

Felix

*Response to last week's
Comment piece inside!*



**INSIDE: THE 5 BEST
EXCUSES FOR NOT
DOING LAB WORK
PAGE 14**

ISSUE 1782

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Banner photo Credit: Olia Danilevich on Pexels

Break-in to West Basement and Union Dining Hall storage areas caused criminal damage

Sam Lovatt Editor-in-Chief

The West Basement and Union Dining Hall (UDH) were broken into on Saturday the 28th October 2021. The break-in occurred during the hours between 4 and 8pm. In both cases the doors into the areas were forcibly opened, causing significant damage to the door to West Basement storage and destroying the door into UDH storage.

The motives of the break-in remain unclear. CSPs are currently being asked by the Union to audit everything held in the affected storage areas to determine whether anything was taken, however so far it appears that nothing is missing.

The door in the West Basement is a few meters from the band room and recording studio. Both of these rooms contain thousands of pounds' worth of equipment, however neither were touched. Due to a card reader fault, the door of the recording studio is permanently propped open, and the light is always turned on, making it a very hard place to miss. This suggests that the person did not break in with the intention of stealing items for profit.

College security told Felix that police have been notified of the break-in and have attended the scenes. CCTV footage of the suspect was captured and has been shared with the police, however cannot be shared with other parties due to data protection laws.

The break-in follows months of frustration from CSPs based in the West Basement who have been unable to get access to their own offices and studios. A number of card access



Union disappointed with “misleading” boycott demands

Sam Lovatt Editor-in-Chief

Imperial College Union have said they note “with disappointment” the demands of the venues boycott, recently shared by the Gender Equality Officer.

The Union described the demands as “misleading in regards to what is currently being done”.

The boycott has been organised as part of a national campaign in light of the reported rise in cases of

spiking across the UK, in particular at universities. The demands can be seen in the image on page 4.

Having seen the boycott demands, the Union responded “Demands 1, 2, and 4 refer to steps that have already been implemented and are being actively monitored to ensure they

Continued on page 4...

EDITORIAL

Blah blah blah

This issue was produced thanks to the work of

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And our numerous contributors



COP26 is currently underway in Glasgow and it seems Greta hit the nail on the head in September with her “blah blah blah” slam. reached by 2030, average temperatures will still rise by 2.7 degrees, and could reach as high as 4 degrees by the end of the century. As Boris highlighted

So far we’ve seen Boris make some football references, clock references, and bedding references - all regarding how screwed we are. A pledge to end deforestation by 2030 was agreed to and thankfully was signed by Brazil, the country where this matters by far the most. The pledge follows a 2014 deal which led to a worryingly small change in the rate of deforestation.

China’s President Xi Jinping has not attended, leaving over a quarter of the world’s emissions unanswered for at the summit. Recent pledges from China including net zero by 2060 and to build no new coal-fired powerstations OUTSIDE of China, but to continue building them inside, doesn’t do much in the way of calming climate anxiety. The country has brought no new commitments to the table, and refused to sign up to an agreement to cut methane emissions, along with Russia and India. India also committed to net zero by 2070...

The United Nations Environment Programme recently calculated that even if all current climate goals are

in his opening ceremony speech, such changes will “jeopardise the food supply for hundreds of millions of people”, and 3 and 4 degree increases will lead to “twice as many [wildfires and cyclones], five times as many droughts and 36 times as many heatwaves... 4 degrees and we say goodbye to whole cities – Miami, Alexandria, Shanghai – all lost beneath the waves”. Considering the stubborn lack of movement from the countries that can do the most, this feels scarily likely.

But can you blame developing countries for emitting so much? China has increased it’s production of coal-fired power stations in response to consistent power cuts plunging millions of its citizens into darkness. China’s industrialisation has brought the largest number of people above the poverty line in history, so how can we developed nations ask them to stop after we’ve already used up so much of our own resources? The UK closed down almost all of its coal mines in the 20th century because we’d extracted so much coal that they were no longer profitable to run, but boo China for trying to get to the same place, right?



Statement of Intent

At Felix we believe that it is always in the interest of the students to know. Transparency in the workings of the College and the work of your student representatives is key. 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 at the College .

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.

Signed by **Sam Lovatt**
Editor-in Chief

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Write for Felix!

Felix is a longstanding institution which has produced some of the finest student journalism in the country, won awards and broken stories that end up in national news.

Felix provides an outlet for all students and staff to review, read about and report on whatever they want. Anything you feel passionate about can be transcribed, honed to perfection with the help of our Section Editors and published both in print and on the website

Writing on what you're passionate about is the best way to deepen your interest and expand your horizons (also, if we're honest about incentives, a lot of the sections get you free tickets and it looks good on the CV)

If you're interested in writing for us, get in touch with any of the section editors at their submissions inbox (e.g: if you want to write for Arts, email arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk), or the Editor-in-Chief at felix@imperial.ac.uk

We need writers, editors, copy-editors, illustrators, photographers and more!

Keep The Cat Free

Since 1974, "Keep the cat free" has been Felix's motto and a central tenet of its operation. The phrase applies in three aspects: editorial independence, free to read and free to write.

Editorial independence does not mean unfettered free speech. Just because we can say something doesn't mean we should. Felix will always be an inclusive environment for as many people as possible. This being said, Felix does not conflate offence with harm, and any content that is not illegal or deeply immoral can be published at the Editor's discretion, with the following statements in mind.

The paper will never hold a formal political agenda, nor will it be reliant on advertising for funding, despite the occasional inclusion of ads.

These ads will never dictate what is run in the paper.

Felix retains the right to criticise anyone and is accountable to the law in terms of defamation. As part of the Union, Felix is part of a charity that exists to represent and support students. The paper will always seek to strike a balance between public interest and student welfare.

Since 1971 the paper has been free to pick up and read and will remain this way indefinitely.

The paper will always be a place that students, staff and alumni can write freely. This statement applies exclusively to the aforementioned groups, and guest posts, paid or otherwise, are never accepted. In the same spirit, Felix will never financially reward any contributions from the above groups.

NEWS

Continued from page 1...

Break-in

readers in the West Basement have also run out of battery but have not been replaced, leading to the doors being permanently propped open.

Upon returning from the summer break, Imperial College TV society noted that their film camera equipment, worth an estimated £6,000, was missing and presumed stolen.

A President of one of the West Basement CSPs, who wished to remain anonymous, voiced frustration at the lack of action on card access and said that they had to decide between leaving the door open, exposing all of their club's equipment, or not operating the club at all.

Regulations seem not to have changed in the aftermath. A West Basement society member photographed the West Basement door unlocked, allowing any member of the public to walk in, at 10.24pm this Tuesday. The West Basement door is positioned so anyone going down does not have to pass by the security table that stops those going into 568 and Metric.

The Union has said it is taking action by installing key card access readers on all internal doors which can be accessed once someone has entered the Union through the main entrance, excluding the toilets and public spaces.



The West Basement entrance, unlocked at 10.24pm, three days after the break-in

1. Raise awareness about spiking in the way that is perpetrator-, not victim-oriented. For example: "Spiking is illegal" instead of "Take care of your drink". It should not be a one of reminder after big news coverage, but rather consistent messaging throughout the year on social media and via posters in Union venues.
2. Safe spaces with medical and welfare support should be available during events organised by the Union and in the Union venues, especially on Wednesdays and Fridays. This should be an alternative to kicking people out when they are presumed "too drunk".
3. Union Venues should get Good Night Out Campaign Accredited (or with a similar external organisation) and keep themselves up to date with all relevant training and practices.
4. "Ask for Angela" should be properly implemented and advertised, all staff trained to respond and posters put up in public-facing areas/bathrooms.
5. Indiscriminatory, thorough bag searches administered by security at the entrance to the Union venues. While some also recommend body searches we are wary that this could lead to profiling of some students and if decided to be implemented needs to be done with care.
6. In the long-term, Union should provide compulsory training during every Training Week to all committee members covering topics of consent, sexual harassment, sexual violence, attitudes and behaviours that lead to cultures of gender-based violence (i.e. rape culture), how to report, support organisations available (both internally and externally) and active by-stander training. Moreover, Union should (as part of the training week) train societies' committees on how to choose venues/organise socials that ensure their members are safe. This can include checking with the venue first what safety measures they have implemented (e.g. do they do "Ask for Angela") and how accessible the venue is via public transport.

Venue boycott demands, shared by the Gender Equality Officer

Continued from page 1...

Boycott

continue throughout the year".

"Ask for Angela" campaign posters have been displayed in Union venues since September this year.

They added "Invasive searches, referred to by Demand 5, are not something that we will consider. These would violate students' privacy and bodily autonomy, and would not even necessarily prevent determined harassers from bringing in harmful substances".

"Our Deputy President (Welfare) has

also already done significant work to understand how the measures referred to in Demands 3 and 6 could be implemented".

The Deputy President (Welfare) of the Union has consistently acted to improve the safety of individuals on nights out and to improve safeguarding at the College and Union. When asked about actions already being taken by the Union, she said "We are currently looking into getting Good Night Out accreditation, as it was something that was mentioned in the Instagram post by the Gender Equality network. We

are already meeting all the requirements for accreditation (including the active bystander training), but are more than happy to look into getting the formal seal of approval if it helps students feel more reassured. I am also actively following up with the communications and venues teams to make sure that the previously mentioned measures are being implemented properly. On Monday, I went on a field trip to H-Bar, Metric, 568 and Union Bar to investigate where the posters are still missing, and hand delivered them to the deputy venues manager to put them up in the spaces that are still missing them, and requested for some more to be delivered to Reynolds as well. I also got in touch with the director of estates and got permission to put up the posters in the toilets underneath H-Bar (as those are operated by College)". She added "I am working with the Deputy President of Clubs & Societies and the Gender Equality Officer to implement consent training for committee members of CSPs".

The boycott occurred on the evening and night of Wednesday 3rd November, when many clubs and societies hosted a "night in" and did not attend the venues targeted by the boycott. These alternatives included "house crawls" where alcohol was provided by the hosts at each house.

Reactions to the History Group's decision on re-naming Beit Hall and the Huxley Building

Sam Lovatt Editor-in-Chief

Following last week's announcement that the College's History Group recommended that Beit Hall and the Huxley Building be renamed, we asked our social media following what they thought of the recommendations and how they felt about the buildings being renamed. (We emphasise heavily that this result comes from a group of respondents that are not necessarily representative of the general Imperial student body and that all responses should be taken with a pinch of salt).

Most notably, 61% of respondents did not support renaming the buildings, though our poll did not allow for nuance as it was posed as a simple "yes or no" question.

We also encouraged respondents

to give their opinion on the recommendations.

There was a fairly even split of positive and negative comments. Some were happy that Beit could be renamed because they didn't know how it was pronounced. Some called for statues to be taken down as well, and even for the building to be re-built as it is "ugly as hell".

Disdain was shown for the practice of naming things after people who give money for their formation. Dangoor Plaza construction remains underway at the time of writing.

We have received a number of more

Should the College rename the Huxley building and Beit Hall?



premeditated responses, including open letters, which we will publish next week. **If you would like to express your opinion formally, either anonymously or by name, please email felix@imperial.ac.uk!**

Exhibition

A day in wonderland

Alice:
Curiouser and Curiouser ★★★★★

Where? Victoria and Albert Museum

When? Until 31st December, 2021

How much? £15 (Students)

Reviewed by **Amanda Hertberg** Arts Writer

Perhaps you grew up watching the Disney Technicolor version from 1951. Or your mum would read a chapter at bedtime every night. You might have gone as Alice for Halloween one year, or maybe the Mad Hatter. Without a doubt, 'Alice in Wonderland' is an integrated part of English literature and culture. But in reality it is so much more consequential than you could ever imagine. It has inspired everything from equality movements to quantum physicists at CERN. The new exhibition at the V&A explores the full extent of the story by Lewis Carroll, from the idea at a picnic on a hot summer's day, to the impact it continues to have centuries later.

The first thing you'll learn is that Lewis Carroll doesn't even exist. It's a pseudonym that Charles Dodgson came up with as a latinisation of his name. Dodgson is portrayed as a kind and creative genius, a lecturer of Mathematics at Oxford who loved entertaining children and members of his extended family in his spare time. It was on an occasion when he had rowed up the river Thames to spend some time with three girls (the

so-called Liddell girls) that he came up with the story as a way to pass the time. One of the girls, Alice, on whom he based the story, asked him to write it down and that marked the start of the book that has never been out of print since.

A product of the Victorian era, 'Alice in Wonderland' was always at the forefront of innovation. It was one of the first phenomena for which "merchandise" was made. At the point it was made into a film it was the longest film made in Britain, with a playing time of 10 minutes. Even when the new film version came out in 2010, it was one of the first major 3D films. To think that it is a story where the hero is a little girl that travels in time and space, a story that speaks to children but has philosophical undertones for adults, and that it was written in the 1860s is quite remarkable. Up until the point it was written, most children's books were teaching a moral lesson rather than entertaining. The concept of 'nonsense' was certainly not a part of fiction. No wonder it has inspired artists, activists, writers, chefs, marketing agents and scientists worldwide. Names such as Salvador Dali and Aldous Huxley have co-operated and lent their creative interpretations of the story. Japanese anime-versions of the film exist, and a Swahili translation from the 1950s is on display at the exhibition as just one example.

You will definitely want to reserve a couple of hours for the exhibition. It is impressively extensive and deeply explorative. The curators have done a fantastic job at grouping together themes and building up a

Credits: Photo / Victoria and Albert Museum



Ensemble Design by Kumiko Uehara // Alice's iconic costume didn't always look like this

story. Don't worry about getting bored, the rooms are interactive and playful, entertaining both toddlers and adults alike.

Exhibition

A (late) summer exhibition at the RA

Summer Exhibition 2021 ★★★★★

Where? The Royal Academy of Arts

When? Until 2nd January, 2022

How much? £20

Reviewed by **Simran Kukran** Arts Writer

The RA Summer Exhibition usually takes place every year, from May to September. However, like many other events in recent memory, it has been repeatedly postponed and so here we are now, with a summer exhibition happening in autumn-winter.

Often described as the "anything and everything" show, the exhibition is a dizzying array of artwork, a

space to display and sell work by British artists, conceived in the year before. The RA, like many other institutions, has been shut for much of the past two years, and with this exhibition, it has reopened with a weird yet wonderful feast for the senses.

This year's theme is "Reclaiming Magic", which the exhibition co-ordinator, Yinwa Shoniabare says is about restoring value to marginalised practises. Taking place in the autumn-winter is not the only thing that sets it apart from previous Summer Exhibitions. The exhibition begins with a piece of work created decades ago by the American artist Bill Traylor. The self-taught artist was born into slavery in the US in 1854 and did not start painting till he was 85 and, in many ways, having his work introduce the show is a fitting reflection

of the climate of the past two years. With a slight nod to the RA's founding legacy from the heyday of transatlantic slavery, Shoniabare's introduction of the work underscores how Bill Traylor's work singularly inspired looking beyond the boundaries of Western Art history.

The exhibition's artwork is diverse not just in the background of its artists and the themes explored, but also in its media. Traditional oil paintings are housed alongside sculptures, knitting, and quilting, and the sheer abundance of work means it is hard to focus on one piece for very long. It is even harder to pick a favourite. With a total of 1382 pieces of art on display, the exhibition is overwhelming, and each tall room is filled with hundreds of artworks from floor to ceiling. Some themes of the work are to be expected; depic-

ARTS

Credits: Photo/David Parry © The Royal Academy of Arts



Installation view of the Summer Exhibition 2021 at the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

tions of the pandemic in the form of face masks, thermometers, and medical heroes would be impossible to exclude this year. Much of the work is political and addresses the Black Lives Matter protests that took place in 2020. The subject matter of much of the artwork has been on all our minds in recent times, and it is comforting to see it all displayed like an awe-inspiring mood board, especially after such a solitary year.

A highlight of the exhibition is Felt Food by Sliz Gilard: felted and embroidered structures resembling a food pantry. A woollen tin of “Baked Boris” alongside “Loans and Poverty” makes a striking statement about the Free School Meals campaign.

Much like the rest of the exhibition, it is utterly unique and not to be missed.

More news and reviews online...



Theatre

A Balkan Romeo and Juliet story in *Old Bridge*

Old Bridge



Where? *Bush Theatre*

When? *Until 20th November, 2021*

How much? *£10 (Students)*

Reviewed by **Shivani Gangadia** Arts Writer

Old Bridge won playwright Igor Memić the 2020 Papatango New Writing Prize, and rightfully so. Set amidst the burgeoning Bosnian war in the early 90s in the writers' hometown of Mostar in former Yugoslavia, the play follows the story of two youngsters, Mina (Saffron Coomber), a Bosnian Muslim, and a Mili (Dino Kelly), a half-Croat catholic, who get caught in the growing turmoil of the war.

The play begins in 1988, just before the war, with Mina and Mili first meeting each other and falling in love. And flash-forward to 1992 when as war commences, life for them (and all around) becomes simply about survival as Yugoslavia tears itself apart. The play provides little detail on the specifics of the war, and this in a way gives the story a certain fluidity; The story of Mina and Mili could be that of any of the numerous innocent civilians caught in the crossfire of conflicts around the world.

The acting in the play by all the actors was impressive. The characters were really well etched out and each personality brought something new to the group dynamic; from the sarcastic Leila (Rosie Gray) and goofy Sasha (Emilio Iannucci) to the sweet, teasing romantic leads Mina and Mili, as well as the older Mina (Susan Lawson-Reynolds), who retrospectively narrates the

story of her youth. There are equal moments of humour and tragedy that keep the audience engaged, and the writing and delivery are both on point. The set utilises minimalistic platforms at various heights to symbolise the titular ‘Old Bridge’ across the Neretva River. This lack of formal set and props allows us to focus more on the symbolism of the play and the dialogue between characters.

The only flaw, in my opinion, was the heavy emphasis on narration and exposition in the second half of the

play. Whilst Lawson-Reynolds (as older Mina) does a beautiful job of delivering this narration, the flaw in the writing began to show itself when the narration began to hinder the flow of the story. The overreliance on monologues slowed the pace of the story, especially at key moments where there was so much happening.

Nonetheless, this was a fantastic play and I highly recommend heading the Bush Theatre before the 20th of November to catch a showing.

Credits: Photo/Marc Brenner

Emilio Iannucci, Rosie Gray, Dino Kelly, Saffron Coomber in *Old Bridge* at the Bush Theatre

Theatre

Good morning, midnight... mother!

'night, Mother



Where? Hampstead Theatre

When? Untl 20th November, 2021

How much? £10 (Students)

Reviewed by Vaidhiswaran Ramesh Arts Editor

The lights drop and Max Richter's *On the Nature of Daylight* faintly echoes in the background as the characters cue onto the stage. *'night, Mother*, directed by Roxanna Silbert, is the modern retelling of the 1985 Broadway play written by Masha Norman. The play features only two characters, a mother-daughter duo (Thelma and Jesse played by Stockard Channing and Rebecca Night) and follows the story of Jesse, who has (for unconvincing reasons) not just decided to take her own life, but has also deemed it worthy to tell her mother about it just moments before she does. The unfolding dance between the two, with Thelma trying to convince Jesse otherwise, Jesse's past and her 'reasons', and the eventual "'night, Mother", takes its course on stage over the span of the next 80 minutes in this uniquely American (Nay! Texan) drama.

In my book, a show is always the sum of its parts. The script, direction, light & sound design, and acting all need to come together coherently to result in some sort of catharsis. This structure of evaluation and appreciation remains the same whether it's an original, an adaptation, or a rerun. Unfortunately, these elements fail to strongly converge in this play.

Channing and Night's acting comes and goes in waves. In their individual scenes they both show great talent and flair; together with the writing they are able to move the audience to tears. But, whilst sharing the stage amidst conversations, the chemistry of a mother-daughter duo feels amiss. There are a few highlights that are nevertheless stupendous and hit home strongly (the monologues towards the end are a treat for any theatre aficionado who appreciates a good script and acting — more on that later). But these scenes are too far and few between to sustain us over the short run of the play.

Throughout, the characters move about the set, seemingly preoccupied, emptying and filling jars just to



Stockard Channing and Rebecca Night as Thelma and Jesse Cates

give the impression they aren't there all by themselves, speaking into a void. And, as such, the set design, as masterfully crafted as it is, crumbles away and remains one step removed from the rest of the drama — failing to cohere with the story or the characters.

Jesse's past, her history of epilepsy, and the family's discordant relationship is not explored convincingly enough, and with such a short run time, this miss does seem unconvincing. The writing in the play's denouement seems highly reminiscent of Jean Rhys in her novel *Good Morning, Midnight* (its theme of depression and despair also resonating with this play); and dare I say, Noah Baumbach's writing in *Marriage Story*. Not sure if the writer of this play took inspiration from Jean

Rhys, or if Baumbach took inspiration from them both — but the similarities result in a pleasant and satisfying déjà vu for anyone who has sampled these works. The writing is highly persuasive and is thus a testament to the raw talent behind it, that, in parts, leads us to dis-

miss all other misgivings.

And it is this fallacy that intrigues us; or rather keeps us engaged, where we are left disinterested one moment, only be yanked out of such a state by a sheer moment of genius in the next.

As I made my way to the theatre (I stress enough that I did not make this up), I overheard a gentleman trying his best to-impress his partner no doubt-articulate his understanding of theatre by using the following quote "going to theatre for me is like church". Without delving deep into the cheesiness of the metaphor or the religiosities of this couple, if we are to take this person's word for it — then this billing would certainly fit the description. Rich Texan accents, period setting, guns and violence, discordant families, teeny-tiny absolution — and the placebo feeling of satiation. In this sense, *'night, Mother* is a show to be experienced: just as an atheist might feel compelled to step into the threshold of an altar, to know if the few absolutions of religion are enough to move them.

Are the parts greater than their sum? Are few moments of absolution or catharsis worth the whole song and dance of a lifetime (or in this case an 80-minute show)? If these questions intrigue you, ponder on at Hampstead Theatre, where this show runs until 4th December 2021. You will not be disappointed.



...WE ARE LEFT DISINTERESTED ONE MOMENT ONLY TO BE YANKED OUT BY A SHEER MOMENT OF GENIUS IN THE NEXT.

SCIENCE

Edited by: ISABELLE ZHANG
JAMIE JOHN
CARA BURKE
MAREK COTTINGHAM

Is the Y chromosome in danger?

► *Our sex is determined by the chromosomes X and Y. The disappearance of the functional Y chromosome is hypothesized by some scientists, but recent research suggests the contrary*

Wang Guo Science Writer

Human cells each contain 23 pairs of chromosomes, where each chromosome consists of a long strand of DNA. 22 of these pairs are the same for both men and women and are called autosomes. The 23rd pair is different depending on the sex: cells with two X chromosomes (XX) develop into the female sex, whilst cells containing both X and Y chromosomes (XY) develop into the male sex. The reason that the Y chromosome is sex-determining is because it contains the SRY gene. This gene allows the synthesis of a protein called the testis-determining factor, essential for male development.

WHEN DID THE Y CHROMOSOME APPEAR?

The modern X and Y chromosomes originally evolved from a pair of identical autosomes. Recent research suggests that the divergence of the ancestor autosome into the X and Y forms occurred around 166 million years ago when some species of the order Monotremata - including the famous platypus - had split from other mammals. Mammals before that did not have any sex chromosomes, but this mammal ancestor carried a mutation in one of the autosomes which caused it to be male. Over the course of natural selection, mutations that were beneficial to males and neutral or harmful to females would accumulate on that autosome, which over time became the modern Y chromosome.

WHAT ARE THE REASONS TO BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE Y CHROMOSOME?

Firstly, the Y chromosome is susceptible to higher rates of mutation and thus the genes on the Y chromosome may be less likely to be preserved over time. When a sperm cell fertilizes an ovule to produce a zygote, each one of them possesses half of the total genome of a human being. Thus, ovules only have X chromosomes while spermatozooids only have X or Y chromosomes, giving females and males the XX and XY genotypes, respectively. The Y chromosome actually has a higher mutation rate than the X chromosome because men produce millions of sperm cells per day compared to one single egg of women per month. More cell divisions of the sperm cells make the DNA more susceptible to more mutations.

Moreover, sperm cells are very mobile, necessitating the production and consumption of large quantities of ATP, the molecule required for all energetic processes of life. The process of ATP synthesis is not perfect; it produces some molecules termed Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) which are, as their name indicates, highly reactive. ROS are one of the main causes of mutations or damages in the DNA of cells. Sperm cells also have relatively less cytoplasm (the thick solution filling the cell), which acts as an antioxidant against ROS. They are therefore more vulnerable to ROS 'attack'.

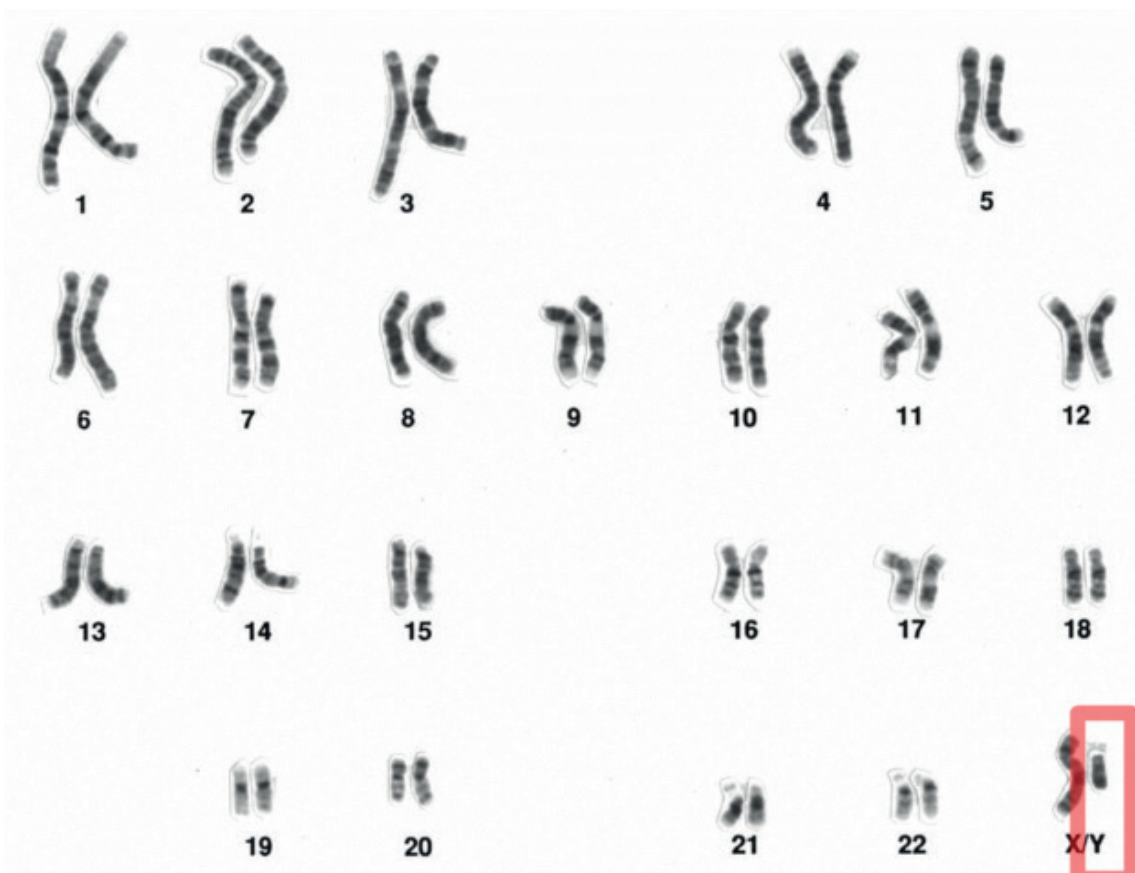
Secondly, each cell only contains one copy of Y chromosome genes. All genes contained on autosomes have two copies, one on each chromosome in the pair, but since there is only ever one Y chromosome in the cell, if a gene is mutated there will be no 'backup' copy to recuperate the lost function. Usually, autosomal chromosomes can avoid passing

harmful mutations on to offspring by a process called recombination whereby it swaps genetic material with its counterpart, which lacks the mutation. However, this process relies on similarity between the swapping pairs. Since the X and Y chromosomes are not similar enough the recombine out harmful mutations, they will remain on the Y chromosome. Natural selection will favour Y chromosomes without these mutations, thus the Y chromosome gets smaller and smaller.

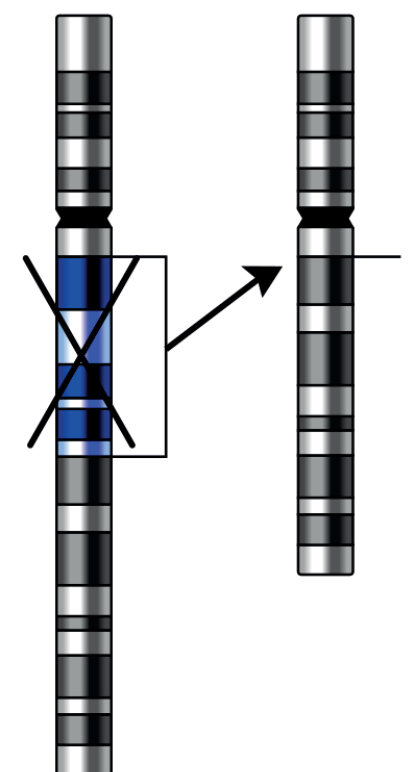
The continuous accumulation of DNA mutations, loss of genes and the pressure of natural selection will cause the disappearance of the functional Y chromosome in roughly 10 million years; although there are investigations that indicate 5 million years or even less.

Continued on page 6...

Image Credits: Wikimedia Commons



A karyotype (image of chromosomes) of the human male chromosomes, with the Y chromosome highlighted.

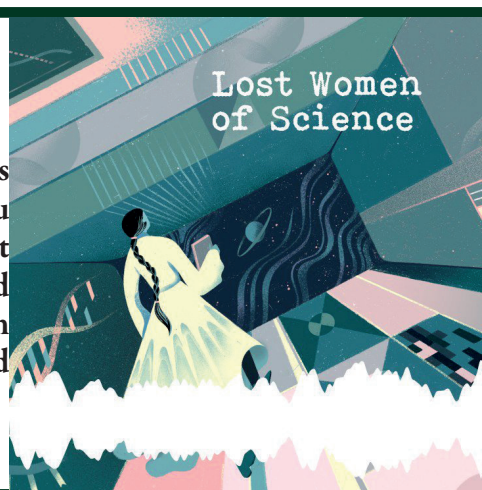


Natural selection may pressure genes that are disadvantageous for an organism's fitness to be deleted

THIS WEEK'S PODCAST LOST WOMEN OF SCIENCE

This new podcast aims to share stories of influential female scientists who you probably haven't heard of. The first season launches on November 4th, and will include four in-depth episodes on Dr Dorothy Andersen, who identified cystic fibrosis in 1938.

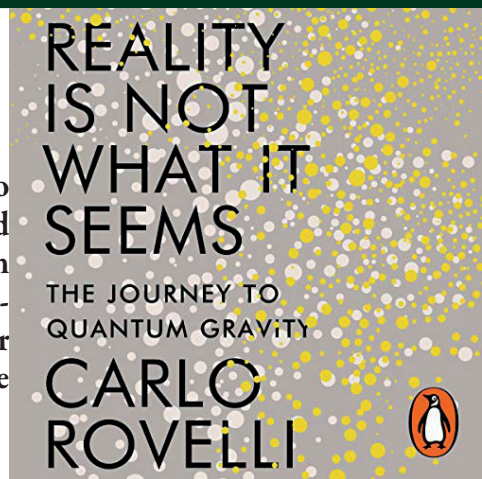
Produced by: PRX and Scientific American



THIS WEEK'S BOOK REALITY IS NOT WHAT IT SEEMS

A historical and philosophical dive into the concepts that underpin the world of physics. Complicated concepts in quantum mechanics and general relativity are explained, together with their connection to the humanities and role in shaping our view of reality.

Author: Carlo Rovelli



Continued from page 5...

AND TO THINK THE CONTRARY?

However, the Y chromosome will not be disappearing anywhere for a while. As we mentioned before, the Y chromosome is unable to recombine most of its genes with the X ones. But here there is a trick, as MIT researchers discovered in 2003 that the Y chromosome can actually recombine with itself! This process is called gene conversion. The change of genes position inside the Y chromosome helps to correct mistakes because it avoids the stagnation of the genetic information. Furthermore, the impossibility of sex chromosomes to recombine with each other is necessary to guarantee that the male determining genes are unaltered. This means that no male traits would appear in women, preserving the male genes only in chromosome Y, which is what makes it unique.

Over the past 166 million years, the Y chromosome has retained only 3% per cent of its original genes (from 1,500 to 45 genes), but this rate of loss will not necessarily continue into the future. Research comparing the Y chromosome in humans and rhesus monkeys in 2012

proves the contrary, the human chromosome Y has only lost one gene since their diversion from rhesus monkeys in the tree of life 25 million years ago. Only one! This means that the loss of genetic information in chromosome Y has reduced dramatically or even stopped. We must consider that natural selection is eminently pragmatic. Only the useful traits are preserved and transmitted to future generations.

CONCLUSIONS:

The results of the most recent research available clearly indicate that the extinction of chromosome Y at least in humans seems to be far-fetched. However, other mammals, mainly rodents, are going in a curious process of heterochromosomal reorganization. The Y chromosome has disappeared, but some of its genes were transferred to the X chromosome. Examples of these are the Ryukyu spiny rat or the Zaisan mole vole. What are the consequences for this species in the long term? Will a new non-male and non-female sex develop? If this happened in humans, how would it look like? There are no answers yet, just more questions.

This week in Science...

FROM IMPERIAL...

Researchers from Imperial's Department of Bioengineering have identified how mechanical forces in the heart affect valve growth in embryos

The researchers discovered the role of shear stresses in activating signalling molecules (Ca^{3+} and ATP), which they found contribute to heart valve cell creation. They conducted tests to establish the effect of mechanical forces, generated naturally by the beating heart, on zebrafish valve development. Dr Julien Vermot, leader of the Biomechanics and Signalling Lab, said, "We have discovered a pathway that's crucial for heart valve development... our findings could help to inform the future prevention and treatment of diseases of the heart valves".

Collaborative project launches to decarbonise the heating and cooling of buildings in UK

An Imperial-led collaborative project, "Aquifer thermal energy storage for decarbonisation of heating and cooling" (ATESHAC), launched on 1st November. Led by Professor Matt Jackson, Chair in Geological Fluid Dynamics in the Department of Earth Science & Engineering, the project aims to reduce carbon emissions linked to building heating and cooling in the UK, by developing and deploying "aquifer thermal energy storage" (ATES) technology. ATES works by storing water in underground aquifers (porous rocks). In the summer, cool groundwater is extracted and used for building cooling. Heat from the building is transferred to the water, which is then returned to the aquifer. In winter, this heated water is extracted and used for heating. Prof. Jackson said, "There are a number of technical, economic and societal barriers we need to overcome to see widespread deployment in the UK".

Six PhD students from the Faculty of Natural Sciences are attending COP26 as part of the Imperial delegation

Courtney Bailey, Krista Halttunen and Sofia Corner (Centre for Environmental Policy), Galina Jönsson and Patrick Walkden (Life Sciences) and Paloma Ortega Arriaga (Grantham Institute and Physics) are in Glasgow to attend the COP26 conference. Scan the QR code to hear more from them:



To read Felix's coverage of COP26, check out the Environment section!

FROM AROUND THE WORLD...

Birdsong in decline

Scientists at the University of East Anglia have found a significant decline in the diversity and intensity of springtime birdsong across Europe and North America, as a result of declining bird populations. The decrease has been caused in part by climate change, pollution, urbanisation, and poor forestry practice. Utilising citizen science surveys, bird monitoring data, and historical recordings of birds, the scientists identified a "chronic decline" with "potentially widespread implications for human health and well-being". They called for improved conservation policy to protect the birds.

ENVIRONMENT

Infrastructure Budget 2021

Shrey Bohra Sustainability Writer

The eyes of the world are all focused on the UK. The crucial COP26 summit currently being held in Glasgow has meant that the Government has new incentive to prioritise its environmental policies. The Autumn Budget, unveiled by Rishi Sunak last week, was the chance for them to quite literally put their money where their mouth is, and the Government took the opportunity, with details of green projects having slowly been released in the preceding days. Upon further reading, however, it is disappointingly clear that like every other challenge they have faced, the Government have fumbled this one as well.

It is important to not be too negative. The UK has made excellent progress in its climate goals when compared to similar economies, aided by the extensive deployment of offshore wind farms. Prior to the current energy crisis, the UK completed the longest period of time without burning coal since the start of the industrial revolution. In the 15 years of reliable data prior to the pandemic, total emissions were reduced by 37% while GDP increased by 21%, almost halving the carbon intensiveness of the economy. In this regard, the UK is leading the world along with Denmark, and is more than qualified to host a conference of this importance. These initial improvements, however, are the easiest to achieve, and future improvements are reliant on committed funding by the Government.

The *Build Back Better*, *Build Back Greener*, and *Levelling Up* schemes – along with their buzzword-laden brethren – have provisions to invest in local transportation. This year's budget in particular has emphasised the funding available to cities to improve public transport in the model of London, with £5.7 billion being split between urban areas such as Greater Manchester and the West Midlands. £500 million has been allocated to redevelop rail lines destroyed by the notorious Beeching cuts. Looking

beyond the headline figures, however, shows that of the approximately £7 billion of funding promised, only about 20% is new, with the rest comprising of money that had already been committed.

More worrying, however, is the importance given to roads in this year's budget. £24 billion has been allocated over the next four years to build new roads or upgrade existing ones. 4000 miles of road are to be constructed, including new tunnels under Stonehenge and the Thames. Road construction is an incredibly carbon-intensive process, with a review of a highway construction project in Costa Rica finding that each kilometre of completed road emitted almost 66 tonnes of greenhouse gases. Higher quality roads entice people to use them, and this induced demand will lead to more cars on the road, the vast majority of which are still powered by fossil fuels. Higher average speeds on these roads also mean that vehicles are less fuel-

efficient, further driving up emissions.

The Government has tried to sweep the effects of its flagship Road Improvement Scheme under the carpet, claiming that the programme will only result in 0.27 Mt of CO₂ emissions over its reporting period from 2020 to 2032. This figure, however, only counts five of the 50 projects encompassed by the scheme. Construction emissions have not been accounted for, along with increased pollution resulting from induced demand and higher travel speeds. This means that experts, including some of the Government's own advisors, have stated that the emission estimate has been reduced by a factor of 100 or more. Grant Shapps, the Minister for Transport, overruled advice from the civil service which recommended a review of the plans on environmental grounds. Instead of engaging with expert advice and environmental protest groups, the Government

has chosen to blindly continue with their poorly justified plans.

Another disappointing result of the budget has been the Government's approach to the airline industry. While Boris Johnson's use of a private jet to get to and from COP in Glasgow has made headlines, the real harm is being done quietly through a small sentence in the 2021 budget. From 2023, the Government plans to halve Air Passenger Duty (APD) for all domestic flights in the UK, making them significantly cheaper. This is being done at the same time as UK train prices, already amongst the highest in Europe, are being increased by an average of 3%, which is greater than the rate of inflation. These changes will only serve to heighten the disparity that already exists – for the most popular routes, train journeys cost 50% more than a domestic flight, despite emitting 80% less CO₂.

A simple way to look at governance is



Photo credits: Singham from Pexels

FRIDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2021

ENVIRONMENT

to incentivise the things you want people to do and penalise things you do not. The Government wants people to go through further education, as this props up the education industry and increases average wages and education standards. This is incentivised by the funding given to universities and through the student loan system. Conversely, smoking negatively impacts public health and costs the NHS billions, and as such is taxed heavily. The Government's approach to domestic travel is therefore incredibly confusing – despite committing to reduce emissions, they are increasing the cost to those who are already paying extra to do the right thing. It is even more shameful when you look at the actions of others – France, for example, has banned all domestic flights with a duration of less than 2.5 hours. The UK is relatively small, and this means that even with our old and slow rail network, it is normally quicker to get the train between major cities than it is to fly. The only barrier is cost, and the Government widening the gap in the week before COP26 is a strange move. Their justification is that cheaper

travel between cities will help with maintaining the Union; a terrible solution to a completely self-inflicted problem. It is true that certain communities rely on aviation for reliable transportation, but these locations are already exempt from APD. Tax is not collected on flights within the Highlands, for example, as there is no form of public transportation that is suitable, and this is a reasonable measure. Journeys such as London to Manchester do not need this help. Reducing the cost of flying within the UK as a whole is an act requested by the airline lobbists, and poorly disguised as a move for solidarity.

2021 was the year for a truly green budget to be announced. The economic rebuild from the pandemic, coupled with record-low interest rates, was the perfect opportunity for the Government to spend wisely in projects that would reinforce the UK's position as a world leader in the net zero transition. The infrastructure plans mentioned in the budget, however, cannot be described as anything but disappointing.

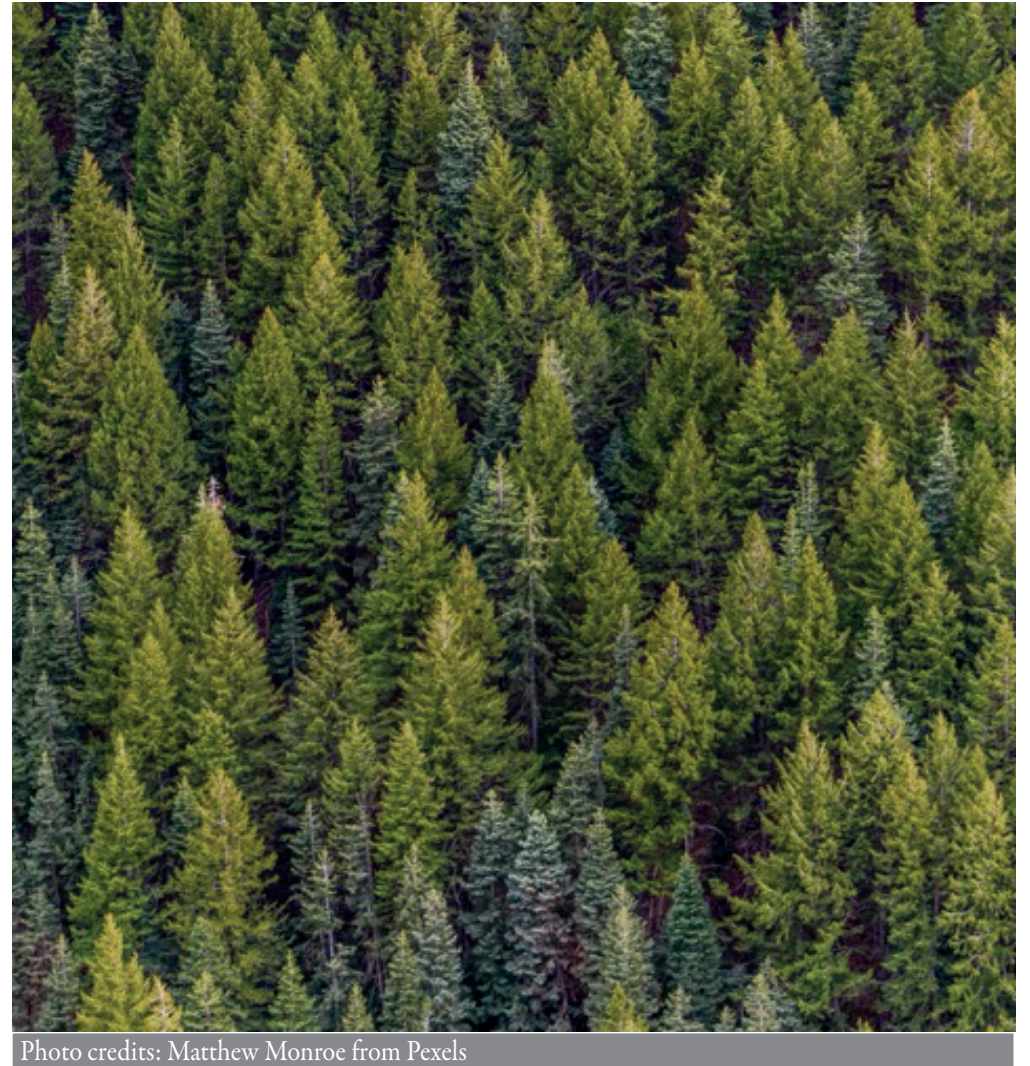


Photo credits: Matthew Monroe from Pexels

Carbon offsetting

Marie Mori Sustainability Editor

Carbon offsetting is a practice in which companies pay third party organisations to compensate for their own emissions, such as through planting trees or funding projects in developing countries that will reduce future emissions. The practice is not inherently detrimental to the environment in and of itself, and some say that it is better than doing nothing. The problem is that companies often lack transparency in the type of schemes they are partnering with in efforts to call themselves “carbon-neutral”—schemes that are oftentimes questionable.

Two budget airline companies, EasyJet and Jet2, have come out with gleaming new “sustainability strategies” in the past months, in a supposed effort to combat climate change. By now, we have learnt to be wary of companies and their claims of interest in protecting the environment, and further investigation into their strategies find

that they are largely relying on carbon offsets to claim “carbon neutral” flying.

Critics of carbon offsetting say that it is merely a marketing strategy to persuade consumers to continue their consumption by ridding them of their guilt. Jet2's strategy states “We have made carbon offsetting an intrinsic part of our business strategy... it means our customers don't need to think about carbon offsetting, because we've got their carbon covered”. These type of statements removes the blame from the consumer, when the one genuinely effective way to reduce one's carbon emissions would simply be to fly less—the 8.8% decrease in global carbon dioxide emissions in 2020 compared to 2019 was largely due to the fewer flights made during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Of course, no airline company will be telling their customers to stop flying any time soon.

Jet2 also offers no insight into what types of carbon offsetting schemes they are investing in, while one of the

schemes that EasyJet does disclose advertises the “eventual halt of deforestation in South American and Africa”. How do the carbon emissions produced by jet engines today get offset by the future protection of forests?

We have seen companies from all sectors adopting this strategy—Brewdog, the brewery and pub chain, is running a “Buy One Get One Tree” scheme, claiming it will plant over a million trees in Madagascar by offering a code that comes with each pack of beers purchased, and buyers can then enter the code on their website for a tree to be planted.

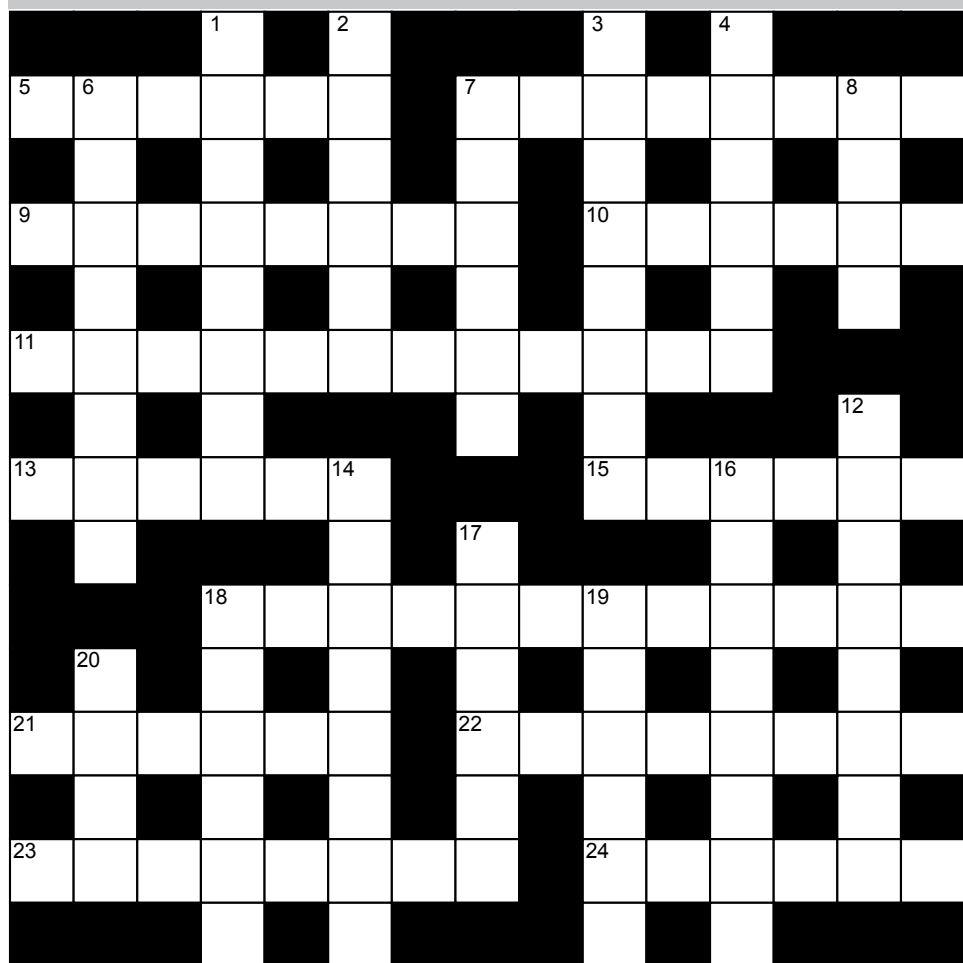
Oil and gas company Shell advertised carbon neutral fuel in the Netherlands by selling carbon offsets for one cent per litre of fuel—this exceptionally low cost makes one wonder how this could possibly be achieved. Nine legal students at Vrije University's Climate Change and Sustainability Law Clinic in Amsterdam conducted research into their carbon offset schemes and found

that one was a pledge to protect a forest in Peru from logging, but “this forest was not actually being logged in the years before Shell started protecting it”, one of the students, Lisa van Langen, stated. The Dutch advertising watchdog then ruled that Shell would have to pull their advertising, on the grounds that it was misleading greenwashing.

All this makes us question what responsibility we have as a consumer. We know that at the end of the day, the main motive for any company is to make money, and we should not be fooled by the type of marketing that offers a band-aid-on-the-bullet-hole type of solution—we cannot go on consuming endlessly by believing that companies have the environment's best interest in mind.

PUZZLES

CRYPTIC Crossword Grid



CRYPTIC Crossword Clues

Across

- 5. Take escape or junction. [6]
- 7. Doctor benched topless and got wet. [8]
- 9. Landforms I see in the east with bridges almost crossing. [8]
- 10. Coral you refreshed, in your eyes. [6]
- 11. If you can't do this when it comes to food, you might just have to do it! [4 8]
- 13. Wild panic about letter in section of this paper. [6]
- 15. Why the premature annual? [6]
- 18. Might this academic earn scores? [12]
- 21. Expert not around on demand. [6]
- 22. Delivery company returning to declare. [8]
- 23. Supports gen's pet with vigour. [4 4]
- 24. Relative's uncleanliness cleared from the inside. [6]

Down

- 1. Drift by and hold down and clasp. [5 3]
- 2. Trees formed a ring from both sides [6]
- 3. About the bay by the railway getting repair work. [8]
- 4. Ragamuffin caught by the neck? [6]
- 6. First signs of classism I and others find systemic. [8]
- 7. Senior teed off from the sands. [6]
- 8. Almost completely erase the history. [4]
- 12. Large addition to measurement. [4-4]
- 14. Meet one's maker at the festival? [8]
- 16. She's a heavenly one. [8]
- 17. Investigates, with boundaries. [6]
- 18. Little time. [6]
- 19. Go stargazing and gather information. [4 2]
- 20. Third plant, to the Irishman! [4]

Puzzles Notices

We thank our contributors:
 Freya Morris for the sudokus
 Stanley Scott for the crosswords
 Raluca -Anamaria Constantinescu for the leaderboard, and
 Ameena Hassan for everything else

Hope you have fun with our puzzles and wish you a happy Bonfire night! (Recycling your notes is more environmentally friendly than setting them on fire, no matter how satisfying.)

Easy Sudoku

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

Normal Sudoku

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

Difficult Sudoku

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

FUCWIT

- 1. Plont Palace 65
- 2. Deep-Fried Charizard 49
- 2. Pancakes, surely? 49
- 3. hea-ing 43
- 4. AKGroup 34

Congrats to this week's leaders! As always, you can send your solutions to fsudoku@ic.ac.uk before this Wednesday, 12 noon.

Points

- Easy, Normal, Difficult sudokus 2, 3, 4 pts each
- Cryptic Crossword 5 pts
- Regular Crossword 3 pts
- Minesweeper 3(left), 2(right) pts each



REGULAR Crossword Clues

Across

- 5. Goodness of morals. [6]
- 7. Often tiny sea life. [8]
- 9. Sugar found in fruit. [8]
- 10. Drinkable meat extract brand. [6]
- 11. Cheese named after city. [3 9]
- 13. Bishops' hats. [6]
- 15. Very easy task. [6]
- 18. "March winds and ____" [5 7]
- 21. Garbage collectors. [6]
- 22. Letting. [8]
- 23. As a matter of fact. [8]
- 24. Unit of popular snack brand. [6]

Down

- 1. One adherent to protocol. [8]
- 2. Italian brewery. [6]
- 3. Babbled on at length. [8]
- 4. Truant. [6]
- 6. Native Hebrew speakers. [8]
- 7. Ready-made condition. [6]
- 8. Character 'Milburn' from show Sex Education. [4]
- 12. Woodwind instrument. [8]
- 14. Forcefully close airways. [8]
- 16. Descriptor of a slope or spiral. [8]
- 17. Cloudlike. [6]
- 18. Breastplate, for example. [6]
- 19. Salt with fluorine, chlorine, bromine etc. [6]
- 20. Uncategorised (abbr.). [4]

Back by popular demand.. Minesweepers!

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

REGULAR Crossword Grid

			1			2					3			4			
5	6								7							8	
9											10						
11																	
																12	
13								14				15		16			
										17							
							18						19				
21																	
23																	

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

CRYPTIC Crossword

S	C	R	U	N	C	H	U	P		C	L	O	U	T
T	A	E	A	R	R	M	R							
E	N	D	O	W	E	D	O	X	I	D	I	S	E	
P	I	S	E	X	C	C	N							
S	C	A	L	P	S	N	I	C	K	E	R	E	D	
A	N	T	I	P	A	S	T	I		H	A	N	O	I
C														
C	I	G	A	R	L	A	Y	P	E	O	P	L	E	
I	R	A	P	E	R	I	E	S		A	P	P	L	E
E	D	R	A	P	E	R	I	E	S		A	P	P	L
N	E	P	L	N	P	R	R	A						
N	E	P	T	U	N	E	O	R	C	H	I	D	S	
T	L	D	S	O	N	H	K	E						
S	T	E	V	E	S	U	N	N	Y	D	A	Y	S	

REGULAR Crossword

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

Difficult Sudoku

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

Easy Sudoku

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

Normal Sudoku

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

CATNIP

Top 5 excuses for not getting your lab work done on time

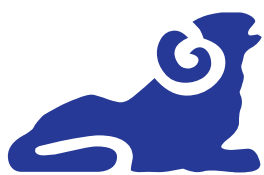
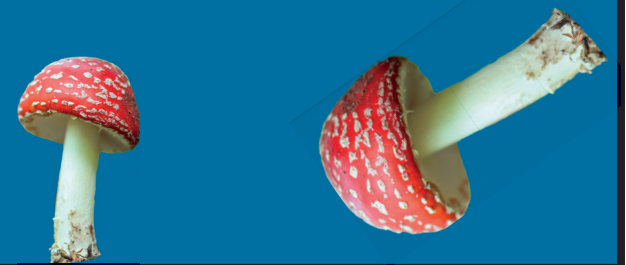
1. I would have, but the agar looked a bit cummy
2. I thought my eyes were becoming swively wooden eggs
3. Kicked out off the fume cupboard for wrapping your sweet lips around the bromine
4. I left the cheese in Alsace-Moselle (only works when you have recently been abroad and your experiment involves mice)
5. The unrelenting pressue of life as a newly-hatched adult

This issue of Felix is sponsored by Fungus Fresh, the service that delivers meals perfect for consumption just like a fungus would

Tired of all that boring chewing and swallowing? Fed up of cooking meals that you're gonna mash up in your little mouth anyway? Sick to death of saying things like "mmm yeah, thanks nan, this is great!" at the dinner table?

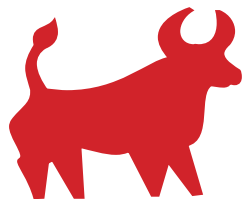
Then look no further, as Fungus Fresh is the meal delivery service for you. Receive custom meals for every night of the week, perfect for you spit on, wait to digest, and then slurp up at your leisure.

Use code 'Cordyceps' at check-out for 10% off!



ARIES

This week Amazon offers you a 30% discount if you smear the blood of a poor person on your screen when purchasing



TAURUS

This week you anger your 61 instagram followers by exploiting them for ad money



GEMINI

This weeks validation comes in the form of reluctant eye contact with the bus driver



CANCER

This week you and your girlfriend share your means of production



LEO

This week you ask the mirror on the wall for next week's euro millions numbers



VIRGO

This week you lie in bed for 16 hours on a Saturday to give yourself self induced scoliosis



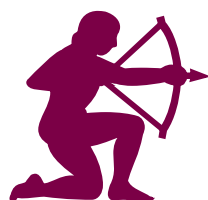
LIBRA

This week Autumn colours in the bright sunshine fail to console you for the fact that you have never had more than 27 likes for an IG post.



SCORPIO

This week you mis-hear "the clocks go back tomorrow" and spend the next day with your member duct taped to your perineum



SAGITTARIUS

This week a crippling amount of hyper-self awareness ruins your ability to process any sense of humor



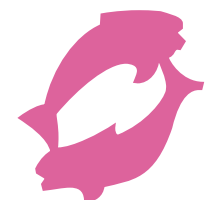
CAPRICORN

This week you waste your extra hour in bed by sleeping



AQUARIUS

This week you are one of the 26 cops in Glasgow



PISCES

This week your boyfriend says that he would not love you if you were a worm

What is drink spiking?

Spiking is never the victim's fault. Drinks are spiked to make people more vulnerable - this could be to facilitate sexual assault, to commit theft, or in an attempt at a bad joke. Everyone should have the right to feel safe and spiking is never ok.



Drink spiking is a serious crime. Anyone found guilty of this can be sentenced to ten years in prison.



Symptoms of spiking

The effects of drink spiking vary depending on what you've been spiked with. Your symptoms could include:

- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Lowered inhibitions
- Confusion
- Problems with vision or balance
- Unconsciousness

If you suspect someone has been spiked

Acting quickly is important:

- Ensure they stop consuming the drink, or further alcohol;
- Remain with them, and continue talking to them;
- Inform the bar manager, bouncer or a member of staff of the situation;
- Call an ambulance if their situation gets worse.



What are we doing to prevent spiking?



- Ensuring staff have received full training;
- Thorough security, bag and ID checks;
- Dedicated first-aid support at events;
- Giving out drinks covers and testing strips in all our venues;
- Reaching out to nearby nightclubs to ensure they're doing the same.

If you've been affected by spiking

Advice Centre
imperialcollegeunion.org/advice

Sexual Violence Support
imperialcollegeunion.org/svs

Emergency Help on Campus
imperialcollegeunion.org/emergency

Your Union



Guitar Hero Night

Monday 8 NOVEMBER 2021 | 19:00 - 22:30 | UNION BAR

Come along to our Guitar hero night on the 9th November, where we'll have the full band set up including drums, guitar and vocals for everyone to have a go at for free!

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on/event/10387



First Love Society: Campus Games Night - Team Battles

Friday 12 NOVEMBER 2021 | 18:30 - 21:00 | Room Activity Room F, Bush House, King's College London

This will be a great opportunity to interact and socialise with fellow students from Imperial, KCL, UCL and LSE! Enjoy a free event full of games, laughter and more!

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on/event/10378



Open Mic Night

Tuesday 16 NOVEMBER 2021 | 19:00 - 22:30 | UNION BAR

We're so happy that live music is back once more – and where better to enjoy some beautiful acoustic tracks washing over you than in the cosy Union Bar. Open mic night is always the perfect opportunity for you to sit and relax, with some very talented musicians sure to be performing.



Arts Night

Friday 19 NOVEMBER 2021 | 19:00 - 22:30 | Metric

Arts Night at Metric is always a great place to come and learn more about what our arts societies are getting up to – nothing like a spot of culture to start off the weekend right.

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on/event/10388

More info & events: imperialcollegeunion.org/whatson

FRIDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2021

FILM

Edited by: EVA BORRAS

Documentary

Can I Live?

Directed by: *Daniel Bailey*
Starring: *Fehinti Balogun*

Eva Borrás Film Editor

Can I Live? is a 60-minute engaging performance tackling the pressing issue of climate change from points of view that are usually not considered. Combining hip-hop songs with a constant dialogue with the audience, Fehinti Balogun creates an outstanding show, telling his story of climate change activism to empower the viewer to take action.

The film begins with Balogun directly looking into the camera, making the viewer feel as if they're in a facetime call with a lifelong friend. If I'm being honest, what impressed me the most was how inviting the experience was. Balogun tells personal family stories in order to engage with the audience. At the same time, he gives evidence to support his arguments about why climate change is something we should all care about - and the reasons why it seems to be only white people that are involved.

Similarly, it is important to highlight what seems to me to be the most important line of 'Can I Live?': "climate crisis is a class crisis". Often in our society we are told how we can contribute to helping the environment by either buying eco-products in grocery stores, or recycling. However, it is usually big corporations which should be taking responsibility

for their pollution to the planet, as those with a lower financial status cannot afford to choose how to spend their money but rather have to focus on surviving until the next paycheck.

In addition, Balogun has integrated a few song performances with catchy lines that play repeatedly throughout the feature to make 'Can I Live?' memorable for whoever is watching. Personally I believe this documentary has the power to influence anyone watching, regardless of age and background, as it is very visually clear to understand the problem.

Even though most of the 60 minutes is Balogun conversing with the viewer, the end features dedicated activists in organisations such as Seize the Vote, Border Abolition, Stand Up to Racism, and Women of Colour in the Global Women's Strike, which support current movements. Overall, 'Can I Live?' is a must watch experience to become aware of how social inequalities are affecting climate change.

Special thanks to the Barbican Centre, London for the opportunity to watch this wonderful piece conceived, written and performed by Fehinti Balogun. You can watch on the online tour until the end of November 2021.



What's on?

FFF: French Film Festival

From the 3rd November to 15th December

The festival will bring over 230 screenings of French and Francophone films, and in London, CINÉ LUMIÈRE will feature 17 films.

The festival opens on November 3rd with the UK premiere of 'France', starring Léa Seydoux. Imperial students can easily attend the festival to discover some great films (most of them being UK premieres and some followed by Q&A with the directors coming from France).

The festival also has a special offer for students under the age of 26, allowing them to attend any screening for just 5 pounds. Make sure to check out the full programme on their website for this amazing opportunity!



Film Review

Braindead

Directed by: *Peter Jackson*
Starring: *Timothy Balme, Diana Peñalver, Elizabeth Moody and Ian Watkin*
Year: *1992*

Aurélia Bordes Film Writer

Welcome to the world of Peter Jackson before the Lord of the Rings; if you know nothing about it you're in for a ride!

« Braindead » is the third film of Peter Jackson and part of a subgenre of horror called splatstick, which defines a horror comedy movie that focuses on extreme gore for laughs. The word itself, splatstick, is a combination of splatter for blood and slapstick, a style of humour that involves physical violence deliberately exaggerated (like in Tom and Jerry). With Sam Raimi's Evil Dead II and III, Braindead constitutes the figurehead of this niche.

Now what is it about? A young man lives a miserable life with his suffocating mother until he falls in love. At the same time, the mother is bitten by a 'sumatran rat

monkey' (no it does not exist, don't google it) and starts to rot and eventually dies. Upon discovering that his mother is not dead, the hero decides to keep her in the basement until he can figure out what to do. Corpses and undead will keep piling up in the most unexpected ways.

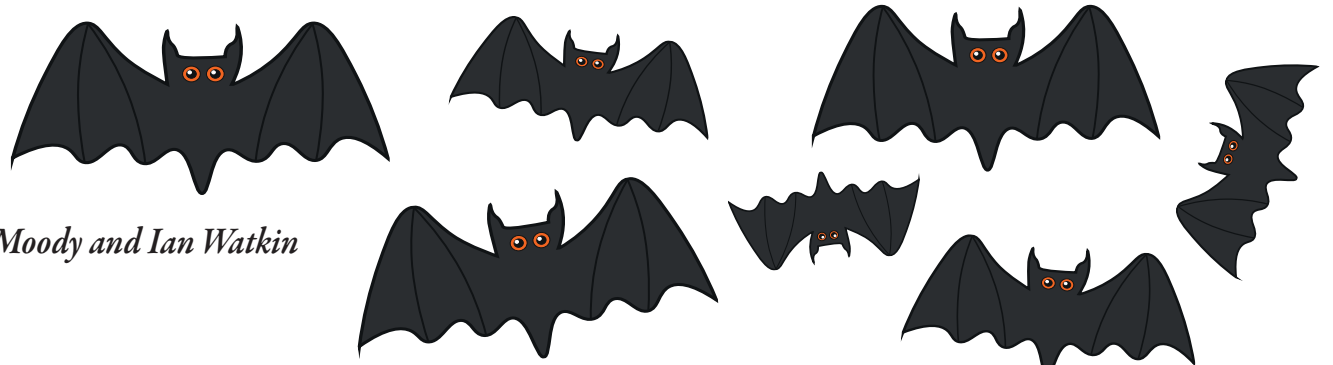
This movie is one of the bloodiest ever made and I mean that literally. It is said that 300 litres of fake blood were used just for the final scene. It is quite hard to find accurate figures with reliable sources about the total amount of fake blood used but everyone seems to agree that it makes « Braindead » a serious competitor for the bloodiest movie ever. Nonetheless, paradoxically, it is not the most violent movie, it is far from it actually.

The film may start slow - you will probably ask yourself what you are watching for a while - but it is absolutely worth it. The humour is absurd, random,

creative, gory, cartoonish and completely gratuitous. You just need to have the stomach for it as it can get quite disgusting. My personal recommendation would be to watch it with friends for a good laugh.

A fun fact about the actors is that they are all completely random people. For example, the main lead, Timothy Balme, had never seen a horror movie before. They certainly do not meet the standard of 'good actors' but they contribute to the charm of « Braindead » which looks like a movie one of our friends could make if they were given enough money and time.

Next time someone talks about being a Peter Jackson fan after having only seen the Lord of the Rings, remind them that he made one of the goriest movies ever : « Braindead » !



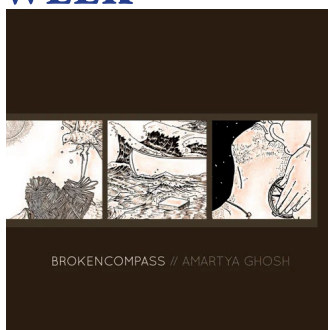
MUSIC

Edited by: ROSIE MILLNS & TARA PAL CHAUDHURI

EP OF THE WEEK

AMARTYA GHOSH'S 2016 EP 'BROKEN COMPASS' FEATURES A SOOTHING GUITAR AND SOFT VOCALS,

THAT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF HIS FLAVOUR OF INDIE FOLK. SUPPLEMENTING A CUP OF COFFEE ON A BRIGHT SUNDAY MORNING WITH THIS EP DOES IT THE MOST JUSTICE. NOTEABLE SONGS TO GIVE A LISTEN ARE 'LETTER TO ANNABELLE' AND 'ANNA PAVLOVA'.



News

Rumour Has It Adele's Finally Back With '30'



View online here!

Written by Benjamin Simmonds Music Writer

After a 6-year music hiatus, Adele is finally back with her highly anticipated single 'Easy on Me'. The Tottenham-born singer & songwriter, known best for her emotionally powerful ballads, such as 'Someone Like You' and the iconic 'Hello', have sprung back into the public eye. Her recent body transformation since the release of her last record, '25', has been a hot topic of discussion among many, with an Instagram post showing off her new and incredible figure receiving over a staggering 12 million likes.

'25', released in November 2015, has sold over 22 million copies worldwide, topping the album charts in over 30 countries, and shipping over 2.3 million copies within the first few days of sales in the United States. In

the United Kingdom, the 11-track album became the best-selling album of the year, 2 years in a row in both 2015 & 2016. Her unprecedented success and dominance of physical album sales is what some artists today struggle to achieve, with some supposedly delaying their album release to avoid chart competition. Adele is arguably one of the biggest pillars for pure sales within the music industry. Her albums '21' and '25', both certified Diamond by RIAA (The Recording

Association of America), are considered two of the best-selling albums of the 21st century (credit: RIAA). Her superiority when it comes to pure album sales, is peculiar given the 'streaming age' we're currently in, but demonstrates her immense talent, as well as her ability to captivate a wide audience with songs of heartbreak, emotion, and devotion.

As Adele graces the covers of both British & American Vogue, she explains her divorce from long term partner, Simon Konecki, as being one that was mutual: 'I was just going through the motions, and I wasn't happy. Neither of us did anything wrong' (Vogue Magazine, November 2021). Further expanding on her emotional rollercoaster surrounding her divorce, she explains the

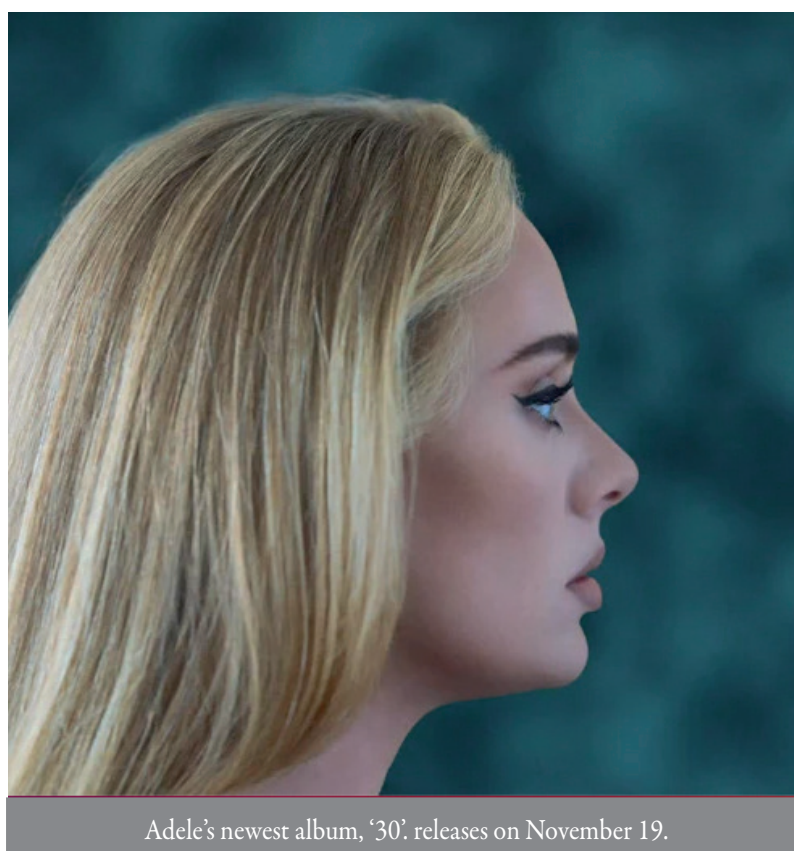
motivation behind her remarkable weight loss, it was more about 'getting stronger physically & mentally'. During her 73 questions with Vogue, which became 85, she says '30' is 'definitely my most personal one yet', when asked what's different about her upcoming album, in comparison to its predecessors. In an iconic Instagram live, responding to a fan asking what the album will be about, she sums it up in 3 simple words... 'Divorce babe... Divorce!'

"Cause all the other albums are like, you did this! You did that! Fuck you! Why can't you arrive for me? Then I was like: Oh, shit, I'm the running theme, actually. Maybe it's me!"

The meaning behind her new chart-topper 'Easy on Me' represents the struggle of explaining divorce to

her 9-year-old son, whilst asking him to 'go easy on me' and forgive her for the decision she made to walk away from her marriage. The touching lyrics "I was still a child, didn't get the chance to feel the world around me" may refer to her entry into fame at such a young age, following the release of her debut album '19' back in 2008. Will the album scrutinise fame and being in the spotlight, something that

Adele famously has never been a big fan of? With this album her most personal record to date, and what she's described to Vogue magazine as her "strongest album", what other themes will we see and is this the beginning of a new direction for Adele, musically and personally?



Adele's newest album, '30', releases on November 19.

Single of the Week

The Hardest Cut by Spoon



"It's the sound of classic rock as written by a guy who never did Eric Clapton," says Britt Daniels, lead singer of Spoon. Check

out their newest single, that's supported by a funky bass line (most effective with a good set of headphones) and an unsurprisingly catchy chorus.

TODAY IN MUSIC HISTORY

IT'S 1977 AND OZZY OSBOURNE QUITS BLACK SABBATH, ONLY TO REJOIN IN A FEW WEEKS AND, LATER, CHANGE HIS MIND AGAIN TO PURSUE A SOLO CAREER.

LIAM GALLAGHER ATTACKS A PHOTOGRAPHER AND GETS ARRESTED IN 1998. CLASSIC GALLAGHER-BEHAVIOUR.

THE BEACH BOYS, WHO HAVE BEEN STARVED OF A #1 SINCE 'GOOD VIBRATIONS' IN 1966, TOP CHARTS IN 1988 WITH 'KOKOMO' WHICH FEATURED IN THE MOVIE 'COCKTAIL'.

Adele is set to release her 4th studio album, '30' on November 19th under Melted Stone & Columbia Records - a division of Sony Music Entertainment.

The Investment Society's event listings page – Volume 4

INVESTMENT



Some members sitting in front of laptops for a quantitative finance panel, 2019

Events at Imperial this week

Compiled by Ethan (Qizhe) Cui (Head of Diversity & Inclusivity, qc420@ic.ac.uk) and George Spencer (Head of Sell-Side Corporate Relations, gws19@ic.ac.uk)

SEC Lecture 4

Saturday 6th November 2021 10:00 – 12:00 CLORE LECTURE THEATRE

We're nearly done – and now we're open to all!

It's been a long ride to the end but now we've reached the finale of our Securities Education Certificate. We've certainly found it very enjoyable to see people learning about Investment and Finance in ways that we haven't seen before, from talking about equity and leverage to what's coming up this weekend with Hedge Funds, Private Equity and Derivatives.

The big announcement is that Lecture 4 is free

for anyone to attend – you don't need to have signed up to the enrolment form in order to attend!

If you are interesting in coming along, please do! We're not bothered by what level of knowledge you have – even if you're completely new to the world of Investment and Finance, we'll do our best to help you understand it!

Please note the lecture theatre has now changed – Lecture 4 will be delivered in Clore, in Huxley.



Investment Society
Imperial College London



Imperial College London **Finance Society**

Etoro Introductory Event

15 Nov 2021

17:30 onwards

LOCATION TBC

We've got another event lined up with Etoro, who are one of the world's leading trading platforms on the market. They'll be teaching you the various techniques and ways to trade on their platform whilst guiding you through how trading works at a fundamental level, alongside a chance for you to gain a larger insight to how Etoro executes its expert functions.

Contact George Spencer
(gws19@ic.ac.uk, see right) for more information)

Annual Women in Finance Event

23 Nov 2021

19:00 onwards

HUXLEY 308

We will be hosting a fantastic panel of women who work in the Investment and Finance industry to discuss the roles they work in, the challenges they face working in the industry and some advice on helping you get the role you want! We are thrilled to be hosting it with Imperial College Women in Business this year.

Contact Ethan (Qizhe) Cui
(qc420@ic.ac.uk, see right) for more information)

Cryptocurrency Masterclass

24 Oct 2021

Time TBC

LOCATION TBC

This masterclass is the first from any UK university society that is dedicated to teaching you about cryptocurrency from the ground up, in a sensible and easy to understand way.

We're finalising the content at the moment but workshops will begin soon after the completion of the SEC on the 24th November!

Contact Sean Yu
(shu.yu19@imperial.ac.uk) for more information)

COMMENT

» HAVE AN ARTICLE IN MIND?

EMAIL YOUR IDEA OR PIECE TO:
COMMENT.FELIX@IMPERIAL.AC.UK

Edited by: KHAMA GUNDE

Is Modern-Day Sexism Flawed?

► *On the logical gymnastics sexists do to justify opposition to feminism.*

Iris Clercq-Roques

Response Writer

Your introduction set the tone for the rest of your comment: your assumption that most people would not finish your article (“If you somehow end up reading this article to the end”) was my first indication that you did not aim at creating a compelling argument, as you clearly did not expect to have an audience to convince. None of your points are well supported or even reach a conclusion, and none of what you “have brought to the table” is a fresh new topic; Simone De Beauvoir even describes your first point as old in her book *The Second Sex I* (1959). I therefore chose to focus my comment on your blatant sexism and how it is deeply flawed.

I would have liked to refute your arguments, had you provided arguments to refute. You merely built yourself a strawman, called it a “modern-day feminist”, and destroyed the stupid arguments you created for it. You stand before your pathetic straw creation and exclaim “Look at that feminist! See how their arguments are ridiculous and self-contradictory! I am much smarter than them, which is why I am not a modern-day feminist.” You have no knowledge of feminist movements and what their flaws are. You made this obvious by failing to mention any feminist movement you would align yourself with and refusing to discuss

the “past and history of feminism”. Your goal was not to criticise modern-day feminism, an already diverse set of movements, in comparison to older feminist movements. On the contrary, your goal was to criticise “modern-day feminism” in a vacuum, to make it clear

“YOUR EXPECTATION THAT FEMINISM SHOULD PRIORITISE MEN IN NON-GENDERED ISSUES IS PROOF OF HOW DEEPLY INTERNALISED YOUR SEXISM IS

that “modern-day” had no meaning, and that, when you finally rejected “modern-day feminism”, you were asking us to consider sexism as its preferable “flip-side”.

For that is what the “flip-side” of feminism is: the opposition to gender equality is the support of gender inequality. I have met my share of closeted misogynists, who would never say aloud that they support gender inequality and would rather try to discredit feminism as an excuse for their lack of support to the cause. Like

you, however, they never got very far in their main argument, which always was some variant of “feminists should help men, and they do not”. Whinging about feminists not focusing on men is doubly stupid. Firstly, it is a lie, as feminist movements are very vocal about men’s mental health and protecting male victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and rape. More importantly, it completely misses the point of feminism. Women and non-binary people face legal and social discrimination because of their gender in addition to racism, ableism, social inequity, religious intolerance, or queerphobia (although it should be pointed out that gender discrimination against non-binary people

is different from gender discrimination against women, I believe that the fight for gender equality should include the fight for trans-rights and the wider recognition of non-binary genders; when I later refer to non-men, I refer to women and non-binary people, as they are part of underprivileged genders). Non-men also die in wars, go to prison, live in poverty, and die of suicide, but their sufferings are made worse by gender discrimination. The point of feminism is not to abandon those fights which tackle issues faced by every gender, rather it is to not prioritise men over non-men in these fights. When you call these non-gendered issues “men’s issues”, it becomes very clear which gender you think matters more.

Finally, I will use your own argument of authority to show how Aristotle would have supported feminist fights, had Aristotle not been a huge misogynist. You misquoted Aristotle, and his original quote, “[...] it is thought that justice is equality, and so it is, though not for everybody but only for those who are equal; and it is thought that inequality is just, for so indeed it is, though not for everybody, but only for those who are unequal.” (*Politics*, III. V. 8.), addresses equality in the context of what is just. For example, a very basic feminist application of that quote would be to make access to pads, tampons, and other hygienic products

free, and maybe promote paid leave for painful menstruation. This would be treating people unequally, as not everyone menstruates, but it would be unjust to not give special solutions to people who menstruate on grounds that this would be unfair to those who do not. This is one example of a modern feminist front. Obviously, not all feminist fights are worthwhile, and not all of them are just. Some are harmful and stem from hate, and we should all use our critical thinking to recognise and reject those. However, I do not think the bad feminist movements should ever convince anyone that opposition to gender equality is a good thing. I think that, while all feminist fights are not good, all sexist fights are bad.

To sum it up, your article was a poorly disguised attack at what you wish modern-day feminism was. You failed to observe how diverse feminist ideology is and always has been and made it obvious to all readers that you only wished to endorse sexism. Your expectation that feminism should prioritise men in non-gendered issues is proof of how deeply internalised your sexism is. Additionally, your claims about false rape accusations are extremely disrespectful to survivors; that paragraph is vile and perpetuates a myth that forces victims to stay silent and allows rapists to get away with their crimes. Your complete lack of empathy is ugly.

Here, Iris Clercq-Roques provides a counter-argument to last week’s article by Srigan Moharir titled: ‘Is Modern-Day Feminism Flawed?’

Pick up next week’s issue to read another counter-response to Moharir’s article.

If you would like to join the discourse, email us at comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Photo credits: Olia Danilevich on Pexels



Feminist holding up an anti-sexism placard

Elon Musk, a Man Destinated to Change the Fate of Mankind

► *Loved and hated by many people worldwide, Elon Musk is a trendy topic nowadays. And this is not a surprise as he is not only one of the richest men in history, but his eccentric personality and controversial declarations are also a magnet for sensationalist news and for heated discussions on Twitter.*

Wang Guo

Writer



“If something’s important enough, you should try. Even if - the probable outcome is failure.”

-Elon Musk

With this quote, we start this article about one of the most inspiring and unique characters in human history: Elon Musk, who was born in June 1971 in Pretoria, South Africa. As a child, Elon Musk was independent and learnt on his own, stating that he was educated first by the books and then by his parents. Indeed, he taught himself programming and created a videogame called Blastar, which he sold for \$500 by the age of 12. At the age of 17, he moved to Canada to study at Queen’s University so as to avoid the obligatory military service in South Africa. Two years later, he was transferred to the University of Pennsylvania and ended up graduating with a double bachelor’s degree in physics and economics, a clear prelude of his future job. Then he pursued a PhD in materials science and applied physics at Stanford University. However, he dropped out two days later in order to fund a company called Zip2 and the rest is history.

Nowadays, Elon Musk is one of the wealthiest men in the world with a net worth of around \$151 billion, owning several companies with very ambitious goals in mind. SpaceX aims to commercialize space travel and make humankind a multi-planetary civilisation; SolarCity produces sustainable energy, while Tesla can store that energy in its electric batteries; The Boring Company is designing a complex network of tunnels to avoid traffic jams and ease public transport in cities. Although none of his objectives have been accomplished yet, Elon Musk and his staff are taking little steps towards them. And this is something that

I want to outline, although it is a reality that Elon Musk will be remembered by future generations, he would not be able to achieve his success without an extraordinarily talented team behind him. Could Napoleon Bonaparte have won his wars alone? The answer is certainly no; exceptional leaders are key to trigger meaningful changes, but leaders’ plans would not be executed if there were no other people working for them. The day a rocket lands on Mars, we should remember that it is not Elon Musk who arrived at Mars, but mankind. There is an excessive adoration towards the figure of a person because humans need heroes to adore, but reality is much more complex than just one person.

Not considering himself a businessman but an engineer when tackling problems; his approach is always based on the scientific method. The steps to follow, like many other great ideas, are simple. First, ask a question. Second, find evidence to develop axioms, classifying each one of them from less to more probable. Third, with these axioms now you can establish a conclusion relevant to the question proposed in step one. Fourth, attempt to dismantle your conclusion. As a tip, it is recommended to ask for others’ points of view. Finally, if the conclusion is found incorrect, go back to step two to formulate new axioms or find new evidence. In the case that no one can refute the conclusion, then it is arguably correct, and only arguably, because there is never an absolutely correct answer, every theory or law has some degree of error. The scientific method is the most plausible way to obtain realistic and effective solutions, but

Photo credits: The Royal Society on Wikimedia Commons



Portrait of Elon Musk

with certain flexibility to modify them according to new circumstances. Besides, it avoids wishful thinking, which is basically the claim of the truthfulness of something just because of the desire of that something being true. Elon Musk is also a visionary, innovating in each sector he is involved in. Examples of this are the reusable rockets of SpaceX, or the electric cars of Tesla - when nobody believed in neither their relevance nor profitability. Elon Musk was even criticised by Neil Armstrong, who believed that his ideas of reusable rockets were far-fetched. According to Elon Musk though, the key to being innovative is starting with an unbiased mind and clear objectives to pursue. Most people commit the mistake of adding little modifications to a widespread product or service and consider it “innovation”. Avoid following what the mainstream is doing. In a world where machines are encroaching the most boring and repetitive tasks, the value of a creative and innovative mind is rising exponentially as there is still no such AI capable of imitating the flexibility and spontaneity of the human brain.

However, not only is Elon Musk known for his contribution to sustainable transport and space travel, but also for his manifold controversial moments. One of the most memorable moment was when he smoked weed during a podcast with the comedian Joe Rogan in September 2018. The reaction of the general public was immediate, the podcast became viral with almost 48 million views up to date and GIFs of Elon Musk with the marijuana cigar have become a popular meme. The “joint” also instigated NASA to open an investigation

about the health and safety standards of SpaceX, and there was a general devaluation of Elon’s companies in the stock market. Twitter is the most used social media by Elon Musk to express his opinions to his millions of followers and it also one of the major sources of Elon Musk’s controversy. His incendiary tweets are abundant, but the most impactful were “Tesla stock price is too high imo” (May 2020), which caused the company to lose \$14 billion in Tesla’s value, or “The coronavirus panic is dumb” (March 2020), among many others. I am conscious that Elon’s honesty and impulsiveness are what make him unique. When you hear him speaking, you feel as if you’re listening to someone authentic, despite his monotonous and robotic voice. However, it is undeniably the relevance of his position as he moves millions or even billions of dollars every day, as well as being the CEO of two companies (Tesla and SpaceX) that are authentic leaders and innovators of their respective sectors. Any of his actions can shape the global economy and millions of lives. Therefore, I consider that such a powerful individual who is at the forefront of humanity’s progress has to be committed to his position, giving up a part of his personality for the sake of the rest of the people.

Elon Musk is a source of inspiration due to his ambition, perseverance, and peculiar personality. He has enough capital to make a real impact on the world even though we have not seen any life-changing results from him yet. Most cars are still powered by fossil fuels, and I am not travelling to Mars the next year. Nevertheless, we must be hopeful and patient with the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX. In the meantime, chase your own goals because reading about outstanding individuals is great, but not as great as actually becoming one of them.

COMMENT

There is No Dollar Sign on a Piece of Mind

► *A reflection on the ranking system.*

Runtian Wu
Comment Writer



No Ranking Anymore. For many, Imperial's way of approaching scores is unprecedented and gratifying—unlike universities such as the University of California, Berkeley, where there is a horrifying fixed “grade ratio” that successfully changes some students' lives into hell, scores in Imperial are determined not by the ranking, and everyone is possible to get the first-class degree. It means that, from now on, we can study in our own way, pursuing our own academic interests, and be ourselves instead of being forced to compete and regard friends as potential “rivals”. However, privately, I do hear some complaints. “How can they know I'm not only good but excellent if I'm without a ranking?” Typically, for students used to the glory of “No.1 in class”, this could be a big problem. Back then, it was easy for every student (including the No.1) to say who is the best in one classroom thanks to the ranking. But now, well, things have changed. You might never know who studies better, the one drunk in the bar every night or the one who sleeps in the library.

The ban on ranking puts students hoping to achieve a high academic standard somehow at a disadvantage. The difference between your extreme hard work and your peer's relatively relaxed schedule may not reflect on the scores, and the feeling of your academic superiority may no longer exist. When assessed by external sources, say a company or a graduate school admission team, those students' academic excellence may also not be very distinguishable. As a result, this ban can potentially run the risk of discouraging students to work hard to become “phenomenal achievers” and lower the quality of the university's graduates.

On the other side, the ranking system is indeed a massive stimulus to students' academic performance. This is evident in the results of the 2018 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) (the PISA is one of the world's largest cross-national tests for reading, math, science and other key skills) which placed countries, such as South

Korea and China (only Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang participated) where students face enormous study pressure and competition, ahead of highly developed countries like Sweden, Norway, USA, and the UK. In many Asian countries where the so-called “helicopter parents” predominate, students are required to achieve a certain ranking, say top 5% in a grade of 360 students, in order to convince their parents that they are doing well in their studies. Having a good score is simply far from enough.

It may well prompt people to advocate for countries worldwide to adopt the so-called “exam-oriented” education system to level up academic performance. However, they ignore the downsides underlying

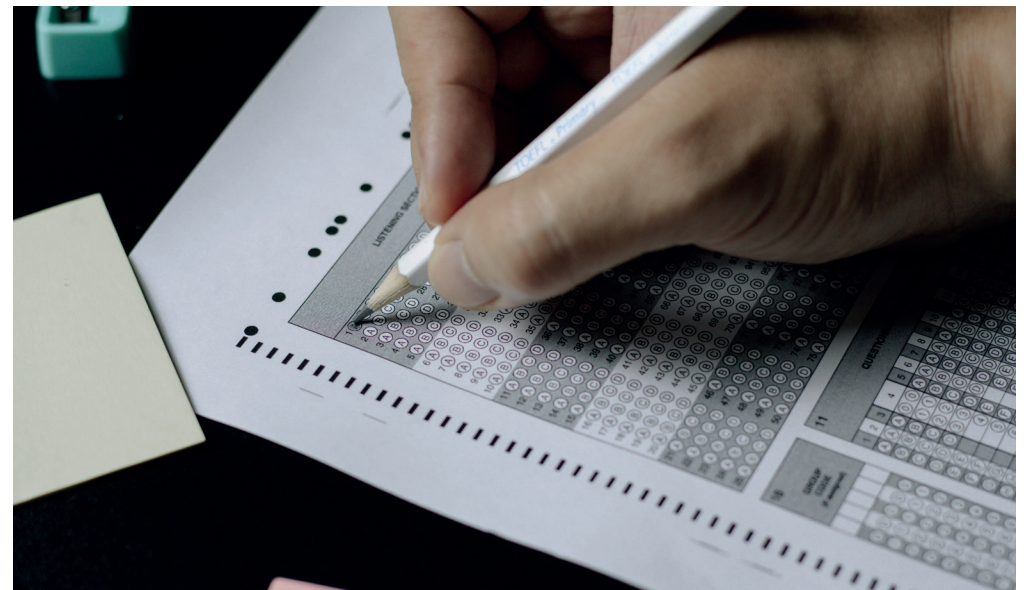
“

**TRUE GREATNESS
IS NOT ALWAYS
REFLECTED IN
SCORES**

ing the benefits. To approach this issue, we need to answer the question: what's the purpose of education? And why do you choose to have the education?

High scores are required for many things—good high schools, good universities, well-paid jobs, a prosperous future, and may even contribute to a future happy family. The score can reflect abilities in the academic field, mental agility, and many more things, but it fails to demonstrate people's interest and passion both in academic fields and beyond. True greatness is not always reflected in scores, and it holds true that a person has talents in some fields but not in others. Churchill, for example, failed to do well in school exams. Suppose that his talents in literature and military were not recognised simply because he couldn't pass the school exams, Britain would probably have lost one of the most prominent prime ministers in history.

The ranking is something like a dollar sign stuck to the back of every student. Theoretically, the ranking only reflects



Should exam scores be the focus of a student's education?

the score. But in the perception of many teachers, parents, and students, it equals the value of students themselves. Who is the best in class? Who is better than who? With the ranking system, everyone has the answer. It hugely impacts students' self-awareness and potentially causes talents to be abandoned in pursuit of scores.

But still, isn't it that the ranking system can steer up the competition, which in turn helps the academic performance? The problem does not come from the ranking system itself, but what the ranking system is based on—score. Score is a good way to demonstrate ability, but it's not the aim of studying. However, for students aiming at high ranks, their pursuits can gradually be narrowed only to the improvement of scores instead of their life-long goals or academic breakthroughs. A few days ago, one of my high school friends from a prominent Chinese university, where all the students' rankings in each exam are publicised (with only some degree of anonymity), told me a similar story. All the students in the university are selected from the top students at each high school, and everyone thought that they should continue to be at the top. But as you might have expected, there came huge disappointment after the first exam. Then, what some students did after the exam was to study much harder to beat other students. Of course, their supposed “opponents” did the same in turn. Each student wanted to be better than the rest, and as a result, everybody started to devote all their time in the library, read-

ing textbooks and doing previous examination papers. The professor was quite uncomfortable in the next exam because everyone's score seemed good, and there was not much difference between them. However, according to the university's rule, students should be rated according to their ranking. Therefore, in the third exam, what greeted students were significantly harder problems than the previous exam. And this cycle started all over again.

When everything is about competition, who cares about the original purpose of studying?

It seems that Imperial is on the right track to not publicise rankings. However, there are things to keep in mind. Apart from scores, there should be more awards, scholarships, research and internship opportunities to satisfy the students aiming to become phenomenal achievers. Complaints arise because these opportunities are still greatly limited. And this system also requires professors to cautiously balance the coursework and students' spare time to ensure proper study pressure is assigned to each student.

There is no dollar sign on a piece of mind. But the value of people varies. Regardless of which education system we are in, it's essential to keep in mind what our goals are and what we value the most. Different people have different goals, and there is no standard to evaluate who is better than others. The most valuable people are those who follow their hearts and benefit the world.

Photo credits: Nguyen Dang Hoang Nhu on Unsplash

Does the Poverty Line Define Destitution?

► *How we currently define poverty is limiting how we solve it. Writer Srigan Moharir reasons that we must expand the definition of poverty if we want to eradicate it.*

Srigan Moharir

Writer



“As long as poverty, injustice and inequality prevail in our world, none of us can truly rest.”

-Nelson Mandela

I believe the ‘Poverty Line’ is quite vague when it comes to understanding the extent of poverty in the contemporary world. It is not only vague because of its extremely narrow definition of ‘who is poor’ and the debatable methodology used to count the poor, but also because of a more fundamental assumption underlying it. It completely depends on the idea of poverty as an inadequate income or not having the resources to purchase goods and services. For the scope of this article, I would like to categorize poverty as pay destitution. If poverty is ultimately about deprivations affecting human wellbeing, then pay destitution is only one aspect of it. Income is no doubt a vital means to the attainment of individual well-being, but I feel it is not adequate to ensure stability against numerous other kinds of hardships that people face.



THE ENTIRETY OF POVERTY IS MUCH MORE THAN WHAT WE PERCEIVE IT TO BE

For example, illness due to communicable diseases like COVID-19 can seriously affect the well-being of an individual whilst denying them of a healthy lifestyle and curtaining their earning capabilities. Thus, protecting people against such communicable diseases and the resultant hardships depends on various components like safe drinking water, public sanitation, and mostly on good quality health services, not just income.

An entirely income-based approach to define poverty frequently falls short to reflect people’s sufferings. Satisfaction of people’s need, is another key aspect which is usually neglected - because the social provision of goods and services on offer is never considered. It is also limiting to think of poverty essentially in terms of materialistic shortcomings of people relating to basic needs. We must also take into consideration sociological distress that people might have in the form of structural inequalities and inborn drawbacks. This clearly implies that even when resources are available,

people may not be able to take full advantage of them because of the pre-existing disadvantages ranging from social constraints like caste and gender, to personal impediments like old age and physical disabilities.

But the good news is that, inculcating diverse policy choices can definitely bring about distinctive results for the people who are considered poor in a country. When governments create employment, enforce policies to increase the workers’ wages and enhance the financial security of the poor, children and families see improved results in both the short and long term.

Hence, an obvious question arises; how do we eradicate the income-poverty issues which are at stake in many countries across the world?

After a bit of research, I narrowed down the options to these solutions which might play a crucial role in shaping the financial condition of people.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE OF WORKERS.

SUPPORT PAY EQUITY.

PROVIDE PAID LEAVE AND PAID SICK DAYS.

ESTABLISH WORK SCHEDULES THAT WORK.

(LOW-WAGE AND LONG HOURLY JOBS INCREASINGLY COME WITH UNPREDICTABLE AND CONSTANTLY SHIFTING WORK SCHEDULES, WHICH MEANS WORKERS STRUGGLE EVEN MORE TO BALANCE ERRATIC WORK HOURS WITH CARING FOR THEIR FAMILIES)

INVEST IN AFFORDABLE, HIGH-QUALITY CHILD-CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION

REFORM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND ENACT POLICIES THAT SUPPORT SUCCESSFUL RE-ENTRY.

PARTICIPATE IN THE EMERGING GLOBAL MARKETS.

But thinking practically, even if we present numerous more solutions to this problem, most of the global poverty issues boil down to undocumented and unregulated labour and work.

At the end of the day, everything is interdependent and bringing about a change in the attitude of policymakers is quite a task especially when it comes to issues revolving around financial matters and poverty. I strongly believe that there is nothing inevitable about poverty. We just need to build the political will to enact the policies that will increase economic security, expand opportunities, and help people enhance their overall standard of living. Finally, a resounding answer to the original question put forth would be that the entirety of poverty is much more than what we perceive it to be and has a plethora of unexplored dimensions. Poverty beyond the ‘Poverty Line’ is something the world has collectively failed to address.

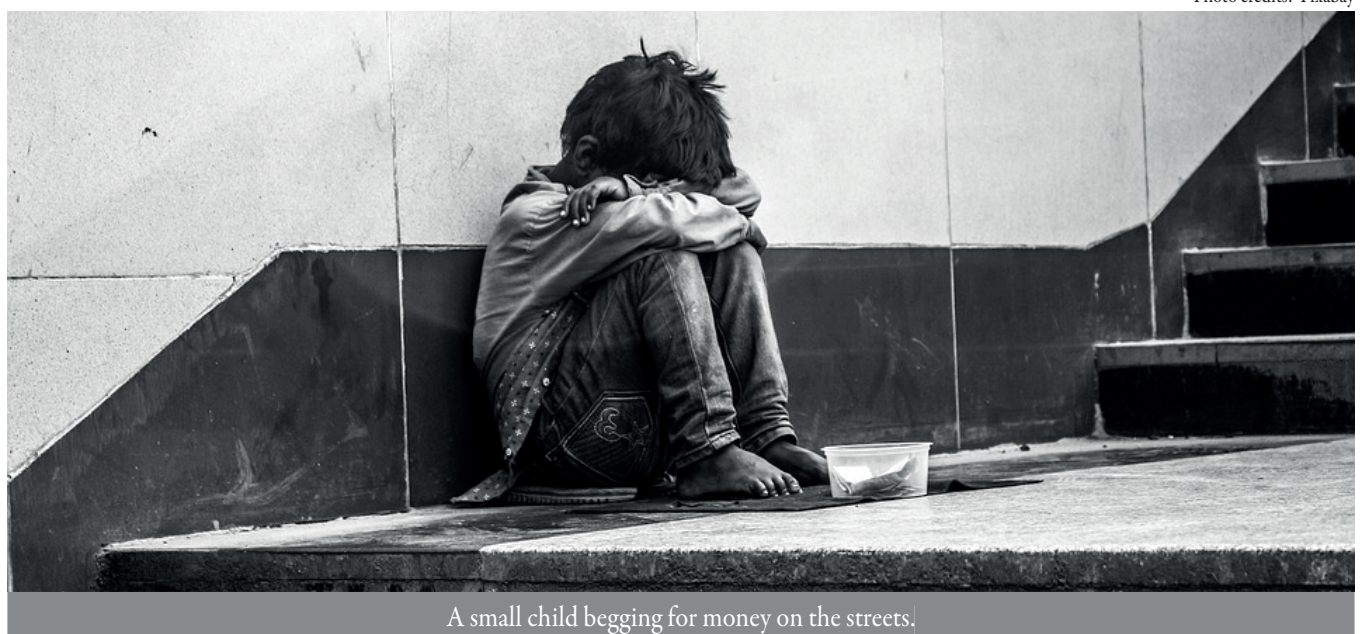
After all, isn’t it all about the greed of the ‘Haves’ and the wants of the ‘Have-nots’?

Photo credits: Hitesh Choudhary on Pexels



Unclean water makes people more vulnerable to illness.

Photo credits: Pixabay



A small child begging for money on the streets.

SPORT

Match Report: Imperial Immortals 8 – 14 Queen Mary Vipers

Marcin Olesinski Sports Writer

On the 31st of October, after 18 months of COVID-induced hiatus from university, American Football's *Imperial Immortals* boarded a coach to play their opening game of the season against the Queen Mary Vipers, looking to not only start strong but also to exorcise some of the old demons from the opposition's field. From the opening whistle, the Immortals' defense stood strong, especially the front 6 which was being led by Will "War Daddy" Woodward. On the opening drive, the unit managed to score a safety and continued the strong performance throughout the game with multiple tackles for loss, sacks, and an interception by Finn "Stage Man" Corney. Unfortunately, a couple of broken plays led to the Vipers scoring twice (rumour has it that some questionable calls can be blamed for at least one of them but that is unconfirmed). The offense, after a half of shaking the rust off, start-

ed doing the unthinkable even for the oldest of old boys: moving the chains by passing the ball. Credit for that has to be given to the team's quarterback Alex "Free Man" Stocks and his receiving crew where everyone has been making impressive plays: from breaking ankles, through one-handed catches, to amazing toe-taps. Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and the last drive, during which the offense was marching for an equalizer with the help of Tim "Jogger" Hindges, was ended with an interception by the Vipers on a fourth down, ending the game. The first game was also an opportunity for the team's rookies to experience an American Football game for the first time. And since they are Immortals, many of them, including Alain "Betrayed by Meetup Time" Geneste, fully embraced the ages-old tradition of playing both ways. On the coach back from the game all of them have also given the team their best comedy and vocal performances as everyone's eyes



On a crisp Autumnal day the Imperial Immortals size up their opponents on their opening game

turn away from the close loss towards our next game: the home opener against the ARU Rhinos on the 7th of November. If you still want to be a part of this year's campaign and become Immortal, feel free to contact us through our social media.

ICLGE HOSTS FIRST OFFLINE SUPER SMASH BROS. TOURNAMENT IN 20 MONTHS

Giovanni França Sports Writer

On Saturday the 23rd of October, Imperial Gaming and Esports (ICLGE) hosted their first edition of Beit & Punish, a Super Smash Bros. Ultimate tournament, creatively named in a contest by one of their members, Mahdi Rahim (Mahd). The event started right after lunch, with six monitor-console set-ups available to play on in the Royal School of Mines G01 room. After checking-in all 25 participants, a double-elimination bracket was drawn, and the matches started. The ICLGE Twitch livestream showed some of the sets during the day, having the participants cast and comment. The Scottish fresher Lachlan Jarvie (Jarv) and the Egyptian fresh graduand Yusuf Ismail (QSFW) rose to the top, fighting each other in the Winners' Final. Playing very safe and calculative, Jarvie's Inkling and Ismail's Pyra & Mythra (Pythra) spent most of the time on stage, not risking off-stage edgeguards. Being two games down in the Winners' Final, Jarvie decided to go with a Pokémon Trainer counterpick. After about a stock, he grasped that Pythra was unable to respond to Ivysaur's colossal aerial hitboxes, with Charizard

on the side doing a decent job at high percentages. But it was too late. Ismail did not miss his Pyra punishes, killing the dragon with an F-tilt at just 100%. Losing in the top bracket did not seem to bother Jarvie's nerves of steel. He went on to beat Rahim's Joker by 3-1 in the Loser's Final, the last round of repechage, to come back to have his revenge against Ismail. Changing his gameplan significantly, we saw a lot more ink on stage, having roller and up-smash show up on the screen every couple seconds. Pythra had no response to such options, falling for every trap laid out in Inkling's neutral. Jarvie took back Grand Finals with a 3-1, and crowned himself champion after winning the Grand Finals Reset by the same score. We were able to talk to the champion shortly after his win.

GF: So, we got a fresher to win the tournament!

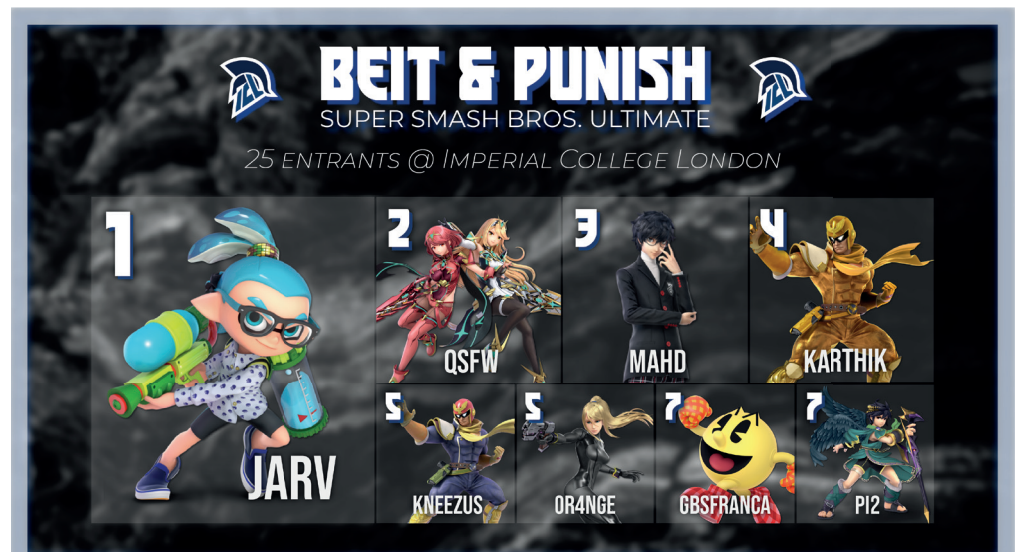
LJ: My first tournament ever.

MR: How do you feel?

LJ: Great; I didn't really know what to expect from here, since I mostly just play my mates at home.

GF: How scared were you to come to the Grand Final after losing Winners'?

LJ: Well, I got 3-0'd pretty brutally, which is rough-



The Beit & Punish top 7, with Jarv (a fresher) smashing it in their first win

MR: You just adapted, found your way through...

LJ: When you're commentating, you're trying to say what I'm thinking. I'm not thinking, I'm just pressing buttons. [laughs] You just press roller and back-air a lot.

MR: Yeah, that's Inkling!

GF: Did anything change in your mind between the two matches?

LJ: Not really. In the first set I was thinking that I'd move onto Pokémon Trainer if it wasn't going well. In the second set, I said I might just stay Inkling. That might have helped me out.

GF: Imagine when you start thinking!

LJ: I think I'll get worse.

MR: [laughs] Right. Any final words?

LJ: Thanks a lot to Alex (Alexander Tiu) for running it – and you, Gio. And Patrick!

AT: I've eaten five Jaffa cakes today, that's it.

I would like to thank everyone who came and congratulate the winners. The top 4 players earned prizes, including a headset, a charging dock, earbuds and a mousepad. Join the ICLGE Discord server to be updated about future events!