

Union sees 14 abstentions but supports renaming Beit

Ameena Hassan Editor-in-Chief

Union Council met on Tuesday in the Union Dining Hall to take part in the last Ordinary Union Council Meeting of the 2022/23 Autumn Term.

The College's History Working Group published the History Group Report (HGR), which encouraged University Management Board (UMB) to rename the Huxley Building as the 'Abdus Salam-Thomas Huxley Building', retain the name of Beit Building, and use digital screens to contextualise the historical nuances around Alfred Beit and Thomas Huxley.

Union Council resolved to:

- mandate the Union President to lobby the College to rename the Beit Building,

- authorise a poll of all students on the renaming of the Beit Building if UMB take a long time to decide on a name

- mandate the Union President to conduct further research on alternative names if students decide to rename Beit

However, this paper saw up to 14

abstentions. One abstainer said: "Ultimately I decided that I can't represent our student body properly on this issue. I don't think some random white dude really has anything useful to add to the discussion, considering I'm not the one on the receiving end of the kind of negative beliefs about African people that Huxely held, regardless of any "historical context". Particularly, the only present council member of African/Carribbean descent was in favour of keeping the Huxely name. That was what made me realise I was out of my depth, and shift from a vote in favour of lobbying to rename the building to an abstention. It is a shame that Imperial's awful diversity is still present at council - 1 out of the 27 present members is hardly sufficient representation for a group that has suffered (and continues to suffer) so much from racism and racist views -



even at Imperial."

The Elections Review was concluded, and amendments to the ICU Major Elections Bye-Law were passed with a full consensus after some debate on disqualification procedure.

Dr Phil Power was re-appointed as Alumni Trustee for the next three years.

The Scrutiny Committee was set up as a result of the Democratic Structures Review in the last academic year, and presented its first report on the Officer Trustees. The Committee presented its first report, and asked OTs questions around their manifestos and stated goals.

Felix offers £400 Writing Prize for Environmental Issues and News

Ameena Hassan Editor-in-Chief

£400 will be awarded as a prize to a student author of an outstanding, inspiring and accessible article in Felix's Environment section. The Sophia Prize for Environmental Writing is being funded by Steven Gambardella, and will continue for the three academic years, until 2024/25.

The article must help tackle climate defeatism and covers, or conceives of, an economic, cultural, or scientific innovation that helps fight global warming.

Felix's Environment section publishes articles relating to environmental issues and news written by students, and is accepting submissions via email: Environment.Felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Any articles published between 1st August 2022 and 1st July 2023 will be considered by the Felix Editorial Board, a team made up of the Editor-in-Chief, Deputy Editor, Environment Editor, and other senior Felix contributors. The article does not necessarily have to have been published in the Environment section. The winner of the prize will be announced through Felix's Instagram

and social media channels.

Felix is pausing publishing during the rest of term as we prepare for the Winter Break, and will resume printing on 13th January 2023. However, Felix is still accepting contributions from writers during the break.

EDITORIAL

Rethink the names

Last month, Felix was asked, amongst other student-run newspapers, to express support for Harry's Law. The request was made by the student newspaper at the University of Exeter, Exeposé.

Harry's Law was created by the parents of Harry Armstrong Evans, an Exeter student who took their own life in June 2021. The coroners' report found that "the University of Exeter failed to uphold their safeguarding obligations, and missed opportunities to help Harry amidst a period of poor academic performance and an acute mental health crisis". Thus, the proposed law would require coroners' courts to inform universities when a student dies by suicide.

According to a Samaritans' website, deaths by suicide are always reported to the coroner, and they "will gather evidence and information to help them understand the circumstances leading to that suicide". This would involve getting in contact with the students' personal tutor, or a contact at their university.

The law would also require higher education institutions (mainly attended by young adults aged 18-24) to provide a duty of care, and for universities to annually publish the number and department of student suicides. Deceased people are not protected by data protection laws, and as such, their personal information can be shared by institutions.

Now, the intent of this law is to ensure that higher education institutions can be publicly held to

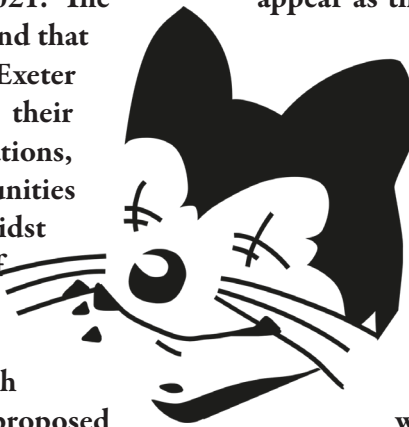
account over their actions surrounding student wellbeing. However, naming the law based on a person who experienced tragic circumstances is counter-productive. It draws on the emotional tie to a high-profile case, and anyone who speaks against it is automatically drawn up as callous. The law, no matter how thorough, will appear as the ramblings of an incited

crowd who must gather after a tragedy, and "get something done about this injustice".

Public outrage surrounding a tragedy tends to drive public support for a law, and a study found that respondents were 1.61 times more likely to "strongly support" a named law than an unnamed one.

Usually, the tragedy has been caused by a mix of unfortunate circumstances and actions, which were not addressed by current legislation. The law then aims to correct this by instituting a broad change that may not necessarily solve the root of the issue. Oftentimes, the proposed law may have the potential for more harm than good through unintended consequences. When it is eventually watered down to something that is reasonably enforceable, the proposers are undoubtedly unhappy, and take to the radio waves to express concerns that politicians and lawmakers "do not care" about the tragedy, using emotive language to further their argument instead of logical reasoning.

Of course, based on our editorial principles, Felix does not have a political stance, and as such will remain neutral regarding the law.



This issue was produced thanks to the work of

Jamie John	Deputy Editor
Sam Lovatt	Managing Editor
Angie Lo	Chief Science Editor
Taylor Pomfret	Science Editor
Jonah Hewett	Film Editor
Mike Buzadji	Film Editor
Isabella Ward	Copyeditor

And our numerous contributors



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

Felix Office
Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road
London, SW7 2BB

Tel: 020 79548072
Email: felix@ic.ac.uk

felixonline.co.uk
@feliximperial

Printed by Iliffe Media
Winship Road,
Milton, Cambridge
CB24 6PP

Registered Newspaper ISSN 1040-0711

Copyright (c) Felix 2020

Air pollution levels at South Kensington Station above WHO guidelines, study finds

Station above WHO guidelines, study finds

- ▶ *Air pollution at its worst during evening rush hour*
- ▶ *Researchers call for better ventilation and further research on health impacts*

Jamie John Deputy Editor-in-Chief

Air pollution levels at South Kensington Station were found to have exceeded air quality guidelines set by the World Health Organisation (WHO), according to a new study by a team including members from Imperial's Department of Materials. "Such high concentrations represent a health risk to the users and staff of the London Underground", they report.

Pollution levels were found to increase over the day, peaking at busy times, and were at their worst between 6pm and 9pm.

The researchers monitored the concentrations, sizes and chemical compositions of airborne particles on the east-bound Piccadilly line platform (Platform 4). They found that the station contained double the amount of coarse air pollution particles (PM_{2.5-10}) during operating hours,

compared with non-operating hours. The team suggested that such particles could find their way to the nose and upper parts of the lungs, where they could cause respiratory problems.

Particulate matter (PM) consists of microscopic solid particles in the air and is considered to be amongst the most harmful forms of air pollution.

"PM levels in the London underground system are much higher than in roadside environments", the paper says. "These higher levels of particle concentrations in London Underground stations are primarily influenced by ventilation settings, depth and age of the tunnels, and are highest in the deepest underground lines. The South Kensington tube station can be considered

a worst-case scenario of exposure given that it is one of the deepest and oldest underground train systems in the world."

The authors found that the smallest particles, which are 1/800th of the size of a human hair, could reach deeper regions of the lungs, crossing into the bloodstream and "contributing to adverse cardiovascular and respiratory responses".

"This is the first time the chemistry of the smallest particles, which can go deep into the lung and potentially damage cells, has been identified", said Professor Alex Porter, who led electron microscopy analysis of the particles at Imperial College London.

In light of their findings, the paper encourages the UK's Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to consider introducing separate lower exposure limits for smaller particles.

"The HSE limits refer to compounds found in air pollution, and not the specific form/mixture of the air pollution we measure", observed Professor Porter. "HSE guidelines are also for workplace exposure and not for the Underground tube environment."

The authors have stressed the need for further research on the health implications of their work. "In the meantime, we recommend that consideration is given to improving ventilation on the London Underground where possible", said Professor Prashant Kumar, study lead and Director of GCARE at the University of Surrey.

Professor Kumar accepted that "air pollution on platforms is a very complex problem to solve" and that "an effort is being made to clean the Underground during quieter periods". He pointed to the newly opened Elizabeth line, where



Image credit: Markus Freise

screens are placed between train and platform, as an "example of good practice".

In a statement to *Felix*, TfL said it is currently working with Imperial College London on a separate project to understand the health impacts of dust on London Underground workers.

"Safety is our top priority and we have been working for many years to reduce Tube dust and will continue to do so", said Lilli Matson, TfL's Chief Safety, Health & Environment Officer. "Our monitoring has shown that dust levels on the Tube remain well below limits set by the Health and Safety Executive, but we are going further and have developed a num-

ber of innovative new cleaning regimes."

"This includes the use of industrial backpack dust cleaners, which are one part of our multi-million-pound Tube cleaning programme."

"We are working with the authors to review the results of their study and to ensure we fully understand them and how to further reduce the levels further."

TfL also noted that "Travel on the London Underground provides a reduction in exposure to harmful surface traffic pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide and diesel exhaust emissions, which are not produced inside the Underground network."

How relevant are the UK HSE's limits?

In her response to the research, TfL's safety chief said: "Dust levels on the Tube remain well below limits set by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)."

In separate, unrelated comments to *Felix*, Professor Porter, a co-author of the journal paper stated that HSE guidelines are not actually for the Underground: "HSE guidelines are for workplace exposure and not for the Underground tube environment."

Felix contacted TfL to ask how the HSE limits are relevant to the Underground, and received the following reply:

"The HSE limits are a legal requirement for us to comply with and London Underground is well within those limits. DEFRA environmental air quality limits are set for the ambient environment (EU and WHO limits in the same fashion) and are targets/guidelines without any specific legal liability for compliance. We also work on the principle that HSE limits are set for people working for prolonged periods in these environments, whereas our customers are generally passing through."

Open Letter: To the Imperial College Chemical Engineering Department and Society,



Sign the open letter here

This summer saw unprecedented heat waves and droughts in Europe, both made more probable by climate change. During this time, 53,000 excess deaths were recorded. The recent devastating floods in Pakistan were also made more likely and severe by human induced climate change by just the current levels of warming. The International Energy Agency (IEA) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are unanimous in calling for an end to investments in all fossil fuels if we wish to have a 50/50 chance of staying below 1.5 degrees, while a recent report by the UN Environment Program said there is “no credible pathway to 1.5C”.

Meanwhile, major oil and gas companies are continuing with projects which would put us well past 1.5 degrees. This is unsurprising, given that these same companies have fought decades long campaigns against climate action¹ despite knowing about the risks to civilisation.

It is in this context that the Imperial College Chemical Engineering Department and Society continue their relationship with oil and gas companies, in particular BP, Shell and Exxon. These companies are prominently featured in career’s talks, such as the ones disrupted by Imperial Climate Action at the beginning of this year. They also sponsor many activities, including the talent show, Frank Morton’s and the BP book prize. The society itself received £66,500 from Shell, BP and Exxon in the last 10 years².

This cosy relationship serves to discourage radical but absolutely vital action to fight climate change. Even if many alumni do not go into the oil and gas sector, we unjustifiably moderate our stance to rationalise being friends with those who do if we do not cut ties completely. We force ourselves to believe the industry’s false narrative that they are key players in the energy transition, despite companies in this sector having clearly acted in bad faith and continuing to do so. This relationship to the industry also means that many of us will stop short of signing this open letter for fear of upsetting our professional and personal relationships.

When members of Imperial Climate Action recently confronted staff and society responsible for this issue, it resulted in depressing but unfortunately very typical responses³:

“We can’t switch off oil overnight.”

“The government / university should take action, not us.”

“The society / department / university would suffer greatly without funding from oil and gas.”

“Do you want society to go back 200 years?”

and the classic: “You know your clothes are made of oil?”

It is amazing to behold this denial of responsibility and dearth of imagination from staff and students at a university which prizes initiative and innovation.

Given this, we at Imperial Climate Action and the undersigned request the following changes at the Chemical Engineering Department and Society:

- An end to all sponsorship of, and participation in, activities by oil and gas companies.
- An end to advertising of scholarships from oil and gas companies.
- Introduce a department-wide policy of only welcoming companies which are in line with the Paris Agreement.
- A greater focus on ethics within the curriculum that goes beyond the Business Ethics for Engineers course in the second year.
- A greater focus on the climate and ecological crises within the curriculum that encompasses their social and political as well as their technical dimensions.

We propose to hold a meeting between Imperial Climate Action, signees of this letter and staff members to discuss these proposals online and open to anyone who may be interested.

To that end, this letter will be sent to relevant staff members if it obtains **50 signatures from students, staff or alumni affiliated to the department**. We believe these are the people who can best apply pressure and enact change within the department and society.

Imperial regularly teaches us to strive for excellence, develop critical thinking and benefit society through its research and education. Meanwhile, the Chemical Engineering Department and Society’s relationship with oil and gas companies confines excellence to “being good at maths”, stifles thought critical of the fossil fuel industry and serves to delay the climate action urgently required for civilisation to survive this century. **We can do better.**

This open letter was written by Chemical Engineering alumni Sebastian Gonzato (graduated 2018) in the name of Imperial Climate Action, and has been signed by.

¹ See for example #ExxonKnew, oil and gas advertisements over the years and the recent US Committee on Oversight and Reform hearings.

² This calculation was done by members of Imperial Climate Action based off of figures from Student Union accounts. This level of sponsorship at Imperial from oil and gas companies is unsurprisingly not limited to the Chemical Engineering Society.

³ Some of these responses are, ironically enough, the focus of an article coming from Imperial’s Centre for Environmental Policy.

SCIENCE

Edited by: ANGIE LO
TAYLOR POMFRET

Imperial start-up wins £1 million Earthshot Prize

► *Development of a startup featuring seaweed-based plastic alternatives lands Imperial graduates Pierre Paslier and Rodrigo Garcia the 2022 Earthshot Prize*

Taylor Pomfret Science Editor

Among one of five Earthshot Prize Winners recognised at the ceremony hosted in Boston on 2nd December, Imperial graduates Pierre Paslier and Rodrigo Garcia, founders of the startup Notpla, picked up their award in the Earthshot category “Build a waste-free world”. This category focuses on efforts to eliminate food waste and single-use packaging, and recognises those who are inspiring a new generation of people, companies, and industries to reuse, repurpose and recycle plastic.

Globally to date, there are about 8.3 billion tons of plastic in the world. Some 6.3 billion tons makes up untreated plastic waste currently littering our streets and fills our seas (equivalent to 75.9% of total plastic waste). In a recent modelling study by ecologists at the University of Toronto, by 2030 the quantity of plastic that exists in our seas is expected to surpass 53 million tons. However Notpla believe that in our seas also lies the solution to the plastic packaging problem.

The innovation behind Notpla’s winning idea stems from using seaweed and plants as an alternative to plastics. Notpla’s plastic products are made entirely of brown seaweed. Notpla source their seaweed at the Câr-y-Môr seaweed farm based on the coast of Wales in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. The farm is committed to be the first commercial seaweed and shellfish farm in Wales. On average, seaweed crops (such as Kelp) grow up to one metre per day. They do not compete with food crops, nor do they require fresh water or fertiliser. Seaweed can also play a role

in mitigating the effects of climate change, as it actively sequesters CO₂, which leads to the deacidification of our oceans. Oceans act as a carbon sink, actively taking in nearly 130 billion tons of CO₂ each year. Through photosynthesis, seaweed converts CO₂ dissolved in our oceans, coupled with sunlight; and returns organic matter and oxygen. This cycle can absorb carbon at rates up to 50 times greater than land-based forestry. As it grows, nearly 50% of the seaweed breaks off, with most of it drifting out to sea. This material sinks, and most of the carbon stored in that biomass is permanently sequestered in sediments on the bottom of the ocean. When CO₂ in the atmosphere dissolves directly into the seawater, the pH of the ocean is lowered and is thus more acidic. The micro-algae that absorb and soak up CO₂ during the day thereby increase the pH of seawater and thus reverse the process of acidification locally. Notpla’s seaweed farms not only posit a commercial benefit, but also have an environmental purpose by improving water quality, supplying food and habitat for marine life, and by acting as a natural barrier against erosion.

Notpla have embedded seaweed into a wide range of products. Their most recent product, Notpla Coating, has been implemented into fully biodegradable seaweed pulp food containers. Notpla Coating has many of the same grease and water-resistant properties of typical

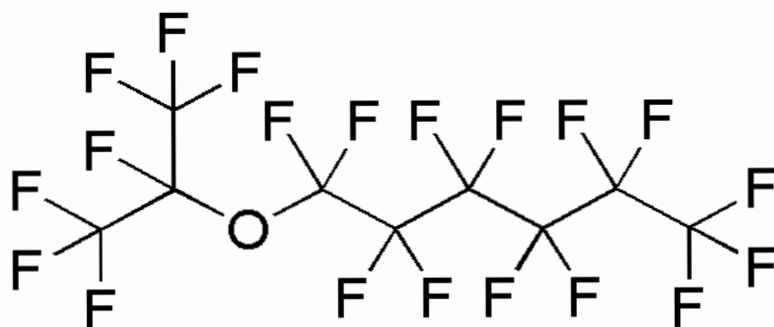
coatings in takeaway food packaging, except it’s made from seaweed – not plastic. Traditional plastic coatings contain perfluoroalkoxy alkanes (PFAs), which are known to bioaccumulate in humans and contribute to a range of possible cancers. Notpla’s alternative has been designed to biodegrade naturally in just 29 days. The coating can be recycled or thrown into home compost, leaving no harmful traces behind in the environment. This year, Notpla has made over a million takeaway food containers using Notpla Coating for the delivery platform Just Eat, strengthening their pre-existing relationship with the firm. This relationship began with a pilot of seaweed-based sauce sachets made by Notpla and distributed to a variety of Just Eat restaurants. The pilot prevented more than 46,000 plastic-ketchup sachets from entering landfill.

Other products from Notpla’s range include Notpla Ooho, an edible bubble designed to replace single-use plastic packaging for liquids and was used during the 2019 London Marathon where over 36,000 edible capsules were filled with Lucozade and handed out to runners; Notpla Paper, which extracts the fibres and biomass



Kelp, a type of seaweed

Credit: Wikimedia Commons



Chemical structure of Perfluoro-1-isopropoxyhexane (PFA) – used in traditional plastic coatings for food containers. Often referred to as “forever chemicals”.

Credit: Wikimedia Commons

from the gelatinous part of seaweed and turns it into paper; and Notpla Pearls, which also aims to replace single-use plastic packaging for liquids within the cosmetics industry.

Founder of the Earthshot Prize, Prince William, said to attendees that Earthshot winners “prove we can overcome our planet’s greatest challenge”.

ETHOS[®] Competition



ETHOS are calling on Imperial students to propose a solution to the problem of mental health on their university campus

The winner will receive:



ONE YEAR'S TUITION FEES

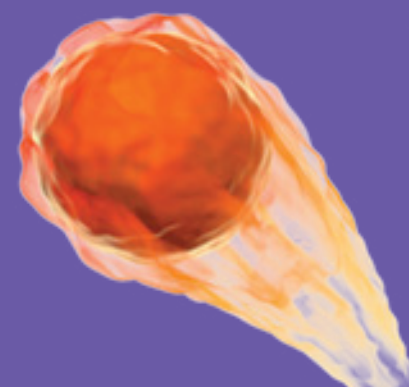


£9250



Applications now open!

Scan QR code to apply



PUZZLES

Easy Sudoku*

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

Normal Sudoku*

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

Difficult Sudoku

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

CRYPTIC Crossword Grid

1		2				3		4		5		6		7
8				9								10		
11		12				13			14					
				15										
16												17		
												18		
19					20					21				22
				23				24						
25										26				
27				28										29
30										31				

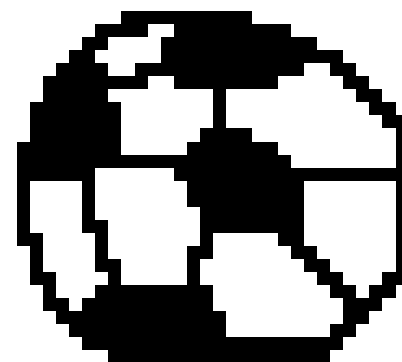
CRYPTIC Crossword Clues

Across

- 1) Giving assistance at the buffet. [7]
- 4) Road travelled by the smoker? [7]
- 8) Brush clipper going round an island in eastern sea. [4 7]
- 10) He has fallen halfway. [3]
- 11) Plentiful lepton and up quark combinations. [7]
- 14) Spots a gorgeous view. [7]
- 15) Realised it has been back-to-front. [3]
- 16) He first captioned the recorder. [10]
- 17) Pirate I sent in 135-degree bearing. [4]
- 19) Foolish nimrod getting out in campus housing. [4]
- 20) Injury requires moving tubes to bed. [7 3]
- 24) Fault in Beirut. [3]
- 25) Enforces the bad habits of that lab seen around. [7]
- 26) "Mobilized wit breaks a gun!", as said by those who are like this? [4-3]
- 27) Letters returned by the tabloid. [3]
- 28) Hip support fired and cast, then added to the large pile. [7 4]
- 30) Give lumbar support to settle debt. [3 4]
- 31) Oppression experienced by woman who went to upstate New York. [7]

Down

- 1) Load hip fracture with such cells. [7]
- 2) Funny little pill for bad attitude. [3]
- 3) Highwater skater turns out to be a much bigger fish. [5 5 5]
- 4) Dating app (double act). [5 3 7]
- 5) Strange filed and cut gem. [6]
- 6) Victoria's bottom? [11]
- 7) The river winds round the negative axes I've removed. [7]
- 9) You might call this emperor a chicken. [6]
- 12) The unity trance might have been an error. [11]
- 13) God up for a snooze. [3]
- 18) Checked stuffed animal surgeon. [6]
- 19) Put on jacket potatoes around about the end of dinner time. [5 2]
- 21) Rabbit food? [3]
- 22) Hearth lying in the middle of the world. [7]
- 23) How the northerner said "she'll tell me how to get to Juneau"! [6]
- 29) He's in a pickle. [3]



Points

Easy, Normal, Difficult sudokus	2, 3, 4 pts each
Nonogram	3 pts
Cryptic, regular crosswords	5, 3 pts

Puzzles Notices

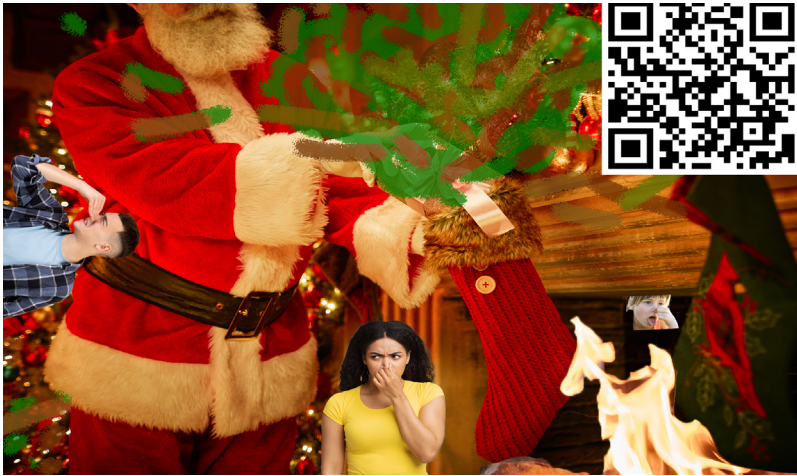
Special thanks to Stanley Scott, for the crosswords. Happy Holidays, we're treating you to two pages.

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

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

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

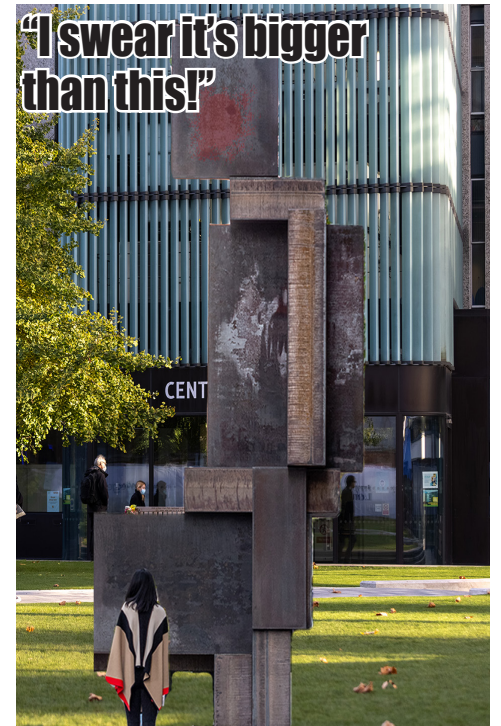
NegaFelix's Winter Predictions



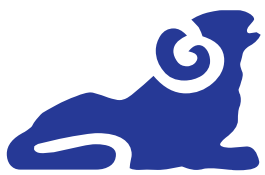
Santa runs out of coal so fills your stocking with 'natural gas'.



To boost morale amongst soldiers, comrade Putin decides to take on the iceberg.

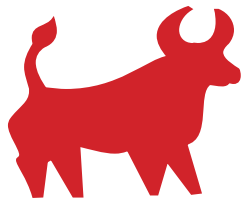


Instead of cookies and carrots, you give Santa anti-depressants. He just wants a hug.



ARIES

This week the seasonal depression you get whilst walking home in the dark is interrupted by a mugging.



TAURUS

This week you embarrass yourself on the District line by taking the doctor's instructions to pee in a tube too literally.



GEMINI

This week you bring the woke back into your course by differentiating your equation with respect to women.



CANCER

This week you make a faux pas when a grieving widow describes the time after her husband's death as "intense" and you reply "like Glastonbury".



LEO

This week you fail your coursework on Global Porpoise Populations due to "lack of referencing" even though you were sure you'd included cetaceans.



VIRGO

This week you join wind band but find it too smelly.



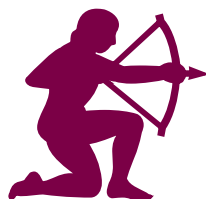
LIBRA

This week you join big band only to be disappointed that they are all normal size.



SCORPIO

This week you are asked to pay 10p (each!) for a wooden fork and spoon in the JCR. You refuse.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you miss the England-France game, so you wait for the action replay from a tapestry company in Bayeaux.



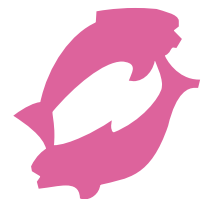
CAPRICORN

This week you sell a kidney to fund your date in Winter Wonderland.



AQUARIUS

This week your environmentally conscious flatmate refuses to have a Christmas tree, so you burn the one you bought.



PISCES

This week you fear the second Cod War has begun, after fighting in Tesco for the last packet of fish fingers.

LIBERATION &
COMMUNITY
NETWORKS

ACTIVITIES
CENTRE

CSP
**CULTURE
REVIEW**

Community & Welfare Forum

13 December 2022

18:00 - 20:00

📍 Union Building - MR5

Come give us your views on culture within clubs and societies, and how the Union can help empower student leaders to create inclusive communities.

Refreshments will be provided

imperial
college
union



POLARIS

A fellowship for the underestimated

We give you **freedom, resources, and privacy** to pursue your interests, **no matter where they take you.**

You will join a cohort of 25 smart, earnest and high-expectation individuals wanting to take on **big, meaningful problems.**

10 years of backing individuals **before they have a track record** has taught us to take you and **your potential seriously.**

We are comfortable being the first who do.



Polaris is run by Entrepreneur First

◆ **Late applications open** ◆



Find out more at polaris-fellowship.com

FILM

Film Recommendations

Christmas Collection 2022

Mike Buzadji Film Writer

The holiday season is coming and, no matter what your taste is, everyone has their go-to Christmas film. Rather than risking sparking up a fierce debate on the classics, I've decided to introduce you to a few titles that are out this year. Who knows, maybe one of these will make it into your top Christmas film list.

Violent Night

Everyone loves a good action film at Christmas; the "Die Hard for Christmas" debate didn't appear out of nowhere. And even better than an action film is a Christmas action film. Santa knows whether you've been naughty or nice, and "Violent Night" explores how Santa goes about punishing the latter. Apparently, he will deliver lumps of coal to the bad guys "... and shove it up their a**" - you don't want to miss it. Watch this Universal Pictures title in theatres from December 2.



Falling for Christmas

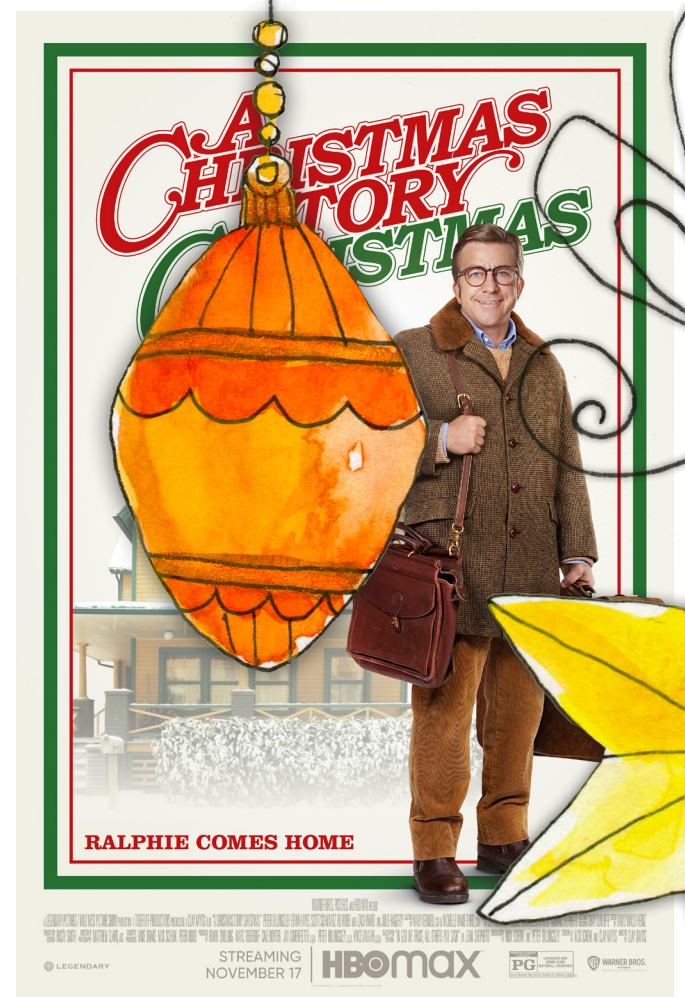
No Christmas film watchlist is complete without is a cheesy romcom. This one is truly terrible and we love it. A rich, privileged girl loses her memory after falling off a steep ledge. Guess what could happen after she's rescued by a hot local dad (who's single by the way).

Netflix never disappoints with a cringeworthy Christmas film and this one will make you laugh at its absurdity. Don't expect high production quality but, to be honest, Lindsay Lohan's comeback should be a good enough reason to watch "Falling for Christmas". Invite friends over to watch it on Netflix from November 10.



A Christmas Story Christmas

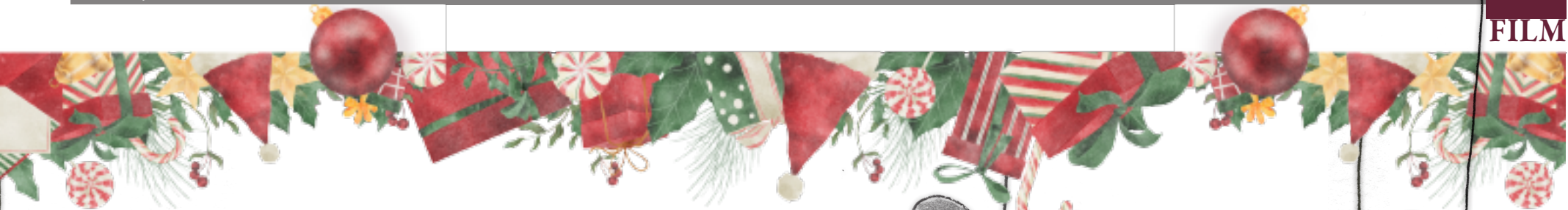
In a year of remakes, sequels and other (often unnecessary) takes on our favourite stories, Christmas movies were never going to remain untouched. In this case, that's no bad thing. If any of you are aware of Christmas iconic 1983 film "A Christmas Story", continue reading - others go watch it first. Its sequel back in 2012 wasn't successful, so fans of the original were surprised when it was announced another one coming this year. "A Christmas Story Christmas" follows Ralphie Parker, the al-grown-up child from the original movie, as he tries to make the perfect Christmas for his family. He reconnects with childhood friends and deals with the passing of his Dad. The film starts slow, but stick with it and you will be won over. Even for those unfamiliar with the original story, this film is a great title to watch with family, bring nostalgia to your older relatives and awaken Christmas spirit for everyone.



The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special

Who doesn't look forward to the Christmas specials, where a holidays spin is put onto our favourite TV shows? James Gunn is taking a similar approach with his "The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special". Take the usual Guardians of the Galaxy team and put them into a Christmas story, where they will do anything to help their leader experience Christmas again. At 44 minutes long, the special makes for a fun, cosy and lightweight watch. Even more, I'm sure not just Marvel fans will appreciate when Kevin Bacon, the legend himself, makes an appearance. Released on Disney+ November 25.





Edited by: JONAH HEWETT
MIKE BUZADJI

Spirited

There is an abundance of adaptations of Dickens' classic morality tale "A Christmas Carol" - in this article we will even talk about two of them. So what makes "Spirited" stand out? Although a classic redemption arc is destined for Ryan Reynolds' character, and Will Ferrell is there to help him (what a duo), the film is self-aware and makes fun of this. Don't treat it too seriously and you will find your spirit uplifted by this musical adventure. Available on Apple TV+ November 18.

Academy Award® winner Leslie Bricusse OBE, Scrooge: A Christmas Carol is one for a new generation to sing. Watch on Netflix from December 2.

surprise each other. They pass by each other, unaware that they have both not only swapped trains, but Christmases too. Will they find each other? Will their love survive the Christmas? This warm holiday film has all the essentials. On Amazon Prime December 2.

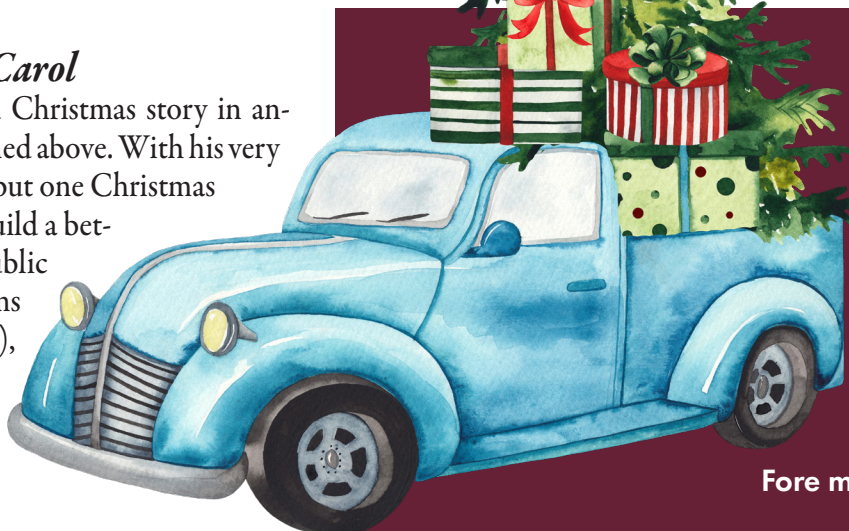


Your Christmas or Mine?

We all need love, so here's one more romance film for you. Students Hayley and James are young and in love. What can go wrong? After saying goodbye for Christmas at a London train station, they both make the same mad split-second decision to swap trains and

Scrooge: A Christmas Carol

Netflix presents an animated Christmas story in another take on the tale mentioned above. With his very soul on the line, Scrooge has but one Christmas Eve left to face his past and build a better future. Although the public didn't receive it with open arms (reviews are rather negative), you and your family should still give it a try. Featuring re-imagined songs from the legendary and two-time



Felix Wants You



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

FILM

New Film Release

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever

A True Love Letter to Both Chadwick Boseman and the Character of T'Challa

Director: Ryan Coogler

Starring: Letitia Wright, Danai Gurira
Lupita Nyong'o, et al.

Release: 11th November 2022

Caleb Eferakorho FilmSoc Writer

"It's fun to watch what it means to people... in my head, I will be like, 'What does it do for the world? Is it actually valuable in this climate?' and I have to say yes, it actually is, not because it makes people escape... I think when it's done right, it gives people hope. I found that it means a lot."

- Chadwick Boseman on the film Black Panther

The impact the first Black Panther had was insurmountable, as it was the first high-budget superhero film with a majority black cast, black director, and black writer—an absolute milestone in the film industry. African culture was celebrated, and black communities around the world got to see black superheroes dominate popular culture, allowing people to see themselves in the characters. Black Panther also explored tough themes such as the African diaspora, race, and identity. Chadwick Boseman added: "There was a time where people would ask me questions about whether an audience could sit

through a movie with a lead character that spoke with that accent... so I became adamant about the fact that it's not true." This film dominated the box office and broke the preconceived notion that Hollywood films couldn't thrive with a majority black or non-white cast.

“

BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER IS A POWERFUL, BREATH-TAKING TRIBUTE. THE STORYLINE, MUSIC, AND ACTING ARE EXCEPTIONAL, WITH ANGELA BASSETT DELIVERING AN INCREDIBLE PERFORMANCE. ONE OF THE BEST MCU MOVIES.

- Marcello Mastronardi
Biochemistry student

On August 28th, 2020, the whole world was deeply saddened by and shocked to hear of the passing of Chadwick Boseman. Boseman consistently received the highest praise from his co-stars for all his work from 42 to Black Panther to 21 bridges, but he was not only a superhero in film, but also in real life, championing the need for representation within the film industry as well as supporting cancer organizations. In retrospect, a newfound appreciation for the film arises when you know Chadwick was battling cancer whilst still working to produce the film; he fought through the pain and poured every ounce of himself into the film. He was a real-life superhero.

Ryan Coogler and the team had to say farewell not only to T'Challa, but to the actor behind him, who meant so much to the cast and crew.

The movie has a stellar cast - T Letitia Wright, Danai Gurira, Lupita Nyong'o, Angela Bassett and Winston Duke return. - but what elevates this film is the emotion they show. The pain they feel after T'Challa's death almost feels too real for a fictional film. Perhaps what we see is more than just acting - perhaps they are mourning the losses of T'Challa and Chadwick on-screen.

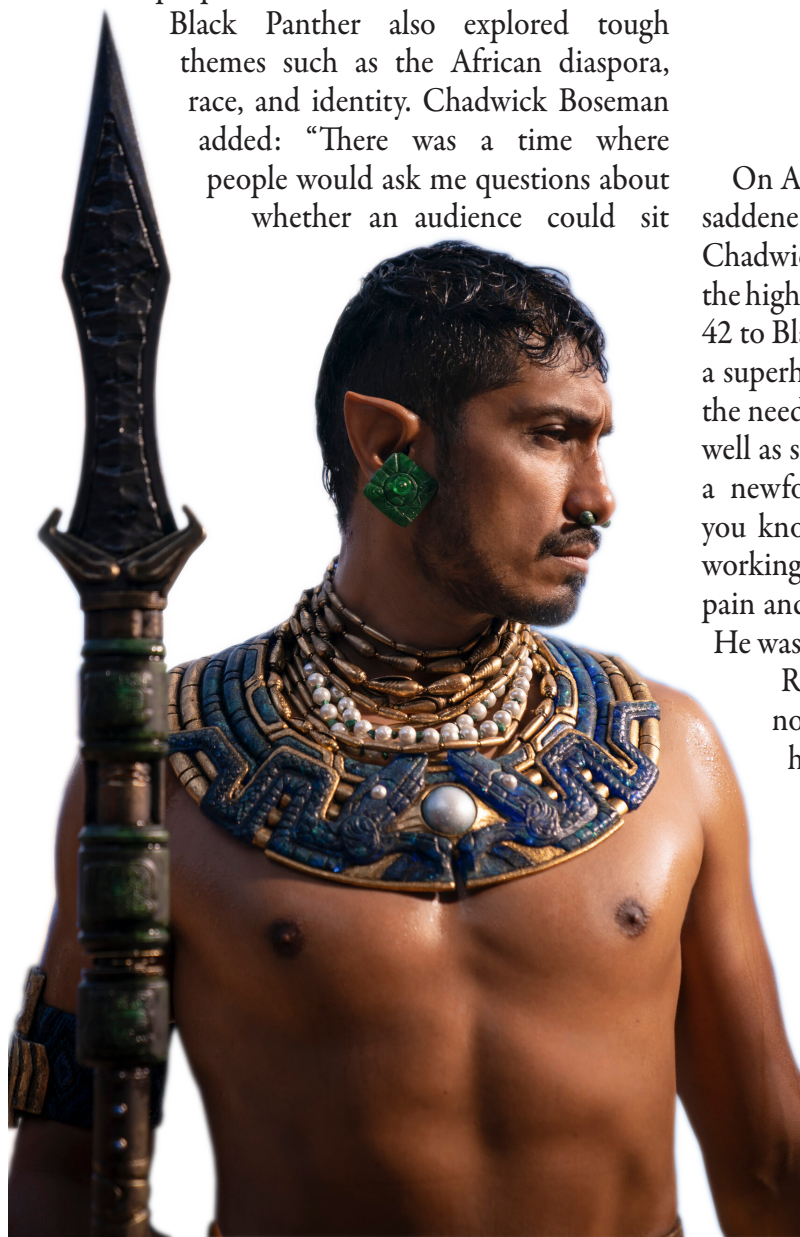
Costume designer Ruth E. Carter, director Ryan Coogler, and co-writer Joe Robert Cole return. New characters

join the cast, including Tenoch Huerta as Namor, Mabel Cadena as Namora, Alex Livinalli as Attuma, Michaela Coel as Aneka, and Dominique Thorne as Riri Williams.

Near the start of the film, throughout T'Challa's funeral procession, you feel the emotional weight of this scene weighing you down as you see the tears flow down the cast's faces; it feels deeper as you know those are real tears of mourning. With the film being almost 3 hours long, the writers give time for the characters to handle their grief, from questioning faith and religion to questioning their own abilities. Letitia Wright and Angela Bassett are phenomenal in this film and really make you hang on every word they say as they learn to deal with the loss of a son and a brother. Shuri (Letitia Wright) questions her own abilities as her mother enquires about her efforts to restore the heart-shaped herb (which grants the power of the black panther), and she wonders why Bast would bestow abilities on her that she could not use to save her brother. Those moments are truly powerful, and the film remains well-paced.

After a time-jump, Queen Ramonda (Angela Bassett) addresses the UN, as it is discovered that certain countries are trying to retrieve vibranium from outside Wakanda. This leads to Wakanda seeing these member states as a threat. From those scenes alone, this film builds on what T'Challa was worried about in the first film; the worries of neo-colonialism as other countries try to source vibranium, a tale as old as time itself. This shows that the actions in the first film do have consequences, and it causes the audience to debate with themselves as to whether T'Challa should have kept the power of vibranium and Wakanda a secret, especially with the events that follow in the film. The dramatic and phenomenal score by Ludwig Göransson, as well as music from other artists, and ushers the audience back into the world of Wakanda.

As a result of the member states' attempts to obtain vibranium, we are introduced to Namor (Tenoch Huerta), the leader of Talokan (Tlālōcān), an underwater Aztec civilization overseen by the Rain God, Tlāloc. Namor, also known as the Feather Serpent God, sees this as a threat to his civilization and wants Wakanda to act, or they will face annihilation by his hands. Tenoch Huerta's portrayal of Namor is remarkable; he is charming, yet sinister, with his drawn-out and soft-spoken threats.



Apart from African culture, *Black Panther 2* also celebrates Mesoamerican culture, including the stellar featherhead dresses designed by Ruth E. Carter. She stated: “We worked with historians who were experts on [Mayan] culture to learn about what part of the

“

BLACK PANTHER 2 PROVIDES A HEARTFELT TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CHADWICK BOSEMAN WHILST ALSO DEALING WITH THE GRIEF AND SOLIDARITY OF A NATION LEFT WITHOUT A LEADER. BY FAR ONE OF THE BEST PROJECTS TO COME OUT OF THE MCU'S 4TH PHASE.

- Josh Han
Medicine student

trajectory of the ancient Mesoamerican area we would draw from.” Tenoch Huerta added: “When they decide to give this background to Namor, this new background — Mesoamerican culture, especially Mayan culture — I think they nailed it. Because it’s the right moment to do it in a way. It’s important for many people, especially kids. It’s a way to say, ‘Eh, there’s nothing wrong with you. You should be proud of who you are.’” When a popular studio, such as Marvel, highlights different cultures that have been misrepresented or underrepresented by mainstream media, it shows that not only does representation matter, but also how people are represented matters too.

Riri Williams (played wonderfully by Dominique Thorne) is thrust into the mix as Tlālōcān and Wakanda both assert power to protect their people. Wakanda and Tlālōcān parallel each other in many ways, because they are both largely hidden from the rest of the world and, more importantly, they both want what is best for their people. Both civilizations are fuelled by their love for their people and will do whatever it takes to protect them from harm. However, they have very different perceptions of what it means to serve and protect the people they love, and this nuance makes for a complicated yet compelling, emotionally charged story.

The war between the two civilizations leads to the first family of Wakanda being put in danger, leading to what is undoubtedly one of the best scenes in film history and the MCU. The scene is between Okoye (Danai Gurira) and Queen Ramonda, where Okoye’s leadership is questioned, and tensions reach an all-time high. Angela Bassett and Danai Gurira deliver a tour de force in acting; Angela Bassett is long overdue for an Oscar and truly deserves one for this scene alone.

The scene is both heartbreaking and reflective on both sides, as you hear the pain and grief in Ramonda and Okoye’s voice as they address each other. The lack

of music as we watch the characters fight to keep Wakanda and their families safe, makes for a scene that is all the more painful and emotional to watch.

The emotional stakes are heightened after another tragedy strikes. The grief and anger that Shuri feels fuels her actions in the final act and leads to an amazing action-packed showdown between the two civilizations. Amidst many characters’ warnings to Shuri against letting her anger consume her, Letitia Wright portrays fantastically the transition from despair to anger as she shows us how her grief manifests itself harmfully in the form of vengeance.

This film is a love letter to T’Challa and Chadwick Boseman. In this emotionally charged, family-driven action film, we are shown the dangers of letting grief consume us. Through the variety of ways in which the characters navigate their grief, the film acknowledges that this is a complex issue. Nevertheless, one overarching theme is the importance of valuing the family you do have. Do not mourn like those who do not have hope, because whether it be hope that things will feel better or will get better, hope, belief, and faith are important to hold on to.

WHAT’S ON THIS MONTH?

Novella Film Festival

A small film festival in North Acton celebrating diversity in modern unknown independent film. Tickets are free! But sales close tomorrow so be quick.

Christmas on the big screen

Several cinemas around the city will be showing curated collections of Christmas films during December.

Check out the Prince Charles Cinema for everything from *Elf* to *Eyes Wide Shut* (for some reason), or Picturehouses across London.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Imperial defends title at British Novice quiz tournament

Credit: ICU Quiz Society

Oscar O'Flanagan Quiz Society Treasurer

An Imperial team has won the British Novice quiz tournament for the second year in a row. A closely fought tournament held in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building last Saturday saw Birmingham and Imperial A coming out on top with six wins and three losses each after nine matches. This meant a final match had to be played, in which Imperial A beat Birmingham by 295 points to 255.

The winning team consisted of undergraduates Mattia Elkouby (second-year Chemistry), Christine Hagerty (first-year Physics), Aden Ho (second-year medicine) and Gregor Wilson (third-year Aeronautics). None of the players on Imperial's A or B teams had competed in a quiz tournament prior to the start of this term.

At first, King's College London and Birmingham seemed to be the frontrunners in the tournament. They were beating most other teams – King's beat Imperial A on a tiebreaker – and scored some impressive early buzzes. However, right as it seemed as though King's might win outright without the need for a final, their fortunes changed. Over-eagerness on the buzzer led to a few too many incorrect interruptions, providing Impe-

rial B with their first victory of the day in a surprise twist. With the wins and losses now tied between five teams, Imperial A and Birmingham went through based on points scored.

The final saw Birmingham start off strong – it seemed as though they might reverse their defeat against Imperial earlier that day. Imperial soon got going and led on points, thanks to high scores on the bonus questions, but a string of correct starter questions from Birmingham nearly brought the scores level. Unfortunately for Birmingham, two incorrect buzzes late in the game prevented them from being able to catch up to Imperial, despite an early buzz on the last question.

The British Novice tournament has been held every year since 2018 and is aimed at students



Fingers on buzzers: Imperial A (left, L-R: Gregor, Aden, Christine, Mattia) and Birmingham (right) prepare to hear the first starter question of the final match, held in Huxley 308



Credit: ICU Quiz Society

University Challenge teammates Michael and Fatima read bonuses to Roehampton (left) while Imperial B (right) wait for the next starter question

from universities across the country who are new to competitive academic quizzing. This was the first time the tournament had been held in-person since 2019. The format may be familiar to viewers of University Challenge: students represent their university in teams of four, but the starter questions are much longer, you can get bonus points for a correct early buzz, and the bonus questions are worth ten points each instead of five.

Furthermore, Oxford and Cambridge are not split by college, and there may be multiple teams from each university.

This year's British Novice tournament was beset by train strikes and awkward term dates, meaning that two tournaments had to be held on different dates.

The first was a smaller online tournament on 26th November, featuring four Oxford teams, two Birmingham teams and one each from Cambridge and York. York fielded a player who had had much experience with high-school quizzing in the US and secured their first ever tournament win. Not to detract from the performances of Oxford, Cambridge and Birmingham, who fielded some impressively knowledgeable novices; we'll surely be seeing more of them in next year's tournaments.

Imperial's strong performance despite an all-new novice roster is a reassurance for those more experienced quizzers facing their final year, and I hope their success can serve as an inspiration for new generations of quiz players.

“NONE OF IMPERIAL'S A OR B TEAM PLAYERS HAD COMPETED IN A QUIZ TOURNAMENT PRIOR TO THIS TERM.”