Felix investigates sexism at Imperial

A Felix survey on sexism at Imperial College London has revealed a number of concerns over the treatment of female students and staff across multiple areas.

The survey, which ran for six weeks, gathered about 300 responses from students, alumni, and staff. Around two-thirds of respondents identified as female.

Just over 40% of respondents had experienced misogyny at Imperial, and over 70% had experienced peers making derogatory comments about women.

While 80% of people thought Imperial was an inclusive place to work or study, 30% thought Imperial did not work hard to make things more inclusive, and just over 20% felt Imperial College Union (ICU) did not do enough for inclusivity. Availability of support seemed to be a particular sticking point, with nearly 50% of people saying they did not know where to go if they were the victim of discrimination, and only 30% agreeing that Imperial did enough to support victims of discrimination.

Felix spoke to Professor Stephen Curry, Assistant Provost (Education, Diversity, and Inclusion), who entered his role in October 2017, and will hold the position for an initial period of two years. A professor of structural biology for half of his working week, he spends the other half exploring how Imperial can create a more inclusive community.

He told Felix there were a number of aspects that led to the creation of his role, which partially developed out of the position of Provost’s Envoy for Gender Equality: changes within society that have put inclusion on the agenda; increased awareness of the harassment in higher education; a greater appreciation of the mental health of students and staff; and reflection on Imperial’s Institutional Culture Report (ICR).

The ICR, published in December 2016, was triggered by a number of sexist incidents at Imperial, and said the College had a “sink-or-swim” culture. It described an “all-consuming focus on academic performance”, “bullying and discriminatory behaviour towards staff and students”, and “ingrained misogyny so deep it had become normal.” It concluded with...
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"Since coming to Imperial, I’ve always felt an undercurrent of sexism” – students speak out

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Fri day, 16th March 2018

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"There are a lot of challenges there, and no easy solutions,” Professor Curry told Felix. “It’s a very complex issue that involves a lot of different factors, including inequality and diversity provision within the institution.”

Professor Curry said: “Clearly it’s a job not just for two or three years, but for the next 10-20 years. Imperial is embedded within a society that is deeply unequal, both in terms of sexual and sexual harassment and violence — so we have to be proactive in trying to tackle that.”

This special report looks at the experiences of women across all aspects of Imperial life — from undergraduates, to academicians, to clubs and societies, and volunteers that work for the university, to Nested students and Teaching Strategy. Professor Curry said: “It’s a job not just for two or three years, but for the next 10-20 years. Imperial is embedded within a society that is deeply unequal, both in terms of sexual and sexual harassment and violence — so we have to be proactive in trying to tackle that.”

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"I was told I wouldn't be able to balance childcare with a PhD – women on the path to academia"

There were more than 1,000 respondents to a recent survey into gender diversity – and to see if things have changed. Of respondents had experienced staff making derogatory comments

Women face derogatory comments from staff, advice not to do PhDs, and harassment from feedback on students.

A number of women at Imperial also reported having access to the same teaching and learning opportunities as their male peers. “I’ve had consultants preferentially teach the males in the hospital group, and sometimes ignore questions from me and my female colleagues,” wrote one medical student, while another, who was not allowed into surgery by her consultant since she “would make a bad GP.”

As with comments from their peers, the majority of instances seem to take the form of off-the-cuff remarks: women reported teaching assistants saying they should be the one to shake up solutions into the lab: “It would help me learn more,” at the future, teachers telling women in the group how to “do the easy teaching” and not subject them to gender identity issues. As one student told Felix about times when they’d been told not to go into academia or other high-intensity careers because they would not be having children, “There was no point in going into a research career, because I would soon get married, fall pregnant, and leave. My academic staff comment came from a man hired to be a pastoral support tool for my students, with power over me, that I should explain for the lack of a gender diversity.”

Most of these incidents, the result of perceptions and biases combined with the implications of gender diversity, would often face challenges from below, as students give them more support and therefore need more expertise. She went on to say that “it is crucial to have the same amount of scrutiny received, which revealed its first set of results last year. As well as the amount of scrutiny perceived, female academics will often be described in negative terms compared to their male counterparts. A couple of years ago, Dr Ben Schmidt, an assistant professor at Harvard, wrote that ‘female students are more likely to be classified as ‘promising young women’ by their highest ranked team members’.

Other women reported perceived as a sports coach with I believe it is only through them helping us as well as coaches and the majority were un-acknowledged that women’s clubs were not of discontent for women sports. In fact many women sports teams’ ward, and they got preferen-

Words like ‘funny’, ‘cute’, and ‘sweet’ were more likely to be used to describe men, while women students of colour were more likely to be called ‘humble’, ‘an- noying’, and ‘aggressive’. Language can get quite virulent. One respondent told Felix: “My peers will often say things like ‘bitch’, ‘tasteless’ and ‘unprofessional’, to describe me or their ex,” although finding herself consistently being ‘requested’ for opportunities to engage in sport at a local level.

Felix says that “I believe it is only through them helping us as well as coaches and the majority were un acknowledged that women’s clubs were not of discontent for women sports. In fact many women sports teams’ ward, and they got preferen-

To engage as many students as possible in sport, Imperial College London is working hard to make sure that women feel equally welcome in pursuing careers in science and engineering. Felix reminds us that the rational assessment is the most important thing. "It was really important to us that everyone should have an equal chance," she says. "We want to make sure that everyone feels comfortable."
Lack of support is a concern for many when it comes to reporting sexual violence and harassment

Students report not knowing where to go if they’ve experienced sexual assault or harassment

Students at Imperial College, London, have reported feeling unsure of where to go if they’ve experienced sexual assault or harassment. The Union building was reported as a hot spot for sexual violence if Imperial

48% of respondents did not know where to go if they were the victim of harassment

29% of respondents agreed Colelge had provided enough support for victims of discrimination and harassment

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Staff have been striking since the middle of February // Joseph O'Connell-Danes

NEWS

Joanna Wormald
Deputy Editor

Potential further strikes, as UCU members feel UUK offer falls extremely short of demands.

T he four weeks of strikes that have hit campus end today, a few days after a deal to resolve the pensions dispute was rejected. The agreement would have seen members of the University and College Union (UCU) make larger pension contributions while the current scheme is phased out.

The proposal, which was considered by the UCU’s Higher Education Committee, would have seen members and universities paying larger amounts into pension funds for three years as part of a transition phase beginning in April 2019. Independent experts would also have been called in to evaluate the size of the pension deficit, which Universities UK claims is around £6 billion.

Following feedback from UCU members, however, the deal was rejected. It was deemed “insufficient” and “far worse than anything that members could consider accepting”. One UCU member, who has previously spoken to Felix about the strikes, said: “There have been mixed feelings in the UCU. We would love to return to our jobs but the deal on offer was truly terrible.

“The point of the strikes was to keep the defined benefits pension scheme. All this deal offers is a transitional three years – during which we pay more to receive less – while the defined benefits scheme is phased out,” they added.

In a statement Dr Michael McGarvey, president of Imperial UCU, said: “Under intense pressure from senior management of universities around the country, UUK stated it would like to meet with UCU as soon as possible. We now expect UUK to come back with a serious offer that staff can accept which leads to an end to the dispute.”

He added: “We hope members of UUK, including Imperial College, will finally act responsibly and help to resolve the dispute by stopping their attempts to destroy the value of our pensions for the sake of the students and staff at our universities.”

If no agreement is reached, 14 days of further strikes will go ahead between April and June. Dates have not yet been decided but strikes are expected to be organised around exams in order to maximise impact.

If a fresh deal is reached, UCU members hope to be given more time to look over the proposals – rather than having to hold emergency meetings in the street, as was the case at Imperial.

“We’ve been disappointed in both UUK and UCU in their communications with members,” said Felix’s UCU source. “We hope any future detail is communicated with enough detail and time to consider carefully before a national vote.”

The Imperial UCU Twitter account announced the postponement of “Not the President’s Address”. A UCU-sponsored event is planned for the near future.

Leadership Election winners revealed

NEWS

Fred Fyles
Editor-in-Chief

Robert Tomkies will be the President of Imperial College Union next year.

T he winners of this year’s Imperial College Union (ICU) Leadership Elections were revealed last Friday.

The Officer Trustee team for next academic year will consist of Robert Tomkies as Union President, James Medler as Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) (DPSC), Alejandro Luy as Deputy President (Education) (DPE), Claudia Caravello as Deputy President (Finance & Services) (DPFS), and Becky Neil as Deputy President (Welfare) (DPW). Andy Djaba will serve as Felix Editor.

The contest for Union President was one of the closely-run in the election, with ten candidates in total. After nine rounds of voting, during which candidates were eliminated and their votes redistributed, Robert Tomkies, the current Royal School of Mines Union (RSMU) President was declared the winner, with 1267 votes. He beat runner-up Michael Edwards, the current Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) President, who received 1045 votes.

The contests for DPFS and DPW were also contested, with three candidates for DPFS and two candidates for DPW. In the race for DPFS, Claudia Caravello was declared the winner after two rounds of voting. She received 1236 votes, while her closest competition, Ella Rice, received 1031. Becky Neil will be the DPW for 2018-19, after beating Matthew Hayward after two rounds of voting; she received 1198 votes compared to Hayward’s 1090. Alejandro Luy will be next year’s DPE, receiving 2166 votes, while James Medler will be DPSC, with 2078 votes. Both positions were uncontested. Andy Djaba was elected as Felix Editor in the first round of voting, beating three other candidates with 1356 votes. The runner up Jennifer Lea, who had promised to “make Felix edible”, received 590 votes. Presidents of five of ICU’s six constituent elections were also voted in this week. The President of Imperial College School of Medicine Students’ Union (ICMSMU) for next year will be Dan Faehndrich, who received 563 votes and ran unopposed. He will take a year’s sabbatical, as ICMSMU President is a full-time, paid role. RCSU President will be Michael McGill, RSMU President will be Marta Wolinska, and City and Guild College Union (CGCU) President will be Andrew Hill.

This year’s Leadership Elections saw an overall turnout of 35.65%, down from last year’s turnout of 36.79%. A spokesperson from Imperial College Union told Felix: “We’re proud to have maintained our place as the most democratic students’ union in England & Wales, and we’re grateful to the 1000+ candidates and 6500+ voters who took part. Congratulations to all the winners – we look forward to working together to improve the lives of Imperial students.”

“Additionally, we acknowledge there were issues with the support and communication we offered to candidates throughout. We are listening to the feedback we have received from all involved, and will offer further opportunities for participants to give their views; we will learn from this in order to improve elections in future”
Why Donald Trump is America’s best chance at true gun reform

Comment writer Shaul Rosten argues that Trump has the ability to enforce stricter gun control laws and will be more effective than anyone else

I t is unnervingly common: you pick up your phone, open your news app, and scroll through the stories. As usual, there is one bemoaning what (insert name of stupid politician here) has to say. There is one, invariably, discussing Bitcoin. And there is one reporting on a shooting in a US school or university. Whilst the statistics have been inflated by some, it doesn’t take much thought to appreciate that our American cousins have a serious problem with guns. The debate, like many in the modern Colosseum of social media, is heated, with vehement adherents to ideologies on both sides. Of course, this issue is hardly new, having plagued Presidents from Obama back to Reagan.

The prime difficulty in putting an end to these atrocities lies in the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This declares, in defence of the individual against potential tyranny of the state, the right to keep and bear arms. Now, this doesn’t mean that the government cannot do anything about it: State and Federal authorities have the legal power to regulate the possession and use of firearms, within certain bounds. However, politicians and Americans have simply refused to compromise on the issue. Unlike other contentious political debates, the charged and highly partisan political environment in the US has decided that, for legislation concerning guns, there is no compromise to be had. The powerful National Rifle Association (NRA), which boasts over five million members and control of basically the entire Republican party, has repeatedly and vocally lobbied against gun control in any measure that has so far been proposed. And that is why President Trump is a beacon of hope. I really never thought I would be saying that; let me explain.

Don’t get me wrong; Trump is not my idea of a model of human behaviour, and I certainly don’t endorse a good number of his statements and policies. However, although his erratic statements, off-script speeches and late night tweeting are certainly highly politically unconventional, and arguably un-Presidential, it is this quality – of a lack of any desire to be liked or respected on Capitol Hill – that provides a potential avenue of progress for gun control in America. The simple fact is that, whilst Democrats hate Trump, so do Republicans. They made every effort to get rid of him as their candidate, and many Republican lawmakers still hold him in contempt. But he doesn’t care. He has only ever cared about one thing: Donald Trump. Now, that’s hardly an admirable characteristic, but what it does mean is that he pretty much only does what he thinks will poll well, or what his party, or their lobbyists, want him to. And in this, he offers an opportunity for real change. The NRA has pushed all the Republican Senators and Congressmen that it financially supports – a large number – to give no quarter on gun control legislation. But, for all the ears the NRA has in Washington, it now lacks that of a key official: the President. In a video recording of part of a bi-partisan meeting held by Trump to discuss gun control, which the Guardian recently published online (I would encourage you to watch it), the President very openly called out Lawmakers for being “afraid of the NRA”, before proclaiming “they have less power over me…. What do I need?” Now, don’t think that he isn’t also in bed with the NRA: they donated $30 million to his Presidential campaign, and he has proclaimed himself their friend repeatedly. But, whilst he may support their broad aims in supporting the Second Amendment, he does not rely on their support in the same way that prior Presidents have done, and that current Republican officials do. He likes them, but he doesn’t need them. Trump has a tendency of being very happy to compromise on what hard-line Republicans view as politically sacrosanct, in order to get done whatever he happens to want at the time. Gun control is the ultimate Republican red line, but President Trump doesn’t care. As a result, there are two clear paths to the possibility that Trump may finally secure gun control in America. For the first part, gun control offers him probably the largest bartering chip for Democratic support that he could ask for: the possibility that he could get Democratic support to build his wall, in return for lasting and effective gun control, is very real. Secondly, Trump is sympathetic to gun control, and, as pointed out, he pretty much does what he likes, and leaves party lines to be blurred by his words and actions. Therefore, even without an exchange with the Democrats, gun control under Trump could well happen, if he convictions enough in his belief that it should be legislated. In the aforementioned meeting, he supported the re-introduction of a bill to the Senate that imposes “universal background checks for commercial gun purchases, including at gun shows and over the internet”. He argued strongly against a Republican, saying that, where there is concern over the mental health of an individual who possesses guns, the guns should be confiscated immediately, and due process – i.e. adjudication in courts – could happen later. His approach is by no means liberal, but it is, if nothing else, pragmatic. He supports banning all assault weapons, raising the minimum purchase age, and enforcing stricter mental health screening, all sensible approaches, and all vast steps forward in the immovable tussle of American politics.

For all that his confused tweeting and conflicting statements give off an air of incompetence, and disorder, they fundamentally betray a glaring self-interest. Trump wants to do what he said he would get done, and anything that pops up along the way are his ideas. He is not a committed ideologue, nor does he care for the support of those who are. Whilst this may, for the most part, be to his detriment, he might just end up wielding this tendency to the benefit of the people of America. Here’s hoping that gun control is his legacy.
China’s House of Cards – The rise of Xi Jingping as China’s President for life

How the Chinese President broke the longstanding rule of a two-term limit for Chairmanship of the Communist party and the dire consequences it entails.

With six to ten-year term limits, generational leadership changes have been brought forth regularly without tumult and strife. However, over the course of last week, three votes on the limitations of power within the Communist party of China were broken up by the most powerful leader of modern China since Mao.

President Xi Jinping in a naked power grab successfully abolished the long standing convention of a two term limit, thus paving the road to becoming President for life.

In an emotionless and bureaucratic display, the orderly change, the iron-cyced President introduced and proposed the motion (lifting term limits) to the National People’s Congress which in a Stalinist manner passed unanimously. President Xi Jinping has taken since assuming the presidency the son of a surviving member of Mao’s calamitous Long March (Xi Zongran). Xi Jinping descends from political royalty and his ascension to the pre-eminent role in 2007 signalled the inevitability of him succeeding Hu-Jintao.

Since taking power the CCP has already conferred “invincible status” on its leader. Xi Jinping is now elevated to a previously non-existent pedestal – a move eerily similar to Deng Xiaoping (the architect of the Tiananmen Square massacre) being given the title “paramount leader”.

President Xi Jinping is the first to adopt the title of “paramount leader” in China any time soon. President Xi Jinping is the most powerful leader in the world, and will remain so for the foreseeable future due to his consolidation of power. Xi Jinping has now brought China the benefits of a political breakdown of leadership and the absence of internal opposition. Recent years have witnessed a upsurge of dissenting leaders, which has accumulated into revolution by using pepper spray acts of violence.

“Xi Jinping has shown the entire world his ambivalence to the rule of law”

Xi Jinping’s assault on the Chinese political system and the administrative apparatus of the Chinese state is nothing less than the end of the Chinese political landscape.

China’s National People’s Congress – Xi Jinping

Xi Jinping in the White House – Photo

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Behind the scenes of London’s snowy adventure

Science Writer Rachel Engels explores the science behind the flurry of snow we got a couple of weeks ago.

In February, this very month, the biting-cold Siberian air moved towards the UK, bringing a veritable ice storm to London. The weakened jet streams were not powerful enough to bring warm air from the Atlantic over to the UK. This resulted in a blanket of snow, which was a highly rare event, amongst experts in the UK.

Climate change is causing these unprecedented weather patterns. It’s not only our weather patterns that are changing, but also the way we experience them. For example, the Arctic has recently experienced a temperature drop of 50°C in just a few days. This results in the redirection of Siberian air streams of air currents swerving around the UK, bringing warm air from the Atlantic over to the UK. This resulted in a blanket of snow, which was a highly rare event, amongst experts in the UK.

Looking back to a couple of months ago, there was a similar occurrence, as a significant amount of snow over the UK. The patterns or increases in pressure resulted in the UK experiencing above-normal temperature, which was unforeseen in 2012! This brings us to the question of whether it is climate change or something else driving these weather events.

While we cannot be sure whether this is a natural phenomenon, or the start of a new weather trend, we have to realize that the weather patterns we experience now are just the physical ramifications of many complex systems operating at various locations around the globe, and are functions of many, many different factors.

It is vital to consider the safety and impact of such extreme weather events, and how they may affect the health of our patients. In conclusion, this phenomenon resulted in a significant event that will have implications on our health and wellbeing.

Sarah Wong
Science Writer

I can show you the world: How gene therapy brightens the future for eye diseases

Developments in gene therapy could offer hope for a cure to inherited retinal diseases in the near future.

Recent developments in gene therapy have shown promise in curing inherited retinal diseases in the near future. Researchers have been trying to utilise viruses as carriers in order to transport the healthy copy of the gene into the targeted cell. However, some of the viruses used are notorious for being infectious and deadly. To overcome this, they have used a carrier called gene therapy. This idea of transferring a gene into a person is relatively new, but a group of scientists have already been trying to utilise viruses as carriers.

Cystic fibrosis is an example of a genetic basis, meaning that genes can also determine physical traits such as height and eye colour. But do concur, however, that the cause of at least some eye diseases is a highly debatable topic. Let’s think this is the precursor for future years to come.

“Is it cold in your snowstorm, freezing your brain?”

Science Writer Rachel Engels explores the science behind the flurry of snow we got a couple of weeks ago. Climate change is causing these unprecedented weather patterns. It’s not only our weather patterns that are changing, but also the way we experience them. For example, the Arctic has recently experienced a temperature drop of 50°C in just a few days. This results in the redirection of Siberian air streams of air currents swerving around the UK, bringing warm air from the Atlantic over to the UK. This resulted in a blanket of snow, which was a highly rare event, amongst experts in the UK.

“I was a vortex of cold Siberian air
- the Beast from the East
-which caused the weather to plummet”

Rachel Engels
Science Writer

“We have to realise the weather experience now is just a physical ramification of many complex systems around the globe”

Sarah Wong
Science Writer

To correct this error in the gene, scientists have been trying to utilise viruses as carriers to transport the healthy copy of the gene into the targeted cell. Within some may think the use of viruses is too controversial for being infectious and deadly – broadly speaking, virus carriers often have their virulence removed, meaning they are not able to cause any harm once modified. This idea of transferring the healthy copy of the gene into a person is called gene therapy. This idea of transferring a gene into a person is relatively new, but a group of scientists have already been trying to utilise viruses as carriers.

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I f you were told that the next solution to one of the most difficult medical and scientific challenges may come from a bunch of computer gamers around the world, your immediate reaction would be one of disbelief. University of Washington for this purpose by the Foldit, a computer game called Foldit has been a beneficial tool in helping scientists with one of the most difficult problems existing today in science: identification of the three-dimensional structures of proteins from their linear amino acid sequences. The game utilizes the superior cognitive ability of the human brain in ‘pattern matching’ and spatial reasoning” than uses machines to identify the correct, threedimensional structures of proteins. In fact, this was exclusively designed for this purpose by the University of Washington. Before Foldit, the scientists at UWash were using general computer powers to solve protein folding by considering that they realised that human brains have an impressive imagination, which, if properly used, can identify folded structures of protein much better than computers. They were right! Foldit was first launched in 2008, and in 2010 a Nature paper showed that the results provided by Foldit players were far superior to computer-based results. So, what is the problem with protein folding? Proteins in our cells are microscopic machines, responsible for almost all our basic functions ranging from digestion to respiration. Being brain-like, their three-dimensional structure is very important for the functions they perform. When unfolded into two dimensions they are merely a chain, string together by amino acids in different sequence. Knowing this sequence and using the power of the human brain, Foldit players can fold proteins more accurately. Foldit, the toy company is pivoting to eco-friendly manufacturing, as the dangers of plastic waste become clear. Connect with Conservation – LEGO goes green


The toy company is pivoting to eco-friendly manufacturing, as the dangers of plastic waste become clear. From the Ashes


Golden Goose (but red blocks still available) // CC


Microplastics can enter our food chain through plankton and fish


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FELIX
ARTS

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Summer and Smoke sizzles with spectacular sentiment in stunning revival

Rebecca Frecknall directs a winning revival of one of Tennessee Williams’ lesser-known plays

Matthew Neidham, who plays John, has a stare so intense that it almost seems he can see right through Alma and into the turmoil of unfulfilled desire.

Originally called The Anatomy Chair, Williams’ play is full of symbolism and contrasts. The anatomy chart hangs in John’s office, and in one scene he grabs Alma’s chest and makes her look at the chart, telling her that there is nothing inside her but organs hungry for food, knowledge and sex – there is none of this ‘stuff’ that she repeatedly mentions. John embraces this version of the body, and seeks immediate gratification for his desires: because after the fact that he is a doctor, tortured by his conflicting sexual-repressed Alma, he feels himself to be untouchable like the girl.

The shooting of John’s image into the air at the end of the first scene.

The girl’s costume is designed to be unsettling, to unsettle the mind, with its traumatic grief or fear, or to some extent at oblivion of these opposing forces within each human.

Dinnertime is a time-tested symbol of the mundane. But sometimes the moments rarely drag. The anatomy chart hangs in John’s office, and in one scene he grabs Alma’s chest and makes her look at the chart, telling her that there is nothing inside her but organs hungry for food, knowledge and sex – there is none of this ‘stuff’ that she repeatedly mentions. John embraces this version of the body, and seeks immediate gratification for his desires: because after the fact that he is a doctor, tortured by his conflicting sexual-repressed Alma, he feels himself to be untouchable like the girl.

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Imperial College Choir

Bach Mass in B Minor
Holy Trinity, Sloane Square – Saturday 17th March, 7pm
Acts announced

The acts for Summer Ball 2018 have been announced, completing plans for an amazing end-of-year celebration on 23 June. Headlining the event are Blonde and James Hype, with support from Gemma Cairney and Goldierocks. The After Party performer is Guilty Pleasures.

Summer Ball is an annual celebration for all year groups with a free fun fair, fireworks display, photobooth, great value food and drinks, and a roster of performers including student groups and headline acts.

The theme for this year’s ball is Roaring 20s which was decided by students in a Facebook poll.

Summer Ball 2018 starts at 19:00 and runs until 02:00 on South Kensington Campus, with an after party at Beit Quad until 06:00.

Get tickets at imperialcollegeunion.org/summerball

Bubble Party

Time is running out to get your tickets for Spring Carnival 2018. We’re bringing the term to a close with an amazing bubble party at Beit Quad next Friday 23 March.

Thousands of bubbles illuminated by UV cannons will fill the venue for the ultimate UV bubble party experience. We’ve got hundreds of free glowsticks to give away, as well as live entertainment.

Expect face painters, live music, drinks deals, and food service until 01:00. Spring Carnival starts at 20:00 and ends at 03:00.

Get tickets at imperialcollegeunion.org/springcarnival18

LSE vs Imperial 2018

Online tickets are sold out but you can still witness the showdown between Imperial College London and London School of Economics on Saturday 17 March at Heston Sports Ground.

Just make your way directly to the venue in Hounslow at 10:00 to enjoy a full day of fixtures across 12 sports. Please note, however, that transportation will not be available for those without a pre-sold ticket.

The action starts at 10 and is the first ever varsity match up between LSE and Imperial. Come support team Imperial and help us take the first title.

Sports Strategy

Imperial College Union and Sport Imperial have joined forces to create a new joint vision for sport and physical activity at Imperial.

Over the next four years this strategy will look to promote, support and enable students and staff to enjoy a more active lifestyle. There are six overarching objectives in the strategy and feedback is invited.

There will be a discussion forum on Monday 19 March, 13.00–14.00, SAF Rm 275D - MDL2 and a special Student Sports Clubs meeting on Thursday 22 March, 17.00–18.00, SALC 10, Sherfield Building.

Read about the strategy at imperialcollegeunion.org/sportstrategy
I have become quite partial to Japanese literature as a literary category. Most examples share overarching similarities in aesthetic flavour, such as the notion of impermanence of being, which derive from both cultural and religious developments throughout Japanese history. These sensitivities, observable in other Japanese art forms such as ceramics or paintings, result in a characteristically sublime writing style no matter what it was written.

For example, works by Chikamatsu Monzaemon, a 17th century playwright who wrote canonical pieces for Bunraku (puppet theatre) and Kabuki (live theatre) still retain a certain freshness and sophistication if read today. This is not to say that the authors write in the same style, but rather that the broader aesthetic sensibilities and literary traditions lend a certain elegance. I would recommend Donald Keene’s The Pleasure of Japanese Literature for a more comprehensive review on the nexus of Japanese history and aesthetics and its impact on literature. A commonality I particularly enjoy is the emphasis that these authors have placed on the self, going to great lengths to showcase the personal: tensions, passions and proclivities. I felt this characteristic has made many works relatable, helping me to crystallise and frame raw thoughts and feelings.

Modern Japanese literature uniquely combines modernist and/or post-modernist themes with the Japanese aesthetic, including its perspectives and history, into a powerful read. Renowned authors like Natsume Soseki and Ryunosuke Akutagawa are characteristic of pre-WW2 literature, incorporating modernist themes and writing styles in their prominent works signifying the changing zeitgeist. Naturalised foreign authors like Lafcadio Hearn have also gained some prominence, reflecting the increasing diversity that came with international trade and migration. This period also saw the development of Japan’s first Nobel laureate in Literature, Yasunari Kawabata, who received the prize in 1968. Post-war Japanese literature saw several other prominent authors like Kobo Abe, Yukio Mishima, and Kenzaburo Oe (Japan’s 2nd Nobel laureate for literature) who started to incorporate contemporary and post-modern themes and writing styles into a Japanese context.

Even more contemporary authors like Haruki Murakami have been producing outstanding pieces of work (I quite liked Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World), contributing to a flourishing literary tradition.

A key theme present in Mishima’s work is the notion of purity and beauty. The Golden Pavilion (also known as Kinkaku-ji) is a famous Zen Buddhist temple in Kyoto dating back to the 14th century. Mishima presents a fictionalised version of the 1950 incident when the temple was burnt down by a young monk. We start with Mishima outlining various formative experiences the protagonist, Mizoguchi, has as a child. This is where the notion of Kinkaku-ji being the pinnacle of aesthetic ideals is implanted into him. Following his father’s death, Mizoguchi becomes a novice priest at Kinkaku-ji. As the story progresses, we can see how his thoughts are shaped by his inner tensions and his interactions with a spectrum of characters, such as Kashiiwagi (a twisted university friend with a philosophical bent) and the temple’s Superior.

This results in a sublime and nuanced discourse on the nature of beauty and how one interacts with the concept. Mizoguchi found himself impotent as the idea of Kinkaku-ji seized him. As his thought process developed, or arguably as his mental illness worsened, the motivation to burn the temple deepened, leading to its eventual destruction with Mizoguchi enjoying a cigarette as the temple burns. The entire novel, while complex in story, remains accessible and serves as an excellent introduction to Mishima’s work and Japanese literature as a category.
Can we break the glass chair, and bring more women

Currently only 11% of films are made by women. We need to try and break this trend, but could 2018 be the year we do so?

Weinstein of varying degrees has been the focus on the practice, there has been much discussion about the marginalisation of women in film, instead of a belated conversation we are the beginnings of change at independent mini-major studio films do we see films led by women, and even rarer by women who were the only female director to have a much cleaner record than Weinstein.

As well as delivering her second gritty and truthful drama with a black carpet in lieu of the golden one, the festival director Dieter Kosslick demanded that we have film and think of women in film, instead of a belated conversation we are the beginnings of change at independent mini-major studio films do we see films led by women, and even rarer by women who were the only female director to have a much cleaner record than Weinstein.

It is unfathatable that we are only 11% of films are made by women. We need to try and break this trend, but could 2018 be the year we do so?
**You Were Never Really Here** – A thriller crossed with a horror crossed with an intense character study

Joaquin Phoenix tracks down missing girls for a living and, unsurprisingly, things go wrong. Film Writer Lawrence Good looks into his descent into madness and gives us his take on this nightmare-fuelled thriller.

The main character is Joe (Joaquin Phoenix), an aging PI whose principle investigative technique is violence. He seems to specialise in tracking down kidnapped children, though his predilection for ball-peen hammers suggests his clientele is the sort who want rough justice. The film does feature a strong supporting cast, including Judith Roberts as Joe’s mother, John Donan as his boss, and Ekaterina Samsonov as a girl kidnapped and forced into prostitution; all of them exist to a greater or lesser extent at the periphery with little screen-time and fewer lines. You Were Never Really Here is most truly a concerto for a solo actor, and Phoenix excels as the soloist. Joe comes with

“The film is most truly a concerto for a solo actor, and Phoenix excels as the soloist”

all the usual trappings – a painkiller addiction, PTSD from a military career long past and a childhood mutilated by an abusive father. Yet the control and embodiment that Phoenix brings to the character is staggering. It’s nigh impossible to believe that this is the same man who played Commodus in *Gladiator* or Freddie Quell in *The Master*. This is made all the more impressive given how sparse the script is: mostly he acts solely through his haggard face and weighty body language. The score, by Jonny Greenwood of Radiohead fame, reinforces this sense of concerto with a bifurcated structure. Using extended periods of either silence or a pulsating and violent soundtrack, the film can either let you stay relatively relaxed or clench you in tightly as it ramps up the tension. This masterfully controls the mood, and Ramsay has an exacting power over your emotional response as a viewer. You Were Never Really Here wears its influences lightly but deeply. It is so original and distinct yet bears the hallmarks of a wide variety of films and film movements. It is most definitely a noir: filled with pessimism, violence and a pulp plot. Yet it lacks the heightened sense that defines most noirs from *Double Indemnity* to *L.A. Confidential*. This realistic tone framing a rather extraordinary plot mirrors another film that You Were Never Really Here consciously apes – Martin Scorsese’s *Taxi Driver*. Both films share a protagonist who struggles to fit into society, who fail to find meaning in their lives, and whose violence reflects their inner turmoil. But these two broken men are broken in different ways. Travis Bickle is the more detached; he will try anything to define himself, though can only understand the languages of violence and sex. It is mere happenstance that he ends up acclaimed for killing a pimp – he could have murdered the Presidential candidate instead. Joe, however, feels like he was once functional before washing up in his current wrecked state – an oxymoronic mixture of rage, fear, and apathy. He does not seek validation from others, their desires merely act as a loose framework shaping his actions. Indeed, whilst Bickle seems unafraid of death, Joe is haunted by suicidal thoughts and it is only those that rely on him who break him out of his apathetic bent, driving him forwards. You Were Never Really Here’s other strong influence is the horror genre. *Psycho* is aptly referred to – both films ramp up the sense of dread and then suddenly explode into violence. Ramsay also visually quotes *The Shining* – an athermatic reminder of the self-destructive capabilities of powerful men. Ultimately, You Were Never Really Here is more of a character study than a straight up thriller.

“Ultimately, the film is more of a character study than a straight up thriller”

It is more interesting in how Joe reacts at every moment, rather than the implications of his actions as they ripple through the wider world. If you are prepared to accept the film and its preoccupations on its own terms then you will find an engaging and thoughtful film, utterly unlike anything else in cinemas.
David Byrne is far too happy for my liking

**AMERICAN UTOPIA**

Music Works, serves as a bible for aspiring artists and music theorists. New LP, American Utopia, is his first nominally solo release since 2004.

"Byrne deftly navigates an array of genres and styles. From piano-backed balladry to rippling electronica"

Always difficult to pin down, Byrne deftly navigates an array of genres and styles, from piano-backed balladry to rippling electronica (supplied by Eno), each crevice filled with influences from across the globe. However, one can’t help but feel that this eclecticism comes at the expense of consistency, with very little in the way of musical coherence across the ten tracks.

Lyricaly, the themes are clearer. You’d be forgiven for assuming that American Utopia must be ironically titled, but Byrne assures us this isn’t so. Part of his multimedia project Reasons to be Cheerful, the record’s message is one of optimism and positivity. It’s an interesting sidestep from a man who built a career out of channelling modern life’s anxieties. Instead of expressing his disillusion at society’s commodities (think ‘Once in a Lifetime’), he celebrates the art of the ordinary and champions the mundane in campfire style sing-alongs. ‘Every Day is a Miracle’, with all its farmyard imagery (“Now the chicken imagines a heaven / Full of roosters and plenty of corn / And God is a very old rooster / And eggs are like Jesus, his son”), comes across more as a Sunday school ditty than a piece of avant-rock.

“It’s an interesting sidestep from a man who built a career out of channelling modern life’s anxieties”

Now don’t get me wrong, I appreciate what he’s trying to say, I really do. But there’s something about the vibrancy of this album that feels, not insincere but, simple. Maybe that’s just me. After all, being cynical is easy while genuine cheer is difficult to summon. But Byrne sounds tired and blunted. Attempts to veer off the beaten track such as ‘Bullet’ (an ode to a gunshot wound) and ‘Dog’s Mind’ (‘We are dogs in our own paradise / In a theme park of our own / Doggy dancers doing doody / Doggy dreaming all day long’) just come across as plain weird. Byrne has also come under fire for the lack of diversity in his production team – 25 men - zero women - for which he publicly apologised, calling his decisions “nigglet”.

All this is not to say that Byrne isn’t still at the pinnacle of his art, it’d be unfair to say he’s lost touch. But, though it pains me, it’s clear that he’s really missed the mark on this one.

It takes a village to raise a song

**SUPERORGANISM**

Fittingly, my debut review is Superorganism’s self-titled debut album, released at the beginning of March. Superorganism is a band formed by bonding over memes and Skype rehearsals. Seven of their eight members currently reside in East London with eighth member, Soul, living in Sydney. In group photos they use a large cut-out of Soul’s face. The band’s mix of nationalities and backgrounds shines through in these 10 songs championed by Domino Records. The album provides 33 minutes of gloriously eclectic motifs, unusual soundbites and meticulous lyrics. (“Oh, have you ever woke up from a daydream / And realised that the world’s gone crazy? / You people are all the same / Going blah blah blah, going bang bang bang”).

My main issue with this album is its bitty nature, the overwhelming use of fragmented samples in places can make for frustrating listening. I can’t help but think that if ‘Nai’s March’ was to come on during your Spotify shuffle it would be skipped, not enjoyed. That being said, the album flows well from start to finish with the most notable tracks being ‘Night Time’ and the singles ‘Everybody Wants To Be Famous’ and ‘Something For Your M.I.N.D’, where the immersive sounds pull through.

Whilst the dreamy tones and quirkiness go part way to making up for the lack of depth, it is far from revolutionary and I personally believe it could have been curated slightly more carefully to give it that edge and storyline.

I can imagine what a magnificently energetic live gig this would be, an 8-piece trying to groove their way onto the indie/psychadelic pop scene. You can find them in London, following their 17-date North American Tour, on 25th May. A fitting soundtrack to welcome in Spring and the festival season.
In defence of video game walkthroughs

Walkthroughs get a lot of bad reputation from the people who don’t use them, however this is uncalled for as they provide a benefit to those who use them.

Some people get more enjoyment from actually doing something

sometimes designed so a new player would only know about them if they had actually read or heard about it beforehand. Some people don’t feel like trekking back through a lengthy game just to hit a few more side quests or recruit certain characters. While there are some notable exceptions, not doing them shouldn’t make it seem like your play-through was an “incomplete” experience.

The biggest reason as to why people resort to using game guides is because of the time investment games require. Most of us aren’t teenagers with all the time in the world. As we get older and go further through life, we get more commitments; as students, we have reports, problems sheets and assignments to catch up amongst other things. As can be expected, this means there are fewer and fewer opportunities to play games.

Some games are also long, complex and require hours of investment to get through. While this is arguably part of the fun and experience, some people get more enjoyment from actually doing something than wandering around aimlessly and hoping that they stumble on the way forward. That’s just how some games are designed; given that, it’s no wonder people use walkthroughs to speed things along. For other people, using walkthroughs is just another way to get through their Steam library as fast as they can. That’s what I’m personally guilty of doing, I blame all the great value Steam sales that just keep on coming.

Of course, walkthroughs aren’t the only way to get out if you get stuck. A simple set of actions like pausing the game, doubling back a little and working your way through can be more productive than you might think. And sometimes, all you need to do is to turn off the game, sleep on it, and come back to the problem with a fresh mind.

At the end of the day, I’d say that as a player, you should simply engage in some introspection about how you personally experience things, about how your brain digests experiences, and then decide from there how playing certain games would best suit your tastes. Because honestly, while it may seem like there’s only one way to play a game, such as going in blind and learning things for yourselves, you should ultimately do what seems the best for you. We all just want to get the best possible gaming experience from each game. Sure some people may denounce walkthroughs, but at the end of the day, they just help people enjoy and get through the game in their own way. And as long as everyone is having fun, who are we to really complain.
Your Union events

Coming up in our bars

Super Quiz
Every Tuesday
20:00 - 22:00

Cocktail Night
Every Tuesday
18:00 - 23:00

CSP Wednesday
Every Wednesday
19:00 - 01:00

Spring Carnival
Friday 23 March
20:00 - 03:00

Find us on Facebook!
fb.com/beitbars

Cocktail Club
Every Tuesday
19:30 - 23:00

Pub Quiz
Every Thursday
19:30 - 23:00

PGI Friday
Every Friday
16:00 - 23:00

Wine Tasting
Wednesday 28 March
17:30 - 20:00

Find us on Facebook!
fhbarpub

Free Pool
Daily
17:00 - 23:00

Pub Quiz
Every Tuesday
18:30 - 23:00

Club Reynolds
Saturday 3 March
20:00 - 02:00

Whiskey Week
12 - 17 March

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Get exclusive offers, discounts and more on our bars’ Facebook pages.

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on
Felix’s Guide to backpacking in South East Asia

South East Asia is a popular destination between backpackers but long-term backpacking trips require a great deal of knowledge and preparation. Luckily, travel writer YanKai Kee has shared some backpacking tips and his first-hand experience of touring the area.

TRAVEL

YanKai Kee
Travel Writer

I'm sure many people either thinking about or have had the idea before of a backpacking trip around the South East Asia (SEA) it’s a region filled with its own unique culture, traditional cuisine that you can’t find anywhere else in the world and most importantly its beautiful, unspoilt nature. As young as I may be, I have yet acquired nature. As a boy who grew up in Malaysia, I had little of luxury enjoying all of these as well as commuting them on my first ever backpacking trip.

Conveniently, the other SEA countries are located within three hours of flight from my home, and I’ve been particularly motivated to visit Vietnam and Cambodia since I was very young (I mean after watching the famous Carey Nena’s travel videos on YouTub3). This article will be helpful for first-time backpackers and those who plan to visit South East Asia. It covers points like travelling essentials, special tips, and the local culture of different South East Asian countries which include Vietnam, Cambodia, and Malaysia.

Travelling essentials

The right mindset when preparing for a backpacking trip should always be: “Pack only the essentials – travel, and pack light.” A backpack size of 30-40l is ideal to fit all of your travelling essentials. Personally, I went for the LV luggage because I was a Starry 45l backpack sold by Argos. I needed that much space because of the camera gear I had to carry around, which took up half the backpack. Hence, I can imagine how little other people own that is so important to them.

As a backpacker, you’ll most likely need to carry a good pair of walking boots or trainers which are always a backpacker’s favourite. Also, bring a camera if you’re an avid photographer like me, but photomaniacs found it good enough for most. Lastly, don’t forget to borrow a good thick English book from Imperial library, just to let everyone else know that you’re smart.

What’s it like in SEA

When compared to the UK, SEA is very humid and hot. On average, the temperature and relative humidity ranges between 25 to 32°C, with 80% humidity. This makes preparing a problem for those who have never visited before. Showering 2 or 3 times a day is normal practice, hence being prepared to change your clothes very often. While travelling to. Panikifiers and medicines for common illnesses, like colds and fevers, are a must. Other than that, well-known travel insurance is offered by World Nomads which covers up to 140 countries and has a good policy that prioritises your health.

Also, as a backpacker, try to plan ahead for a wide range of activities you’ll be doing, which includes selection of proper clothes and shoes. For clothes, pack very well of each type but bring a wide range – sports, city-touring clothes, and wedding, as you never know what pair of walking boots or trainers is always a backpacker’s favourite. Also, bring a camera if you’re an avid photographer like me, but photomaniacs found it good enough for most. Lastly, don’t forget to borrow a good thick English book from Imperial library, just to let everyone else know that you’re smart.

One crucial mistake most people make is over-romanticising a backpacking journey

I was backpacking, washing my clothes, and doing my daily task. With a little bit of soap, some water, and a basin, you’re good to go, and then you just need to leave it outdoors. Do not worry – there will be plenty of sunshine! Again, with the heat and humidity, slippers are very commonly worn for outdoor walking so get your hands on a pair if you have a choice! Food here is very different from typical European cuisine. You might not like it initially. However, hopefully, definitely keep on trying and promise that you’ll fall in love with it.

Best mindset

One crucial mistake most people make is over-romanticising a backpacking journey. By and large, we travel to escape the norm and boredom; you get back to the reality, yet, backpacking is even more physically tiring than your regular lifestyle. In addition, backpackers often have to make compromises during the journey as money supply is low. People are willing to go to great extremes when it comes to saving money in general, but to save money while you’re travelling is yet another story. So in most cases, backpacking is quite tough.

The reason why I think everyone who have this mindset before going on a backpacking journey is so they can prepare for the journey, and not the word. To use a cliché: you are going to enjoy something even more if you set your expectations low. I tried to wash clothes despite the tiring day, or having bad weather. Consequently, this day can dilute your backpacking experience.

But once you’re accepted there’s also the dull and boring part within the trip and prepared your mind for such hardships, I guarantee you’ll have a memorable trip. One thing interesting said that, how can I not mention those beautiful moments you’re most likely to enjoy during a backpacking journey? Backpacking is for the adventurous type, definitely try to buy a motorcycle for either the Hanoi–Ho Chi Minh or Ho Chi Minh–Hanoi bike trip (then sell it off at the destination city). If you didn’t have a chance to try the long journeys but took short trips between cities and had a hell of a lot of fun. Rated as one of the most scenic highway in Vietnam, Hai Van Pass is where I made during my time in Danang. Then again, riding a motorscooter in Vietnam requires good to excellent driving skills due to its traffic conditions, which can only be described as wild. It’s also worth noting that such motorbike journeys are illegal unless you have a driving licence recognised by the Vietnamese government, so do it at your own risk. Other than that, if you are an avid biker, the south of Vietnam would suit you very much! Places such as Sapa are straight out of a children’s fairy tale as you meet people live in a valley with symmetrical paddy fields running all along both sides. If you go during the right season, the views will be exceptionally memorable.

In Cambodia, an amazing backpacking hostel, known as Monkey Maya, is located at Ream National Park, Sihanoukville. Only 30 minutes away by tuk-tuk from the main city, the place is a quiet hostel, perfect if you want to escape from the bustling streets and bustle. I was there for three nights and absolutely loved the vibes. The staff is a mix of locals and Europeans that aren’t shy to share their hostel’s world and lively culture. Finally, for the country I got up in, Malaysia, the two main destinations I’d introduce are Penang and Tioman Island, both of which are islands along the east and west coasts of Peninsular Malaysia (West Malaysia). In Penang, go for the local food, but don’t just rely on the locals as the locals always know better places. In Tioman Island (personal favourite here), there are several villages which you can stay in. I recommend Genting village as it has a good balance between civilization and nature. It offers accessibility to the interesting trails and beaches, but it’s rural enough not to lose the vibes of a small Malay village.

In addition, other than being a great place for backpackers, Tioman is not short of adventurous hiking trails where a local guide can go for (Flickr/tk77).

Travelling South East Asia is a popular destination between backpackers but long-term backpacking trips require a great deal of knowledge and preparation. Luckily, travel writer YanKai Kee has shared some backpacking tips and his first-hand experience of touring the area.

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It’s nearly Easter – season of chocolate, chocolate, and more chocolate!

ANDRADA’S GUIDE TO THE BEST EASTER EGGS

Godiva Treasure Egg
This is my all-time favourite Easter egg with absolutely no doubt! I cannot imagine something better, simply because my favourite chocolate is Godiva chocolate. The egg is big enough to stockpile you with chocolate for almost a week, and when you finish it... there are more small chocolates inside waiting for you! And just in case you get bored by the Belgian milk chocolate, the inside pieces are different: while some of them will return you to your childhood, others will make you feel like you are a responsible adult at a fancy party.

Hotel Chocolate Ostrich Egg
Yes, the name does it justice! This chocolate egg is the size of an ostrich egg – to be fair, they claim this, and I haven't checked, but it looks legit enough to me – and it's delicious. I would like to say that it is as delicious as an ostrich egg, but... I cannot confirm, sorry. In case someone else wants to check, you are more than welcome to. Now, I normally eat a lot of chocolate – I mean A LOT of chocolate – but this is more a matrioshka egg that ends up with a Colossal Egg! And the best part about the Colossal Egg is that it also has 27 pieces of chocolate and some mini-eggs.

Venchi Nougatine Easter Egg
And the bronze goes to... I am trying to create some suspense for nothing here as you’ve probably read the name already. This egg is 56% dark chocolate with crunchy caramelised hazelnuts. I think that the best bit about it is the advertising: “comes with a useful surprise for your car/house!” I seriously thought that it is the awesome tin that will provide a useful storage space – am I turning into grandma? But, it's actually a keychain! Oops, sorry for ruining the surprise. Anyway, do not buy the egg for the keychain alone – the chocolate is absolutely amazing!

Fortnum and Mason Colossal Egg
I think that this egg's name is slightly misleading as it is not a Colossal Egg, but rather a matrioshka egg that ends up with a colossal egg! And the best part about the five eggs is that they all have different tastes (I hope). So far I've been through milk chocolate and salted honeycomb, dark chocolate orange, and the white chocolate and salted honeycomb, dark chocolate orange, and the white chocolate... I hope that the remaining two eggs will be at least as good. If you want to have a decadent chocolate party with your best friends, this is the choice!

CANNOT-HAVE-TOO-MUCH-CHOCOLATE MARTINI
I know you know where this is going, but still... I know this is an unexpected member of this list, but I wanted to show you a super-quick and delicious way of recycling your leftover chocolate and I also wanted to show you that you can enjoy your favourite ingredient – chocolate – and your favourite pastime – alcohol – at the same time. And since this a chocolate themed issue, here we go!

You will need...
• 50 g chocolate (any cooking chocolate if fine, but I recommend using your favourite brand of chocolate)
• 1 tsp honey
• 25 ml crème de cacao
• 25 ml Baileys
• 50 ml vodka
• Ice

Instructions:
1. Pour the crème de cacao, the Baileys and vodka, some crushed ice into a cocktail shaker and shake.
2. Strain into a glass
3. Add the crushed chocolate on top – or, if you feel like experimenting, add it into the mixture.
Pension dispute to be solved with *Hunger Games* deathmatch

**HANGMAN**

Negafelix

Editor-in-Chief

Staff are split over the potential of a deathmatch to decide who will get the biggest pensions.

I
dustrial action organised by the Universities and College Union (UCU) could be set to end their strike this week, after Universities UK (UKU) brought a new option for pension plans to the discussion table.

UKU, the governing body for higher education institutions in the UK, last night announced their new proposal for the UKU pension scheme: a *Hunger Games*-inspired competition in which the strongest, quickest, or wildest academics and support staff would walk away with the largest pensions.

“The strongest academics would walk away with the largest pensions”

Kieran Langley, head of UUK, said the proposals were “a fair way forward for the future, ensuring the deficit within the pension fund is resolved, while also making sure those who remain behind at the end of the competition will be satisfied with their provisions.”

“We have made it clear that the current pension scheme is unsustainable. UUK have so far rejected plans to reduce their pension size, so now we will have to reduce the number of pensions instead. Organising our own *Hunger Games* allows us to do just that. Staff members who have their pensions completely cut at the end of the competition will be unable to complain. Since they will be dead.”

Hangman has also received exclusive evidence that UUK are currently in talks with Channel 4 about having the competition broadcast live, with Carol Vorderman to host. One academic seemed tempted by the deal. Speaking to Hangman, he researcher from the Department of Physics, who is in the early stages of his career, said: “In the build-up to this action, they were saying those who were the youngest would be set to lose the most from their fund. In this new proposal, however, my youth and fitness will give me a huge advantage over the others, so I’m considering voting for it.”

Others were less pleased with the proposal: “I would be up for some kind of Crystal Maze scenario, where we all go into a dome and grab at our pension funds, or even some kind of Fort Boyard things, if they can find the tigers,” one senior lecturer told Hangman, “but taking it to *Hunger Games* levels seems too extreme. I would never be able to turn against my fellow staff. Except perhaps Jim from the Space Physics Group. He keeps using my mug and not washing it up.”

A spokesperson for UUK told Hangman: “This is a clear attempt by UUK and university senior management to divide and conquer, turning staff against each other in a literal deathmatch. UUK will need to commit to much more than we open this up to a vote at our next meeting – for example, they need to let us know what kind of weapons we will have in this scenario, and if they can find many different proposals.”

In unrelated news, Imperial College Union Rifle and Pistol society this week saw a surge of staff members asking to join.

### Death threats dropped by 83% last Sunday, as trolls took time to post pictures of their mothers on Instagram.

Men up and down the country last weekend took a break from issuing death threats to women on Twitter to wish their mothers a happy Mother’s Day.

It was Mother’s Day. I had to take a break from my computer to give her a tiny ring down on an old photo, and post it to Instagram with the caption “to my biggest inspiration.”

Statistics from Twitter showed the number of active male users over Sunday 11th March dropped significantly with users such as Carline Cristiano-Ferrez and Gina Miller receiving 83% fewer tweets than usual.

One woman user of Twitter told Hangman: “For about three hours there was just a deadly silence; it was quite reminiscent really. I’m a professor of particle physics, and I was finally able to have a proper, constructive conversation without a random man coming into my mentions and telling me how to do my job or live my life.”

Normal Twitter service resumed the next day. Twitter representatives apologised for the interrupted service.

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**ARIES**

This week you’re the *Felix* Editor, and you’re really going to miss Felix over the break. Lol it’s going to Tuscany, peace out.

**TAURUS**

This week all the computers crash in the Felix office (again). Luckily the wonderful lead will managed to get the paper out. YOU’RE WELCOME.

**GEMINI**

This week it’s AGM season! You get blacked out drunk in the Union Bar and wake up to find yourself President of Swiss Society.

**CANCER**

This week your lectures have spent far too long on strike, and you’ve forgotten how to degree.

**LEO**

This week you’re a sabretoothed officer, and you’re finally free! The curse has been passed on!

**VIRGO**

This week you’re really glad Felix is running their sexism survey. Finally, someone is focussing on what really matters to your discrimination against white middle class men.

**LIBRA**

This week you lose our in the student elections to the Be Officer Trustee. Congrats, you missed a bullet.

**SCORPIO**

This week you celebrated pi day by consuming a whole chocolate fudge pie in one sitting. I mean, you would have done it anyway, fudgs were fucking stressful. At least you had an escape.

**SAGITTARIUS**

This week you’re a male student, and you manage to complain about the ‘imperial ratio’ and say women shouldn’t do STEM in the same breath. Congrats, you played yourself.

**CAPRICORN**

This week you’re a psychiatrist, and you’ve sick of explaining the difference between astrophysics, and space physics in the wake of Stephen Hawkings’ death.

**AQUARIUS**

This week you’re the Horoscopes Writer, and you’ve only got to write one more of these this term. You really chu though.

**PISCES**

This week you’re totally exhausted. You’re only just managing to get out of bed at 11. As a result, you’ve only had an escape.

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FELIX

Men take a break from issuing death threats on Twitter to celebrate Mother’s Day

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**HANGMAN**

Negafelix

Editor-in-Chief

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PUZZLES

FRIDAY, 16TH MARCH, 2018

FELIX

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

FUCWIT

1 Nonogram of Ketamine 323
2 Puzzle Snuggle Cuddle Couple 266
3 Q 266
4 TioUdin 237
5 OK 221
6 Luncheon Pals 149
7 Abelian Grapes 139
8 Maxiane 89
9 yHt 55
10 Konmai 48
25 Hentai Society 28

Send in your solutions to fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk before midday Wednesday!

Points Available
Crossword 4
Sudoku 2
Chess 6
Slitherlink 6
Total 18

Across
1. Abstain (4)
3. Entreated (8)
9. Erased (7)
10. Wonderful (5)
11. Venomous snake (5)
12. High pitched and piercing (6)
14. Reply (6)
16. German emperor (6)
19. Entirely (6)
21. African capital (5)
24. Unrehearsed (2,3)
25. Transgression (7)
26. Innocuous (8)
27. Egyptian goddess (4)

Down
1. Disappear gradually (4,4)
2. Substantial (5)
4. Fashionable (6)
5. Defeated contestant (5)
6. Small waves (7)
7. Communal bedroom (4)
8. Die of hunger (6)
13. Black Keys album (8)
15. Student (7)
17. Loose from moorings (6)
18. Stockings (6)
20. Tag (5)
22. Proclamation of intended marriage (5)
23. Ready money (4)

Slitherlink

Draw a single, continuous loop through adjacent points. The numbers indicate how many sides of the cells are bordered.

Chess

White to move first with a forced checkmate in two moves for both problems.

Solutions
Imperial Pole & Aerial take national title

This weekend marks one of the defining achievements of ICU Pole & Aerial Society. In our fifth year of taking part in the Inter-University Pole Dance Competition – the third since regional heats were formally introduced – the Imperial team landed solidly in first place, ranking us 1st of the 49 UK universities to compete.

In 2017, a drama involving miscounted scores and wrongful trophy awarding in the South East UK Regional Heats finally resulted in Imperial being crowned the rightful Regional Champions, granting us the responsibility of hosting this year. In February, the Union Concert Hall was transformed into a pole dance extravaganza for twelve universities from across the south east in the 2018 South East University Pole Dance Competition (SEUPC) regional championship. Styles of dance ranged widely from contemporary to pole “classique”, complete with fantastic costumes and eight-inch heels. Performers were judged equally according to technical difficulty, fluidity, use of transitions, music interpretation and audience interaction. Due to the focus on dance and the flow of the performance as a whole, it’s not uncommon to see extremely complex tricks placing second or third behind exceptional or unusual performances. We had strong competition and more than one surprise to deal with, but eventually Imperial ran a tight show, finishing exactly on schedule(!) and managed to place 2nd overall behind Sussex, allowing us to qualify for Nationals.

On 10th March, the eight qualifying universities from the South East, South West, Midlands and Northern regions, sent teams to Newcastle to take part in the national finals against their team. Each university submitted one performer each for Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced and Group categories, with Imperial once again competing against Sussex. Imperial’s team of five included: President Melissa Lee competing in the group category with Brandon Tsang and Alex Regnier; Brandon also competing in Advanced; Donja Karimlou in Intermediate; and Taylor Lyons in Beginners. The entourage consisted of former President (and superfan we can’t get to leave) Robin De Meyere, who came equipped with his best cheers and lots of love and support. He supported the team from Melissa’s excessive face mask routine the night before to the moment the shield was handed over.

Imperial’s win comes following a string of increasing successes for the society. Imperial’s first entry into IUPDC came in 2014, and the society was absolutely wowed by the quality of performances from across the country. Gradually creeping up the leaderboard, we placed 4th in 2015, 3rd in 2016 and 2nd in 2017, so this year’s win certainly follows the trend! The competition also managed to score some significant individual wins throughout the year. In London Varsity 2018, Taylor Lyons placed first in London in the Beginners’ category. Donja Karimlou took 2nd and 3rd place in South East Regional and Nationals respectively (despite creating a brand new routine for finals in only two weeks!). Brandon’s 2nd place advanced routine at SEUPC was awarded 3rd in the country, and lastly the group’s 1st place win at regionals continued to wow at nationals, awarding them 2nd nationally and cementing the title for Imperial.

IUPDC has been occurring in the UK since 2011, first hosted in Cardiff with fewer than 15 universities competing. As the competition grew, more universities wanted to take part, leading to a first-come first-served admittance system which left many universities side-lined. Following the introduction of National University Pole Association (NUPA) in 2016 to regulate competition rules and judging criteria, IUPDC was able to be expanded into four regional qualifiers with the top two universities in each round heading to the finals, massively increasing the number of universities permitted to take part.

As competitions are more spread out, with fewer competitors per day, the format of the competition has changed dramatically over time: competitors are able to pick their own music, there is now only one performer on stage at a time and the number of poles each performer can use has also increased. Dancers are now able to use both spinning and static poles, and they are judged on how evenly spread a performance is between the two poles, an analogous criterion to professional competitions like the aforementioned World Pole Sport and Fitness Championships, or the GAISF-recognised IPSF World Pole Sports Championships. As the championship continues to progress and develop with the increasing popularity of pole sports, ICU Pole & Aerial Society are extremely excited to be a part of the expanding community developed through this competition. We are also extremely proud to be announced winners this year, when pole dance was officially internationally recognised as a sport by GAISF, showing our true commitment to the athleticism and grace involved in this complex art form. We are looking forward to continuing our tradition of attending and competing, and are thrilled to be awarded this title and the honour of hosting the nine talented finalist universities in IUPDC 2019.
SPORTS

Fergus Johnson
ICXCAC Secretary

S
unday 11th March saw the integr
al part of the annual City Varsity race...
Imperial’s Taekwondo club make it to the Nationals, and come out on top!

ICUTKD are 2nd overall in the UK Student Taekwondo Ranking, 1st place in the UK Indomitable Ranking (best quality of team or points per player), and 1st place in the UK Poomsae Ranking (best UK Student Poomsae Team).

Excitement, honour and gratitude. This is what we, ICUTKD, experienced last weekend at the BSTF Student Taekwondo National Championships. Not only did we bring eight golds, six silvers and eight bronze medals home, but many other surprises awaited us.

Friday, 9th of March. Half past four in the afternoon. After a day of lectures, we were ready for a five-hour trip to Worcester, or that was what we thought. It did not take long until all of us fell asleep in the minibus. Certainly, it had been a long week of training and deadlines.

In the morning of the competition, there was much to look forward to. However, this time the tournament was not the only cause, but more importantly our reunion with Ilias Konstantinou, our former ICUTKD secretary, who moved out last term. In spite of the distance, he has continued supporting, aiding and taking care of us. At the end of the day, Taekwondo is not about the belt or the medals, but about what you learn and take away from it. For me, that is the sense of family in the club. The remaining morning, time flew by between rounds and rounds of poomsae, the pattern discipline of this martial art. A noteworthy effort of participants and instructors led to a total of four gold, one silver, and three bronze medals in Individual Patterns and Freestyle, obtained by: Junling Ong (A-class Freestyle), Bryan Chong (A-class Individual), Huey Shan Tey and Joon-Ho Son (B-class Individual) -gold-, Menghan Liu (B-class Individual) -silver- and Junling Ong, Wenbo Chen (A-class Individual); Andrew Bates (C-class Individual) -bronze- and Cynthia Ho, who got 5th place out of 28 competitors. Moreover, all our poomsae pairs/teams climbed the podium, achieving one gold (Junling and Bryan, A-class), two silvers (Huey Shan and Joon-Ho, B-class and Andrew and Pilar Zhang, C-class) and one bronze (Fatima Khan, Angela Sun and Wenbo, A-class). All these results led ICUTKD to become the National Student Poomsae Champions, with the best team within UK in this category.

However, our thirst for battle didn’t end there. The following day – Sunday, 11th – our sparring competitors joined us. We couldn’t lose, we wanted to meet the expectations of our instructors and coaches, to make them proud. And so we did. Our fighters did not give up and fought until the referee announced the end of the game. Not even technical issues stopped us. Just ask Huey Shan, who had to fight her final twice, emerging victorious each time. Nevertheless, she was not the only one to win gold. A total of three golds, three silvers and four bronzes were achieved in total. These were awarded to: Simone Griffith-Jones, Sojin Park (A-class) and Huey Shan Tey (B-class) for gold; Wenbo Chen (A-class), Menghan Liu (B-class) and Shamila Rana (C-class) for silver; and Angela Sun (A-class), Ilias Konstantinou, Sophia Ppali (B-class) and Jennifer Wang (C-class) for bronze.

At the end of Nationals, the overall UK Student Taekwondo rankings were released. Our team came 2nd overall in UK, beating teams of more than twice our size, and most importantly: 1st in the Indomitable ranking. The latter evaluates points per player, which is a better measurement of a team’s quality.

Prominent amongst these is the Master Suh award, with which our Vice-Chair – Bryan Chong – was honoured for his exceptional and continuous service to the British Student Taekwondo Federation (BSTF) this year. We are proud and thrilled to see his hard work being recognised. Not only is he a tireless Vice-president and Taekwondo Ambassador but is always looking after our club members. But of course, achieving 2nd place in the UK overall ranking and becoming UK Poomsae and Indomitable Champions would never have been possible without all our instructors, coaches, alumni and members. We might be a small team, but you can be certain that we will grow stronger and stronger each year and reach new heights.

“We might be a small team, but you can be certain that we will grow stronger and stronger each year and reach new heights”