



# Freedom of speech bill places new responsibility on student unions

Credit: Collage by Felix . Gavin Williamson photo by Kuhlmann/ MSC (CC BY 3.0 DE). Michelle Donelan photo by Gareth Milner (CC BY 2.0)



**Isabella Ward** News Writer

Universities and student unions will soon be under heightened responsibilities and scrutiny to protect free speech within their campuses and community. The Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill, first presented to Parliament in May 2021, has passed through the Houses of Commons and Lords and is undergoing final considerations.

Currently, universities are required to take “reasonably practicable steps” to ensure lawful freedom of speech. Here, “freedom of speech” is defined as in the European Convention on Human Rights: “freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.”

The bill aims to “strengthen and extend” this existing legislation and, novelly, also place these duties upon student unions. Furthermore, higher education regulators will be allowed to fine institutions failing to protect freedom of speech.

*Continued on page 3...*

# Spring Term sees increased striking UCU: 18 days of strike for pay and pension disputes

**Ameena Hassan** Editor-in-Chief

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January marked the first day of strikes for the Spring Term. This saw joint striking from Imperial’s branches of UCU and Unite, on the issue of the 2022 pay award. A second joint strike day has also been announced for 1<sup>st</sup> February.

UCU also announced on 24<sup>th</sup> January a set of 18 days of national strike action over pay and pensions.

The marking and assessment boycott initially planned for January has been called off. Instead, the UCU’s Higher Education Committee is looking to “strategically target summer graduations”, suggesting a boycott in

April or May.

Imperial College London is one of the few universities where pay is decided locally instead of nationally, which disqualifies Imperial UCU from following other UCU branches across the United Kingdom, unless they announce these strikes individually. Felix has not yet received clarification

on which of these 18 days are specifically for national pay, and which strikes are on pensions.

Imperial Unite members told Felix “It’s hard to organise extended strikes, as our members simply can’t afford to not work, despite our strike pay fund.” Both

*Continued on page 3...*

# EDITORIAL

This issue was produced thanks to the work of

Jamie John	Deputy Editor
Negafelix	Catnip Editor
Tara Pal-Chaudhuri	Music Editor
Joe Riordan	Music Editor
Isabella Ward	News writer and Sports and Societies Editor
Joe Riordan	Music Editor
Simran Patel	Copyeditor
Taylor Pomfret	Copyeditor

And our numerous contributors



## Editorial

Felix was a hobby and passion of mine long before I ran for the Editor-in-Chief position. I found a community of people with varied interests and was blown away by their passion and enthusiasm. This has been a large portion of my university life for a very long time, but it cannot last forever. Times end because they have to, and I think it's unrealistic to think that our readers aren't smart enough to realise when things get worse. There are good times and bad times, and they just come together in some jumbled sort of way, because that's what life is. Then we die. Sometimes, we leave behind a mark on the world.

I have had the chance to talk with members of the Felix team, and it's been made clear that a paper with me as Editor is not one that will continue

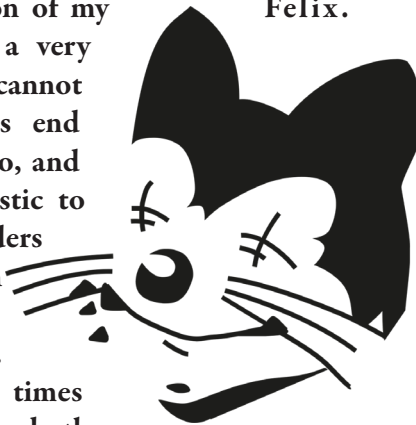
to exist. Felix has gone down in quality while I have been Editor, and I accept that. I have decided to resign as Editor.

I respect the opinions of those I work with, and recognise that we all want what we think is best for the future of Felix.

With these in mind, I am stepping down as Felix Editor, Editor-in-Chief, person in the scary Felix costume (whichever you know me as) at the end of today, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

As I leave, please continue to forward all correspondence to felix@ic.ac.uk. If you have personally

told me any information about existing investigations, any identifying details will not be passed on unless you have given me permission to do so. I can be reached through my student email address - ah1018@ic.ac.uk. Here's to the future of Felix.



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

Registered Newspaper ISSN 1040-0711

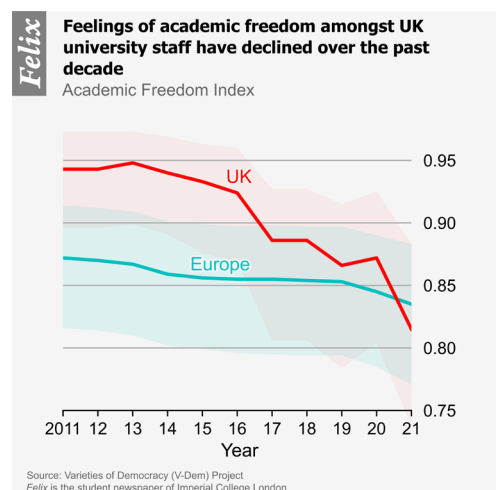
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Retraction: Last issue, we listed Kishan Sambhi as the Editor-in-Chief. That is incorrect, for he is a News Writer.

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## Freedom of speech in UK universities

The Academic Freedom Index indicates that over the past decade, feelings of academic freedom within UK universities have declined (see figure). The government committed to cracking down on campus “cancel culture” in 2021, with then Education Secretary Gavin Williamson bringing the bill forward in the hopes that it would eradicate what he called unlawful “silencing” and thus “counter



the chilling effect of censorship on campus once and for all.”

### New duties

The bill first seeks to “secure freedom of speech within the law for the provider’s members, staff and students and for visiting speakers” by mandating that higher education providers “take steps to achieve” this. It bestows on universities a duty to develop and maintain a “code of practice” as described:

“The content code of practice must

include a statement of the provider’s values relating to freedom of speech and an explanation of how those values uphold freedom of speech. It must also set out the procedures to be followed by staff, students and any students’ union for students at the provider when organising meetings and activities, the conduct required in relation to such meetings and activities, and the criteria for specified decisions.”

Furthermore, the bill now proposes that universities should not just protect, but “actively promote” freedom of speech and, in particular, academic freedom for staff.

Initially, the bill proposed to allow individuals to bring civil proceedings against universities failing to uphold these new responsibilities of protecting free speech. However, this was removed in December last year due to concerns that the fear of litigation could – counterproductively – reduce free speech in universities.

Amendments made in December also ban the use of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) for complaints of sexual abuse, harassment or misconduct, or other bullying or harassment. An NDA would prevent the individual from disclosing or publishing information about the relevant complaint to any one or more other persons.

### Impact on students’ unions

Notably, the bill will see the legal responsibilities described above also placed on student unions. Unions found breaching these duties would

likewise face sanctions.

In particular, the duty would enforce on unions that “the use of any premises occupied by the students’ union is not refused because of a person’s ideas, beliefs or views, or a body’s policy or objectives” and that “affiliation to the students’ union is not denied to any student society on those grounds. This aims to tackle the hotly debated (yet infrequent) instances of “no-platforming”, where individuals or organisations are denied a platform to speak (for example, Amber Rudd by UN Women Oxford UK in 2020).

### Regulator: the Office for Students

The Office for Students (OfS) will act as a regulator to oversee institutions’ discharging of obligations. Any alleged breach of these new duties will be investigated by a newly created Director for Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom. One of the mechanisms for this includes a new complaints scheme for students, staff and visiting speakers who feel they have been suffered as a result of such a breach.

Although the bill has not yet reached Royal Assent, the OfS has already begun to set the wheels in motion for monitoring freedom of speech across campuses in England. The National Student Survey, sent to final-year students last week, now features a question for students at English universities on the extent to which they feel free to express themselves at university.

### Responses thus far

“Cancel culture” is a contentious issue, and the extent to which it is

a threat on campuses is an ongoing debate. There are criticisms that the bill takes the wrong approach: the University and College Union UCU briefing on the Bill states that it “will do nothing to address the real threats to academic freedom, which are widely understood to be the use of precarious employment practices that prevent staff from researching and working freely, a lack of staff representation in university governance, and a management culture which dictates the research academics undertake”. Nevertheless, the banning of NDAs has been well-received.

There are concerns regarding the bill’s heavy-handed governance of student unions. Some fear that it could encourage students unhappy with union decisions concerning them to complain that their views are being discriminated against. The bill may also force student unions to reconsider some of their election practices, where certain types of speech (i.e., criticising other candidates) are banned. However, some relief will be felt amongst institutions now that the “frightening” prospect of civil proceedings against them has been dropped.

In 2021, then Universities Minister Michelle Donelan said: “This Bill will ensure universities not only protect free speech but promote it too. After all how can we expect society to progress or for opinions to modernise unless we can challenge the status quo?”

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## Increasing strike action

Imperial UCU and Imperial Unite have funds to support members who go on strike.

The Imperial UCU Strike Organiser



noted on Monday that there were fewer in-person attendees than at earlier strikes

in November. The picket line started slightly after 8am in the morning in -5C weather, and picketers left the Imperial College Road entrance at just before noon, when the temperatures had risen to -2C.

Felix spoke to picketers at the picket line, who admitted: “We do tend to have better attendance in better weather, but strikers have increasingly chosen to attend online instead, as they can’t afford the travel costs.” Another picketer said that he found the picket line beneficial to intersectional research, as they had written papers with fellow researchers they had met on the picket line.

Before the additional 18 days were announced, a picketer said “It feels like this is going to go on for a while, not

resolved quickly at all. We’ve dug our feet in”.

Striking staff have their pay withheld,

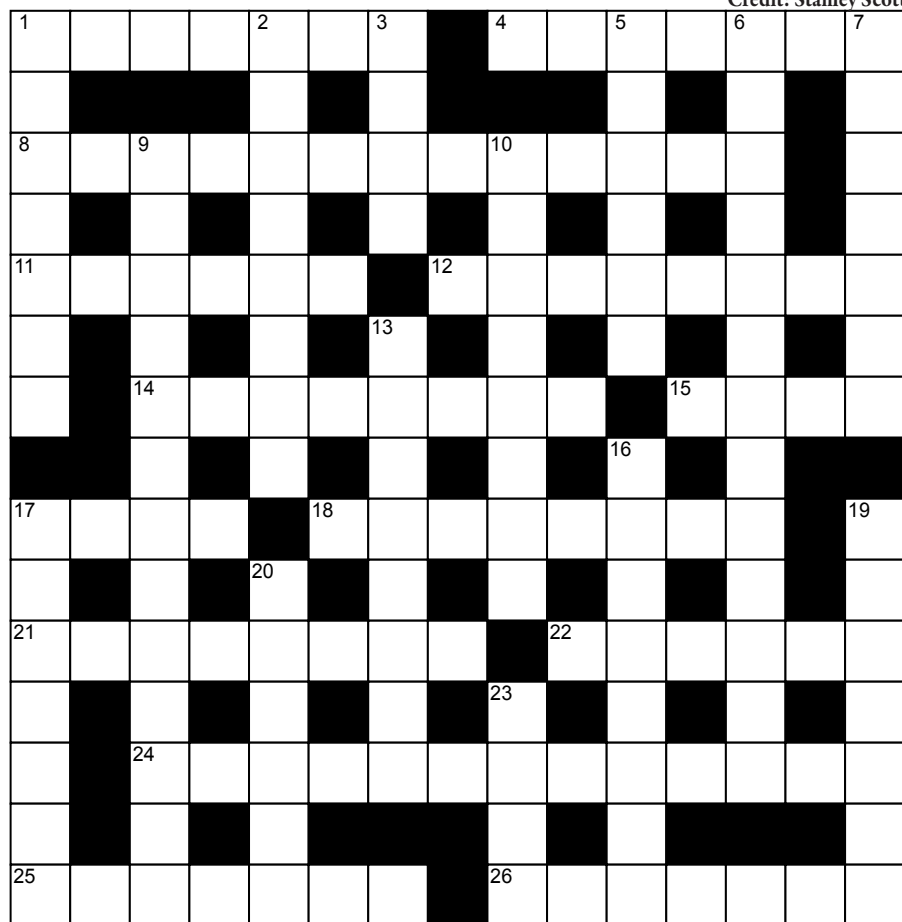
and this year, the pay will go directly into the Student Support Fund, which is available to all students.

Strike Dates	UCU National Strike Action
30 Jan - 3 Feb	1 February
6 Feb - 10 Feb	9 - 10 Feb
13 Feb - 17 Feb	14 - 16 Feb
20 Feb - 24 Feb	21 - 23 Feb
27 Feb - 3 Mar	27 Feb - 2 Mar
6 Mar - 10 Mar	- No strikes -
13 Mar - 17 Mar	16 - 17 Mar
20 Mar - 24 Mar	20 - 22 Mar

PUZZLES

CRYPTIC Crossword Grid

Credit: Stanley Scott



CRYPTIC Crossword Clues

Across

- 1) Take it home and often put it away after. [4 3]
- 4) Get irritated without your carbon-rich face crème. [7]
- 8) Laying one on the other - really spectacular! [13]
- 11) It's messy in the kitchen, as they zoom around what doesn't belong to them. [6]
- 12) Lays back cheap wine in the fluid sort. [8]
- 14) Paint in large letters: "Blam Zone Shooting". [8]
- 15) Leader taking it one step at a time? [4]
- 17) Cap spending, expenses should have motive. [4]
- 18) Eccentric ties owned by crazy rich woman. [8]
- 21) She holds an exciting tour ending of the morgue. [8]
- 22) Monkey is main performer. [6]
- 24) Get Billie's spice blend for Christmas. [7 6]
- 25) Controller of mica pit and mines. [7]
- 26) Previous tube used to draw. [7]

Down

- 1) Stop talking while giggling on the internet - seems passionate. [7]
- 2) Guard garment, or what it comes in? [8]
- 3) Vegetables you aren't meant to start with for a little while. [4]
- 5) Intense coital course. [6]
- 6) Whizz at bingo is active, but exhibits prejudice. [9 4]
- 7) Title of undergraduate paper: "Head Burying and Noise Protection". [6]
- 9) The lecturer's cool since they got tenure. [13]
- 10) Cytotoxin destroys twenty-first denatured hormone. [8]
- 13) Spinning machine for the communist produces foam. [8]
- 16) Little weapon is jarring. [8]
- 17) The Times is returning, I see, in these languages. [7]
- 19) Brother's angry about software - it's easy to screw around with it! [4 3]
- 20) Jewish milk perhaps poured on tailless bug. [6]
- 23) Happy, red heart of burning woodpile. [4]

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 grid.

C: Almost fight off the amoeba. [7]

A: PROTIST  
R: \_\_\_\_\_

C: It's awfully cruel to put your representative in the squeeze. [7]

A: CRUMPLE  
R: \_\_\_\_\_

C: Bless you for drunkenly using the bed last. [10]

A: GESUNDHEIT  
R: \_\_\_\_\_

CATNIP



ARIES

This week you consider doing opioids to ease yourself off TikTok



TAURUS

This week the inspector is shocked when his investigation into the grizzly stealing satsumas bears fruit



GEMINI

This week your Greek friend goes nuts when you ask him if he's from North Macadmia



CANCER

This week you decide that calling yourself an "empty bottle collector" sounds better than "alcoholic"



LEO

This week you lose your vigour in bed with your girlfriend, as you can't stop thinking about your last common ancestor



VIRGO

This week you're filled with existential dread when you try to figure out what comes after Gen Z



LIBRA

This week your lisp gets you in trouble with FemSoc when you refer to a woman as a myth



SCORPIO

This week your libra energy is no longer vibing with your boyfriend's chronic halitosis



SAGITTARIUS

This week you embrace the rho male grindset - you are just dense



CAPRICORN

This week you enter your using-Fairy-liquid-as-shampoo era



AQUARIUS

This week the sheets on your bed are definitely okay for another week



PISCES

This week you stim yourself by licking AA batteries

## Don't Miss the Gig

LMS Acoustic Night @ Union Bar, Tuesday 31st January

Kick back with Imperial's own acoustic acts. Think a little stool, a corner stage, Union Bar's warm wooden beer-scented chic (am I selling this?), and lots of guitars. Come support Imperial performers in their enviable switch from science to the performing arts. I wish I could sing, too.



## Single of the Week

'Heartbreak Feels So Good' by Fall Out Boy

5 years since *MANIA*. 10 years since *Save Rock And Roll*. 20 years since *Take This to Your Grave*. 2 months until *So Much (for) Stardust*. Fall Out Boy have returned (was Panic! sacrificed for this?) with two singles so far and an upcoming album. The latest single 'Heartbreak Feels So Good' brings back the guitar-heavy riffs of the bands' pre-hiatus sound while some synths remain, an echo of *MANIA*. The band sound confident and excited about the new music so I'm interested to hear the whole album on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Emo never dies.



## Today in Music History

- It's 2015 and all of Taylor Swift's social media platforms are hacked. She takes to her Tumblr account to comfort her fans that the hackers' tweets are being deleted. I suppose hackers gonna hack, hack, hack.
- Michael Jackson decides to film a Pepsi ad in 1984 but ends up with his hair on fire caused by a stray pyro.
- Stevie Wonder's 'Superstition' reaches #1 on the U.S. *Billboard* Hot 100 in 1973, eventually making it to #73 of *Rolling Stone's* list of 500 greatest songs of all time.



# MUSIC

Album Reviews

## Searows release debut, *Guard Dog*

*A beautiful yet beautiful debut from Portland indie-rocker, Searows*

Amy Smith Music Writer

On a rather rainy Wednesday in the limbo between Christmas and New Year's, my cousin recommended an album that would become a new favourite in the weeks to come: the debut album *Guard Dog* from indie-folk newcomer Searows.

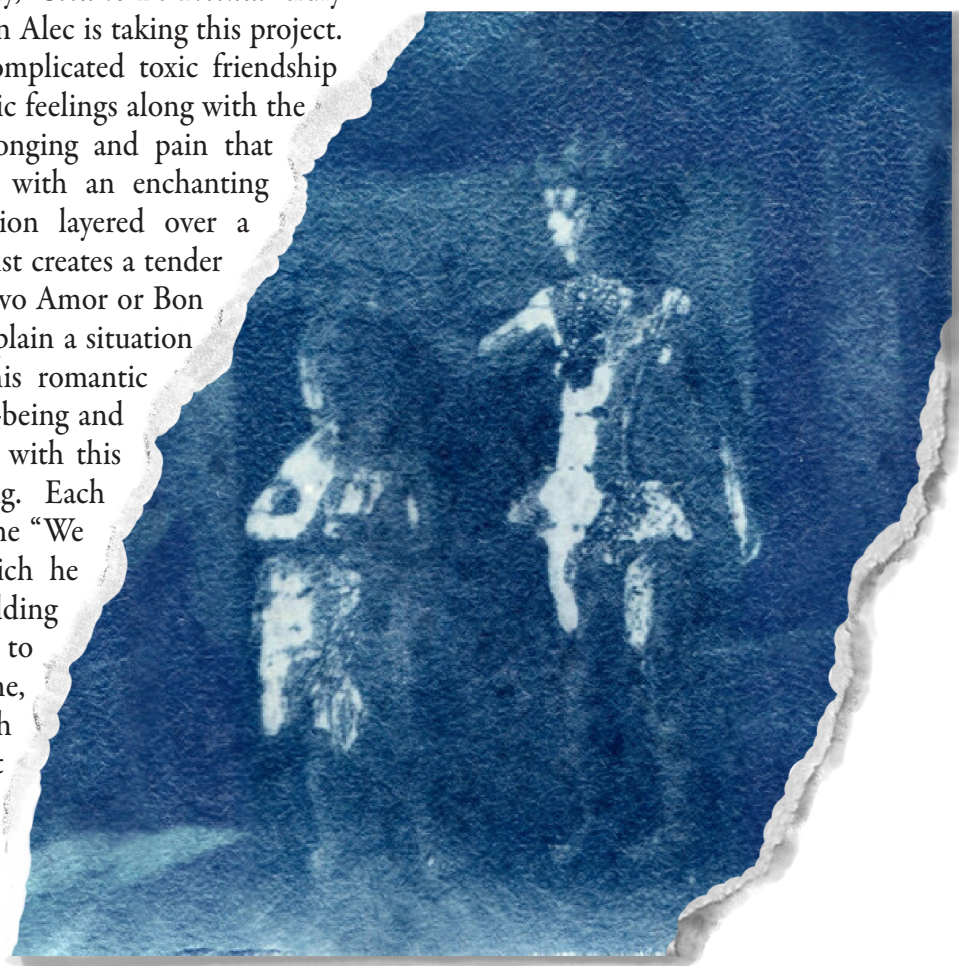
Written, recorded, produced and mixed by Alec Duckart in the crawlspace under his house, the album, released on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, has an artfully cohesive sound that is both acoustic and delicate. Though the album may not be upbeat in its lyricism, Alec creates a ruminative yet comforting collection of songs loaded with introspective imagery, hushed intimacy, and acoustic strums — the quietly resolute sound of a man left alone with a guitar, a mic and his thoughts. While his vocal timbre is similar to that of Phoebe Bridgers, the way he utilises his mild, diaphanous vibrato to sustain notes is highly unique, creating an emotion-inducing, delicate, and powerful performance that pairs beautifully with his impressive finger-work on acoustic guitar.

Lyricaly, the album represents a look into some personal relationships in his life, poetically, candidly and somberly emoting on the intricacies and intimacies of human relationships against a backdrop of warm, sensitive guitar for a simple yet devastating effect. First released as a single in July, 'Used to Be Friends' truly encompasses the direction Alec is taking this project. The track describes a complicated toxic friendship with intertwined romantic feelings along with the feelings of obligation, longing and pain that came with it. Opening with an enchanting acoustic chord progression layered over a distant soft horn, the artist creates a tender sound reminiscent of Novo Amor or Bon Iver. Alec proceeds to explain a situation in which he rejected this romantic interest for his own well-being and had to continue battling with this person's constant pining. Each chorus closes with the line "We used to be friends" which he poignantly sustains, holding the note long enough to drive that absence home, making his vocals as much a purely sonic instrument as his guitar. The song is a powerful reminder that the lasting impact felt after relationships end, even the tough,

complicated ones, isn't singular. We should take time to reflect on these times and appreciate the lessons they taught us.

'Haunted' is a track that almost makes you hold your breath. Its gentle chords guide you through a tragic story of loss and loneliness with Alec asking "Don't you ever wish the house was haunted?" These qualities lure you in with their softness and leave you with goosebumps. The album closes with 'Crybaby', a song containing some of the saddest lines I heard in any song last year: "I wanna stay alive/I do, I do, I do/ At least I try to want to."

The production and composition of the album are incredibly well done and the lyricism is so heartbreakingly raw and descriptive that any song will hit close to your heart. While it's a powerful and emotional album, it's also a reminder of the familiar melancholic indie-folk sound that so many of us love. It may have been close to the end of the year when I first listened, but I am so glad this album didn't pass me by.



Edited by Joe Riordan & Tara Pal Chaudhuri



View online.

## Felix Recommends

## John's Recommendations

5 new releases you probably should maybe listen to from last Friday (specifically)

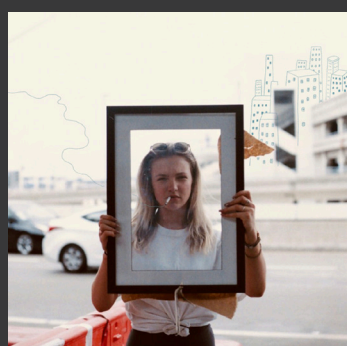
John Estopen Music Writer

Hello, y'all. What an epic Friday the 20th it'd been. I got 5 new releases that have taken my liking (in no particular order – I like all of them a lot).

### 'Drunk on a flight' by Eloise

Eloise has been a recurring listen of mine ever since I discovered her 2019 alternative/R&B EP *This Thing Called Living* (which I would heavily recommend you listen to yes pls), and I am glad she's dropped another single. 'Drunk on a flight' begins with a harsh reality: Eloise had broken up with her partner " 'cause it had to end". She spends the rest of the single both mourning and reminiscing about her past significant other. Eloise is hurt, is desperately hooked on him, and looks for him in every man she meets - trust me it's not a good place to be. This song just gets me in some way. She wants him back, even if she's admitting it's not the best thing for either of them. I love her voice, the instrumentation, overall feel of this. PLEASE listen to it - especially if you like getting drunk on flights.

TLDR: Eloise gets drunk on a plane and is mourning her recent heartbreak. Sad but in a sonically pleasing way.



### 'RELOAD!' feat. WHOKILLEDXIX by Ezekiel

Let me preface by saying I used to blast WHOKILLEDXIX's 'CUM' ALL. THE. DAMN. TIME. so it is no surprise that I am really REALLY enjoying this single. Mancunian Ezekiel teams up with previously mentioned WHOKILLEDXIX to drop a headbanger. It's hard, its gritty, its messy, and whilst it could use a tiny touch of refinement, it has a grip on me which I can't describe. I feel so powerful walking literally anywhere to this. The track wastes no time and starts the beat off hard and nasty, before going into what feels like a boss fight. AH I just feel so badass listening, even if I don't completely know what is being said in the track.

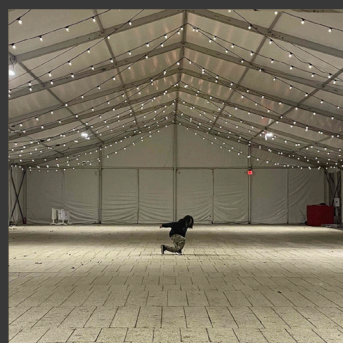
TLDR: I must now look into Ezekiel's discog. If you like 'CUM' it is a must listen.



### 'Count of Three (You Can Eat \$#@!)' by underscores

underscores' new single signifies the final piece of their 'fishmonger' era (which you should listen to all the previous bits of). 'Count of Three' is Devon's self-proclaimed "\$1m pop song". All I can say is the aim was achieved and it is catchy catchy. The track opens with a stripped down backing of guitar and bass, with Devon's signature distorted lyricism. Drums kick in [you'll get the joke when you listen to the song [it's a terrible joke]], and we find out that Devon feels punished by a potential person who they're talking to. Well guess what, that person can "eat shiiii-iiii-iiiiit", as they say in the danceable chorus. This song is so cathartic and is so fun to listen to. Instead of banging my head up and down like I would for most of the 'fishmonger' era, I find myself grooving left and right. I'm glad I could catch a bit more underscores this year after being so into their two previous albums. If there's one lesson we could learn from 'Count of Three', it's that we should all tell people we don't like to eat shit.

TLDR: tell that person to eat shit, and listen to this song whilst doing it.

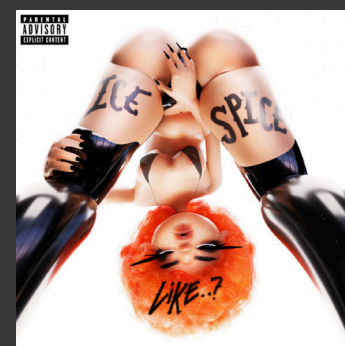


### 'Like..?' by Ice Spice

I'm not gonna lie, I heard Spice's 'Munch (Feelin' U)' first on TikTok. Whilst it took me a while to fully commit and listen to her on Spotify, I am really happy I did. Bronx's Ice Spice comes at us with her debut EP *Like..?* (her signature adlib) and like damn, its pretty fun. She opens the EP with Jersey club beat 'In Ha Mood' where Ice Spice enjoys herself at a party, and I'm gonna be enjoying it too if it sounds like this. I'm not sure if it's just me, but I've been getting so many TikToks about Ice Spice being the late Princess Di rein-

carnated, the people's princess. Spice caught onto that, releasing 'Princess Diana', where she declares that "In the hood, (she's) like Princess Diana." 'Bikini Bottom' is a certified bop, it feels like a guilty pleasure. Whilst this isn't the BEST sounding record, it has no problem in getting me hooked, for slay reasons and culture reasons. Overall I'm pretty into it. "How could I lose if I'm already chose" are my new words to live by - thanks Ice Spice.

TLDR: TikTok's people's princess, Ice Spice, does it again. Listen to 'Munch (Feelin' U)'



### 'Bubblegum' by Biig Piig

I first experienced Biig Piig whilst they were opening for Glass Animals back in Dec 2021 at Ally Pally. I was captivated by their stage presence, and just how much fun their set was. 'Feels Right' described the feeling of letting go on a night out, backed by a groovy bassline. It just "feels right", ya kno. 'Switch', another banger, describes the pressure put onto the world, and how it's all falling apart. Despite the desolate and anxious undertones, it still bangs hard. Biig Piig would be one to watch for me. Fast forward to now, Biig Piig Amsterdam tickets secured and a new album to listen to - life is great. If I could describe this mixtape with one word, it would be FUN. She opens with 'Only One', with punchy bass and an airy voice, pleading the one she loves to stay. 'Kerosene' is groovy and sounds exactly like what she wants to describe, the ecstasy of a new flame. It's possibly my favourite from the album. She doesn't shy away from straightforward balladry either, 'Ghosting' does this in English AND in Spanish. Props to our bilingual queen. I really like this record, but I feel like I wanted a bit more from it, especially with its 18-minute runtime. Nevertheless, I'm sure this'll hit live in a couple month's time.

TLDR: Biig Piig's Bubblegum pops off. Listen to 'Kerosene'.



# SOCIETIES & SPORT

Edited by: ISABELLA WARD

## Women's Football makes history

Layana Safieddine  
ICWFC I Team Captain

On Wednesday Imperial College Women's Football Club (ICWFC) played in the BUCS Trophy for the first time in its history. After winning the Tier 2 league last season, the first team got promoted to Tier 1. This is a tough league, yet they sit mid-table, having notably beaten the previously undefeated Hertfordshire 1s.

Facing Birmingham, were Sofia H, Emma S, Layana and Charmaine at the back, Amanda, Elin and Ella in midfield, and Sofia C, Annabel, and Zoe attacking. Rhea and Emma W were on the bench, ready to come on to help the team.

We played well in the first half, but Birmingham were very fast and decisive at set pieces and scored from free kicks

and corners.

Following a team discussion and some strategic substitutions at half time, we went into the second half heads held high and ready to give it our all, keeping our good defensive shape while being faster on the ball and creating more chances.

The second half was more even, with both teams looking dangerous. Each team was getting closer and closer to the goal.

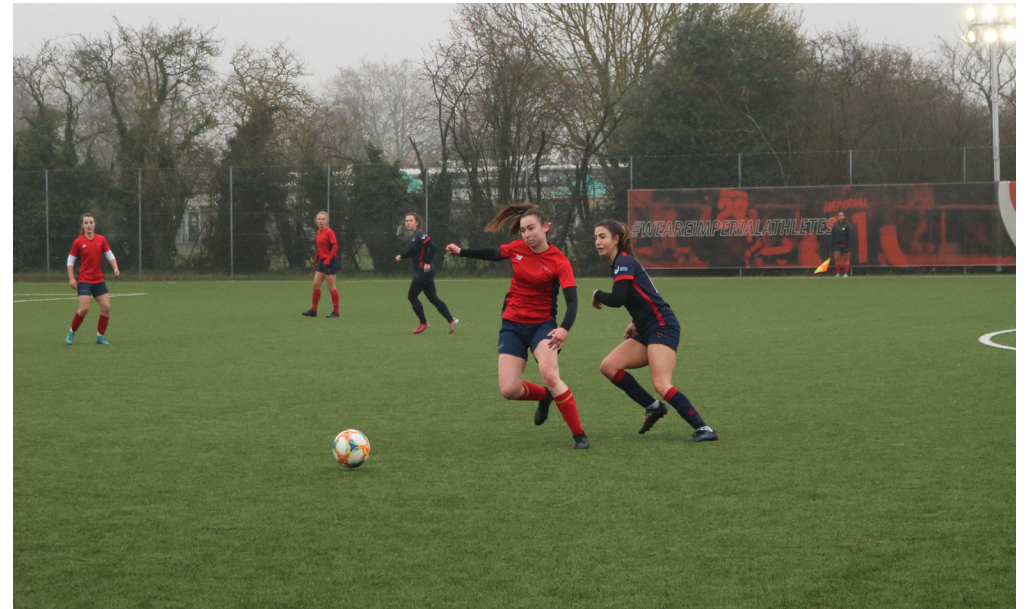
It was Birmingham who found

the net first with a well-taken free kick. ICWFC kept playing at the same high level, and ended up scoring a wonderful team goal started from the back line, and finished beautifully by Sofia C. It is the first goal ever scored by ICWFC in the Trophy Cup.

The loss means that unfortunately they will not qualify for the next round; however, ICWFC is proud of their per-



**OUR GOAL WAS AN ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC TEAM EFFORT AND GREAT FINISH FROM SOFIA!**



IC Women's Football place pressure on Birmingham

formance against a team of such high calibre, with far more resources and experience in the top leagues.

Coach Sally said to the team, "There are a lot of positives to take from the performance, especially from the second half. I think individually there were some really good games and I'm proud of how far you've come from the start of the season. Our goal was an absolutely fantastic team effort – and what a great finish from Sofia!"

The focus is now on winning the three league games remaining with the hopes of finishing in podium position. ICWFC is only getting better year after year, breaking records and climbing up the leagues. It has now become one of the biggest clubs at Imperial with almost 100 members. It has been amazing to witness such rising interest in women's football, especially after the Lionesses' win in the Women's Euros this summer.

Alex Chen Hu

IC Table Tennis Men's II Team Captain

Imperial's Table Tennis Men's II comfortably beat UCL Men's II 12-5 in their first match of the calendar year. Securing a win in their third-final match of the league was crucial for the team, who were previously in a four-way tie between teams in the South Eastern Tier I BUCS League.

UCL had beaten us in our previous faceoff; however we were inspired by the success of our Men's I in the Premier Division earlier that day, who had won their match against Swansea 10-7.

Rajiv Padman, Kiarash Shaddel and Alex Chen Hu were joined by the remarkable Peter Hatfaludi, who arrived due to a last-minute change.

For the readers that might not be familiar with the BUCS table tennis competition format (because every fresher

that joins the teams has a hard time understanding it), the match itself consists of 16 individual matches where each one of us plays against each opponent. The tiebreaker is a doubles match that gets played at the end. Therefore, winning nine of these is enough to bring us the win. Players are lined up according to their rankings and start playing in reverse ranking order. This means that the balanced matches are supposed to happen in the latter stages of the competition.

The game started with victories for our top two players and losses for our last two: no surprises there. The second round resulted in better scores for Imperial as prodigy Peter surprisingly managed to beat UCL's second player. In one of three wins secured by him that night, Peter delivered a remarkable 3-2 game against the UCL student, who was speechless after all the spinny lobs from

## Men's II beat rivals UCL 12-5 in table tennis

Peter.

A very consistent Kiarash was able to prove himself as usual by bringing the team three points after barely letting his fourth match escape. His match experience allows him to consistently secure wins for ICTT as he travels across the UK to play competitions. A player who has the devotion to come all the way from Oxford to play his matches not only shows commitment and comradery but is also sure to impress even veterans of the sport.

With Team Captain Alex also conceding his last match, it was very tight up until the beginning of the third round. Morale was high as Imperial was leading

by a close 5-3. The team embraced this opportunity to deliver a kill and win all four matches in this round and secure the win. The analytical skills came to light during the doubles, with Alex and Rajiv taking the UCL pair. Much like how they played their first ever doubles match this year in BUCS Nationals at Nottingham, they were able to finish the clash that saw these two London universities meet with a 3-2 win, including an 11-1 set with Alex scoring at least 4 points after hitting the net.

## SPORT

# IC Netball III defeats St Mary's 40-31

**Vania Lay**  
Woman of the Match

After suffering a close defeat to St Mary's 1s last November, Imperial College Union Netball Club (ICUNC) 3s were looking to settle the score and snatch away St Mary's current second position in their BUCS league. With IC 3s being on the last podium position, they needed to secure the win to steal the silver.

The eight-person line-up consisted of a formidable shooting trio (Amelie Siew, Iman Shaikh and Mia Yap), a daunting centre court set up (Sophie Mosselmans, Lorna Macrae and Vania Lay as WA, C, WD respectively) and an unrelenting defensive duo (Nadia Cooper and Holly Bennett).

The first half of the game saw the evenly matched teams fight hard, with IC relying on their speed and agility to

match the significantly taller opposition. Despite consistent displays of tight defence and expert shooting, at half time IC were four goals down. The team regrouped and strategised that they would exploit the fast pace of their gameplay to come back. This paid off: IC scored 12 goals in the third quarter, closing the gap and bringing the score to 26-27. In the final quarter, IC dominated with 10 turnovers and 14 goals, concluding the game with a definitive 40-31 victory.

Looking ahead, IC 3s are facing Brunel Women's 5s next week for the first time this season- the team who currently sit just below IC 3s in the league.

There was much cause for celebration at IC Netball this Wednesday as IC 1s beat St George's 1s 42-29.

Imperial Medics 3s played West London Women's 1s in Harlington on Wednesday evening. Having lost to West London in their previous match 41-38, and with West London Women's 1s leading ahead of the medics in the league, the Medics knew the game would be tough but were determined to win.

West London started with first centre pass, but Imperial immediately put pressure on the opposition, whose gameplay faltered. Meanwhile, Imperial gameplay remained tight: passes were quick between attackers Geor-

gina, Inez and Immy, with players driving the ball into space. There were displays of impressive shooting from Patrycja and Captain Seojung. By the end of the first quarter, Imperial had established an eight-goal lead.

When it started to rain in the second quarter, team morale remained high. Intensity heightened as interceptions from both sides led to more turnovers and West London fought hard to close the gap. However, the opposition defence began to concede more penalties which our scorers, including Sara, eas-



Imperial gives UCL a runaround

## ICSM Netball III victor over West London 44-32

**Seojung Park**  
ICSM Netball III Team Captain

Fixture	Result
Imperial 4s v. Essex 2s	(6-0)
Imperial 1s v. Cardiff 1s	(3-0)
Imperial 2s v. St George's 1s	(49-29)
Imperial 6s v. St. Mary's 4s	(40-31)
Imperial 7s (Medics) v. Bucks New 1s	(3-0)
Birmingham 1s v. Imperial 1s	(6-0)
Imperial 6s v. UCL 5s	(1-4)
Imperial 5s (Medics) v. West London 1s	(44-32)
Imperial 1s v. LSE 1s	(0-4)
Imperial 1s v. Swansea 1s	(10-7)
Imperial 3s (Medics) v. Kent	(5-3)
Imperial 1s v. Royal Holloway 1s	(2-0)
Imperial 3s (Medics) v. Essex 2s	(34-31)
Imperial 2s v. UCL 2s	(12-5)
Imperial 1s v. UCL 1s	(3-1)

ily converted into goals.

At half time, most of the decisions made were related to space and utilising channels more. The Medics also realised that during each quarter, the opposition would choose a part of the court to focus on and to put pressure on, and as long as at the start of each quarter we figured it out quickly, it would lead to our victory.

Both teams came back fighting for the ball with increased aggression, as a high number of interceptions and thus turnovers made for an exciting game. Despite the franticness of the opposition, our defence combination

of Caroline, Onyi and Justina managed to hold their ground.

The match concluded with a 44-32 victory to the Medics, who now sit in joint second position in their league.



ICSM Netball III go to goal

## Want your matches featured in *Felix*?

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