

CGCU Bolts forward: Felix interviews their President

Kishan Sambhi ~~Editor in Chief~~ News writer Kia Popat is already familiar with the

Last term, Kia Popat was elected President of the City and Guilds College Union (CGCU), winning 35% of first preference votes (see “Aside: How Union Elections Work”). This followed a hard-fought campaign, involving dozens of endorsements by fellow committee members and the return of her dog on the campaign trail. I sat down with her at the end of December to find out more about her plans as President.

Credit: Imperial College London

inner workings of the CGCU, having played a large role in organising this year’s Welcome Dinner. Alongside this, she has been Vice President and Bolt Bearer of the CGCU since last academic year and is currently treasurer of the Department of Computer Science Society (DoCSoc), one of best-funded societies at Imperial.

Despite it being the weekend before her end of term exams, Kia was happy to sit down with me to discuss her plans

What is the CGCU?

The CGCU is the original student union of the Central Technical College (later the City and Guilds College), opened in 1884 by the City and Guilds of London Institute. They joined Imperial in 1910, and now stand as one of the College’s constituent unions. Its 25-strong committee is responsible for the funding and management of all clubs and societies under the Faculty of Engineering, most importantly the CGCU Motor Club, and the department societies. They also represent nearly all Engineering students, excluding the Earth Sciences and Materials departments, which are covered by the Royal School of Mines Union. The CGCU has 4 mascots, 2 of which can be stolen by other constituent unions: the Bolt and the Spanner, averaging 30kg each!



City and Guilds Constituent Union have had a historical Motor Club - known currently as Motor (C&G)

EDITORIAL

This issue was produced thanks to the work of

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Apathy? Maybe.

Over my many years at Imperial, I have often found myself wondering why it seems that more and more young people are becoming apathetic about the world around them. This is not an entirely true statement. To some extent, groups of young people have gathered together, and have demonstrated some resolve around issues that they feel strongly about.

On the whole face of it all, it does seem that many “ordinary” people are no longer engaged in the issues that affect society, and are content to simply go about their daily lives without giving much thought to the broader implications of their actions.

Perhaps this is not an entirely new trend - a previous Editor has already spoken about this, and the Overton window.

The Overton window is described as the range of political policies that the “mainstream”, or that “ordinary” people reasonably accept. Think of it like the boundary of satire being “too real” to be unbelievable.

I don’t think having three Prime Ministers a year is something that would have been acceptable in the years before the pandemic. However, I don’t think ordinary people can be blamed for being able to accept ridiculous situations as factually as we do now.

Our current generation has lived through a few historical events. A pandemic comes to mind, alongside a series of continuous years of record-breaking temperatures. London has seen increased terror threats, and I don’t think we’ve used humour to poke fun at potential “World War III” situations as much as we do currently.

One possible explanation that has been given for this trend is the sheer amount of information that is available to us. Alongside this, we also have to

deal with a decrease in concentration spans. Social media has succeeded in acclimatising us to the 24-hour news cycle, so much so that a continuation of a previous news story just seems bland.

We end up scouring international media for new and different news.

Being informed is one thing, but overloading ourselves with more information than we can handle is detrimental. It results

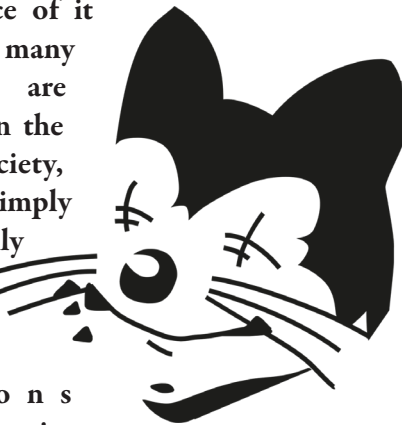
in becoming more desensitised to what matters, making us great at knowing the headlines but terrible at allowing us to ponder the deeper results or outcomes of a situation.

Another factor that contributes to apathy amongst “ordinary” people is the feeling of powerlessness.

It is infinitely easier to say that making a decision on where we stand on a complex issue is too hard, and that we should leave it to experts. As we might have figured out, experts, though having large amounts of data, can only make educated predictions.

During lockdown, we had to take a step back, and we turned to the internet to entertain us. We had time to care deeply about issues, but this had the flip side of making us having to juggle caring about multiple bigger issues. As Imperial students, we have the privilege of access to great education, and with it the ability to understand and critically analyse the world around us. One might argue that it might be our duty to use this knowledge to make a positive impact on the world, and to not become apathetic.

At the end of the week, dear readers, Felix does not aim to convince anyone to take “action”. We exist to make you aware of things you ought to know. If there are things you know that you think other people should know, let us know.



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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NEWS

...continued from page 1

as President of the CGCU. The path to the role for her was unexpected – in her first year at Imperial, Kia was unaware of the organization, but by her second year, she was already a Vice President. She had hoped to have a more passive role this year, holding the role of CGCU Bolt Bearer. All this would change, however, after the resignation of Barry Jiang, elected as President of the CGCU in March 2022. He resigned from the role after a Vote of No Confidence motion was brought against him (see Felix 1811). His resignation triggered a by-election to elect a new CGCU President.

“A lot of the CGCU committee members were quite like, ‘Well, you know, we’d rather have you’”, Kia tells me when I ask why she ran, “as someone who we know, someone who we’ve worked with for this length of time”

And yet, despite this, it wasn’t easy: five candidates ran, and by Kia’s own words all of them had the credentials to do the job. The result was an intense campaign – multiple candidates, including Kia, took to Instagram to share endorsements from fellow CGCU members on official campaign accounts. Kia’s dog Cookie made a return to the campaign trail, endorsing – to no one’s surprise – Kia. Cookie has previously endorsed a candidate in the 2022 Leadership Elections for ‘providing treats’. “I hope no one’s voting for me based on my dog”, Kia joked.

Now, a common complaint by busy Imperial students is finding time to relax. So, how does Kia relax after a long week managing multiple roles? Having the aforementioned dog for one helps – going on walks with it every day is

her main method of destressing. She also emphasises that she finds her role enjoyable and doesn’t consider it added stress.

As for making sure that her committee gets a break, she explains that it’s quite easy to ensure people aren’t working during exam periods due to their varied schedules. She tells me that their internal training pages state that members’ degrees come first. Kia also raises the importance of cross-team communication: “People are very open about, ‘Okay, I won’t be able to do any work now, but I can do the work at this time. This is when I’m free. What can I do then?’”

For committee communications, she admits their current use of many WhatsApp groups and Teams chats was “possibly not the most amazing way of organizing”. One specialised tool: Nuclino. This is used as a checklist for repeated events and organisation activities, such as the Welcome Dinner.

On the topic of such events, Kia tells me that the CGCU alumni has a lot of younger experienced members who she can ask for help – “I was actually working with someone who was a previous CGCU president over summer” she informs me. Furthermore, Kia was able to draw on the experiences of Hayley Wong [former CGCU President, now Union President] and Allan Lee [CGCU Treasurer, 2020-2022], who advised her when she helped organise this year’s Welcome Dinner.

Now, what of Kia’s manifesto commitments?

“I don’t want to spoil too much” she responds when asked about her promise of more events. Nevertheless, I still managed to get some teasers – namely an event like last year’s Tri-Union extravaganza is in the works, with hints the medics could be involved as well. Previously this involved taking students from the City and Guilds, Royal Science and Royal School of Mines Student Union to Cirque Le Soir, a circus themed nightclub in London – it remains to be seen what this year’s

might involve. There is also the return of events the CGCU used to hold before COVID – she has “been in contact with some alumni who were involved in their time [at Imperial]”, perhaps bringing back the week of activities known as “City and Guilds Week”. Such events require funding via sponsorships – Kia explained this could prove difficult, as companies are finding it harder to justify sponsorship in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis and general price squeeze.

Kia also talked about helping societies grow their alumni relations in her manifesto, and this is already something she has made strides in. DoCSoc recently launched a new alumni mentoring programme to allow students to meet computing alumni from different fields. Kia informs me this “was actually something that myself and the [DoCSoc] president set up” with the help of the City and Guilds College Association (CGCA), essentially the alumni group for the CGCU:

“We got in touch with people via the CGCA [...]” Kia explains, “made them pass the message around, so I think if we could kind of establish something like [DoCSoc mentoring] in a wider range of departments, we do really want to push for that.”

Kia also promised in her manifesto to “Establish sponsorship for the CGCU to increase funding”. Asked about this she explains they were working on “getting a sponsor proposal ready” to send out, with a few different possible approaches being taken.

As we reach the end of the interview, I ask if she has any advice for anyone looking to get involved with the CGCU: “The office door is always open. So CAGB350, if someone is in there they’ll definitely let you in and have a conversation with you about their experience.” As for whether the CGCU had any plans to steal the RCSU’s Mascot “Theta” – Kia mentions that the CGCU had already made off with it at the start of the Autumn term. Felix looks forward to the teased Tri-Union event, which may offer the RCSU an opportunity to take revenge.



What Spanner looks like, if anyone wishes to, ahem, acquire it.

Felix Wants You: Write For Us!

We welcome any student, staff, or alumni of Imperial College London to write for Felix. To write for a specific section, email the corresponding editors. You can find their emails by clicking onto the section webpage through the menu. We accept anything from one-time contributions to weekly columns; any contributions beyond writing (illustrations, graphic design, etc) is also gladly received.

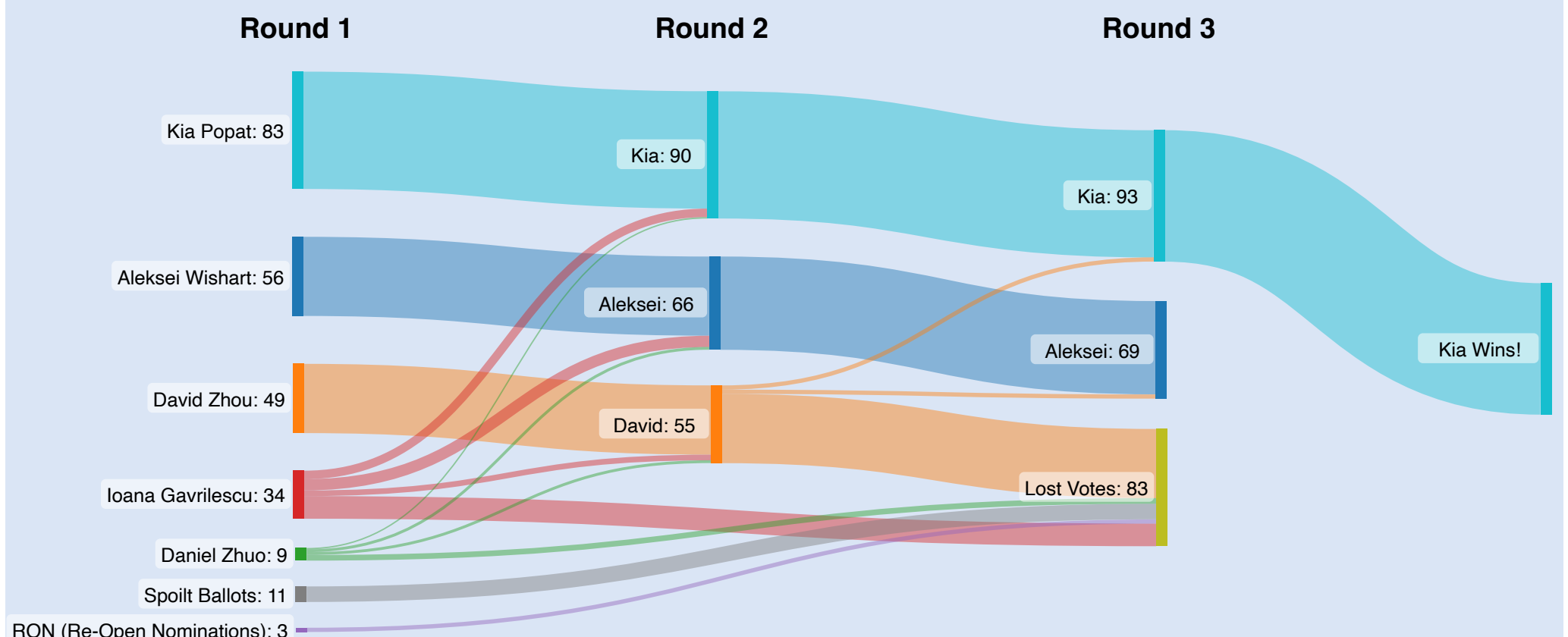
How Union Elections Work

The Imperial Union uses a system known as Single Transferable Vote (STV) for all elections.

Voters rank the candidates who they wish to vote for in order of preference. Voters who feel none of the candidates are suitable can instead vote to reopen nominations (RON).

The votes are then counted and the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. If someone voted for the eliminated candidate, their vote is transferred to their next ranked candidate. This process continues until one candidate has more than half of the votes and is declared the winner.

Credit: Figure by Kishan Singh Sambhi



COMMENT

When will art move on?

Nicolas Geiseler-Toran

Self Proclaimed Statue Critic

Clearly Friday the 13th is known as an unlucky day for good reasons. The first of 2023 saw the unveiling of a new sculpture in Boston, titled 'Embrace', commemorating the relationship between Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) and Coretta Scott King, ahead of MLK's birthday on January 15th.

While MLK is one of the most common subjects of commemorative statues in the USA, Coretta's depiction is more of a rarity. It is not the first statue of the two, as I have seen claimed in one article; Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania is home to a sculpture from 2011 showing the husband and wife marching together in their struggle for civil rights. The Lehigh Valley statue is more modest, both in size and quality, and the recent Boston installation has the honour of inhabiting the city where the couple in question met.

However, the artist behind 'Embrace', Hank Willis Thomas, decided to take a more abstract approach to the subject, and has received somewhat of a backlash reminiscent in nature to the justified reactions we at Imperial had upon seeing for the first time Antony

With no context, 'Embrace' is an odd melding of two people's arms. Their faces, bodies, and any identifying

“

MLK AND CORETTA ARE NOT REALLY THE SUBJECTS, THOMAS IS

features beyond their sleeves are missing, and they are of gargantuan proportions, lending the piece the aura of a dreamlike fantasy creature. With the benefit of context, 'Embrace' is a sad joke. A tribute to two icons with no obvious resemblance to its subjects, and a jarring excess of material and resources when contrasted with their legacies.

It is inspired by a candid photo of the pair embracing after MLK's Nobel Prize victory, though the absence of bodies has also rendered the hug itself absent. It's said that a hug brings two people's beating hearts into contact; how ironic then for the sculptor to effectively excise the hearts. This on top of the more egregious crime of leaving out their faces, thus almost eliminating their identities.

Or, more correctly, replacing their identities. For 'Embrace' does clearly have the imprint of a certain person: Hank Willis Thomas. Some of his most memorable sculptures focus heavily on hands (see his excellent 'All Things Being Equal...' exhibit), and that motif is clearly present in 'Embrace'. Because of this I level the same criticism that I directed towards Antony Gormley's Alan Turing statue. Rather than 'Embrace' being a piece showing the Kings in an intimate moment, it is an installation in the Hank Willis Thomas line inspired by the Kings. MLK and Coretta are not really the subjects, Thomas is. I must specify that in the context of a Thomas exhibit, this kind of piece does highlight the Kings because Thomas becomes the background subject and the Kings



A heart?! I don't have the heart to continue looking at this!

become the subject unique from the other sculptures. In a public park, however, such a striking installation is defined first and foremost by Thomas' style, and the Kings become a sort of secondary identifier. How this does not constitute a tremendous insult to MLK and Coretta to everyone involved in its commission, baffles me.

It should also not be assumed that an effort to produce a realistic likeness will definitely yield a better result. A large bust of MLK in Buffalo, New York, is patently not MLK, a fact unconvincingly claimed to be intentional as an abstract representation of the general civil rights movement. While I'm sure sculptors produced their fair share of duds in the golden age of statues and those simply haven't been preserved, it certainly

feels like the overall quality has lowered over the ages. It is odd that art is one of the fields that is allowed by the market to not clearly have improved in skill in a linear manner. Cars nowadays are expected to be and succeed in being faster, safer, and more

comfortable than cars 50 years ago. Why then do we foment the existence of statues less evocative of real people than those produced 500 years ago?

Abstract art has its place, but it's time we isolate the field of objective representation artwork and consult the tradespeople of that field whenever we need to install something in honour of real people for the general public. Most of us are far more inspired by bodies with faces than amorphous geometry and weird limbs, and we certainly have surpluses of objectively good statues for all the conventional white figures of history. A pity the enfranchisement of everyone else appears to be coinciding with the dominance of alienating abstract sculpture.



Reference? More like coincidence.

Gormley's 'Alert' statue. I would like to add my voice to the criticisms.



FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 2023

Edited by: ANGIE LO

SCIENCE

Review: The Lost Rhino offers stripped-back food for thought

Angie Lo Science Editor

Last month, the Natural History Museum opened the doors to its new exhibit *The Lost Rhino*. Located in the museum's Jerome Gallery, the exhibit focuses on the northern white rhino, a species condemned to extinction with the death of its last male rhino in 2018. According to the NHM, the exhibit aims to delve into "our relationship with endangered species", as well as "the paradox of our preoccupation with creating new life forms, while neglecting existing ones."

“

“WE ARE FACING A PLANETARY EMERGENCY, BUT WE CAN ALL ACT NOW TO HELP THE PLANET AND PROTECT THE NATURAL WORLD”

term, slipping into the Jerome Gallery before afternoon classes. There, I find myself face-to-face with the first piece on display: a giant screen displaying a close-up video of glowing, pulsating, heart cells. These, explains the accom-

panying placard, were extracted from cells belonging to the northern white rhino, which were transformed into stem cells before

being grown into heart cells. The repeated movement and flicker of the cells



offers a beauty that's at the same time strange and somehow unsettling, made more unsettling by the question of how far this recreation can be considered restored life.

Further pieces in the exhibit depict

similarly flawed reconstructions of rhinos through history and the present day, pulling visitors between past and present while constantly invoking ideas about the future. These pieces explore how interpretations of the rhino



SCIENCE

This week in Science...

FROM IMPERIAL

Imperial astrophysicists recognised in Royal Astronomical Society honours

Professor Marina Galand and Dr Ravindra Desai have been recognised in the Royal Astronomical Society honours list. The full list of awards was made at the Ordinary Meeting of the Society on Friday 13th January 2023. Past winners of the highest honour awarded by the Society have included Albert Einstein, Edwin Hubble, Arthur Eddington and Stephen Hawking. Professor Marina Galand, a world-leading expert in the atmospheric physics of a wide range of solar system bodies, was awarded the honour in giving the James Dungey lecture. Dr Ravindra Desai, a former Post-Doctoral Researcher at Imperial was honoured with the Winston Award and the RAS Higher Education Award for his work in geophysics and substantial contributions to the field of space plasma physics.

Scientists secure funding to explore evolutionary explanations for homosexuality

The Evolution Education Trust have made a donation that will enable scientists to undertake research into a remote colony of monkeys in Puerto Rico. Lead by Vincent Savolainen, Professor of Organismic Biology, the donation will enable two PhD researchers to observe closely the social hierarchy of the group, undertake genome sequencing to find connections between homosexual behaviour and genetic markers, and to use both behavioural and genetic data collected to test novel theoretical models of homosexuality. Professor Savolainen and his team hope that uncovering the factors underpinning sexual orientation in both humans and animals could alter public perceptions of homosexuality: combating stigma of human sexuality in societies across the world.

FROM AROUND THE WORLD...

Atlantic seafloor felt aftermath of Pacific volcano megablast

1 year on, a brand-new preliminary observation from a UCL-lead project UPFLOW concluded that they recorded pressure disturbances from the Hunga Tonga volcanic eruption. The eruption of Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai on 15th January 2022 last year sent pressure waves originating in the Pacific Ocean, through the Earth's atmosphere that connected with the sea surface and triggered 50 seismometers placed 5,000m under water on the seabed. It was one of several intriguing phenomena picked up by the seismometer network in the Azores-Madeira-Canary Islands region, situated 580km west of Morocco in the North Atlantic Ocean. In a recent interview with BBC News, UCL's Dr Stephen Hicks (a member of the UPFLOW project) said "It must have been a long wavelength feature because we see it best at the deepest seismometers on the abyssal plain, less well in shallower waters". Just over an hour after the eruption, seismic waves from a Magnitude 5.8 earthquake rippled through the Atlantic Network at a velocity of a few kilometers per second. It took a further 14 hours for the Atlantic network to detect the Lamb wave, which travelled at a phase velocity of approximately 300m/s spanning a distance over 17,500km.

connect with humanity's many—and sometimes ugly—social, technological, and artistic acts. The most compelling part of the exhibit is *The Substitute*, a digital reconstruction of the northern white rhino by artist Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg that also uses data from AI agency DeepMind. The rhino is realistic and lifelike, yet there is something off about how it reacts to things and explores its environment—eliciting a simultaneous sense of compassion and concern.

The gallery's design also effectively reflects the thoughts evoked by the exhibition. Each piece is mounted on an imposing scaffolding structure that's draped with fabric—but much of the scaffolding is uncovered and exposed, and on closer look the fabric is so thin you can see the ghost-images of the things behind it. Surrounded by these structures, one becomes more aware of the idea of loss, as well as a hubris that ultimately cannot achieve what

its bearer claims.

A final bit of encouragement doesn't come from any of the displayed objects, but from a small placard at the end of the room: "We are facing a planetary emergency, but we can all act now to help the planet and protect the natural world...The structures in this gallery are made from rented scaffolding that will be reused many times and the fabric covering them may also be reused..." A seemingly small thing in the midst of all we've been shown—but something hopeful and tangible nonetheless.

All in all, *The Lost Rhino* is a provocative exhibit that will leave you all the more thoughtful about not only our response to species extinction, but also how we perceive and construct ideas about our wider natural world. *The Lost Rhino* is free to visit, and is currently running until 19 March.



A PLAY BY MIKE BARTLETT

An amateur performance by arrangement with Nick Hern Books

EARTHQUAKES

IN

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[CW: flashing lights,
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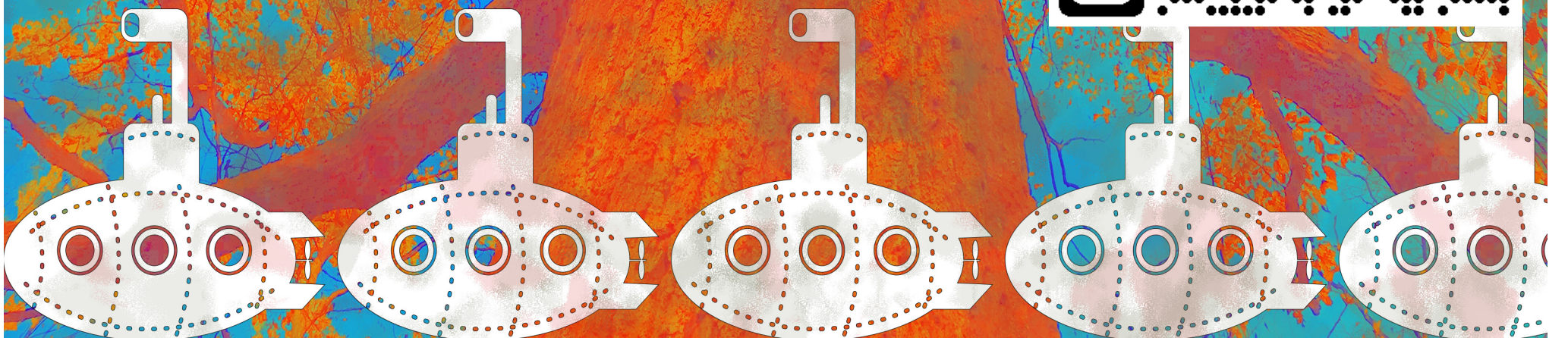
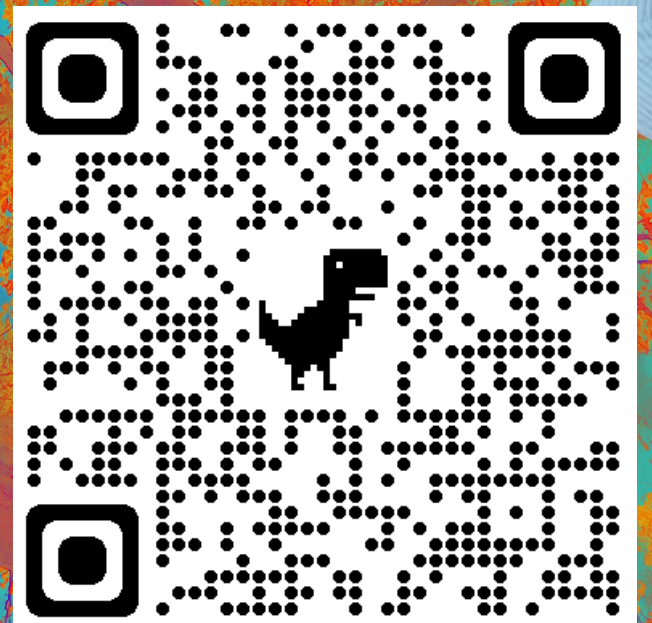


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INVESTMENT

Meta and the Metaverse: Fad, or the Future?



Before the internet became a necessity for individuals around the world, there were many skeptics of its potential, some even calling it a fad. Now, over 20 years later, we seem to be having the same debate over the metaverse's many technologies, a debate in which the world's largest social network has made clear their stance.

Alexander Themistocleous
Investment Society Writer



Mark Zuckerberg has longed been ribbed by internet trolls for his robotic actions and dull pallor, but until recently one relatively unchallenged aspect of his work was – well – that. His story is one we've all heard at least once before by now: starting in a college dorm, the former Harvard student slowly built up a social media empire that still dominates the space today with headline platforms like Instagram and Facebook. But now, Zuckerberg has turned his attention to what he thinks is the next frontier: the metaverse.

But before we progress: what is the metaverse? The word is so generalised that it's difficult to pin down. That being said, it appears most metaverse products fit into one of a few categories: first, physical virtual reality items such as headsets like Meta's own Quest 2, which allow access to virtual 3D worlds by putting on a large mask with screens inside and integrated speakers.

Second, there is the virtual item category, broadly encompassing non-tangible products such as the infamous plot of land in the metaverse, or fancy clothing for avatars. Products like this have existed in games for years: in 2006 video game publisher Bethesda gained criticism for releasing a cosmetic pack of horse armour on Xbox, the start of in-game cosmetic sales and microtransactions. Some recent iterations of this idea are NFT-ised, promising purchasers' exclusive ownership. Well-known brands such as Ralph Lauren and Nike have recently released products in this category, albeit primarily to boost engagement for younger audiences.

The last main branch of the metaverse umbrella is augmented reality, a technology that overlays the real world with displays, much like the smart glasses of Marvel superhero films.

Back to Mark. The Facebook founder believes in

the concept of the metaverse so much that last year he renamed his company after it, to Meta. It was a bold move that signalled his intentions to further explore the field, but since then it is one that has failed to capture the imagination of investors. After \$15bn spent on the rebranding (with another \$85bn on R&D) and less than 200,000 users of Meta's flagship metaverse program Horizon Worlds, a shareholder who owns 0.1% of Meta stock penned an open letter to the company telling them to drop investment in the area to \$5bn. Instead, Zuckerberg defiantly plans to increase metaverse-related capital expenditure next year, facilitated by the CEO's 54% control of the voting shares that make his decisions all but impossible to challenge.

In no small part down to weak global economic growth and industry headwinds that have jeopardised the consistently high growth of the technology sector, Meta's stock has fallen over 60% in 2022, wiping over \$500bn off its market cap. Low advertising earnings expectations due to inflationary pressures, Tiktok's meteoric rise, and Apple reworking its advertising system have wreaked havoc in big tech, triggering a wave of job and cost cuts as bullish predictions coming out of the pandemic fade away. In this context, the heavy metaverse spending, already seen as controversial, is considered a critical issue as investors worry that the strategy focusses too much on the future, and not what will pay the bills now. Part of the stock plunge was due to the company reporting a second successive drop in quarterly revenue, but more pertinently, forecasts that these drops would continue.

So, it's a big gamble, but Zuckerberg has had his doubters before. Some newspapers called the internet a 'fad' at its conception, yet the present day is unimaginable without it. Social media has evolved from primarily text-based platforms such as twitter, to image-based like Instagram, and now videos as with Tiktok. Meta argues 'immersive experiences' are the next leap.

Yet I remain unconvinced by the two more current metaverse products: VR headsets and in-world items. Why? Amongst a variety of factors, the paradigm shift required seems huge: it took a global pandemic for companies to consider remote working, and even now only 30% of the UK workforce is still working remotely at least once a week. Headsets are pushed as the next devices to replace phones or laptops, but revamping

existing IT infrastructure to accommodate them would be new and therefore cumbersome and, outside of meetings, currently has minimal use cases. Meanwhile, the price for individuals to buy headsets remains large, appealing only to highly keen consumers. Meta says we are looking for increased immersion and the better the tech gets, the more people will become interested. But smartphones have proliferated and yet are arguably less immersive than a large PC. Games consoles like the PS5 are advanced and brilliant, but most people aren't interested: global installation numbers sit flat around 175m.

The key to the venture's success sits in convincing everyday people of the added value in an age where everyone already needs multiple devices just to work. Most potently, like social media, people will only use it if others are on there first, and like cryptocurrencies, digital assets within these virtual worlds only have value if many people deem it so or they have a physical counterpart. Headsets will get smaller, cheaper, and more sophisticated in the years to come, what stands to be seen is whether Zuckerberg can obtain this critical mass of users. He has done it before with nothing to lose, but this time his billion-dollar empire hangs in the balance: if he fails, this year's 60% drop might just be the beginning.



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PUZZLES

CRYPTIC Crossword Grid

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
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CRYPTIC Crossword Clues

Across

- 71) Cheese pie? [7]
- 5) It's in Iberia and/or outside of Russia. [7]
- 9) Before that one-off: the seventh movement of Brahms's first symphony. [10 5]
- 10) This Sir can be tender! [4]
- 11) Rise up to his idiocy. [5]
- 12) Child support skimmed to pay rent and maintenance! [4]
- 15) Infests Felix with only puzzles pages? [7]
- 16) Spice Denise put in a brew. [7]
- 17) Boxer got a lot of money from his ex's payments. [7]
- 19) Friend owed most of what we gifted. [7]
- 21) Even warned, my dude! [4]
- 22) Writes online about amorphous masses. [5]
- 23) Character who gets a stitch? [4]
- 26) Software deciding who goes into surgery first? [9 6]
- 27) Metal gets poured around the scene. [7]
- 28) It's most profound: a sword left in the dust outside. [7]

Down

- 1) He makes shoes and pudding. [7]
- 2) In nature, whiled away, I hear, the time and place. [3 4 4 4]
- 3) Now the definition of disorder. [4]
- 4) Resentful, angry Venus - around, in and out. [7]
- 5) No memory of funny men in the East. [7]
- 6) Skilled at putting back the stout. [4]
- 7) For example, slide below the umpire - and then get this blown at you? [8 7]
- 8) Embarrassed to say "it's a hoax, man!"
- 13) Pouring out something like plasma. [5]
- 14) Religion with its back to you. [5]
- 17) Militants seen in the morning in the western state office. [7]
- 18) Screaming over the short distance to walk in the dark. [7]
- 19) Need to stop talking in here, I'm on the phone! [7]
- 20) It's a tad foggy on the moor - wrap up and use this to dry your shoes. [7]
- 24) To finish, nab a cool ski holiday destination. [4]
- 25) Polymer carrying disease? [4]

Easy Sudoku

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

Normal Sudoku

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

Difficult Sudoku

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

Reverse Cryptic

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.

C: Insect found in new parliament stands. [9]
A: STAGNATES
R: _____

C: Republicans put her down as just a rodent.
A: GOPHER
R: _____

C: A small number, not a number at all, or zero? [4]
A: NANO
R: _____

IC Pre-Hack reveals serious security flaws

Last weekend, ICHack organisers conducted a pre-hack hack to pre-empt potential problems at the actual ICHack in February. They were left holding the bag when they realised that - contrary to popular Computing belief, the mantra “production is the test” does not work well in real life.

Additionally, “blame it on the legacy code” also did not work, as the code in question was written by the lead programmer last week. “I wrote that at 3am after a week of not sleeping! You cannot hold me accountable for this”, claimed said ICHack Web Magician, Tim “Man with the hands” Java (@TopsyTurvy on GitHub, FAANG, hit me up!).

NegaFelix received a tip-off that some ICHack groups are about to create web applications with “real use in real time”, a rumour that ICHack whistleblower KS denies strongly. “Look, we get students and sponsors in the same room over the weekend, give everyone coffee and sugar, and we really don’t expect anything functioning. The code is never going to look great, and it’s not like groups haven’t used Figma to trick the judges”.

IC Hack attendees are also going to be facing a harder time than usual in this year’s iteration - “It worked on my computer last night” will no longer be accepted as a valid excuse, alongside other claims like “oh maybe you don’t have the right dependencies”, and “We would like to thank ChatGPT for being a valuable programmer”. That last statement will be grounds for automatic disqualification.

IC Pre-Hack organisers also seemed to be unaware of reality, saying: “We’ll just rewind the tapes and get ICTV to do some video editing”. NegaFelix felt obliged to inform them that:

1. ICTV is now a defunct society, and
2. IC Pre-Hack was not recorded.

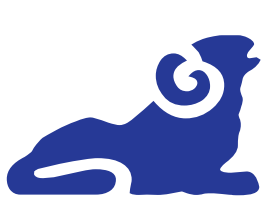
Felix Ball Giveaway!

This cold snap, Felix is giving away frozen balls, for free! Have you lost all sense of joy and feeling? Chuck one of these at your friends to cheer yourself right up! Call to order your free balls today.

+44 020 7594 8072

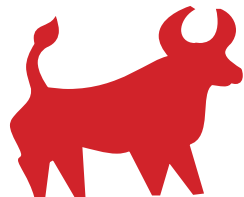
Felix takes no responsibility if your package starts leaking.

*Felix is looking for frozen bird suppliers to expand on our product line. Please text FROZENTEETZ to number above!



ARIES

This week your fridge breaks, but you have a convenient backup: the outside.



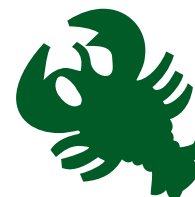
TAURUS

This week, you accidentally start a conversation with another Imperial student in public.



GEMINI

This week your cooler UCL friends find out you go to Imperial



CANCER

This week you accidentally prove $1 = 2$. You can’t read your own proof. You decide to Fermat it.



LEO

This week you will only wake up with freezing toes



VIRGO

This week, you’re finally done with exams. Now you can finally start work on your FYP!



LIBRA

This week you start getting resit notifications. No way you’re sitting through Mechanics again. You’re not taking another *moment* of this.



SCORPIO

This week you sell your soul to Big Business and start frequenting the Business Cafe instead of the SCR. You feel both dirty and caffeinated.



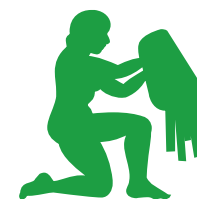
SAGITTARIUS

This week your Climate Change i-Explore clashes with your Shell field trip. Guess who’s going to the North Sea!



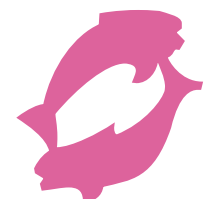
CAPRICORN

This week you burn a thumb during lab, but don’t even need to run it under cold water.



AQUARIUS

This week you are reminded to fulfill all your “when hell freezes over” promises.



PISCES

This week you finish your third series this term, only to still feel the dark and empty void inside.

CATNIP

Catnip writers stage walkout citing increasingly unfair expectations

The Catnip writers' team has staged a walk out of the Felix office citing "unfair working conditions" due to the pressures placed on them to come up with satire in an increasingly absurd environment. Despite the Editor's pleas to return, Catnip writers are steadfast, refusing to return until NegaFelix promises to not publish their satire pieces under the News Section. This is something NegaFelix cannot yet agree to.

The final straw was when a satirical piece in August on how the then-new Health Secretary could possibly do a worse job than their predecessor was outdone by the News section. Whilst Catnip had discussed the news Secretary's affinity for smoking in enclosed spaces containing small children, they had failed to predict the demise of antibiotics. "We only had one of those things on our 2022 Health Secretary incompetence Bingo cards" a Catnip writer complained. Their 2023 bingo card is off to a good start, with them having already been able to cross out 'accusing paramedics of compromising patient safety' and on track to ticking off 'banning nurses from taking strike action'.

NegaFelix acknowledge that regular readers are likely to be concerned that its pages will not be as packed as usual with the nuanced insights, razor-sharp wit, and toilet humour provided by Catnip. Initially, army reserves from were called in to cover for writers, in the hopes that some light misogyny could satisfy readers dipping in for their usual fix of phallic imagery. Having since realised that this may not be an effective approach, NegaFelix has mandated that

at a 'minimum service' of at least ten of the eight striking Catnip writers continue working.

Students enrolled in the Horizons Creative Writing programme experienced similar difficulties in 2022. Georgia Well told NegaFelix about a piece of coursework:

"I spent months worldbuilding for this crazy dystopian version of the UK: a savage society where ex-politicians eat testicles on TV and leaders are elected by the wealthiest 1% under the guise of democracy. Only when I submitted it through Turnitin, it received a similarity score of 100%."

Georgie was accused of plagiarism due to striking similarities between the piece of fiction and several news articles across the web, telling NegaFelix:

"I'm frustrated but, to be fair, it wasn't my best work - the plot was missing something. I just couldn't conjure an event that could have plunged the country into such disarray. I don't know what sort of monstrous force would have done that."

She hopes that her next piece of fiction, 'The Quiet Politician': a fictional tour through oligarchs' exotic holiday destinations, creatively narrated through the travel journal of a disgraced politician, won't undergo the same scrutiny. She is also working on her narrative flair and employment of artistic license, in the hopes that the next piece will be more gripping: "less BBC and more DailyMail". Georgia is being mentored by course alumna, Susan Grayson, whose piece on illegal partying received critical acclaim from several politicians who

were clearly hooked by the novella, finding it "utterly surprising".

Imperial College Television (ICTV) is similarly feeling the strain of meeting increasingly demanding expectations. Initially, they were thrilled by the freak meteorological phenomena such as snowstorms, heatwaves and forest fires, which completely negated any need for special effects and left them spending way below budget last year. However, in the writers' room stress levels are rising as they wonder how they can possibly top it. They are crossing their fingers that London will see nine simultaneous forest fires this year, instead of a measly eight.

Likewise, the pandemic made huge cuts to production costs for ICTV soap 'White City City' as the influx of patients meant there was no need to hire extras. However, the clutter of patients on trolleys in the makeshift wards of the hospital corridors have recently made it impossible for camera crews to access the building, leaving them with no choice but to livestream a wooden wall near the entrance. The wall in question has been nominated for several FAFF-TAs (Felix Academy for Fans of Film and Television Awards) and has been asked by the Musical Theatre Society to play the lead in their next production.

Director Dave Idlynych reflected on the challenges of the year:

"What a great time to be alive if you love the theater of the absurd! Just not if you like political stability, survivable weather, healthcare, heating, public transport, fair pay, or affordable food."

Dear Catnip writers, please come back.



Cost of Living Survey

We are teaming up with other student unions in the Russell Group to research the impacts of the cost of living crisis. This will allow us to better represent and support you and your needs.

By taking part you could win 1 of 20
£100 love2shop vouchers

Survey Closes
Friday 17th February 2023



 imperial
college
union



Community & Welfare Forum

Mental Health

Tuesday, 24 January 2023

18:00 - 20:00



Beit Quadrangle
Union Building, MR5
or Teams

Come along to the third Community & Welfare Forum of the year, where we will be holding a consultation on Imperial's new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Teams link:



FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 2023

FILM

Film Review

Based On a True Story...

Zanna Buckland and her endeavours on catching up on movie-watching over the Christmas break

Zanna Buckland Film Writer

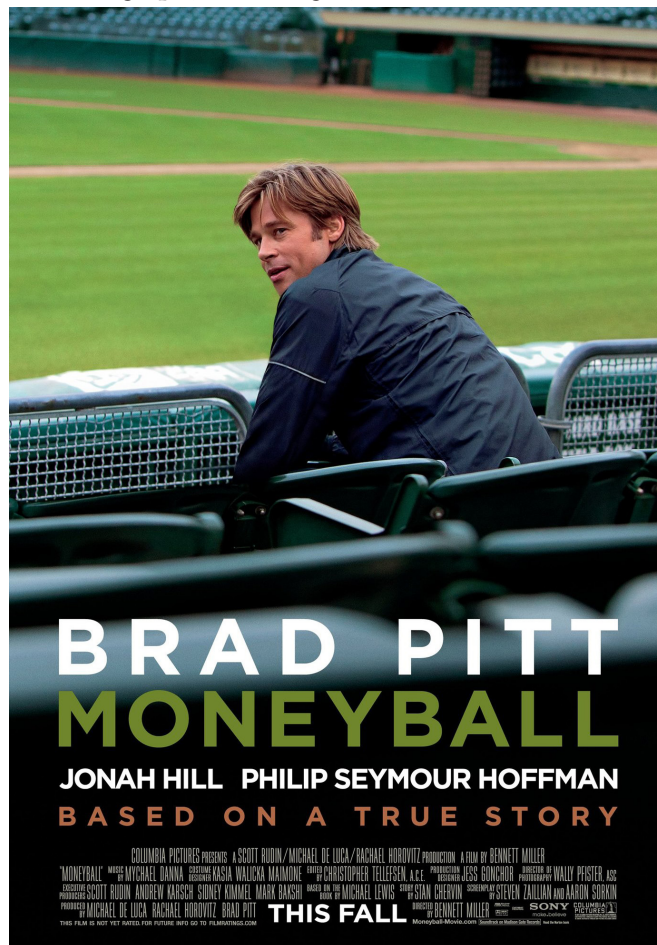
With just one January exam to study for, I filled much of my time over the Christmas break catching up on movie-watching, which included delving into some of the biggest feature films of the past decade. Among these were a few biographical films, which dramatise the extraordinary lives of real people, and are some of the most amazing cinematic works out there. The seven films I'll discuss shed light on occasions when societal adversity was overcome to make way for radical change and a new normal. Perseverance, in its many forms, runs through all these tales, which have each succeeded on the silver screen due to their capacity to inspire us.



Lion

I had been meaning to watch *Lion* for years, ever since it was nominated for an Oscar in 2017. The movie tells the story of Saroo Brierley (played by Dev Patel), separated from his family at a young age and adopted by a couple from Tasmania. Detailing Saroo's trying experience of searching for his hometown, and his eventual reunification with his birth family, *Lion* is a beautiful film, with superb casting. Watching it without knowledge of the underlying story, you would be forgiven for thinking it was fiction. It's incredible to imagine the

resolve the young Saroo (Sunny Pawar) must have had to survive alone on the streets of Calcutta (now named Kolkata). Of course, there is a certain dramatic flair added to make it 'marketable', such as in adult Saroo's visions of his older brother, but the tale is rich in emotion and intrigue, even without these effects. It is also touching to see the relationships and support system that Saroo has built around him; his adoptive family (Nicole Kidman, David Wenham, Divian Ladwa), and girlfriend from university (Rooney Mara). The all-star cast is the heart of the film – Pawar and Patel in particular bring gentle, adventurous life to the character of Saroo (Patel was nominated for Best Supporting Actor). It is an impressive film, with shocking and lovely cinematography, and I highly recommend it!



Moneyball

Brad Pitt stars as former baseball player Billy Beane in this drama about the Oakland Athletics baseball team's reshuffle, using an algorithm to find the cheapest underrated players on the market. What struck me the most about *Moneyball* was how it showed the humanity behind a seemingly disconnected technique of choosing and training players for a sports team. Despite the initial difficulties of scraping together a ragtag team of players, Beane and his team ultimately managed support the Athletics (A's) through rising up from

the bottom of the league to winning 20 games straight in 2002. Beane's relationship with his daughter, who lives with her mother, makes the film extra special, as it presents her as a source of support and encouragement for him, even while he is not always physically with her. Showing a mix of real and curated footage, it is interesting to see the connections between the players on the field and what happens behind the scenes.



The Swimmers

Refugee migration is a 'difficult' topic for most people to discuss, due to misinformation, emotions, personal experiences or trauma, and countless other factors. But the story of Syrian sisters Sarah and Yusra Mardini (Manal and Nathalie Issa) is portrayed plainly and poignantly in Sally El Hosaini's film *The Swimmers*. Yusra Mardini formed part of the first Refugee Olympic Team as – you guessed it – a freestyle and butterfly swimmer, competing in the Rio 2016 Olympics. With jaw-dropping shots of war-torn Syria, the harrowing journey across the Aegean Sea, and the Life Jacket Graveyard on the shores of Greece, the film is a masterpiece. A heart-wrenching visualisation of the struggles of being separated from family, the pain and fear of living in a warzone, and the strength needed to

Edited by: MIKE BUZADJI
JONAH HEWETT

FILM

take every opportunity given to you and create opportunities where none are presented. There is no way to imagine what refugees go through to reach a safe haven and make a new life for themselves, but *The Swimmers* can help you come close to feeling true empathy.

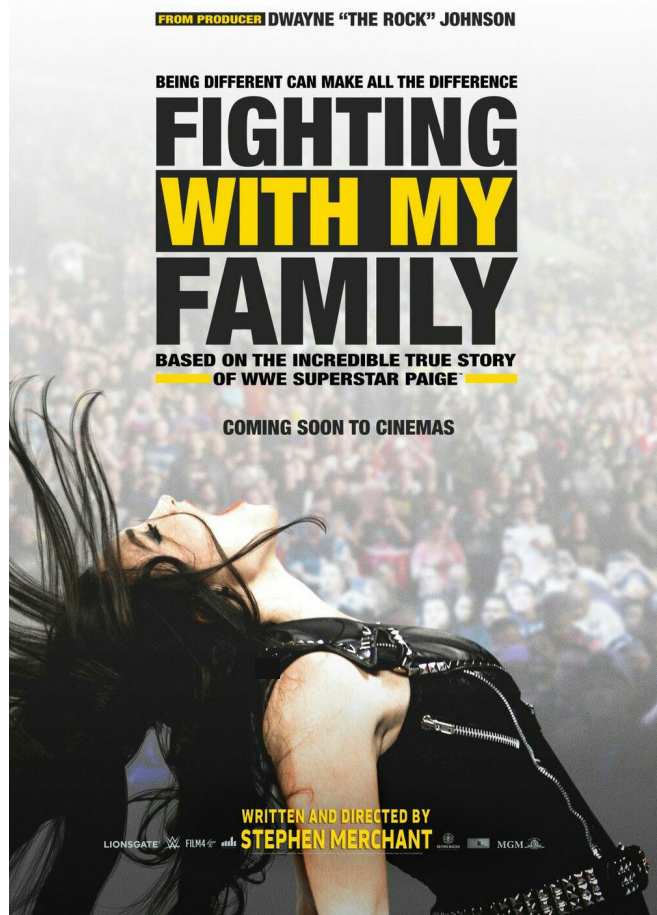


VENUS, SERENA AND A PLAN FOR GREATNESS

King Richard

Venus and Serena Williams are names most of us know well, and it seems fitting that a biopic about their relationship with their late father (and coach) was released just a year before Serena's 'retirement' from the game of tennis (to which she may yet return). Real life aside, *King Richard* follows Richard Williams as he coaches his two tennis-loving daughters towards greatness. Will Smith plays the character with intensity, allowing us to feel his frustration at the societal barriers he encounters, as well as his pride at watching them flourish in competition. We are also taken back to the 90's, when Venus (Saniyya Sidney) began to play professional tennis, with the help of free additional coaching from Rick Macci (Jon Bernthal), assertively acquired by her father. Serena made her debut soon after Ve-

nus did, and the film shines a light on just how much of her success comes from her own passion and drive to participate in competitions. It is also evident that while Macci's training rounded the sisters out, it was their parents' continual guidance and sisters' support that carried them through to greatness. Tennis being a largely middle to upper class sport – due to the need for rackets, balls, courts, and often an expensive coach, it is hard to believe that the Williams sisters didn't come from privilege, and incredible to witness the way Richard Williams carved out their new life and strove to provide them with every opportunity he possibly could.



Fighting with my Family

The theme of sports seems to be a popular choice for biographical films. This may be due to the constant record-breaking accomplishments being performed, the tenacity and influence of renowned athletes, or the natural combination of emotion and action. There is no better manifestation of these elements than in *Fighting with my Family*, the story of professional wrestler

Saraya Jade Bevis, or 'Paige' (Florence Pugh). Paige comes from a family of wrestlers who perform together to make a living, but faced a challenge when she was drafted into the WWE competition and her brother Zak 'Zodiac' (Jack Lowden) wasn't. Lacking his support, and finding herself different from the women around her, she struggles to continue her training, and nearly quits. With a push from parents Patrick 'Rowdy Ricky Knight' Bevis and Julia 'Sweet Saraya Knight' Hamer and brother, Paige gets back on her feet and manages to win her Wrestlemania XXX Raw debut, setting herself up for future success. Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson produced the film and played a part in Paige's real-life journey too. It is an intense but heartwarming film and can serve as a gateway into the sport for those who are put off by its seemingly aggressive nature.

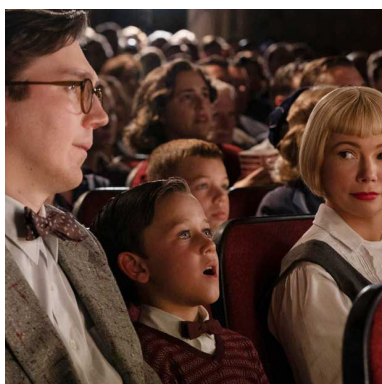
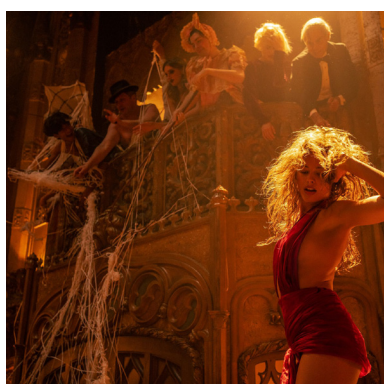


The Big Short

Most of us know roughly how the Global Financial Crisis went down, or at the very least how it affected people in our lives. But for a more detailed rundown

WHAT'S ON

- Jan 20, 2023 *Babylon*
- Jan 27, 2023 *The Fabelmans*
- Plane*
- Unwelcome*



CINEMA

– and one that won't put you to sleep – of what actually happened in 2006-2008 (the years leading up to the crash in the US economy) look no further than *The Big Short*. This isn't a new watch for me, as I've seen it a couple times before, but I continue to be impressed at its accessibility. The film follows three firms Scion Capital, FrontPoint Partners (with Deutsche Bank), and Brownfield Capital, (based on Cornwall Capital), all of which had employees who played a part in shorting a load of subprime bonds that had been loaned by banks over many years, putting in motion what would become the full-blown financial crisis. I'll leave it to the movie itself to explain further, but it features another all-star cast, with Steve Carell, Christian Bale, Ryan Gosling, Brad Pitt, and Jeremy Strong leading the pack. Margot Robbie, chef Anthony Bourdain, Selena Gomez, and economist Richard Thaler are brought in as helpful extras to explain such financial terms as CDOs, bond shorting, and subprime loans. Name-dropping aside, it's a really great reference for the general events of the crisis and what it meant for the people who were involved in exposing it, those who had taken out the subprime loans and mortgages, and the laid-off employees of banks that went bankrupt. It's also just an entertaining film in itself, to see the interactions between characters as they strategise their way through the situation.

forefront of her industry (developing innovative products and selling them through telemarketing). If you're looking for instant motivation to pursue your dreams, this is the movie to watch. It brings a little magic to everyday life in the form of Joy's wit and spark and desire to create, even in the face of her parents' divorce (Robert De Niro and Virginia Madsen), her half-sister's envy (Elisabeth Röhm), and a myriad of other family issues. Her eventual success comes on the shoulders of her grandmother (Diane Ladd), ex-husband (Édgar Ramirez), best friend (Dascha Polanco), and benefactor Neil Walker (Bradley Cooper). Lawrence and Cooper have a wonderful chemistry on screen, which can also be seen in the films *Silver Linings Playbook* and *American Hustle*, and always serves to elevate the story being told. The movie itself emphasises that every relationship we have is complex; that it's vital to follow your heart even when those close to you don't believe in it, but that the same people who sometimes weigh us down can be our supporters and protectors when they're most needed to be. It's the perfect mixture of nostalgic, emotional, comedic, and uplifting to infuse a lazy, rainy weekend afternoon with some joy.



Joy

I would really recommend *Joy* to anyone and everyone; it's one of my favourite films ever, starring one of my favourite actresses, and I've seen it countless times. Jennifer Lawrence embodies the title role of Joy Mangano, a down-on-her-luck airline reservations desk manager, mother, daughter, granddaughter, sister, ex-wife, and untapped designer and inventor. Mangano, through sheer force of will, carved out a path for herself to the

On January 17th I got an opportunity to sneak into a screening of 20 short documentary films by students of UWE Bristol. As part of their curriculum, groups presented what they had been working on for a couple of months. Pitching the idea, getting equipment, even raising funds and requesting a variety of permissions - it was a long journey and an amazing experience of a complete filmmaking pipeline. It was interesting to see how diverse all the documentaries were. Topics ranged from local infrastructure and community to economic and political issues in the world. Although some of the films presented controversial opinions/ideas, none of them were expressively forcing themselves onto viewers. All the students managed to promote healthy and reasonable positions in a variety of subjects. A few of my top picks were: "Forget me not" - about dementia and the society built around it, "Art of Protests" - about the art involved in the making of protests, "Children of Ukraine" - about the war and how it affected families and their children and "243 Nights" - about local DJ Derek's death, and his closest friends and community. Seeing so many exceptional films raising such important awareness for our society was inspiring, regardless of technical or other flaws. I believe the future of the film industry is in great hands with the new upcoming generation. If any of these do get published, don't miss the opportunity to enjoy them.

Film Event

Future Makers of Film

Takeaways from UWE student film screening

Film Editor **Mike Buzadji**



MUSIC

Edited by: JOE RIORDAN
TARA PAL CHAUDHURI

Don't Miss the Gig

RCSU Live Music Showcase @
METRIC, 9th February

FOR ONLY £3, COME SEE WHAT IMPERIAL'S HOTTEST NEW BANDS HAVE ON OFFER. ON 9TH FEBRUARY, THE RCSU ARE HOSTING THEIR ANNUAL LIVE MUSIC SHOWCASE IN METRIC. COME DOWN AND DANCE, I AM AN UNBIASED REPORTER BUT MY BAND, SAVTAND, ARE PERFORMING SO YOU ALL BETTER COME.



Single of the Week

'C'est Comme Ça' by Paramore

Paramore are well and truly back, their third new single 'C'est Comme Ça' from upcoming album *This Is Why* is just as strong as the last two. Crunchy and twinkly guitar parts

complement each other, combining different eras of Paramore's discography in beautiful harmony while lead singer Hayley Williams gets to show off her range in the energetic bridge. It is what it is, Paramore are back!



Today in Music History

IN 1982, OZZY OSBOURNE FAMOUSLY BIT THE HEAD OFF A BAT WHILE PERFORMING IN DES MOINES, THEN 37 YEARS LATER, IN 2019, HIS OFFICIAL STORE RELEASED A PLUSH BAT WITH A DETACHABLE HEAD TO COMMEMORATE THE UNUSUAL OCCASION. IN OTHER BAT RELATED NEWS, *BAT OUT OF HELL* ARTIST MEATLOAF DIED A YEAR AGO TODAY AT THE AGE OF 74; THIS ALBUM BEING ONE OF THE BEST SELLING ALBUMS OF ALL TIME SEEMS LIKE A BETTER WAY FOR BATS TO GET FAMOUS.



Felix Recommends

The best boy band since 1D

Brockhampton are gone but not forgotten



View online here!

Written by Cindy Liu Music Writer

Brockhampton was a staple of my teenage years; like Kevin Abstract, I also consider it to be the 'best boy band since One Direction' (1:01, 'BOOGIE' of *SATURATION III*). The Brockhampton that we all know today came into fruition in 2010, when 14-year-old Kevin Abstract made a post on the Kanye-ToThe forum titled 'Anyone wanna make a band?'. Arguably, they did not come into the public eye until the release of their first studio album *SATURATION* in 2017 and rose in prominence through the progression of the *SATURATION* series.

Personally, my favorite album is *GINGER*, with 'ST. PERCY' and 'BOY BYE' dominating my 2019 Spotify Wrapped. It is difficult to pinpoint exactly what it is that makes their music so magnetic. Maybe it comes from the dramatically melancholic memories 17-year-old me associated Brockhampton with, or maybe it's their entirely unique sound being a concoction of each member's idiosyncratic taste. United by the members' love of early 2000s hip-hop, they venture together into genres like alt rock, R&B, soul, and the occasional ballad (think Lupe Fiasco's 'Kick, Push' or Jay-Z's '4:44'). It became increasingly difficult to define the genre of their music because each track sounds like it's independently produced by another artist, but you just can't quite pinpoint who. That's what makes them so special. Of course, each member is in a league of their own in terms of production and vocal; but when they come together, the product of their collective is much greater than the sum of its parts and unrivaled by many.

The band announced an indefinite hiatus at the beginning of 2022 and delivered the bad news with a treat to help ease the pain. Their final studio album *The Family* was meant as a parting gift for the fans, but they announced the release of *TM*, an extra studio

album, on the same day. I consider *The Family* as their true final album, but not as an attempt to undermine *TM*. It's laced with the producer Matt Champion's signature nonchalance; it's easy to listen to. *The Family*, on the other hand, feels like Kevin Abstract welded a blade out of his emotions and stabbed you in the thigh with it. The man really poured his entire soul and body into the album. He reflects on his relationships with his mother, his friends, the band members, and the band as a collective. The final track, appropriately titled 'Brockhampton', fires one hard-hitting confession after the other, "Me and Jabari had a fight that changed our relationship / When you yelling at your brothers, it gets dangerous / I don't think our love's ever been the same since," and "Honestly there were issues before *ROADRUNNER* / iridescence I wasn't really there for my brothers / Barely present, more focused on bad relationships". Backed by a slow-temple strings, it is a real tearjerker.

Following the release of the album, Abstract released this statement, "As most of us did, I shut down once I hit middle school, I was afraid to be vulnerable with my mom. I remember not feeling good enough for my dad. I remember pretending to be somebody new depending on who I was around. I used to wanna be an actor, my 14-year-old self was in pain. I was lost. Trapped. And so I dreamt. For reasons similar, but unique, everyone in this group dreamt too." He called back to that original post on the Kanye forum as an olive branch, an attempt to pull himself up from the gutters of his teenage years. When the band has been the mental rock for the better part of one's life, it is difficult to let go. But the members seem to have made peace with the disbandment, one cheeky tweet at a time. I, however, have not, so I will be sulking for some time.



Album Reviews

A genre-bending trip into nothingness

Quadecca surprise with new album / *Didn't Mean To Haunt You*

TW: suicidal ideations

Written by Matija Conic Music Writer

Up until recently, I have only been peripherally aware of Quadecca's existence, pretty much exclusively knowing him as the FIFA guy who did a diss

track on KSI and made some mediocre hip hop. Having enjoyed a fair amount of fame and virality over the past years, it seemed as if though Quadecca was more

than thriving in his trendy, albeit quite unremarkable YouTube rapper lane. Still, his more loyal fans had faith in his ability to deliver more profound art, with tracks like *'Sisyphus'* from his previous LP incorporating some highly interesting sonics that teased towards a promising path forward. And they were right. *I Didn't Mean To Haunt You* blew me away in just about every way possible.

In this conceptual, ethereal, emotional thunderstorm of a record, Quadeca delivers an intensely personal account of mental health and suicidal ideation – something he has struggled with over the past years. In his own words, Ben found himself finding great comfort in this idea of complete nothingness and “not existing”, to the point where the idea felt worth exploring creatively. Rather than giving us a direct depiction of his mental state, Quadeca decides to craft a character of a ghost who is left to ponder his decision to commit suicide, inhabiting an eerie place “somewhere inbetween closed eyes and a dream”, beautifully painted on the track *'don't mind me'* – one of my personal highlights on the record. Nonetheless, as much as he does use this character as a window into his own mind, the ghost simultaneously feels like a creative exercise for its own sake, with Ben essentially attempting to imagine what the continuation of the psyche in the aftermath of his own death would feel like. The instrumentals on the first leg of the record are incredibly pretty and layered, with glitchy synthesizers, gentle piano keys and anxiety-inducing, distorted sound palettes constructing a hauntingly depressing, yet beautiful and other-worldly atmosphere reminiscent of a Microphones record. Quadeca displays an absolute mastery of assembling many of these seemingly disjointed fragments into mind-bending beats and melodies that, for the most part, work really well at bringing you into this compelling world of grief and isolation.

The first track, *'sorry4dying'*, deals with the very act of suicide and the “second birth” of the character's self in ghost form, as Quadeca puts it. He returns to his childhood home, which is the setting where most of the album takes place. The character proclaims that he's “sorry for dying” and yearns to “hold his loved ones” without “haunting” them and causing them pain. Quickly, he is struck with the realisation of how lonely this inbetween space is (“Reach through the walls, I tried to scream, it won't come out”), which sends him on a maddening spiral of conflicting emotions as the record progresses. The character reflects on his decision to take his life on the following track, *'tell me a joke'*, from the angle of satirical happiness, with verses like “Knock knock who's there, tell me a joke ... it's a setup, the punchline was me” communicating regret and suggesting that he considers being dead one big joke – a poor decision that brought him nothing in the end apart from trapping him in a horrible, quiet space where “all he can hear are crickets”. The initial emotions of sadness and compassion for his heart-broken mother slowly morph into annoyance and irritation, which begin to leak through on *'tell me a joke'*, where he laughs at the implication that it was all “too soon”

and “out of the blue”, perhaps expressing frustration that nobody noticed his mental deterioration. On the song *'born yesterday'*, he becomes almost angry at his mum for pretending to be okay after his passing (“I wasn't born yesterday, I think you're goddamn lying”), starting to show more bitter and self-centred emotions that grow stronger as he spirals into excruciating loneliness. The instrumental, while retaining many of the pretty qualities on previous tracks, becomes moodier and tense. The main sample loops over and over again, adding to the mounting feeling of unbearable sadness, with the song becoming more intense and helping to kickstart the character's tormented downfall. The repeated wish for his mother to join him in the afterlife is a recurring theme initially expressed on *'picking up hands'*, where he craves to be with her and console her, reassuring her that he is much closer than she thinks. Although not bad, this track is one of the few instances on the album where I feel the production layers do not really coalesce into something more powerful, with many elements redundant and distracting.

This wish to reunite with his loved ones grows more selfish and violent as the record progresses, culminating during *'house settling'* – a key moment on the album narratively. The crippling inability to interact with the world of the living sends the character into a series of desperate attempts to be noticed. The creaks that he generates through walking around his childhood house are dismissed as “house settling” – a way to “rationalise his presence away” in the character's eyes. Finally, the anguish completely paralyses his judgement, and he decides to leak carbon monoxide into the house, hoping to forcefully suck his family into the afterlife. The craziest thing about the song is that the murderous act is not simply narrated by the character. Instead, we are blessed with a super tight guest verse from Danny Brown who raps from the perspective of carbon monoxide gas itself – a uniquely unhinged creative decision that really should not work as well as it does. Danny's vocals are blood-boilingly aggressive and perfectly edited to sound harsh, terrifying and demonic, making for arguably the best feature I have heard all year. The follow-up track, *'knots'*, while building on the same intensity set up on *'house settling'*, is a complete sonic detour from the rest, with Quadeca once again letting his immense production talent explore previously uncharted territories. The song is noisy, dark, disorienting and immensely claustrophobic, with many people drawing parallels to Death Grips – a comparison that is normally used a bit too liberally, but nonetheless feels apt in this instance. I love everything about the track and, albeit it may be an unusual inclusion in the flow of the record, I'm glad that Quad is not shying away from using all the sonics in his arsenal to communicate how painfully lonely this inbetween space is.



This is where the record enters a really strong finish, with the tempo and aggression being turned down once more in favour of some more nostalgic and sorrowful melodies. The sadness and pain exuded on *'fantasyworld'* is unparalleled and has made me tear up on multiple occasions, which is not something I experience often with music. At the core of the track is a rather simple piano melody that almost feels composed by an amateur kid playing the instrument for the first time. The production layers that slowly get introduced over Quad's despondent vocals are completely overwhelming and heart-wrenching, building towards a distorted climax that manages to retain the same level of immense hopelessness and sadness in spite of the added abrasiveness. *'fractions of infinity'* is more straightforwardly pretty, with one of the sweetest melodies on the album and a fantastic feature by the Sunday Service Choir that bring an angelic, heavenly quality to the track. The closer, *'cassini's division'*, ends the character's journey on a strong note, and is the only track on the album that induced real feelings of fear inside me. The spoken word passages delivered through tears, laced with chilling, alien-sounding vocal samples and a relentlessly repeating melody that functions almost like a timer for his eventual entry into nothingness, make the song a truly discomfiting experience. Moreover, the track ends in a featureless sea of static, communicating the character's disappearance into the void in a really creative manner.

All things considered, *I Didn't Mean To Haunt You* is a stunningly beautiful, personal, heart-wrenching and painful journey I wish I could experience again for the first time. I have very few gripes with this record, with the extent of my criticisms being that Ben's grand ambitions will very occasionally lead him into experimentation that feels a bit too overwhelming and confusing, to the point where I feel lost, and the emotion doesn't come through as effectively as I'd like it to. Nonetheless, a lot of moments that initially struck me in this way (like *'cassini's division'*) have grown on me big time, and there's honestly very little material on this record that I'm not utterly enamoured with. Ben has proven himself as an incredibly skilled producer and storyteller, showing us that he is much more capable and artistically gifted than your average YouTube rapper. After blessing us with this genre-bending masterpiece, I could not be more excited to hear what Ben has to give going forward.





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FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 2023

SPORT

Edited by: ISABELLA WARD

Victories all-round for IC Badminton despite challenges

BUCS 'frozen' as icy weather suspends games

Imperial Team	Opponent	Result
Mixed Golf I	Reading Mixed Golf I	3-3
Women's Tennis I	Exeter Women's I	6-0
Men's Badminton II	Portsmouth Men's I	6-2
Medics Men's Badminton II	King's Men's III	6-2
Men's Squash I	Portsmouth Men's I	4-1
Medics Men's Football I	Reading Men's III	8-0
Men's Tennis IV	Kent Men's III	5-1
Men's Volleyball I	Essex Men's I	3-0

Isabella Ward Sport Editor

Sports teams, rested and recovered from the Winter break and keen to tackle this term's fixtures head on, were dismayed when wet and icy pitches caused the cancellation of 11 games due to place at Harlington on Wednesday. Despite this, several games were still able to be played, resulting in a set of victories just short of a clean sweep for Imperial.

Let's hope next week doesn't face the same obstacles, as things are starting to get exciting. Sunday will see Men's Futsal II face off City, University of London in

the Quarter-finals of the South Eastern Second Tier Cup. Following this, on Wednesday Imperial's Women's football team will play Birmingham in the first knockout stage of the South Eastern First Tier Cup competition.

The biggest displays of physical prowess, however, will be those seen on January 25th at ACC Sports Night. Students' sportsmanship will be tested as they fight away others to get a drink at the bar, whilst how long they are able to withstand the crushing pressure of the crowds and sheer humidity in Metric will be the ultimate measure of their stamina.

Men's I quickly beat rivals UCL 6-2

Richard Zhang

Badminton Men's First Team Captain

Today's game against fierce rivals UCL started with an unfortunate mix-up. All involved were under the impression that it would start at noon – that is, apart from Ethos, who thought it was at 1pm. Fortunately, teams were able to warm up on the two free courts. Players had to take the concept of 'warming up' quite literally as the sports hall was like a freezer: colder on the inside than on the outside. We were reluctant to turn off the two hot air blowers when play started, but an afternoon of fiercely fought games kept us warm.

The match kicked off with doubles and singles games simultaneously. Angus as usual started off with a solid win in singles. Sid and Mihir went into beast mode with perfect rotation and kept on attacking like they had nothing to lose. After just half an hour we already had two wins in the bag.

Busy-as-ever, Angus went on to his second singles match with no break yet scored another win barely breaking a

sweat. No surprise there. In the meantime, Tom and Prithvi started their doubles game with some doubles defence and kept moving their opponents left to right, securing another two-set win in doubles.

In the second half of the match, Sid and Mihir continued their streak by seeing off the UCL second doubles pair in two clinical sets, sealing Imperial's victory.

Richard started off strong against the UCL second singles player – winning the first set – but narrowly lost the second and third. His second game also began promisingly, with him winning the first set. The beginning of the second set, however, saw him wobble as he nosedived into an 11-1 deficit. However, in a fantastic display of focus and resilience, he brought the score back to 16-16. Unfortunately, this winning streak wasn't quite enough and the second set concluded with a 21-16 loss. After a long final set, he lost by an incredibly narrow margin of 21-19.

In the final match, Tom and Prithvi managed to overcome UCL's first pair in

two sets that weren't always the prettiest but got the job done.

Overall, the Men's Firsts scored a con-

vincing 6-2 win, having quickly secured and sending UCL home with their tails between their legs.



All just in another afternoon's work for Angus

SPORT

Men's IIs face tough competition in injury-plagued match but pull away, beating Portsmouth 6-2

Edward Chen

Badminton Men's II Team Captain

Wednesday saw teams from Imperial and the University of Portsmouth, each consisting of two singles players and two pairs, battle it out for BUCS points over a total of eight games. Portsmouth stand quite high up in the leaderboard already so we were expecting a very close final score. However, a turn of events resulted in a final score of 6-2 to Imperial.

The match began with two singles games. These were neck and neck until the final points, with both Imperial players winning their first set by a few points to 21. Our second singles player, Gavin, then pushed hard through his second game, winning 21-9. Meanwhile,

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“IT WAS A GREAT FEELING TO KNOW THAT ALL OF OUR HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION PAID OFF.”

however, the game between our first singles player, Chonghui, and Portsmouth's first seed was so close that it went to a third set. During the intense match, Chonghui slipped just after lunging to the front of the court and the sudden movement caused a painful

calf cramp which left him lying on the court. Thankfully, a few stretches and good spray of deep freeze put him back on his feet and he was able to finish the third game. He recovered impressively and the game came close yet again but the win was eventually secured by Portsmouth.

Next were the doubles games. These were just as exciting and competitive; shuttles flew back and forth and Portsmouth narrowly won the first game 22-20. Our doubles pair, however, kept high spirits. By communicating effectively with each other, finding weaknesses and giving advice,

they made an impressive comeback, winning their second and third sets. It was a great game to watch, as in each set they performed better than in the previous.

Unfortunately for Portsmouth, the final two remaining doubles games were forfeited as one of their doubles players



Imperial pair gives their all during fiercely fought doubles games

injured themselves during the opening points of the game. After going for a jump-smash, the player had landed on the outer edge of his foot, causing him to roll over the ankle and fall. It was a severe injury that will take several weeks to recover, despite our support as we rushed him off the court with ice packs. They had no choice but to forfeit their remaining two doubles games. Although not the outcome we had wished for, it was still a fantastically fought competition between the two teams.

Gavin reflected on the afternoon:

“Winning that team badminton

match was definitely a challenge, especially with one of our players getting injured. However, our team pulled together and worked as a cohesive unit to overcome the adversity. We were able to adjust our strategy and make the most of the situation. In the end, we were able to come out victorious, and it was a great feeling to know that all of our hard work and determination paid off. It just goes to show that with a strong team effort, anything is possible.”



Eyes on: Imperial Men's I pair face off UCL

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