss in the past two years, there were whisperings that this could be the year.

The first half was played out in a manner reminiscent of many a varsity; scrappy with a lack of clear cut chances, but no lack of endeavour and some typically crunching tackles. Some rousing chanting from



Lacrosse is all smiles after their win! // RSM Football

a couple of unnamed ex-players (one has a black eye, the other an unfathomable enjoyment of a port shower), kept the CSM players on their toes, however the first big save of the game was pulled off by RSM's resident cat Jamie Stringer, tipping a header over the top of the bar after a rare breach of their otherwise rock solid defence.

The second half saw the game open up, with Mickey Yu complaining

of a cricked neck as he panned his camera from end to end. Captain for the day Matthew Campbell thought he'd grabbed the headlines when stroking the ball into an empty net after a fumble from the CSM keeper, although unfortunately he'd forgotten that kicking the ball out a goalie's hands is illegal.... This sparked a memorable celebration from RSM's yesterday man Lekan Ogunlana, executing repeated straight drives

with yard in hand before being cruelly escorted off the pitch.

The introduction of the rapid Jake Bluston stretched the CSM defence, and he proved to be the match winner in the 87th minute, chasing a delightfully chipped-through ball over the top to hold off the centre back and slot past the keeper. The post goal celebratory scenes were a blur, with many hoarse voices still struggling to tell the tale.

5 minutes of stress followed, with some back to the wall defending ensuring the clean sheet remained intact. After what seemed like ages, the full time whistle finally sounded to prompt pandemonium, with players shedding an understandable tear at the scale of the achievement.

Amongst a blubber, Sam 'Bitchell' Mitchell whimpered that he hadn't cried this much since Alex Whittaker denied him a

PhD, and Hockey youngster Dan Lindsey realised he hadn't been conceived the last time RSM had won the football.

In truth, this was a game won by an excellent defensive performance, with George Decaudeveine, Matthew Morris, James 'bullshit' Burtonshaw and Jamie Stringer all outstanding. However it was the fresher that made the difference, Jake Bluston for president?

BOTTLE MATCH

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Bethany Grant
RSM Women's Captain

2 v 7
RSM CSM
Women's Hockey LOSS

Sunny weather greeted the Women's hockey team at Harlington as we took first push back.. The RSM supporters had no competition with CSM for being the loudest.

We had a strong start from the attack, with majority possession for the first 15 minutes of the game. Unfortunately we had a lull where CSM scored their first 3 goals. But this didn't stop us, we managed to turn the ball around and, for the first time in four years, scored



Fun in the sun! // RSM Women's Hockey

our first goal!

This lifted our spirits and spurred us to try and pull it back and beat CSM. Our defence and attack both fought hard, trying to prevent them from getting their next goal. In the second half, with CSM 4-1 up, the RSM crowd were roaring and we got off to yet again a strong start, and about half way through we got another goal!

With a few more unfortunate CSM goals due to their fast turnarounds we finished the match with a 7-2 score. Even though this was a loss we definitely did the game justice and with such a strong team, CSM didn't know what had hit them. We worked so hard and most importantly we had a really fun game, it was a win for us!

NETBALL

Emily Friar
RSM Netball President

2 v 88
RSM CSM
Netball LOSS

This year's netball Bottle Match proved to be a tough one. With CSM winning the coin toss, they took the first centre and the game began.

It soon became apparent that the CSM team had found last year's scoreline a bit close for comfort, considering that they have held the netball trophy since netball became a Bottle Match sport a few years ago. With a team consisting of Exeter and



Still all smiles! // RSM Netball

Falmouth players, against our RSM-ers, our brave battle was no match.

The RSM team managed to sneak past the CSM-ers many times but a skillful GK on the part of the CSM scuppered chances at closing the score gap. This, along with an inhumanly accurate CSM GS, meant that the game was CSM dominated. With this being said, the goals that were scored by the RSM

were met with wild cheers from the RSM support.

By the end of the match, CSM remained the victors of the Bottle Match and the Netball win eluded us for one more year. Despite this, the home crowd, homemade flags, banners, and of course those trusty megaphones kept the morale high and CSM-ers aware of the fight that the RSM were going to bring for the rest of the Bottle Match weekend.

SQUASH

Charlie Braham
RSM Squash Captain

2 v 3
RSM CSM
Squash LOSS

With no feature in last year's bottle,

squash returned with noise, and lots of it. Ethos witnessed an atmosphere rivalling sporting cathedral, with quality squash played in a great competitive spirit.

RSM took an early lead thanks to 4th string George Meddings who won 3/0, but were levelled when 2nd string Jamie Stringer was outlasted 3/1 by the opposition captain. Jamie was 1 game and



Post match strutting. // RSM Squash

9-9 into the 2nd, slightly unlucky not being able to sneak through!

Our 5th string Oliver Taylor-Rose was out powered 3/0 by his opposite number but played some great squash himself at time. At 2/1 down in the tie, 3rd string Eric Newland needed to win to keep RSM hopes alive but was defeated in three tight games by an experienced opponent.

With the match gone, some pride was restored as our team captain and 1st string blitzed his opposite number 3-2 to CSM. With a packed gallery and a great atmosphere, the Friday squash fuelled enthusiasm for the rest of the weekend sport, here's to hoping it stays for next year!

BADMINTON

Annie Mao
RSM Badminton Captain

2 v 8
RSM CSM
Badminton LOSS

After the 'true' CSM badminton team (in which only 2 out of 6 players were miners (GEOGRAPHERS)) won the trophy last year, this year, CSM surprisingly bothered to send their actual team (of course, a NO-MINER team) to London. However, neither waking up at 5.30am nor a 6-hour drive demolished their excellent racket skills and superb footwork. Once again, CSM re-emphasized their dom-



Both RSM and CSM posing. // RSM Badminton

inance of the trophy. Although the trophy is still out there waiting to be brought home, RSM did much better this year. Not only did we finally have our personalised team shirts on, but we also managed to win 2 matches, with the final score 8-2 to CSM. Despite the fact that RSM players were only paired up 2 weeks before, all three pairs fought extremely hard with good spirits and

sportsmanship. The RSM team, undoubtedly, enjoyed the short 45-min game (which was equivalent to the exercise of 3 normal RSM sessions) and displayed some fairly close games for spectators to enjoy. We all have faith that next year RSM Badminton will be crowned champions in Bottle Match and bring the trophy back!

BOTTLE MATCH

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Royal School of Mines bring back the bottle

Following last year's loss, this year's edition of the Bottle Match sees the boys heading out to Harlington, for a hotly-contested match that ends with the bottle comin' home.

SPORTS

George Morgan
RSM 1st XV

Following last year's away loss to CSM, the stage was set for the RSM rugby boys to put in a huge performance. With the glorious sunshine in the hands of RSM, the team looked strong from the off.

RSM kicked off well while CSM were being dazzled by the Harlington sun. A knock-on from kick off allowed RSM to start the game strong during the CSM half. A solid, well-worked set piece move from the backs of RSM, followed by some dominant carries from the forward pack, set the tone of the first half. The RSM boys consistently broke the game line, and the backs committed CSM to some hard lines - and out the back plays.

After a solid 10 minutes in the CSM half, a try was deservedly scored by RSM. Parker leaped over

"A solid, well-worked set piece move from the backs of RSM, followed by some dominant carries from the forward pack, set the tone of the first half"

the line to take the lead to 5-0, with a successful conversion from the RSM fly-half, Kirrane, took the

score to 7-0. Short exits from the CSM half-backs allowed for RSM to continue their plays in the CSM half. The success of RSM's structured play lead to a strong carry from Hallett, resulting in another RSM try out near the touch line. The two sides then had the chance to regroup at half time with a score of 12-0.

The game then took a turn at the start of the second half. CSM kicked-off, the ball was deep into the RSM twenty-two. As RSM missed a chance to exit and after conceding two penalties on their own try line, CSM took their chance and worked their way over the line. An unsuccessful conversion took the score to 12-5.

RSM then took their foot slightly off the pedal, giving way for some potential CSM plays to be made. Although, solid commitment from both defensive lines allowed for play to be made

around the half way mark of the pitch. RSM gained momentum and CSM began to fatigue, CSM conceded a penalty within their own twenty-two.

RSM made the decision to kick for the sticks, and successfully so, took them up to a 10 point lead. This 10 point deficit deflated the away team and finally

the game was put to an end, giving RSM the win with a score of 15-5, and the bottle being returned home.

Bottle Match Final Scores

1 RSM v 7 CSM Tennis LOSS	2 RSM v 8 CSM Badminton LOSS	1 RSM v 0 CSM Football WIN
1 RSM v 4 CSM Men's Hockey LOSS	2 RSM v 88 CSM Netball LOSS	15 RSM v 5 CSM Rugby WIN
2 RSM v 7 CSM Women's Hockey LOSS	2 RSM v 3 CSM Squash LOSS	12 RSM v 6 CSM Lacrosse WIN



Basked in sunlight the joyous RSM Rugby squad and fans celebrate in the aftermath of their win!!! // RSM Rugby