

AI firm erases co-founder Imperial Professor from website

Credit: Felix, Nicolas Geiseler-Toran

Ameena Hassan Editor-in-Chief

Union votes to support UCU, Unite strikes

Ameena Hassan Editor-in-Chief

Union Council met on Tuesday and voted to support staff strikes, and did not agree on Union support regarding the marking boycott. As reported in Felix 1810-1812, the Imperial branches of staff unions University and College Union (UCU) and Unite have achieved mandates to go on strike, and the UCU

Continued on page 3...

Resolution: The Union resolves to ...	For	Against	Abstain
Support the UCU strikes in November	93% (27)	7% (2)	0
Support the Unite strikes in November	72% (21)	17% (5)	10% (3)
Not support the marking boycott in January	41% (12)	28% (8)	31% (9)
UR4: Mandate OTs to research impact...	93% (25)	0	7% (2)

According to Corerain's website, they were "the official partner of Imperial College London" as of March 2017. Corerain Technologies is a China-based artificial intelligence firm and has been implicated in the facilitation of the tracking and profiling of the public by the Chinese government.

Wayne Luk, a professor at Imperial College London, is, according to Crunchbase.com, CSO (Chief Scientific Officer) and co-founder of Corerain. Professor Luk said on Wednesday that in his dealings with Corerain, no activity involved tracking and profiling people. Information regarding Professor Luk's involvement with the company was displayed on the Corerain website until recently, however was removed at the time that *Felix* raised the partnership with the College.

In March 2017, Imperial College London became an official partner of Corerain (according to Corerain). Felix understands that the partnership has since ended, though it is unclear when this happened. All mention of the partnership was removed from the website as of last Monday.

The company states that it markets surveillance-based solutions to detect changes such as reading meter gauges, helmet-wearing, and smoking at construction sites. On the Chinese-language version of the website, Corerain is listed as "Kunyun Technology". Corerain Executive President and Imperial Research Associate Dr Niu Xinyu is listed as Kunyun CEO.

When approached for comment, Professor Luk said that "he has not conducted any activities that involve tracking and profiling of the public. He has, on a part-time basis, advised many companies including Corerain but

Screenshots on page 3...

EDITORIAL

Now is the moment

This issue was produced thanks to the work of

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And our numerous contributors



Never has so much, by so many, been owed to so few. Churchill's words take on a sinister new tone in light of the news about Jeremy Hunt's financial statement on Thursday. Independent observers have declared that the UK is already in a recession and things are going to get a lot worse before they get better. Journalist keyboards around the country are wearing out from the number of times they are called upon to type "a perfect storm" or "the black hole of the nation's finances".

Yet many are asking themselves how we have got here? How are we once again the sick man of Europe, despite our years of austerity, belt tightening and modest living? When will we get to enjoy the fat years?

The answer is never thanks to a unique British quirk. The oft quoted aphorism that Britain want the public services of Europe and the taxes of the US gets us some of the way to the explanation.

However, we as a nation have become used to turning to the government to fix any inconvenience while also robbing the government of the ability to affect change. When the pandemic locked us in our homes, we expected to be able to return to our old jobs when the tide of infections receded. The government provided money to businesses, nationalising, at astronomic cost, the economy. When work from home ended, many of us returned to our old jobs. This is, given a moment's thought a bizarre fact. Throughout history, there have only been two types of events that drive social mobility; war and disease. In each case, the major upset has produced an attitude among peoples that the old world is gone and a new one must be created.

Covid achieved nothing of the sort. Instead, we have returned to our pre-pandemic lives, much poorer as a nation. A similar call has gone out this year as energy prices have spiked for the government to protect people from the effects of the world. To insulate the nation from any disruption or disturbance. Some may claim that this is the role of government, but I could not disagree more.

To embrace this attitude is to fail, as a nation, the marshmallow test that asks toddlers whether they would prefer a single marshmallow now or two in several minutes time. Designed to test the ability

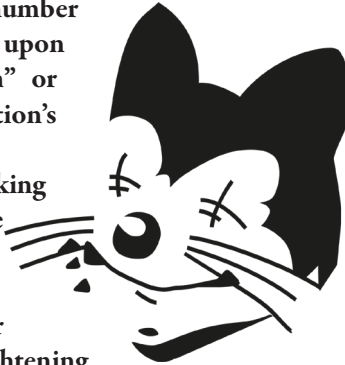
to delay gratification, it has, with caveats, been correlated to life success and future earning levels.

To ask for the government to fix all of our problems is to be permanently disappointed as we ask the impossible and express outrage when it fails to materialise. Our leaders would become managers, making decisions about which services to cut as the state coffers slowly empty.

In 2010 then deputy PM Nick Clegg told reporters that he was against building more nuclear powerplants in the UK because "they are expensive" and will only come online "in 2022".

How short sighted this view now appears. However, there has not been any culture change since then. We should assume therefore that similar decisions about investment are being made now in Whitehall. In fact, we can even see examples of it. Ex-minister Esther McVey has announced that she will only support the raising of taxes if HS2 is scrapped.

Crucially, I am neither claiming that we should not borrow money, nor that we should not try to live within our means. What I am instead calling for is a more energetic and independent minded spirit. We are all independent agents, capable of making decisions and suffering misfortune. Our attitude to the government should be as a recourse of last resort that sits in the background providing services such as education, healthcare and law. We as free citizens should be the change that we wish to see in the world. One of the major unreported factors in the discussion around government spending is the offloading of services that used to be provided by civil society onto the government. Where civic organisations used to provide philanthropic services, society and provide meaning to much of life, lots of modern British civic life resembles a barren desert as people abandon collective organisation. I call on you, any reader of this article, go out and look for an organisation to join. This could be a campaign, association, church or even a book group. Maybe even a student society committee. However, the impact you cause will be paid back with dividends by the people who benefit from your labour. You can't put a price on that.



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 Ameena Hassan
Editor-in-Chief

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had only provided occasional advice to Corerain in the last few years.”

<Include screenshots of before and after photos of the website, where references to the Professor have been removed.>

In November 2016 Corerain boasted on its website that a “smart remote sensing AI solution was applied in Corerain’s strategic partner China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation”, indicating that the company has worked closely with players in the Chinese space program.

In February 2018, Corerain “signed a strategic partnership in smart security with Shanghai Pudong New Area urban operation comprehensive management center” (PnaC). In February 2021, the PnaC and local district government launched AI-powered surveillance to detect problems and potential hazards at Shanghai’s Nanjing Building. For

example, a visitor opening a window to take a picture may be flagged, due to the risk of the phone falling out the window.

In June 2021, the Chinese government passed a policy to create a “Modern Socialism Pilot Zone” within Pudong with its own legislative powers, with the stated aim of making the region a high-tech hub, with a focus on AI.

Chinese state surveillance has attracted international backlash due to its suspected use in persecution of the Uyghur Muslim minority in Xinjiang province. More recently, internal unrest has resulted from China’s far-reaching Zero Covid policy, which enforces strict lockdowns over vast swathes of the Chinese population in response to suspected and detected Covid cases.

To travel between cities, citizens must have a “green” health code, which indicates that they are up to date on vaccinations, have had negative PCR test results, and have not been in contact with infectious patients. Manual checking of these codes has led to severe delays. Electronic checking by machines has been developed and implemented in

some public areas. Corerain developed an “electronic sentry”, meant to match faces and government ID, confirm green health codes, and check live body temperature. The product was only listed in Mandarin on the site, and this page has also been removed as of last Monday. The webpage also stated: (translated) “This information is sent to the Chinese government”.

If a sentry detects a person with a yellow or red health code, checkpoint staff and a “community Trinity working group [will] immediately go to the scene to deal with it”.

Dr Niu has stated in an interview that the electronic sentinel “will add more functions related to the normalization of epidemic prevention, and use technology to help epidemic prevention while making life as convenient as possible for residents”. The sentry has completed pilot tests in some residential buildings and public spaces, and the scope of use will be gradually expanded.

Corerain signed a strategic cooperation agreement with China Telecom in November 2021.

In July 2022, Chinese state media

reported that certain bank accounts had been frozen as part of the national strategy to crack down on criminal gangs. However, thousands of customers from rural areas found they were unable to withdraw cash from, or use, their accounts. Groups of angry customers attempted to travel to protest at the central bank headquarters in the Henan province, but some found that their health codes turned red as they arrived, or while they were at a protest. Up to 200 depositors reported this issue while they made plans to attend the protest. Some depositors said they were able to travel to Zhengzhou, Henan, by public transport, but their codes turned red at the city gates. These circumstances have led citizens to claim that dissent is being silenced through the use of electronic sentries and health codes.

An Imperial College London spokesperson said: “All partnerships and collaborations at Imperial undergo thorough scrutiny and are regularly reviewed, working closely and regularly with the appropriate Government departments.”

Felix contacted Corerain to ask why all mention of their co-founder was removed from the website, but has not yet received a reply.

Prof. Wayne Luk President

Professor at Imperial College London
Co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Corerain Technologies
President of Corerain Artificial Application Innovation Academy Institute
A fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the IEEE, and the BCS
Chairman of Professional Committee of the China Artificial Intelligence Industry Innovation Alliance
Founding Co-Editor-in-Chief of ACM TRETS

Milestones

Technology Accumulation Period 1991-2015	Product Development Period 2016-2019	Rapid Development Period 2020-Now
1991	1994	2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Wayne Luk, co-founder of Corerain Technologies, developed the first high-level compilation tools for custom chips. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Wayne Luk pioneered custom computing in AI sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec. Angel-Round-Financing Completed.

This is no longer available on Corerain.com/en

is participating in national striking on 24th, 25th and 30th November.

Additionally, Imperial UCU members are going to be taking Action Short of a Strike (ASOS) from 23rd November until 20th April, when their mandate is due to end.

ASOS involves:

- working to contract,
- not covering for absent colleagues,
- removing uploaded materials related to, and/or sharing materials related to, lectures or classes that will be or have been cancelled as a result of strike action,
- not rescheduling lectures or classes cancelled due to strike action,
- not undertaking any voluntary activities

In their guidance for students, the College seeks to reassure students on assessments, stating “You will not be

examined on any content which you have not been taught as a result of strike action. If necessary, assessments will be adjusted to take into account the impact of the strike on teaching.”

The Union Council was not voting on their stance on Imperial UCU’s ASOS plans between this November and April.

The Union President called an Emergency Union Council meeting for the 22nd of November, 6-7pm, with a single paper on the agenda, titled: Union Stance on UCU Industrial Action.

This paper authored by the Union President and Deputy President of Education proposed voting on three resolutions:

1. To support/not support Imperial UCU’s strike action this November.
2. To support/not support Imperial Unite’s strike action this November.

3. To not support a marking boycott, should this take place from January.

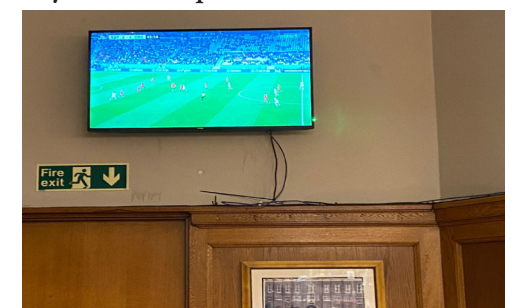
A fourth resolution was also suggested “(UR4): The Union resolves to mandate Officer Trustees to research what the impact of the Industrial Action has been and, where there has been unintended consequences of industrial action that has impacted students negatively, to bring a further paper to Council detailing these consequences and the Union’s response.”

This resolution passed by 93% of members voting for UR4. By this time, two members of Union Council had had to leave the meeting, as they had other meetings or commitments to attend.

Additionally, in ‘any other business’, the Officer Trustees raised the FIFA World Cup.

On 17th November, the “Imperial

College Union Statement on Qatar World Cup” was uploaded as Union News. During Tuesday’s Union meeting, Union Council members learnt that the Union Bar and HBar were designated as “safe spaces for non-football fans to enjoy our venues”. However, Felix understands that parts of World Cup games between 4pm and 5pm on Wednesday, 23rd November, were being streamed in the Union Bar. At the time of writing, there was no signage at Union venues about any such safe spaces.



SCIENCE

Cancer metastasis activation worsens during sleep

Wang Guo Staff Writer

Cancer is one of the deadliest diseases in the world, killing a total of 10 million people in 2020 alone. The main cause of cancer is the accumulation of genetic mutations over time, which leads to uncontrolled cell division. However, this is only the starting point as other factors, including circadian rhythms, are essential for the further expansion of cancer. Circadian rhythms are periodic changes in the body's physiology over time. The best-known example of a circadian rhythm is the sleep-wake cycle, which has recently been found to play a fundamental role in the successful spread of cancer cells throughout the body, also known as metastasis.

Metastasis is responsible for 90% of cancer deaths, so if we could find a way to stop cancer cells metastasising, we would greatly reduce cancer mortality. In metastasis, cancer cells are separated from the tumour of origin and end up in the blood. Cancer cells found in the

blood are called circulating tumour cells (CTCs). CTCs travel through the blood vessels and form new tumours in other parts of the body. It is unclear how CTCs are generated from the tumour of origin. Traditionally, the assumption was that mechanical stimuli cause CTC formation. However, research published in *Nature* earlier this June has suggested that CTCs are mainly produced during deep sleep. To prove that, scientists took blood samples from 30 women with breast cancer at 10 am and 4 am on the same day. Analytics revealed that 78.3% of the total CTCs detected came from the blood samples taken at 4 am when the patients were sleeping.

To further support the findings, the researchers injected breast cancer cells into established mouse models and allowed the tumours to grow inside the mice. Being nocturnal animals, mice have inverted circadian rhythms compared to humans. It turned out that CTCs were also detected in blood

when the mice slept during the day. This proves that the activation of metastasis is not time-based but circadian rhythm-based.

Circadian rhythms are heavily influenced by the punctual production and secretion of endocrine hormones such as melatonin (the hormone of sleep). Therefore, scientists decided to alter the melatonin levels of mouse models to observe how this influenced the concentration of CTCs. Levels of melatonin secretion are greatly affected by light, so scientists disturbed mouse models' circadian rhythms by reversing their light exposure, removing light during waking periods and supplying light during sleeping periods. Overall, scientists found a 30- to 290-fold decrease in the concentrations of CTCs in the sleep-disturbed mice compared to the control mice, indicating slowed-down metastasis. However, if the mice were treated with melatonin before perturbing their sleep cycle, the

“

MORE STUDIES ON THE IMPACT OF CIRCADIAN RHYTHMS ON CANCER PROGRESSION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT

concentration of CTCs increased. All these findings suggest that melatonin plays a key role in the generation of CTCs that leads to metastasis and ultimately death.

This is a recent study, so further research still needs to be done before translating this finding into therapeutic treatments. However, there are two things we can do right now based on the research. Firstly, more studies on the impact of circadian rhythms on cancer progression should be carried out as most current investigations revolve around genetic mutations. Secondly, it is essential to continuously monitor CTC levels in cancer patients, especially during sleep, as this can help to better understand patients' cancer progression and prepare health staff for potential future aggravations of the disease. There are already electronic devices that can monitor the levels of CTCs in real time and report the data on the mobile phone. However, they are not commercially available yet as the technology is still undergoing further testing and enhancement.

Cancer is deadly due to metastasis, so tackling metastasis could be considered almost like curing cancer. If we could manipulate the circadian rhythms of patients without causing sleep deprivation, many lives would be saved.

Credit: Envato Elements



Research suggests melatonin plays a key role in increasing CTC production during sleep

This week in Science...

FROM IMPERIAL

Imperial grads' startup shortlisted for £1m Earthshot Prize

Notpla, a startup founded by Imperial alumni Pierre Paslier and Rodrigo Garcia Gonzalez, has been shortlisted for one of five £1 million Earthshot Prize awards. The Earthshot Prize, launched in 2020 by Prince William and David Attenborough, is awarded annually to five individuals or organisations across the world, for innovative solutions to environmental problems. Notpla is developing seaweed-based biodegradable alternatives to reduce society's reliance on single-use packaging. "There is currently a huge imbalance between how long single-use plastic packaging is used and how long it will last in our environment", said Rodrigo Garcia Gonzalez, the startup's co-founder and co-CEO. "Notpla's solution is a range of packaging made from seaweed that can be eaten or disappears in just 4-6 weeks, just like a piece of fruit! We are delighted to be an Earthshot Prize finalist as it recognises the tremendous effort that our team is making". Notpla is one of three finalists for the "Building a waste-free world" category. The winners will be announced on 2nd December this year, in Boston.

"Electrical language" of breast cancer cells discovered

A team of researchers led by Imperial College London and the Institute of Cancer Research, London, have discovered variable voltages in the membranes of breast cancer cells. It is known that when cells become cancerous, they undergo a series of bioelectric changes. For example, the cell membrane becomes more positively charged than healthy cell membranes. The researchers have discovered that in addition to this, membrane voltage fluctuates over time. They think this could indicate an electrical communications network between cells. "We don't yet know why the voltage of membranes fluctuates in cancer cells but our discovery and technology, enabled by the exciting collaboration of engineers and biologists, opens doors to further work that could help us better understand cancer signalling networks and growth" said co-lead author, Dr Amanda Foust, from Imperial's Department of Bioengineering.

AROUND THE WORLD...

Physicists uncover sweet secrets behind neutron star structures

Physicists at Goethe University have uncovered more secrets surrounding the little-known structures of neutron stars. The research team, led by Prof. Luciano Rezzolla, developed over a million equations of state—equations which help describe the properties of neutron stars—to achieve their goal. The team found that the structures of neutron stars were what Prof. Rezzolla described as "a bit like chocolate pralines": light neutron stars have a soft mantle and stiff core (like soft chocolate with a hazelnut inside), and heavy neutron stars have a stiff mantle and soft core (like hard chocolate surrounding a filling).

New arthropod ancestor fossils unearthed in Wales

The fossils of two new Ordovician specimens have been unearthed in a sheep field near Llandrindod Wells, Wales. Initially discovered by a pair of independent researchers, the finding attracted the attention of scientists from Cambridge and Harvard, who joined the pair in studying the new fossils. Although their exact place in evolutionary history has not yet been found, the research team know the specimens to be ancestors of the arthropods—a phylum which includes modern-day insects, arachnids, and crustaceans. The independent research pair are continuing work in the sheep field, hoping to make even more discoveries.

Moonbound: Artemis moon rocket finally launches

Taylor Pomfret Science Editor

NASA has launched its most powerful rocket to date at 01:47 local time (06:47 GMT) on Wednesday 16th November from Kennedy Space Centre, headed for the Moon.

The mission marks nearly 50 years since humans last visited the moon. In December 1972, American astronaut Eugene Cernan left the last set of footprints on the Moon. This was ultimately the last manned mission to the Moon—Apollo 17—and broke many records: the longest crewed lunar landing mission (12 days), greatest distance from a spacecraft during an extravehicular activity of any type (7.6 km or 4.7 miles) and largest lunar samples brought back to Earth (approximately 115kg).

Looking to continue Apollo's legacy, the launch of the Orion spacecraft marks the first mission of the Artemis programme, fittingly named after Apollo's twin sister in Greek mythology.

The spacecraft is uncrewed for this flight, with robots and mannequins onboard testing for future crewed missions. Artemis I is scheduled to be 26 days, spending at least 6 of those days in a distant retrograde orbit around the moon. Following trans-lunar injection, the mission plans to deploy 10 "CubeSat" satellites: small, miniaturised low-cost satellites designed to use smaller, cheaper, and lower-power components than traditional space missions.

Orion will return and re-enter the Earth's atmosphere at a speed of 24,500 mph and splashdown in the Pacific Ocean on December 11, marking the

end of the Artemis I mission. According to plan, the next Artemis mission will be the crewed Artemis 2 launch taking place in 2024, with the crewed Artemis 3 lunar landing and Artemis 4's docking of the lunar gateway (a mini space station in orbit around the Moon) scheduled to launch in 2025 and 2027 respectively. The build of the Lunar Gateway will include crucial contributions by staff from the Department of Physics at Imperial College London. Researchers from the space and atmospheric physics research group are building the magnetometer sensor that will monitor cosmic and solar rays as part of ESA's European radiation sensors array that will assist experiments on-board the Gateway to assess how deep space conditions could affect astronauts and equipment.

Artemis has also promised that women and people of colour will feature at the forefront of the programme's endeavours, with NASA promising to land the first woman and first person of colour on the Moon. Charlie Blackwell-Thompson, the agency's first female launch director, said in a speech to staff at NASA, following the launch:

"You are part of a first—it doesn't come along very often!"

"We are all part of something incredibly special: the first launch of Artemis. The first step in returning our country to the Moon and on to Mars. What you have done today will inspire generations to come."

Mission Facts

Launch date: Nov. 16, 2022

Mission duration: 25 days, 11 hours, 36 minutes

Total distance travelled: 1.3 million miles

Re-entry speed: 24,500 mph (Mach 32)

Splashdown: Dec. 11, 2022

ARTS

Edited by: **SIMRAN PATEL**

Exhibition

Cezanne – the Portrait of a Quiet Man

Paul Cezanne



Where? Tate Modern

When? Until 12th March 2023

How much? £22 (£5 with Tate Collective, free for members)

Reviewed by **Alexandra Cazacu** Arts Writer

The Tate Modern EY Exhibition on Paul Cezanne's life explores the evolution of his painting style throughout the decades. He was one of the foremost painters of the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist movements. The exhibition, organised by Tate Modern and the Art Institute of Chicago, meanders from his more rustic beginnings to him finding his footing as a Parisian artist in times of political upheaval and artistic revolution. A veritable feast for the eyes, and bringing in works never-before-seen in the UK, the exhibition attempts to recontextualize Cezanne's work around key aspects of his life – be that his political opinions, his relationship with his family, and his friendships with other important figures of late 19th century France, such as the fellow Impressionist painter Camille Pissarro, and the novelist Émile Zola.

The exhibition makes for an interesting and well-structured tour through Cezanne's work. Starting by investigating the influence that his relationships and the times he lived in had over his oeuvre, it then transitions to an exploration of various themes that crop up throughout his paintings – namely still lifes, landscapes, and the bathers. It sets out not just to understand the art, but also the artist: the gallery opens with a self-portrait, accompanied by one of his emblematic

Credit: Alexandra Cazacu



Sketchbook Chicago (1875-86) shows the human side of Paul Cezanne



The Eternal Feminine (1877) by Paul Cezanne: political statement or picturesque scene?

Credit: Alexandra Cazacu

still lifes – a representation of his legacy in art history.

A clear timeline of his work emerges, with his early paintings appearing darker and centring more violent and daring motifs, and his main body of work being lighter and brighter in both palette and subjects depicted. All the while, his later work returns to the darker and more vivid shades that characterized the beginning of his career, while retaining the themes that had emerged in the years following that – marking him as a fully established artist.

For my part, I found this exhibition to be a lovingly crafted homage to Cezanne. Likewise, his love for his family and for his native Aix-en-Provence shines from his work, making it all the more wonderful to behold when knowing the context behind it. Exhibits include portraits of his partner and life-long model Marie-Hortense Fiquet, and of their son Paul, whose childhood drawings feature alongside his father's in the latter's sketchbook, in what constitutes a most endearing display that helps humanize the artist. Meanwhile, his landscapes of his holiday destination of l'Estaque, or of the Mont Sainte-Victoire, a limestone mountain and landmark of Aix-en-Provence, exude a certain nos-

talgia. Their parallel brushstrokes (characteristic of Cezanne) and the contrast between the more vibrant green and blue pigments and the paler shades of earthy tones used, as well as the occasional white space visible amid the brushstrokes, give these paintings a flat, chalky quality that sets them apart from most other Impressionist paintings: where the latter sought to play with light and atmosphere, thus depicting ephemeral moments, Cezanne renders his landscapes timeless.

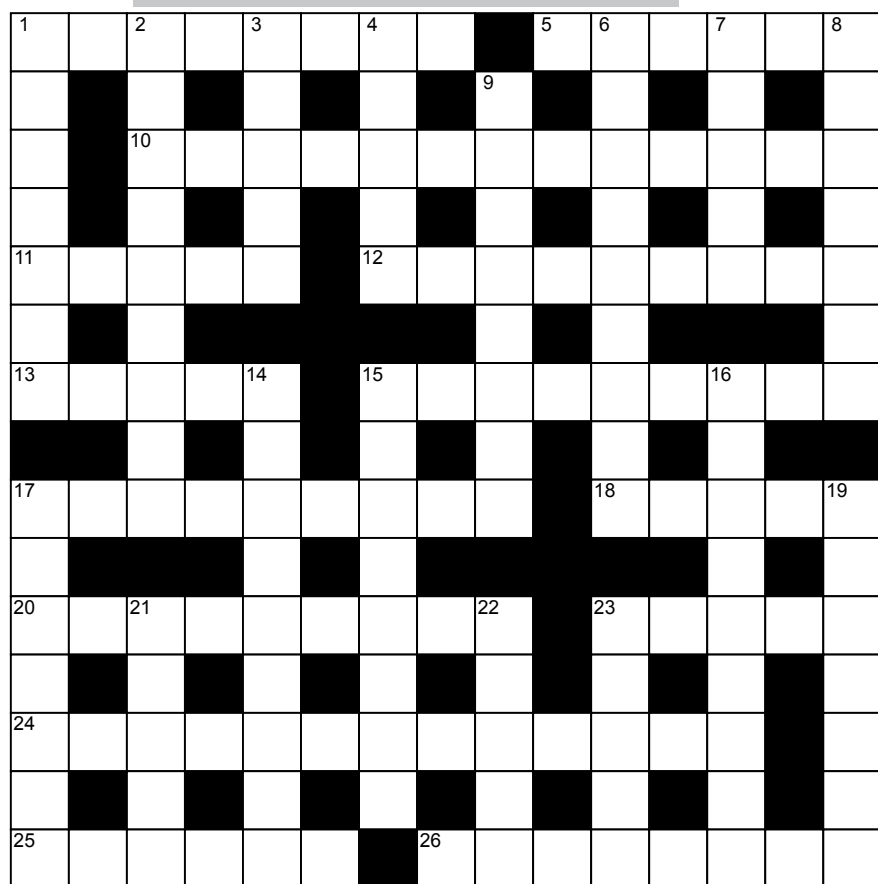
The one drawback the EY exhibition does have is its persistence in trying to elucidate some political meaning from Cezanne's work; while some subtle symbolism may be gleaned from works such as *The Eternal Feminine* and *Scipio*, a lot of the interpretation appears to hinge on speculation; it is quite clear that, whatever his political opinions may have been (and it is not unreasonable to assume that his friendships with Zola and Pissarro had some influence over that), he likely did not want us to know them – and they may remain obscured by the aesthetics of his work.

It is also worth noting that this exhibition is supported by the Huo family foundation. Its founder, Yan Huo, is a co-founder and chief investment officer of the British hedge fund Capula Investment Management, and has donated £200 000 to the Conservative Party during the 2019 general election, according to the Electoral Commission; however, the foundation has also donated £1 million to Imperial College's REACT programme during the Covid-19 pandemic. Personally, I find it difficult to draw any specific conclusion from this, and I am not presenting this information in an attempt to moralize an art exhibition, but rather because I considered it important to include it. I maintain that the exhibition is worth seeing for its artistic value, and do not believe that it has been used to make any kind of statement on contemporary politics.

One of the more overlooked artists of his time, when compared to giants like Monet or van Gogh, Cezanne is nonetheless an emblematic figure of French Impressionism, and the EY exhibition manages to not only delve into his work, but also to somewhat decipher the man behind the painting, in a carefully curated and wonderfully educational tour-de-force. Alternating paintings with personal letters, sketchbooks, and reviews of his work written by fellow artists, be they his contemporaries or ours, the exhibit left me with a sense of having learned much about him, yet with some lingering curiosity still.

PUZZLES

CRYPTIC Crossword Grid



CRYPTIC Crossword Clues

Across

- 1) Ink-covered bond containing a lot of characteristic headings. [8]
- 5) Person with dirt on their neck? [6]
- 10) Aerobic toxin replaces titanium surface with double-bond coating when mixed with gas. [6 7]
- 11) No zoos in London can have left. [5]
- 12) Wire material I found before in my underwear. [9]
- 13) Lounge around in the middle of a field, having a fresh start. [5]
- 15) Told to hire our key organisation manager. [9]
- 17) Randomly dab pointy patterns on your skin. [4 5]
- 18) Hauls around bags. [5]
- 20) Disastrous dive – hit out a long distance away, off pool edge. [5 4]
- 23) Like this energy in the Olympic city! [5]
- 24) Weird bird study at a normal setting? [13]
- 25) Some post about their low points when they have anxiety. [6]
- 26) Go back to the outskirts of Maghreb to get fruit. [8]

Down

- 1) Did he slither into power in Portugal? [7]
- 2) One so-called “dispersive” type of anaesthetic. [9]
- 3) Toast or char with this! [5]
- 4) Hardness of angry mob can be a weapon. [1 4]
- 6) “It’s corn!” as ridiculous breakfast item. [9]
- 7) Get together and school those outsiders. [5]
- 8) France, our rival – or perhaps not... [7]
- 9) A radio show host with the top 100 at hand. [8]
- 14) Moves cautiously, alas arouses poet’s pity. [5-4]
- 15) Mirrors across first four boxes and the weaver’s instrument are something precious to the family. [8]
- 16) Unevenly lays some below half-destroyed burial place after the disaster. [9]
- 17) Head guy in painting? [3 4]
- 19) You said to cut it out – so we did and got this! [7]
- 21) Pushed back a little, laterally. [5]
- 22) Intend on that direction when you fly it. [5]
- 23) Idiots growing up with new scam. [5]

REGULAR Crossword Clues

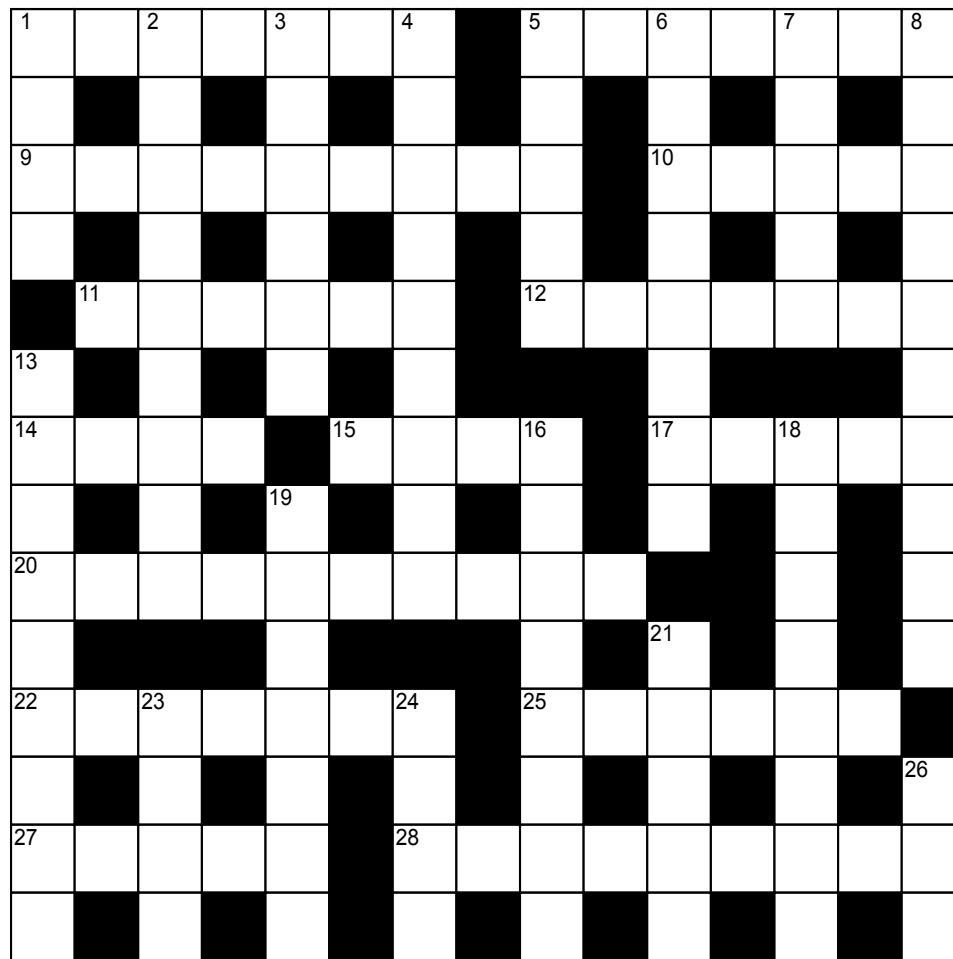
Across

- 1) Sea Journey (7)
- 5) A Mexican wrap (7)
- 9) what aliens refer to as humans (9)
- 10) Holy person (5)
- 11) A strange person Colloq.(6)
- 12) related to an earthquake (7)
- 14) To represent a repeated source (4)
- 15) Type of pastry (4)
- 17) Water brand (5)
- 20) built, put together (10)
- 22) Lavatories (7)
- 24) foggy, overcast (6)
- 26) open, in plain sight (5)
- 27) Not permanent (9)
- 28) plays that mock people using humour (7)
- 29) Multiple things working together, studied in thermodynamics (7)

Down

- 1) Literary composition (4)
- 2) A film showing (9)
- 3) To obey (6)
- 4) To be the idealized representation of (9)
- 5) make-believe (5)
- 6) Breathes (8)
- 7) A phrase of speech (5)
- 8) Famous Israeli Chef (10)
- 13) Promiscuous (10)
- 16) Conquers (9)
- 18) Instantaneous (9)
- 19) What Thomas Edison was (8)
- 21) followers, companions (7)
- 22) Unreactive, group of gases (5)
- 23) plots, areas (5)
- 25) Where people workout (4)

REGULAR Crossword Grid



Points

Cryptic, regular crosswords 5, 3 pts
Reverse Cryptic 3 pts

Reverse Cryptic

Last week’s reasons:
FRANCES = many Frances = many nations, also woman’s name.
Still alive = EXTANT = anagram (assembly) of at next.
Drink = GREEN TEA = anagram (about) of net

You are given a cryptic Clue (C), an Answer (A), and have to give a Reason (R) as to why the correct answer is A. Practicing this will help you solve the cryptic crossword above.

anger.

C: Key to get back in the room with your companion.
A: ESCORT
R: _____

C: Captain’s unfinished scheme. [4]
A: PLOT
R: _____

C: Damp fog shrouding the duck. [5]
A: MOIST
R: _____



CATNIP

TikTok goes the clock! Applications to Imperial content creator job closing soon.

The College has launched its search for an official TikTok content creator among the student body.

This comes in response to allegations that its current outreach method of distributing leaflets at teen rehab and mental health treatment centres with the slogan "You are halfway there! Just get good at maths" is failing to attract the necessary standard of candidate.

An FOI request revealed the 6 McKinsey consultants hired to boost student recruitment made the recommendation of a TikTok account after 3 months of work at a day rate of £1,200 each.

The consultants made their recommendation after examining the success of the Imperial douyin account that was the sole reason post-2016 for Chinese students coming to Imperial. An anonymous Chinese

student told NegaFelix "It is a pyramid scheme. I was lured here by the douyin videos and got a shock when I arrived. But I now make douyin videos myself about how amazing Imperial is to build clout at home".

The advert calls on all student creators to show off their skill by producing two videos, which will be judged on their catchiness and ability to cause anxiety in teenagers.

Other than that the advert only requires 500 words of text, another Mckinsey recommendation, so that the attention deficient TikTok users don't get distracted halfway through.

While the advice was expensive, other Imperial social media outreach efforts have not been successful in the past. The Imperial BeReal account failed after the every post was made 3 weeks late after having passed through the necessary 8 approval committees.



Despite the rocky publicity campaign around the search, the College has reported being swamped with applications, the majority of whom are CompSci students unable to find any jobs now that the tech sector has imploded. One unlucky student,

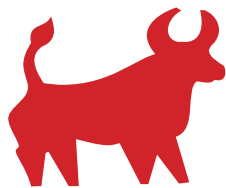
Feb Senton, told NegaFelix that he was only applying for this position while his MAANG job offer was in the post. He declined to answer questions about why tech companies would use the postal service and how long he had been waiting.

Horoscopes



ARIES

This week your underground steam tunnel exploration society gets found out by the Union. You suspect a leak.



TAURUS

This week your fear of speaking out is overruled by your fear of the quiet



GEMINI

This week, you got better ratings from your Peer-Assessed Coursework than your feedback form



CANCER

This week you wonder what the cat got up to while it was away. We all know the mice came out to play...



LEO

This week the College really start feeling the pinch from the cost of living crisis



VIRGO

This week your group mates just don't get the memo that they need to follow all your instructions



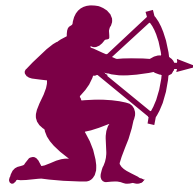
LIBRA

This week you've lost track of when the lecturers, nurses, trains/buses and post are striking



SCORPIO

This week your minions start rebelling. They write better code than you could dream of.



SAGITTARIUS

This week the committee to scrutinise the Union scrutiny committee is looking for volunteers!



CAPRICORN

This week you do PS and PE all night long. (Problem Sheets and Past Exams)



AQUARIUS

This week you suspect your landlord is breaking more laws than usual...



PISCES

This week you don't understand why anyone is surprised about anything at the World Cup.



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FILM

Film Review

Cabinet of Curiosities

Review of Guillermo del Toro's latest anthology series release on Netflix

Director: Guillermo del Toro
Starring: Lize Johnston, Kevin Keppy, etc.
Country: United States, Mexico
Release: October 2022

Mike Buzadji Film Writer

The horror genre has been very controversial in the last couple of years. With time people got used to most of the twists and techniques. There are a lot of

cringe, laughable and senseless releases nowadays. A good horror anthology is even rarer. The classics like *The Twilight Zone* set the bar high. However, Guillermo del Toro's *Cabinet of Curiosities* is not falling short. Using his platform and resources he brought together a variety of talented directors working in the genre, curating them and giving them creative freedom on each episode of the show.

In total *Cabinet of Curiosities* sums up to about 8 hours of watch time. As is the difference between directors, every episode is unique with its own story and style. Specifically, two of them: "Lot 36" and "The Murmuring" were co-written by del Toro himself. Other episodes are based on stories by multiple authors, including H.P. Lovecraft. Each of these tales opens with Guillermo del Toro coming out of the shadows and introducing us to the next self-contained story with the relevant item and miniature of the director retrieved from the *Cabinet of Curiosities*. Let's dive in and have a look at each of them separately.

First on the list, "Lot 36", is a story about a veteran chased by collectors. He's desperately trying to make money by reselling valuables from purchased abandoned storage units. Nick, our xenophobic, right-wing protagonist, manages to get a unit of a mysterious deceased old man. What is it that he will find in the unit and where it will lead him? Corpses, tentacles and monsters, if that's what you're into, this episode is for you.

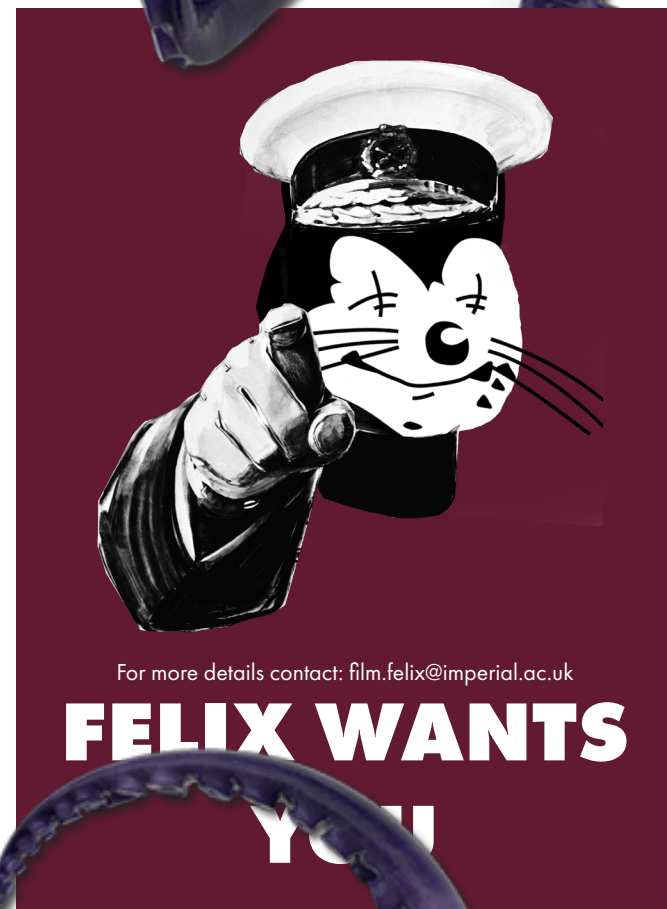
We then move to the story of Masson, a grave robber. Same money issues, a slightly different approach. Buried corpses and their valuables are what attracts his attention. As the title of this episode, "Graveyard Rats", suggests, it is about rats and Masson resembles one of them. A claustrophobic rivalry between him and rats for human remains is what this episode is all about.

The third and top-rated episode "The Autopsy" presents us the story of Dr Carl Winters, who's been asked to perform autopsies on several dead miners. All of the bodies are mysteriously drained of blood. Something extraterrestrial is involved in their death, so what will his search reveal? This episode is the nastiest and contains a lot of gore scenes, exactly what this series needs.

Following the post-mortem comes a tale about Stacey and her insecurities. She doesn't meet the beauty standards, is somewhat awkward and quirky, doesn't fit in. After a Christmas party Stacey discovers an expensive lotion Alo Glo that all the "beautiful" women at her workplace use. Though this lotion is not just a beauty product, it's supposed to

change "The Outside". Everything comes with a price, and this is no exception. "Pickman's Model" is next on the list and is based on the short story by H.P. Lovecraft. Art's central feature is to arouse emotions. This tale brings it to extremes; horrific works of art depicting demons, witches and a variety of gruesome scenes make people go insane. Is it real or just in their head?

On the topic of witches, "Dreams in the Witch House" is the least loved among the audience. Twins separated in childhood by death try to get back together. Walter Gilman spends his life trying to find a way to find the dimension his sister Epperley was dragged into. The sassy witch, the human-faced rat we meet later and weak acting is what repels the viewer from this story. As was mentioned



For more details contact: film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

**FELIX WANTS
YOU**

some of the episodes are not for everyone. The next one, "The Viewing", is exactly one of them. This episode doesn't try to go into action straight away, instead, we get a long and mysterious dialogue between even more mysterious characters. The visuals are what brings this episode to another level and makes it stand out.

The last episode in the series is a beautiful hour roller-coaster. "The Murmuring" is a gore and shock-free tale about a married couple of ornithologists who recently lost their daughter Ava. To get away from grief and complete their research they go to a remote location with an old house. That's where Nancy, the wife, begins to see ghosts. Is it just grief or something that the house is trying to hide? This episode is driven by emotions and has the strongest leads' performances in the series.

There might be episodes that you'll find boring or weak, but that cabinet has in store something for any audience. My personal favourites and recommendations would be "The Autopsy", "The Outside" and "The Murmuring". Guillermo del Toro's *Cabinet of Curiosities* is a must-watch if you still didn't find time for it.

MUSIC

Edited by: JOE RIORDAN
TARA PAL CHAUDHURI

DON'T MISS THE GIG -
ARTS NIGHT BY ARTS
& ENTERTAINMENT @
METRIC, 19TH NOVEMBER

STOP BY R



Single of the Week

Bite Me by Avril Lavigne

As part of her upcoming album which should land next se mood for heavy eyeliner, bidding farewell to a shitty ex, or walking threateningly down a dark alley.



TODAY IN MUSIC HISTORY

It's 1990 AND IT'S
ALSO THE FIRST
TIME A GHILD
MOLESTATION
CHARGES.



Gig Reviews

Sigur Rós - Ben Rates



View online here!

Written by Ben Bateman Music Writer

Sigur Rós isn't a band that I can imagine fighting tooth-and-nail to get tickets to go and see. Their music is, more often than not, laid back, chilled out and devoid of any kind of negative energies. Just a quick listen to their most popular track on Spotify, 'Hoppípolla', gives you a pretty good idea; it might just be one of the most delightful and happy tracks you can find on the platform. I find it a wonderful break from some of the more bleak music I like to listen to on a daily basis, but even I will concede that it's not something a lot of people I know would shell out £50 to witness live.

Nevertheless, on a chilly evening in Brixton I shuffled into an Apollo filled to the brim with middle-aged Jónsi (the impressive vocalist and lead guitarist) enjoyers, alongside young professionals in suits (there after work) and mums and dads looking for something different to Coldplay. It was a pretty stark contrast to the Godspeed You! Black Emperor concert in Berlin that I experienced just over a month earlier, despite both bands technically falling under the same umbrella of post-rock. I almost felt out of place in my shirt from that concert — the front of which is simply a picture of 3 canisters of tear gas with the caption "A State's Embrace". Suffice to say that whilst I was happy experiencing the music in my own way: moving, dancing, even headbanging to some of the significantly harder songs, the age fifty-something gentleman on my left didn't make any movements beyond a polite clap at the end of each song.

Where some bands will make a point of playing a considerably more varied selection of their discography, as well as teasing material from upcoming albums, Sigur Rós played the hits. Choruses of whoops echoed when the recognisable sonar blips of 'Svefn-g-englar' — a long, ethereal track from their beloved album *Ágætis byrjun* — began to reverberate around the concert hall. A couple of rows ahead of me, when the drums of 'Ný batterí' kicked in, a guy started jumping and fist-pumping in excitement. More so than anything else, though, the band played tracks from () [Pronounced

'Untitled', I've been told] which they recently released a 20th anniversary edition of. Although I do wish they'd given *Kveikur* a bit more love (they only played the title track) there was plenty to enjoy in the little-over two hours they were on stage that evening.

I did have a good time — but I can't help feeling that what my flatmate and fellow post-rock aficionado Ariel prophesied came true. Whilst the music was great,

there isn't enough in the band's catalogue to make a **show** of it. A solid 80% of the time, I stood pretty stationary, looking forward with my arms folded. It was almost the same experience as listening to Sigur Rós at home, except loud and live. Yes, you could see Jónsi with his cello bow playing the guitar, watch him sing with that incredible falsetto, before running around the stage,

yelling, and even more vigorously attacking his guitar with the cello bow. But if anything, aside from the occasional drop like on 'Ný batterí' or 'Kveikur'm or the very last song they played, 'Untitled #8', the general vibe of the concert felt closer to a performance than a gig. It's a good job that I really, really love their music, otherwise (and this sounds mean, but it's unfortunately true) I would have been bored stiff.

If you *know* you like Sigur Rós, I would recommend going to watch them live. But if you *think* you like them because you heard 'Svefn-g-englar' and thought that was okay, you might regret the relatively steep price you paid to get in.



Sigur Rós (photo: Ben Bateman)



Sigur Rós (photo: Ben)

MUSIC

Felix Interviews...

Personal Trainer!

Felix works out with Amsterdam band Personal Trainer to talk new album and touring in the UK.

Written by **Giovanni França** Music Writer

Last Thursday, Amsterdam-based indie collective Personal Trainer played at The Windmill, in Brixton, to celebrate the release of their new album, **Big Love Blanket**. Willem Smit, vocalist and mastermind behind the project, and Kilian Kayser, percussionist, sat down to have a chat with the Felix before the start of the gig.

The band's recent UK tours have been flanked by a string of bad luck. Last year, they were stranded in the UK after they all caught Covid whilst on tour over here. On the way over this time, the door of their van fell off in Calais. There followed a chaotic attempt to get hold of a mechanic whilst stranded in-between countries, which they can only describe as similar to the Tom Hanks film *The Terminal*. By the time the van was fixed, they had missed two boats. Following a further boat cancellation, another delay, and a lengthy spell at sea due to stormy weather (punctuated by *My Heart Will Go On* and then two hours of Morrissey solo songs playing out through the ferry), the band arrived in the UK.

Despite their hellish travel experiences, Personal Trainer frequent the UK often. I ask them what they think draws British people to their live shows again and again. Kilian cites a gig-going culture that exists around the UK's main cities: "The UK is quite big, and thickly populated, so you can easily do a two-week tour and go to different cities, and in every city, there will be like, 50 people, young people mixed with old dads, that love going to gigs," he tells us, "and that's not the vibe in the Netherlands, because it's too small. That's what's nice about the UK, everywhere you go you will find a nice group of people that will go to every gig there is."

He also admits 'we do come here because we want to see the UK'. However, he's not too quick to praise the country, following up with "it's also fun for us to make them come back by giving them a nice show. "Maybe next time I'll plan to go to this gig, instead of it being a regular Tuesday night of drinking and talking about football in a pub."

However, it's not only for their live performances that the band have received success in the UK: on Spotify, the cities that listen to Public Transport the most are Amsterdam, Rotterdam and London. Willem believes that there is a symbiotic relationship between building up a listener base and a live fanbase within

a city. Kilian attributes this to the cryptic statement "people who like our genre of music live the most in those cities."

Tonight, Public Transport are playing at The Windmill Brixton: a venue well-known for championing new music. The venue is not only a

tracks has been a big focus for their upcoming album: "It's something I talk about with Casper van der Lans," he agrees, "I record all stuff with him and we mix it together. We like building productions from small things and stacking stuff on top of each other, because we like records that sound like that. I also like records that sound really loud, but for the record we recorded, I was quite happy with the result. It wasn't the band playing live, but maybe in the future it will be."

Having listened to their new singles, and compared them to their last EP, *Gazebo*, I believe that the ir production efforts have paid off. The new style hits the nail on the head when it comes to rectifying the feeling I get when I'm in the mosh, and the tracks are now far more encapsulating. Kilian agrees: "I was also very impressed by the step-up in production. It sounds really cool!"

Anticipating the new album, I ask if it will feature the same large quantity of down-to-earth metaphors addressing both personal and political issues which *Gazebo* did. It's a subject for discussion between Willem and Kilian. Whilst they confirm that this is the case, they hint at

new directions in the imminent future, Willem telling me "I want to change things up because I'm quite tired of the easy referencing of pop culture. It will probably change in the future, but I liked it for a while!"

milestone for the band, but also resonates with Wilem personally. There is a wall in tribute of local legend Jack Medley, who passed away in 2019, and who once hosted Wilem in Brighton. The venue's tribute seems to make Wilem only relish the opportunity to play there even more, and he tells us "It's really nice to have him here."

My favourite part of the band's music is the positivity it emanates. Even on little sleep, they are able to muster the strength to put on an a high-energy performance, with Wilem claiming "I always like being very tired because you have to push it all out. There is no clutter." Tonight is no different, and they deliver a blazing set, supported by local band Home Counties, as well as by their compatriots Pip Blom.

However, this energy is not always translated through the studio-recorded tracks. Willem recognises this too, and ensuring that the band's enrapturing live energy is captured in their studio



Willem (left) and Killian (right) (photo: Giovanni França)



Personal Trainer (photo: Giovanni França)

and the third one is London. Do you guys think live music brings the streams, or is it the opposite way?

W: I think we play the most in those places, right?

K: Also, people who like our genre of music live the most in those cities. But it would be cool if Brazil was on top. Maybe you can help us, I would love to see São Paulo up there, I don't know where you're from. (For reference, I, the interviewer, am Brazilian.)

F: That would be crazy. I don't know, I don't think post-punk is big there, but it would be crazy if it became. I feel like Brazil has so much to offer, but we're so isolated and all trends get there late. I mean, this sound is becoming a big thing right now because of the Windmill, with the explosion of black midi, Black Country, New Road, Squid... they are all from "here".

W: I think it's similar in the Netherlands, most

people who like music we like have heard of this place.

K: I put it in my Instagram story that tonight we're playing in The Windmill, and it got a lot of likes from our friends... But do you think it's coming to Brazil? Because you always see "Come to Brazil" and a huge group comes. If you go there as a band, do you think there will be a crowd?

F: Oh, if you say, "a Dutch band is coming", people are going to go, because it's ~so~ eccentric for us; it's so new and rare.

K: Well, if we go, we are not taking the boat. We'll definitely take the train.

F: Let's go back to the energy subject we talked about! I have friends that have been to the same gigs I have seen you at; I saw you with Pom Poko at the Village Underground, and I also saw you at The Shacklewell Arms. My friends loved it because of the energy you guys emanate, but when they listened to the recorded material, they said it wasn't as energetic as before. Do you think it's a struggle to translate the energy live to the recorded material?

W: It's something I talk about with Casper van der Lans. I record all stuff with him and we mix it together. We talk about that quite a lot. We like building productions from small things and stack stuff on top of each other, because we like records that sound like that. I also like records that sound really loud, but for the record we recorded, I was quite happy with the result. It wasn't the band playing live, but maybe in the future it will be.

F: I've listened to the singles; I haven't listened to the new album quite yet because it didn't get sent to me (I looked at their manager, sitting next to us). But I listened to all the singles, and I compared them to *Gazebo*, your last EP, which I've listened to multiple times, and wow, I feel like you guys are finally starting to hit the nail on the head with the new production

style. It's way more encapsulating, I feel like I'm more in the mosh than before.

W: That's awesome! Thanks!

K: Last week Willem and Casper actually recorded a lot of stuff for album number 2.

F: Already?

K: You'll maybe like it; I was also very impressed by the step-up in production. It sounds really cool.

F: It's my favourite part of the band. The positivity and the strong energy. About the new album, is it going to be similar to *Gazebo*, which has a lot of day-to-day, down-to-earth metaphors that address both personal and political issues? Is *Big Love Blanket*, carrying on the torch or is it a different vibe?

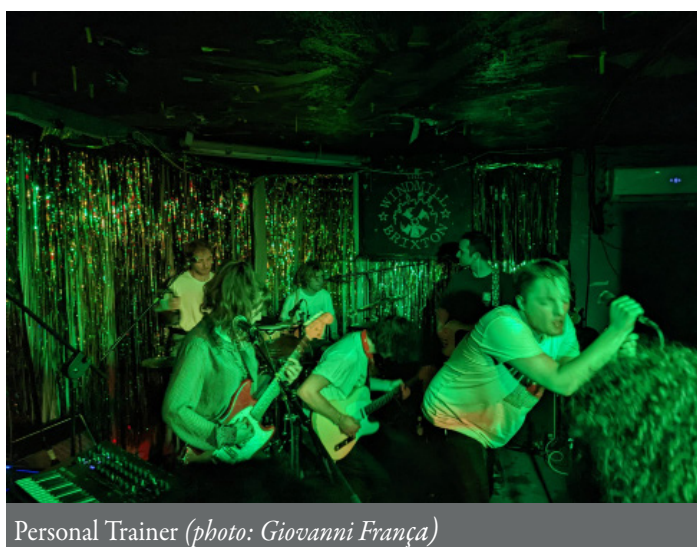
W: The words are mostly taking the piss, and we'll carry on doing that for now. I

want to change things up because I'm quite tired of the easy referencing of pop culture. It will probably change in the future, but I liked it for a while!

K: Me and Willem had a lot of conversations about this because it took me a long time to figure out that it's sort of possible to take the piss in lyrics and not take it too seriously, that things can mean anything. It's finally clicked with me, but it took a long time. Especially if you think about music, listen to music, or if you read books or watch films, you always want to know the meaning or what it's about, and the way Willem is like is, "sometimes I know what I want to say, but it's up



Personal Trainer (photo: Giovanni França)



Personal Trainer (photo: Giovanni França)

in the air, or I think it sounds cool". And I think it's cool that he still makes music that feels relatable but without the intention of it being relatable to a certain thing.

F: It's already hard to find your lyrics online! So it's hard to analyse what Willem is talking about.

K: I would love an elaborate Genius page on Personal Trainer, with all the lyrics and references. I used it for the new BC,NR album.

W: I quite like Genius, it's cool. You have a lot of fun

with things people think stuff is about and I get very emotional over it because I say, "that's not what it's about!". It's cool though, I like it.

K: Do we have a song on Genius?

F: I don't think so. I was looking today, but there are two Personal Trainers on there.

W: There's actually three in total! There is a band with 3 girls in it and they play garage rock music, and there's also this pop star called Personal Trainer, very eccentric with cool clothes. I was actually in contact with them and I suggested that we should do a show with the three of us once we go to the States.

K: Were they down with it?

W: They were probably like "Haha sure"...

F: Talking about Genius, if you could choose one song to perform in Genius Verified, what would you choose?

W: Maybe it's nice to tell people about the Vaalserberg, maybe people should know about the mountain.

F: Which song?

W: It's called '*Vaalserberg Hero*', it's on the record that is out tonight. It's not really about the mountain. Vaalserberg is the highest one in the Netherlands.

K: 323 metres high.

W: It's not very high. It would be nice for people to get that.

K: And there's kind of a metaphor in there.

W: I guess, yeah. Definitely.

F: How do you feel about finally playing at The Windmill now?

W: It's cool, they have a Jack Medley wall, which is cool. I once stayed at this guy's place in Brighton. It's really nice to have him here. He passed away a year and a half ago.

K: Playing here also feels a bit silly, people might think we might be cosplaying BC,NR because we have this one song with trumpets... Don't get me wrong, we love BC,NR, we played '*The Place Where He Inserted the Blade*' today in the car and we all sang along.

W: Except for Leon.

K: He'll get there. He's new.

F: He's new?

Both, in unison: Our new guitar player.

F: Final words! Why should people listen to *Big Love Blanket*?

K: I think it suits well to a lot of occasions.

W: It's good for studying.

K: It gives you much-needed energy. It's way better than drinking coffee at 10pm because you have an exam tomorrow. If you drink a coffee, you can't sleep and you get tired. It's nice to play a show without sleep as Willem said, but doing an exam without sleep is terrible! If it's 10pm and you still need to study... (What do you study?)

(F: I study materials... science...)

K: ... if you still need to study your materials science, it's great to put on 40 minutes of energetic but also soothing indie rock music!

Personal Trainer went to put on an amazing performance later that night, supported by the local band Home Counties, and by their compatriots from Pip Blom. Make sure to give a listen to *Big Love Blanket*,

Album Reviews

Man-Made Sunshine Release Self-Titled Debut EP

Man-Made Sunshine: The Brilliant Solo Project from Nothing But Thieves Frontman Conor Mason

Written by **Amy Smith** Music Writer

There are many kinds of music out there: songs that make you want to dance the night away under flashing lights, your guilty pleasures and your childhood throwbacks and then there are the melodic explorations that feel so honest that they leave a permanent mark. Man-Made Sunshine's debut EP falls into that last group.

The pandemic with its lockdowns and quarantines left many of us with the time to realise and reflect on our lives. In an Instagram post about his new solo project, Man-Made Sunshine aka Conor Mason, the lead singer of the popular indie-rock band Nothing But Thieves, describes this EP as a fruit of his own time reflection. Twirling in the realms of alt-indie, psych-pop and electronica, Man-Made Sunshine discusses and processes his "trapped emotions and unprocessed memories" through five songs. Though this EP stems from a heavy time in Mason's life, the EP doesn't feel weighed down. Instead, Man-Made Sunshine deals with healing, survival and, ultimately, strength and leaves the listener feeling lifted.

The EP's lead single, 'Big', has a pop-sounding exterior yet an incredibly dark subject matter, allowing for

a beautiful parallel between the two that Mason has balanced perfectly. On a first listen, this juxtaposition between the light and airy melodies and lyrics describing an incredibly tough time in the artist's life may be missed. The next track, 'Little Bird', feels like an ode to his inner child. Conor leaves a piece of himself in every line, melody, and element of this track. Building from a quiet conversation that eventually crescendos into a release that feels freeing and cathartic and, with Mason's magical yet raw vocals layered perfectly above an almost ethereal instrumental, the chorus' emotive power will give you goosebumps; 'Little Bird' has got to be one of his best vocal performances to date.



'Life's Gonna Kill You (If You Let It)' addresses friendship and learning self-love in a way that feels beautifully fragile with an intimate avant-garde sound. Delicate piano builds throughout the song

as Mason's soul-infused falsetto layers gently over the top, much like the kind voice of a friend. The track somehow feels familiar yet unlike anything done before. Uncovering themes of personal struggle and the strength to overcome them, Mason evokes a strong sense of solidarity and unity in his lyrics through the honesty he projects, creating a song that leans on a kind of hopeless feeling that, though dark, somehow as an aura of levity and balance.

The final track, 'Rosebud', acts as a sublime conclusion to the work. Sonically, Mason has created a sound entirely apart from the mighty rock style featured on endless Nothing But Thieves belters. Although the track begins largely with mellow and melodic piano, Mason utilises electronic manipulation of his vocals to build to a more intricate sound, merging indie and electronica effortlessly.

All in all, this is a great opening to Mason's solo career. He has created a singular EP showcasing his individuality and vast musical diversity. Whoever you are, whatever you are dealing with, at least one of these songs will resonate with you.

Felix Recommends

Tune in to IC Radio!

Written by **IC Radio**

Tune into IC Radio anywhere anytime on icradio.com and check out the whole range of shows available. If you want more Felix content try *The Felix Podcast!*

icradio.com



	Saturday 19/11	Sunday 20/11	Monday 21/11	Tuesday 22/11	Wednesday 23/11	Thursday 24/11	Friday 25/11
10:00	I Would Like Soup						
11:00							
12:00							The Felix Podcast
13:00		How to Drop Loose Game		Science at One			
14:00							
15:00							Hz Su Good
16:00							
17:00				Desert Island Discs			
18:00	The Rambling Man	Around the World in 80 Plays	Genre Junction	Pass the Aux	Nusach	ebb/flow	
19:00		Mellow Mondays	Weaponised Wax	Brown Noise	Track Swap	prinks with twinkles	
20:00	Chart Stoppers	Monday Spritz	Office Hour's Office Hour		Glo and Annav's Round	Loud Carriage	
21:00		Sophie's Choice	Head to the Music	I got it		Synergy	Unstructured
22:00				Fire in the Gooch			

BOOKS

Book Review

To The Lighthouse: My Favourite Novel of all Time

Edited by: ZANNA BUCKLAND

Mohammad Majlisi Books Writer

This past week marked, amongst other things, the inaugural anniversary of my personal mental breakdown, and thus brought back memories of grief and pain, as well as healing. This month marks Men's Health Awareness month. The reason I bring this up, is not to trauma-dump, but because without that breakdown, I wouldn't have read *To The Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf, a book that deals exclusively with grief, love, and – in its own way – healing, through the lens of male mental health.

Loosely autobiographical, the book has been described by Woolf as an elegy to her parents: Woolf's mother died when she was age 13, something which her father never recovered from. Other similar family tragedies continued to plague her life – half-sister Stella Duckworth died of illness in 1897, followed shortly by her father in 1904. This tragedy contributed to Woolf's mental illness, and the death of her mother would haunt Woolf throughout her life – and indeed this book – as Mrs. Ramsay's death plays a key role in the development of plot-lines and characters.

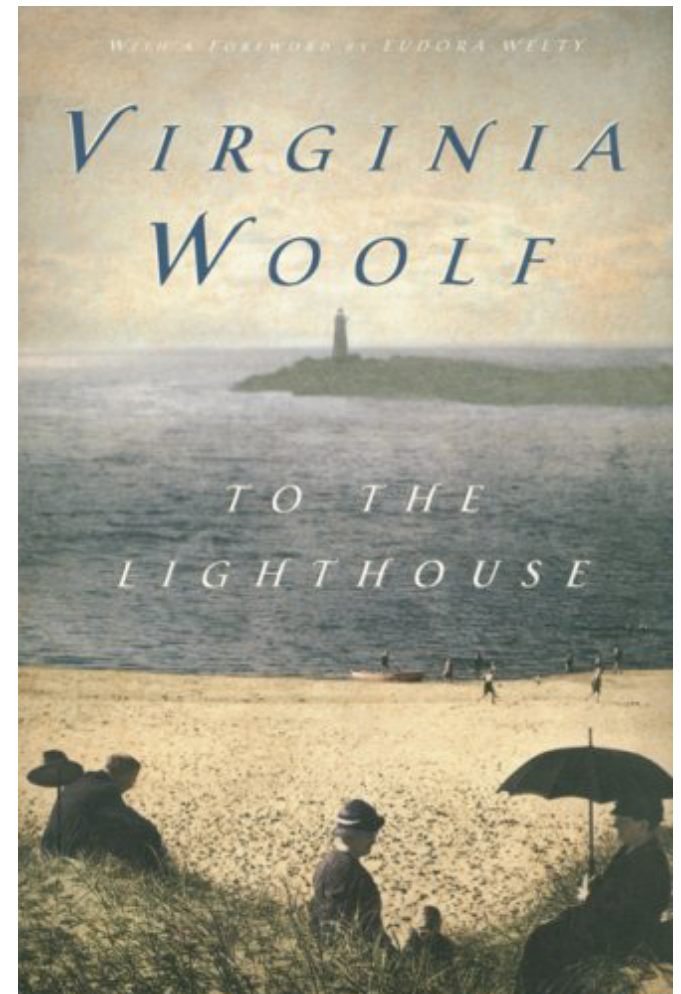
From a technical standpoint, the novel is dizzyingly beautiful. Woolf uses her sig-

nature stream-of-consciousness style to perfectly mimic the jollity and hustle and bustle of the Ramsay family and their colourful guests, throwing the reader perfectly into the midst of the novel, albeit taking me several rereads of the opening passages to fully acquaint myself with the large cast of characters. Once you settle

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FROM A TECHNICAL STANDPOINT, THE NOVEL IS DIZZYINGLY BEAUTIFUL

in however, you begin to appreciate the novel for what it is in its purest form: a labour of love. Through the stream-of-consciousness writing style and the omission of speech marks, one can fully appreciate the characters because their intentions, thoughts, and speech become one. By getting a much greater insight into the characters, the reader is able to get a better sense of their humanity – they feel like real tangible people who you genuinely care for.

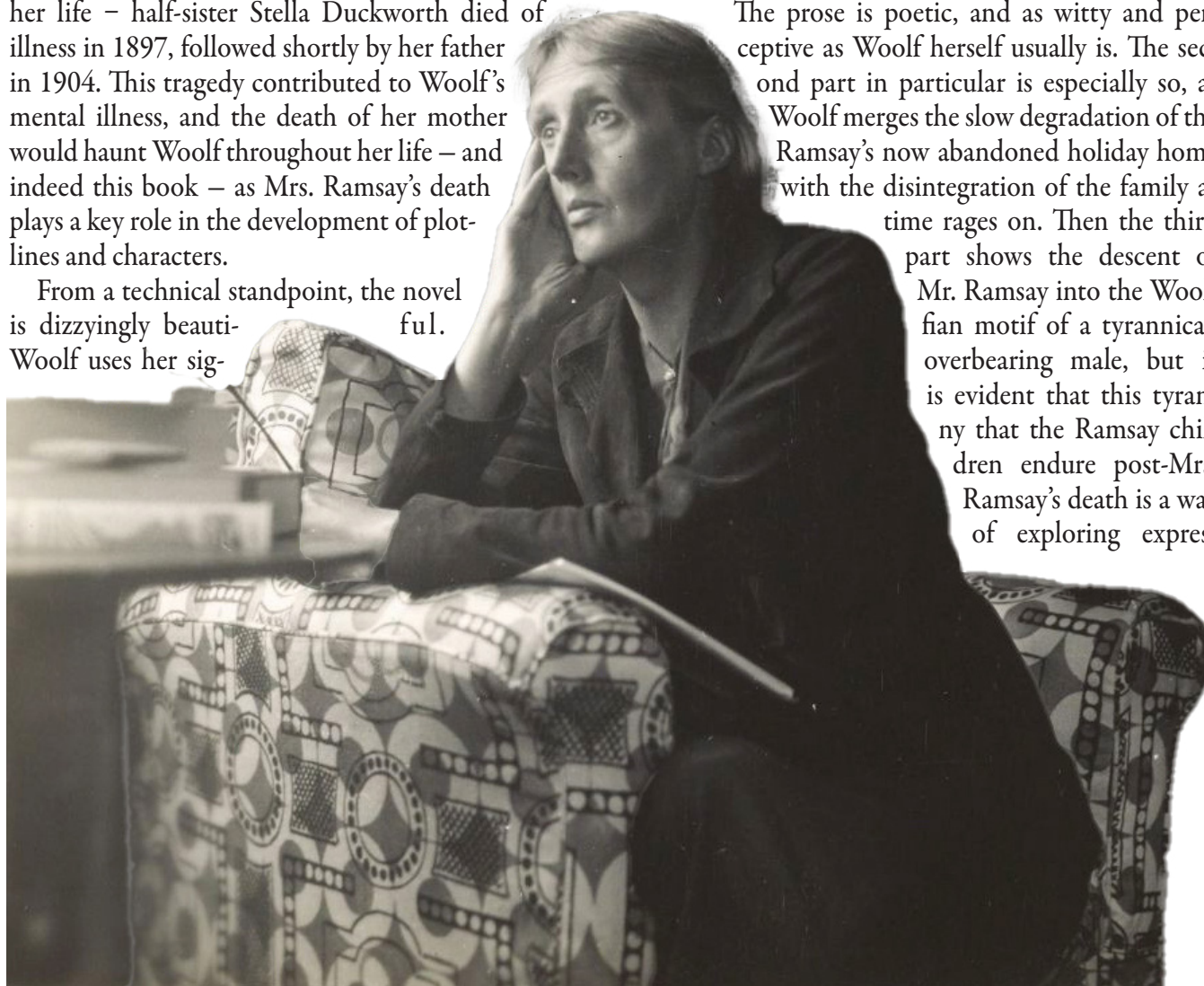
The prose is poetic, and as witty and perceptive as Woolf herself usually is. The second part in particular is especially so, as Woolf merges the slow degradation of the Ramsay's now abandoned holiday home with the disintegration of the family as time rages on. Then the third part shows the descent of Mr. Ramsay into the Woolfian motif of a tyrannical, overbearing male, but it is evident that this tyranny that the Ramsay children endure post-Mrs. Ramsay's death is a way of exploring expres-



sions of grief. Mr. Ramsay falls into that particularly male trap of repressing grief and masking it with anger, harming his children in the process. He desperately craves sympathy, without leaving space to allow himself to be vulnerable.

As someone who has been in Mr. Ramsay's position, it was uncomfortably insightful to see myself how others might have seen me at my worst. It's a testament to Woolf's genius and writing ability that she can penetrate the mind of a (typical) man and characterise him in such a nuanced way. This mastery is finally exhibited in the transformative effect that occurs whereby confronting the past, and the memories that lead to his trauma, rather than boxing it away deep within the confines of his mind, Mr. Ramsay isn't redeemed per se, but absolved of his past – he once again becomes a figure for his children to admire. Without proselytising too much, it's a pertinent parable for today.

And what I've portrayed here is only a fragment of the brilliance of *To The Lighthouse*; it's more than just a particular story of male mental health – this is only one aspect of the depth and richness of Woolf's novel. And that is why it's my favourite novel of all time.



Above: Virginia Woolf, author of *To the Lighthouse*. The book is influenced by her own life experiences. Photographer unknown.

INVESTMENT

FTX's Collapse Heaps More Challenges on Crypto



On Friday 11th November, it was announced that FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried would resign from CEO of the world's 3rd largest cryptocurrency exchange as it filed for bankruptcy.

Alexander Themistocleous

Investment Society Writer



FTX, which allowed customers to trade cryptocurrencies for assets such as other tokens or conventional money, was previously considered a core pillar of the industry, and its CEO Mr Bankman-Fried the 'King of Crypto' for both his huge influence and investment in the sector. The company's fall from grace was rapid: in January it raised \$400m from investors including Softbank at a valuation of \$32bn, now customers are wondering if they will ever retrieve the money they held with the platform.

The exchange's collapse started with a leaked balance sheet reported by crypto news website CoinDesk that reportedly showed another of Bankman-Fried's companies, a crypto trading firm named Alameda Research, was using FTX's own token as collateral. Just a few days later further accusations were made by the Wall Street Journal that FTX was lending customers' deposits to Alameda Research to fund 'risky bets' on the stock market. Following these rumours, Binance – the world's largest crypto exchange and FTX's main competitor – decided to publicly sell their entire stock of FTX-related tokens. The resulting run on the platform revealed a severe lack of liquid assets to cover customers' withdrawals, as it came to light that Alameda did indeed owe FTX as much as \$10bn but was unable to pay up. For comparison, the Financial Times reported that FTX needed approximately \$8bn to cover the liabilities.

Briefly, it appeared that FTX might be saved by its most fierce competitor, as Binance tentatively agreed a non-binding deal last Wednesday to acquire the struggling company. Just two days later they walked away, however, sighting legal issues and "mishandled customer funds".

FTX is yet another high-profile name to capitulate in the latest bite of the crypto winter. Bankman-Fried's other nickname, the 'White Knight of Crypto', came as he bailed out and bought two cryptocurrency lenders in

July earlier this year. Last week, it was his turn to search for salvation. Firms such as crypto hedge fund Three Arrows Capital and lender Celsius Network have also been high profile failures in 2022.

So, what does this really mean for the industry? First and foremost, it's yet another blow to confidence in the concept of cryptocurrency. Considering that such currencies rely entirely on the consumer's belief that they are worth something due to no intrinsic value, this confidence is precious and paramount to their success. Bitcoin prices ticked down in response to the news, trading around \$17,000 from \$63,800 a year ago. Solana, a blockchain technology heavily publicly supported by Bankman-Fried, has now seen a reduction in Total Value Locked (TVL, which can be thought of as value of all currencies 'held' on the blockchain) of \$700m since the original Nov. 2nd report by CoinDesk. Compared to its \$1bn TVL before the announcement, the drop far outweighs the negative performance of the digital currency market over the same period (-21.7%).

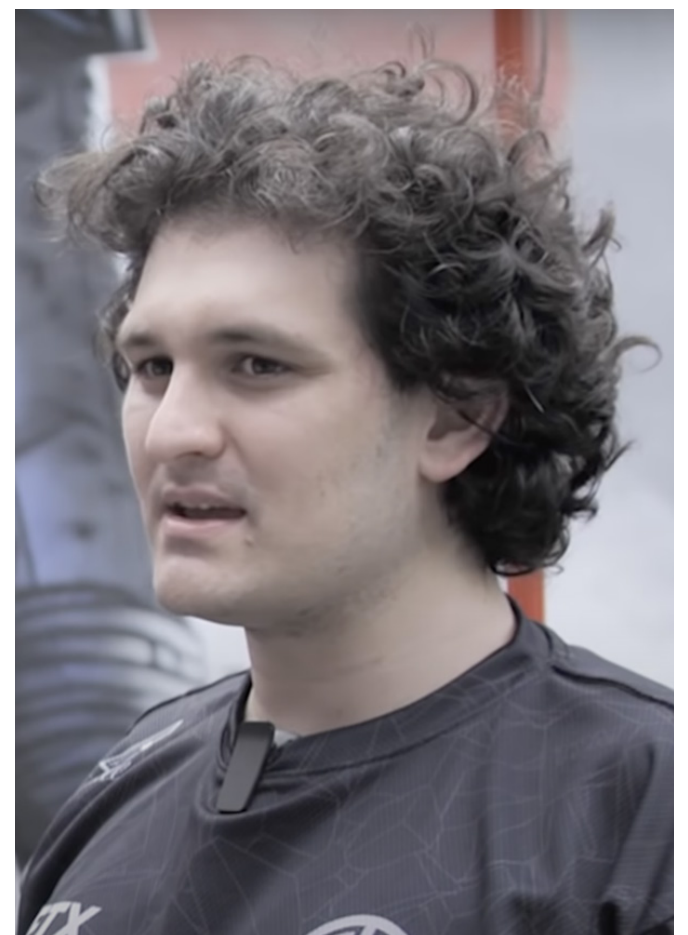
Other major exchanges are scrambling to assure customers that they will not be the next FTX, with Binance, Deribit, OKX, and crypto.com promising proof that their reserves are sufficient to match customer liabilities. Tether, a stablecoin pegged to the US dollar, has recently faced over \$3bn in customer conversions as traders pulled out of the digital currency market en masse. In policymaking, American politicians previously considering pushing laws encouraging decentralised finance will be reevaluating their options as lobbying associated with FTX inevitably dies down and the industry takes yet another big hit.

Amongst the chaotic events of the past week, perhaps less extensively covered is another of crypto's current shortcomings: on Friday evening, after the bankruptcy announcement, FTX was also hacked, the culprits getting away with assets valued at around \$500m. This is the latest in a myriad of cybercrime incidents that are plaguing the industry. Last month a Binance-affiliated blockchain bridge (which allows users to move currencies between different types of chain, e.g. Ether to Bitcoin) was hacked for \$570m worth of assets. Although the exchange managed to calm investors by freezing most of these, the hackers still managed to withdraw \$100m from the system, and the suspension raised another question: if a select group of people can freeze parts of the blockchain to stop withdrawals, is

crypto actually so decentralised after all?

Binance announced on Tuesday that it would start an industry recovery fund to help companies struggling with liquidity issues in the wake of FTX, but it stands to be seen just how far-reaching the implications of such a dramatic capitulation will be. For Bankman-Fried and his companies, it will stand to be seen if further action is taken with several potential legal cases on the cards.

It is not clear whether all the failures in the crypto space have been idiosyncratic as FTX's largely was, or if they are indeed following a downward trend of confidence in the system. In either case, the entire space has been shaken up and its future is being questioned. My advice: tread carefully.



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