

Felix



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ISSUE 1772

FRIDAY 21ST MAY 2021

Union Council vote not to condemn Shell exhibit

► COUNCIL VOTES NOT TO CONDEMN SHELL SCIENCE MUSEUM GREENWASHING

By Calum Drysdale



The Union Council voted last week against raising even the mildest objection to the funding of an exhibition on carbon capture technology at the Science Museum by Shell, the fossil fuel giant.

The Council voted last Tuesday by a margin of 48 to 21 with 31 abstentions against a paper proposed by Ansh Bhatnagar, a physics masters student and long term campaigner for Imperial to divest from fossil fuel investment. The paper would have required the sabbatical officers, students taking a year out of their studies to work in paid leadership positions in the Union, to write a letter to the Science Museum “Expressing the urgency of the climate crisis and the need for all of us to step up and take action” as well as “Expressing the Union’s disapproval of Shell’s sponsorship of this exhibition”.

Bhatnagar told Felix that “This was the fourth in a number of motions on worker’s rights and climate jus-

Meritocracy is a myth - Engineering department

Calum Drysdale Editor in Chief

The Engineering Department has issued a course on microaggressions that it says is recommended to all staff and students. The course is 15 minutes long and covers what microaggressions and microaffirmations are as well as giving examples of harmful behaviours.

The course was reported on in The Telegraph which described it as “a list of phrases to avoid on campus”. The Telegraph also quoted Toby Young, the general secretary of the Free Speech Union, who said that “protections from ‘over-reaching diversitycrats’ trying to police speech and thought are urgently needed.” and that



FELIX EXCLUSIVE

EUROVISION 2021

VIEWING GUIDE

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COVID WARNING

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WITH YOU

WHAT IS FELIX?

Felix is the newspaper of Imperial College Student Union. We provide entertainment, information and news while also being a space that members of the Imperial College community can use to publish their views and respond to the views of others.

CAN I WRITE FOR FELIX?

Yes. We welcome all submissions and aim to publish everything we are sent. An editor will work with you to make sure your article is in the best condition it can be for publication. We also produce video and audio content if that interests you more.

HOW DO I SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO FELIX?

- If you already have an article in mind or have written one already then send it to the section editors via email. These email addresses can be found at the top of each page in a section.
- If you want to write but don't have a topic in mind, check out our section specific writers Facebook groups that we update every week with topics we would like articles about or email the section editors

Send your article to us by 8 o'clock on Tuesday and we can then have it ready for publication that Friday!

We are also always recruiting editors, copy editors, photographers, artists and more. If you would like to get involved in Felix in a regular capacity, email Felix@ic.ac.uk

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bhatnagar condemns former comrades in arms as 'vacuous liberals and spineless cowards'

tice that have fallen at Council in the past year. Members presented incoherent arguments and used underhanded tactics to oppose the motion, with one member using a procedural intervention to advance arguments against the motion before it was even presented.

A separate point to this specific motion; the truth is that Council follows the will of the [sabbatical officers] and abdicates its responsibility of being more than a rubber stamping body. Regardless of whether you agree or disagree with individual decisions, the current state of affairs is a disservice to the students we are meant to represent."

This statement reflects a schism in a group of people that have dominated the top level of Union politics for the last two years, many of whom Bhatnagar campaigned for and are personal friends of his.

Bhatnagar also continued his attacks on Council on Twitter, writing "imperial SU is full of vacuous liberals and spineless cowards...The amount of resistance to any sort of

motion on climate change because "it can hurt our student societies that are sponsored by Shell" is appalling".

Some might say that Bhatnagar went too far with some of his comments.

Katie McCann who criticised Bhatnagar's stance and who he criticised on Twitter said "I find Ansh's response inherently one-dimensional, judgemental, and illegitimate. Of course I am aware of the nuances of CCS, and I find the grasp at publicly insulting my intelligence laughable, considering we appear to be in the same stage of our lives. I find it creepy and weird that his response to his paper being rejected was to attack a young woman, whom he's never previously met before, and insult her intelligence. If he views my intelligence as inferior, I'd suggest he discuss this topic with our soon to be Head of Department Tina van de Flierdt, who taught my 'Climate' module and the pros and cons of various methods of geoengineering, with data and analytics from the IPCC.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Engineering department microaggression advice warns against encouraging SE Asian students to "Speak up more"

"Surely, the way to create a welcoming environment for BAME students at a university is to assure them they will be treated in exactly the same way as every other student? To hold BAME students to a lower standard than white students is incredibly patronising."

However, Imperial staff and students seem to be behind the initiative calling it "necessary" and "not that big a deal" particularly after 28% of staff said that Imperial was not an inclusive employer.

The College also provided a statement defending the course and the messages in it. We support and defend free speech, including conversations about racism and inclusion. A video on the experiences of BAME colleagues does not 'threaten free speech', and we would reject any efforts to shut down these important discussions.

For more on this topic we encourage you to read the Felix article "Do you sometimes feel like you are in China?" by Isabelle Zhang in issue 1721.

Brexit unlikely to have any major impact on Imperial research funding

Samuel Lovatt News reporter

Brexit has had “no discernible impact” on Imperial College’s funding from the EU, vice provost Nick Jennings has stated. When approached regarding potential discrepancies between departments’ funding after Brexit, Professor Jennings highlighted Imperial College’s exceptional track record in acquiring funding from all avenues, and added “As for Brexit, it

being around 30% higher than that of Horizon 2020. The UK has previously been the second largest beneficiary of these funding schemes, lagging behind only Germany. Thankfully for the College, post Brexit negotiations agreed full access to such EU research funding programmes for UK institutions, however, did not include access to Erasmus, which will instead be replaced by the new British-funded Tu-

EU funding of that year.

While the EU is not a major funder of Imperial research, the sudden loss of ~10% of research budget is not trivial. The College’s March 2021 shows that the 2020/21 funding year has had the lowest funding application success rate on record. Projecting forward data from the first half of the year, funding from the EU can be expected to be a 1/3 than it was when Britain

ma was that the EU was strangling innovation and science. Boris Johnson’s ‘levelling up’ agenda is an attempt to make use of this putative opportunity. Measuring the flow of state money to Imperial is complicated by the numerous research councils that channel public money into universities, each of which receive money from a number of sources. In addition to this, some government departments have

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The Turing Scheme will replace the Erasmus programme and will allow students to study abroad. The Turing scheme will send students all over the world rather than just the EU

has only just come into effect and so there is no discernible impact yet”.

The College carries out a bi-annual report on the state of funding from all sources, the results of which can be found on the College’s website.

The timing of Brexit coincided with the change-over to a new science funding system from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe which will fund European science until 2027. European science funding has increased across the board, with Horizon Europe’s budget

ring Scheme.

While the EU Commission has historically awarded Imperial a significant amount of money, totalling £192 million between 2015 and 2020, and a record £44 million in 2019/20 alone, this only made up little over 10% of total research funds.

EU Commission funding is also dwarfed by funding from other avenues such as UK research councils and charities. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation alone granted the College £34 million as an award for Malaria research in 2020 almost equalling the

was still a member of the European Union. This is compounded further by weak application success rates from non-EU sources.

However, there remains hope that Imperial’s reputation as a centre of research excellence will insulate it from the worst effects of Brexit. Near the end of 2019 the Royal Society stated that R&D funding from the EU had dropped 28% since the announcement of Brexit. Imperial’s record runs quite contrary to this, and in fact the amount awarded by the EU Commission to Imperial has increased every full year since 2016. This suggests that the College has been able to make its case for funding heard, despite the turmoil affecting the rest of the sector.

What role of Britain’s own government will play in making up the shortfall in funding remains unclear. A central tenet of the Brexiteer’s dog-

been known to award smaller sums of money targeted at specific research initiatives. Despite inexact figures, it is suggested that Imperial still manages to receive a significant share of the research budget, being awarded ~£194 million in total from the government, the NHS and research councils combined in 19/20. The March 2020 budget included an increase in R&D funding for universities by 20% to £10.36 billion and lays out a further increase to £22 billion by 2024/25. Assuming that Imperial continues to attract the same proportion of the expanded funding pool, the resultant increase in money would far outweigh the decline in EU funding.



THE EU COMMISSION HAS HISTORICALLY AWARDED IMPERIAL A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT

COMMENT

The Cry of Palestine

► *President of Imperial College's Friends of Palestine describes her feelings on hearing the news of following the recent escalation of conflict between Israel and Palestine.*

Hind M. Arekat

Friends of Palestine President



As a Palestinian, I could easily say I am heartbroken by ongoing events, but that is not enough. I am upset and disheartened by the ongoing injustices and inhumanity. I spent the last couple of weeks glued to my phone, refreshing my Instagram and Facebook feeds at least every 15 minutes.

One minute, I am inspired by the confidence of Palestinian writer Mohammed El-Kurd, a resident of the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in occupied East Jerusalem who, along with several other Palestinian families, is threatened with forced displacement from his home by an Israeli court. He challenged a CNN anchor he was being interviewed by: “Do you support the violent dispossession of me and my family?”

The next minute, I stare in disbelief as the IDF violently storms Al-Aqsa mosque, the third holiest site in Islam, during the ten holiest nights of the holiest month of the Islamic calendar, Ramadan. Worshippers were being shot at with rubber bullets and were having stun grenades thrown at them.

The narrative and language that most media outlets used to describe the violence, particularly phrases like “conflict” and “clashes”, are inaccurate because of the massive disparity of power at play, with one side illegally occupying the other for over 70 years, breaking several UN resolutions in the process. Organisations like Human Rights Watch and B’Tselem, an Israeli NGO, have written

reports that show how Israeli policies make apartheid (the intent of maintaining domination of one group over another) a reality for millions of Palestinians.

It is important to condemn violence that leads to losses of both Palestinian and Israeli lives. It is also important to highlight how disproportionate the recent attacks on Gaza are, and what the context of the Gaza strip is. It is one of the most densely populated regions in the world, with 2 million people living in a 365 square-kilometre area, which also happens to be under a 14-year-old blockade. The economic situations are dire with an 82% employment rate and 53% of the population living in poverty. With May being mental health awareness month, it should be noted that 95% of Palestinian children

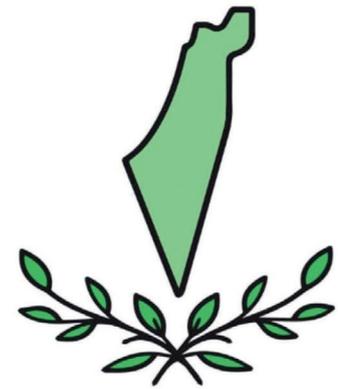
in Gaza also suffer from deep psychological distress because of the threat of conflict and uncertainty of what the future holds.

Refugee camps, residential areas, schools, media offices, medical centres, and a coronavirus testing laboratory have all been targeted by the recent air-

strikes on Gaza. Over 200 Palestinians have been killed as of Tuesday, including 63 children and 36 women. These are not just numbers to be lost under the mounting statistics: each innocent loss of life represents a person, like you and me, who had hopes and dreams for a better future. The footage being shared is distressing. An orphaned boy mourning his father. A man mourning his four children. Children being pulled from beneath the rubble. A woman trying to salvage anything she can from the ruins of her home. A two-month-old baby and his father being the sole survivors from

their family. A groom-to-be losing his fiancée. These are just a small fraction of lives that have been lost and forever impacted by violence they don't deserve. They do not have anywhere to go or to be safe in.

No one should have to tweet their good-byes. Mothers should not have to gather their



IMPERIAL COLLEGE
FRIENDS OF PALESTINE

children in one room “so that when we die, we die together, and no one would live to mourn the loss of one another”. And still, Palestinians are dehumanised. They still have to explain why they deserve justice, why they deserve their rights, and why their voices must be heard.

A Poem for Palestine

by Hind M. Arekat

May your holy sites never be violated or disrespected
May your prayers at your holy sites never by intruders be obstructed
May your loved ones never receive the bullet of your oppressor
May your loved ones never lose their limbs & eyes & lives because of the aggressor

May you never go to sleep to the destructive bombs and their sound
May you never see schools and houses and hospitals crumbling to the ground
May you never see a child become orphaned
May you never see a parent become childless

May you never have to cross a checkpoint to earn a living
May you never live in a seige that is terribly unforgiving
May you never be reduced to a second class citizen
May you never be refused medical treatment because you're trapped in an open-air prison

May you never get kicked out of your home, with no where else to go
May you never see your house being demolished by laws you're below
May you never see your livelihood destroyed or get stolen
May you never be unable to provide for your family and feel broken

May you never see your dreams from reality get dissociated
May you never see your culture get appropriated
May you never have your citizenship rebuked
May you never be left on the border of your homeland, your entry refused

May you never see your child abducted in the middle of the night and thrown in military administrative detention
May you never see torture in prisons or feel that apprehension
May you never be unjustly locked away for more than half your lifetime
May you or your children never live in a refugee camp because of someone's else crime
May you never be unjustly misportrayed when you were defending your right
May you never see your history erased and rewritten by transgressors who treat you with slight

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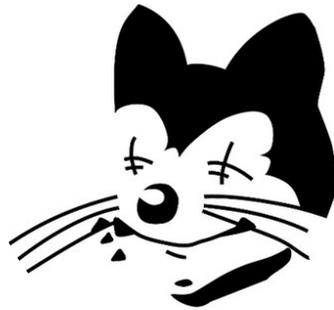
And our numerous contributors

The Felix Editor on

Dog days are over It's cat time

We are back. Limping off the printing press and accusations of being old fashioned we are back. This is in a large part due to you. I must thank everyone who answered the survey put out for the Felix consultation review. Seeing the response and people's genuine investment and love of the paper was very meaningful for me and everyone else who puts time in each week to get the paper out.

I want you to know as well that we have taken on board what you told us in your responses. We will renew our efforts to bring you news that is both



useful to know and interesting to read.

That is why I am pleased to announce that the sex survey will once again be running this year.

The survey has been a lot of things in its history of running and having

been able to oversee two of them now I have seen my fair share.

This year we will be trying to address the complexity of sex, relationships, love and lust. We hope that you will complete the survey and we look forward to bringing you the results back in our usual beautiful graph format.

Keep the Cat at all costs

This year, despite restrictions Felix ran its annual Felix Meet the Candidates or hustings event. This was a broadcast event where candidates for major roles were able to speak directly to their voters and audience in a way that would otherwise have been very difficult to do. I was very proud of it and also of the candidates. Despite not being able to do many of the things that make being a student volunteer worth it there were still candidates for nearly all of the major roles.

However, this was less the case in the less senior roles. We face a case of 'cultural long COVID'. Many societies face decline, a huge loss of expertise and potentially even ceasing to run. This is because many people have looked at the trouble of running for a committee position and have decided that they won't bother. I would plead with anyone reading this. You will have benefitted from student run activities and it is our responsibility to pay that debt forward to the students that come after us.

With many AGMs around now and the summer elections coming up, there is a frequent refrain "Everything is rubbish" that can be heard. I have said it every election time and I will say it again this time; if you want something done better, go and improve it yourself. Obvious career benefits aside, many of us have a once in a lifetime opportunity to redefine ourselves. A victim of severe brain trauma once wrote that for her it was not only the head injury that changed her personality and led her to leave her home town in the US and remake her life. It was also the long time spent in recovery that allowed her to re-evaluate what she felt was important. All of us now have that chance too. If you didn't like who you were, you have a chance to change that. I know what I sound like but I am filled with the zeal of the convert. Felix made me who I am today. There are societies out there that will do the same for you. You only have to go out and find them.

Statement of Intent

We here at Felix believe that it is always in the interests of the students to know. That cover-up and paternalistic obfuscation is never right and that as intelligent people students should be treated with respect and given the ability to make up their own minds. Therefore, I, the Felix Editor, on behalf of the team promise that:

We will to the best of our ability tell you the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

We will keep your confidence and will only publish something you say to us if you have explicitly said that we can.

We will work to expose unfairness and discrimination in all forms that it takes both at the College and elsewhere.

We will treat fairly any article sent to us, regardless of point of view and do our best to work with you to prepare it for publication in our pages.

Signed by Calum Drysdale
Editor-in Chief

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EUROVISION

SONG CONTEST ROTTERDAM 2021



Hello, there! I'm Shervin and you might know me better as your Deputy President (Welfare) at the Union. While I'm extremely passionate about welfare. There's one thing I'm more passionate about - and that's Eurovision. Although, I think the two go hand-in-hand and Eurovision can be very good for your wellbeing. I'm here to give you the lowdown on this year's competition. I run you through all the acts and tell you the things to look out for, as well as giving some personal insights on my favourites.

Firstly, though, a bit of history. How did we get where we are today? Well, Eurovision started in 1956 as a way of bringing post-war Europe together through music. Switzerland hosted and won that year, and ever since the competition has grown and grown. There are now up to 43 countries competing in the competition - including Australia who, though not in Europe, are a member of the European Broadcasting Union so get to compete.

The format is easy enough to understand. Every country sends an original song and then perform this live at the host country. The host is always the winner of the previous year (unless they turn it down, which has happened sometimes when the country is struggling financially, for example). Before

the grand final on Saturday night, there are two semi-finals where all but 6 of the competing countries battle it out for 20 places in the grand final. The 6 who don't need to go to the semi finals are the 'big 5' (France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom) who make greater financial contributions to the competition, as well as the host country. At the final, the 26 qualifying acts perform again and then a winner is chosen. The winner is a 50/50 combination of votes from 5 professional jurors from each country, as well as a public televote in each country.

Like everything we hold dear to us, COVID has put a spanner in the works for Eurovision. In 2020, the competition was cancelled for the first time ever - breaking a 64 year streak of the competition running. This was, of course, heartbreaking for the fans but, of course, more so for the artists. The timing of the pandemic meant that all 42 acts had already been chosen for that competition and they were already preparing for their performances. Most countries allowed them to get another go this year - 26 of 39 competing countries have come with the same act (but different song) to last year - and I've indicated who these are in my description below!

To everyone's joy, Eurovision has returned for 2021 and, after the win of the Netherlands and Duncan Laurence's 'Arcade' in 2019, the competition is being held in the Ahoy Arena in Rotterdam. There are, of course, strict COVID measures ensuring all people are kept safe but, amazingly, only two so far have had problems. Australian travel restrictions meant they didn't come to Rotterdam and, instead, used a pre-recorded 'live on tape' performance (which didn't make it out of the semi-finals, alas). Also, one of the Icelandic performers has tested positive for the virus which, alas, means they will use rehearsal footage. Given the scale of the competition, I think it's amazing they've managed to do it so far with very little problems and only a smattering of positive tests. It's really amazing to see, after so long of people being apart, hundreds of people from different countries coming together for the greatest television show in the world.

The Acts in the Grand Final (all photos courtesy of the EBU / Andres Putting)



Norway - Fallen Angel - TIX

Ridiculous costume: check. Dancers dressed as dark angels: check. Key change: you betcha. This year's most quintessential, over-the-top Eurovision entry comes courtesy of singer-songwriter TIX from Norway, who's apparently a fairly big deal there and has written songs for some big names including Ava Max's 'Sweet But Psycho'. His stage name has a fairly deep meaning – reclaiming the nickname 'tics' bullies at his school gave him due to his Tourette's syndrome. 'Fallen Angel' has strong Westlife break-up song vibes but apparently has a deeper message about mental health to it too, and TIX has spoken admirably openly about his own mental health struggles to Eurovision press. As an almost definite PR ploy, he's taken a fancy to Azerbaijani singer...

Azerbaijan - Mata Hari - Efendi

... Efendi, and the two have been doing cute things like leaving gifts in each other's hotel rooms, singing songs for each other and have been spotted spending time together in, conveniently, press heavy areas. A video about the two even went up on Eurovision's official YouTube channel on their semi-final day (no clue why, it was very strange). But enough about that. Efendi comes with a solid rip-off of her song from 2020 'Cleopatra', but this time the historical female figure is Mata Hari, a Dutch exotic dancer who was executed after being charged for spying for the Germans in WW1. The song is fairly decent – an upbeat ethnic number that gets performed confidently. While 'Mata Hari' has fairly throw-away lyrics, Efendi herself comes with a lot of controversy following views she has publicly shared around the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.



France – Voilà – Barbara Pravi

Captivating. Magical. Impactful. Mesmerising. Compelling. I could go on. France introduced a slightly new national selection show C'est vous qui décidez! and from it we have been given songstress Barabara Pravi and her extremely French song 'Voilà', which won garnering over 50% more points from the French juries and public than second place. Barbara, with Iranian and Serbian roots, is a very engaging person who has used her platform as an artist to talk about issues related to women's rights. As for 'Voilà', the lyrics tell the story of a performer laying herself bare to her audience, and the vulnerability that comes with opening yourself up to the criticism of others. The last verse's lyrics (my own translation) 'Finally take a look at me, my eyes and my hands // All I have is right here' give a good feel for this beautiful song. It's spent time being first in the odds to win, and I'd be delighted if it does.

Ukraine – Shum – Go_A (returning act)

Ukraine really know how to do Eurovision well, without ever producing disposable pop – and this year is no exception. They're being represented by electro-folk band Go_A, whose name roughly translates as 'going back to roots' and their song borrows heavily from Ukrainian folklore – so much so that they had to rework the original significantly to comply with Eurovision plagiarism rules. A growing favourite amongst the fans, 'Shum' is a Ukrainian language song written to honour traditional Ukrainian songs attached to the spring ritual, and sung in the traditional 'white voice' open throat style. In essence, it's an ethnic bop and this song wouldn't be out of place in a rave.



San Marino – Adrenalina – Senhit ft. Flo Rida (returning act)

Yeah. I'm not kidding. Flo Rida is at Eurovision this year. And for San Marino, the smallest country in Eurovision with a population of just 30,000 odd. But, no, don't worry you shouldn't be thinking 'I had no clue Flo Rida was Sammarinese', he's not and neither is Senhit but San Marino rarely sends acts from their own country (for obvious reasons). Italian singer Senhit is no stranger to Eurovision. As well as her not-to-be participation in 2020's contest, she previously participated for San Marino in 2011 but did not qualify. Her fate is set to be very different this year. 'Adrenalina' is a high-energy 'fast-music' dance track that is a big favourite amongst the fans. Flo Rida's appearance certainly doesn't hurt her chances but she teased for weeks whether or not he'd actually be able to attend, with a lot of doubt around this given just a week ago he was witnessed at a bikini competition in Florida.

Sweden – Voices – Tusse

This is very Sweden. They've nailed their Eurovision formula to a tee and, while it's getting quite predictable at this point, it works for them; they've come in the top 5 of the grand final in seven of the last nine competitions. The problem is, there's rarely much to say about them these days. 'Voices' is catchy, it's well produced, well presented and decently enough performed (considered the singer very recently underwent vocal-chord surgery). And all of this But that's kinda just it. Tusse himself is lovely with quite the backstory – he was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but came to Sweden as a refugee at the age of 13 separated from his family. Given he's still only 19, he's come far in very few years.





Bulgaria – Growing Up is Getting Old – Victoria (returning act)

My heart goes to Victoria from Bulgaria this year. I blubbed like a baby the first time I heard this song and I am not embarrassed by that. Victoria Gerogieva rose to prominence in Bulgaria after coming 6th in their X Factor – she is often compared to Billie Eilish, but I think she also carves out her own style. The song is very calm and gentle, yet very captivating and reaches a beautiful crescendo. She wrote it about feeling time slipping away from her and what it feels to carry the weight of adult life: ‘I’m torn by nervous system’s aching... anxiety is draining’ and I think this message resonates widely. In her stage performance, the sands of time fall freely from the ceiling yet stop when she tries to touch them. Though fairly sombre throughout, the song ends with an a cappella message of hope: ‘If your world is breaking, and growing up is getting old // Know that you’re worth saving, and getting up is all you’ve got’ *gulp*

Israel – Set Me Free – Eden Alene (returning act)

Israel, our previous competition hosts, have come with a fairly polished act this year that made it through despite expectations that the current situation with Israel might make that harder. ‘Set Me Free’ has a slightly confusing message to me. It talks about feeling in a prison by a lover and Eden belts ‘set me free’ repeatedly at the climax, yet she also says ‘I’m your reason, spicy season, like we did before’ so doesn’t seem all that keen to be free. Look out for the Maria Carey-esque whistly notes she pulls off masterfully at the end. In fact, she managed to reach a B6 note in the semi-final which was the highest note every reached in Eurovision’s 65 years – quite the achievement for Eden (who is, incidentally, petite).



Lithuania – Discoteque – The Roop (returning act)

‘Let’s discoteque right at my home // it is okay to dance alone’ – this was definitely the correct choice of song to kick off Eurovision this year in the first semi-final. I’m sure there were many people watching with only themselves to dance with at home who would usually have many people around in a normal year. The song has a slight 80s funk vibe, but has many of the same sonic quirks that The Roop’s favourite-to-win song ‘On Fire’ did in last year’s cancelled contest. Whilst not quite a favourite to win this year, Lithuania have done themselves proud with this fun song about being yourself, and expressing yourself. You’ll love the eccentric dancing on stage and the energy of lead vocalist Vaidotas.



Austria – Amen – Vincent Bueno (returning act)

Many had completely discounted this before the rehearsals began, but it’s been creeping up since. I’ve personally been a fan from the beginning and has been in my personal top 10 since I first listened. Funnily enough, this is one of two songs in this year’s competitions called ‘Amen’ (the other being Slovenia, but it didn’t qualify so you won’t see it here). The song is fairly simply constructed but Vincent delivers a very compelling vocal performance. The lyrics (‘Amen, I guess, you said that it’s time for us to put // our love to rest’) apparently have a dual meaning depending on your interpretation – either a fairly classic metaphor for a breakup, or more deeply about the death of a family member.



Greece – Last Dance – Stefania (returning act)

This year has had quite a few 80s throwback tracks (I think we have Dua Lipa, Miley Cyrus and The Weekend to thank for this) and Greece is one of these. ‘Last Dance’ is fairly catchy and Stefania’s strong vocal isn’t masked by the dance beat. The music video for this (if you watch it, you’ll agree it rips off Lorde’s ‘Green Light’) sees Stefania riding on a flying horse through space and they’ve tried to translate this visual experience on stage. Through a clever use of green screen technology (which, as they keep reminding us, is novel to the Eurovision stage) we see silhouettes of men dancing and Stefania floating in mid-air. I do quite like this one, and it very likely will reach the top 10.



Germany – I Don’t Feel Hate – Jendrik

This is my number one guilty pleasure of the year. Jendrik, who is a bundle of energy yet also extremely kind and cute, is joined on stage by ‘fingers’. These fingers accompany the key theme of the song ‘I don’t feel hate, I just feel sorry // so you can wiggle with that middle finger it’ll never wiggle back to you’ basically saying that hate bounces off him and he won’t rise to it. However, unlike in the music video, these fingers are officially not a middle finger to keep the family friendliness of Eurovision. You will really love or hate this when you first watch it. I hated it when I listened 2 months ago but it’s grown on me massively since and I think this might surprise to do fairly well on the night.





Switzerland – Tout l'univers – Gjon's Tears (returning act)

Another French language favourite to win comes courtesy of Switzerland and Gjon Muharremaj, or Gjon's Tears as he goes professionally. His song 'Répondez-moi' in last year's cancelled contest was another big favourite and, personally, I preferred it. The two are very similar, however. Haunting vocals delivering fairly abstract lyrics with a very atmospheric big instrumental trying to convey big emotions about life and love, and one's place in the universe. Gjon has surprised us all with his staging. We thought he'd be sat behind a piano on stage, but he dances! And jumps across different elevated blocks on stage. It's a risk and it's made him fall in the odds, but he is still very much a contender to win.

Italy – Zitti e buoni – Måneskin

As of writing, this is the favourite to win. I don't like it. Italy have brought us seasoned performers in the rock group Måneskin. Their song, 'Zitti e buoni' ('Shut Up and Be Quiet') is all about being wild and different – the key repeated lyric being (thanks Google Translator) 'We're out of our minds but different from them'. Lead vocalist Damiano prances around stage half naked singing at his fellow band members and it's all very intense. I do see the appeal. It does reek with coolness and I think televoters will like it a lot. I don't imagine it will win, though, since the professional juries regularly vote Italian acts down and I think this is another one where this will be the case.



Iceland – 10 Years – Daði og Gagnamagnið (returning act)

This is a sad story. Daði og Gagnamagnið is a group comprising lead Daði Freyr, his wife, his sister and three school friends. This collective is very wholesome, but unfortunately also part of this group's downfall. One member tested positive for COVID on Wednesday morning so they can't perform live in the shows. Instead, their rehearsal footage is being used which, to be fair, is very polished and you wouldn't know the difference if it wasn't for there being no audience. You might remember their would-be entrance last year 'Think About Things' which, despite not even competing, charted in the UK Top 40 and certified Silver – Imperial's very own a cappella group The Techtonics covered it. His song this year, '10 Years' celebrates his 10-year long relationship with his wife and will still likely do very well despite not being performed live.

Portugal – Love Is On My Side – The Black Mamba

Portugal have competed in Eurovision 51 times, and this is the first time they're ever sending a fully English song, which is a bit sad. However, I think this is quality and it is accompanied by a compelling stage show. The band, The Black Mamba, were formed in 2010 and have a blues/soul/funk style. They've had quite a bit of success in Portugal. Their song 'Love Is On My Side' is written from the perspective of a prostitute and drug addict they met in Amsterdam many years ago who, despite all of her life struggles, always held onto the belief that 'love is on my side, just maybe not tonight'. It's quite touching, I think.



The Netherlands – Birth Of A New Age – Jeangu Macrooy (returning act)

Our hosts and reigning champions should be proud of their entry, I think. 'Birth of a New Age' is a very lyrically powerful song about finding empowerment in your routes and about standing up for what you believe. 'Your rhythm is rebellion. Your rhythm is rebellion' is chanted throughout. The chorus features Eurovision's first use of the Sranan Tongo language of Jeangu's birth country Suriname: 'Yu no man broko mi' ('You can't break me'). Jeangu has talked about the Black Lives Matters movement impacting this song, as well as his experiences of being LGBT+. I quite like this one, but the Eurovision fans this year aren't too keen.

Malta – Je Me Casse – Destiny

We have yet another favourite to win with a French song title this year. 'Je me casse' is roughly the French equivalent of 'I'm outta here' and this song's message is fairly well summed up in the climax of the song: 'Ladies, if you feel like flaunting tonight, it's alright. Ladies, listen to me, go ahead and show them you're shining bright' (oh yeah, only the rest of the song is in English). Destiny is a powerhouse and without the personality she brings to this performance, there's little chance it would be a longstanding favourite to win. She's no stranger to Eurovision too having one the Junior Eurovision Song Contest in 2015 at just the age of 13. Now, still insanely young at 18, she's got a fair crack at winning the adult version – she'd be the first person to have one both!



Cyprus – El Diablo – Elena Tsagrinou

This year, Cyprus are represented by Lady Gaga! Ok, they're not, but you wouldn't be the first one to think this was a classic 2010 Lady Gaga track on first listen. 'El Diablo' has strong 'Bad Romance' vibes, but I'm all here for it. Elena is the latest in a long line of powerful female participants for Cyprus – one of whom, Eleni Foureira, gave them their best ever placing coming in 2nd in 2018. This is a fairly cheap, fun pop song but has garnered some controversy as the song literally is called 'The Devil' and the lyrics 'I fell in love, I gave my heart o El Diablo' suggested Devil worship to some. Also, if you get a few mins, watch the music video on YouTube for some outrageous product placement from Head and Shoulders.



Finland – Dark Side – Blind Channel

Our second rock song in the final this year comes from Finland. They're no stranger to rock at Eurovision having won the whole contest in 2006 with 'Hard Rock Hallelujah' from rock band Lordi in their ridiculous costumes. Will history repeat itself 15 years later? Probably not. But this will probably do well enough. 'Put your middle fingers up // Take a shot, throw it up and don't stop' sum it all up fairly well. It's a rebellious song. It's some rocky dudes shouting about anarchy and turning things on their head. It's a fun 3 minutes.

Russia – Russian Woman – Manizha

If you're anything like me, you might completely hate this at first. But, to be honest, I do love it now. The problem is it takes a few listens and some deeper diving into the meaning to get it. The song sets out a history of Russian women over the last few centuries and the transformation of the identity of women in the country. This Russian-English song is about empowerment and strength – 'Every Russian woman needs to know // You're strong enough, you're gonna break the wall'. Alas, Manizha, who was born in Tajikistan and came to Russia as a refugee after the Tajik Civil War, received a lot of domestic hate saying she isn't a Russian woman so shouldn't sing this song. Even death threats came her way. People are really silly, aren't they?



Belgium – The Wrong Place – Hooverphonic (act)

I'm very happy this qualified. It drips in coolness and quality – nearly so much so that I resent it, but the group Hooverphonic, joined by lead singer Geike Arnaert, are friendly and approachable enough to not cross this line. The song doesn't take a lot to understand – it's essentially a one night stand gone wrong and the singer is lying in bed, feeling in the wrong place, willing her encounter to leave. The stage performance is nowhere near as dramatic as the music video which sees Geike beheading her lover...

Spain – Voy A Quedarme – Blas Canto (returning act)

Blas Canto is a lot hotter than this song, but it's just as cute. Translated as 'I'll stay' - it's a reflection of a lot of sadness that Blas has faced over the last year. He lost his grandmother to COVID, and his father died just before the pandemic. This song is an ode to long lasting love. It's nice, but it won't do very well and I fear Spain are headed for last place this year. There's a massive balloon on stage that's meant to look like the Moon - so that's something to look out for. And, I'll let you be the judge of whether or not Blas' climactic note is just him screaming or not.



Serbia - Loco Loco - Hurricane (returning act)

One of the biggest dance songs of the year is Serbian language song 'Loco Loco' by the group Hurricane. Two of the members have already appeared on the Eurovision stage - one in Junior Eurovision, and the other in the adult competition in 2016. I'll be honest, I don't really know what the song is about. Something about 'I'll drive you loco loco' I think. It's good fun, either way. I am terrified, though, that the pyro in the performance will melt the layers of makeup off these talented ladies faces, though.

Albania - Karma - Anxhela Peristeri

It's pronounced 'Angela' apparently. Albania nearly always these days send big ballads sung by extremely talented female powerhouses. This is no exception. However, this year it leaves me a bit cold. It might be because of how dramatic it is - I kind of feel like it's better suited to a film soundtrack rather than the Eurovision stage. But maybe that's just me. Either way, Anxhela sings the hell out of this and just for that I'm not too mad to see this in the Grand Final. Again, don't ask me what it's about cause I don't really know - but this is a good thing! Keep singing in your native language, Albanians.



United Kingdom - Embers - James Newman (returning act)

Last, but by no means least, it's us. Woo woo! Will we win? No of course not. Should we be proud of what we've given this year? Yeah, I think so. James Newman is a fairly big name in the British music scene. His written for the likes of Calvin Harris, Jess Glynne and Little Mix. He's also the brother of the admittedly more famous John Newman. Our song 'Embers' is, unlike us in recent yeras, a bit of a bop. What we'll definitely be remembered for are the two MAHUSSIVE styrofoam trumpets we've somehow managed to ship to Rotterdam that flank James on stage. I don't think we'll end up last, and we can proudly flag the Union Jack this year.

A moment to remember...

Whilst many of last year's acts in the cancelled contest got to compete again this year, many didn't I'm dedicating this page to remember them. Please take a moment of silence when you look at this.

Sad reacts only.



Albania
Arilena Ara



Armenia
Athena Manoukian



Belarus
VAL



Croatia
Damir Kedzo



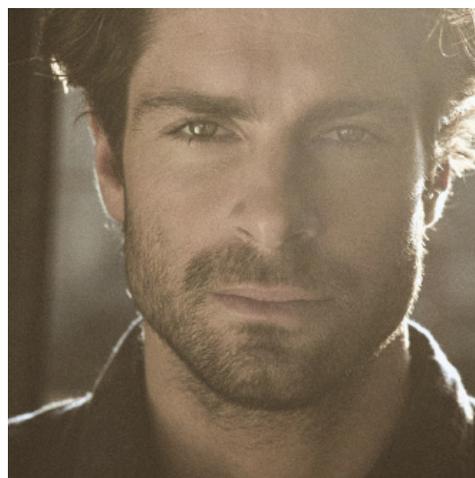
Cyprus
Sandro



Denmark
Ben & Tan



Finland
Aksel



France
Tom Leeb



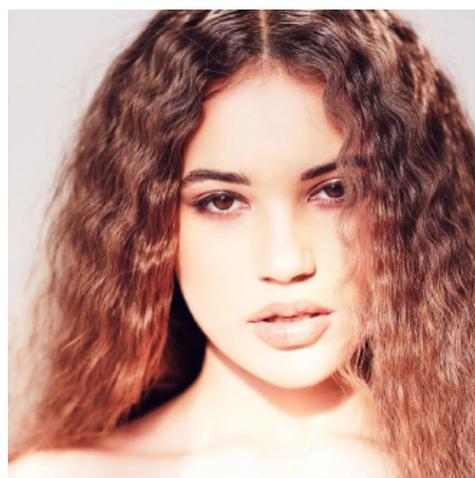
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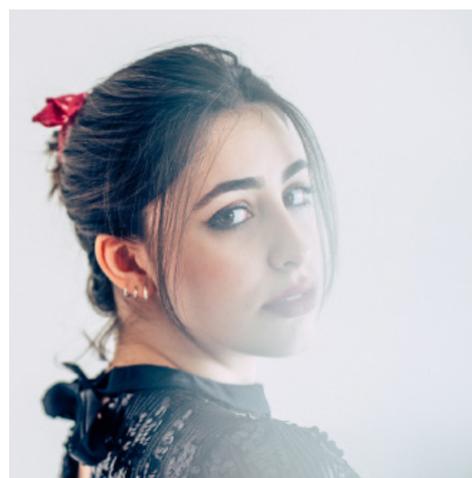
Italy
Diodato



Norway
Ulrikke :(



Poland
Alicja



Portugal
Elisa



Russia
Little Big



Business school courses for 21/22 revamped

Credits: Imperial College

Tarlie Hitmuss NegaFelix Reporter

Every academic year, the Imperial College Business School attracts eager young professionals from all over the world to join a community of students keen to sell their souls to the finance sector.

We recently gained access to an unreleased copy of the Business School's new list of course offerings. Here are the courses we anticipate will be most popular.

1) MSc. Finance and Accounting

Students on this course will gain an in-depth understanding of financial accounts, demonstrate practice in building financial models, and be able to evaluate financial positions and risks. If your dream job as a child was to work with Microsoft Excel all day, this course is perfect for you.

2) MSc. Entrepreneurship

Do you have a business idea that you believe will make the world a better place? This course will not only make you think it's somehow possible, it will also make you believe that for some reason you should be the one to change the world! Similar results can be achieved by micro-dosing LSD in a cave, but we've got five cafes and last year our loos only flooded twice a month!

3) MSc. Applied financial technology

If you woke up a couple weeks ago and was feeling

out of the loop, like why are so many people rocketing to the moon, and what kind of disease paper hands is, then this course might just make you say "much wow". This programme covers all the important jargon that modern investors use, and gives you hands-on experiences in creating your very own.

4) MA. Gender and racial equality in business

Are you stupid enough to think that capitalist institutions are the solution to, not the cause of, gender and racial inequities in modern society? Then this course is for you. Students on this programme will learn how to become the token diversity Executive Officers whilst simultaneously not challenging the system that prevents people like you from getting there in the first place.

5) MEng. Investor and customer relations

Has this ever happened to you: your manager asks you to review a list of suppliers for your client, a multinational tech company, and you don't know if you should recommend the local suppliers, who ugh are so needy because they won't work for anything below a living wage, or the 12-year olds in Laos who are super

adorbs and won't think they're being exploited? If you answered yes, then this course will teach you everything you need to know.

6) MEng. Risk management

This programme is all about problem-solving skills. For example, the media finds out that your company hired Colombian death squads to kill natives for you oil pipeline. What to you tell your PR team?

7) MA. Wealth management

We all know someone who's spent thousands of pounds tending to their K-pop addiction. How can we apply mathematical tools to calculate the best merch to invest in, if at all? What investment strategy should be used to maximise the returns you put into making Jungkook fan edits?

8) MA. Strategy in business

Your union-busting goon squad is threatening to unionise. Anyone who's taking this programme will learn that the best solution by far is to hire a goon-squad-union union-busting goon squad. But what if your goon-squad-union union-busing goon squad wants to unionse? You'll have to attend this program to find out.

“

SIMILAR RESULTS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY MICRO-DOSING LSD IN A CAVE BUT WE HAVE FIVE CAFES

HANGMAN

Exclusive: Lead on church roofs blocks God's vision

Tarlie Hitmuss NegaFelix Reporter

The world Christian community has been rocked by revelations that God hasn't been able to see or hear anything going on in churches for the last 1700 years due to the lead used in church roofs.

Church leaders have revealed that the lead used to keep off the rain has also been blocking prayers from reaching God.

This fact came to light thanks to the efforts of two metal thieves in Aylesbury. Working over two weeks and late at night the two men, Feb Senton, 48, and accomplice Gaaron Uha recently turned 43, stripped Aylesbury Parish Church of its lead roof. This meant that on the following Sunday, unbeknownst to the congregation, they had a direct line to the Lord. Everyone in church that day was surprised when their prayers for Mrs Miggins not only fixed her sore back but also

knocked 60 years off her age and gave her a successful medium sized catering company. Other prayers had similarly strong effects with Mr Jones' prayer for an end to his baldness resulting in 100% body hair coverage and 7-year-old Olivia Philips' prayer to be a princess causing a coup in Brunei.

A spokesperson for God told NegaFelix that "God hadn't heard any prayers in centuries, so when these ones came through, he might have acted a little enthusiastically"

The Pope has declared that the two metal thieves will be canonised.

Theologians have suggested that this revelation may have significant repercussions on interpretations of scripture as now, rather than trying to decipher ancient

Hebrew and Aramaic scraps of parchment they can just ask God what he meant.

“

OLIVIA'S PRAYER TO BE A PRINCESS CAUSE A COUP IN BRUNEI

For example, early reports suggest that Moses might made a number of spelling errors when copying down the Ten Commandments. While modern texts have recorded God as saying "Thou shall not lie", this has been corrected to "Thou shall not sigh", a request made to the Israelites, walking through the desert, to stop being such down-

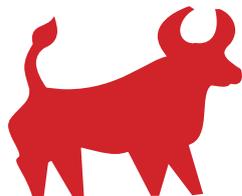
ers.

Aylesbury Parish Church Vicar, Reverend Milton was unreachable for comment, fleeing from our reporter in a very new looking Ferrari.



ARIES

This week you trade two common senses for one blue eyes white sense



TAURUS

This week choke me Daddy is added to the executioner conversation blacklist



GEMINI

This week Elon Musk reveals plans for a robot suit powered by kryptonite



CANCER

This week hundreds of people confess they remember it being spelt 'The Mandela Affect'



LEO

This week you earn a slap after asking your girlfriend to "Gaza strip"



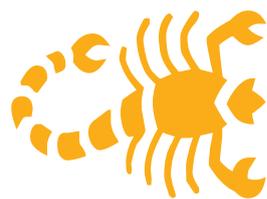
VIRGO

This week I'd like to thank my manager, my agent, and the spider on the shower wall that watches me masturbate



LIBRA

This week a callous remark will ruin an otherwise eloquent eulogy



SCORPIO

This week you get your Willy caught in your zipper



SAGITTARIUS

This week you go on Tinder looking for a short stocky piece of wood to start a fire with.



CAPRICORN

This week you face the biggest question of 2021 so far.

-
Huel
or
nutritional yeast?



AQUARIUS

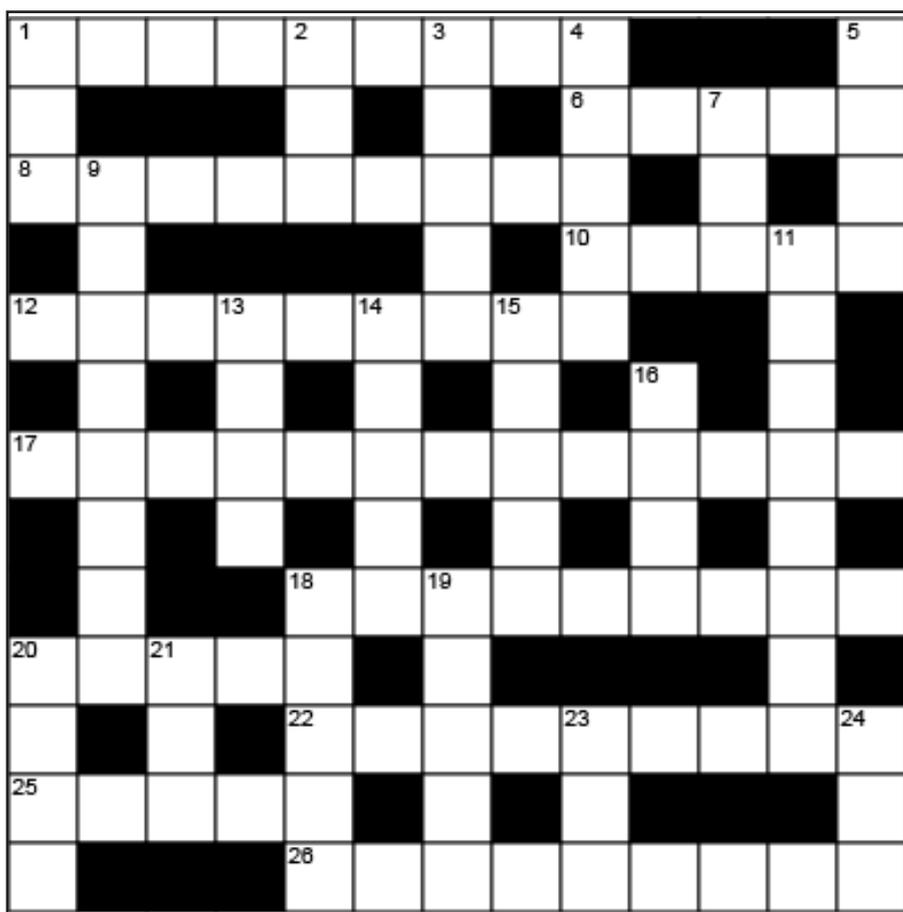
This week the bracelet you like finally comes back into stock on the IDF's Etsy store



PISCES

This week the email finds you cowering, cold and naked on the floor

Felix concise Crossword



Across

- 1 Chooses not do something eg sex (9)
- 6 To accumulate(4)
- 8 A person that pulls practical jokes (9)
- 10 A school subject (5)
- 12 To join someone or a group of people on a journey or trip (9)
- 17 One of the largest dinosaurs that ever lived (13)
- 18 Gas and electric are both examples of this (9)
- 20 The process of exercising or practicing with the goal of improving (5)
- 22 Right on the spot (9)
- 25 A group of eight people (5)
- 26 What is totally required and can not be done without (9)
- 5 A large continent (4)
- 7 A type of cooker usually found in farm-houses (3)
- 9 Rudimentary instrument played often by children (8)
- 11 A physical thing that memorialises or honours someone (8)
- 13 An event that happened a single time (4)
- 14 To reproduce words mechanically (5)
- 15 To speak as if through the nose (5)
- 16 A flat bottomed boat usually propelled using a long pole (4)
- 18 To bring together things that were once apart (5)
- 19 The name of beats in Shakespeare's writing (5)

Down

- 1 The body's story of energy (3)
- 2 Liquid for writing(3)
- 3 On top of what was expected (5)
- 4 Frequently late (5)
- 20 Object created with a purpose (4)
- 21 To pretend to be something or someone other than yourself (3)
- 23 A loud noise (3)
- 24 A long fish often found in marsh land (3)

Biology Sudoku

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

Mecheng Sudoku

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

CivEng Sudoku

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

THE 2021 FELIX SEX SURVEY IS NOW OPEN

FILL IT OUT HERE

SPORT

A month on- what was the ESL?

Photo credits: Steffan Pr ödorf

Theo Hales Sport Writer

The founders of the European Super League announced it with the intent to 'save football' – to reignite a generation's apparently lost passion for the game, and provide blockbuster fixtures and steady revenue for clubs week after week. The dream didn't last long though, and backlash from fans, media and pundits, and even Governments led to the league effectively dissolving just two days after its inception.

What was the European Super League?

The European Super League, or ESL, was the dream of club owners and CEOs to stabilise a footballing world rocked by the Coronavirus . It consisted of 15 member clubs, 12 of whom signed up straight away, and a further 3 who would join them in the subsequent weeks. Five other clubs would then be able to join, creating a 20-team league which was divided into two groups.

The league was to be played very much like any other, with the addition of quarter- and semi-finals leading up to a final not dissimilar to the Champions League.

Who was behind it?

The clubs initially behind the ESL were Real Madrid, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid from Spain, Juventus, Inter Milan and AC Milan from Italy, and the 'big six' of Premier League football in England – Manchester United, Manchester City, Liverpool, Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal.

How did it fall apart?

As soon as the league was announced, protest erupted among fans. The actions of clubs furloughing staff during the pandemic to 'save wages' had already soured relations between supporters and owners, and now what was seen by many as an ill-disguised cash grab was a step

too far.

Spearheaded by former players and Sky Sports pundits Gary Neville and Jamie Carragher, impassioned pleas and cries for sanctions rang out all across Europe. The UK Government even pledged action to prevent the clubs joining this breakaway league, as clubs from all tiers of football condemned the move.

It's not hard to see why the idea was so controversial. With payouts in the region of hundreds of millions of pounds just for signing up, with no danger of rel-

egation for founder members, this was seen as a cushy business plan for those at the top of their respective clubs, to ensure their 'elite' pedigree remained while guaranteeing broadcast revenue and (they assumed) vast ticket sales to fans who would be salivating to watch some of the biggest clubs in world football competing week in, week out.

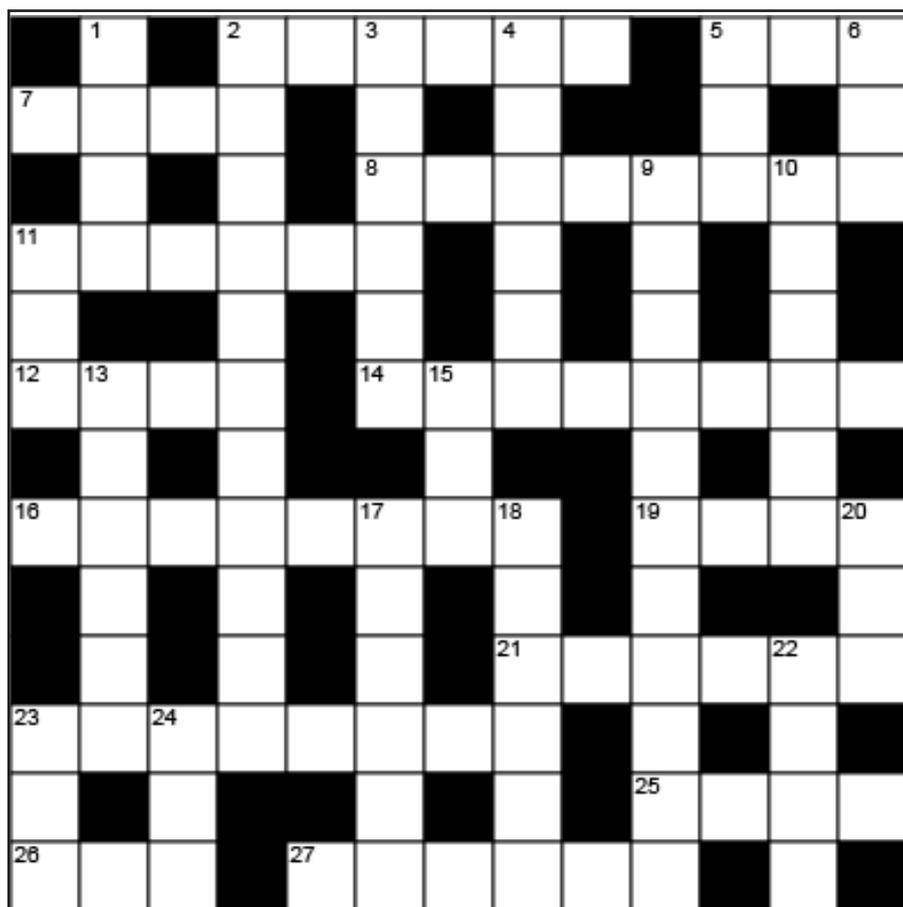
After sustained protests from fans – which culminated in groups gathering outside clubs before games in spite of lockdown restrictions – and scathing media coverage, Chelsea and Manchester City led the line in withdrawing from the ESL. The other four English clubs soon followed, as did AC Milan, Inter Milan and Atletico Madrid. The remaining clubs vowed that the dream was not dead, but despite this, the Super League was suspended shortly afterwards. Barcelona, Juventus and Real Madrid remain convinced - at a board level - that one day this idea will come to pass, but for the time being at least, it's 1-0 to the fans, and to football as we know it.



The sport that laid the golden eggs

Felix cryptic Crossword

Horatio



Across

- 2 Encourage our man abroad to rest in a heap (6)
- 5 To arrest a policeman (3)
- 7 Initial brave officer investigates London cooking (4)
- 8 Target of desire weirdly in a tomb (8)
- 11 Stupidity! Italian god trapped in glacier (6)
- 12 Nasty result at heart of Med Port (4)
- 14 Cause of death is confused doctor in gown (8)
- 16 Solid scam on Greek isle (8)
- 19 First lady and Queen come together always (4)
- 21 Rouse by referring to former partner (6)
- 23 Knight loses heart before dressing and called a jumper (8)
- 25 Golden sun god's glow (4)
- 26 To knock a faucet (3)
- 27 Unconscious asp swallows dazed eel (6)

Down

- 1 Man oddly footled along, then collapses (4)
- 2 Uranium flouride electrons mix lighting up (11)
- 3 Sterilised by sprayed mixture, a little short (6)
- 4 Rudimentary state destroyed by Rome (6)
- 5 Greek character in stylish shorts (3)
- 6 Nip back for code (3)
- 9 Tempestuous ovation (11)
- 10 Amber ring presented at the range (6)
- 11 What a Briton says about computers (3)
- 13 Arab country full of old farmers (6)
- 15 Snitch defaces art (3)
- 17 Too much say my ex's (6)
- 18 Bacteria, blasted with electrons, appear (6)
- 20 Deer eggs (3)
- 22 Call when the children are at school (4)
- 23 Bird of prey loses tail to baby animal (3)
- 24 Trickster loses beginning of limp (3)

Think our clues are too easy? Too hard? Write crosswords for Felix puzzles