



Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London



EDITORIAL

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The UCU Should Have Come to College Council Earlier

On Tuesday, the Union Council voted to support the UCU's strike action in a landslide vote of 29-1, with one abstention. This is in solidarity with the position they took two years ago. The Union and the UCU, as a student and trade union respectively, have a cooperative history – and that's naturally a very positive thing in terms of influencing the College and generating pressure from both the staff and student sides.

The UCU is right to strike, in my view. Promises made have been let down with regards to pensions and the establishment of the JEP two years ago. That the College imposed a below-inflation pay rise in a time when their President receives a total remuneration of over £500,000 (including her free £115,000-per-year flat on campus) and they are generating high revenue via fossil fuel investment and selling off chunks of campuses on a yearly basis seems quite outrageous.

I would, too, be very frustrated, and should less drastic action fail I too would be inclined toward collective action methods.

So I personally support the UCU's decision, and the Union's solidarity with them. I feel comfortable putting that out there as a personal view.

However, I do not think either decision is without criticism. So let me be clear: the below is the criticism only. There is plenty of positive to say for both parties as well.

I'll start with the Union's declaration of support. Personally, I feel that too few Council members stood up and

made a fuss about how negatively this impacts their students. While, yes, the long-term ramifications of poor staff treatment will lead to negative outcomes for students as well, the fact of the matter is that it is current students who will suffer for it. We will have students on 3-year courses who have seen strike action affect two-thirds of their degree years, adding undue stress to an already tumultuous and challenging course and lifestyle. That should have been emphasised more heavily by their representatives.

While support should be given to the UCU in their time of need, the cost to students should be a stronger consideration for the Union members, who seemed too eager to discard that in favour of some long-term 'greater good'.

However, I think they are only partially to blame for that situation. This is because the choice they were realistically faced with was no choice at all. In Michael McGarvey's own words, as he spoke to me last week, students are being "held hostage".

This is why striking on teaching is effective: it damages students, so the students complain to the College, and that puts pressure on the College to budge its position. It's effective, sure, but obviously morally dubious. What it amounts to is using a group of people, damaging them and their education, robbing them of the financial input they've given to their degrees, and all against their will while they have no say.

So the choice the Union was faced with on Tuesday was "this is happening whether you

like it or not; so choose between it happening and you supporting us, or it happening and you not supporting us." The choice in that situation is obvious. As a hostage, you can co-operate, or you can choose not to, but in the end what happens to you is the same. May as well co-operate.

You cannot offer true consent or support to something that will happen regardless of whether you choose it or not. You can, at most, choose to 'not mind'. In no other situation would this be considered acceptable, and would certainly not be greeted so eagerly.

How do you avoid this situation? How do you garner solidarity between the students and staff of this community to stand up for one another? Well, firstly, you talk. You ask for support and consent in a genuine way. I feel that the UCU failed to do that here.

I would have suggested instead talking to the Union Council before taking the strike ballot. The Council would have supported the action, almost without question. It would arguably have strengthened the UCU's internal campaign for strikes to take place, with the freely given support and consent of the students' representatives taking away guilt from academic staff members who were on the fence about damaging their students' education.

Bringing in students sooner also allows for actual joint student action to be organised. As it is, you won't see many (if any) students on the picket lines shouting their support, because it was left so late. The support as it stands now will be token

at best, a PR statement for the Union and UCU.

So it makes logical sense there. It increases the effectiveness of that partnership.

But the most important thing is that that support would truly have meant something symbolically. The support given now is the co-operation of a hostage, not an agreement based on equal respect and mutual partnership. Students are being used, and they've accepted this magnanimously, but that's not how respectful partnerships are born.

Rather than stoically accepting a sacrifice to our education and choosing to stand in solidarity with the staff who, themselves, are sacrificing pay to be on the picket line... well, we're instead left with a situation where it's been robbed away and we've only been left with a choice to forgive or 'not mind' it, or not.

I don't think any of this was deliberate. I think it was an error of judgement. I raise it not as a way to combat the strikes, because I fully support them – in both symbolic and practical ways. I could write just as compelling an argument piece, using almost identical logic, for why the way the College has acted on local pay negotiations is wrong and thus the UCU should strike. Hell, I have done that, because the whole situation contains so many eerie resemblances to the halls rent negotiations.

I raise it to dispute the PR line that students are in solidarity here. I think that can only be half-true given the way things were handled.

There was no negotiation between staff and students on this; just imposition and acceptance.



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NEWS

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Union Council Ordinary Meeting 5: Council Declares Support for UCU Strikes

Felix continues its series of explaining Union Council meetings, without the BS. Demystifying the Union since Day One

NEWS

Henry Alman

Editor-in-Chief

Union Position on UCU Strikes

Felix has offered coverage on strike action previously, and across this issue. See Comment and News across last two issues.

The Union Council first received a paper that called for the Union to support and endorse the UCU strikes currently taking place at the College. The paper noted the impact that poor staff treatment can have on the student body by demotivating staff and damaging recruitment, and criticised the College’s approach to handling local pay negotiations.

The paper was accompanied by an impassioned speech by Michael McGarvey, the head of the UCU, who attended this section of the meeting.

The paper suggested that the Union support the strike action, to support the UCU in meetings with the College, and to disseminate supporting publicity materials. It also mandates representatives to ensure impact on students is minimised, as well as mandating the Union President to write to the Provost to encourage the pay dispute be negotiated fairly.

Concerns were raised by some Union Council members about the Union actively supporting a

strike that has a large negative impact on students, citing conversations within their respective remits or student bodies.

The paper passed with a vote of 29 for, 1 against, and 1 abstention.

Standing Orders Amendment

Felix previously reported on a Council dispute over voting membership of the Education and Representation Board (ERB). Changes to the Standing Orders removed voting rights from departmental reps in order to ensure quorum was reached.

The Standing Orders were indeed updated to remove voting rights, after disputing ERB representatives failed to come up with a viable alternative. These representatives felt satisfied with having had the opportunity to try to resolve the issue and discuss it internally to ERB. It was also noted that departmental reps can still contribute to indicative votes, which the ERB could hold as often as it felt necessary.

Further debate was held about the way in which Constituent Unions’ constitutions are changed; currently, these have to be approved every year, as they contain regular changes for small things such as changing the name of a position. To remove bureaucracy from the process, it was suggested that these smaller

topics be dealt with via the Regulations for their constitutions.

However, lack of oversight from Council made some members unhappy with the proposed change; changing the duties of a Treasurer, for example, has a consequence beyond just the Constituent Union itself due to CUs acting as management groups for clubs and societies as well. Various options were debated, such as handing oversight off to the Governance and Identity Board, each with their own issues.

The debate was likely sparked by the RCSU’s recent decision to unilaterally change their committee without consultation with the Council.

The resolution did not pass, with a vote of 14 for, 8 against, and 9 abstaining.

Publicity Policy

A review of the Union’s publicity policy was suggested, looking to assess whether its still suitable for the modern operation of the Union. Requirements of the policy, such as requiring that all events go onto the ‘What’s On’ calendar, were suggested for revision, as was the specific exemption of Silwood campus from the policy. Contradictory requirements, such as a ban on having any ICU logos on election materials while also requiring that all election materials have the ICU banner on them, were targeted as well.

A working group consisting of the DPFS, Council Chair, and an

	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
OM 1	Chair President x2	Chair KN Chair UG FoE Rep Non-Member UG FoNS Rep President PG FoNS Rep	CGCU President x2 Chair x2 President Non-member	
OM 2	Chair x2 President	Chair x2 PG FoNS Rep UG FoE Rep UG FoE Rep	RCSU President x2 President Chair	Chair x2 UG FoNS Rep
OM 3	President DPW	Silwood Chair PG FoE Rep ICSMSU President KN Chair Chair	President Mental Health Officer Chair RCSU President	Ethics & Environment Officer Non-member UG FoNS Rep PG FoE Rep Chair
OM 4	DPW President Chair RCSU President ICSMSU President	KN Chair DPCS President DPW RSMU President GSU President UG FoE Rep UG FoM Rep DPW	RCSU President CGCU President ICSMSU President GSU President RCSU President RSMU President President UG FoNS Rep x2 Non-member x2	Non-member UG FoM Rep DPCS DPFS President
OM 5	Chair x4 Non-Member	Chair ICSMSU President UG FoNS Rep DPW	RCSU AAO A&E Chair x3 Non-member UG FoNS Rep	RCSU President President ICSMSU President
OM 6		Chair DPW	President x3 RCSU President Non-member A&E Chair Non-member UG FoE Rep ICSMSU Welfare	Chair Non-member RCSU President

The number of papers submitted by whom in different years // Lloyd James

undergraduate and post-graduate rep in Michaela Flegrova and Adrian LaMoury was established to report back at the next meeting.

Discussion of Breadth of Council Submissions

It was noted that the number of papers submitted to Council – and the diversity of students who were submitting – had decreased drastically this year compared to previous. The Council Chair,

Lloyd James, sought to open up discussion about why Council members were not submitting papers.

For reference, the attached table is reproduced from the Council paper, representing what papers were submitted and by whom in each Ordinary Meeting (OM) of the year, comparing this year with each year back to 2016/17.

In general, Council members responses were that they would typically take issues to the subcommittees for consideration

– meaning that perhaps the new Council structure has contributed. They additionally said that papers used in the past simply to mandate sabbatical officers to take certain actions felt like an ineffective method, saying they would rather just talk to the sabs informally.

Reports

The reports were delivered as tabled; see online materials to read them.

NEWS

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Coronavirus Researchers

Imperial academics based at St. Mary's have been searching for a coronavirus vaccine, while at the J-IDEA and MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis they have been using data science to track coronavirus transmission and mortality parameters

NEWS

Henry Alman
Editor-in-Chief

Several Imperial researchers based at the J-IDEA and MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis in White City – a world-leading institute – have been using data science to track and calculate transmission and fatality rates for the coronavirus outbreak currently spreading internationally.

The head of the J-IDEA institute, Neil Ferguson, additionally ran a presentation and Q+A session with the World Economic Forum, detailing their findings thus far.

Thus far, the data tracking shows that the fatality rate is approximately 1%, with a transmission ratio of between 2 and 3 – making the virus more transmissible than pandemic influenza viruses.

Professor Ferguson further detailed some of the issues with obtaining reliable data. Reported cases in China are typically only the most severe, often only once pneumonia has developed, while internationally more mild cases – which are the vast majority – are being tracked. Furthermore, China's strict control measures targeted multiple causes of transmission – for example, banning people from attending work or school, whilst also banning travel, and so on. It is then hard to

identify what measure was actually effective.

Additionally, the virus can incubate for weeks between infection and the development of symptoms. This can make determining number of infections and transmissivity challenging, with one example given of a patient who died in France likely having been infected a month beforehand.

This has led to drastic revisions of initial estimates for the total number of cases – from an estimate of 4000 on 18th January to 107,000 on 3rd February. During the presentation, Professor Ferguson said that it is likely that the outbreak has caused up to ten times more infections than have been detected and reported.

It also appears that the virus is significantly more deadly to the elderly – however, while respiratory illnesses are also often a danger to children, bans on attending school in China have limited the number of young cases. A tentative estimate on the fatality rate for those who have already reached the stage of pneumonia is 18%.

There is a concern that should the virus break out in pandemic-scale in other countries, it could put severe stress on healthcare systems; but with forewarning, this is already being planned for as a contingency.

Simultaneously, a team of academics based in St. Mary's, in the Department of Infectious Disease, have been part of a global

race to develop a vaccine, led by Robin Shattock.

Professor Shattock spoke to Ryan O'Hare in an Imperial podcast. He outlined the differences between this coronavirus and a previous one called SARS – namely that SARS, while more fatal, was not transmissible until symptoms showed, meaning that effectively quarantining patients was significantly easier and more effective. Physical controls are thus less useful, hence its rapid spread.

However, a core difference between the SARS outbreak and this one is the rapidity with which it has been reported, and the advancement of technology since. With accurate gene sequencing available quickly, it took just weeks to get a novel RNA-based vaccine attempt going in the lab. This is by contrast to a typical progression, with five years in the discovery phase and a further two to manufacture and do clinical trials.

The vaccine developed by Professor Shattock and his team has already entered animal testing – with the possibility for human trials to begin as early as summer. However, he warns that a full vaccine will not be widely available until next year, at the absolute earliest. In the meantime, antivirals are being used in China to try to combat badly affected patients, which may provide a stopgap solution.

See Felix Science.

Socially Responsible Investment Working Group Reports back to College

NEWS

Henry Alman
Editor-in-Chief

The Socially Responsible Investment Working Group has completed its consultation period and reported back to the College Council on February 14th.

The College Council has reportedly accepted the suggestions of the report with only minor amendments, which are being finalised now and will be made public on March 2nd – alongside an amended policy for investment. More spe-

cifically, the Terms of Reference for the Endowment Board – who control the College's investment assets – will be changed to reflect the new policy.

For this reason, the policy was initially proposed to the Endowment Board on 3rd February, before it went to College Council.

The SRI Working Group was initially set up in response to a paper presented to College Council in November by the Union President, Abhijay Sood, Deputy President (Finance and Services, Fifi Henry, and Ethics and Environment Officer, Francesca Siracusa. The paper called for an assessment of Imperial's

investment habits. This followed from the reveal in 2018 that the College had heavy investment in fossil fuel companies, as well as other fields with questionable ethics such as the arms industry or pharmaceuticals.

The Group then spent the subsequent two months generating feedback from the College community as well as external experts from both sides of the debate, including offering the chance for open submissions for consideration.

Felix will follow up with a report on the Policy when it is revealed on March 2nd.



MONEY: ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS

4/5th April, RSM, lecture theatre G20

Austrian economics has ceased to be a fund of ideas to criticize and correct the mainstream, or to draw up blueprints for new economic order following the collapse of the present global experiment with paper 'currency.'

This series consists of two days of four hourly lectures, separated by morning and afternoon refreshment and question periods. Lecture titles include: leverage and its unwinding; futures markets and bills of exchange; debunking volatility and capitalism ending.

Registration link:

<https://purelytheoreticalresearch.com/register.php>

90% discount for Imperial College students.

NEWS

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

VP Education to Depart

Simone Buitendijk, Vice Provost (Education), will depart Imperial to become Vice Chair of Leeds University

NEWS

Henry Alman

Editor-in-Chief

Simone Buitendijk, Imperial College's Vice Provost (Education), will be departing the College and beginning a new role at the head of Leeds University for the next academic year. Her new role begins on 1st September

2020.

The transfer comes shortly after the beginning of the College's Learning and Teaching Strategy (LTS), which was led and directed by Professor Buitendijk. The LTS will shape how education at the College evolves over the next several years, and has already delivered funding for projects such as 'active learning' lecture theatres in Blackett and the innovative 'Chemical

Kitchen' course in Chemistry.

Her appointment was approved by Leeds' Council, their governing body, after a unanimous recommendation by a panel consisting of various Council and Senate members from the university.

David Gray, who heads the panel, said in a Leeds University statement:

"She has a clear vision for how research and

education should work in tandem in a global university with strong civic roots; an impressive record of institutional change management; and an exemplary grasp of the moral purpose of higher education, particularly in relation to diversity, participation and inclusion."

Other than the LTS, Professor Buitendijk garnered controversy during her time at Imperial over comments and shared

posts on Twitter, which students felt represented transphobic views. The account was eventually deleted and an apology was issued by Professor Buitendijk.

Imperial's Provost, Ian Walmsley, said:

"Simone has made a profound contribution to Imperial's education, community, and student experience. She has led a transformation of our learning and teaching,

developing a strategy with students at its heart. This is a fitting and well deserved appointment and we wish her all the best at Leeds."

Interview with Simone to follow next week.

Humanities@70: Imperial's Hallalujah for Everything Non-STEM

NEWS

Henry Alman

Editor-in-Chief

The College is putting on a humanities-based exhibition between the 2nd and 6th of March, celebrating the presence of humanities and the arts at the College. The exhibition takes place 70 years on from the 'Touchstone' weekends that began place at Silwood campus in 1950, which featured discussions on ethics, philosophy, art and design, and psychology.

The exhibition will feature events such as talks on the future of music, concerts in collaboration with the Blyth Centre, and a visit to Silwood campus to get back in touch with the Touchstone origins.

It will also feature

a project generated by the StudentShapers programme, as part of the Horizons Change Makers independent project. The projects created by students will be on display, and will focus on human sustainable development or environmental issues.

The exhibition was instigated by the Director of the Centre for Culture, Languages, and Communication, Dr. Roberto Trotta, a theoretical cosmologist at Imperial. The CCLC is the hub of the Horizons programme, which enables students to take courses in non-STEM subjects in topics as wide as creative writing or psychology.

On why he was inspired to create the exhibition, Dr. Trotta said:

"Humanities are vital for students; it puts their discipline into the broader societal context of the world around them today. It develops critical and

creative thinking, as well as communication skills and the ability to deal with a broad range of situations which don't always have 'black and white', 'right or wrong' answers like STEM. Surveys we've run with alumni have overwhelmingly shown to be highly valued skills in the workplace. Students here don't always see that – they're very focused on succeeding on their degree – but it will help them succeed!"

Horizons can directly trace its origins back to the Touchstone weekends, which led over decades into the 'Associated Studies Department' and the Department for Social and Economic Studies and then the Humanities Department, before incorporating language courses and finally becoming Horizons. The Science Communication Group, which hosts the only non-STEM or Business

course at Imperial (the MSc in Science Communication), was introduced in the 1990s.

The next step will be the I-Explore modules being introduced to the College. These will make it compulsory for students to take alternative courses outside of their specific degrees, which will count for credit – rather than it being optional in Horizons and only counting towards degrees on a department-by-department basis.

Dr. Trotta said of the exhibition: "We wanted to use the 70th anniversary to look back at our past, but also as a springboard for our future. Bringing purely humanities courses, which are under pressure across the country, to a STEM university like Imperial, and having College leadership recognise the value it brings, is very reassuring that we can have the best

of both worlds."

More information can

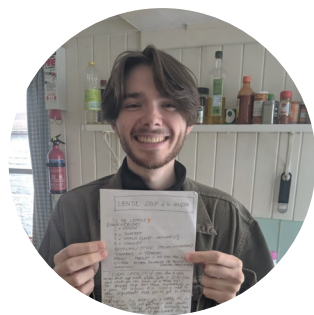
be found at <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/humanities-at-70>



Dr. Roberto Trotta // Thomas Angus

COMMENT

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Individual Liberalism and Freedom: The Lie We Are All Living

Cameron Anderson explains why the freedom we are living is a lie and how our only chance at survival is cooperation

COMMENT

Cameron Anderson
Comment Writer

It is undeniable that we are approaching a global crisis: each year we are hit with more and more news stories of devastating floods, fires and other natural disasters; the population and life expectancies continue to increase, causing food shortages that will affect the most disadvantaged of us. There are many problems facing our modern globalised society, but I would argue that the most prevalent of these is that of climate change. The temperature of the Earth keeps rising with greenhouse gasses

being pumped into the atmosphere by massive multi-national corporations, governments and individuals themselves at a rate that shows no sign of slowing down. Yet, in today's society, it seems although the main method adopted as a solution is that of liberal individualism. The idea is that we as individuals can solve this crisis by acting in our own means: going vegan, buying an electric car, using a reusable cup and so on. This is not the solution that we should be following as it does not solve the problems it purports to. It in fact leads us into a state of neglect to the true issue, as I will explain later. I would argue that we should focus on a community-based

approach, working together to get the change that we need and deserve. This could take different forms, but the one constant is acting as a collective.

It has been shown in an expose by the Guardian that 20 companies produce over a third of the world's emissions. This fact, and similar others that we hear all time (rising temperatures and sea levels etc.), shocks people to their core and causes a feeling of powerlessness towards the situation as a whole. This often creates a desire to help make a change but the main form of action, that of liberal individualism, however, is counterproductive.

The counterproductivity arises from a neat ideological reversal that

acts in favour of the corporations mentioned above and ultimately the governments that support them. Blame for the situation that we find ourselves in is placed solely onto the individual, giving rise to the false narrative that the only way that the planet can be saved is if individuals choose to act differently. Individualism grants us freedom to make a change, to put all our recycling in the correct bin, to choose oat milk over dairy and to take public transport instead of private. This, however, is a false freedom though that leaves us with only a few choices of how to act and all of these are against ourselves.

Now, I am not saying that we should not still be carrying out these actions, but that we should be aware of what this type of action leads to. In making these small changes to our individual life, we remove the guilt from ourselves without making any change to the system that propagates this problem. This removal of guilt also leads to a removal of decision, we are told what we need to do: don't think, just act. In this sense we are living, as existential philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre would say, in 'bad faith'. Simply, this is a self-deception that removes the existential dread of true free choice that is part of the human condition. Even if we know that these changes won't make a meaningful impact, we act this way anyway because it is the easiest way to forget the problem by thinking that we are solving it.

To try to begin to tackle the ecological crisis, we must begin to accept that we as individuals cannot make any significant change. In doing so we must harness the angst that this leads to though utilising all available options. This may bring us back into a feeling of powerlessness but this feeling is just the infinitum of choice. When we feel our most powerless, that is when we have the greatest capacity for change. Change never comes to the content. We must act together to turn the blame off us as individuals purely and onto the governments and corporations that can actually make significant difference to the situation. Although governments act 'in the interest of the voters', they ultimately work in the interest of the markets: if there is not as much profit to be made through green initiatives, then they won't be focussed upon them. If we want real change, then we must take the power into our own hands.

Another problem arises here however and that is the social popularity of the climate movement. Groups like Extinction Rebellion had massive turns out throughout London and the rest of the world, but what palpable change came from this? The British government promises a green policy with investments in renewables and other sustainable ventures whilst it is gearing up to invest up to £6bn in fossil fuels across the world. This is because the majority of the people were there because

it has become a cool trend to support climate change protests. Governments can't be expected to take a cause seriously if the participants aren't fully invested. People want to be seen on social media marching through the streets, but they are not willing to put in the full effort that it takes to overthrow the system that has caused ecological demise. We must act as one to remove the capitalist mode of production that is destroying our planet in the name of profits and turn to a solution that puts the population of the environment above all else.

No one today can deny that we are rocketing towards a crisis at an astonishing speed with climate scientists telling us we must act now as by even 2035 it will be too late to reverse the damage that will have been done. The planet is warming, droughts and floods along with wildfires sweep the globe and all the while the population continues to increase with no sign of stopping. Throughout all these problems facing us in our modern life, there is one idea at a solution that reigns supreme: the spectre of liberal individualism. We should push to decentralise power out of Westminster and into the hands of the people, which is only truly possible through civil disobedience and revolutionary tactics. If we really want a chance at a future in this world, we need to break free of the ideological chains that hold us down and act as one to fight against the powers that be.



AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHH LIBERALS!!!!!!!// Pigsels

COMMENT

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How responsible are you for what you wrote or thought as a student?

Arts Editor **Vaidhiswaran Ramesh** struggles with the juxtaposition of being both a student and publishing one's views in a student newspaper

COMMENT

Vaidhiswaran Ramesh
Arts Editor

News papers have historically been drivers of public discourse, shaping and giving voice to the context and dialogue of the day. From toppling regimes, to starting and preventing wars, the effect of the written word has been profound and far ranging.

Even with the advent of new technologies and non-conventional modes of informational broadcasting, newspapers continue to be the flag bearers of the fourth estate, both objectively and in the public's view. This disproportionate purview, in an age of Facebook and Twitter, means that these institutions carry a great responsibility to publish high quality journalism.

A university newspaper is no exception to any of this, as its role is no different from that of any national publication: To serve and inform our readership and to provide a platform for discourse on a wide range of germane issues. Sitting at the crossroads of the society at large and students, these publications are uniquely poised to capture the pulse of the next generation of voters in a way that national publications seldom can. The combination of an engaged and diverse audience, a generously open mindset and, a degree of editorial freedom, often allows



a university newspaper to rise to this challenge. In the past, student run

“These publications are uniquely poised to capture the pulse”

newspapers have been instrumental in breaking down archaic societal

norms and sometimes even permanently changing the political landscapes in their respective countries. The role of student publications like The Johns Hopkins Newsletter in contributing to the narrative around the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States of America in the last decade cannot be emphasized enough. Felix's ongoing campaign to critically investigate Imperial's dubious investments in the tobacco, fossil fuel and, armaments industry is another notice-

able example of a student publication taking the lead on changing societal landscapes.

But as much as university newspapers strive to meet the rigour of a print publishing, it is an inevitable reality that at the end of the day, the editorial desk and writer positions are filled by none other than students themselves, often with partial or a fleeting understanding of the world around. To be clear, a student writer is neither expected to graduate from Sandhurst to argue about the neces-

sity of the Iraq war nor are they expected to have designed the St Paul's Cathedral to articulate how unimaginative the Huxley building is. After all the purpose of a university education is to provide a safe space for students while they form their views on the world. But the expectation of high standards from the print press inevitably bleeds across to university publications as well, meaning that a certain degree of political correctness and adherence to conventional thought is expected.

To be clear, no reputable university publication enforces barriers to entry based on these metrics and do their best to reflect student discourse however diverse and non-mainstream it might be (recent exchanges in Felix on the Hong Kong protests is testimony to that). However, no publication is frozen in time and history suggests that contextual latitude is seldom offered to publications in hindsight. Generally true for any opinionated piece, this is highly relevant in the case of a university publication with its student body of contributors. A student is thus often forced to confront a choice every time he picks a pen... whether to find a permanent voice for their opinion unashamedly or give into second thoughts and concerns of reprisals and back down.

It is an open secret today that prospects of employability are tied with one's political and philosophical perspective where outspoken views running against main-

stream thought are often seen as a liability for the company. With buzz human resource terms like 'culture fits' gaining traction, such practices are only keen to increase. As a result, every writer in the digital age thinks twice (or ought to) before sending a piece out to an editor, more so if the piece is political, societal or controversial in nature. Editorials Boris Johnson penned in the late 90s were in vogue decades later, with political opponents and media houses trying to use them to influence the narrative around the 2019 UK elections. Another example can be seen in America where senator Ron Paul tried in vain for decades to disassociate himself from the racist contents of newsletters he published in the later half of the 20th century. These case studies testify to the potency and longevity of the written word and in such a climate, it is not hard to understand the anxiety of university students when it comes to voicing their unabridged thoughts, lest they be misunderstood or even worse, they come back to haunt them in the future.

To be fair, I am not just attacking political correctness or addressing the woke culture within this context. These are reasonable consequences of centuries of exploitation of a free press by radical entities to find space for detrimental and marginalizing narratives and are thus certainly necessary today as mental checkpoints for any writer to ensure equity. The fault lines I wish to address

COMMENT

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here translate beyond. The recent case of prominent Time magazine reporter Aatish Taseer being stripped of his Overseas citizenship of India for writing critical articles about Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, suggests that this problem is not limited to Western liberals. Rather this is an issue that anyone wanting to express an opinion must face. Will my current opinions affect my job prospects in a particular sector or am I narrowing my chances by taking a stance on an issue currently and opening myself up to reprisals in the future? With such a broad variety of concerns to check off every time a

student speaks out, one is forced to question just how much discourse we unintentionally suppress as a society? To shackle young minds with the

**“Editorials
Boris Johnson
penned in
the late 90s
were in vogue
decades later”**

definitions and arbitrariness of the modern world is a sure recipe for

entrenchment of thought and indoctrination, and in principle no different than censorship in a communist regime or classroom teachings of creationism in America.

With an informed, engaged and societally invested readership, discourse can be and are drivers of change in society. But as much as the written word is powerful, we need to recognise and appreciate that fluidity of thought and ideology exists while at university. To be clear, the purpose of this piece is neither to suggest absolving student writers of responsibility for their views, nor is to suggest that all or any student(s) engaging with

the paper are ill-informed or are likely to change their views in the future. To take the case for the former would mean delegitimizing student opinions and undermining the value of student publications while the latter would be an insult to the intelligence of the student community. However there is a case to be made for moderation between these two extremes, one involving a shift in societal outlook, on how we perceive and digest information from student publications. Fundamental here is understanding that these opinions could echo developing sentiments, ones that deserve serious and legitimate

engagement nonetheless. One path to achieving this is through enacting explicit legal buffers safeguarding student writers from reprisals and calls of accountability, similar to juvenile accountability for criminal behavior. Such a mechanism would in no way delegitimize their voice, while offering a relatively safe space to experiment intellectually. In a society which has a legal age mandated on every social activity in life, from sex and drinking to voting in elections, it seems only fair that intellectual exploration also be harboured in a similar way. While recognizing that often the accountability that I am addressing here happens

in the public sphere rather than in courts of law, such an explicit legal precedent would be one welcome step in shaping societal outlook and would make the dilemma about intellectual accountability and responsibility part of the mainstream narrative. The answer however is incomplete and with this piece I hope to bring voice to a concern that I believe is sure to exist among many in the university, and with engagement, bring clarity to the apparent dichotomy with how currently a university press operates in society - where we expect one to learn and espouse at the same time.



COMMENT

Calum Drysdale*Comment Editor*

Strikes

they receive. In addition, there is a local pay dispute at Imperial, where staff salary increases are below the rate of inflation - meaning a real-world pay cut again. See Felix 1742 News.

What is the purpose of striking?

Strikes first occurred in Britain during the Industrial Revolution. Workers that were mistreated by factory owners would all refuse to work unless conditions were improved. In a modern context, the purpose of a strike is to, by collectively withdrawing the labour of workers, force an employer to give ground in negotiations.

The strikes adversely affect me

As students some of us are going to be adversely affected by the strikes. Our daily routines might be disrupted as lectures are cancelled and we might worry about content going untaught. However, this is not the fault of the staff. Many staff will not

strike, despite conditions, because they will not be willing to put at risk the education of their students. This brings into focus the intensity of feeling amongst academics, that are making their anger known. Strikes are the last resort of a workforce that sees no other way forward. The fault lies with the pension scheme for refusing to yield, and on the College for refusing to negotiate in goodwill on local pay disputes. Strikes could have been prevented had a more equitable agreement been reached but the College would prefer to see staff and students lose out and hope that the tide of public opinion turns against the strikes, forcing them to return to work rather than give way.

What is a picket line?

A picket line used to be the line of workers that would gather outside a factory to prevent supplies or a new workforce being able to enter. Over time the picket line has become a more symbolic, though still visible, part of strikes. While it is now illegal to prevent people or goods from entering buildings,

or to discriminate against anyone that crosses a picket line to continue working, the act of crossing a picket line still holds enormous social stigma for many. This is because crossing a picket line is associated with a lack of support for the strikers.

This lack of support is traditionally taken very poorly by strikers and supporters of strikes though this depends on who it is crossing. If colleagues of the strikers cross the picket line strikers are angry because while they are losing out on earnings in order to help improve the working conditions of the entire workforce, their colleagues will gain all the benefits without any of the sacrifice. If customers (or in this case students) cross the picket line, this can be regarded as a lack of empathy. If the student were, in later life, to be in a difficult situation, why should anyone support or help them given that they didn't support or help those in trouble striking?

The essence of the argument is that resisting large and powerful organisations or employers such as Imperial or the USS pension fund is

only possible if everyone participates. If a workforce is disorganised and atomised they can all be, individually, mistreated. A single absent worker can be quickly replaced. However, when organised, the strength of numbers gives workers, who traditionally have little power, might.

Why should I support the strikers?

As students at a university where many of us will go on to go into further education or even research, the situation of lecturers and researchers is directly relevant to us. Their situation very well might be our situation. The pension strikes in particular will predominantly affect mid- or early-career academics, as they will pay higher contributions for longer. Furthermore there is a moral question with regards to the pay dispute: why should Imperial, the university that benefits enormously from the research output of these individuals, treat them so poorly? The journal Nature ranked Imperial third in Britain for quality of research. This is research that is

being done by academics. Surely they deserve a measure of the wealth that they helped to create?

Do striking staff get paid?

No. Staff that go on strike do not get paid for the work that is not done. This is in many cases an extreme action for people that already claim that they are not being paid well.

Will my fees be refunded?

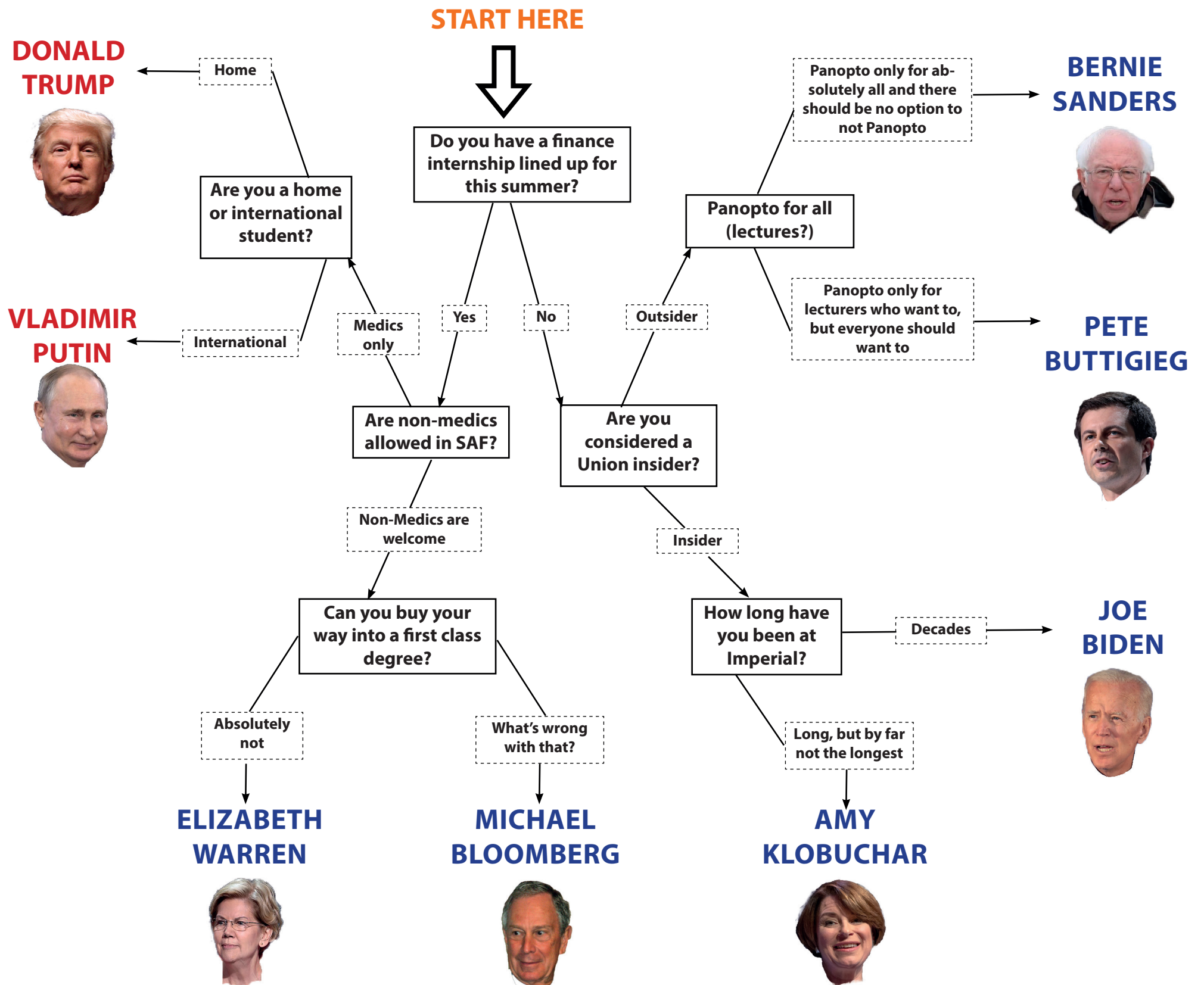
Two years ago when the last round of strikes occurred, students were not refunded any fees. Instead money that would have been spent on lecturers' wages was given to the departments on the basis of how badly each department had been affected by strikes. By contrast, this year money will be kept in a central pot and departments will be able to apply for a portion of this money. This means that the worst-affected departments may not get a proportional return when it comes to reinvestment of the saved cost for the College.

POLITICS

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Quiz: Who is your ideal U.S. President?

Not sure of which 2020 Presidential candidate best represents your views? Unsure of what their views even are? Take this accurate quiz to find out. Then, turn to the next page and see if your chosen President can win the 2020 elections using our super accurate simulation of the race.



POLITICS

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Can you win the U.S. Presidency?

PRESENTING...

Felix's Super Accurate Simulation of What the 2020 Presidential Election is Going to Look Like

Or, FSASW2020PEGLL for short.

Choose your fighter

From your results to the quiz on the previous page, carefully (using round-edge scissors) cut out the politician you ended up with. They shall be the one to lead America into your ideal society.

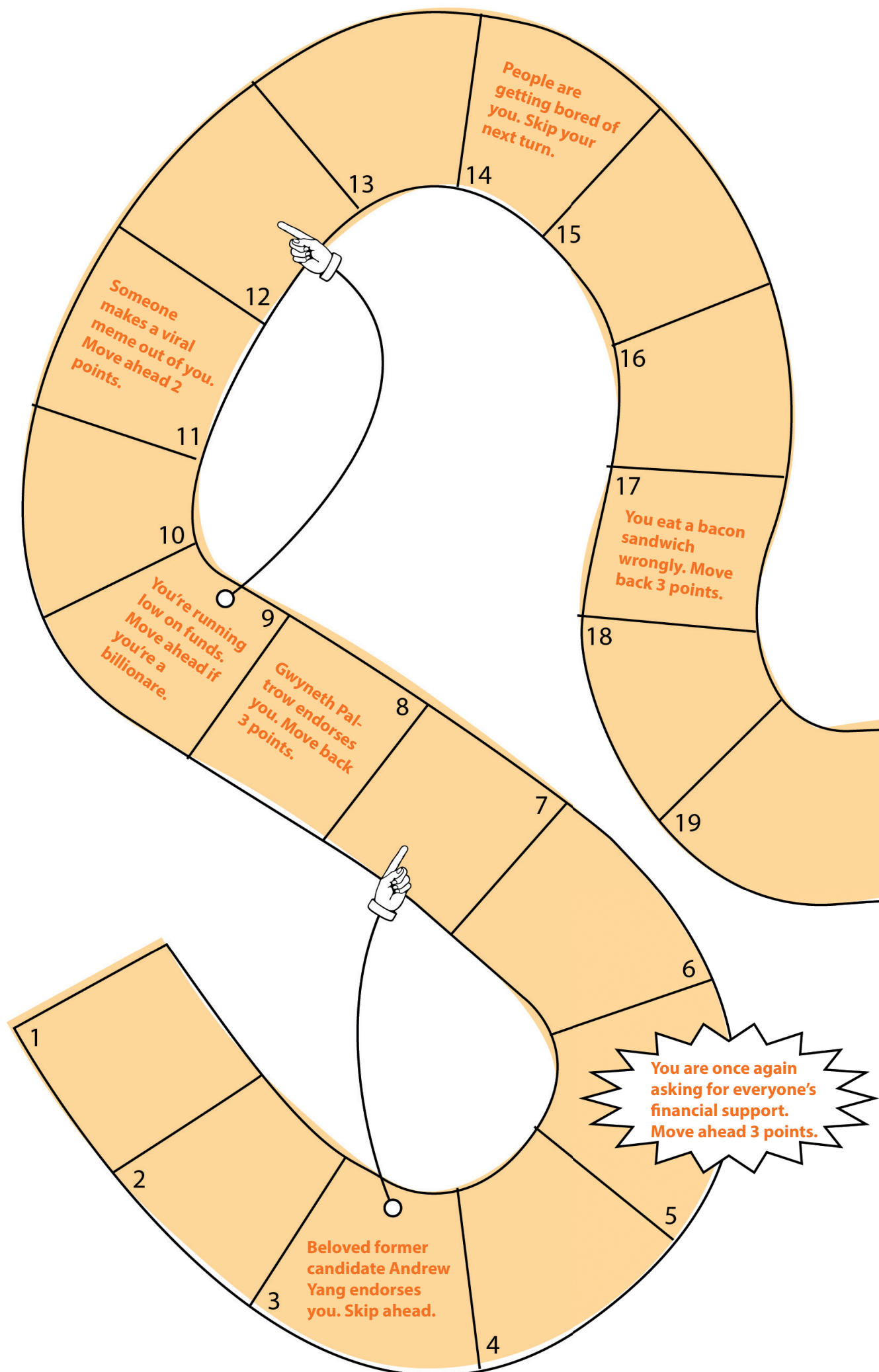


Figure out your starting point

Poor people (non-billionaires) gotta start at the beginning.

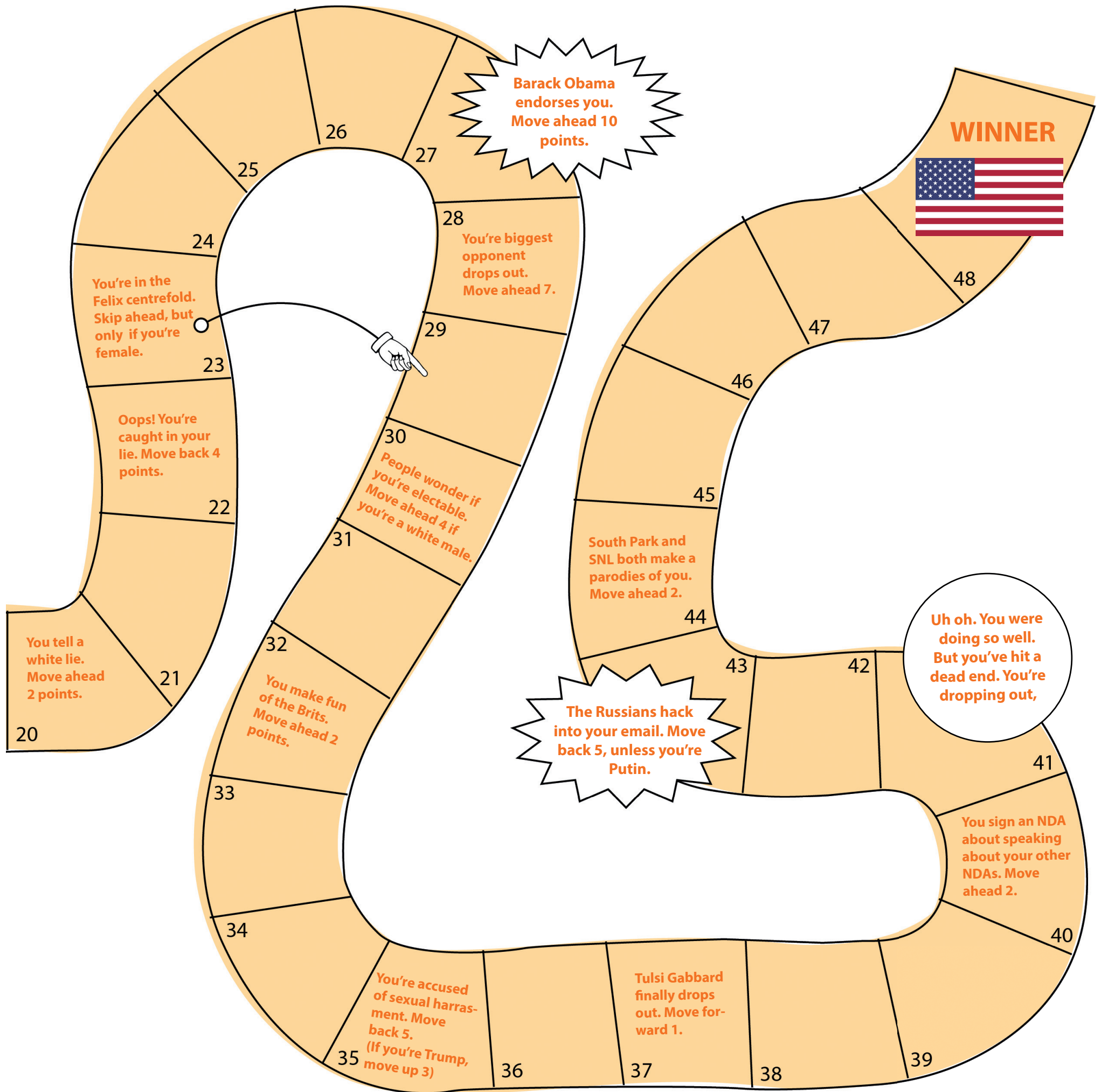
But if you're a billionaire then your starting point is your net worth (in billions), divided by the number of workers you're currently exploiting (in millions), plus the number of TV ads you're planning to air (too many).

If your Putin and nobody knows how much you're worth, then feel free to start wherever you want because you're probably controlling the race anyway.



POLITICS

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ARTS

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A Total War: with the French, the Bees and Gravity

Caryl Churchill's "Far Away" feels like live theatre's answer to Black Mirror

ARTS



Where? Donmar Warehouse

When? 6th Feb – 4th April

How Much? From £10 (or 0£ with YOUNG+FREE scheme for 16-25 year olds)

Eamon Akil Farhat
Arts Editor

The only thing worse than war is total war. Caryl Churchill's play *Far Away* violently explores this concept without showing any violence at all. Through casual conversation which turns into tense dialogue, the psychological aspects of a war which has consumed an entire society are explored. Conceived back in 2000 by Caryl Churchill, this performance seems even more pertinent today. Its dark themes are tastefully intertwined with lighter

dialogue that gives you a real punch in the gut. Though only 40 minutes long, it feels just as intense as an entire season of *Black Mirror*.

The first scene shows a young girl Joan (Sophia Ally) slowly piecing together a rather harrowing scene that she accidentally witnessed. Her aunt Harper (Jessica Hynes) lies to her at first, but when Joan slowly reveals that she knows more and more, Harper can no longer cover up the truth. This tense exchange alludes to governments revealing inconvenient truths to their citizens on a strictly need to know basis. The less they know the better, and the more they know the more they will want to know. Funnily enough, the audience throughout this play is kept in the dark about many things and truths are only revealed and pieced together over the course of the production, making it in some ways an immersive performance.



Loftus and Manyonda have good chemistry during their fun hat making scene until a darker meaning is revealed // Johan Persson

The next scene sees Joan all grown up (Aisling Loftus) making artistic hats for a parade alongside hat connoisseur Todd (Simon Manyonda). They cheerily get to know each other over the course of the week with some allusions to problems with their employer. Their aloof conversations seem like those of guards sitting in a break room... during a genocide, as the hats they create are to be paraded by prisoners about to be burnt alive.

This scene is split up with their hats growing in size as well as flamboyance during every section. The way this is done and in general how sets are changed on stage is genius. Every so often the lights will go off in the theatre, fully off, like you've just closed your eyes. When they come back on seconds later, like waking up from a dream, everything has changed and you feel a bit disoriented as you are thrust back into the action.

The final scene, by which point the audience may just have gotten their bearings, throws everything into more confusion. The idea of war engulfing everything and everyone is taken quite literally. The characters discuss what side different countries are on in the war, France, Venezuela, Russia. But then start talking about alliances with other demographics: dentists, doctors, dogs. More abstract quantities like weather and gravity have taken sides in this

"In total war, all is fair game but terrible consequences ensue when we see this really being put into practice"

fight. Although funny at first, the visually alarmed characters live this in their everyday life. How can they walk in a forest when they don't know what side the oak trees are on? How can they leave the house without being attacked by the ghastly "children under 5" militias? In total war, all is fair game but terrible consequences ensue when we see this

really being put into practice.

Yes this all sounds weird, but it will have you on the edge of your seat for all 40 minutes. You'll leave dazed, confused, yet at the same time satisfied. If you are looking for something to make you think, laugh a little and have a minor internal break down, this is the play for you!



Jessica Hynes builds the tension during her exchanges with Todd (Simon Manyonda) // Johan Persson



Sophia Ally gives a compelling performance as young Joan resembling the creepy little girl from every horror movie in her white dress // Johan Persson

ARTS

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Please, Go See
Leopoldstadt

ARTS



Where? Wyndham Theatre
When? 25th Jan - 16th May
How Much? From £24

Felix Swift Roberts
Arts Writer

It's Christmas 1899 in Vienna, and with their families together for the season, idly bantering over *Der Judenstaat*, Hermann Merz and Ludwig Jakobovicz glibly run through all the corners of the world where Zionism might find its home: Palestine? Not whilst the Ottomans hold the Levant. The Ugandan Highlands? Lion-infested. How about a Jewish colony in Madagascar? The laughter that follows is undercut by horror: the Nazi bureaucracy would toy with the idea of deporting the entirety of European Jewry to the island, before Auschwitz and Treblinka.

Uneasy hindsight runs through the whole of Stoppard's *Leopoldstadt*. Hermann (Adrian Scarborough), an affluent Austrian "of Jewish descent", articulates a faith in progress and mo-

dernity straight out of the Enlightenment: his grandfather was chased out of Russia by a pogrom; his father ran a clothes factory; and Hermann rubs shoulders with the Prince of Austro-Hungary. Of course, the mayor of Vienna is an anti-Semite, but what's that compared to the massacres of the past? They are a generation away from being considered Austrian, Hermann argues.

Ludwig (Ed Stoppard) disagrees. They are Jewish, and in the eyes of gentiles that mark is ineradicable. The aristocracy might tolerate Hermann for his money, he warns, but that doesn't mean he's assimilated: to be accepted doesn't mean hiding his Jewishness, but being able to carry on as a Jew "without insult". Ludwig doesn't hold much hope in that happening. The past is on his side. So is the future.

And so we follow the Merzes and Jakoboviczes through the voids ripped through the fabric of Europe: to 1924, Hermann's son now armless and mad from the war, fascism's shadow crawling over the continent; to 1938, their families huddled in a single room,

Nazis marching on the streets; and finally to 1955, the family apartment stripped and worn, and a much smaller family to match. There are laughs, and diversions to the Riemann Hypothesis (this is a Stoppard play), but the entire production gravitates around Jewishness – Jewishness chosen or imposed, Jewishness inside Europe or out – and the appalling negative space Nazism would leave in its place.

It's banal to implore remembrance, and as time passes it's easy to lose the urgency and horror of the Shoah – political football over Polish culpability, selfies at Auschwitz. *Leopoldstadt* is not a perfect play: no character bar Hermann rises above a sketch, and its digressions are perhaps too unrestrained. Yet I've not had an experience at the theatre quite like seeing an audience, chuckling their way through the Schoenberg jokes, brought to silence by one of the last Jakoboviczes as she lists the destinations of her family members. I've never heard the word Auschwitz repeated so many times in my life. I don't have anything intelligent to add. Go see this.



Exploring Julius Caesar from the small man's perspective // Helen Murray

I, Cinna

ARTS



Where? Barbican
When? 4th Oct - 16th Jan
How Much? From £5 (young people)

Charles Titmuss
Comment Editor

I, Cinna is a tragic tale of mistaken identity, set against the background of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. For those of you unfamiliar with one of Shakespeare's most famous "historical" plays, it portrays the dramatic events of 44 BC in Rome. Julius Caesar, recently declared dictator for life, is assassinated by his own senators for the good of the Roman Republic. In the aftermath, an innocent poet, Cinna, who happens to share the name with one of the conspirators, is brutally beaten to death by a pro-Caesar mob. I, Cinna imagines the story of this side character, eking out an existence in the uncertain final days of the Roman Republic.

I, Cinna forces the audience to think. Just as Shakespeare's Julius Caesar focuses on the life and times of the great and good, so I, Cinna focuses the mind on the small and insignificant. Each member of the audience was issued with their own notepad and pencil. The power of the written word was writ large in our laps as Cinna composed a poem appropriate for the turbulent times. I came away from the play with a great appreciation of

"in tumultuous times innocence is no defense against the mob"

Cinna the character. No longer a mere bit-part, sacrificed by Shakespeare as an example of the mob's bloodthirsty hunger for revenge: instead, a sympathetic, tragic character, a weak man when the times cried out for

strength.

Tim Crouch, in an engaging one-man performance, cowers from the powers that be as Cinna the uncertain poet. He convincingly portrays a man that is watching everything he holds dear being destroyed. He cannot write about life and love, but only about war and death.

I'm certain that the word timely is overused when discussing modern productions. We are by no means living in Cinna's world, the violent overthrow of an old regime by a cadre of hardened, ambitious politician-generals. Instead, this production is a thoughtful examination of the might of the pen and the danger of words. Ideas may not be killable, but people certainly are. Cinna the poet was murdered for the crime of sharing the wrong name. After professing his innocence, he was condemned for his bad verses. Brilliantly, this production shows that in tumultuous times innocence is no defense against the mob. Words have power, and danger too.



Hermann's belief in modernity and progress is proven wrong // Marc Brenner

ARTS

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Lucie Jones live at the Adelphi

The Waitress star serves a stunning show

ARTS



Where? The Adelphi
When? 16th Feb
How Much? £29 - £87.30;

Ozibil Ege Dumenci
Arts Editor

Lucie Jones first came to prominence through X Factor in 2009, where she was eliminated as a result of a sing-off against Jedward. Feeling old yet? Right. Despite her abrupt elimination, she has gone on to have quite the career, starring in *Les Misérables* on the

West End, playing the lead role in *Legally Blonde* at Curve Leicester, and being a part of many touring companies over the year, including the Chinese tour of *Ghost the Musical*.

More recently, Jones won the public vote to represent the UK in Eurovision. She performed the powerful ballad 'Never Give Up on You', and ended up finishing in 15th place, which, all things considered, was a pretty massive success for the UK. Regardless, she deserved way better.

These days, Jones can be found performing the lead role of Jenna eight times a week in *Waitress* at the Adelphi Theatre. However, for her first solo

West End concert, gone was the diner set from *Waitress*, leaving Jones front and centre on a bare stage, with the 22-piece London Musical Theatre Orchestra behind her.

Staying onstage for two hours, Jones's setlist was, simply put, a love letter to musical theatre, and a celebration of her career. With songs from *Funny Girl*, *Rent*, *Waitress* and more, the evening was the perfect blend of fun and gut-wrenching, all while Jones provided the audience with a vocal tour de force. Undoubtedly, the highlight of the night was her performance of *She Used to Be Mine* from *Waitress*. Replacing the simplistic arrangements of the source material

with the full-bodied orchestra, and belting through the climax of the song passionately, Jones managed to leave the audience in awe. This is no surprise, as she manages to do the exact same thing eight times a week with the exact same song in *Waitress*. Another highlight was Jones's performance of *The Prayer* alongside her special guest John Owen-Jones. Despite the extreme cheese the song manages to serve every time it is sung, the airtight harmonies between the two performers more than made up for this. The two were not only perfectly in sync, they sounded like one voice. Nay, a perfectly tuned instrument.

The top-notch singing was intertwined with anecdotes from Jones's career, which, unlike usual pre-rehearsed speeches in most concerts, felt genuine and fun. Opening the second act of the show with *Into The Unknown* from *Frozen 2*, she explained that on her Instagram poll, a large number of people requested her to sing *Let It Go*, but she decided against it, because she wasn't cast as Elsa in the upcoming West End production despite her 'trying really really hard'. Instead, that highly coveted role went to Samantha Barks, whom, she explained at another point during the show, she met during the *Les Misérables* auditions.

They have since gone on to become really close friends – according to Jones, Barks was one of her bridesmaids! Regardless, I think Jones would make an outstanding Anna in *Frozen*. Just sayin'.

Throughout the evening, Jones received three well deserved standing ovations from the audience. As a fan of musical theatre, it would have been impossible to leave this show unimpressed even if one weren't familiar beforehand with most of the songs in the setlist. The show was recorded to be released as a live album later in the year. It would be criminal to not give it a stream on Spotify once it's out.

Tryst

Newlyweds in their sourmoon

ARTS



Where? Chiswick Playhouse
When? Until 29th Feb
How Much? £22.5;

Maria Portela
Arts Writer

Trust transports us to the beginning of the last century, a few months before August 1915. It is set in London, off of Edgware Road, and later an unnamed town by the sea. We meet two characters: Adelaide Pinchin,

a hard-working naive shop-girl with a generous savings account, and George Love, a charming penniless serial fraudster. What happens between them, as the title suggests, is a secret affair with thrilling twists and a surprising climax.

Writer Karoline Leach clearly knows how to explore the duality of perspectives of her characters for comic effect. In a play ridden with falsehood and deceit, the audience becomes a confidant for both characters, gaining insights into their thoughts and an understanding of the broader implications of each lie. In that way, we see Adelaide's admiration for Mr Love grow

with each story of exotic diplomatic missions and fabulous riches, while his stratagems to dodge his landlady's demands for rent payment grow increasingly intricate. We follow them from the day they first meet, accompany their secret encounters, and witness their relationship growing, culminating and falling apart, too late to avoid serious consequences. As the play evolves and the character's inner demons come into the light, we also follow their internal resistances and personal growth. Actress Scarlett Brookes makes a very convincing Adelaide, innocent yet astute, battling dreams and cautiousness, at the same time



Mr Love won't take Adelaide's doubts // Savannah Photographic

thrilled and terrified for running away into a secret marriage. Fred Perry, portraying Mr Love, is wonderful at keeping the audience permanently on the edge of their seats, second-guessing his intentions and often almost falling for his traps and selfish reasoning. The power dynamics between them keep changing unpredictably during the

play, with tense exchanges contrasting with common plans, in an intensely psychological thriller.

The play isn't without fault, however. Some dialogues are a bit of a stretch for authenticity, and the strong, captivating energy with which the play starts decays during the longer scenes. By the end of the play, I was starting to feel uncomfortable: not

exactly bored, but with a feeling that something was off and they were taking too long to reach the forecasted not-exactly-happy-but-a-good-compromise ending. But I can forgive it all, thanks to an absolutely brilliant final scene. No spoilers, but I can assure you I was still feeling the adrenaline rush on the tube back home.

ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

No Playing Around in this Doll's House

Women's suffering over the past century

ARTS



Where? The Young Vic
When? 5th Feb - 21st Mar
How Much? From £10

Preet Lalli
Arts Writer

Originally performed and set in late 19th century Norway, Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* sparked great outrage for its controversially candid portrait of womanhood. Stef Smith's *Nora: A Doll's House*, adapts this into three parallel timelines: 1918, 1968 and 2018, chosen for the milestones of women's

suffrage, the legalisation of abortion and the MeToo movement. The plot follows Nora's crisis when a secret from her past is threatened to be revealed to her husband, Thomas. In her desperation, she becomes disillusioned and dissatisfied with her life, which eventually leads to the deterioration of her seemingly perfect marriage.

The play opens on the three Noras entering the home laden with bags of Christmas shopping, chorusing, echoing and finishing each other's sentences as they weave around each other in an impeccably choreographed introduction. The square, thrust stage at the Young Vic is perfect for this living room setting, easily drawing the

audience into the intimate domestic scene. The warm lighting in the 'haven' of the family home in the foreground is in chilling contrast with the darkness through the three doorways behind where, unseen to the audience, a cold, bleak river lies. Nora's warnings for her children to be mindful of the river are juxtaposed by her own romanticised notion of the numbness it would grant her, a motif for her desire to escape.

Anna Russell-Martin, Natalie Klamar and Amaka Okafor do an excellent job of communicating their Noras' shared emotional repression whilst retaining clear individual personalities. However, each actor also shifts between characters and time periods to play

Christine (the long-lost friend) which is somewhat confusing to keep track of. The sole husband, Thomas is played by Poldark's heartthrob Doctor, Luke Norris, who switches masterfully between the roles. An especially admirable feat at the climax, where he and the audience, are left spinning by the pace of change.

Smith makes an attempt to tackle the topic of homosexuality as well as the persistence of women's suffering, an ambitious task to do successfully in a 90 minute play and sadly only serves to detract from the significance of both issues. Though largely well written, the script also leaves the message of the play a little stale, with some banal lines such as "sometimes love is not



From where I'm standing, there's not much to complain about // Wikimedia

enough".

Even though it misses the mark in places, Smith's bold and brave reimagining of this classic is a gripping watch. With its creative role-switching

and thoughtful staging, *Nora: A Doll's House* is a wonderfully refreshing change from popular theatre.

IMPERIAL MEDICS  IMPERIAL COLLEGE

THE

IMPERIAL VARSITY 2020

WED 26 FEBRUARY
 HARLINGTON

FRI 28 FEBRUARY ETHOS
 SAT 29 FEBRUARY HESTON

FASHION

felix@imperial.ac.uk

ICFS: Billie Jean is Crazy in Love

FASHION

Eamon Akil Farhat
Fashionista

Calling on the talent of small designers, and by summoning the model that lives in each and every Imperial student, the ICFS fashion show was an overall success. This charity event raised money for ClientEarth. Some of

The good...

the best and worst looks have been highlighted here as well as the “sexy”. The latter does not refer to questionably fully clothed men standing alongside Imperial’s answer to Victoria’s Secret models but rather fun and entertaining moments throughout the show.



The fabulous bold patterns by Kwame Koranteng were among the best looks of the night. Contrasting with the block coloured waistcoat helped ensure the patterns were effective without overpowering the look.



This piece which formed part of a more extensive lingerie line by Nearer the Moon was one of the highlights. The different textures and rising towards the neck elevated the simple lingerie to something special.

Criticism can be made about this entire walk, not because it was “a bit riske” as your aunt Karen would say, but rather because of the men standing alongside them in an almost voyeuristic way. In future, keeping a balance will help stop perpetuating sexist connotations.

...and the sexy!



The theme of the show was loosely followed through with moments like this Billie Jean pose as well as some fun walks with Beyoncé booming in the background. While some models kept straight faces, some broke their character and couldn’t help lip-sync a little. These were some of the most joyous moments of the show and maybe something to be encouraged in future.

Eventually, some of the sexiest men on campus did strip down and walk the walk restoring the gender balance.

Special guests the Imperielles and Funkology performed as well. These were great additions and elevated the whole show. A special mention has to be made to the dancers in Funkology, wow, they really stole the show!

...the bad...



The elmer the elephant-esque colourful trousers are fun and stylish at a stretch however the pom-poms top is deeply unsettling. Maybe try pipe cleaners next time!



This overall look was actually extremely innovative however the sheer material used at crotch level confused the flow of the outfit causing a disconnect between the top and bottom.



Other looks which used the same materials were effective but this one, especially with the transparent window, didn’t work. Not sure about the loo roll headpiece either...



Much like the pom-poms, the aesthetics did not sit well with me. The make-up and hair here, as well as a fierce look on the model almost dsittract you from this.



ICSM 2020 Fashion Show Photos // Tom

FASHION

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Athleisure, Can We Equi-not?

Regular Fashion contributor and owner of fashion brand Simpleboy, John James Humm tells us why he hates luxury gymwear and why he thinks you should too.

FASHION

John James Humm

Fashion Writer

As much as fashion sets trends for the future, it holds up a mirror to society and reflects the concerns, aspirations and feelings of the time. Think Dior's "we should all be feminists" t-shirt from just a few seasons ago, and the huge stir it caused. With social justice being an area of intense debate and activism in recent years, the large fashion houses used Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's essay title to endorse the message, causing the fashion industry and wider media to pay attention to current women's rights movements. The fashion moments we remember are always a case of the right aesthetic with the right message at the right time. However, there's a new style which is hugely increasing in popularity and market influence which, in my opinion, is completely devoid of any meaning or integrity. What is Athleisure and its popularity saying, if it's saying anything at all, about contemporary society?

Athleisure takes the functionality of items designed for the gym, adds a touch of luxury, and pushes up the price tag by several orders of magnitude. It was described by a JD Sports Chief Executive as clothing you can "wear to the gym and the pub" (just not that one pub in Edinburgh which recently banned "jobby catchers and mankles") and it is

unique from sportswear or streetwear movements in its focus on minimal functional designs and high-quality materials. And this approach seems to be working very well. Athleisure in recent years has outgrown other clothing areas and is expected to swell to a market value of \$100 Billion (USD) this year. Brands like Equinox, Lululemon, and WONE have seen exceptional growth over the last few seasons by encouraging their customers to wear their cycling shorts whether they're cycling to the gym or sat in a Fulham coffee shop (with no intention of exercising whatsoever). The popularity of the style codes of Athleisure have made an impact on high-end brands collections too. MISBHV, Poland's hottest high-end streetwear brand of the late 2010s, is seeing worldwide success with its futuristic skin-tight tops and bottoms. In addition, Off-White (the top brand on the Lyst Index, a quarterly ranking of fashion's hottest brands and products) has slowly integrated more athleisure into their collections. Iconically and early on, Off-White's Creative Director, Virgil Abloh, sent Naomi Campbell down the runway wearing cycling shorts styled with double-breasted suit jacket as part of their collection inspired by Princess Diana.

The increase in the number and success of athleisure brands is, of course, due to the increase in popularity of health and fitness culture, and customers are prepared to splash some serious



The double dancer pose: connecting partners to each other and your bank balance to Lululemon // Pixabay

cash on letting people know they go to the gym. Furthermore, as the price point and perceived luxury of these items goes up, athleisure brands are being seen more and more outside of the gym as well as inside. Of course, we could say that athleisure's popularity is in its comfort, its functionality, and that having clothing you can wear at work, at the gym, and down at the pub reflects the needs of modern city-living. However, this doesn't encapsulate Athleisure's appeal completely. People used to go to the gym in inexpensive clothing or just an old t-shirt and shorts stuffed at the bottom of their work bag, changing into the appropriate outfit for the appropriate occasion. What people never used to do was invest in clothing in order to show off that they went to the gym, or to look good while exercising. If

it wasn't simply a worn t-shirt and some loose shorts, it was something from Sports Direct, JD Sports. At most you might see labels like Nike or Adidas but definitely not "designer" level garments from a 100 billion dollar sector.

The choices we make when we buy clothing is never a purely pragmatic one based on functionality of that clothing. Whether it's an intention to buy our favourite band's merchandise or we're subconsciously drawn to an item on the rail, we make choices about what we wear because we feel it represents something about us which we want the world to know. When asked about people wanting to do away with fashion completely, Bill Cunningham, the late fashion photographer, responded by saying it could not be done simply because "it [fashion] is

the armour to survive everyday life". The problem with athleisure is that it is expressing something banal and everyday - merely that the wearer goes to the gym (or pretends to). It doesn't express any insight about a person's music or hobbies, their political leanings or ideals or even their favourite sports team. Our clothing choices don't have to reflect something about us, but like it or not they do because they are a choice. The importance of fashion as an art form is unique because it can tap into and embody what people think and want to say about themselves directly. Athleisure represents a step towards everyone wearing the same clothing everywhere everyday like some kind of grey-scale dystopia.

Athleisure, in my opinion, doesn't stand for much. The only thing it reflects about con-

temporary culture is our preoccupation with health and fitness and how we lack the time to go home and change before and after going to the gym. Consider any other decade in living memory, each has its defining sub-culture and their corresponding ideals. Think about punks, teddy-boys, hippies, casuals, emos, greasers, and skinheads. London was at the centre of these and when you walked down the street you would see people from these groups. Whether you associated with them or not, these groups had passions and interests that they wanted to express through their clothing, and this shaped fashion history. Looking around now, I hope that my generation isn't only remembered by people doing Pilates and push-ups.

FASHION

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

A fashion fad or an avant-garde attitude?

A discussion as to how our average Imperial student utilises the effects of 'Power dressing' and if that even really means anything

FASHION

Simran Gill
Fashion Editor

In the abundance of lab-restricted attire and 'my coursework is due in the morning' clobber, the significance of style often be swept into STEM insouciance, with comfort and utility taken to the extreme of laziness and slobbishness. Despite the fact that Imperial College London isn't everyone's runway, our cohort is multidimensional and their garments mean more than what meets the eye.

"Is the psychology of 'Power Fashion' A gospel truth or pseudoscience bullshit?"

We question who or what holds power in fashion? Is the psychology of 'Power Fashion' a gospel truth or pseudoscience bullshit? And when does confident clothing become comic book costume?

I spoke to my peers about their relationship with their wardrobe.

Malinda 'Two different converse' Davies

Day to day style? Black jeans and black fitted top. Is there anything you are limited by? I don't like wearing leggings unless it's for working out or for

wearing at home

Who or what are you influenced by? My mum as most of my clothes are hers

Do you dress to impress? I do try, but sometimes I just cannot be bothered at uni. But I always dress to impress when I go to party or a meeting

How does how you dress make you feel? Like I don't have to think or worry about how I look because I know I look great

What is your power outfit? Why? When I'm at a party it would have to be a classic little black dress but with plenty of glitter as it puts me in a good mood; for any work then it would be my pink suit jacket and black skirt because there is lack of pink in business attire and I'm glad I've managed to find a something formal in my favourite colour

Heather 'If the hoodie fits, buy it in every colour' Kwun

Day to day style? Jeans and a jumper or hoodie usually

Is there anything you are limited by? The weather and if I'm stuck in the lab all day or not

Who or what are you influenced by? Probably if I see someone around or on Instagram and I like their style, I would take fashion inspiration from there

Do you dress to impress? Not day-to-day at uni, but on the right occasion then sure

How does how you dress make you feel? Wearing something that I'm comfortable in or feel good in makes me feel confident. What is your power outfit? Why? If I wear heels with



Style queens or fashion fiends: Heather, Andres and Conor

an outfit, I instantly feel like a boss

Andres 'In constant denial that the UK climate isn't tropical' Martin

Day to day style? Regardless of whether it's a snow storm or a heatwave it's shorts and tie-dye or tropical t-shirts everyday

Is there anything you are limited by? Only limited by labs when I'm forced to wear trousers instead... got to cover those ankles

Who or what are you influenced by? Anything that looks summery or beachy

Do you dress to impress? Sometimes, but mostly it's whatever is comfy

How does how you dress make you feel? Bomb. What is your power outfit? Why? My power outfit is a suit for a black-tie event

for example, because it makes me feel like a badass adult who can be comfortable and sexy at the same time

Conor 'Couldn't care less Crooks'

Day to day style? Usually just a t-shirt and a hoodie with black chinos, alongside fun socks

"I feel much cleaner when I don't have a hood, but I usually wear the hood because my ears get chilly"

Is there anything you are limited by? Sometimes I get a bit daring and I think about switching up the hoodie, but I don't really care most of the time so it's the same one on repeat for a couple days

Who or what are you influenced by? By whatever isn't in the wash

Do you dress to impress? Sometimes if I want to look 'nice' I'll put on a shirt when I'm going out with my girlfriend

How does how you dress make you feel? I feel a bit better when I put effort in, but only because it's the shirt is a tad more special

What is your power outfit? Why? Shirt and sweater because I feel much cleaner when I don't have a hood, but I usually wear the hood because my ears get chilly

It's interesting to highlight

that someone's power outfit can really vary and doesn't have to be velvet suit and bowtie to feel like a boss, but simply could be the lack of a hood.

Despite, whatever research has been done on how clothing changes people's perception of you, a common theme seen from power dressing would be that adopting a mind-set that fashion can be utilised as a tool of influence on yourself, is the most influential part of all...even for the most nonchalant of the group.

FASHION

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Imperial College Fashion Bible: Episode 2

A comprehensive guide to campus styles, showing you what to wear and how to wear it. Find your tribe today!

FASHION

Jenny Pan
Fashion Writer

The other day, a friend told me that they “don’t get fashion” in the same tone that I say I “don’t get sports”. But whereas I can refuse to step foot on a football field ever again and denounce any sporting activity, we don’t have that luxury with fashion. From the moment you’re born and your parents wrap you in off-brand Pampers (brand loyalty is the enemy of progress), you’ve been a player in the game and you’ll stay a player until you’re cremated or the clothes they bury you in get eaten by worms. So if

you have to be a player, you best start looking for your team. Here are another few to get your head in the game.

It’s Not All Business

Blazers really are everywhere, and I’m not just talking about those anxiously rushing to job interviews. The uniform of those that take life a little too seriously, you’ve probably seen at least one person casually strolling in a suit every time you’re on campus.

With blazers in every shade, material and pattern you can imagine, there is a blazer out there to match anything and the blazer wearing gang won’t let you forget it. They think that adding a blazer to anything will render the outfit smart-

casual so expect blazer with evening dress, blazer with Hawaiian shirt, blazer with shorts, and the classic blazer with jeans.

Where to shop:
Where *can’t* you get a blazer these days?

Flourescent Adolescence

So you’ve finally ventured out of your black and white wardrobe with a pop colour. Empowered by your choice of patterned socks, you’ve gone crazy with power and decided to take it to the next level. If one bright colour could be that good, then surely wearing all the bright colours will allow you to achieve Godhood.

Whether it’s an all-out neon bodycon or just some flashy boots, whatever

your staple clothing item is, it now exists in an array of neon.

Where to shop:
Dollskill, ASOS, local costume/clown shop

Man in the Mirror

Ever felt overshadowed in a group photo? We know how important those Instagram photos are and we’ve got the perfect solution for you. The best part? No one will even see it coming until the flash hits. Perfect for those too shy to be flaunting neon 24/7 but want to be a little experimental. You could be both the guy or gal in a dull shade of grey no one notices AND the one taking the spotlight and shining brighter than an Imperial graduate’s future. I’m telling you reflective



50 Shades of Grey: the Imperial Edit // Thomas Angus

clothing are magical. One final friendly reminder, while reflective clothing is flash photography friendly, foundation with SPF is not.

Where to shop:
Collusion, ASOS

IMPERIAL MEDICS  IMPERIAL COLLEGE

THE

IMPERIAL VARSITY 2020

WED 26 FEBRUARY
HARLINGTON

FRI 28 FEBRUARY ETHOS
SAT 29 FEBRUARY HESTON



Imperial College
London



BOOKS

books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Notes to a fresher: What would you say to a fresher?

It doesn't smell like fall yet, but already the faintness of copper outlines itself in the sunsets. I see it everyday, how the sun rises a little less over the glass of the library's top floors.

They are soon coming. Freshers who will quickly forget to appreciate these things. The beautiful ones, the simple ones. Instead, they will bury their heads in coursework and lecture notes. They will swarm in minutes before nine, late again with their hair dripping wet. And I? I will watch them as my shadow stretches in winter and cold until I am no longer a source of pride but a reminder of once incredulous awe.

I will only be the backdrop in their parents' photographs: one taken on move-in day and one on graduation, but otherwise? I wonder if they even noticed me.

-Ines
3rd Year Materials Science and Engineering



With a click and a twist, the coffee grounds fit snugly inside me. I watch your bleary morning eyes perk up as the familiar smell hits. You look me up and down, eager for my taste, but be patient. Soon I'll have that cup hot and steaming for you, keeping you warm, soothing last night's headache - I can make you feel oh-so alive again. Don't think me a hollow temptress. Have a sip... a touch of foam so soft on the lips, a bitter kick, liquid silk. Drink up fresher. How could you resist?

-Your caffeine-laden lover, Nadia
4th Year Mechanical Engineering



Are these really the best years of your life? Watching pigeons fight seagulls on Queen's lawn and waiting for the scorching scoop of slop they're serving today at Fusion? Well, don't look so dour just yet.

It's true that after these years you'll no longer be told to live to the fullest. You'll just be expected to live. A cog in the globalist machine, your wildest dreams will be clocking out early once in a fortnight. What should you do then?

Cherish the fleeting fits of passion and water the blackened earth with your tears of disappointment. Stand tall on the platforms of success where all before you looks conquerable; don't look down. If you're not foolish now, when will you be? Take that leap. Tune in and turn on. Whether you do or you do not, I guarantee that Future You will neither forgive nor forget.

-Martin Flerin
3rd Year Chemistry

Don't be gullible! The accidents? They're tall tales. Rumors manifested in the gruesome minds of students acting as a lure. As you are soon to find out, I don't need rumors for allure; I am allure.

When the twilight fades to blackness, and the tempo of the city slows, this is when I come alive. The streetlamps and windows dim to my presence; a radiant, blue aura that defies the night sky. I invite you to stare. And for that one fleeting moment, allow me to show you how the darkness can suddenly feel like home.

-George Papatiriu
4th Year Mechanical Engineering



You should really have bought me. I was—after all—on the reading list. But you didn't. Not when you realised that my cost could go towards other things, like coffee, or ballpoint pens, or those little packs of salted cashews they have at SAF Café. How lucky you are to have found me just lying here. Go on, slip me into your backpack, and ignore the suspicious remains of a library tag barely hidden inside my cover. Instead, notice my 51-page index, added to guide you through my 3,082 grams of uncut waffle. Please, take me home with you. I'm awfully lonely.

-James Hooker
3rd Year Biochemistry



I appreciate your curiosity. Taking a moment to look around, finding a folded note taped under these handrails. Then, drawn by the allure of some secret within, left no choice but to open it. Now please, don't slow down on my behalf, but do tell me about yourself?

I see. I remember my first day here. And since then, a constant erosion and reassembly of that person under a surgery I myself supervised. Yes, this is a ship entirely in your hands, even if I am giving my blessing to your mutineers. But don't look so afraid. That fear of change will have to be the first thing to go!

Now, look up! Here's the last step. There's the sign that says CAGB, 6th-floor. But what do you see through the window? You will pass by many times a day, for years now, but don't let that gradually shield your eyes, from the wonder of what you behold at this moment. Maybe we will even speak again. Ah, you want to know who I am. Well, does it really matter?

-Anon
3rd Year Bioengineering

BOOKS

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Here are some answers from Creative Writing students.



Enjoy complaining to her about me, going to her for a scheduled relief session, moments where you can forget I exist. It won't last. Her hate for me will become too much, you'll give in to me in due coursework. You've flirted with me for a long time now, and whether or not you realise it, you declared your commitment to me when you first entered City and Guilds (my pressure cooker: where I will routinely slurp your stock).

I'm a kleptomaniac. I steal overachievers like you from hobbies, sleep, and, yes, love. I'm more of a romantic than she could ever be; I'll kiss your neck when you least expect it, forming icicles in your spine. I'll recede your hairline for you because it looks better that way. I'll feed you, you'd starve without me.

-Asad Raja
3rd Year Mechanical Engineering

You're probably struggling with your course already, which is why you're here.

If you think you're falling behind on your course, I know how you're feeling! My advice, as someone who's also been there, is: abandon any perfectionist notion. There is no one forcing you to make it to each lecture, and there is no need to be absolutely on pace.

Instead, realise that, in the end, it's only the results (e.g. exams) that matter. Be creative and open-minded: find your own rhythm, or in other words, your own pace. Find out what works for YOU.

To the fresher who's been standing outside of the Well-being office.

-Anon
3rd Year Chemical Engineering

From my place on the ground, muddy from yesterday's rain and trampled in your wake, you are a giant, on your way to study in one of the world's top ten best universities. Four years amongst the intellectual elite and your future is gifted in a box with the dean's list wrapping paper. You might land a high-paying job in a medtech company, inventing new revolutionary medical devices every year. Or enter the world of research and be the next Alexander Fleming. Maybe even co-found a start-up for near instantaneous tissue regeneration and have it be an overnight success!

In three years' time, when faced with rejections, remember how hopeful you are feeling now and try not to crush me again. Especially after being freshly replanted.

Love,
The Grass Association of Queen's Lawn

-K.B.
3rd Year Bioengineering

Red lanyard swingers – listen up. Go and find your brother - the brother you left at home. I see my brother in the care-free gait of a student wandering across Dalby Court. He would laugh at the jokes my brother and I have shared. He would be a vessel into which I could pour my excitement. On a Christmas morning my grin would shine through him.

These years will make you love and appreciate your brother more than you ever did. Though he'll be far away, and the times you spend together far between, you'll grow closer. You will both be glowing in the absence of one another.

-Ed Chapman
3rd Year Mechanical Engineering

I'm probably depressed but don't have enough free time to feel it. 35 hours of programming and fourteen hours of lectures a week, tutoring on weekends, a grisly attempt at a social life, membership to two clubs/socs, weekly placement interviews, and now (at 11:40pm) I'm pushing a "by Wednesday" deadline to its semantic limit. Why do I do this? Why would you do this?

Parents, at least mine, would dangle a graduation cap from a fishing rod. But that's not why – you and I know that. The academic pursuit has got its teeth in you by now. Don't let it swallow you whole.

-Anon
3rd Year Computing

FRESHER! DO NOT READ THIS UNLESS YOU WANT TO KNOW YOUR FUTURE

You should know that...

There are spiky handles on Huxley windows that feel like barbed wire. There are metal bolts on Beit windows that feel like prison bars. There are restricted areas you can't enter, courses you can't take, software you can't download. Welcome to Imperial Palace! Where inmates feel like family, where books feel like food and meal deals feel like contraband.

You want to know that...

You escaped on a Thursday, when you were grabbing your 5th meal deal of the week in JCR. Your stomach was growling and your throat was dry when you noticed them. Two words, on the cold drinks fridge, freezing your faltering breath: "IMPERIAL IS..."

Yours,
89.79.85

-Clara
Final Year Computing

MUSIC

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Felix Recommends

This week, Felix recommends has something for everyone, be it Bass, Hip-hop, Afrobeat or Indie

MUSIC

Tangential Zones



Artist: G Jones; **Label:** Illusory Records; **Top Tracks:** Drift - Acid Mix, Immortal Light, Dark Artifact; **For Fans Of:** Sinjin Hawkke, Flume; 17 mins

Miles Gulliford

Music Editor

With endorsement from DJ Shadow, RL Grime and Aphex Twin already

under his belt G Jones has nowhere to go but up. This EP, an ‘epilogue’ to *The Ineffable Truth* (Jones’ last LP), is almost everything one could hope for in an electronic record.

Tangential Zones’ breakneck bangers are built on gritty, glitchy synths, tightly welded drum lines and the silences between.

The arrangement of each track on *Tangential Zones* can make the listener somewhat disorienting. Abrupt pauses add excitement and intrigue to, traditional builds and drops of ‘Dark Artifact’. The fact that sounds here bear more resemblance to video game SFX than

instruments (see ‘Dream Fatigue’) adds to the confusion, the listening experience analogous to being lost in a rave.

“Do I want to be lost in a rave?”, you ask yourself. If you enjoy high production quality, well arranged dance music, and feeling slightly overwhelmed, I would hazard a yes.



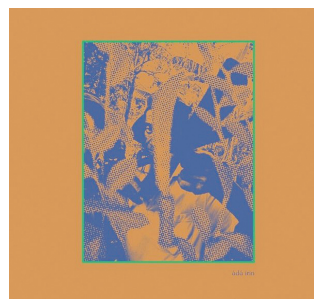
Tangential Zones // Edmsauce

MUSIC

Àdá Irin



Artist: Navy Blue; **Label:** Freedom Sounds; **Top Tracks:** In Good Hands, Crash!, Love Is...; **For Fans Of:** Earl Sweatshirt, Medhane, MIKE; 43 mins



Àdá Irin // Pitchfork

Navy Blue is perhaps best known for his appearance on Earl Sweatshirt’s *Some Rap Songs*, where his understated, monotonous style did little to distinguish him from his New York based contemporaries - artists like MIKE, Medhane and Standing On The Corner, whose dusty, minimal take on rap has garnered a respectable following in recent years. I have found this style to lack any distinguishably worthwhile qualities (i.e. interesting lyrics, production), *Àdá Irin* is an exception.

On his debut LP, Navy Blue shows up his peers

with a strong ear for samples. The record’s instrumental palette is built on Gospel-esque choir and horn samples, a fitting backdrop for Blue’s often introspective lyrics: “Razor sharp memories up in the grooves/On my brain, life’s riddle is the truth”.

The record’s lack of features, (KAs verse on ‘In Good Hands’ notwithstanding), adds to its intimacy. Navy Blue finds space to hide references to past friends, parents, religion and depression in his sparse lines. Understanding Navy Blue’s poetry is a two way process, but a worthwhile one.

MUSIC

Fu Chronicles



Artist: Antibalas; **Label:** Daptone Records.; **Top Tracks:** Lai Lai, MTTT, Pt. 1 & 2; **For Fans Of:** Fela Kuti; 49 mins

Fu Chronicles is the latest record from Afrobeat collective Antibalas, which has been operating out of New York for the last 20 years. With colourful horn and guitar lines and a tight rhythm section (tastefully adorned with percussion of course), the record is invigorating and engaging.

Opener ‘Amenawon’ sets the stage gently, with lyrics translating to “may the water you will drink not pass you by” around a steady guitar lick, teasing the listener with a number of false climaxes before erupting into a full-on groove at the 4-minute

mark. Call and response improvisation between the horn section and an organ and flute follows, a fascinating textural, rhythmic and harmonic interplay.

The rest of the record is made up of similar grooves, varying in tempo and instrumental composition, but maintaining the same blend of jazz, funk and African elements which make Afrobeat such a potent genre. The dramatic horn hits which punctuate sections of ‘MTTT, Pt. 1 & 2’ as well as its catchy “Tic-toc-tic” refrain makes it particularly notable. The following track ‘Fight Am Finish’, which strikes the ear with its opening synth line before diverting into a romping 3 time groove, is also a fun listen.

Frontman Duke Amayo, an ex-martial arts teacher calls on his dojo experience, on *Fu Chronicles*, most notably in his vocal performances. ‘Flower



Fu Chronicles // Grateful Web

Power’s ad-libs draw on the exclamations that accompany powerful punches. The aforementioned ‘Fight Am Finish’, goes further, with instrumental breaks preceded by cries of “Round one!”, as well as wrestling references, “Are you ready to rumble?”.

Fu Chronicles will probably be the best traditional Afrobeat record to come out this year. While it doesn’t break new ground, Antibalas’ talented musicians pack *Fu Chronicles’* tracks with abundant energy and detail, enough to reward many listens. 50 years on, Fela Kuti’s legacy is very much



Blushing // Album of the Year

MUSIC

Blushing



Artist: Copeland; **Label:** Tooth And Nail.; **Top Tracks:** Strange Flower, Colorless, Lay Here; **For Fans Of:** The National, Beach House; 48 mins

You lie half-awake in an off-white room; its voile curtains billow gently. The sound of waves ebbing over basalt steals in. Beams of watery light float across the room, tracing the sun’s path. This is the world of *Blushing*,

Florida band Copeland’s 6th album, released a year ago last week. Here, the band embraces modern production to meld their delicate and dreamy sound, creating an ethereal and emotionally potent experience.

Blushing’s lyrics within a relationship from an introverted perspective, delving into the intoxicating effect love can have on one’s inner world, “[The kiss] was red like wine and bent your mind the same” frontman Aaron Marsh croons on ‘Colourless’. On tracks like ‘On Your Worst Day’ and ‘Night Figures’, the emotional worlds opened by love are all consuming to the point of isolation; lines like “I wake but layers of a dream/lay over everything I see” capture the visceral reality feelings of love can evoke, and cast over one’s daily life.

Marsh’s imagery sweetens the record’s pithy emotions, com-

paring his partners lips “Some strange flower, reaching for the sun”, the sight of them has him “a river bed, crumbling at [her] feet”.

The approach to production on *Blushing* is unlike any other record I have heard. A sparse, impressionistic approach dominates the record. Gorgeous sounds, from breezy strings to skeletal synths drop in and out of tracks at a moment’s notice. Copeland craft an intricate, cinematic backdrop to the record’s enveloping songwriting. Tracks like ‘Strange Flower’ shift between sections with completely different instruments with ease, the band goin as far as to change the track’s drum sound 3 times to perfectly fit each section.

Blushing’s poetic songwriting and meticulous, elegant production are a unique experience, that make it an essential listen for any fans of dream pop and indie.

MUSIC

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Circles - Mac Miller's Posthumous Masterpiece

Last month, we were blessed with another album of material from the late great Mac Miller, an artist whose tragic death ended his impressive, maturing trajectory.

MUSIC

CIRCLES



Artist: Mac Miller. **Label:** Warner Records. **Top Tracks:** That's On Me; Everybody; Good News. **For Fans Of:** Frank Ocean; Kid Cudi. *49 minutes*

Zeb Cobb

Music Writer

In January 2020, we received the final instalment in Mac Miller's legacy, an album posthumously released following his tragic death in September 2018. *Circles* is comprised of 12 mostly unfinished songs, recorded whilst he was creating his critically acclaimed album *Swimming*, released just a month before his death. *Circles* was intended to complement *Swimming*, with the two being released as a conceptual pair - 'Swimming in *Circles*'. Much like *Swimming*,

and contrary to his earlier work, *Circles* is very reflective, with softly sung despondent melodies and melancholic lyrics.

The lyrics that begin the album, "Well, this is what it look like right before you fall", sung over the opening song's slow, repetitive instrumental, set the scene for the album - an introspective look into a struggling mind. The entire song is dedicated to his unstable mental state. When he sings "We're watchin' the world fallin' down" he can only be referring to his psyche, as he battles the chaos of his own mind with an ultimately fatal drug addiction. Even in the next song, 'Complicated', a comparably upbeat and happy track, Mac stresses over the never-ending complications of everyday life. He does this again on 'Blue Worlds', the album's second single, which features an instrumental that could easily be from his early party rapper days. Despite rapping

about life's tribulations, the song features a trippy chopped up vocal sample, produced by Disclosure's Guy Lawrence, making it a standout track among the reclusiveness of the other songs.

'Good News', the lead single and usual fan favourite, is the album's most complete, and arguably best, song. Similar to many of the themes seen on *Swimming*, Mac discusses how everybody around him only wants to hear that he's good, encouraging him to repress the negative thoughts he constantly has. The chorus, "Good news... that's all they want to hear / No, they don't like me when I'm down", explicitly states this, and reinforces Mac's estrangement from the world. The third verse, like other moments throughout the album, sees Mac seemingly anticipate his own death, allowing us to question if it really was accidental. He sings: "There's a whole lot more for me waiting on the other side". We get the impression that he finds normal life so unbearable, only death can bring him peace. Although I don't believe Mac intentionally killed himself, I do think he carelessly took drugs the night he died, knowing that if he could intoxicate himself enough he could escape reality in one way or the other.

"Everybody's gotta live / And everybody's gonna die". This phrase is repeated throughout 'Everybody', which seems to morph David Bowie and late rapper XXXTENTACION into 4 minutes of disheartened realisation. The song is



The beauty of the album's vulnerability is captured by the artwork // Wikimedia



Playful, melancholic and consistently real // Wikimedia

actually a cover of Arthur Lee's song of the same name, but Mac takes a new approach, producing his own instrumental and adding an original heart-felt piano section before the final chorus. 'Hand Me Downs' is the only song to feature another another vocal artist. The start of Baro Sura's chorus doesn't seem to fit and overlaps with the verses, but we can only assume Mac didn't get a chance to record his own chorus, and his family (who played a large role in finishing and releasing the album) turned to friend Baro for help. However, the vocal style nicely complements the song and creates another excellent track.

One of my favourite songs is 'That's On Me'.

Mac seems to be taking the blame for something. Although the lyrics are quite ambiguous, he is perhaps referring to the spiral of decline his life has taken. The backing track features a fingerpicked guitar melody alongside piano, drums and bass, all played by Jon Brion. This song is another where Mac seems to foreshadow his own death - it's as if he's accepting responsibility for his eventual overdose. "Don't wait around" and "I'll cut the strings" are lyrics that reinforce this, suggesting that when he dies, it will be his own choice.

Despite being incomplete, *Circles* is still a masterpiece, created by one of this generation's great musicians. His loss

is tragic, but although he

"Circles in a masterpiece, created by one of this generation's great musicians"

is no longer with us, his music always will be. If you haven't listened to *Circles* or Mac Miller in general, I suggest you listen to *Swimming* first, followed by *Circles*, to appreciate the work in its entirety.

IC Netball



Headlining Varsity 2020



FILM

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Mother (2009)

FILM

Zuzanna Janusz

Film Writer

Ten years before the release of his award-winning *Parasite*, Bong Joon-ho filmed *Mother* – an even darker, but equally gripping and genre defying drama. Telling a story of a widow who tries to clear her son of murder accusations, it is a mix of crime thriller, psychological study and dark comedy.

What makes the story stand out is how character driven it is; even better, it features one of the strongest and most determined leading female characters I recall ever seeing on screen. Caring and willing to do anything to defend her son, she is, to some

extent, an archetype of a mother. But while unconditional motherly love is usually associated with everything good and pure, here it becomes the reason

“We don’t know her backstory or motivation, just raw instinct to protect her child”

for some questionable or even disturbing decisions.

The main plot revolves around the death of a high school girl, but as the mystery unfolds, so does

the character study of the main suspect’s mother. Desperate times call for desperate measures and the woman turns detective, quickly becoming more efficient than local police in finding missing pieces of the puzzle. The film shows how resourceful and unstoppable she is compared to her local community and what kind of influence she has on her moody, childish son. Kim Hye-ja gives a very convincing performance and shows all sides of mother’s personality, switching between vulnerable and intimidating, sweet and downright furious.

Mother does not have a name; we don’t know her backstory or motivation other than just raw instinct to protect her child. This makes her seem less like a real person and more like



Kim Hye-ja as Mother // CJ Entertainment

a driving force, restlessly pursuing her goal. Cinematography stresses this point, with mother often being the only person in sight, walking through the fields, marching against the rain or continuing her investigation in the middle

of the night. Apart from great writing, *Mother* boasts some very aesthetically pleasing shots.

While I feel that the Oscars lost their importance, I’m glad that *Parasite*’s triumph pushed me to explore Bong

Joon-ho’s filmography. *Mother* is definitely not to be missed if you are into crime stories, or just want to be reminded what kind of phones everyone had back in 2009.

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FOOD

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Jollof Rice: Settling the Debate

FOOD

Mariam Jallow

Food Writer

I have decided to address head-first the age old feud between many west African countries. The tomato based rice dish, commonly known as jollof rice is prevalent across west Africa, with recipes differing slightly between countries leading to a heavy debate about which country makes the best jollof. If you know any west Africans then I'm sure you're fully aware of this feud but if not, then proceed to read the rest of this heavily biased article where I'll explain why I believe Gambia is deserving of this title. I want to present a voice for a country which is largely underrepresented in this debate. Gambia, the literal smiling coast of Africa is the smallest country in mainland Africa which I believe has contributed to many other, much larger west African countries, establishing a louder voice in this debate and neglecting the very valid rights that Gambians have to this dish.

Before going into the technicalities of which country makes the best jollof, I think it's important to cover the origins of the dish. Many west Africans engaged in the debate probably aren't aware of this but the dish actually originated in senegambia- a confederation between Senegal and Gambia. People traveling and spreading out across west Africa resulted in the different regional varieties we have now. This dish being called jollof is derived from the name of the Wolof people who originally created the dish. In Gambia, we call jollof rice benachin which literally translates to 'one pot',

denoting the method of cooking where everything is essentially cooked in the same cooking pot. I'm not claiming that because we created it it means we make the best one but I do think it's important to give credit where it's due which many people fail to do regarding this matter. You may be wondering why I do not include Senegal with Gambia as having the best jollof but that's because I have personally tested Senegalese benachin when I visited Senegal and in the nicest way possible, the senegalese jollof lacked the flavour and spice that we have in Gambia. We might be close together in distance but when it comes to benachin, we are on completely different continents.

As mentioned before,

“There are variations in the cooking of jollof rice between different regions”

there are variations in the cooking of jollof rice between different regions resulting in subtle changes in the taste, flavour and appearance of the dish. Gambians begin cooking benachin by frying onions, tomato paste and scotch pepper past the stage of caramelization to the point where it nearly appears burnt; adding a deep smoky flavour to the rice. Anyone who's ever cooked it knows the level of patience and precision required; it's definitely not something you can whip up in half an hour. This is then proceeded by adding



One way of making jollof rice // Mariam Jallow

the rice and cooking it within this caramelized paste. On the other hand, jollof requires chopped tomatoes instead of the puree and sauteing is done for considerably less time. This difference results in benachin having a much darker colour and a different flavour. Another small but significant difference is the fact that benachin is usually made with short grain rice whereas jollof predominantly uses long grain rice. This doesn't necessarily affect the taste but it is a difference nonetheless. Although there are similarities in that both jollof and benachin is usually served with a chicken, beef or fish side, we differ on the additional sides. Benachin usually comes with a selection of

vegetables such as carrots, cassava, cabbage and aubergine. Jollof however goes beyond this and can also include coleslaw, salad and plantain. Whilst plantain has its place in the Gambian diet, that place is not alongside a savoury rice dish, but each to their own.

To many non Africans this might seem like a lot of fuss over simple but it is a sense of pride for many west Africans. As our national dish, it holds the same place that fish and chips and curry holds for many British people.

All pettiness aside, I do think that it's nice to see all west African countries united in their love for this dish; even if it's conveyed with a little bit of hostility. In all honesty, there is

no true way of knowing who actually makes the best version of jollof as recipes can differ even between people who live on the same street. When I say Gambian's make the best jollof I mean that the version my mum makes is better than the jollof rice I tasted from a doggie restaurant. Every family has their own unique recipe, the benachin my paternal grandma makes is different from the recipe my maternal great grandmother passed down to my mother. They're both different but both still great and I'm sure the same can be said for each regional variation. Honestly it's all love; and anyway, we all know that Jamie Oliver's 'authentic' jollof recipe trumps them

all.

“To many non Africans this might seem like a lot of fuss over simple but it is a sense of pride for many”

FOOD

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Jollof Mama: The Home of the Innovative Jollof

A Jollof Burrito? Sounds pretty blasphemous but here me out. Jollof Mama has managed to set itself apart from all the other West African themed spots popping up. Not only do they have this head turning dish but it also has the added benefit of working so well. Let's see if I can turn you into a believer too.

FOOD

Zahra Abiola
Food Editor

Imperial is all about innovation. From Hackathons to the Enterprise Labs, the ability to create out of what is new and bring new life to what is old is in the very essence of not only this institution but all of London. So, when I saw that there was a food stand that sold jollof burritos, an amalgamation of a much loved West African dish in a Mexican-inspired package, I just had to see what they had to offer.

And I have to say that I am so glad I did. Last term, I went every week to one of their locations.

Now you can't write about jollof rice without

“This is an amalgamation of a much loved West African dish in a Mexican inspired package”

addressing the parboiled elephant in the room. All over West Africa, there are fights about which country has concocted the jollof rice recipe to rule them all. I'll leave that for our other writer to debate but all I'm going to say is that Nigeria may not win many battles, but with this late addition to our troops, we may just win the war.

The first obstacle was getting to this gem. It was a hard sell to many of my friends to do the journey with me. Many are spoiled by the Farmer's Market just outside of their departments. They are too used to one of the Tuesday stall options and



Incredibly filling and hit the spot // @hungry.students

“Many are spoiled by the Farmer's Market just outside of their departments”

nothing more as their adventurous choice of meal for the week. Don't get me wrong, I love the market but with the same vendors present every week, once you've tried them all there nothing exciting to it anymore. However, this stand is only open for a short period of time and changes location throughout the working week, making finding the day where we were free and the stall was close by a harder problem than the Seven Bridges of Königsberg.

I found that as Imperial students, our best bets are Tuesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays they are in White City, a short walk from the White City Campus and on the way

to the South Kensington Campus for those of you living in North Acton. On Fridays, they are in Hammersmith's Lyric Square a mere stone throw away from at least one Medicine student at any given point. They are open from 11:30 till 14:00 but sometimes they sell out fast so I recommend getting there sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment.

The infamous jollof burrito is not just a gimmick to make your parent kiss their teeth at what you get up to at university. It's packed to the brim with jollof rice, plantain, suya, beans and salad. The jollof rice is the next best thing to your mother's recipe. It's made fresh on site and well-seasoned. It makes the burrito a really warm, filling treat. I find the beans to be very plain as they aren't stewed like normally done in Nigeria. I sometimes get mine without them as they don't really add to the flavour or texture though they do show a commitment to the Mexican theme.

The suya comes as

either chicken or beef and you can get a mix of both. Both work really well, never tough or dry in the burrito which would take away from experience. Their plantain is my favourite part of the meal. You see, plantain is a lot like banana but a bit starchier. It's more akin to potatoes in the sense that it is cooked like a vegetable. For this burrito, they are cut into cubes and fried at the stand. They always manage to use soft plantains that makes for a whole new dimension to the texture and a burst of sweetness whenever a piece is included in the bite. It's always a welcomed surprise. The

“The infamous jollof burrito is not just a gimmick to make your parents kiss their teeth”



Their wrap is the lighter option // @hungry.students

FOOD

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Burrito that has Become a Part of my Weekly Routine

plantain is the most creative part of the burrito to me. All of this is in a tortilla wrap struggling to contain all the food they roll into it. It truly is a meal and a half and at £6

“Their plantain is my favourite part of the meal. It is the most creative part of the burrito to me”

for the chicken variety, this is one of the best deals I’ve seen in London.

If you aren’t in the mood for a carb coma, you can get their wrap. It is the same thing as the burrito but without the jollof rice - a much lighter option for those that can’t get behind their favourite childhood dish being used in a sacrilegious manner. They also have a jollof rice meal that

you can get by itself – no funny business. This is a big meal so it’s for those who have an appetite.

The sauces here are elite. While they are putting your meal together, they allow you to pick from the suya pepper, spicy mayo and chilli sauce. Heed my warning now, no matter how good you think you are with spicy food, the chilli sauce will give you a run for your money. For the more adventurous of you out there, this is a great challenge and really brings a new layer to the meal. Once you get past the burning sensation, it can actually taste sweet.

All the meat at Jollof Mama is halal for the Muslims out there but sadly everything is made with peanut oil for those of you with nut allergies. The beef can be made to the doneness you desire which is a good indicator of nice cuts being used.

The stand out thing about this place is probably the owner. She is one of the loveliest

people I have met during my foodie escapades. She quickly learnt who I was and always struck up conversation with me while I waited for my wrap of goodness, making sure to add a little bit extra for me and my friends.

Jollof Mama has become a part of not only my weekly university schedule but also all my friends. Once skeptics, all the friends I put on to Jollof Mama love it. It’s gotten to the point that we nominate someone to get the order for everyone else on Fridays. If you’ve ever had jollof rice, rest assured that this will cull any home sickness until term ends.

If you are looking for more quirky places to eat, I put up pictures that don’t feature in the newspaper on instagram @hungry.students. It’s a lot easier to write a caption than a 2 page spread. Who knew? It also helps with contacting restaurants for reviews so follow to help us out.



Spicy sauce is not for the faint of heart // @hungry.students



Perfect to quell your home sickness // @hungry.students



MONEY: ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS

4/5th April, RSM, lecture theatre G20

Austrian economics has ceased to be a fund of ideas to criticize and correct the mainstream, or to draw up blueprints for new economic order following the collapse of the present global experiment with paper ‘currency.’

This series consists of two days of four hourly lectures, separated by morning and afternoon refreshment and question periods. Lecture titles include: leverage and its unwinding; futures markets and bills of exchange; debunking volatility and capitalism ending.

Registration link:

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SUSTAINABILITY

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A Vegan's View On Antinatalism

SUSTAINABILITY

Peter Garratt

Sustainability Writer

I want to start on the case of re-wilding, which is gaining support among environmentalists today. Re-wilding is the act of restoring land to its natural, uncultivated state, especially by reintroducing locally extinct species to either lower the number of an invasive species or a local species of which the population has spiraled out of control, like deer. This at face value seems like a good idea; by restoring a place's natural beauty we would be increasing the biodiversity and allowing the land

to return to how nature intended. However, let's first take a step back and think about the morals of this.

As a vegan, I simply seek to reduce the amount of suffering

"As a vegan, I simply seek to reduce the amount of suffering I cause as much as possible or practical"

I cause as much as possible or practical, which includes abstain-

ing from eating animal products and avoiding the purchase of animal derived clothing or cosmetic products tested on animals. It's easy to see how animals in the agricultural system are suffering, but few recognise the suffering of wild animals. It must surely follow, that if we want to reduce the suffering of farm animals as much as possible, then we would want to do the same for wild animals. And here lies the crux of the argument. By reintroducing a natural predator, say by reintroducing the lynx to Kielder Forest in Northumberland or wolves to the Scottish Highlands, we are increasing the amount of suffering in those habitats, whether

it be by the death of the deer by the wolf or the starvation of the wolves if they find no prey. This obviously applies to hunting as well, as killing deer is

"who are we to say that this ecosystem is the wrong one and that it must go back"

clearly causing a high amount of suffering to those animals. Hunting can easily be dismissed as shooting a few deer on a regular basis isn't going to restore a habitat to its former glory. Are

we ever going to see the grey squirrel, or the American crayfish disappear? Or is it best to just leave them, as the suffering of each individual squirrel or crayfish can not be excused for simply the reason that they are from invasive species? A new ecosystem has arisen because of these invasive species, but who are we to say that this ecosystem is the wrong one and that it must go back to how it was before? This is an interesting question for environmentalists to consider.

One might say that this is for the common good, as increasing biodiversity is a good thing, but why? Take the Lake District, a UNESCO World Heritage Site teeming with natural beauty, but the hills and valleys are plain and bare, due to a teeming population of deer, and it has been proposed to reintroduce wolves to reduce the deer population. What benefit would having more shrubs and trees have to the area? It would be more aesthetically pleasing to look at perhaps, and this may attract more tourists, although I doubt it would, and if anything, many trees and shrubs would only obscure the beautiful open views the lakes are known for. So, how can merely making the area look nicer and more biodiverse possibly be a good enough reason to cause the mass suffering of animals? The best thing we can do is do nothing then, and in the case of the Lake District again, let the deer be controlled by the area's carrying capacity.

Obviously we should do all we can to reduce/stop biodiversity reduc-

tion like deforestation in the Amazon Basin or illegal cetacean fishing, as this causes a huge amount of suffering, but once the biodiversity or the number individuals have been lost, it may be best to not seek to revive the area and increase the number of individuals, as again, this would cause increased suffering.

If you take this argument to its logical conclusion, it seems that we would wish there to be no wild animals at all and for there to be no sentient animals left in existence. This makes sense as an Earth with no animals is an Earth with no suffering and seems a logical extension of the aim of veganism, which is to reduce the demand for animal products so less animals are born. Surely this is the better than what we have now. This leads to an argument for antinatalism, which is the belief that birth is inherently

"Antinatalism is the belief that birth is inherently a bad thing, and that one should abstain from bringing new life into the world"

a bad thing, and that one should abstain from bringing new life into the world. This could be argued from the idea of suffering (especially in the case of non-human animals), the ever-expanding human popula-



Should wolves be reintroduced to reduce the number of deer?// Geograph

SUSTAINABILITY

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tion size which clearly needs to be slowed somewhat, and the idea of crucial asymmetry. This argument essentially proposes that it is always more important to minimise suffering than to maximise pleasure.

The philosopher David Benatar phrased it like this: The presence of suffering is 'bad', and the presence of pleasure is 'good'. The absence of suffering is 'good', but the presence of pleasure is 'not bad', in the sense it's neither 'good' nor 'bad'. Therefore, it is always better to not have children as if you do, they will experience 'bad' and 'good', but the absence of life is not bad at all, it is either 'not bad' or even 'good'. Another way to state this is that, because life brings both pleasure and suffering, and suffering is 'bad', but non-existence brings neither suffering nor pleasure, it is therefore preferable.

One main criticism of this argument is that it is easy to imagine a life that has more pleasure than suffering, and therefore net pleasure. However, since the absence of pleasure by not being born is 'not bad', i.e. a neutral stance, then any kind of suffering, no matter how small, received in life makes it better to not have lived at all. Regardless of whether this convinces you, it's hard to ignore all the suffering that does go on in the world, whether it be disease epidemics, natural disasters, mass genocides, war, hunger and starvation... you get the idea. More people will also accelerate global warming which will inevitably lead to mass ecosystem collapse, mass migrations and undoubtedly more conflicts. This argument would certainly appeal to the

environmentalist, as it's hard to see why adding to the population could be a good thing. Benatar goes further to say that any suffering that your offspring receive is completely your fault, and it's your fault if your offspring then go on to have more offspring, for not keeping it in your pants.

What can we do about it? What's important to get across is that antinatalism does not lead to nihilism and the idea that we might as well kill everything and everyone, as obviously that would cause a large amount of suffering. Instead we need to reduce the number of humans and sentient non-human animals from being born in the first place. In humans this is easy, by either abstaining from sexual relations or by using appropriate contraception. In animals it is clearly not that easy, as we can't go around handing condoms to deer or squirrels, but there are things that can be done. One example is to reduce the suffering of wild animals via diseases, some countries have immunised foxes (obviously this was likely done for the benefit of humans, but still helped the foxes nonetheless). Another example is the mass sterilisation of mosquitos achieved by work at Imperial to combat the spread of human diseases.

These approaches clearly aren't impossible, but right now this simply needs to be a topic of conversation, just like veganism does, to spread the word and so people can think about it so we can build the foundations for it now, for the future. One obvious thing we can do as individuals is to only ever obtain pets from shelters, not from breeders as this does



Is it ethical to bring new life and cause more suffering?// Pixabay

not increase demand for the birth of more pets. Furthermore, we can apply this to humans, so we should only ever adopt a child instead of having our own. I see absolutely no reason why people should have their own children when there are plenty already born waiting for a new parent...

One particularly interesting objection to

“What’s important to get across is that antinatalism does not lead to nihilism”

this theory came to me after one of my recent lectures by Professor Leroi. We were studying the genetic health of humans, and one of the points made was the possible decline of intel-

ligence in humans in the future. The idea is based on evidence that poorly educated, low IQ, high BMI and short people are more likely to have kids than well educated, high IQ tall and low BMI people. This logically will lead to a steady decline of IQ in humans, and a study conducted by Kong et al. in 2017 on a population of 500k people in Iceland concluded that this would lead to a drop of 0.3 IQ score every generation. This decline is currently being masked by the Flynn effect, likely caused by the secularisation of society and in general the IQ score is being raised by 2 points per generation as more people have the opportunity to go on to further and higher education (IQ is always normalised in surveys so 100 is the mean, and when people take older tests, the mean rises well over 100). However, this effect will likely plateau eventually, so IQ decline may be real in the future. So,

if people do start subscribing to antinatalism, it is likely that the more intelligent in the population would adhere to it, which would further accentuate the trend we already see which is

“It seems to me that antinatalism is just a logical progression from veganism”

often attributed to more intelligent people focusing more time on education and careers rather than having children, and therefore even accelerate a decline of IQ in future human populations. This argument could also be seen as an opposition to adoption if you know that you and your partner are very intelligent, however the impact of ones genetics as opposed to environ-

mental factors is not known, and genetics could in fact play a miniscule role in determining how intelligent your offspring would be.

In conclusion, it seems to me that antinatalism is just a logical progression from veganism, and indeed vegans already subscribe to the idea that it's bad to bring new farm animals into existence, and it's certainly something everyone too should think about, whether you're a vegan, an environmentalist or neither, as it offers a vastly different view than what we've been exposed to before. This statement paraphrased from Sam Harris in an interview with him and David Benatar is certainly worth a ponder: Antinatalism basically leads to the idea that having children is essentially an act of negligence and ignorance, and that having children is simply an irresponsible act consigning people to the fate of existing.

INVESTMENT

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A Closer Look: Trade Tariffs

INVESTMENT

Shivan Parmar

ICIS

Investment Student Writer

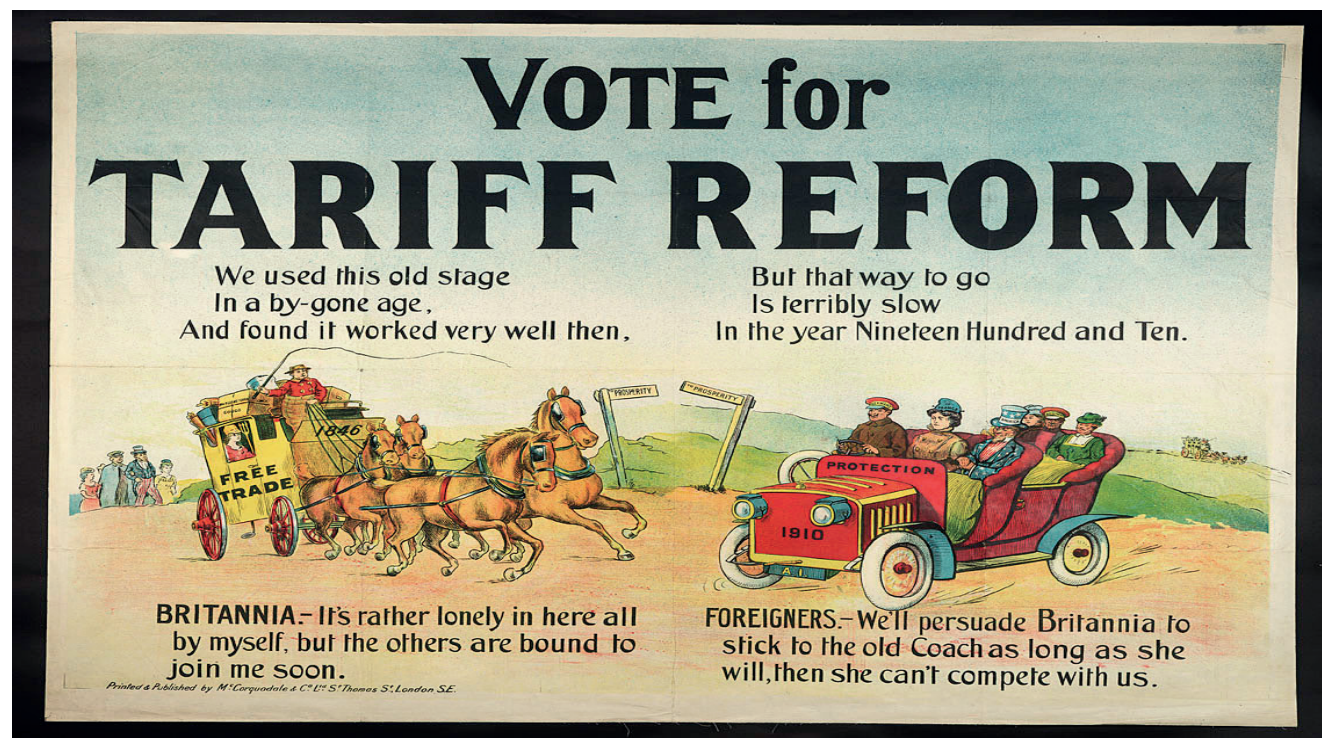
The primary reason for a tariff is that it enables the exploitation of the domestic consumer by a process indistinguishable from sheer robbery. ~ Albert J. Nock

A tariff is a tax imposed by a country on goods and services imported from another. It is levied directly on the domestic consumer, making the imported product less attractive. This can either take the form of a fixed tax on a certain class of imported item, or as a percentage of the value of the imported item. The aims of a tariff are usually protectionist – to shield a domestic industry from foreign competition, though they can also be levied to exert political leverage over another country. The wisdom of imposing such levies con-

“Prior to the 18th century, trade was seen as a zero-sum game, with wealth flowing from one country to another...”

tinues to be hotly debated.

Historically, tariffs have lowered over the last couple of hundred years. Prior to the 18th century, trade was seen as a zero-sum game, with wealth flowing from one country to another



A lithograph from the early 20th century showing Britain in the Free Trade carriage on the left //Wikimedia Commons

in the form of fixed, tangible assets such as gold. This mercantile thinking resulted in countries, particularly in Western Europe, trying to become wealthier by maximising exports and minimising imports, in part through steep tariffs on foreign-produced goods. For instance, the 1764 Sugar Act raised duties on imported sugar and molasses, to give British sugar growers in the West Indies a monopoly. It was not until the 18th century that economists such as Adam Smith and David Ricardo began to question this arrangement, leading to the theory of comparative advantage. This argues that countries each excel at producing different types of products due to their natural differences, and so it is of maximum benefit to all involved if each country focusses on the activities in which it excels, and trades freely with one another rather than creating trade barriers such as tariffs which subsidise uncompetitive industries. This view steadily grew in popularity in Europe over the

course of the 19th century and until the First World War, for instance with the 1846 repeal of the Corn Laws in the UK removing steep import duties on cheap foreign grain.

After the Second World War, free trade once again flourished, beginning with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1947, and culminating in, at the end of the 20th century, of the creation of the European Single Market in 1993, North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994 and, crucially, the inception of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)

in 1995. The latter was formed as an international forum for settling disputes and laying down rules, today underpinning 96% of global trade between 164 member countries. Without this regulatory body controlling tariffs and acting as an honest broker in global trade, the globalisation of the last two decades - with multinational companies building supply chains spanning multiple continents - would not have been possible.

Tariffs as a weapon

Yet recently these organisations have come

under threat, as protectionist policies have again come into vogue. In the tweet from July 2018 below, President Donald Trump referred to tariffs as ‘the greatest!’, slapping on tariffs for geopolitical leverage and to protect American manufacturing industries. Before the trade war began, the average American tariff on Chinese imports stood at 3% and the average Chinese tariff on American imports was 8%. Currently, the average tariff level on both sides is around 20%, even after the effects of the much-touted phase one trade deal last

“The aims of a tariff are usually protectionist – to shield a domestic industry from foreign competition... they can also be levied to exert political leverage”

month. The jewel in the free-trade economists’ crown, the World Trade Organisation, is under threat, with America blocking the appointment of new judges to its appellate body in December meaning that this final arbiter can currently no longer function. Though 117 countries signed a letter asking the US to break the impasse and the EU is trying to broker an alliance to bypass this US block, the lack of multilateral support for the WTO will likely mean that in the medium to long term, trade will become a lot more contentious and less



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Tariffs are the greatest! Either a country which has treated the United States unfairly on Trade negotiates a fair deal, or it gets hit with Tariffs. It's as simple as that - and everybody's talking! Remember, we are the "piggy bank" that's being robbed. All will be Great!

12:29 pm · 24 Jul 2018 · Twitter for iPhone

President Donald Trump being very transparent about his tactics for a trade war. //Donald J. Trump, Twitter

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predictable.

Tariffs for good

There are some arguments in favour of tariffs. In poorer countries, they can be easier to collect than sales taxes, requiring collection only at ports. Giving countries the ability to impose tariffs, should they choose, can help individual countries feel in control of their sovereignty, garnering support for multilateral free trade agreements. Tariffs can in certain cases soften the blow of change in domestic industries, protecting a certain subset of the population who work in a declining industry from dramatic change to their livelihoods. It is possible

that short-term tariffs can in certain cases help a nascent domestic industry catch up with more developed foreign rivals.

A nutty problem

A helpful case study is that of Mozambique's cashew nut processing industry, often held up as a cause célèbre by anti-globalisation activists. A world-leading cashew nut producer and processing in the 1960s, eight thousand jobs were shed in nut processing factories after the World Bank instructed the Mozambique government to remove controls and cut taxes on the export of raw nuts in the 1990s, meaning that companies moved nut processing abroad to Asia,

where it was cheaper. In reaction, since 2001 the government has again began levying a tax on the export of raw nuts, of the order of 18-22%. Half of the cashew nuts produced in Mozambique are now processed domestically, and the industry has grown to employ 17,000 people. Free trade economists argue that the trade-off from this levy is the neglect of the 1.3 million families who grow cashew nuts, artificially pushing down the price of their crop. Yet reality is messier than economic theory – due to the poor infrastructure connecting farmers and cashew processing factories, farming smallholders are often in the pocket

of middlemen traversing rutted roads to take the cashews to market. It is estimated that the 1990s reforms made the average

“ It is possible that short-term tariffs can in certain cases help a nascent domestic industry catch up with more developed foreign rivals. ”

farming household richer by a mere \$5.30. However, it is prudent to remember that tariffs also cause economic distortions which can have unintended consequences. In Mozambique, a side effect of the levy is a booming black market in raw cashew nuts out of the country, helping politically connected cartels launder money which is used to ship heroin into the country. Ultimately, tariffs are a dangerous weapon which almost always harm the country levying them. They draw workers and investment towards protected industries and away from others, creating inefficiencies and reducing productivity. Politically, they encourage

lobbying from powerful industrial groups seeking protection. They can also erode trust between countries and invite retaliatory tariffs from foreign governments, hurting exporters. Though they may temporarily boost a certain domestic industry, they make goods and services more expensive for a much larger base of consumers. Unfortunately, tearing down existing trade deals and erecting new trade barriers is far easier than negotiating multilateral tariff reduction. Borrowing Alfred Nock's expression, more sheer robbery for the foreseeable future then.

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SCIENCE

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Not Quite A Long Shot Afterall

Imperial researchers design a prototype vaccine for COVID-19 using cutting edge RNA vaccination technology – ready for animal tests after just two months, it's the fastest vaccine development pathway to date

SCIENCE

Christine Parry

Science Editor

Do you remember the Zika outbreak in 2015, which cast a cloud over the Brazil 2016 Olympics? What about the Ebola epidemic the year before in 2014? Can you think back to 2009 when Swine Flu broke out, or the bird flu scare just before? Even if we're just talking novel coronaviruses, we've faced the SARS outbreaks of the early noughties, and MERS in 2012. The most recent coronavirus, COVID-19, is the third of its kind since the turn of the century.

COVID-19 has made global headlines for a number of reasons: apart from being a new disease, unlike its predecessors, SARS and MERS, it's infectious without the presence of symptoms – not to mention the alarming death toll it's racking up. But what is truly frightening about COVID-19 is that it is simply one of a number of infectious diseases that have epidemic potential.

With a view towards an increasingly globalised world, in 2014, the World Health Organisation (WHO) chose 11 infectious diseases that posed a high global health risk. They set up the Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations to oversee vaccine development for these handpicked threats. However, a recent cost analysis published in *The Lancet* found that to bring vaccines for these 11 diseases to clinical trials faced a cost of up to £3.85 billion for each successful candidate.

And on top of prohibitive costs, or the difficulty of identifying a good vaccine candidate, they can take almost a decade to go from bench to bedside. Professor Robert Shattock, Head of Mucosal Infection and Immunity within the Department of Medicine at Imperial, explains. "Most vaccines would take, you know, maybe 5 years in the discovery phase, and at least 1-2 years to manufacture and get to clinical trials."

"COVID-19 is simply one of a number of infectious diseases that have epidemic potential"

This is partly because vaccine development has to follow a lengthy pathway involving set preclinical and clinical checkpoints to test its safety and efficacy – and the challenges start almost immediately. Vaccine candidate selection can take several different approaches. Traditional vaccines, like the flu jab, may use dead versions of the infectious pathogen to elicit an immune response, or like the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, use inactivated, albeit live, pathogens. Newer vaccinations identify a specific part of the pathogen, such as a protein subunit, or a toxin the pathogen produces, that can be used instead of the whole pathogen and will still generate an immune

response. Deciding which approach to take requires some understanding of the behaviour of the pathogen and its interaction with our immune system; knowledge that is in short supply when facing sudden, novel epidemics.

Luckily, with COVID-19, we wouldn't be setting off blind. COVID-19 may be the name of the disease, but the virus has been given the title SARS-CoV-2 – a new strain of SARS. And, as Professor Shattock describes, this means we have some clues. "Because this new coronavirus is related to SARS, and with SARS we know which part of the virus was targeted effectively by the immune system, we're immediately able to identify the only protein that's expressed on the surface of the virus."

So, once the vaccine candidate is selected, what next? Well, quite a lot, actually. First, this needs to actually be made into a prototype – overcoming issues like a protein forming the wrong 3D structure in isolation or stabilising the vaccine outside of its natural environment. Only when these issues are resolved can preclinical tests in animals be conducted to check its safety profile.

If given the all-clear, the vaccine can be taken forward to clinical tests – but these are still not straightforward. Clinical tests are divided into Phases I to IV, each monitoring different aspects. Phase I trials confirm the animal test results by checking it is safe in humans. Phase II involves slightly larger trials, evaluating the efficacy of the vaccine against artificial infection, while Phase III follows this up with larger

"Most vaccines would take maybe 5 years in the discovery phase, and at least 1-2 years to manufacture and get to clinical trials"

scale trials in natural disease conditions. Phase IV trials finish the pipeline by monitoring the long-term safety and efficacy of the vaccine.

So, looking down the syringe barrel, vaccination doesn't sound like much use in emergencies like COVID-19. Or is it? Professor Shattock and his team are working on

something new that could be the answer – RNA vaccination.

"We've got the kind of technology to be able to generate a vaccine with a speed that's never been realised before," he explains. "We've made our first prototype vaccines... and within two weeks we'll have them in our first animal experiments." This vaccine has the potential to be in human trials shortly after – slashing that lengthy process to four months. If successful, this will be the first time a vaccine has ever been brought to market so quickly.

RNA vaccination goes one step further than even the latest technique in vaccinology, DNA vaccination.

DNA vaccinations are a relatively new concept – direct injection of DNA sequences that code for a pathogen antigen – it works by causing our cells to uptake the DNA, read

the sequence, and generate the protein themselves. This is quickly recognised as foreign and an immune response is kick-started. RNA vaccination aims to cut out the middleman by injecting RNA, from which a protein can be directly built – and with much less risk, as our DNA remains untouched.

With this technique, Professor Shattock and his team estimate there could be a vaccine manufactured and ready for widespread use early next year.

He concludes, remarking: "This is definitely the future for these kinds of viral outbreaks (...) We would hope that this ability to synthesise vaccines could quickly be established in every country across the world, so as soon as there's an outbreak, everyone, everywhere could access the vaccine."



Imperial researchers in the race for COVID-19 vaccine // tOrange.biz (CC BY 4.0)



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THE FELIX

Student Newspaper of Imperial College

Friday 10th January, 1997
Issue 1074

<http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/Felix>

Has capitalism failed science? Dr Mike Taylor expands on his thoughts for Britain's future science research. **Page 9.**

Competition winners. If you entered our Crossword or Altered States comps, see **page 11** to see if you have won.



In Something for the Weekend:
Ken Saro-Wiwa's new novel reviewed.
Win cinema tickets!

Students lose out to Waterstone's

ROBIN RILEY
Staff and students of Imperial College Union have reacted with dismay following the decision by College to award the tender for the new Bookstore to high street booksellers Waterstone's.

Unofficial notification of the decision came in a telephone call from Professor Alan Swanson to Union Manager Many Hurford on the last day of term before the Christmas break, and was confirmed verbally later that day in an emergency meeting between the Rector and ICU president, Eric Allsop. At the time of going to press, the Union has received no official communication regarding the decision but is in no doubt as to the result, Waterstone's having been informed of their successful bid.

This has prompted the issue of a strongly-worded press release by Union executives, together with an advertising campaign condemning the decision. The new store, currently under construction beneath the main library, is due to begin trading on April 19th. When the new branch of Waterstone's opens, the Union will be required to cease the sale of books from its site situated on the Sherfield walkway. According to Union officials, the loss of the bookstore as a trading outlet may have potentially devastating repercussions for the way the Union operates, and the scope of its activities.

Mr Eric Allsop expressed his frustration at the lack of feedback on the Union's losing bid: "I still can't see what it was that Waterstone's could have offered that we couldn't."

Union staff had high hopes for their bid to tender, which reached the last round of competition with Waterstone's, beating Dillons, Blackwell's and the Modern Book



just maybe shot the Union."

The ICU President made clear his dissatisfaction with the way the decision had been reached, and particularly the timing of the announcement, which came just before the Christmas holiday. Mr Allsop reported that Union staff were "absolutely gutted" by the decision, and that morale was at an all-time low. He concluded that the decision by the College was "...the most devastating thing to happen to the Union for as long as I can remember."

The ultimate role of the committee in the final decision remains unclear. It is not known whether the committee directly recommended Waterstone's to the Rector, or whether it merely advised him upon the advantages and disadvantages of each of the two finalist's bids. Further recommendations may have been made by other groups, for example the College Management Planning Group. These questions may not be fully answered until the Rector, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, returns from a visit to Hong Kong.

The Deputy Rector was keen to repeat assurances that the shortfall in the Union's trading surplus resulting from the loss of the bookstore would be covered by an increase in the annual subvention. When pressed as to whether this switch in sources of income would affect the Union's autonomy, Prof Swanson claimed that the financing of most students' unions is arbitrary. He went on to explain that however well-run ICU's trading outlets might be, they operate from College property and so cannot really be considered independent sources of revenue. Furthermore, Prof Swanson pointed out that the loss of the bookstore affected only around 7% of the Union's total bud-

continued on page two

The golden arches of the local branch of McWaterstone's. Waterstone's have promised a "powerful IT" investment in the new bookstore, described by the area manager to be a "bit whizzy."

Company. Mr Allsop suggested that the College committee set-up to advise the Rector on awarding the tender may have adopted a "Corner-shop mentality," labouring under the belief that the Union, lacking the resources of a national chain like Waterstone's, would be unable to operate a much larger store even though it would have access to the same suppliers, staff pool and Information Technology facilities as an external company.

The newly-appointed Deputy Rector, Professor Alan Swanson, was a member of the committee which examined the bids to tender. Speaking to *Felix*, Prof Swanson explained that all five bids were of similar quality, and that all five organisations had produced very similar estimates of the likely sales and profitability of the new store. He likened the decision to choosing

between equally competent candidates at a job interview, saying "Another group of people might have made a different decision."

Reports suggest the committee was asked by the Rector to focus solely upon determining which organisation would provide the best service, and not to consider the wider implications of each bid. This may have hindered the Union's bid, one of its main selling points being the fact that profits would remain on campus. Prof Swanson refused to be drawn on whether, with hindsight, this somewhat blinkered approach had in fact proven the best way to proceed. He maintained that the objectives of the committee had been clearly set out by the Rector at the time of its creation. Answering the allegation that the College had made a serious error of judgement, Prof Swanson replied: "College hasn't shot itself in the foot;

THROWBACK

felix@imperial.ac.uk

2 NEWS

FELIX FRIDAY 10TH JANUARY

Waterstone's awarded Bookstore tender

continued from front page

get, but conceded that there was "...no denying that the extent to which the Union depends upon the Governors has increased."

Waterstone's academic booksales area manger Hereward Corbett recounted being "chuffed to bits" upon hearing the news of their successful bid. Speculating as to why they had won the tender, he drew attention to the "powerful" IT investment Waterstone's had promised, and the positive references from the on-campus bookstores they already operate at universities such as Bath and UEA. Mr Corbett also pointed to positive relations with College officials, saying "We got on really well with them... after all, we are looking for a partnership."

Outlining plans for the new bookstore, Mr Corbett explained that it would broadly resemble the recently refurbished branch at Notting Hill Gate, but that an external designer would be brought in to make the IC store "a bit whizzy." The store will operate with a core staff of eight, and negotiations are already underway to transfer existing staff directly from

the Union outlet. It is not yet clear whether Waterstone's will offer part-time jobs to students. Innovations may include the sale of second-hand books and a discount voucher scheme. Although the new store will stock a small selection of fiction titles, Mr Corbett affirmed Waterstone's commitment to make the IC branch "The most authoritative and comprehensive science and technology bookshop in the country."

Defending the Union's ability to manage, Mr Allsop claimed "College have failed yet again to believe we are capable of doing the job. All our trading outlets have either come on-line at a profit, or turned inherited College loss-makers into successful ventures... For example, the Union bar and catering."

Mr Allsop went on to suggest that some College administrators "are already regarding with jealous eyes" successful Union ventures such as Da Vinci's Catering, and may be seeking to control the way ICU funds sporting clubs. The College already makes direct contributions to select groups, most notably the boat club.

Addressing the wider issues raised by the College's decision, the ICU President outlined the advantages of Students' Unions running their own trading outlets; they can offer a friendlier and hence superior service, they are receptive and adaptive to students' needs and any surplus they generate is wholly reinvested in improved services. The profits from trading outlets also afford ICU a degree of financial autonomy, protecting it from the vagaries of national HE funding policy. Were this autonomy to be removed, Mr Allsop believes, the College would have unprecedented control over Union spending decisions. Although the loss of the bookstore will have only minor immediate consequences, larger and longer-term projects, and perhaps even the day-to-day running of the Union may be increasingly subject to College authority. This, Mr Allsop maintains, could threaten to remove IC students from future decision-making processes, even though they are the intended beneficiaries of HE funding and ultimately the customers of campus trading outlets.

Fire alarm farce

MATTHEW KEMPTON

On the last Friday of term students in Southwell Hall, Evelyn Gardens had to evacuate the building after an impostor smashed five fire alarms. At approximately 5pm fire alarms started ringing in houses 56 and 57. After waiting outside in the street, where there was no roll call, the students were moved into the main entrance of the hall, where a bizarre set of events followed.

A member of Evelyn Gardens security ordered everyone to their rooms while a subwarden blocked the way to half the hall. At this point a drunken man came in, calling himself the 'senior fire officer of Imperial College' and ordered everyone out. This was clearly not the case as an argument followed which ended with the security man saying 'I don't know who the hell you are, just get lost' and the impostor leaving. Subwarden Guy Franklin later discovered the smashed fire alarms and also found the 'fire officer' wandering around trying to find his swipe card and glasses. He was taken to see the warden Ken Young who discovered that he had set off the fire alarms after drinking with a friend. A disciplinary hearing will take place soon.

College mislays a £million in cheques

NEWSTEAM

A major disaster for postgraduate students was narrowly averted thanks to the heroic efforts of the College Student Finance Office, who tracked down missing Engineering and Physical Science Research Council grant cheques worth nearly £1m in total.

The absence of the cheques went unnoticed until the 2nd January although they were expected on the last day of term.

In their defence, the Student Finance Office cited several factors that had contributed to the temporary loss of the cheques. The system for delivering funds has changed recently, in order to prevent institutions investing the money. Following Government initiatives, the EPSRC has introduced the practice of sending grant money only when it is due, rather than paying colleges in full at the beginning of the year. A decision to send the money on the 23rd December was reversed when the

SFO pointed out that College would close on the 20th. The EPSRC agreed to send them at noon on the 20th. Owing to bad weather the courier was late, though this turned out not to be the major problem...seeing as he actually took them to the Royal College of Art. The security guard who signed for the cheques at the time informed *Felix* that he hadn't realised the courier had got the wrong place, as "...the package was small and the address obscure."

Tony Cullen, Assistant Registrar, expressed his concerns about the matter "...only as a last resort would we have cancelled the cheques. It would have caused untold problems and aggravation to a lot of people, not least students needing to pay their rent and the like."

Fortunately the cheques were recovered on the 2nd and so they were eventually issued only one day late.

News in Brief

YANKS BEAT IC

On New Year's Day BBC viewers had a chance to watch Jeremy Paxman sneer at American as well as British students in the International University Challenge match between Imperial College and the University of Michigan.

IC started badly, and although they drew level a couple of times, Michigan leapt ahead in the last 10 minutes, beating IC by a wide margin. "We had an off day" said team captain Mark Pallen. He also conceded that Michigan were the better team. In an attempt to excuse what Paxman described as their dress, Pallen stated that Granada had told IC to dress casually but Michigan to dress smartly.

However, it is not yet over for last year's team; they are shortly to depart for the States to compete in their National Academic Quiz.

TRAFFIC BLACK SPOT

It was a bad start to the new year for the passengers of a white Volvo who were involved in a serious car accident last Sunday. The incident took place at the turning into Prince

Consort Road, just outside the Physics Department. The road was closed off for several hours and it took firemen over an hour to free the passengers, having to resort in the end to cutting the roof of the car off. In contrast the driver of the other car involved escaped with minor injuries.

The turning by the Huxley Building seems to be something of a traffic black spot. Last summer, as reported in *Felix*, there was an accident involving an out-of-control BMW and a stationary Rover. Luckily there were no serious injuries.

IC RADIO BROKEN INTO

Last weekend thieves raided Southside Disco and escaped with over £1500 of equipment belonging to Imperial College Radio. Having pulled the door away from the booth, they made off with two record players, a CD player and a mixer.

College Security are at present compiling a report on the theft. Anyone with any information on the theft should contact Paul Brown or Ian Hickvale, at IC Radio



#icuelections

Thinking about standing?

imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

Nominations deadline is fast approaching

Not sure why you should stand for a position in The Leadership Elections? If elected to represent the student body, you will have the opportunity to shape the College and Union, helping drive change within your CSP, the Union or wider College. By nominating yourself for a position in the elections, you'll get the chance to meet other students and also develop relationships across the Imperial community. Standing for a role will also help you gain transferable skills and increase your employability. You can make a difference in almost 800 roles available. From Union President to President of a Constituent Union, you

can be the voice of your fellow students. You could also lead your peers as a Departmental Faculty Rep, Liberation & Community Officer or even a Student Trustee. If you know someone that would make a great candidate, you can give them a 'nudge' at imperialcollegeunion.org/nudge.

Read about all the roles and find the one that best suits you at imperialcollegeunion.org/elections. Nominations close at **noon** on **Friday 28 February**.



Are you ready for Varsity 2020?

The Imperial Varsity 2020 is just a week away! Come and cheer along Imperial College and Imperial Medics as they compete across multiple sports for the 18th year.

Join the teams on Friday 28 February at Ethos and on Saturday 29 February at Heston, as well as hockey fixtures on Wednesday 26 February at Harlington.

In addition to all the matches, there will also be many activities, including live entertainment, a chillout zone, face painting, food and drink stalls and more. You don't want to miss the biggest event in the sporting calendar, so buy your ticket before they sell out at imperialcollegeunion.org/varsity.



Grab your Early Bird Summer Ball tickets

For a limited time, there are still Early Bird tickets available to Summer Ball - Enchanted Forest. This year your ticket includes a choice of a main and a dessert from one of our delicious food vendors, a Prosecco reception, and one of the biggest headlining acts we've ever had! You can also expect all of your usual favourites, including fairground rides and a fireworks display.

In the lead up to our headliner announcement, we've been dropping hints over on the Summer Ball 2020 Facebook event page. In case you missed it, our first clue is: Our headliner's debut album reached number 1 in the UK charts, and one of their songs has over 31 MILLION streams on Spotify! Be sure to hit 'attending' on the event, and get your Early Bird tickets now at: imperialcollegeunion.org/summerball.

Your Union Events

Friday 21 February



Varsity After Party

29 February 2020
Metric & Reynolds

imperial
college
union

21 February, Friday

BPM
Metric | 21:00 - 02:00

Karaoke
h-bar | 19:30 - 23:00

Battle of the Bands (Heat 3)
Reynolds | 19:30 - 23:00

25 February, Tuesday

Super Quiz
FiveSixEight | 20:00-22:00

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

27 February, Thursday

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

Battle of the Bands (Heat 2)
Reynolds | 19:30 - 23:00

26 February, Wednesday

ACC Wednesday
Metric | 19:00-01:00

28 February, Friday

Arts Night Two
Beit Bars | 17:00 - 02:00

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

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on

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CONSTITUENT UNION

felix@imperial.ac.uk



Reflections on LGBT Workplace Inclusion

CGCU

Miles Gulliford
CGCU Wellbeing Chair

For LGBT History Month the CGCU hosted a panel discussion on LGBT inclusion in industry, topics ranged from intersectionality to corporate pinkwashing.

On Monday the 10th of February, the City & Guilds College Union (CGCU) had the pleasure of hosting a panel of LGBT advocates in a discussion on LGBT inclusion in the workplace. While my sense is that Imperial College London is generally inclusive, I found there to be plenty of nuanced moments and learning opportunities during the discussion, which I wanted to share with readers.

In order to create a workplace that fully integrates LGBT professionals, straight LGBT equality supporters (commonly referred to as ‘allies’) are essential. While much positive change has been made in the workplace, these allies play a key role in ensuring members of the LGBT community are heard, and concerns are addressed if more subtle, entrenched pieces of homophobia are to be tackled. Vaneet Mehta, a software engineer, writer and Pride and In Stem

member rallied strongly against “performative” allies, those who claim to support LGBT inclusion but continuing to say and do things that contain grains of unexamined homophobia.

This led onto discussion on the space between microaggressions and outright homophobia. Many panel members agreed that disparaging or alienating comments and actions should be vocally addressed by members/allies of the community, and letting these comments slide is paramount to permission for them to be repeated. In the case of microaggressions, one key recommendation was to create spaces for discourse and understanding on why their repeated occurrence can create so much discomfort for those affected.

Sometimes, it’s not even about outright homophobic behaviour and hostile work environments, but instead the individual’s innate concerns about whether being completely open about

their sexuality will hinder their career advancement. And again, this is a place where allies can help, normalising, and embracing cognitive diversity – the idea that teams are more effective because they’re diverse in their thinking, perspectives, and information processing style. Joël McConnell, Executive Director of Marketing, Recruitment and

“Joël McConnell, Co-Chair at Imperial 600 noted the importance of positive role modeling to help staff ‘bring their whole selves to work’”



The panelists. From left to right: Dominic Cronin, Daniel Nasr, Joël McConnell, Vaneet Mehta // Fatima Kahn

Admissions at Imperial College Business School, and Co-Chair of Imperial 600, also noted the importance of positive role modelling and how institutional support for LGBT professional networks can help staff feel more comfortable to ‘bring their whole selves to work’ – creating an environment where staff don’t feel they have to conceal part of their identity to advance professionally.

Professional LGBT-focused industry networks like InterEngineering, whose Co-Chair Dominic Cronin spoke on the panel, are also an essential resource for students entering the workplace. Offering insider knowledge on which workplaces are truly LGBT friendly, providing an added check beyond the content of what companies typically include on their diversity page. The term “Corporate Pinkwashing” was explored from a consumer perspective, and some panellists were of the opinion that without meaningful action, taking up space at pride and

slapping rainbow flags on logos is borderline exploitative. Further, the commodification of the LGBT community can perpetuate LGBT stereotypes, and encourage performativity over authenticity, inclusivity and consultant Daniel Nasr felt his sexuality was at times defined by “how many ‘Yas Queen’s [he] said when at work”. Responsible corporate attitudes towards LGBT issues were therefore considered to be a major area for improvement.

An emphasis on intersectional diversity underscored the discussion, with the panel being inadvertently all-male and majority white, it was acknowledged that organizations must work to tackle diversity and inclusion in a more comprehensive way. Intersectional issues can easily be underappreciated in discussions about specific minority groups, therefore conversations between minority groups, intersectional representation, and a less binary approach to the inclusion of minorities

within companies is a key next step in building a more diverse society.

The experiences and insights of our panellists expanded my understanding of the issues faced around diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Upon reflection after the event, I wondered if attitudes towards gender, and particularly masculinity underscored many of these issues, which a less rigid attitude towards what it means to be a man or woman might ease. And indeed, one of the most important topics in corporate diversity circles right now is getting trans inclusion policy right, so keep an eye out for developments on this topic in the year ahead.

Many thanks to all those who attended or helped to organise the evening. Anyone who would like a rainbow lanyard can pick one up from the CGCU office (CAGB 349). If you have any wellbeing concerns or questions, please get in touch at cgcuwelf@ic.ac.uk.



InterEngineering is a professional LGBT-focused industry network, which offers students the chance to get to know which workplaces are truly inclusive // John Bradbury

CONSTITUENT UNION

felix@imperial.ac.uk



Royal College of Science Exposed

RCSU

Aishwarya

Chidambaram

RCSU Revel Coordinator & MathSoc President

Since Exposed seems to be the favourite place to talk about Revel, I thought I would adopt an Exposed like structure to the CU section this week.

#rcsue001

[Year 1 RCSU]

What even is this Revel thing everyone's on about?

"Revel is an annual black tie event hosted by the RCSU and DoCSoc each year. This year "Roaring Revel" will be hosted at Quaglinos, a very fancy venue in St James' Park, on March 2nd."

#rcsue002

[Year 3 RCSU]

Is Revel really worth £35 for a night out??

"Whilst tickets might seem expensive at £35 let me take you through

exactly what each ticket includes:

- 1 cocktail £12.50 (mocktail £11)
- 3 x Beer/Wine 3 x £6.40
- 1 Spirit + Mixer £9.25
- 4 Canapés £15

As a highly proficient maths student (not), we can calculate that the total food and drink value of the ticket is just under £50. Now we have a 12.5% service charge on top of this, taking us to £56. Including the extra charges for preparing the

"hosted at Quaglinos, a very fancy venue in St James' Park, on March 2nd"

venue, the DJ, photographer and other fees, the total value of each ticket is just over £70. So tickets at £35 are an absolute

steal!"

#rcsue003

[Year 2 RCSU]

What's so special about Revel anyway?

"An amazing DJ, one hell of a venue, great food and drinks. What more could you want?"

For the first time in Revel History, we're pleased to bring you one of the best DJs in London! We are so pleased to announce Antics, former DJ of KOKO as our DJ for Roaring Revel!

Revel is all about giving students a fancy black tie event they would not otherwise be able to experience without the support from the RCSU and DoCSoc."

#rcsue004

[Year 3 RCSU]

Generic derogatory remark towards Event/Society/Constituent Union

"In the words of DoCSoc's Anindita Ghosh, "ICE is now a cesspool of confessions, complaints and cat pictures" Please

don't get me wrong, I hold nothing against cats or secret confessions, but having been at the receiving end of critical exposed posts, I just wanted to mention how they really don't help anyone at all. I will always be the first person to vouch for constructive criticism helping a society grow. I will admit MathSoc probably surveys its members wayyy too much, but that's just because we value our members ideas and needs, and we want to deliver events that our members actually want to come to.

However, bashing a society with baseless remarks on Exposed is

"baseless remarks on Exposed is helping absolutely no one"

helping absolutely no one. For example, this

week MathSoc faced criticism around the number of events we've run. For context, we've run/co-hosted 34 events already this year, that averages out to 1.9 events per week! Having run only half this number of events last year we are certainly

"all you've done is make yourself look clueless and not changed the society in any way at all"

growing, leaving the post with having no substance whatsoever, which is just not constructive. So in the process of trying to bring us down, all you've done is make yourself look clueless and not changed the society in anyway at all. If you actually want to help a society get better do one of these things:

a) Speak to the commit-

tee, let them know what events you want to see

b) Volunteer to help organise the events you want to see

c) Even better, run for a position on that committee to help change things for the better next year!

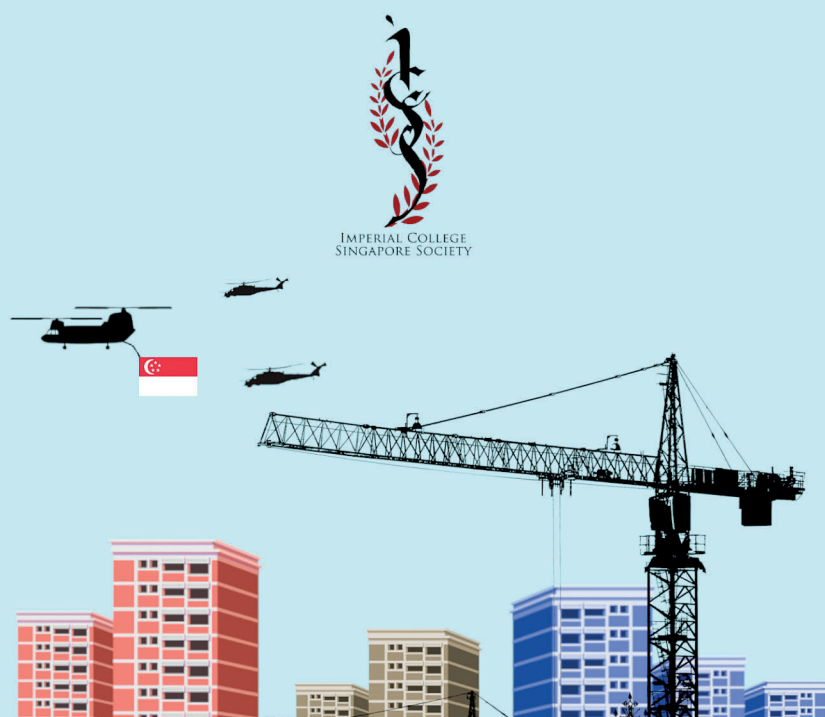
Volunteers sacrifice a hell of a lot of their time (and degree), working incredibly hard to make YOUR university experience better! Please try to appreciate us, because, believe me, we just want to make sure you have a great time at our events."

So in short:

1. Revel should be pretty great this year
2. Give some love to the volunteers working so hard to give you the best events
3. Stand for a committee position now to help be the change you want to see vote.union.ic.ac.uk!

EVER WONDERED WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH SINGAPORE?

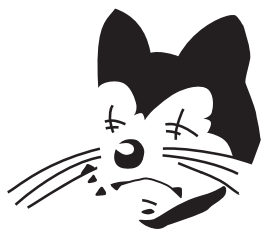
Come watch our musical production



MAJOR EVENT 2020

UNDER CONSTRUCTION
THE MUSICAL

29 FEBRUARY 2020 (SATURDAY)
DOORS OPEN 7 P.M.
GREAT HALL, IMPERIAL COLLEGE



Hangman



Please prepare your passport, visa, EHIC card and College ID ready for inspection//IPxFuel

Points based entry system introduced at the Union

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

*Servin Shabeghi
(Deputy President
- Keep 'em out)
announces new
measures to limit so
called undesirables
from Metric*

Following staggering demand for entry, this week Metric has brought in a points-based system to control who gets to experience disappointment and who gets to go home. Under the proposed rules, students must be able to

satisfy a range of stringent criteria in order to accrue sufficient entry points. Criteria range from potential future earnings, probability to strike in any future pension disputes and ability to scream the word “LADZZZZ” across the bar in an Etonian accent while chugging a pint through a tie. Few, if any members of the student body are expected to gain points from the latter criterion, although a few members of rugby club have been recently hospitalised.

When questioned about this controversial policy, lifelong Priti Patel fan and Masonic Lodge member Servin Shabeghi told Negafelix

that, “stringent membership requirements are what ensures the quality of shapes pulled on the dance floor. We don’t want a repeat of the Body Popping Incident. Some of the janitors are still traumatised and we just can’t afford payouts at this time. Don’t get me started on belly dancing. Not to be culturally insensitive, but I prefer it when the small intestine remains an internal organ.” The Union is said to be pushing to a more intelligent dance style in Metric this year. Naturally RSM students are livid at being so deliberately targeted, after their characteristic finger jab and shuffle was named explicitly in

the new policy.

When Negafelix spoke to students about the recent change, Feb Senton 2nd Year Computing and Anime enthusiast couldn’t

“Phrenology can tell you so much about a person... by fondling their head bones”

understand, “why on earth didn’t they give girls additional points based on their measurements? The bigger

the better, and I love it when they have dimples. Phrenology can tell you so much about a person. I’ve been able to avoid wasting time on so many people I’m not compatible with by fondling their head bones before introducing myself.”

Negafelix also understands that some characteristics will result in an automatic ban. People that buy tickets before on the Union website will naturally be excluded as pre-planning precludes people from having an absolute “mental one.” Planning’s for nerds and will get you an instant ban. While bans are normally permanent, special desired characteristics, such as

being on the University Challenge Team grant you an exemption and access to the fast stream queue even if you would not usually meet the criteria. Let’s face it, none of them would usually meet any desirable criteria, but let’s get their big sexy brains on the dance floor. Maybe Feb can measure their heads.

Opponents of the scheme have called it draconian and over the top. The Union’s only response was to roar and blow fire at the complaining whingers from atop their mound of coins and treasure while simultaneously performing an impromptu Kinky Boots inspired high-kicking routine.

HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

Anti-Dennis Violence Hits New Highs in the Wake of Storm Dennis **DESTRUCTION!**

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

The newly formed Royal society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Dennis (RSPCD) has warned of a spike in Dennophobic hate crimes in the aftermath of Storm Dennis that hit the British mainland over the weekend. The storm caused millions of pounds worth of property damage but its greatest effect might yet turn out to be the besmirching of the Dennis

name. When NegaFelix spoke to Professor Poodmann, an expert in post-crisis crises, she commented "This is very common after disasters for blame to be transferred onto those who are connected in anyway. I got bit by a dog called Finn once and now I never eat fish." The society has issued an official definition of what it calls "Anti-Dennis hate speech". The list includes: accusing a Dennis of stealing trampolines, making blowing noises near a Dennis and pouring water over a

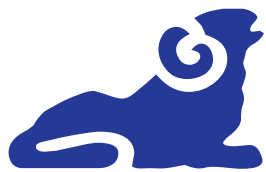
Dennis or onto the floor in front of a Dennis. Some politicians have been quick to condemn the violence but in other quarters the response has been more troubling. A public inquiry to look into Anti-Dennitic incidents in the Labour party has been assembled and will report to the government next year. An anonymous source, speaking from one of the areas worst hit by flooding tried to justify her feeling. "I have a Dennis friend so I don't hate them all but I think it is pretty suspicious how he was



Dennis caused destruction on the coastline!// PxHere

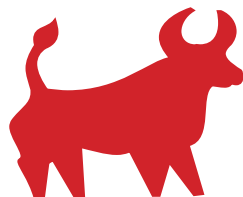
on holiday in the Costa del Sol when this all happened. Pretty fishy if you ask me"

If you have been affected by any of the issues mentioned in this article don't hesitate to call Samaritans on +234 810 419 1281 or the police on 999. Don't tolerate hate!



ARIES

This week you join a picket line.
-
You aren't sure what a picket is but you can't wait to get to the front and find out.



TAURUS

This week you force out a civil servant.
-
He rapidly becomes an uncivil servant.



GEMINI

This week you find out the inventor of copy, cut and paste has died.
-
You mournfully plagiarise in his honour.



CANCER

This week you're pleased by the return of centrefolds but have no one to express this to without sounding a bit weird.



LEO

This week God decides to wash away all of Britain's sins
-
by flooding Wales



VIRGO

This week you tally up your worth on the new immigration points system.
-
That's the only 70 you'll be getting this year.



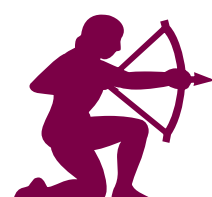
LIBRA

This week you fall foul of Financial Fair play rules.
-
You're banned from Slug for 2 years after buying drinks for too many girls.



SCORPIO

This Sagittarius horoscope remains empty in solidarity with the strikers.



SAGITTARIUS



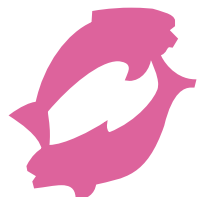
CAPRICORN

This week you use Head and Shoulders Shampoo for the first time.
-
You've never seen your shoulder hair so luscious.



AQUARIUS

This week you look forward to your friday night meeting with your only friend in the library.
-
The security guard now knows your name as he kicks you out.

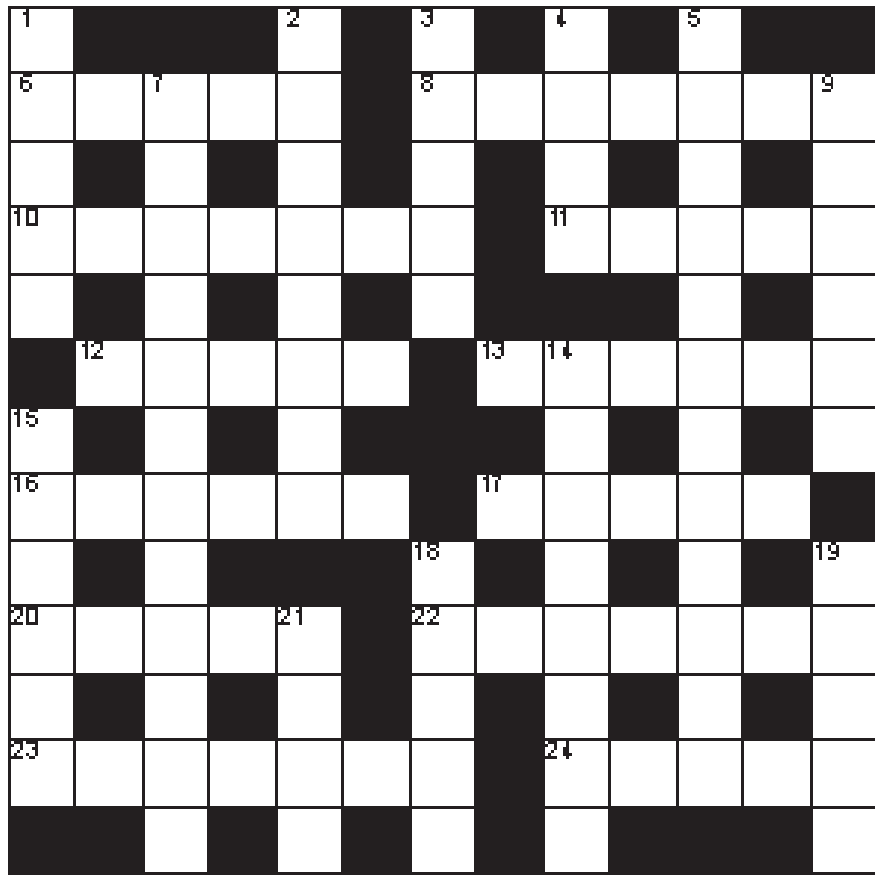


PISCES

This week your three year quest comes to a close.
-
You have eaten every single type of pasta available with tomato sauce and grated cheddar.

PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk



SUDOKU

Fill in the grid with the numbers 1-9 such that each row, column, and 3x3 box has no duplicates.

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

FUCWIT

1	Lochy Monsters	89
2	DQ	86
3	RIP Pat	85.5
7	Front Row Squad	30
8	BurnHuxleyBurn	17

Points available

Crossword	4
Sudoku	3
Minesweeper	1
Mastermind	2
Word Pyramid	1
Shikaku	1
Gogen	2
Cryptogram	2

Total 16

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

Draw your Easter egg competition submission here:

Across

- 6. He's in the details (5)
- 8. Southernmost town in the world (7)
- 10. "Many-armed suck-boi" OR "Many-armed cephalopod" (7)
- 11. Ex French currency (5)
- 12. Stick with a pointy end (5)
- 13. Sold stolen goods (6)
- 16. Discovery cry (6)
- 17. Newspaper selling cubicle (5)
- 20. (plural) Often created to help cleaning schedules (5)
- 22. One of Natalie Portman's two nationalities (7)
- 23. "A bird in hand is worth two in the bush", for example (7)
- 24. Relevant in both music and baseball (5)

Down

- 1. Goodbye, for our friends in Madrid (5)
- 2. Rectangular oat and butter treat (8)
- 3. Suppress (5)
- 4. One wearing a toque (4)
- 5. Income and expenditure statement (7,5)
- 7. Bitter and abusive language (12)
- 9. Place to find pac-man and coin pushing machines (6)
- 14. Short quotation, or phrase, at the beginning of a text (8)
- 15. What to do with unwanted Christmas presents (6)
- 18. Bend over backwards to pass under a stick (5)
- 19. Relocated French capital under German occupation in WWII (5)
- 21. Bias (4)

Last week's solutions

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



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

MINESWEEPER

1			1				1					
	2					1	2	2		1	1	
	2	1			2	1			1	1	1	
1		2				1			2			
2				1	2							1
	1		1				1	1	1	2		1
		1				2	1		1	1	2	
		1							1			
2			1			1	2					1
	1		1			2						1
1			1		1				1	1	1	
		1		1				1	2			
1				2	1	1		1				1
	1					1				1	1	

PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

MASTERMIND

Special thanks goes to DoC's Duncan White, who has very kindly developed the code to generate Mastermind puzzles like these, along with their relevant graphics for us to use!

Try to guess a secret code of colours in a specific order.

A black peg indicates a correct colour in the correct position. Of course, you are not told with position(s) contain the correct colour, simply how many positions contain the correct colour.

A white peg indicates a misplaced colour - the correct colour but in a different position! A few guesses have already been given, leading to a unique solution! There are easier variations with more examples at:

<https://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/~dcw/Mastermind.pdf>

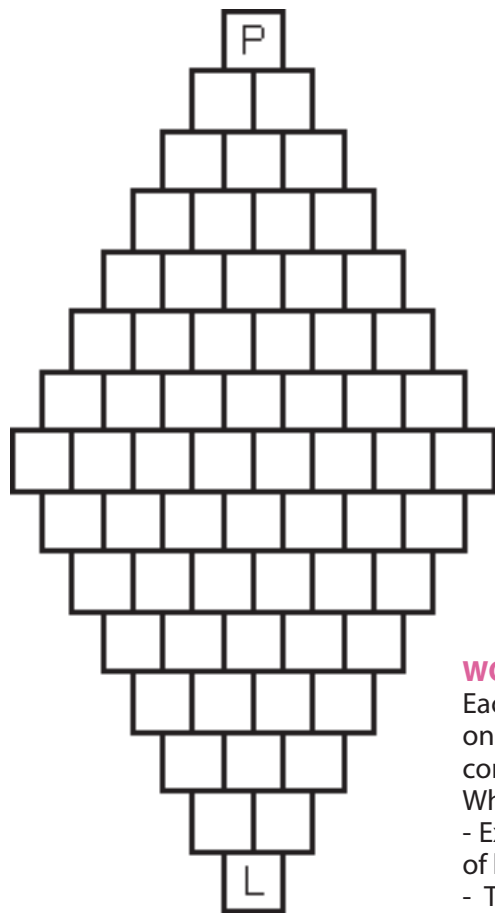
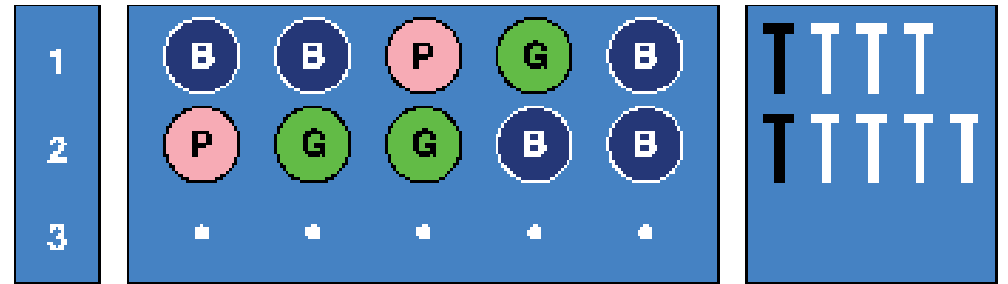
The 4-hole puzzle involves the colours RGBY (Red, Green, Blue, Yellow). The 5-hole puzzle involves the colours BPG (Blue, Pink, Green).

We've solved an example to help you out!

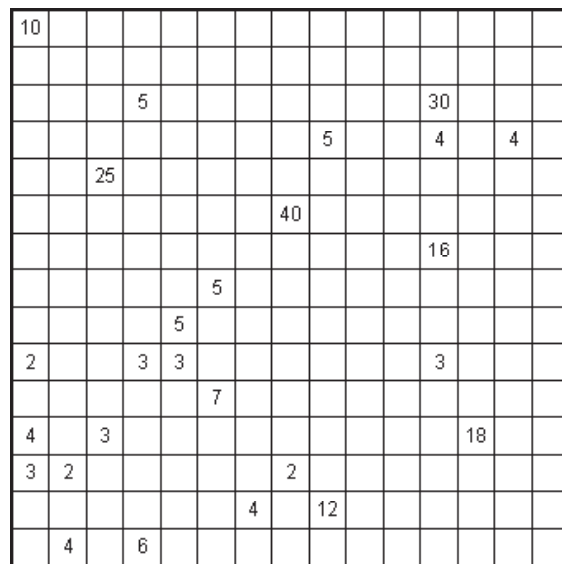
In this example, the first guess involves 3 out of the 4 colours, Red, Blue, and Green. This guess scores zero pegs, and this would force the solution to be the only remaining colour; Yellow. Hence, the solution has to be YYYY!



Try it yourself (this is a 5-hole, 3-colour puzzle)!



SHIKAKU



WORD PYRAMID

Each row is an anagram of the previous, plus or minus one letter. Clues: Wifi giver (2) - Tasteful mathematical constant (3) - What you want your fruit to be, ideally (4) - When the only factors that matter are you and your 1 (5) - Exam worth less than the one in June (6) - To put at risk of harm (7) - Grim place to study, if ICE is to be believed (8) - To pierce with a sharpened stake thrust up through the body (7) - Original (6) - Month of jokes and hayfever (5) - The link between H2S, Sothwestern and Tube (4) - Beset (3) - The kind of fancy dents you want in your pasta (2)

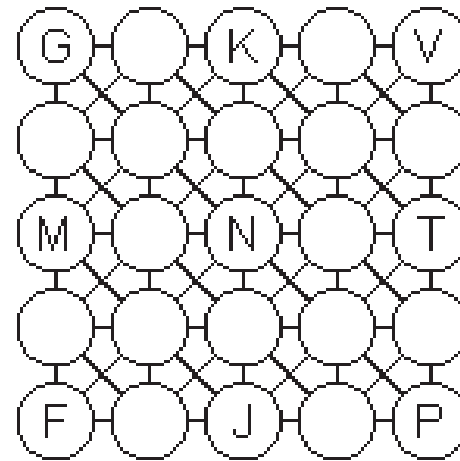
Hello, Puzzlers!

Special thanks to crauswords.com for our Sudoku, Minesweeper and Shikaku, and Duncan White for our Mastermind!

Thank you once again for all of your submissions, and have a great week. We are looking for contributions of Easter egg designs (more details next week).

GOGEN

Fill in the grid with letters from A-Y to make the words given. Words can be formed by following any neighbouring letters!



CLUES:

- BIND
- DEUX
- FRENCH
- HOG
- JUSTICE
- QUIT
- REX
- UNSTACK
- WANDERLUST
- WAVY
- WISP

CRYPTOGRAM

The letters of the alphabet have been scrambled and numbered 0 to 25. A quote has been hidden for you to decode, and 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

11 13 24 17 4 11 12 12 11 24 9 14 17 11 4 5 21 15,

11 13 24 17 19 13 12 12 11 16 11 14 4 16 16 23 9. ~ 14 18 10 24 9 16 18 11 24 16 12 9 4 4 15 17 11 4

SPORTS

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IC Fencing: Wine, Cheese and Fencing

SPORTS

Filip Aniés

IC Fencing: Vice-President

Wine, cheese, and fencing. There only really is one destination that ticks all the boxes when 20 Imperial fencers go on tour: Paris. Arriving late last Thursday, most fencers only got a short night's sleep before an early start on the Friday morning. Imperial had both men and women competing in all weapons (foil, sabre, épée); some competing for their first time, others with experience of previous Paris adventures. Among competing universities were universities from across Europe and the UK. Imperial's sole medal of the day was won by Francesca Cavallo, finishing on second place in Women's Épée after a tough final against Caroline Van Eldik from

University of Kent, with the score 12-15. Other notable performances were Filip Aniés and Hugo Briais both making it to quarter finals, in Men's Épée and Foil respectively.

"Imperial's sole medal of the first day was won by Francesca Cavallo, finishing in second place in Women's Épée"

The real challenges took place in the evening, however, as activities moved to the Polytechnique equivalent of the Union. Over foosball tables, modified games of ping pong, and in front

of the karaoke screen, a new rivalry grew against University of Kent. Despite heavy efforts to neutralise our new rivals, the Kent fencers managed to secretly deprive IC Fencing of the Guard: an item best described as a holy grail, and the closest to a mascot that IC Fencing will ever have. The theft was not immediately admitted, however, leading to dedicated searching efforts by IC Fencing Social Sec Jake Reynolds – including a thorough search through 20 garbage bags the day after – well aware that a Social Sec who loses the Guard risks life-long shaming by the other members of IC Fencing.

After a long night, culminating in a 4 am walk-thru visit to Macies, it was a tired crowd who showed up to the competition bus at 7 am in the next morning. The second competition day featured team competitions, and Imperial Men's

Épée Team (anchored by Leicester fencer Idris Ali), Men's Foil, Women's Épée, as well as King's College Women's Sabre featuring Imperial fencer

"The second competition day featured team competitions; Imperial Men's Épée Team, Men's Foil, Women's Épée, as well as Women's Sabre"

Sherry Xu, all won all of their poule matches. (Presumably, opponent teams were pretty tired too...)

In the Men's Épée's first direct elimination match, Jake Reynolds got the chance to regain his pride, as the opponents from the University of Kent promised to give back the Guard upon an Imperial victory. Fortunately, Imperial won the match comfortably, and the Guard was returned later that day. Imperial Men's Épée continued to fence well all the way until the semi-finals, where they were defeated by a team of incredibly good-looking Swiss dudes from University of Bern. This performance was matched by Imperial Women's Épée, who also secured a bronze. Even better were Sherry Xu's Women's Sabre team and Imperial Men's Foil, who both reached the finals. Unfortunately, both finals were lost, with Men's Foil being lost against a group of Hong Kong foilists from UCL.

The evening after the competitions featured a

black-tie event with plenty of dressed-up fencers, sparkling wine, and an impressive display of fireworks. Before taking

"Imperial Men's Épée were defeated by a team of incredibly good-looking Swiss dudes from University of Bern"

the Eurostar back to St. Pancras on the Sunday, IC Fencing went into central Paris to take mandatory group photos in front of the half burnt-down Notre Dame, and to eat snails and frog legs and all other things French.



Sheey Xu (left) in the team final in Women's Sabre // X-Systra

SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Horny runners off the starting blocks // Hussain Al-Jabir

Hyde Park Relays: Runners Get Horny in Hyde Park

SPORTS

Matthew Ryan and James Warren

HPR organisers

On Saturday 8th February, the much anticipated annual edition of the Hyde Park Relays race, hosted by Imperial College Cross-Country and Athletics arrived with vigour. With over 80 teams and hundreds of participants, it was a roaring success for the club.

With the first edition dating back to 1949, this event holds a special place in Imperial runners' hearts, tying students to Imperial long after they graduate with the heritage of the event. As January came to a close and the final details had been arranged, hopes were high for this historic event. After an intense week of preparation, Metric decoration, race-pack making and coordination with all attendees, the big day drew near at a frightening pace.

The weather forecast however was bleak. With

the memory of 2018's cancellation still fresh in the club's memory, Storm Ciara threatened to close the parks due to high winds. An email from the Royal Parks two days before the event was panic inducing at best, threatening to cancel the event again, but luckily the weather held off just long enough for the event to take place in safety.

With a disgustingly early start for the organisers to set up registration and bring the food, the crowds started arriving at 10 am at Metric to sign their team in.

Soon enough, all teams had registered and made their way to the Bandstand in Hyde Park where the race would soon start. The weather was glorious. The wind was down, the sun was shining, it was more than we could ever have hoped for. The organisers Matt Ryan and Jim Warren stood in front of the crowd to deliver the race brief; you could feel the tension in the air, hundreds of runners ready to give their all to represent their clubs, their university (and for some international teams, even

their country) in such a historic race. As the clock struck 1300, the iconic HPR Horn was sounded as per tradition, to mark the start of the race and the first runners of all 80 plus teams stormed off along the funnel of

"ICXCAC Captain, Henry Hart, had the fastest leg of the day with 15 minutes and 23 seconds"

cheering spectators, runners and passers-by. With the course now officially measured as 5k, many runners were eager to set personal best times in this spectacular venue, and boy did they.

As the first runners made it to the end of their leg, Henry Hart from Imperial Men's A team, and ICXCAC Captain was leading the race with a monumental effort that would earn him the fastest leg of the day in 15:23,

beating his PB by 26 seconds, followed closely by old rivals Cambridge, and Hyde Park Relays newcomers, University of Bath.

These three would continue to fight over podium positions throughout the race, with the order changing every lap, much to the entertainment and dismay of spectators, as Imperial blue and red would be replaced by Cambridge teal, and then Bath's blue and yellow. Bath again were dominating the mixed race too, with their mixed team holding fourth overall for a leg just behind the top men's teams before being overtaken by Imperial's mighty B-Team - "Running on Pure Hate".

In the women's race, London University and Colleges Athletics leaders, Imperial Women's A were again asserting their dominance over the other teams, with a 2 minute lead on Cambridge by the final lap.

In the end, Imperial came out on top in both the mens and womens races. Men's A team (Aptly named "St Mary's Go Home Devastated" as

a reflection of the current LUCA standings) consisting of Henry Hart, Mihaly Ormay, Thomas Bayley, Joe Pomfret and Niki Faulker all running times of around 16 minute mark or lower. And the Women's

"Imperial were first in both womens and mens races"

A team, consisting of Inga Van Den Bossche, Laura Wright, Alex Mundell and Alix Vermeulen again smashing some excellent times to take the win. Cambridge took home second in both categories this year, and first-timers Bath taking home third place in the men's.

Once all the runners had crossed the finish line, the masses headed back to Metric for prizes and sandwiches (the ones that Morrisons had actually remembered to deliver). Prize-giving was a great experience, with clubs from all over the country celebrating each other's

achievements, whether that was Imperial's resounding wins all round or Portsmouth's effort on the costume competition winning them some desirable retro HPR merch.

After the much needed showers and a quick dinner, the Imperial crew headed to Metric for final decoration installments and some early pints, with the afterparty ready to start at 8pm. Featuring ICXCAC, IC Tri, BUOTC, and Portsmouth's finest party-animals, consumption of copious amounts of alcohol from the HPR Horn by the organisers and ICXCAC's favourite DJs, Niall Woodward and Dema Ushchapovskyy, who were absolutely fantastic - the night was a huge success! (From the small part the organisers can remember of it).

Overall, the day was a great success from all points of view; the organisers would like to extend an absolutely yuuuuge thank you to everyone from ICXCAC who helped throughout the day, and another big thanks to all the runners who turned up to compete, and make the event happen.

SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

IC Waterpolo – (egg)beating to victory: Part 2

SPORTS

**Anastasia
Kolesnikova**

*ICSWP: Women's Waterpolo
Captain (BUCS)*

This week, we are back with the water polo captains (Sasha is the captain for LUSL 1s and Tom is the captain for LUSL 2s), because we all know you can't get enough. The topic is Varsity, as Varsity is coming up on February 28th. The tension between ICSWP and ICSM water polo runs high this year – with some beef still fresh in our teams' minds as well as the constant consumption of our pool time for their home games, IC wants revenge. Last year, we have witnessed the fall of some of our best balls to the medics' secret weapon – whether it was lube or Vaseline still remains to be seen, but rumour has it that if you taste the water of the Ethos pool as time rolls closer to Varsity, you might just be able to find out which one it really was. Thinking that they would be slick enough to win, their plans got foiled by the rage this brought out in IC. Even the jacuzzi team was left

shook. Perhaps that's why it almost never works this year – they might have just clogged the pipes.

But the story doesn't end there. This year, trying to re-establish a friendly competition, IC tried to be cordial and fun – turns out that the medics didn't appreciate it at all. Not only having had rearranged games four or five times, they never volunteered their pool time – even if it was their home game. Preferring to leech onto IC's time, they went a bit too far, making the BUCS teams want the LUSL win no less than LUSL themselves. Only BUCS play will some time show who was right and who was wrong.

But what the Medics can't score, they can drink. They have beat both our captains last year in the Captain's Challenge that happens after Varsity in the union. That's probably the only event they had not attempted cheating in, ngl. Will Sasha and Tom be up to the challenge this year? That's for them to know and for us to find out. Very, very soon. For now, enjoy the banter from the lovely captains as they discuss strengths, bonding and Varsity.



Lord knows who these people are but ICSWP sent the photo in // ICSWP

Nastya: What are the team strengths?

Sasha: Synergy, everyone knows everyone well and hypes each other up, people know what they're doing most of the time.

Tom: Shit chat. Petros has been playing for over 10 years for the team, at this point he's probably a part of the pool. Thanos has amazing brotherly abilities, Henry's ability to make relations with half of the ladies water polo squad was useful before he got a girl. [Gets out team sheet] Marcus Allen is an absolute legend. We have Finlay who, although is

from the north, is actually an alright guy. Karan, who never makes it to training but is always keen for pub, and Sir Lancemop as well – our strengths are not particularly water polo skills, but rather our skills at having a good time I suppose. Our team spirit, if you may. We may not get there in style, but we get there eventually. No one seems to know what's going on but it all works out.

Nastya: What about team building?

Sasha: We have a couple of cans, everyone jokes around and people enjoy

playing, so the game is team building in itself.

Tom: We do things like the LUSL 2s dinner, this year for the first time we had LUSL 2s ACC pres. Shit chat on the group chat also helps. I think what's most important is that past LUSL 2s people regularly come back to play – it makes a lasting impression on freshers, that this is not just a club you join throughout uni, it's something to be a part of for years to come really. I may as well just say that the captain holds it together through his banterous, awful, humourless shit chat.

Nastya: What's is the rivalry with the Imperial Medics team? What is your outlook on this year's Varsity?

Sasha: We've got no issues against the medics. Their 2s captain, Nick, got annoyed when I faked and placed a ball in their net. Demetris didn't want to use their pool time and always kept using ours.

They've had to reschedule a match four times. I don't think they managed to change it on BUCS play, so I think it's an automatic forfeit,

since they can't change the score anymore. So really, nothing major. As for Varsity, I've only been here for two years, but I believe the 1s always won, so I will try to uphold this streak this year.

Tom: Varsity is going to be good this year, it always is very fun. The medics know they'll never win, so they play dirty – last year they vaselined themselves. It was really disgusting. And then they were playing human ball curling or whatever. Historically, we've never lost Varsity. It's always good fun, but the play does get quite dirty, with some banter on the side. One thing I can say, is what the medics lack in their water polo ability, they make up with their drinking abilities in the union. I credit them to that.

And that is it from both me and the guys! Come watch the game on February 28th, or if you're interested to play, contact the club to participate in the soon and coming McComish Tournament, where teams who have never played polo before get a few polo players and compete against each other. Watch this space.



Another ICSWP photo taken on PotatoCam™ // ICSWP