



Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London

Felix New Year's Resolutions

- Invade Iran
- ~~Buy "catnip"~~ Kick "catnip" habit
- Tame the cockroaches
- Continue the left-wing agenda
- Continue the right-wing agenda
- Buy scratch-post for office
- Dispose of uncle's b.



EDITORIAL

CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| EDITORIAL | 2 |
| NEWS | 3 |
| POLITICS | 4-6 |
| COMMENT | 7-8 |
| ARTS | 9-12 |
| MUSIC | 13 |
| FILM | 14 |
| GAMES | 15 |
| TECH | 16 |
| SUSTAINABILITY | 17 |
| SCIENCE | 18-19 |
| INVESTMENT | 20 |
| FOOD | 22-23 |
| UNION | 24-25 |
| HANGMAN | 26-27 |
| CONSTITUENT UNION | 28 |
| PUZZLES | 29-31 |
| SPORTS | 32 |

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Front Cover // Taja Strle

Memes and Feelings

We're back! Hopefully, everyone had an excellent Christmas break. Now it's back to the grind, which is a relatable feeling for many at the moment. I'm pretty sure a significant chunk of our student body currently feel like they are facing their own apocalyptic meltdown – much more dire than the Australian bushfires and the oncoming eruption of WW3 – the colloquial name for which is, I believe, “exam season”.

There's a famous tale about the Russian engineers who braved the radiation in order to mitigate the Chernobyl disaster. Without them, the meltdown would have resulted in a fallout zone both larger and more irradiated. The details are often exaggerated, but nonetheless their heroism should be remembered. I'm positive, however, that it pales in comparison to the courage with which a hungover student who skipped 18 of their course's 26 lectures faces down the prospect of spending three hours locked into their personal torture chamber – an exam hall.

Rather than downing vodka for so-called Dutch courage, they grimace and chug down plastic bottles of water, trying to clear their heads of the boozy daze remaining from the Christmas break – or perhaps just wishing for the sweet embrace of death-by-burst-bladder.

But truly, their stoicism is made clearest in the aftermath. They grimace at their mates and laugh it off, or head home to cry quietly to themselves.

There's two sides to the above satirical bit of nonsense – the fact that many students do not talk about the problems they are facing, and the fact that simultaneously we all



overdramatise the trauma of exams. Let me explain that dichotomy, before I get lynched for downplaying people's troubles.

Exams and coursework are stressful. They're grueling, long, hard, and often the work that goes into them is unrecognised. One of the core pieces of advice I'd give any student is to develop a way to value and take pride in your own work, because you sure as hell aren't going to receive that validation from elsewhere. The sleep-deprived PhD student marking your lab report is not going to grace you with the approval your teachers or parents might have in school.

As a result, we all complain regularly and at length about how awful our exams or courses are. That's entirely fair. But I think that too often, this mutual grouching does not actually adequately express our own individual problems and complaints, which, being science nerds more at home with equations or code than actual hUmAn EmOtIoNs, we're all often rather terrible at dealing with.

There isn't much of a culture of sharing feelings at Imperial. You can debate where that stems from all you like,

but that's the result – and it's well-documented. Students often suffer in silence, until they're in a state and it's too late to provide meaningful support. Personally, I distinctly recall my doctor telling me she didn't need me to write down the Senior Tutor's email – she already had it memorised from seeing so many students from my course in the preceding week before exams.

Not all of those students would have been on the “wellbeing radar” before it gets to exams and they crumble – because they do not talk about their problems.

The memes and jokes we use to complain about our suffering can be great tools for sharing and alleviating some of the stress. They give us a shared language and shared catharsis. But they can also mould the doctrine of our thinking and expression. We default to saying them in the place of active and considered expressions of our own personal suffering. Every person's struggles are unique to them, and come from their own individual factors, personality, history, and so on.

A joke which is generalised so as to be broadly applicable to everyone

cannot, ever, accurately communicate how you truly feel. Using it is like a salve to soothe pain – it's a symptomatic treatment that doesn't actually address or solve the core underlying problem. Indeed, it means your own feelings are left unarticulated, even to yourself, just as alleviating pain can cause one to ignore a wound. They're an easy path to share in the mutual relief every student feels by griping to one another – which is healthily therapeutic – but can also obstruct the understanding you have of yourself and that others have of you.

It's a weird sort of Orwellian Newspeak. By communicating only in a smaller set of generalised, pre-fabricated phrases, jokes, memes, thoughts, whatever, we can end up struggling to adequately recognise individual pain, to provide individual support for individual problems.

In the worst case scenario, this can be catastrophic, leading to feelings of isolation and loneliness – something is wrong, but we lack the ability to articulate it, and lack the desire to do so when we can instead temporarily soothe that pain by bitching together on IC Exposed.

This is not to be taken out of proportion. Memes are not going to destroy society as we know it – at least, not in this way, though a trip to r/cursedcomments or /b/ does demonstrate the utter degeneracy of the human race.

There is, however, a danger to be recognised. Talk about your problems, and where they come from, that are specific to you and your feelings. Articulate them, and speak to friends, family, and support networks. Don't just laugh it off with an image macro and believe you are better after.



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NEWS

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Imperial Artist-in-Residence Presents Exhibition

*The exhibition, titled **The Earth and Me: Litter Cloaks – Wearing the Earth**, created garments made of litter sourced from Corporation of London street sweepers*

NEWS

Henry Alman

Editor-in-Chief

The Artist-in-Residence for Imperial's Grantham Institute for Climate Change and Environment, Aine Burke, presented an exhibition in the College's main entrance between the 6th and 8th of January.

The exhibition was comprised of four cloaks constructed from litter, sourced from street sweepers across London, and highlighted the value of engaging in sustainable practices – such as recycling and decreasing usage of disposable packaging.

Specifically, they were made of coffee cups, cans, plastic bottles, and crisp packets – all of which are heavily under-recycled materials. The cloaks were displayed alongside facts about the materials the litter is comprised of

– plastics such as polyethylene terephthalate, paper, and aluminium.

The cloaks were previously worn to the Lord Mayor's Show on 9th November, at which the new Lord Mayor is sworn in each year. The procession through the city features floats and marches from military detachments, schools, companies, and other institutions. Aine was invited to join the City of London Corporation's Recycling in the City float, at which she wore a previous piece – the 'Earth Gown', constructed from cling film, polystyrene, bubble wrap, and other recyclable materials – while others who had worked with her wore the four cloaks. The nature of the event inspired the choice to develop ceremonial cloaks, Aine says.

Each piece was made using the certified cradle-to-cradle method, which approaches the design process by modelling the used materials as nutrients circulating in a healthy metabolism. The

method encourages industry and product creation to protect and enrich ecosystems in their processes, fitting with the thematic of the cloaks themselves. On this methodology, Aine said "I feel this certification should be mandatory for all design. Each of the four cloaks is a story of a product of many companies – flattening the 250 tin cans with a five-kilogramme weight felt as though I was part of the destruction of the manufacturing process, to tell the story of its way from the street to the grave."

The exhibition was part of The Earth and Me (TEAM) project Aine has developed alongside the Institute, which aims to combine visual art with a scientific aspect – namely the chemistry of the periodic table and the elements – to emphasise humanity's relationship with the earth and how to better care for it.

The project looks at the 92 natural chemical elements contained in the



The cloaks were made of recyclable litter collected in London // Thomas Angus

biomes of the land, air, and water of the Earth, 64 of which are also contained in the human body, and uses art and science to educate and raise awareness of that relationship and the (im)balances between each element – for example, an imbalance of cadmium as it's overloaded into water causes the itai-itai disease.

Thus far, TEAM has created a periodic table using the colours of ores, using specimens online, known as the TEAM Periodic Table, which will then be matched to specific pigments in February to create the TEAM Pigment Palette of the Periodic Table. Aine then plans to create 92 paintings, one for each natural chemical

element, using art to communicate the science and the relationship between those 92 and the 64 comprising the human body. As she puts it: "when you pollute land, air, and water through human activity, we pollute ourselves!"

Felix will follow up with an interview with Aine in next week's issue.

Rent Negotiations and Ethical Investment: Update

NEWS

Henry Alman

Editor-in-Chief

Rent Negotiations

As a brief recap: every five years, the Union and College negotiate the rent price in halls. This year, the College proposed a model they described as "break-even", which would see a 12.2% overall

increase in the price of halls. The Union Council voted to reject this model, disputing both the steep increase and whether the model counted as "break-even" given that new costs were included and the value of the asset was not taken into account.

Since this decision, the Union has continued to meet with the College's Campus Services division under whose remit this discussion falls. The

Union President has said that Campus Services had been very open-minded in their discussions, and helpful in providing information when requested. As of yet, no further decisions have been made.

Ethical Investment

As a brief recap: the College was revealed in 2017/18 to have several million pounds invested in companies with dubious

ethical track records, such as fossil fuels, arms, and pharmaceutical companies. There has been a growing pressure for the College to assess its investment portfolio and account for ethical concerns. This culminated with the submission – and passing – of an ethical investment paper at College Council, written by the Union President, the Deputy President (Finance and Services), and the

Ethics and Environment Officer, which sought to establish a working group to investigate.

The Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Policy Working Group set up as a result of the paper has met twice already this term, working at a fast pace due to the short turnaround time on feeding back findings to College Council – which are due in mid-February.

They are in the process

of consulting with various experts in the areas of climate and investment policy. The group will also be assessing the impact of investing into other areas, such as arms, or pharmaceuticals. They are also accepting submissions from the College community, which can be submitted at sri.policy@imperial.ac.uk, before the 31st of January.

POLITICS

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Is the U.S. a Threat to World Peace?

Politics writer **Seyed Nasrollahi** thinks that the US is a threat to global stability due to its enormous military and confidence in its exceptionalism

POLITICS

Seyed Nasrollahi
Politics Writer

Making the world one filled with peace and harmony is probably the shared desire of most people. Every year, we celebrate the New Year in the hope of taking another step towards a more peaceful world. However, seeing #WWIII trending all over social media only two days after the New Year is far from this aspiration..

Last Friday, 3rd January 2020, Donald Trump ordered the assassination of General Qasem Soleimani, a top Iranian military leader who had been helping the

“Last Friday, Donald Trump ordered the assassination of General Qasem Soleimani, a top Iranian general”

Syrian and Iraqi military forces in fighting ISIS and Al-Qaida terrorists in the region. He was known to be a highly influential figure in defeating the ISIS insurgency in Iraq and Syria. Many believe that the assassination of General Soleimani by Trump’s administration

has been a clear violation of international law and counts as an act of war against Iran. This is an asinine decision which will only spur further violence in the world.

There are multiple dimensions to this event which makes one have second thoughts about whether the U.S is helping to establish peace in the world, or is itself the biggest threat to world peace and liberal democracy. The events of the last few weeks suggest that it is the latter.

In defence of the U.S. actions, U.S secretary of state Mike Pompeo stated that the assassination of General Soleimani was an act of defence. The U.S suspected that Soleimani was plotting attacks against U.S diplomats and soldiers, despite the lack of any evidence to back such claims. Does this mean anyone can go around killing people and justify it as an act of defence against unforeseen future attacks? Wouldn’t the world be chaos if everyone justified crime that way?

Additionally, the majority of U.S. congress members were kept in the dark regarding Trump’s decision to assassinate General Soleimani. This is a clear violation of democracy for a decision which could have global and long-term consequences, not just for the Americans, but the whole human population. Democratic processes are there to put a check on executive power. When they are not allowed to act, tyranny is the result. Thirdly, as part of the NATO coalition in Iraq, the British leaders were also not informed about

the attack, an act which has dragged the British government into a matter they did not consent to. Lastly, the attack was a violation of Iraq’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and international law. It’s like inviting your friend to your house and he stabs

“I believe that the United States poses the greatest threat to world peace at the present moment”

your roommate because he didn’t like him.

I believe that the United States is not the saviour of the world. Instead it

poses the greatest threat to world peace in the present and will continue to do so for many years to come. There are three main reasons for this (a) United States by far has the most powerful military in the world, (b) United States wants to have total control over the affairs of the world, and (c) the crippled democratic system in the United States allows men like Donald Trump to rule the country. History has taught us that too much power brings forth corruption and death. When tied with adventurism and a failed democratic system which puts people like Trump in charge this system has the potential to be way more dangerous to humanity than anything else.

U.S Military Power

The U.S has by far the most military expenditure compared to any other

country, more than 600 billion US dollars every year. It is more than the military expenditure of

“The US spends more on its military than China, Russia, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and India combined”

China, Russia, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and India combined. The U.S has more than 6000 nuclear warheads along with Russia, only to be followed by France, China and the

UK with less than 300 each. The United States has 11 aircraft carriers in service, more than what the rest of the world has altogether, and has 72 operating nuclear-powered submarines, more than what Russia, France, the UK and China have combined. The U.S also has about 800 military bases in 40 countries. The UK comes second on this list having military bases in 13 countries only. The U.S military also accounts for 60 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emission per year. That is more than the total carbon dioxide produced by most countries. If the Pentagon was a nation, it would be the 55th largest carbon dioxide emitter in the world.

U.S imperialism in the Middle East

Let’s skip all the adventurism by the U.S



Trump withdraws from the Iran Nuclear deal // Wikipedia

POLITICS

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military in Asia, Africa and America. There is abundant literature concerning the U.S military footprint on global politics. I will only go over the U.S footprints in the Middle East in the last two decades.

Afghanistan

Since the United State's invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, the U.S has spent 975 billion US dollars on the war in Afghanistan. During the eighteen years of their presence, the U.S military forces have dropped more than 30,000 bombs on Afghanistan's soil. This has caused the death of hundreds of Afghan civilians every year. In fact, U.S air strikes have killed more civilians in Afghanistan than terrorist forces. Despite all that, Afghanistan is still struggling with the presence of terrorists. It is hard to tell if the U.S invasion has

done the country any good at all.

Iraq

The U.S formed a coalition, including the UK, to invade Iraq in 2003 in an attempt to overthrow Saddam Hussein's regime as he was suspected of having weapons of mass destruction. Of course, no such weapons were ever found, and the claims were found to be bogus. Almost all countries in the coalition including the UK came to the consensus that the Iraq war was a terrible mistake. Not only did it incur billions of dollars in cost, it ruined a country, spread hatred and violence in the world, and caused the death of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. General Stanley McChrystal, the commander of Joint Special Forces who fought Al-Qaida in Iraq, acknowledged that U.S military's presence in

Iraq was the motivation for the Al-Qaida insurgents to migrate to Iraq in the first place.

Syria

There is plenty of evidence on how the U.S had been planning to overthrow Bashar Asad's regime. Leaked cables from U.S administration show how they had been planning to cause chaos in Syria since 2006, five years before the war erupted. You can google 'Influencing the sarg in the end of 2006' and read one of such cables in Wikileaks for yourself. The book 'The Wikileaks Files' provides plenty of evidence on how the United States government has had an agenda of pursuing imperialism in the world in the name of national security. The civil war in Syria eventually led to millions of refugees and a total civilian death toll of more than one

hundred thousand.

When power, imperialism and failed democracy meet

When power, imperialism and failed democracy meet, it will create a state very much like George Orwell's '1984' dystopia. A state that sees its right

to run programs of mass surveillance on its own people. A state that controls the media, and so controls the truth. A state that feeds people of that it considers a threat to their national security apparatus. It doesn't matter who the enemy is, but there is always an enemy. Orwell understood human nature quite well, "power is not

a means, it is an end". If we fail to realise that such a state could actually exist, and would happily screw others over to reach its ends, then I very much fear that Orwell's prophecy would not be far from truth: "If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face – for ever."



The M1 Abrams, a symbol of US imperialism // US Marines

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Illustration: Sophie Smith

POLITICS

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Iraqi Revolution Against the Norms of Society

The prime minister has resigned, but protests in Iraq continue. Women are increasingly demanding their rights. Will there be a social turning point in this patriarchal country?

POLITICS

Mariam Shewar

Politics Writer

The demonstrators in Iraq have won an important battle. On December 1st, the Iraqi Parliament accepted Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi's resignation. A key demand of the demonstrators was fulfilled. The head of the government, who wanted to brutally crush the current Iraqi uprising, was gone. However, this has not ended the wave of protests that have now reached their 68th day.

The people who have been taking to the streets in Iraq since October 1st are demanding more than just the resignation and replacement of politicians. They want something fundamental to change in their country. Not only politically, but also socially and culturally. There are a striking number of women, young and old, who are supporting this movement and making it exceptional.

Never before in the history of Iraq, have women raised their voices so openly. Women play a key role in the protests. Hundreds of thousands have joined the rallies in the capital, Baghdad, and other Iraqi cities. Photos of women who have wrapped the Iraqi flag around their heads like a veil or thrown it over their shoulders are circulating on social media platforms. The female protesters are at the forefront of the protests, but their role in the background is at least as important.

Female doctors have



Iraqi protesters // Wikimedia

joined the uprising to voluntarily treat the protesters wounded by government security forces. Despite the security crackdown, a significant number of women have sided with their fellow countryman to help make the protests succeed. Cooking and baking took place in stations set up in Tahrir Square, the makeshift epicentre of the protests in Baghdad. Hospitals and medical practices have provided healthcare to the protesters. In a tunnel under the square, artists have painted wall murals. In the evening, candles are lit to commemorate the dead.

"We need to get rid of the idea that it is not

"Female doctors have joined the uprising to voluntarily treat the protesters wounded by government security forces"

right for women to participate in everything," Shaima, who joined the rally in Baghdad with her daughter, sisters and

In previous waves of protests there were hardly any female demonstrators: now the young men in Baghdad are accepting that women are an essential part of the movement. Like men, they are risking their lives too. "All the women here know that they can die at any time," activist Haneen Ghranem told The Independent. The exact number of female demonstrators that have been killed in the protests so far is unknown, but there have always been reports of women being kidnapped on the sidelines of the protests.

"The exact number of female demonstrators that have been killed in the protests so far is unknown"

The best-known case was that of Saba al-Mahdawi, a young doctor from Baghdad who helped the wounded and distributed food on the frontlines. The doctor was gone for eleven days after armed men dragged her out of her car. She was released earlier this month. According to her family, she was held in a house and was repeatedly questioned and interrogated.

If the goal of such attacks was to intimidate and prevent other women from taking part in the protests, then they have mistaken, as Saba has become a symbol of the

courageous and conscious women of this movement. Many believe that her case along with the other kidnappings and deaths have only motivated more women to join the demonstrations as they no longer see violence as a restraint for the pursuit of a new Iraq.

Some are already speaking of a turning point for the role of women in the Iraqi society. "We are the generation of the future," stated 20-year-old student Haneen to The Independent. "As children, we lived through the fall of the Saddam regime and its aftermath. As teens, we lived through terrorism and ISIS. As a youth, we have been living through failed governments, stealing our rights. The time has come for us to speak out."

Baghdad's Tahrir square – epicentre of the anti-government protests

In the capital, Baghdad, representatives of political parties have met to discuss the formation of a new government to put an end to the ongoing violence in the country. Following the resignation of Abdul-Mahdi, the parliamentary group leaders discussed the draft of a new electoral law to make the Parliament younger and more representative and appealing to the protesting youth. So far, more than 1,000 protesters are reported to have been killed, and around 25,000 others have been injured. The protests are showing no signs of stopping.

COMMENT

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Thinking of Working for Dominic Cummings? Think Again.

The PM's Special Adviser's call for scientists, software developers, weirdos, and misfits seems well suited to Imperial students. But Cummings' venture may be doomed to fail.

COMMENT

Lloyd James

Comment Writer

It's not your typical job posting. 2,900 words long, and prefaced with quotes from various intellectuals, the blog post recently authored by Dominic Cummins calls for applications from "unusual" mathematicians, physicists, economists, computer scientists and data scientists, along with "super-talented weirdos" with "odd skills" (no doubt the pool of potential applicants at Imperial is rather large). Cummins, current Chief Special Advisor to PM Johnson, intends to deploy this elite team of misfits to address certain "profound problems at the core of how the British state makes decisions" through big data, artificial intelligence, and advanced mathematics.

I confess that my first reaction to skimming the post was a positive one. The general thrust of what Cummings is trying to do here is absolutely correct. He has previously discussed his frustrations with trying to get anything done within 'the blob' that is the civil service, full of "Oxbridge English graduates who chat about Lacan at dinner parties." At the same time, British universities are producing many talented problem solvers from STEM backgrounds who can rarely apply their skills for the betterment of society. Instead, they are caught by corporations who have them nudge around numbers to make the wealthy wealthier,



Brexit is Cummings' God child that brought him to prominence //Pixabay

or apply bleeding-edge data science techniques to optimising the number of chicken sandwiches stocked on a trans-Atlantic flight. While large companies have realised that acquiring this kind of talent is essential to remaining competitive, Her Majesty's Government seems to be lagging desperately far behind.

Given all this, Cummings' new initiative seems like a step in the right direction. But if you consider the posting in more detail, and read published responses to the posting from academics, it is clear that this approach is fatally flawed.

On the surface, Cummings seems to have insight on how scientific and mathematical ideas can be applied to understanding society.

In his blog post, he lists several technical papers that an applicant would be expected to understand and discuss. But impressive as this list may seem, it has been pointed out that many of these scientific concepts have been around for a long time, and their links to social phenomena, while well explored, are ultimately very tenuous. Indeed, as commented by science writer Philip Ball in a piece for *The Article*: to those familiar with these concepts, Cummings' text is reminiscent of a "rookie postgrad spouting a breathless stream of buzzwords and random citations, devoid of depth or context, in the hope of convincing his supervisor that he knows his stuff." Without a broad vision for how these disparate

concepts from statistical mechanics and machine learning will fit together to produce new understanding, this initiative would be starting on shaky ground.

But, let's give Cummings the benefit of the doubt and assume that he knows his stuff. Is he right to think that the application of these ideas to social problems will yield the "low hanging fruit — trillion-dollar bills lying on the street" that he describes? It's taken as an article of faith in certain circles (most notably, tech companies) than any problem is soluble if you have: a sufficiently complicated algorithm, a sufficiently voluminous hoard of data, or a sprinkling of the magical pixie dust called 'machine learning' (whatever that means).

But if you keep abreast of tech news, you'll know that algorithms can be racist, and data collection can be downright Orwellian. These things are powerful tools, but they can backfire, and they can be applied to nefarious purposes just as easily as admirable ones. What's really missing from Cummings' 2,900 words is any sense of moral direction. There's no indication at all of the sort of policies these technologies would be deployed in aid of. 'Solving the nation's problems' is by no means an objective goal, and when an organisation is free to define its own metrics of success, it should come as no surprise when those metrics happen to align with the interests of its masters. And under Boris

Johnson's Conservative Party, I struggle to believe those goals will serve to improve the lives of ordinary people.

I've not addressed certain other 'deficiencies of appeal' the job itself has: the posting advertises that "you will not have weekday date nights, you will sacrifice many weekends — frankly it will be hard having a boy/girlfriend at all" and "I'll bin you within weeks if you don't fit." Plus, you would be working for a man who, in the same blog post, claims that Westminster does not need more "drivel" about

"What's really missing from Cummings' 2900 words is a sense of moral direction, with no indication of what policies will be supported"

gender identity diversity. But ultimately, anyone still considering applying for this job has to ask themselves whether they really believe that joining Cummings' basket of oddballs will see their labour contribute to the betterment of society. And if not, do they care?

COMMENT

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Sacha Baron Cohen's Speech is as Dangerous as it is Hypocritical

Henry Hart thinks that Sacha Baron Cohen's attack on freedom of speech will lead to authoritarian control of the narrative

COMMENT

Henry Hart

Comment Writer

So for those of you who have not seen it yet, let me briefly describe a speech recently given by the lead actor for *Borat* and *The Dictator*, Sacha Baron Cohen. He gave a speech at an Anti Defamation League dinner, imploring Facebook and Twitter to censor its content even further than presently. He cites surging hate crimes as evidence that social media is taking us away from the good old days without social media, where there was very little hate crime, with the exception of the odd Holocaust, lynching and World War.

So without going overboard on the mockery, because I'm certain to lose that battle with a man who is admittedly a fine comedian, let's get into the authoritarian bits of the speech which I take issue with. Sacha says that his proposals are 'not limiting free speech' because Facebook and Twitter are private companies and the first amendment only prevents governments from infringing on free speech. This is valid, were it not for a point later in his speech where Sacha pleads to 'let our elected representatives ... have at least some say'. Does that sound like the government to you? There are very good reasons why the government should not infringe on free speech, and it is regrettable that the British government



Sacha Baron Cohen // Joella Marano

does not hold this right in so high a regard as the Americans. Allowing governments to take

“Allowing governments to take control of the narrative is not a recipe of liberation”

control of the narrative, as they have done so

effectively in the past, is not a recipe for liberation, rather a path to unlicensed authoritarianism. Let's not forget that governments, i.e. the embodiment of majority rule, frequently exalt the wrong 'facts' as indisputable. WMDs in Iraq, Slavery in Empires, Economic Denial in 1929, Fascism in the early 20th Century: all government sanctioned actions based on the accepted truth at the time. People should be allowed to argue with the state backed truth; who knows, it might turn out that Jeffrey Epstein didn't strangle himself with thin air?

He reckons it would be pretty simple for Twitter to implement an algorithm to filter out the 'racists' and 'homophobes' with the only downside being that 'it would eject some prominent politicians'. He goes on to say 'maybe that wouldn't be such a bad thing'. Aside from the dystopian reality of elected officials passing legislation to force social media to ban other elected officials, Baron Cohen misses one unfortunate point. Does he think that these algorithms will be able to determine that his joke song 'throw the Jews down the well' is in fact

a joke? If so, how confident? If he made a million similar jokes a day, which is certainly far fewer than appear on Facebook and Twitter currently, would he be confident that he wouldn't get banned at least a thousand times over? This hypocrisy is stunning, and illustrates the problem with begging for authoritarian control. To reproduce the entirety of 'First they came' is tempting in this situation, but I shall refrain and simply ask you to look it up if you have not already come across it.

Baron Cohen is right, of course, that the two

sides of 'whether the Holocaust happened or not' are not equally valid. That is a truth that he, I and most other people share. But to close off public discourse for those who are provably wrong simply pushes them back to their living room racism where no-one can see it until it is too late. I want my racists out in the open, where they can be heckled and proven wrong. I ask Sacha, and anyone else who might think to lobby for more censorship, to reconsider, and think whether they really want to live in a world where every meme on Facebook

“I want my racists out in the open, where they can be heckled and proven wrong”

has been fact-checked by Aunt Algorithm like some boring, sanitised BBC article on sleeping pills and where blatant jokes are met with censorship. And if you do want to live in a world like that, just don't look at Facebook and Reddit. Go read the Thomson Reuters ticker to get factual, quantitative, boring bloody data on the news of the day.

ARTS

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An Act of God

Brutal answers to important questions from God Herself

ARTS



Where? The Vaults Theatre
When? Until 12th Jan
How Much? £20 (£35 for Heavenly seats)

Ozibil Ege Dumenci
Arts Editor

I was first introduced to An Act of God years ago, when Jim Parsons, best known for playing Sheldon Cooper on The Big Bang Theory, was a guest on some kind of a late night show, promoting the original Broadway play-slash-stand-up-show with him playing God Almighty. I was curious to

see how it would come together, given the sensitive nature of the show could have either easily turned into controversy, or ended up as a complete bore if played safe in fear of said controversy. However, given how often I get to see Broadway shows in New York (almost never), I thought my odds of seeing it were unlikely.

Years later, just when I had pretty much forgotten its existence, I found that the show was announced to be gearing towards its London debut, starring comedian Zoe Lyons as God, with the script updated for London audiences by the original playwright, David Javerbaum. Here was my chance to go!

As I approached the

venue, I was convinced that Google Maps had lost its mind, making me twist and turn into dodgy back streets only to end up at some kind of a dungeon near Waterloo Station. Turns out, I was at the exact right place - the aptly named 'The Vaults'.

Upon entering the auditorium, if you could call it that, you were greeted by a double bed facing a bunch of chairs in what can only be described as a dark basement. Not knowing what to expect exactly, I was further intrigued by the setting I was thrown in.

Over 90 minutes, God tried Her best to answer many questions that have plagued human existence for millenia such as 'why do bad things happen to



God is amongst us, and She is sassy as hell // Geraint Lewis

good people?', at times with extreme brutality. One of my main takeaways from the show was the way humans tend to find ways to justify everything, however horrible or absurd, through God. There was one particular line that was very impactful, and one which I've been pondering upon since.

'You are my greatest creation, and I am your worst.'

The updated script is overall hilarious, touching upon expected issues such as the then-upcoming general election, Brexit, and making ample references to pop culture, such as Kanye's recent, weirdly self-centred gospel album.

The underground vibe

of the theatre helped to set the mood, making me feel like I was at some sort of secret gathering. Complete with the occasional magic trick and outbursts of God's wrath, An Act of God was a smart, entertaining script brought to life skillfully by Zoe Lyons, and her two Angels, Matt Tedford and Tom Bowen.

After the collapse of man comes... jellyfish?

Brief but powerful, this exhibition about climate change has the viewer glued all the way through

ARTS



Where? Royal Academy of Arts
When? Until 23rd Feb
How Much? £12 (£8 students)

Amanda Hertzberg
Arts Writer

How art interacts with and depicts the changing climate is pivotal to how we think about climate change. This is the underlying idea of Eco-visionaries running right now at the Royal Academy of Arts. Very much a multimedia exhibition,

it features works from DeepMind, AntFarm and Olafur Eliasson (you might have seen his art in your instagram feed following his Tate Modern exhibition earlier this year), just to name a few.

"Thrust into a dystopian narrative, you leave the room fully believing that jellyfish are going to take over the world"

At Eco-visionaries you can see everything from video compilations of giraffes dying and ships wrecking; architectural archetypes that aim to attract air pollution or foster dolphins; to a life-sized CGI-rendition of the last male white rhinoceros that ever lived. All of these works are amazing individually, but there's one that stands out of the crowd as the absolute showstopper. The very last work before you exit the exhibition is a 16-minute long video. You can only enter the room every 16th minute, when the doors open. Inside, the viewers get their own headset and sit down facing a mirror. Thrust into a dystopian narrative, you leave the

"You'd think that in today's world, with climate marches left and right, there'd be more variety of art to exhibit"

room fully believing that jellyfish are going to take over the world. The film is made by Rimini Protokoll, a group of three German artists situated in Berlin. Normally working with theatre, this

interactive experience is surprisingly smoothly executed and is, like many theatres, dependent on audience participation. The narrative voice inside your headphones will suddenly ask you to do slightly ridiculous and uncomfortable things, but please bear with it as it makes it more fun for everyone else.

The narrative of the exhibition is clearly portrayed in the art space itself. There's a little introduction-pathway that leads you into the exhibition and summarises the interface between climate change and art and signs hung up around the exhibition invites the visitor to think about the art in a certain way.

As a whole, it works, but unfortunately, it also isn't enough. There are two recurring themes; video installations and architectural prototypes. You'd think that in today's world with climate marches left and right, there'd be more variety of art to exhibit in a place like this. The stuff that is good is EXCELLENT, but there isn't that much to see. Walking out past a bunch of kindergarteners' climate action posters, you're left with a craving for more. Maybe if the curators had more time, they could have found more artists. Perhaps this sense of urgency is the best climate change analogy this exhibition has to offer.

ARTS

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Midsummer in Midwinter

Shakespeare's classic tale has been updated, but in a way that I did not find particularly satisfying

ARTS



Where? Criterion Theatre
When? 6th Dec – 17th Jan
How Much? From £15

Charles Titmuss
Comment Editor

For those unfamiliar with the plot, A Midsummer Night's Dream is a classic Shakespearean comedy. In this adaptation by the National Youth Theatre (NYT), several changes to the plot and setting have been made. The most obvious setting change was that instead of the traditional Athens of Ancient Greece, the NYT version was set in the slightly more run-down Athens-on-Sea, a stereotypical seaside town, gone to the dogs over years of neglect. The scene was set with a hilarious modern introduction of a son harassing his mother for ice cream on the beach. However, this brief

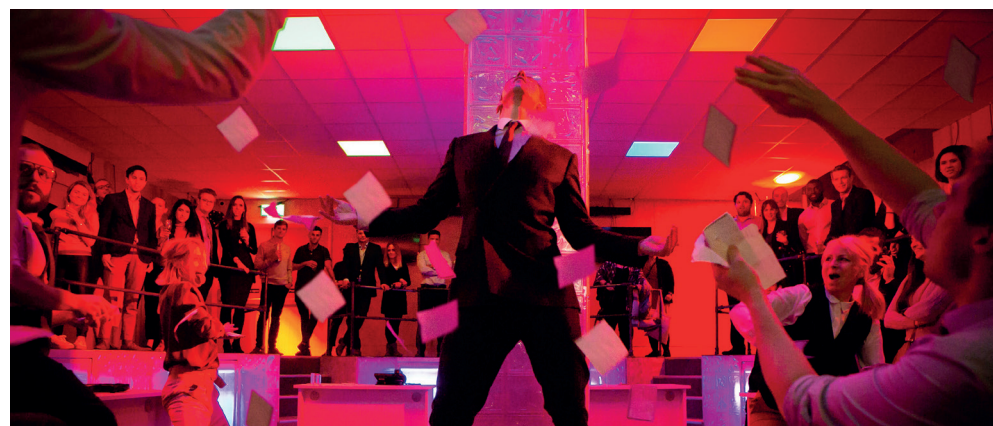
dalliance with modernity seemed no more than an afterthought as the rest of the story was carried out entirely in Shakespearean English.

Straight from the off, an atypical choice was to cast Helena, usually a female role, as a man. Jamie Foulkes was a convincing Helena who had clear chemistry with the other three lovers of the tangled love quadrangle - Lysander, Demetrius and Hermia. Oberon and Puck lurked in the background of the play. Bede Hodgkinson convinced as the authoritative fairy king, ordering his minion this way and that. I am afraid that Puck in this adaptation left a little to be desired. As opposed to the usual mischievous knave that delights in the trickery of the night, this Puck (Ella Dacres) seemed to resent the orders from on high to sow discord against the Fairy Queen and the Athenians. Her serious manner was incongruent with the light-hearted nature of the rest of the production. Speaking of jarring, the

cast regularly broke into well-choreographed dance, accompanied by rhythmic thumping music. Although I have no objection to the inclusion of dance in a play, the music was often so loud that it and obscured dialogue, not to mention the tendency of the dance segments to suddenly appear without warning.

A key part of any successful Midsummer Night's Dream hinges on the casting of Bottom. The deluded egomaniac that makes Bottom so much fun to watch, as well as, I imagine, play, was wonderfully embodied by Jemima Mayala. The rest of the of the Athenian Actors Guild were classically comic. I have never before seen such a well-built and smooth-moving Wall as that provided by Jordan Ford Silver.

Overall, I feel that this was a fresh, modern and well-executed adaptation. If only they had provided a more playful Puck and danced a little less, I would have enjoyed it a lot more.



A celebration of excess and not much else // Matthew Walker

Wolf of Wall Street - an attempt at high-octane fun burns out quickly

ARTS



Where? East London
When? 28th Nov – 19th Jan
How Much? £59.95

Claire Chan
Arts Editor

The Wolf of Wall Street is the latest immersive offering from director Alexander Wright, based on the 2013 film about unscrupulous stockbroker Jordan Belfort. The premise is that we, the audience, are all new employees at Belfort's cash-swindling firm Stratton Oakmont. Right from the off, we're told to pledge allegiance to Belfort by dropping to our knees, thumping our chests and chanting "Jordan f**cking Belfort!". Party music blares as fake £100 notes rain from the ceiling. Then the FBI comes on a raid, and we hastily skedaddle.

It's all very exciting at first, and the maze of different rooms at the specially-designed venue give a satisfying sense of being transported between locations as one moves around. Once the initial novelty wears off,

however, what promises to be a high-powered evening of entertainment quickly fizzles out.

The actors do their best, slipping into multiple roles and accents to maintain momentum. Unfortunately, they're all one-dimensional caricatures, a casualty of seeing only brief interactions as we're herded from one scene to the next. Oliver Tilney (Jordan Belfort) makes a cartoon-worthy stockbroker gone bad, and actress MJ Lee impressed if only with the sheer number of different roles she took on. The dialogue, which starts up like Punch and Judy once we crowd into each room, feels wooden and we have little agency to deviate from our predetermined path. Despite the scripted bits of audience interaction – stuffing money into duffel bags, smuggling pills in condoms – it fails to engage.

Even our presence in the show is questionable. As newly-hired employees, it makes little sense for us to be flown en masse to Geneva for Belmont's business meeting, and all pretence of realism is dropped when we inexplicably end up in Belmont's family home

witnessing his domestic argument with his wife. The darker themes of the play were completely undercut by the audience – the wild card of immersive theatre. It was hard to concentrate on Stratton taking an overdose with tipsy, giggly City workers horsing around behind him, and the dismal image of Stratton's wife sitting alone on the stairs was cheapened by people tittering at her as they walked by.

When you think about it, what is the point of turning the drug- and fraud-fuelled world of Stratton Oakmont into an immersive experience? Despite the show depicting domestic violence and an account of Belfort sexually assaulting an air stewardess, there is little point in pretending that this is a moral tale of warning. Rather, for £60 a pop, the show enables attendees to revel in the chance to say "f**ck the poor" and "it's too f**cking easy to get away with sexual assault if you're rich". Oh, but ironically of course, because it's in-character! At its core, the glorification of Belfort's ill-gotten, lavish lifestyle leaves a bad taste in the mouth.



Jemima Mayala as a riotous Bottom // Helen Murray

ARTS

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A Christmas Carol

ARTS



Where? The Old Vic
When? 23rd Nov – 18th Jan
How Much? From £8.50

**Laura Casas &
 Aya Hayakawa**
Arts Writers

This ‘musical play’ is an original adaptation of a well-known and loved novella, thanks to the fresh use of music and direction. The use of carol-singing and handbell performances to break up the well-known narrative play a role in creating a Christmassy and joyful environment on stage, but it is not used as a major component of story-telling as in a musical.

The ambience throughout the play was the most remarkable component of

the production. Before the performance had started actors located around the auditorium interacted with the public, handing out mince pies and oranges. During the play fake snow would also fall over the

“it seemed as if we were part of the town, with a role in the play”

audience and, in a certain scene, even a boy from the audience joined the stage. This execution made it seem as if we were part of the town with a secondary role in the play. Accompanying this atmosphere of inclusiveness was a heart-warming feeling created by the lanterns hanging from the ceiling and the

music.

As the production was intended for adults and children, it was fun and creative. They rolled vegetables and fruit down from the Dress Circle seats onto the stage using sheets and railed a roast chicken across the stage, creating festive feelings. This was all made possible by the imaginative utilisation of the cross-shaped stage.

However, changes in mood as the plot develops were often jarring, especially in the transition from the Ghost of Christmas Yet-to-Come’s visit to the joyous Christmas Day celebrations. The turn in Scrooge’s attitude was also overacted. The performance by Paterson Joseph made him come across mad, which did not emphasise the happiness in the last scenes but rather made it strange and reckless. A less abrupt change would have felt

more natural. In general, most of the performances seemed slightly too intense.

Nevertheless, the play was still a good reminder of the kindness, love and

“Though the feeling of gratefulness was present, it did not do the book justice”

generosity Christmas promotes. As reiterated by Scrooge in the play, “Christmas time is a good time; kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time”. Though the feeling of gratefulness was present, it did not do the book justice.



Young Ebenezer // Manuel Harlan

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Illustration: Sophie Smith

ARTS

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Cyrano de Bergerac: Love Letters to Language

*Contrary to what John Milton may have said,
Prose may be king but verse isn't dead*

ARTS



Where? Playhouse Theatre
When? 27th Nov - 29th Feb
How Much? Student tickets from £15

Syon Lee
Arts Editor

I had no idea of what kind of show to expect, Swayed to attend by media buzz and the prospect Of seeing James McAvoy - live on stage! A welcome break from his golden age Of threequels and reboots, Green screens and CGI substitutes, Blockbuster, record-buster, So-called cinematic filibuster.

How glad was I to have witnessed something so spectacular As a (very French) love story told in British vernacular: Boy, Cyrano de Bergerac (James McAvoy), a masterful wordsmith, In love with Girl, Roxane (Anita Joy Uwajeh), brains, beauty and balls,

Who's fallen for Other boy, Christian (Eben Figueiredo), handsome and attractive, Although, unfortunately, mentally... inactive. Might I add that Cyrano is disfigured With a nose so big Pinocchio would be triggered.

Remarkably, with Jamie Lloyd's direction and aesthetic, Cyrano appears with no olfactory prosthetic, A comment, perhaps, on self-perception - What holds us back is often of our own creation. Likewise, the stage had a minimalist air, Devoid of props, save some microphones and chairs, Turning the audience's sole focus on Each line of the script, a linguistic phenomenon.

Highest praise to Martin Crimp, translator-adaptor, For managing to capture The magic of verse and rhyme Sorely missed from current playwriting paradigm. Through vocabulary, rhythm, accent, and meter, Each character was

presented a fully-formed feature. MacAvoy shone as tortured poet, Brimming with talent and not afraid to show it. In fact, the whole cast was absolutely stunning, Although out of all of them I was mostly gunning For Nima Taleghani's Ligniere, Whose cheeky demeanour and cockneyed diction aired A more vulnerable trait and delicate soul Than the traditional drunken-best-friend reading of the role.

Crimp's Cyrano de Bergerac is a novel adaptation That revels in its celebration Of words and language and unpitched sound (There's even beatboxing! I guess "in for a penny, in for a pound"), Move over Hamilton, there's a new guy in town Looking to take your verbal gymnastics crown. His name is Cyrano de Bergerac And he's bringing rhyming couplets back.



Monsters invade the childhood fantasy // Manuel Harlan

The Ocean at the End of the Lane

Imagination Removes Some Pain

ARTS



Where? Dorfman Theatre
When? 3rd Dec - 25th Jan
How Much? Sold out

Disha Brandyopadhyay
Arts Editor

Two truths, one (partial) lie: A fighting shape-shifting being from the edge of the universe, called a flea, disguises herself as a wonderfully helpful lodger called Ursula and enchants Sis and Dad. You're just a lonely boy with books as your best friends. The Hempstocks, the three crazy women that are your neighbours live on magical woodlands and coins keep appearing ever since you touched a fish from the Hempstocks' pond. The world is an inexorable chasm punctuated with fantasy.

The Ocean at the End of the Lane, based on the novel of the same name by Neil Gaimon and adapted by Joel Horwood is an extraordinary tease about

a mystical, inexorable childhood. After all, what is childhood without an indistinguishable mix of imagination and memory.

The play is an afterthought, a homage to the tougher elements of growing up: reckoning with death and loss. The protagonist, imaginatively named The Boy, saddened by the news of his father's death comes back to his hometown and ponders about his childhood, particularly his 12th birthday when he first saw a dead person. And this begins a leapfrogging process from the past (1988, to be exact) to present, as peace is made with an imaginative version of the past. Adult Boy is the spitting image of his dad (Adult Boy and dad played by the talented Justin Salinger), both who were troubled by familial tensions when The Boy's mother died.

For comfort, benches appear for the despaired to ruse on. Moments of panic and chaos are augmented by doors which only lead back to the same place and the hair-raising, lunging beasts from the Edge are a staggering puppetry performance which wreak

a rhythmic havoc onstage. Whether the crepuscular lighting for a transient escape, or a ravaged dead body discovered in a car, there is a continuous jump from the normal to harrowing fantasy. Puppetry Director, Finn Caldwell and Costume and Puppet Designer, Samuel Wyer (both involved in notable works such as War Horse and Wizard of Oz previously) have created a wonderfully splendid set wiled out of imagination.

The acting is powerful and clearly well-rehearsed. Despite a few unsmooth exits, the show ran seamlessly, testament to great teamwork. The witty humour of the Hempstocks coupled with their eccentricity are a source of continual amusement in this action filled monster fest of a play.

The Ocean at the End of the Lane is one of Neil Gaimon's most autobiographical book. I left the Dorfman 2.5 hours later wondering what a traumatic childhood he must have had.



The corners of our love triangle // Marc Brenner

MUSIC

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Heavy is the Head: It's ok... I guess?

MUSIC Heavy is the Head



Artist: Stormzy **Label:** #Merky Records. **Top Tracks:** Wiley Flow; Vossi Bop, Lessons; **For Fans Of:** Skepta; Bugzy Malone. 54 minutes.

Miles Gulliford
Music Editor

Rising from the UK's criminally underappreciated grime scene with his Wicked Skengman free-style series in 2014, Stormzy was one of my, and many of my peer's, first introductions to Grime. Lyrically excellent and with a friendly charm, Stormzy was a breath of fresh air in London's dark take on rap. With drill music, and associated

killings peppering the news, and knife crime at a high, Stormzy's positive outlook, more present here than ever is much needed.

His first record, *Gang Sings and Prayer*, was the first Grime album to top the UK charts, winning critical acclaim and a Brit award for best UK album to boot, to say it is a hard act to follow is an understatement. Pressure at #Merky Records must have eased then, when 'Vossi Bop', his 2nd record's lead single became the rapper's first to reach #1 on the UK singles chart, with more streams first week than any other rapper in the UK's history. The track showcased much of what had taken Stormzy this far, namely a relaxation of Grime's syncopated sensibilities, in favour of more conventional and importantly danceable

grooves, while retaining the flexible, rhythmically engaging flow and British wit which keeps fans of the genre coming back. How could 'Vossi Bop' not have been a hit? Allegedly, in a private listening Ed Sheeran, pop sovereign, advised Stormzy as much.

Merky's lyrical skills are not wasted on idle boasts on *Heavy is the Head*. Well, mostly not, his brags instead take the Kendrick Lamar route, focusing on facts, his achievements which place him a cut above his "competitors", (and in the process of course, earning him the crown that weighs upon him so heavy) this colour isn't the most flattering, but Stormzy is more than entitled to a degree of snobbery.

Stormzy's writing is warranting of criticism here, certainly, many great records have less techni-

cal flows, compensating with intelligent rhymes and witty wordplay, little of this compensation is apparent on *H.I.T.H.* Instead, the listener is met with lacklustre, one syllable rhyme schemes "smoke/close/toke/coat/adults/boat/GOAT/Dope/Hulk/Broke", with middle of the road instrumentals and decent flows, the LP's 'hardest' tracks come to less than the sum of their parts, but are by no means poor.

On other tracks, Stormzy takes us behind the throne of grime, examining the struggles and impossible expectations that accompany modern celebrity, his mental health and the community he came from. These softer, distinctly more melodic tracks deliver well when backed by detail, like 'Superheroes' sample of children's TV show Tracy Beaker, which adorns the



That green in the background is really nice // Wikimedia

track with nostalgia very well. 'Rachel's Little Brother' and 'Do better' however, lack the visceral vulnerability that would allow them to hit their mark.

Instrumentals follow the same trend: simple, danceable, but with barely enough spice to distinguish them from US consumer-grade beats. There is no doubt that they will land the album much popularity, tracks like 'Big Michael', 'Pop Boy' and 'Lessons' are

eminently listenable but achieve this by sacrificing some of what would merit more sincere appreciation or praise.

Heavy is the Head, is far from a bad album, but there is little that could pit it against classics of the genre like *Boy in the Corner* and *Playtime is Over* or even more recent works like *Grey Area*, *Nothing Great About Britain* and *Integrity*, which readers are advised to listen to instead of this.

Stormzy vs Wiley

As I edited the above review of *Heavy is the Head*, coverage has been circulating of a feud between Stormzy and Wiley. Wiley, often labelled the 'Godfather of Grime', rose to prominence in the early 00's with his crew *Roll Deep*. Continuing to produce singles and chart strongly into the 10s as Grime became more palatable to the mainstream, he has found himself in somewhat of a social media black hole, seemingly unable to hold himself back from insulting fellow rappers on twitter, most notably calling Drake a "culture vulture".

Some back and forth, circulating around Wiley's brother, as well as Stormzy's perceived "watering down" of grime, and collaboration with Ed Sheeran (which Wiley has also done), has cumulated in a series of 'diss tracks'. 'Eediyat Skengman' 1 and 2 from Wiley's camp followed Stormzy's single 'Wiley Flow'. Stormzy clapped back quickly with 'disappointed', in which he attempts to take the higher ground. While Stormzy's instrumental and flow are slightly stronger, there is yet to emerge a clear winner.

Entertaining as the feud is, one cannot help but feel that the truest line to have come from this conflict is Stormzy's: "Heavy is the Head is out now, so go buy it". The pair have yet to justify their media attention (and the accompanying sales) with any interesting writing, instead resting largely on cheap swipes.

Felix Recommends...

MUSIC Bubble Leaves

Artist: Zeñel **Label:** Independent **For Fans Of:** Snarky Puppy, Kamasi Washington, Good music. 6 minutes

Miles Gulliford
Music Editor

Zeñel is a south London based jazz trio, incorporating

strong elements of fusion and electronic to bring a unique flavour to London's eclectic melting pot. Having played around London, the country, and the continent for the last 3 years, and forging a unique sound, they are gearing up to release a debut EP.

'Bubble Leaves' is the band's first single (SoundCloud notwithstanding), and establishes the trio well outside of the UK's

more spacious, brass driven sound, forged by legends like Theon Cross, The Ezra Collective or Yussef Kamaal. Instead the listener is met with a bubbly and precious synth groove, interjected with coy breaks as the tune builds momentum before melting before the listeners ears, giving way to a second riff.

Here, delay drenched trumpet pierces the synth driven soundscape as ten-

sions build once again into a galaxy of sound, constellated with streaks of trumpet and drum fills, crafting an atmosphere guaranteed to consume your world. A brief reprise of it's opening theme suddenly rounds the track out, leaving the listener thoroughly disoriented.

'Bubble Leaves' is well worth a listen for any jazz fans wondering what the future of jazz might sound like, with it's unique synths, colourful trumpetery and ingenious grooves, there is plenty here to enjoy.



Bubble Leaves has great art to boot // Wilkins

FILM

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Little Women (2019)

A review of Greta Gerwig's recent adaptation of the much loved American classic, *Little Women*

FILM

LITTLE WOMEN



Dir: Greta Gerwig. **Script:** Greta Gerwig. **Starring:** Saoirse Ronan, Timothée Chalamet, Emma Watson. *103 minutes, 2019*

Miles Gulliford

Music Editor

Little Women is a classic piece of American literature. This is all I knew of *Little Women's* story walking into the cinema on Boxing Day, but despite this, I couldn't help but be enticed by the strong cast (notably Timothée Chalamet) and director. By the time I left I knew I wanted to know more.

Published in 1869,

with the civil war fresh in public memory and the industrial revolution in full swing, *Little Women* warmed hearts, telling the story of four eccentric sisters, as they grew from girls into (little) women. Heavily inspired by Louisa May Alcott's

“Framed with warm pallets and snug camera work, the film literally envelopes the viewer in the lives of the *Little Women*”



Meg, Amy, Jo and, finally, Beth: our *Little Women* // Sony Pictures Releasing



Their beloved 'Marmee' // Sony Pictures Releasing

childhood, it's pages brim with tales of misadventure, love and family. One cannot help but feel that to many readers, *Little Women* offered a glimpse of country life's rosy twilight, as an increasing number of Americans emigrated to cities.

Greta Gerwig's interpretation frames these poles of urbane adulthood and provincial infancy more sharply by chopping up *Little Women's* timeline. The audience is thrown between two narratives at will, à la *Pulp Fiction*. This effectively heightens the film's emotional potency, drawing out bittersweet pangs as we cut from an adult Jo (Saoirse Ronan) wrestling with mortality and individuality, to an endearing March family 'play'.

Much of the film, focusing on country life, is framed with warm pallets and snug camera work, literally enveloping the viewer in the family

goings on of the *Little Women*. The result is a satisfying and pleasant cinematic experience, that comforts rather than challenges.

Standout cinematographic moments come in twin beach scenes: one sees the sisters and friends frolicking on a warm summer's day, the camera wanders loosely, like the sea birds it traces. The other depicts Beth (Eliza Scanlen) struggling with scarlet fever complications, her figure distant against sheer white sands and skies, creating a muted, bleak moment.

Alexandre Desplat takes responsibility for *Little Women's* music, a somewhat safe choice, given his credentials: *The Shape of Water*, *Argo*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, and even the final *Harry Potter* feature his deft compositional hand. This was in fact the first film whose score I enjoyed so much I actually sought it

out for repeat listening. While removed from its cinematic context, the composition is perhaps more quaint than awe inspiring, it succeeded in enhancing my experience.

Little Women's cast is enough to turn any Hollywood producer green with envy, while Emma Watson (Meg) and Timothée Chalamet (Laurie) provide strong

“Starring Ronan, Watson and Chalamet, *Little Women's* cast is enough to turn any Hollywood producer green with envy”

support, it is the crackling sibling rivalry delivered by Saoirse Ronan (Jo) and Florence Pugh (Amy) which really sparkles. With by far the meatiest story arcs, packed with conflict, sacrifice and beyond that, passion, Amy and Jo are incredibly sympathetic, their actors breathing life into the whole March family.

Greta Gerwig's interpretation of *Little Women* is well worth a watch if you haven't already, and for any viewers who have read this far, perhaps a second. All the ingredients of a great film are here, and while it will not revolutionise the film industry, *Little Women* will warm your heart, the perfect tonic for exam season.

GAMES

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Promising Early Access Roguelikes: A Brief Overview of Hades and Noita

GAMES

Dharshan Balasirishwaron

Games Writer

Browsing the Steam store one day, I came across two intriguing roguelikes. Just as *Dead Cells* brought something fresh and fun to the genre in its fast-paced *Metroidvania* style gameplay and iterative approach to difficulty, *Hades* and *Noita* bring some unique ideas to the table and have certainly piqued my interest.

Hades is the latest from Supergiant Games, the indie team behind *Bastion*, *Transistor* and *Pyre*. *Hades* follows suit with Supergiant Games' style of dropping a player into their meticulously crafted world and feeding them options to play the way they want. You play as Zagreus, son of Hades. Equipped with just a sword at first, you're thrown into Tartarus, the lowest floor of Hell, and are left to take on your mission - to escape the Underworld. The music starts as you descend,

and you're left to absorb the tense atmosphere surrounding the lavish House of Hades.

As you progress through chambers by slashing through shades in gloriously fluid and fast paced combat, you'll find myriad ways to buff-up and determine your playstyle for the current run. The game is rich in dialogue and charming characters. It doesn't just hand you buffs silently, your relatives, the Gods of Olympus aid you with a choice of unique boons and converse at every free moment. Even better, the dialogue doesn't get stale as the Gods will make comments specific to who you've met and what you've done so far - a trait shared by the entire cast. Sisyphus, among other characters, aids you mid-run, giving a handsome amount of health or gold, or levelling up some of your boons, among other gifts. Even the bosses have several unique lines, all voice acted, with more lines added every update. The attention to detail in the characters and their interactions, such as Hypnos

(the embodiment of sleep) that annoys everyone around with his snarky quips, is what makes *Hades* so special and memorable.

While the limited chamber layouts do get repetitive at times, the combat options help keep the game fresh. Other than boons and gifts, your weapon itself can change. This isn't just changing between the sword and the unlockable spear, shield, bow and railgun; there's further diversification of playstyle given by unlockable variants of these weapons - though there's a significant grind required to unlock some variants. During runs, you can power up your weapon with unique upgrades using one of Daedalus' hammers; one run my spear would be bouncing between enemies with each throw, and another it would land with a blast for AOE damage! Combined with boons like poison damage and critical hit chances, my tactics each run changed drastically. Additionally, there's keepsakes with their own effects that can be changed between each level of Hell



Hades is a mixture of addictive gameplay and captivating storytelling // Supergiant

and purchasable upgrades for Zagreus himself at his mirror before a run. All in all, *Hades* is a masterful mixture of addictive, engaging gameplay and captivating storytelling.

Leaving behind the beautifully drawn art and landscapes of *Hades*, we move into the pixel wizardry of *Noita*. Plopped down into a randomly generated world, you're simply taught how to move, kick and view your inventory which includes a water flash and two wands - one fires small but unlimited bolts, and the other fires up to 3 bombs. Anyone who has played the physics simulation game *Powder* knows how much fun it is to mess around in a pixel-based physics engine. *Noita* makes the most of this, starting by placing torches all around to be shot open, raining fire down onto wooden structures to burn for the player's pleasure. Then you find your first non-default wand, and eventually make your way to the bottom of the level, to find a massive glowing purple portal.

In-between levels, you're able to edit the spells loaded into your wands, buy new wands or spells, and pick a perk. I sometimes found myself too short on gold to buy much, and it took some

time mixing and matching the spells I wanted in each wand and trying them out. Despite this slight tedium, *Noita* breaks free from the tradition of accumulating powerups of predetermined nature with this mechanic. Every wand has random stats such as cast delay, spell slots and maximum mana, and the number of possible spells is in the hundreds, making thousands, if not millions, of possible combinations. Wands can produce energy spheres with trails of fire or shoot explosive crystals that deal critical damage to slime drenched enemies or fire bouncy orbs that ricochet all over. This system has great potential alone, but combining it with the physically simulated world unlocks a treasure trove of golden moments.

The developers have made the most of this with an inbuilt replay function that can record a few seconds of gameplay - useful for the many amusing and frustrating deaths you'll experience. Dying in *Noita* takes many forms, and you'll often get "Noita'd". What I mean by this is a death that you simply can't predict. An enemy could pick up a wand with a nuke spell and instantly obliterate you in an all-encompassing circle of fire. You could be trying out a new

wand and foolishly turn yourself into whiskey, dying instantly, or accidentally douse yourself in a polymorphine potion and become a useless winged sheep during a crucial fight. While fun, the chaos does lead to being very cautious and making snap decisions to the point of being almost unfair.

Noita's massive scale extends past the 8 floors downward to Hell, however, and the community has come together and discovered secrets and areas intentionally hidden. The lack of information can be off putting for new players for sure, but seeking knowledge for yourself is a key theme of *Noita*. So, if you hear rumours of a cursed egg, an altar in the sky, hidden treasure, an Eastern desert, a Western lake, mysterious orbs, parallel universes or alchemical potions... well, just be prepared to dive in and do some exploring.

Hopefully both games clean up their minor issues and improve their strengths further - I'll certainly be keeping a close eye on their development cycle in early access for now.



Millions of combinations, hidden areas; Noita encourages experimentation // Nolla

TECH

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Tech Headlines

Your Weekly Tech News In Short Snippets

TECH

Sudarshan Sreeram
Tech Writer

Sony Vision-S

The company that brought you the Walkman, PlayStation, and a number of other popular electronics gadgets has now entered the vehicle industry. As much as it's surprising, Sony indeed showcased its vision for "future concepts in the area of mobility" by unveiling its prototype car — Vision S. The car, which focuses heavily on safety, has a whopping thirty three automotive grade sensors. In addition, the car has an interesting safety feature that uses sensors to monitor the driver's facial expressions and body movement to assess their concentration level; this allows the system to alert the driver when

they're being distracted. Another feature of this system is to assess the overall emotional mood in the cabin and adjust the temperature, thus helping passengers feel comfortable. On the entertainment side, the car features a panoramic screen that stretches all the way

"Sensors to monitor the driver's facial expressions and body movements"

across the dashboard and a 360 degree immersive audio system that's integrated into the seat and other parts of the car. Furthermore, just like a Tesla, this car would adapt to the future through regular over-the-cloud software

updates. Sony's vision of safety, entertainment, and adaptability does indeed give us a more realistic glimpse of what the future of transport could hold over the next decade.

Samsung Odyssey G9

Samsung has proved its mastery of curved displays with its new Odyssey G9, a massive (and not to mention extreme) 49" 1440p curved gaming monitor that boasts a buttery-smooth 240 Hz panel. It's hard to comprehend it's size unless you're sitting in front of it. To give you an idea, it envelops your entire horizontal field of vision! To put it in a bit more perspective, it's like having a dual monitor setup without an interfering bezel in the middle. With such extreme specifications, don't expect this monitor to be cheap, and to make use of its full potential, you'll need quite a beefy gaming rig.



Sony Vision-S // Sony

OnePlus Concept One

OnePlus unveiled a new concept phone at the consumer electronics show (CES) that features a disappearing camera module. The phone, like many concept cars, showcases the company's potential and ability to experiment with newer technologies and ideas. In this case, OnePlus used electrochromatic glass to cover the camera module, so when the camera isn't being used, the glass turns opaque and vice versa. Also, this new layer acts as an ND filter when toggled through the camera app. An ND filter essentially helps reduce the amount of light entering the sensor when shooting in bright conditions. OnePlus hasn't stated whether this tech would make its way into its upcoming smartphone lineup, but it's nevertheless an interesting idea.

Alienware Concept UFO

Alienware showed off an unexpected prototype that merges handheld

portability with the game selection that a PC has to offer. Meet the Concept UFO - an aggressive, angular looking Nintendo Switch that runs on a version of Windows 10. For the demo, the device ran Rocket League, Mortal Kombat 11, and F1 2019, and players reported a smooth and lag-free gaming experience. Now, you might be wondering what powers this tiny

"It envelops your entire horizontal field of vision"

monster. Well, Alienware refused to comment on the internal specifications of the device. Furthermore, there was no say on if or when this product would hit the market. With 5G connectivity and game streaming services slowly propping up on the horizon, it's only a matter of time before we see the evolution of both on-the-go as well as PC gaming.

Dell Concept Ori & Concept Duet

Foldable laptops are now slowly taking shape. Last year, we saw Microsoft's Surface Neo, a foldable, dual screen device. This year, Dell is showing off two of its latest prototypes: Concept Ori and Concept Duet. Concept Ori follows along Lenovo's foldable PC prototype (unveiled last year) and features a continuous, foldable 13" screen that's QHD+. The other prototype, Concept Duet, follows Microsoft's approach by mounting two displays together through a hinge mechanism. This device is essentially an XPS 13" 2-in-1 where the lower keyboard deck is replaced with a secondary display. Again, just like other concepts, Dell hasn't commented on whether these prototypes would soon take shape in the consumer market. Though, with Microsoft adapting Windows for foldable and dual screen devices with Windows 10X, the place for these devices in our near future is guaranteed.



Samsung Odyssey G9 // Samsung Newsroom

SUSTAINABILITY

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Googling into Extinction

How our web usage has damaging effects on the environment and what you can do to make a positive change

SUSTAINABILITY

Dario Mongiardi

*Imperial Ecosia
Ambassador*

The terminology associated with the internet always seems to paint a picture of a benign and magical service that transports data across the planet without any physical trace. Accessing data instantaneously from every corner of the earth, we rely on the ethereal bank of information in most aspects of our day to day lives, but the 'cloud' as we know it can have a much more damaging and visible impact than we have been led to believe.

Every action that uses the internet, be it web browsing, sending/receiving emails or using apps that require WiFi invokes the use of a server to transmit data to the device

you're using. These online requests are sustained by physical servers, large electronic structures which form a global network held together by miles and miles of undersea cables, switches and other gizmos. It's not surprising to hear that this infrastructure requires an immeasurable amount of electricity, wherein lies our problem: 80% of all data centers are powered by energy derived from fossil fuel consuming power stations. A study from 2015 estimates that CO2 emissions from internet activity are comparable to that of the entire global aviation industry, and others suggest that the communications industry could constitute 20% of all global electricity output by 2025, which could severely hinder attempts to meet global climate goals, such as those outlined in the Paris Agreement.

The sites with some of the biggest request influxes are unfortunately not doing enough. Despite making data servers more energy efficient and

"A study from 2015 estimates that CO2 emissions from internet activity are comparable to that of the entire global aviation industry"

attempting to source more of their electricity from renewables, Google's claim of carbon neutrality



At Ecosia, searches are powered by renewable energy // Ecosia

since 2007 simply doesn't cut it: the US internet titan is responsible for 40% of the internet's carbon footprint stemming from the 3.5 billion searches it processes a day. Facebook also has a role to play, in that its data centres and

"Ecosia is a non-profit search engine which uses revenue from adverts to fund ecological campaigns"

business operations led to an output of 718,000 metric tons of CO2 in 2016. The usage of the internet isn't going to slow down anytime soon either; more and more daily activities are being substituted by WiFi powered data storage and transfer, so clearly some-

thing has to give.

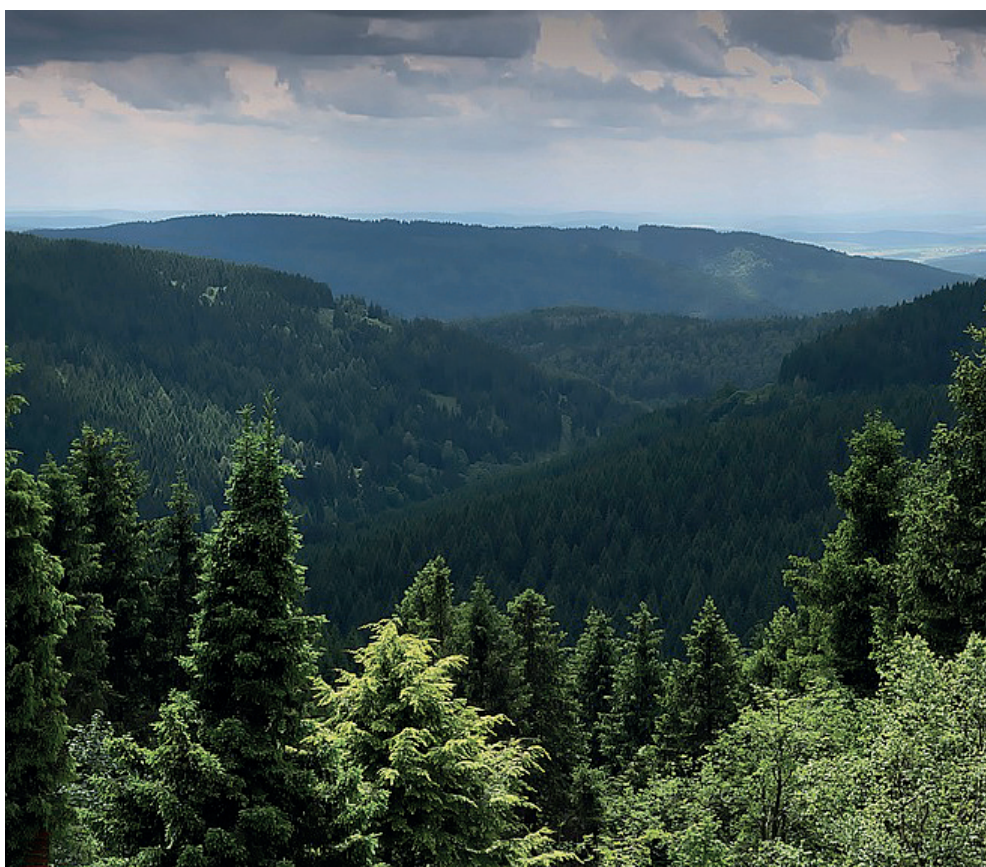
One powerful initiative with the aim of reducing this wave of 'digital pollution' is Ecosia, a non-profit search engine which uses revenue it generates from advertisements to fund ecological campaigns, most notably reforestation. Its ethos is simple: the company pledges to plant a tree for every 45 searches, it publishes its monthly financial reports which demonstrate how 80% of all revenue goes towards its environmental projects, it doesn't sell your data (tut tut Google) and importantly, all searches are powered by 100% renewable energy.

Imperial on Ecosia is a campaign aiming to implement Ecosia as the default search engine instead of Google at Imperial. With more than 65,000 searches and already 445 trees planted by Imperial supporters, Imperial has the potential to make transformative impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity and livelihoods across

the world by making this simple change. Take part in this campaign by spreading the word and making Ecosia your default search engine using the Imperial link on our Facebook page.

Felix Sustainability was founded to create a platform for discussion about environmental issues and sustainable development. We are open to articles from all points of view.

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Ecosia plants a tree for every 45 searches //Pixabay

SCIENCE

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Hungry for More

The effects of coffee, alcohol, and sleep deprivation on the gut microbiome and our health are a mixed bag, offering both benefits and drawbacks

SCIENCE

Lydia Melville

Science Writer

It may no longer surprise you to hear that our bodies are composed of more microbial cells than human ones. Our bodies are nutrient-rich surfaces which allow these organisms to thrive, inside and out, when conditions are right. The microorganisms that live within us contribute to the ecological community of our microbiome. Our gut microbiome (GM) forms as soon as we are colonised at birth and continues to alter throughout our lives.

A vast and varied population of bacteria and other microbes live along the gut lining. The interactions between microorganisms, as well as the interactions they have with our human cells, are highly complex.

“The effects of these tiny organisms are not limited to the gut”

Some microbes provide beneficial metabolic products or help with absorption of vitamins and nutrients, such as certain B vitamins or vitamin K. These ‘good’ microbes are known as commensals, living in harmony with us – literally eating from the same table (the meaning in Latin of their name). However, along with the good, come the bad and the ugly. These are known as pathogens and cause disruption and disease. Luckily, commensals often keep the more dangerous microbes under control, preventing infection.

The effects of these tiny organisms are not limited to the gut. As our gut and brain develop together from the vagus nerve during gestation, overlaps between mood and diet are increasingly shown in recent research.

For instance, total GM diversity was shown by researchers to have a positive correlation with increased sleep efficiency and total sleep time. Waking and eating at regular times is very important for maintaining a healthy GM. Time and time again, research into sleep shows how we are creatures of habit and that a good sleep routine of around 8 hours is required for adults. This should be time in bed to wind down and wake up at least, even if the total time is not spent actually sleeping.

Whether we want to admit it or not, many of us struggle to start the day without a cup of coffee.

Coffee’s popularity comes not only from the ritual of preparing it or its pleasant aroma, but from its physiological effects of short-term wakefulness that our brain begins to rely on. In a healthy wake/sleep cycle, a compound in the body, called adenosine, accumulates in waking hours to trigger tiredness at the end of the

“Coffee contains polyphenols and antioxidants which can boost our gut microbiome”

day. Caffeine, the active stimulant in coffee, allows us to overcome tiredness temporarily by blocking adenosine from targeting its receptor, acting antagonistically. As adenosine receptors are present in the gut as well as in the brain, the effects of drinking coffee are not limited to temporary alertness. Caffeine can also cause stress through vasodilation of blood vessels and can lead to an upset stomach. However, coffee contains polyphenols and antioxidants which are naturally-occurring compounds in plants that can boost our GM. In recent studies, a higher consumption of caffeine was correlated with a richer GM and reduced inflammation of the gut. So – as with anything, caffeine is best consumed in moderation.

Alcohol is another commonly consumed beverage. Within the gut, the alcohol we drink is largely absorbed in the small intestine and stomach. Alcohol contains high quantities of sugar which, once inside the body, can drive over-proliferation of hungry bacteria in the gut, causing unbalanced microbial growth (known as dysbiosis). Paneth cells in the small intestine detect bacteria levels and can secrete antibacterial compounds to prevent dysbiosis - but when alcohol is present these cells become suppressed, and we lose the protection they offer. This can be very dangerous for our health; with more bacteria present, competition for space and resources increases, so the bacteria secrete toxins in self-defence. However, the toxins cause harm to their immediate environment, which is the case within our gut. Our immune system reacts to clear the danger by increasing an inflammatory immune response to the bacteria.

Alcohol also causes the gut to become ‘leakier’, weakening the cell-cell barriers. This is dangerous as it allows more alcohol and toxins to be absorbed into the bloodstream. Many cancers and cases of liver disease can be worsened by alcohol-induced inflammation in the gut. Evidence has shown that excessive alcohol consumption is associated with liver damage, a key organ in filtering toxins and expired immune cells.

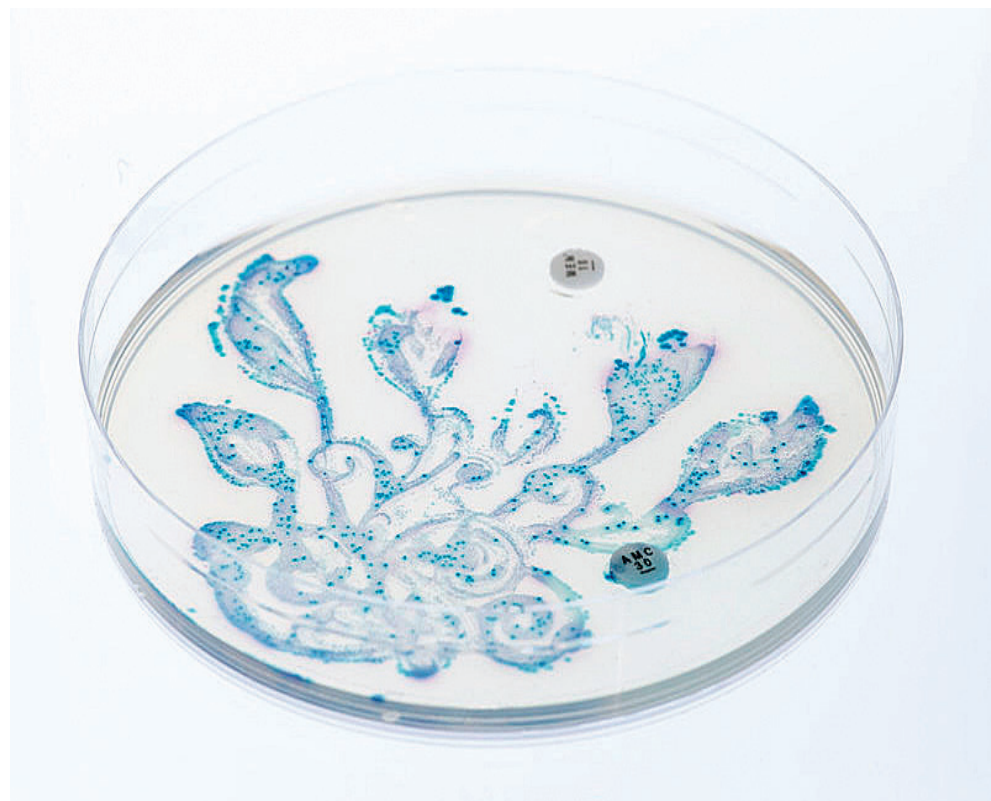
Studies which monitor diet may give clues on how to alleviate the risks of poor health associated with dysbiosis and gut inflammation. More

human trials are needed to confirm the benefits of using dietary supplements, such as probiotics, to reduce side effects from the over-consumption of alcohol and caffeine, sleep deprivation, or even taking a course of antibiotics.

Each microbe within our GM has the intention to survive and either help or hinder our bodies as a side effect. When dysbiosis occurs, often the growth of pathogenic strains is favoured, disrupting GM health. Recuperative sleep is essential for the body to work optimally. The varying outcomes of dietary components are largely down to personal habits

“Alcohol also causes the gut to become ‘leakier’, weakening the cell-cell barriers”

and the best thing is to be aware of your own limits, especially in the case of alcohol. Regulating our diet is a manageable step we can take to ensure we feed our body, and its guests, to maintain a balanced, healthy GM. As complex as the body is, tiny microorganisms can have a great effect, just as small and simple changes can make impressive differences to our health.



Wild garden of gut bacteria // Nicola Fawcett

SCIENCE

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I Think it's Lie Time for some Polygraphs

Researchers from the University of Portsmouth have discovered that self-reported "good" liars are (among other things) twice as likely to be men than women.

SCIENCE

Photini-Marie Knoye
Science Writer

Previous research has indicated that the success of a lie is held in the prowess of the liar, rather than the gullibility of their audience. A recent study led by Dr. Brianna Verigin at the University of Portsmouth has attempted to ascertain who the "good" liars are, how they lie and why they are successful.

A "good" liar might seem somewhat oxymoronic. However, for Dr. Verigin and colleagues, they are someone who can successfully deceive, so that "the intended false-belief has

been produced" in their audience. The researchers conducted a survey of 194 people (mean age = 39, with a 1:1 self-identifying male:female ratio), in which each participant self-reported their 1) basic personal information 2) lie frequency 3) deception strategies and 4) ability to deceive successfully. Using this final criterion, the sample population was categorised into "poor" (n = 51), "neutral" (n = 75) and "good" liars (n = 68). From this dataset, the researchers found that "good" liars were twice as likely to be men than women, with men representing roughly two thirds of "good" liars. "Good"

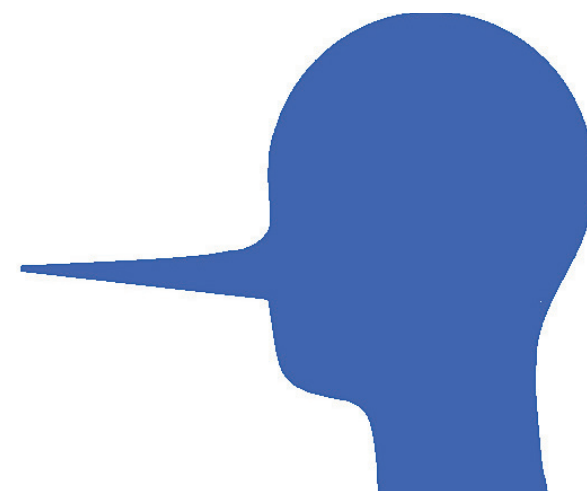
liars also lied more frequently than poorer liars, and therefore may be responsible for a disproportionate number of lies told in daily life. Previous studies have indicated that on average people lie at least once per day. These recent findings from Dr. Verigin and her team support the idea that the subset of the population who are more proficient liars (the "good" liars of this study) are driving up this average and that not all people lie every day. In the case of this sample, the majority of lies were reported by only 40% of the tested population. Astoundingly, the six most prolific liars (less

than 1% of the sample), accounted for 38.5% of the lies, meanwhile 76 participants (39% of the sample) reported telling no lies at all. The nature of the most common lies from those marked as "good" liars are inconsequential, or 'white' lies, predominantly to friends and colleagues (rather than to employers or figures of authority).

So, how are good liars successful? In this study "good" liars reported a preference for lying face-to-face, and they succeeded by keeping their lies clear, simple and intertwined with threads of truth. However, it is noted that the self-reporting nature

of the data collection is a shortfall of this study, and that more research needs to be done, to look further into "good" liars' ability to embed lies within truthful

information. Anyway, in the meantime, I wish you the best of luck re: convincing your housemates you didn't finish off the holiday snacks!



Liar // Photini-Marie Knoye

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INVESTMENT

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Computer Geeks who earn more than you: Quants

INVESTMENT

Jinay Patel

ICIS

Investment Co-Editor

Hello again to all of you budding future bankers. By the end of this article you're going to be experts on quants. Sort of. More like moderately informed.

What are quants? They're people who can

"... you'll be working directly with colleagues on the trading floor coming up with some fancy pants algorithm that's going to make the trader a lot of money."

understand and build complicated mathematical models that will in some way be used to make more money and perhaps mitigate risk. Those who work directly with the traders are front office quants and those who sit in the dusty room in the basement are back office quants. There are, of course, different sub-categories such as algorithmic trading quants, risk management quants and others, but by and large these guys are fundamentally quite similar.

As you can imagine, the pay for these positions tend to be quite high. Those working in front office positions are better compensated than their peers in back office, but have more stressful and demanding roles.

For example, someone working as a back office quant will probably have the title quantitative researcher. Their job could be to validate statistical models and analytics programs or to research and analyse market trends among other things. Being in the back office may sound quite dull to some but it is essential to a bank. The more exciting role is working as a front office

"To be a quant you need to have Big Brain PhD's among quants are not uncommon"

quant, typically termed quantitative trader. Here you'll be working directly with colleagues on the trading floor coming up with some fancy pants algorithm that's going to make the trader a lot of money. As you move up the ranks, you'll usually specialise in a particular area – derivatives pricing, quantitative investment strategies, algo trading etc.

Becoming a Quant

To be a quant you need to have Big Brain, but that doesn't mean everyone who can do it should do it. The sort of problems you face and the work you do is quite narrowly focused. You're not going to meet with management or talk to shareholders and there

isn't much opportunity to move to positions where you manage people. This is however compensated for with very large salaries. If you're serious about becoming a quant, be sure that you actually like the work that it entails and aren't doing it for the money. That being said, how do you become a quant?

Typically, they have an extensive background in statistics, computer science, or something closely related. PhD's among quants are not uncommon. If you're looking to get ahead of the competition, you might want to consider further studies. Some quants tend to focus more on the mathematical side of their work whilst others lean towards the data modelling and programming side.

Banks prefer that all future quants have some background or at least familiarity with programming, according to the Goldman Sachs strat who rejected me. Not bitter about it. I swear. A 'strat' is a mixture of someone who works in structuring, quantitative finance and engineering in a bank. Perhaps there'll be an

"With the aid of Python... making some quants obsolete. It's the ones who only push out 20 lines of code in a day that Barclays are looking to axe"

article on this at some point in the future.

The future of Quants

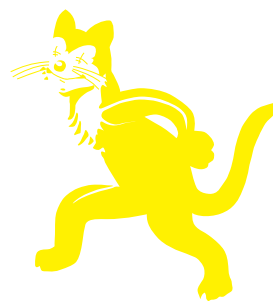
There seems to be a lot of discussion about the future of quants. They're hot right now but that could easily change in the future. Go back 3 decades when Microsoft Excel was introduced into banks. The traders no longer needed to send a ton of numbers to the guy in the back room to crunch because they could do it themselves. This resulted in a

decrease of the number of back and middle office employees as they were now obsolete. Apply the same sort of scenario to the modern day. Take a cash equities project for example, traders used to have to ask quants to do basic post trade analysis for them. With the aid of Python, traders can do this themselves in turn making some quants obsolete. This is exactly what's happening at Barclays. Of course, most quants have significant amounts of other, more complex work to do and these guys will probably be around for a while. It's the ones who only push out 20 lines of code in a day that Barclays are looking to axe.

The best quant jobs are probably not in banks but on the buy-side. So if this article has inspired you to become a quant well then you should look to work in a quantitative fund like Two Sigma or Citadel.

Here, there's much more of an opportunity for you to develop as a quant and they pay astronomical amounts. These roles however, are ridiculously competitive but we go to Imperial so we must be able to get any job we want right? Right..?

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FOOD

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Here is What You Missed at Winter Wonderland This

I know you thought you were free of the instagram posts about churros and ferris wheels from Winter Wonderland, but I wanted to appeal to you all, hungry student to hungry student, about what it has to offer when it comes to the food. As Imperial students this is the best way to try some of London's biggest food stalls.

Food

Zahra Abiola

Food Editor

You know that the term is back in full swing after the winter break when Winter Wonderland starts packing up. This attraction is an iconic part of London's Christmas season and it's obvious why. And as much as we love to complain as Imperial students, we are placed in an extremely convenient position. Located in Hyde Park, it's a short walk way from the South Kensington campus. The huge Ferris

wheel guides tourist to their destination once they leave the station like the north star. From the right building here, you can see it from a window, calling to you to give yourself a well-deserved study break.

I can't keep going without mentioning that it is completely free to enter. Even if you aren't one for thrill-seeking rides and rigged games, just walking around and looking at the amazing lights and attractions can lift any Grinch's mood and get you into the Christmas spirit. And yet, I know people who have never been. Every year they let the fair pass

them by. So this is my final attempt to let people know about what they've been missing the only way I know how: food.

If you aren't a parent of 4, trying not to lose track of your kids, the

"The huge Ferris wheel guides tourists to their destination like the North Star"



Incredibly filling and hit the spot // Zahra Abiola

most likely type of food option you will go for are the stalls. Yeah they have proper restaurants that you can book ahead and all but I feel that there should be some sort of spontaneity when you come to a place like this.

Winter Wonderland has their own stalls spread all over the site so you will be able to bag yourself something the second you feel peckish from any section. Hyde Park in December can get quite chilly so they've got a bunch of options to help you stay warm and keep you going. Just make sure you don't puke it all up on one of the rides if you manage to be able to afford that.

The options at their stalls are pretty much the same every year. The churros are an iconic staple. If you didn't get a picture with a bag of churros, did you even go to Winter Wonderland? They came out as a fiver for a bag of them with just sugar as the topping. They are really generous with the toppings (though with prices like that they are definitely still making

a comfortable profit). You leave with a measly 5 stick of varous sizes. It's no where close to a meal but the sweet content will make you feel queasy after it all the same.

The donuts are a personal guilty pleasure of mine. They are the freshly

"If you didn't get a picture with a bag of churros did you even go to Winter Wonderland?"

cooked ones that you find at amusement parks so they remind me of the times when I would go to Thorpe Park or Chessington with my family - a much simpler time. These are good for if you want to recreate the experience or just didn't get a chance to take advantage of their student deals over the summer. They are very

reminiscent of the ones you get in the United States which also means that they are very greasy and filled with enough sugar to give you a sickly surprise at the bottom of the bag. Although the brandless stands all seem to have different names to lure you in, they are the same products. They give you the illusion of choice by calling the same item different names or having new combinations to make you think you gamed the system to get the best value for money on an already overpriced treat. Their stalls are something to experience at least once in your life but not crucial to the experience. The novelty of a half-metre hotdog wears off quickly for me.

My favourite part of the park is the street food section. Some of London's biggest food stalls set up shop in the park to get in on the tourist action the fair has going on. These are usually operating in areas and times that are just out of my reach with the way that my timetable is set up. It's hard to



You can't go to Winter Wonderland without getting one of these // Zahra Abiola

FOOD

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Year and No It Was Not Just the Churros

persuade your friends to follow you to Southbank for lunch and get back to lectures in time, but it's lot easier when it's a 20-minute walk away. All the street food stands are together in one part of the park, so if you managed to stay strong and resist the lull of the half-meter hotdogs then you've got a much better range to choose from. This time they had options from fish and chips to Indonesian food, so it's perfect for every taste.

The Mac Factory was incredible. They do New York style mac n' cheese and they do it well. You get your classic creation with some creative toppings that send the whole thing to another level. Just the base is great. It's so creamy and warm with the macaroni cooked to perfection. I really appreciated this because there is nothing I hate more than mushy pasta. It was well seasoned, bursting with enough flavour to keep

every bite interesting. The cheese pull was out of this world.

I got the Super Mario for £8, which consisted of the usual topping of breadcrumbs as well as truffle oil, sautéed mushrooms, and garlic. Truffle has been a trend on the food scene for a while now. Some people find it gimmicky, while others cannot get enough of it.

“Truffle has been taking over the internet and is quickly becoming my favourite trend”

Before that day, I hadn't really thought much of it, but after this, truffle is quickly becoming my

favourite trend, because it did so much for the meal.

The people running the stand were great and I was able to get myself an extra helping of breadcrumbs. To me, the breadcrumbs are the best part, because they add so much to the texture of the dish. You also get a good-sized pot as your order to fill you up as you continue to wander around the park.

They don't incorporate the toppings with the dish, and with how deep the pot is, more than the layer I got would have been beneficial. Be careful of how you eat it or you'll end up with plain mac n' cheese to end your meal. Like I said earlier, not the worst thing in the world, but I personally love finishing off with a bang. If you want to really see what you missed out on, you can head to Camden or Euston to give it a try.

The other highlight of the trip was Truffle Burger. And yes, more truffle. It slaps, okay. This



The neon lights remind you of the fun on the corner // Zahra Abiola, Vanessa Madu

burger joint has a cult following on the internet so when I saw it was finally 20 minutes from me, I knew I had to try it. We didn't think we could handle one of the 5 patty once we see on their feed but we still went for their most popular option. We are very happy to say

“This burger joint has a cult following. We are happy to say that it lives up to the hype and more”

that it lives up to the hype and more. The burger was so good we had to get another. The meat had a good texture – cooked to perfection. The truffle mayonnaise and onions gave the whole thing a unique taste. Sad to say

that if we want anymore of it now, we will have to miss a lecture or two by going to Covent Garden's Seven Dials Market.

Don't take my word for it when it comes to these reviews: go try them for yourself. There is a reason these places got a spot in one of the London biggest Christmas markets so next time the tourist trap comes to Hyde Park, expand your tastes and have a look, or just stick with the mandatory picture of churros to let your whole feed know how close you are to one of London's famous attractions.

If you eat at any of the places we recommend, try any of the recipes in Food, or think there is somewhere we really have to check out, tell us! We would love to hear what you think. It can be articles or just general comments or feedback.



A burger this good should be illegal // Zahra Abiola

Union Page



Get ready for the Welcome Back Fair

Find out more about what the Union has to offer this term, grab some freebies and learn about some great opportunities at the Welcome Back Fair. We have some amazing organisations, as well as a selection of your Clubs, Societies & Projects attending. Join us on Wednesday 22 January, 11:00-16:00, in the Great Hall and Queen's Tower Rooms. For more information, go to imperialcollegeunion.org/wbf.

Some of our partners that will be attending are:

- Papa John's (free pizza)
- Little Moons (free mochi balls)
- Contiki
- Target Jobs
- InterExchange Camp USA
- The Economist
- Pimlico Connections



Sabbs on Tour

Meet your Sabbatical Officers to discuss decisions that affect you and how you can get involved. This is an excellent way to ensure that your student experience is continually improving. Here are the dates and locations for the upcoming tour:

Tuesday 14 January

South Kensington Campus

Thursday 30 January

Charing Cross Campus (Reynolds)

Wednesday 12 February

South Kensington Campus

Thursday 27 February

White City Campus

Think about standing

The Leadership Elections 2020 are fast approaching. This is our biggest democratic exercise, where we choose the major student leadership positions at Imperial for the next academic year.

Start thinking whether you could be the next Union President, one of four Deputy Presidents, or even Felix Editor - there are plenty of roles to choose from. More information will be released closer to the time, or visit imperialcollegeunion.org/elections.

Here are the key dates for this year's elections:

Nominations open - noon, Monday 3 February

Nominations close - noon, Friday 28 February

Voting opens - noon, Monday 9 March

Voting closes - 14:00, Thursday 12 March



How do you experience Imperial?

Have you completed the Student Experience Survey yet? This is your chance to tell us about your experience at Imperial. Your responses help give College and the Union a better idea on what we're doing well, how we can further enrich your student experience, and also what we can do to improve.

Due to your responses in the past, we've been able to refurbish Ethos and replace all the gym equipment, as well as improve ventilation and aid cooling during the hot summer months in the library.

Whether you are a non-final year Undergraduate or a first year taught Postgraduate student, we want to hear from you. Complete the survey now and enter a prize draw to win one of the 22 vouchers up for grabs at imperial.ac.uk/student-experience-survey.

Your Union Events

Friday 10 January



10 January, Friday

Thank Goodness It's Friday
Metric | 20:00 - 02:00

14 January, Tuesday

Super Quiz
FiveSixEight | 20:00-22:00

Games Night
h-bar | 19:30-23:00

15 January, Wednesday

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

16 January, Thursday

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

17 January, Friday

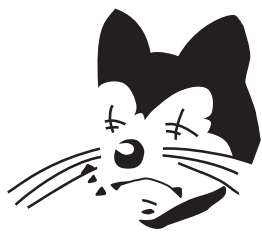
Thank Goodness It's Friday
Metric | 20:00 - 02:00

Bop
Reynolds | 20:00 - 02:00

[f](#) [beitbars](#) [f](#) [hbarpub](#) [f](#) [reynoldsbarcx](#)

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on

imperial
college
union



Hangman



The hematology department are reported to be very pleased with the measures // Pixabay

Vice Provost announces measures to improve the teaching quality

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

Plagued by years of complaints of low quality teaching the College has announced that they are resorting to desperate measures. In order to boost morale and enthusiasm, the 10 lowest performing lec-

turers, as reported by the SOLE survey, will be pitted against each other in a no-holds barred cage fight with only the top 3 survivors retaining their jobs.

Gerald Antoine Vice-Provost (Blood sports) has declared that he is saddened that the has had to do this. It is not all bad news, however. "This will be a fantastic source of new revenue for the College. Just imagining

how much we can charge in telly rights and entry tickets is making my duodenum tickle"

The reactions from the lecturers themselves have been varied. While many are expressing horror and speaking of challenging the new rule in the courts others have a more balanced view. "All the other professors laughed at me when I told them I was taking up mixed martial arts" cackled Dr

Susi Zhang "Now I can completely ignore the undergraduates, focus on research and look forward to kerb stomping my way to a professorship"

Many of the students have also reacted with glee. There are already allegations of whole cohorts ganging up and telling their lecturers that unless they all receive firsts, they will be voting to send the lecturer to the cage. Solid reports have

been difficult to find but a student agreed to speak to us using a pseudonym.

"Last year's students had a huge robotics module to do at the beginning of spring. This year, rather than working, we are all saving up to buy front row tickets to the fight."

The name provided was Feb Senton and the NegaFelix investigations team is still trying to work out who might really be

behind these troubling messages.

When asked about criticism the Vice-Provost was calm. "I don't see any problem with it. The students are engaged and all buying tickets to the fight, the number of firsts has skyrocketed, and my bonus is big enough to buy my own oil rig rather than having to go to Alice Ghastr's every summer and have her look down on me."

HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

Top Ten Resolutions to Fail at Before January 1st

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

While you might be full of excitement about the better version of yourself you are going to become this year, no one wants to hear about your New Year's Resolutions. They are shit. Replace them with some of our suggestions

Number 1 - Start drinking

We all know the union has funding problems. We all know that we have

mental health problems. Kill two birds with one stone by drinking till you forget and simultaneously providing the union with more revenue that can be spent on therapists.

Number 2 - Get fat

Remember, you can't get called up to fight in Iran if you are Type 2 diabetic and built like four Hungarian shot-putters. Then again, you might get used as a sandbag.

Number 3 - Spend more money

From your mangled reading of Keynesian thought you work out that if you spend more money

you will end up with even more. It's called the multiplier effect, read a book man.

Number 4 - Don't call your mum

Stop kidding yourself. She doesn't want to hear from you.

Number 5 - Become an incel

Your screenplay has been dying to get written and those femoids were only holding you back. Break the chain, focus on science.

Number 6 - Don't revise

All the people that get the best marks never do any revision.

Number 7 - Start vaping

You have never smoked in your life but this is a great time in your life to start vaping. Just think how good you are going to look when all that hand waving actually makes a smoke ring.

Number 8 - Join a new club

The rugby club initiation is still ongoing. I am sure they won't mind if you slip in at the back. Just call everyone mate and once you perfect your

circular drinking (drink pint, throw up into pint, drink pint, repeat) you should be fine.

"Teach yourself to cook. How hard can it be to stick some frozen curly fries into a microwave?"

Number 9 - Read more

This year it's time to expand your horizons, get more literate and embrace the humanities. Peterson's 12 rules for life and the novelisation of seasons 1-3 of Rick and Morty are Amazon primed and on their way!

Number 10 - Teach yourself how to cook

The union kitchen closure forced you to do some introspection. How hard can it be to stick some frozen curly fries in a microwave?



ARIES

This week you see finally see your flatmates for the first time after Christmas.

You remember you hate your flatmates



TAURUS

This week you're the new Faculty of Natural Sciences Dean.

You are immediately dismissed over "lack of sensible work-life balance"



GEMINI

This week you watch Cats the movie.

You castrate cats in revenge



CANCER

This week you give up alcohol, smoking, staying up late and your personality.

It was holding you back anyway.



LEO

This week you're suffering through exams.

You hope that you've argued with enough Americans on Facebook to merit a drone strike on your flat.



VIRGO

This week, your nan mishears you while talking about the Australian bushfires.

"There's a cream for that", she says.



LIBRA

This week you are Baby Archie.

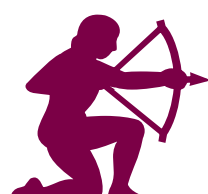
While not old enough to walk yet you already know that you and state school aren't going to mix well.



SCORPIO

This week, you go to the gym to "burn off the extra Christmas pounds."

Don't lie to yourself. They were there before Christmas.



SAGITTARIUS

This week, Ryanair charges you £50 for being over your baggage allowance.

You regret packing your shitty Christmas presents.



CAPRICORN

This week, you post about your dream for a white Christmas next year.

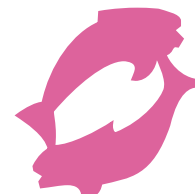
You get cancelled on Twitter.



AQUARIUS

This week you are the Iranian government.

You have Millwall away next week and your chants are already all over the internet



PISCES

This week you actually read Felix.

Exam procrastination has made you desperate.

CONSTITUENT UNION

felix@imperial.ac.uk



RSMU Events: Second Term

RSMU

Chris Carter

RSMU President

Hey everyone and welcome to a new term/year/decade at Imperial! Apologies for

the near total silence from me in these columns in the last few issues – last term was incredibly busy for me, as I'm sure it was for many of you, with project deadlines, lectures to revise and some important Union business, such as the debate on rent prices in halls. I promise I'm

going to try to make use of this column more regularly this term (with the key word being 'try')!

We in the RSMU have a very busy term ahead of us, with some fantastic events, campaigns and traditions. Here's a brief summary of what you can expect, although of course

you should always keep an eye on your emails and our Facebook page for more information!

Hill Cup Week (16th – 23rd January)

A trio of events to celebrate and accentuate the fierce rivalry between

our three Departmental Societies. Beginning with Curling (16th Jan), followed by the Bake Off (20th Jan) and culminating in a Pub Quiz (23rd Jan), it's sure to be a fantastic week of events. Tickets for curling are on sale now!

Bottle Match (21st – 23rd February)

The undisputed highlight of the RSMU calendar, this weekend of sport and festivities will be held in Cornwall this year. 150 Royal Miners will be heading down to Penryn to play in and support a range of sports teams

Leadership Elections and RSMU Awards

While the timetables for these is yet to be announced, this term we'll be electing next year's RSMU Committee; the Elections may seem like a long way off, but they'll come around sooner than you expect, so start thinking about running for a position if you haven't

already! We'll also be awarding RSMU Colours and Awards later in the term. Both the results of the Leadership Elections and the recipients of the RSMU Awards will be announced at...

RSMU Spring Dinner (Mid-March, date TBC)

The final formal dinner of the academic year, Spring Dinner is a fantastic way to finish off the term and to celebrate your achievements and the achievements of your colleagues. With guest speakers, election results and a lovely three-course meal, this is not an event you'll want to miss!

Of course, we have much more planned for you in the coming term, including a fantastic campaign to celebrate the diversity of the RSMU, as well as many smaller events, which we'll publicise closer to the time.

That's all from me this week; so Happy New Year, good luck with any remaining exams and enjoy your Spring Term!



Final years at the RSMU Spring Dinner // RSMU

BROADSHEET

Bringing science, society and the arts together

Issue 17 Available Now!



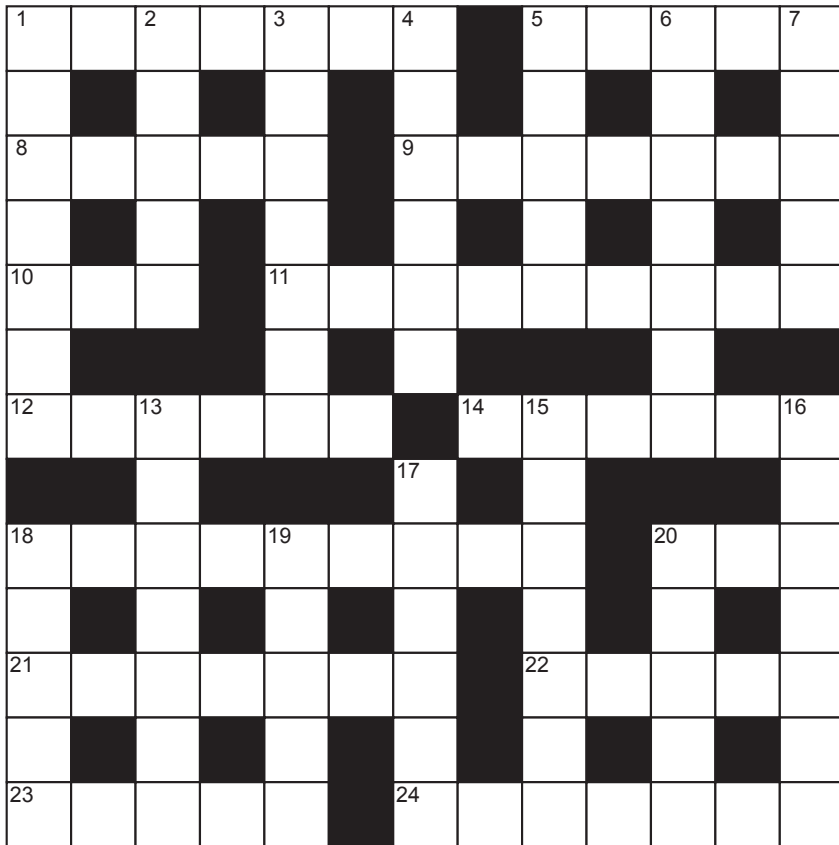
Get involved:
broadsheet@imperial.ac.uk



Illustration: Sophie Smith

PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk



Across

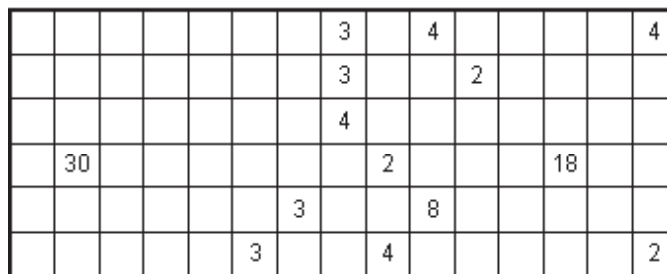
- 8. American city or WW2 codename (5)
- 9. Ringo Starr, for one (7)
- 10. Arachnid Zodiac sign (7)
- 11. Arthur's weapon (5)
- 12. Ex capital of Myanmar (6)
- 13. Crocheted blanket (6)
- 15. Common features between supermarkets and air-planes (6)
- 17. You can have a few loose (6)
- 20. Standard practices (5)
- 22. Accumulation of stuff that needs dealing with (7)
- 24. Can be folded in fancy shapes before use (7)
- 25. _____ on the cake (5)

Down

- 1. Katniss' weapons (4)
- 2. Western watering hole (6)
- 3. Obsolete red box (8)
- 4. Used when necessary (5)
- 5. G.I.'s weapons (4)
- 6. _____ criminal (6)
- 7. Mermen's weapons (8)
- 12. Intense longing (8)
- 14. Italian bread (8)
- 16. Component of the American flag (6)
- 18. Lightning patisserie (6)
- 19. What stares back if you look too long, according to Nietzsche (5)
- 21. Prisoner's weapon (4)
- 23. Prefix for -byte (4)

SHIKAKU

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



CRYPTOGRAM

The letters of the alphabet have been scrambled and numbered 0 to 25! A movie quote has been hidden for you to decode. A grid has been provided to help you out!

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

" _____ , _____
 " 7 16 4 9 15 11 9 3' 2 1 3 9 20 20 5 23 24 23 4 9 15 20 12 3 2 2 9 17 9, 2 5 23 3

7 2 11 9 23 14 3' 2 18 12 2 2 23 24 20 5 7 0 5 19 12 2 5 4 9 15 2 12 1 23." -- 2 5 23 0 5 23 14 5 7 24 23 0 12 2

Happy New Year!

We hope you enjoyed the 8 pages of puzzles in the last issue, it was a great experience for us, meeting with some of the people who submit puzzle solutions every week! As dedicated readers might know, after the puzzles come the solutions. Cue a double spread of solutions!

Shoutout to StandWithHK_Fight4Freedom, who were the only group to submit. Special shoutout to the hard work of Crossword Express, the software we used to generate the Sudoku, Minesweeper, Shikaku and Slitherlink puzzles!

FUCWIT

8 StandWithHK_Fight4Freedom 153.5

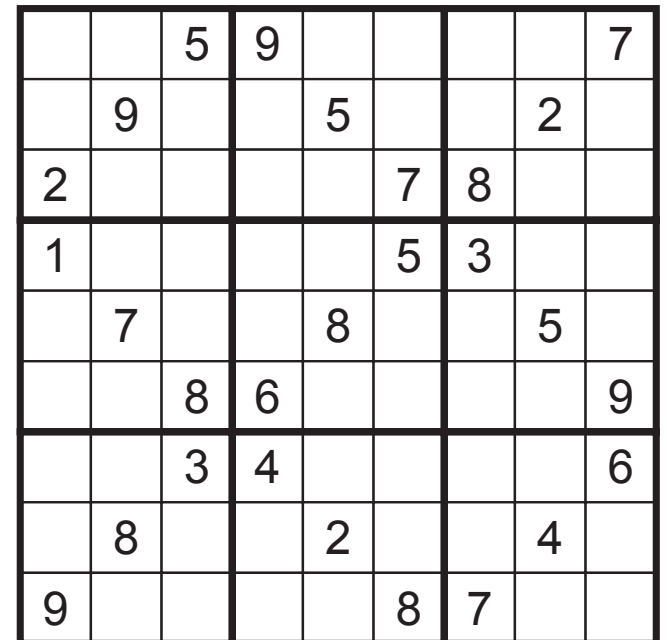
Points available

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Crossword | 6 |
| Sudoku | 5 |
| Shikaku | 2 |
| Cryptogram | 2 |
| Total | 15 |

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

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.

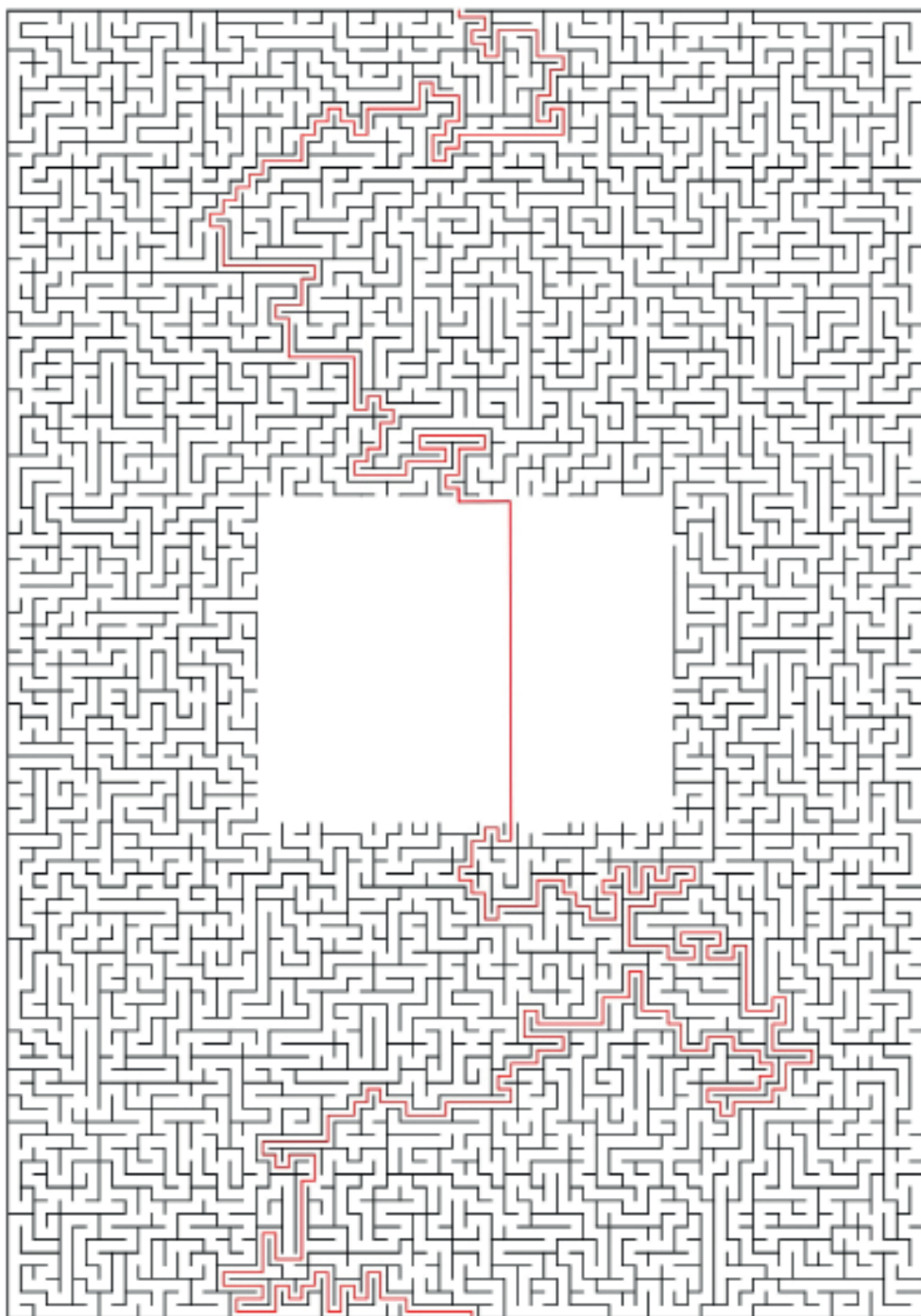


PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

Solutions

Maze:



Insane Cryptogram:

I don't know who you are. I don't know what you want. If you're looking for ransom, I can tell you I don't have money... but what I do have are a very particular set of skills. Skills I have acquired over a very long career. Skills that make me a nightmare for people like you. If you let my daughter go now, that will be the end of it - I will not look for you, I will not pursue you... but if you don't, I will look for you, I will find you... and I will kill you.

Crossword:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | A | U | R | E | L | S | | C | U | T | E | R | | |
| I | | N | | A | | H | | Y | | O | | A | | |
| B | R | I | A | R | | I | G | N | O | R | E | S | | |
| R | | T | | H | | N | | I | | N | | P | | |
| A | N | Y | | A | U | T | O | C | R | A | C | Y | | |
| R | | | | R | | O | | | | D | | | | |
| Y | U | K | A | T | A | | | I | D | I | O | T | S | |
| | | I | | | | T | | R | | | | | U | |
| S | Y | N | D | I | C | A | T | E | | L | U | B | | |
| L | | D | | N | | R | | A | | U | | T | | |
| A | C | R | O | N | Y | M | | M | U | M | M | Y | | |
| D | | E | | E | | A | | E | | E | | P | | |
| E | L | D | E | R | | | | C | A | D | E | N | C | E |

Sudoku:

Thanks again to RIP Pat for contributing this puzzle!

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| 1 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| 6 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| 3 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| 5 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 3 |
| 9 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 2 |

Word Pyramid:



Shikaku:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| 2 | | | 5 | | 2 |
| | | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | | | | | 25 |
| | 7 | | | | 3 |
| | | | 8 | | 4 |
| | | | | 15 | 10 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | 6 | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | 5 | 4 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | 10 | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | 4 | 2 |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | 18 |
| | | | | | 30 |

PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

Mastermind:

Thanks again to Duncan White (DQ) for contributing this puzzle!

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | B | Y | P | R | G | T | T | T | T |
| 2 | B | R | B | P | G | T | T | T | T |
| 3 | B | B | Y | P | G | T | T | T | T |
| 4 | B | Y | B | P | R | T | T | T | T |

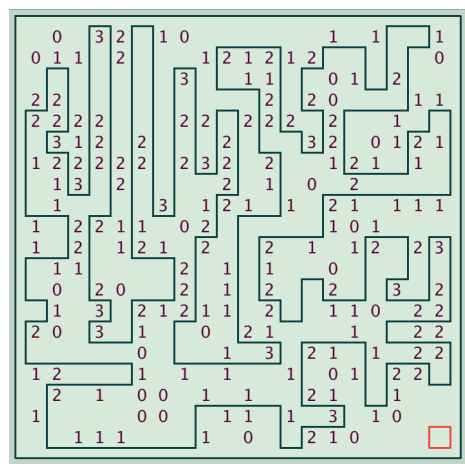
Hexadecimal sudoku:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | b | 6 | e | 3 | c | 2 | 0 | 9 | 7 | a | 1 | 8 | 5 | d | f |
| 5 | d | c | f | a | 8 | 9 | 1 | 4 | e | b | 2 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | a | 7 | d | 4 | 6 | f | 5 | 0 | c | 8 | b | 9 | 1 | e |
| 0 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 5 | e | 7 | b | d | 6 | 3 | f | a | c | 4 | 2 |
| 3 | 5 | d | b | 4 | 2 | 0 | c | e | 1 | 9 | a | 7 | 8 | f | 6 |
| a | e | 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 | b | 8 | c | d | f | 7 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| f | 8 | 0 | 9 | 7 | 3 | e | d | b | 2 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 | a | c |
| 7 | c | 2 | 1 | f | 9 | a | 6 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 0 | e | d | 5 | b |
| d | 0 | b | 5 | e | 6 | c | 2 | 7 | a | 1 | 9 | 3 | f | 8 | 4 |
| e | a | f | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 | b | 4 | d | c | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| c | 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 7 | f | 9 | 0 | 5 | e | 3 | d | 2 | b | a |
| 9 | 7 | 8 | 3 | b | d | 4 | a | 6 | f | 2 | c | 5 | e | 0 | 1 |
| b | 2 | e | d | c | 0 | 1 | 5 | a | 9 | 7 | 4 | f | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| 6 | 9 | 5 | a | 2 | f | 3 | 4 | 1 | 8 | d | e | 0 | b | c | 7 |
| 8 | 4 | 7 | c | 6 | a | d | e | f | 3 | 0 | b | 2 | 1 | 9 | 5 |
| 1 | f | 3 | 0 | 9 | b | 8 | 7 | 2 | c | 5 | 6 | 4 | a | e | d |

Minesweeper:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| * | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | 1 | * |
| | 2 | 1 | * | | * | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| | 1 | * | 2 | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| | | | 1 | | | | * | 1 | * |
| 1 | 1 | * | 1 | * | 1 | | | 1 | |
| | * | 1 | 2 | 2 | | * | 1 | 1 | |
| | 2 | 1 | | * | 1 | | 1 | 2 | * |
| * | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | * | * |
| | 1 | 1 | * | 1 | | 1 | * | 1 | 1 |
| | 1 | 2 | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | * | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | * | | | * | 1 | 1 | | |
| * | 2 | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | * | 1 |
| 2 | 2 | 2 | * | | 2 | * | 2 | | 1 |
| | * | 2 | 2 | * | 1 | * | 1 | 1 | * |

Slitherlink:



Trivia:

Special thanks again to Imperial's Quiz Society for all the trivia during the Autumn Term.

Events of 2019

1. FactCheck UK
2. Coleen Rooney
3. Black Hole
4. Jacques Chirac
5. Ethiopia

History

6. New Zealand
7. King Stephen
8. Huguenots
9. He was a horse (of Caligula)
10. Irish Free State

Sport and Games

11. Tottenham Hotspur
12. 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup
13. Great Britain
14. Settlers of Catan
15. Dick Fosbury

Science and Nature

16. Marconi
17. Taxicab
18. Magi

19. Technetium
20. Manx Shearwater
21. The Good Place
22. Rocky
23. Emma Thompson

24. I'll be back
25. The X-Files

Music

26. Drake
27. Fleetwood Mac
28. Luck
29. Benny Goodman
30. Tchaikovsky (being Francesca da Rimini, Manfred and the Nutcracker respectively)

Lifestyle

31. Dior
32. Canada
33. Duchess of Sussex
34. Tom Collins
35. Choux Pastry

Art and Literature

36. Skull
37. George Eliot
38. Holden Caulfield
39. Ginny Weasley
40. Mary Cassatt

Common links

41. Drummers
42. Lords
43. Swans
44. Gold Rings
45. They're all gifts in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" (in descending order)

Christmas

46. Christmas Pudding
47. O Come, all ye faithful
48. Hanukkah
49. Christmas Tree
50. Gaudete Sunday

Gogen:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | T | Q | C | B |
| L | U | N | E | D |
| X | A | H | G | M |
| R | O | J | I | Y |
| K | P | S | W | V |

Cryptogram:

The flower that blooms in adversity is the most rare and beautiful of all.

Nonogram:



Word search:

Did you get all 27?

- ACEX
- BEIT
- BESSEMER
- BONE
- BURLINGTON DANES
- BUSINESS
- CENTRAL LIBRARY
- COLLCUTT TOWER
- DALBY COURT
- EASTSIDE
- EEE
- ETHOS
- GLENISTER
- GOLDING
- GREAT HALL
- HUXLEY
- PARSONS
- QUEENS LAWN
- REYNOLDS
- RODERICK HILL
- ROYAL BROMPTON
- SHERFIELD
- SILWOOD PARK
- SKEMPTON
- SOUTSIDE
- ST MARYS HOSPITAL
- WHITE CITY

SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk



The Immortals managed to maintain motivation despite a difficult start to the match // Sebastiano Zane, Imperial Immortals

Immortals Narrowly Win Kent Falcons Rematch

In the last game of the decade, IC's Immortals narrowly won their second match against the Kent Falcons; here's the match report

SPORTS

Sebastiano Zane

Immortals Publicity Officer

Sunday 8th December was no ordinary day for the Imperial College Immortals. It was not only a chance for pay-back against our rivals, but the last game the Immortals would play in the decade. The rematch against the Kent Falcons is always a big game in the season for the team as it sets the tone for the second half, and the team were as ready as ever for

the upcoming challenge. Fortunately, any spirit that the team was lacking was strongly supported by the ever-dedicated cheerleaders, who managed to field a season's best of 2 supporters to the match.

With the players holding several injuries from previous matches, it was a slow start to the game. The team were quickly 14-0 down and it was beginning to look like the same old story... However, a quick play by Rookie Quarterback Alex "Golden Arm" Moran saw the immortals attain their first touchdown followed by a two-point conversion

leaving the score 14-8. Kent didn't know what hit them next as an impressive run by David "F**k Cheer" Cobbinah saw the score being levelled to 14 all at half time.

The team has struggled in the season thus far to remain motivated and see off the game, but this was going to be no such day. Despite the Falcons scoring early, the team were quick to reply and Ben "Ex QB2" O'Brien showing his skills at receiver scored a touchdown leaving the game at 21-20. But the Immortals would not stop there, with all the momentum

safety Anuj "It was fake" Mehra managed to catch an incredibly difficult interception... and lost the team 20 yards in the process. However, this interception began a drive which allowed Grummers "OC 2020" Grummers to score putting the squad in the lead for the first time in the match.

Kent however, were not impressed and quickly regained the lead putting the score at 28-26 with only precious minutes to go. It was a tough battle, but Ben O'Brien's red jeans distracted Kent for long enough for him to score, successfully

securing Alex Moran's QB 1 spot in the process. With only seconds to go the confused Falcons side didn't know what had hit them and the Immortals regained the ball on an onside kick. As the clock ran down the team took the knee and secured the first Victory of the season.

The final score came to 32-28 to the Immortals. It was an incredible game, and every one of the players played their heart out, however the team would like to congratulate the MVPs, Offensive Rookie: David Cobbinah, Defensive Rookie: Riccardo "Ga-

roppo" Valperga. D-Line: Grummers "Who's Daniel" Grumberg, Offensive: Ben O'Brien, Defensive: Marcin "Kit Sec 2020" Olesinski, Overall: Alex Moran. The Team celebrated the well-earned victory, however even on the one-year anniversary, it was decided that for budget reasons that they could not Buy Sebastiano Zane his copy of Madden 20.