



FELIX

The Student of Imperial College London



Dispatches from the Oscars

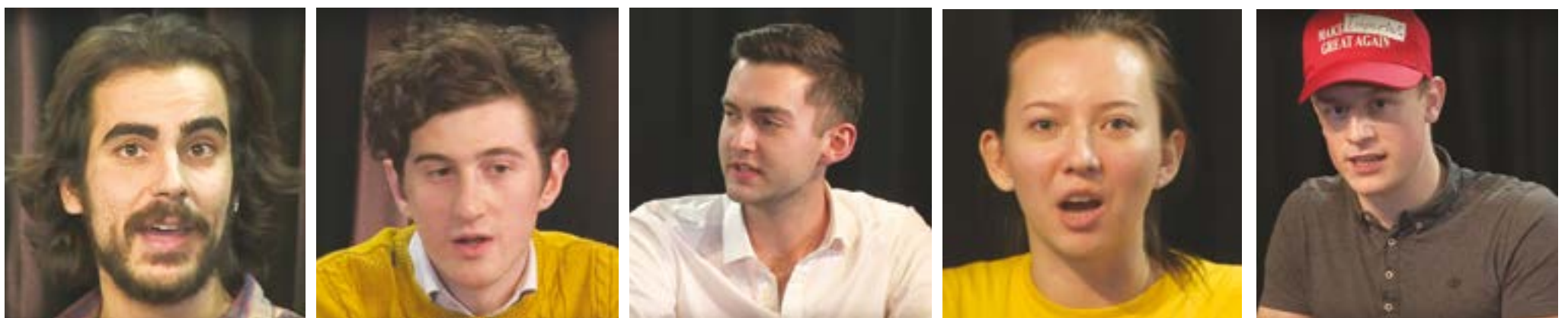
PAGE 24 FILM

Meet the candidates and read their manifestos

PAGE 14 ELECTION PULL OUT



WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?



FELIX EDITORIAL



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Contents

News	3
Comment	6
Science	7
TV	9
Music	11
Election Pull Out	14
Arts	22
Film	24
Clubs & Societies	27
Puzzles	29
Hangman	31
Sport	32

A word from the Editor

If you've seen me walking about this week, queuing in the library or wandering around Sherfield trying to scam sweets or condoms off of candidates, you may well have heard me cursing the sheer bloody volume of you who've applied to take up sabb roles next year. This meant that we really had to squash your ramblings into this year's election pullout which can be found on page 14.

Really, it's very cool how many of you want to take a year out to run the union, and the number of you who are totally left field is great too. Instead of the usual dep rep to constituent union path, we have some off kilter candidates who have never been to council, don't have a working knowledge of the constitution and who I, personally, don't know from fucking adam and

that's not necessarily a bad thing. What do I know, or indeed who? None of you, that's for sure.

Anyway, it's great that you all want to take part. Last year, only two people ran for President, with arguably one being a joke candidate and FELIX was uncontested (I'm not ashamed). Now, there's not even a frontrunner. Even if there was, I'm not allowed to say it here.

It really does matter who wins, despite years of me assuring myself it doesn't and so justifying my voting decisions which were mainly based on people's pictures.

As a current sabb, it's a weird time. On one hand, everybody's talking out of their bumholes on things they don't understand, but on the other, they think your job is cool and they want to do it. Are there loads of applicants this year because we've



been inspirational, or because we've been so bad, everyone thinks they can do better? If you know, please don't tell me. It doesn't matter. Democracy won. DPFS didn't.



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Letters

In response to 'Imperial
President Alice Gast signs pro-EU
letter', Issue 1628

Madam,
I for one hope that Professor
Gast signed her pro-EU letter in
her capacity as President of the
University.

Leaving the EU would most
certainly have an impact on
Imperial's ability to recruit talented
EU students and academics, and
may well have an impact on
the ability of our researchers to
shape international science policy.
Therefore, it most certainly falls
under Professor Gast's remit
to maintain Imperial's strong
international standing, and it is
entirely appropriate for her to
join over a hundred other vice-
chancellors in signing the letter in
an official capacity.

Benjamin Fernando

**Please, it's 'Madam Editor'. The
tory last week got it right. Please,**

**you're making me wanna vote
'leave'.
-Ed.**

In response to 'Imperial
President Alice Gast signs pro-EU
letter', Issue 1628

Dear Madam Editor,
To comment on the EU-stance
with respect to Ms. Gast's recent
interaction with the pro-EU letter
I feel that if this action is to be
taken as her speaking on behalf
on Imperial college I would be
disappointed. That is not to say
I disagree with her personally
believing in the pro-EU stance
and certainly, I have no particularly
strong views on this issue myself.
Where I do take offence is in the
fact that our university has 17,000
students and to suppose that any
one person could speak for all of
them without any kind of research
is presumptuous at best and surely
condescending.

Talking to students around



Please stop sending letters so we can stop printing pictures of Boris. Photo Credit: Forbes

campus it is clear to see there are
plenty that sit on either side of
this debate. Much like the Hokey
Cokey there's In, Out, and Shake it
All About camps present. Surely if
the university was to have an official

stance it should be guided by the
student voice which, shocker, there's
a whole body of elected student
representatives ready formed for
this kind of discussion. Ali, bbz,
leave it to Union Council. Peace &

love & light,

Anonymous Student (via email)

**Well, there you go, the hacks
have spoken.
-Ed.**



Imperial's connection with China's army hackers

Cybersecurity firm found university that will open centre at White City was recruitment hotbed

Ben Williams
Writer

FELIX has discovered that the Chinese university that will partner with Imperial at a new tech hub on the White City campus has been cited by a US security firm as being a recruitment hotspot for the unit of the Chinese army alleged to be involved in the country's cyberwarfare program.

Zhejiang University signed a deal with Imperial late last year, following plans for an Imperial-Chinese "entrepreneurship hub" at Imperial West in Acton, which will bring together academics from the Business School and Zhejiang's School of Management.

At the time, President Gast described the deal as a push to make Imperial College "China's best partner in the west".

Analysts at the cybersecurity firm, Mandiant, note that: "Unit 61398 aggressively recruits"

talent from computer science departments of Chinese universities "such as Zhejiang University School of Computer Science and Technology".

Unit 61398 is a highly secretive division of the Chinese People's

It is thought to be tasked with economic espionage against the United States



We're hoping this gift didn't have a secret camera in it. Photo Credit: Imperial College London

Liberation Army. It is thought to be tasked with economic espionage against the United States, the UK, and according to the Mandiant report "any organisation where English is the primary language". So it's a step up from GCHQ recruiters at a careers fair.

Also, in 2013, Chinese news agency Xinhua announced the

arrest of the university's then Vice-President for "economic crimes" (which is understood to be shorthand for corruption). In March of the same year, Reuters reported a senior professor jailed for embezzling more than 10 million yuan (£1.08 million) of research contracts.

The college is currently run by

Party Chief Jin Deshui. Vice-governor of Zhejiang Province from 2004-2011, Mr. Deshui is known to be a personal associate of President Xi Jinping. A 2010 report by the *Zhejiang Daily* claims that 15 people had died there due to police torture in that year alone.

The new centre is expected to open some time next year.

Violent Gloucester Road mugging video released

The incident happened on Cornwall Gardens

Matt Johnston
News Editor

CTV of a violent mugging that took place last month near Gloucester Road has been released by the Metropolitan Police, in the hopes that the perpetrators will be found.

The attack, which took place on Cornwall Gardens, under ten minutes walk away from campus, involved a pair of muggers attacking a man from behind and wrestling his belongings from him in the process.

It occurred at 9:30pm on Saturday the 30th of January.

The first attacker grabbed the man from behind in a chokehold, before his accomplice stole the man's phone and wallet from his pocket in the ensuing struggle.

The assailants then dragged the man to the ground before fleeing into the night. Police said the victim was "very shaken" but unharmed by the experience. The men, described as white and aged 25 to 35 were wearing dark clothes, one of which having dark hair and one sporting a black cap.

The road is used often by students who are commuting towards Earls Court, and some College



Be careful out there, guys. Photo Credit: Metropolitan Police

departments have sent reminders to their students warning them to be extra vigilant on their travels too

and from college, especially late at night.

Anyone with any information is

urged to contact Kensington and Chelsea CID on 020 8246 0189.



Election fever sweeps campus

Voting opens today as Imperial reaches peak democracy

Grace Rahman
Editor-in-Chief

Voting opens today for the Leadership Elections, which have seen a record number of students come forward for the roles of President and Deputy President (Welfare). No one put themselves forward for the Deputy President (Finance and Services) role.

The current DPFS, Chris Kaye, commented on Twitter that this was because you “can’t improve on perfection”. He was Deputy President of Welfare last year. Students can only take two sabbatical years.

Our cover this week features the wannabes who turned up to Meet the Candidates who were going for the big hitter positions, including President, FELIX Editor, and DPs of Welfare, Clubs & Societies, and Education.

Although campaigning can be notoriously stressful, one ex-sabb

told FELIX they “had a great time because I just wandered round chatting with my friends, and persuaded their friends to vote for me”.

For others, it’s not so easy. An anonymous candidate told FELIX that they had only had three hours of sleep on the night of Meet the

University bonds are a steady bet while interest rates remain low

MAR	7 Monday	8 Tuesday	9 Wednesday	10 Thursday	11 Friday										
00:00	Clau dia for DP Welf are Im- perial Col- lege Uni- on	Vo te Yul ia for Pr es- ide nt Im- p...	Pa ul Bal aji for Do CS oc Vic e Pr esi de nt	Clau dia for DP Welf are Im- perial Col- lege Uni- on	Vo te Yul ia for Pr es- ide nt Im- p...	Pa ul Bal aji for Do CS oc Vic e Pr esi de nt	Clau dia for DP Welf are Im- perial Col- lege Uni- on	Vo te Yul ia for Pr es- ide nt Im- p...	Pa ul Bal aji for Do CS oc Vic e Pr esi de nt	Clau dia for DP Welf are Im- perial Col- lege Uni- on	Vo te Yul ia for Pr es- ide nt Im- p...	Pa ul Bal aji for Do CS oc Vic e Pr esi de nt	Clau dia for DP Welf are Im- perial Col- lege Uni- on	Vo te Yul ia for Pr es- ide nt Im- p...	Pa ul Bal aji for Do CS oc Vic e Pr esi de nt

Just in case you forgot it was election season. Photo Credit: Twitter / @Lorenzopaoliani

Candidates, after attempting to nab some extra votes at the post Varsity ACC.

Some candidates have already been warned over campaign rule infractions: including posters being

put on top of each other’s, and the removal of rivals’ posters. Campaign posters with candidate’s faces in toilets have been noted to be particularly weird. “I’ll read policy while I’m peeing, but I don’t want to

be watched.”

Our election pullout on page 14 includes all the manifestos, and you can watch Meet the Candidates by going to Imperial College Union’s Youtube channel.

Meet the Candidates broadcast with nine Presidents

Grace Rahman
Editor-in-Chief

After some technical difficulties around kick off, ICTV and Imperial College London’s evening of candidate-grilling began.

Ex-Union President, Paul Beaumont, played Jeremy Paxman on the night. Most would agree his style was kind, despite asking one candidate who’d claimed sabbs were “CV padders” whether this included the host. The Youtube comment stream yelled excitedly throughout the night, with current sabbs, students from UCL and notable BNOCS all commenting.

A record number of candidates, including nine for President and six for Deputy President (Welfare)



Meet the freaking 30 candidates. Photo Credit: ICTV

turned up on the night.

A notoriously nerve-wracking experience, some thrived in the limelight. 30-second pitches were forgotten, promotional clothing was worn and hard hitting questions were asked, such as: “How do you spell Rhododendron?”

A pundit panel included ex-sabbs who chatted about the candidates

in the radio studio inbetween hard-hitting interviews in the media basement’s shared studio.

Some of the basement’s sound issues were made obvious when one of the FELIX Editor candidates said if forced to get rid of a section he would axe the horoscopes, after which loud cries of protest could be heard from the next room.

Varsity wins for IC



The Men’s 1s match was equalising at this point. Photo Credit: Imperial Hockey

Wednesday’s Varsity Hockey matches saw mostly college wins over the medics. With four games played at Harlington, Hockey took place two weeks earlier than Football and Rugby, which are on the 19th at Heston.

The IC women’s 2s had a monstrous 8-0 win over the medics, and were 3-0 up just 14 minutes

into the match.

The Men’s 1s match was a close one, with scores equal throughout much of the game. Eventually IC pulled through and earned a 3-2 victory, partially on p-flicks.

Medics triumphed in the Ladies’ 1s game, winning 4-3 on penalties after equalising on 4-4.

The Men’s 2s and 3s matches both ended in 1-0 victories for the college teams.



Night Tube ressurected

Good news for Woodward – it'll only take 45 minutes to get home on a Friday night

Matt Johnson
News Editor

One of the four main unions representing London Underground drivers, RMT, voted in favour of a renegotiated contract on Monday, paving the way toward the Night Tube service that was due to be implemented in September last year.

84% of the union's 10,000 members voted in favour of a contract which would give drivers a yearly pay rise linked to inflation, the option (but not the obligation) to work on the night service, and a £500 bonus should the scheme go ahead.

ASLEF, the largest drivers' union, are currently also voting on the contract proposals and are expected to follow suit when their ballot results are announced this coming Monday. TfL are also confident that the service will be implemented,

having already hired around 200 new trainees who are expected to be fully trained by the time the scheme is rolled out, likely to be this summer.

This is not the end of the story however, with RMT representatives announcing on Thursday plans for yet more strike action over the Night Tube. The union claims that the deal has not been extended to all maintenance workers and cited issues surrounding staffing arrangements and pensions. The proposed Night Tube would mean the entirety of the Jubilee, Northern, Piccadilly and Victoria lines and almost all of the Central line would be operational throughout the nights on Fridays and Saturdays.

Good news for the residents of Woodward Hall in North Acton, as it could cut their post-Union commute to around 45 minutes, from the almost 90 minutes on two buses from South Kensington they currently endure. 45 more minutes in Metric, everyone's a winner.



This has looked silly on the side of Underground trains for a while now. Photo Credit: TfL

UCL rent strike steps up a gear

Their head of Estates said "some people just simply cannot afford to live in London"

Matt Johnston
News Editor

The rent strikes that UCL students have been undertaking since late January are gaining more and more traction, now boasting a cohort of over 500 disgruntled tenants.

The unpaid rent now exceeds £1,000,000 and as the strike action continues more and more people are joining, adding to this total on a daily basis. This is a huge surge from last month, when the number who had actively stood with the UCL Cut The Rent campaign was just 150.

The protest centres around the rent prices that the body feel are excessive and target low income

students. The movement are also aggrieved at the response from the UCL management, notably the UCL Director of Estates, Andrew Grainger, who said "We don't set our rents on the basis of the least well-off students" and "some people just simply cannot afford to live in London" which the campaign feel heavily disregards student's opinions. UCL are also thought to be pursuing evictions for the rebelling students.

The accommodation at UCL has increased its rent by 56% since 2009 and is thought to run at a 45% profit margin, corresponding to around £15 million a year. The strikers maintain that they are willing to negotiate, and are demanding a 40% cut in prices with concrete, long term commitments to low rent levels as well as an improvement

500 people
have now
joined the
strike

on poor living conditions that are present in some halls.

The last UCL strike over accommodation was successful, with students complaining after large amounts of noise and disruption from building works during exam season. This resulted in a terms worth of rent being refunded, giving a sign that change may be brought about should the cause continue to gain momentum.



Fight the power! Photo Credit: UCL, Cut the rent

FELIX COMMENT



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The elections are a popularity contest

It's the university equivalent of a beauty pageant



Tessa Davey
Comment Editor

Year on year, students put themselves forward as candidates for leadership positions in the Union because they feel strongly that things need to change, and they think that their ideas and their drive can help implement that. They campaign, putting their faces and ideas out there, and, in the case of the sabbatical officers, some earn themselves a job at the end of it. But is this fair?

We want the people in charge of running the Union to be the best possible people for the job, but we never question whether the method of electing them is really achieving that. For some roles, it might be the case that the most outgoing and personable person, who is most willing to neglect their degree for a fortnight to campaign, is the best person for the job. But

for other roles, do we miss out on the candidates who might perform best in the role because we're too distracted by the bells, whistles and pretty people? Do we vote for candidates because they fit our view of what a responsible person looks like? Do we keep people out of roles because we have a fixed idea of who would be appropriate in that position?

I understand that a huge part of getting a job is being able to present yourself well. But in the "real world", job applications are gender-blind, sometimes name-blind, and certainly don't involve having the faces of the candidate plastered all over the workplace of the interviewers for two weeks. For any other job, candidates would be judged on their ideas, experience, and qualifications (which would be somewhat verified), instead of how



The beautiful people. Photo Credit: Imperial College Union

many friends they have to vote for them, and how much people like looking at them during lecture shout-outs.

Imperial students aren't engaged enough in Union politics – the inner workings of which are opaque at best – to read the manifesto of every candidate, or to know what campaign promises are achievable or

realistic. All the average student has to go on is how trustworthy their faces are, and how convincingly they can lie.

If we want our student union to truly represent us and to be run by the best candidates, we owe it to ourselves to consider the capabilities of each and every candidate, and look beyond who is most charming.

The rent guarantor trap

College ignores the fact that many students struggle to afford rented accommodation



Peter Munton
Writer

Unknown to many home students, there is an unholy pitfall for those trying to find accommodation without a guarantor.

This not only applies to international students but also home students from low income backgrounds. Without an appropriate guarantor, landlords see fit to demand rent in batches of six months as well as a huge deposit.

The vast amount of money that this adds up to has to be paid upfront in one go, otherwise the unfortunate student will have nowhere to stay. This is completely unacceptable, particularly in the turbulent London housing market, where costs add up to incomprehensible amounts.

Without a UK guarantor, and already paying huge fees, many international students end up taking out loans to afford the ridiculous cost of having a roof over their head. Imperial is the most international university in the UK; surely we should be catering to this need more than anyone else.

But that is not the case – other



It's not easy finding affordable accommodation in the most expensive neighbourhood in the country. Photo Credit: exeid.com

universities such as SOAS and UCL have successfully implemented schemes where the university acts as a rent guarantor for any student in need. The system works by the university acting as a UK guarantor for the student, taking the uncertainty and risk away from the landlord. Therefore students can pay rent one month at a time, the way

it should be. This is clearly a system that works and relieves so much stress for so many students. Why then has it not been implemented here at Imperial?

This is not a new issue, this is an ongoing problem. Many students have expressed concern over the inaction of College and their negligence. In an increasingly

erratic world, where college life is getting more stressful and tougher, it is the College's responsibility to ensure life for students is as easy and stress-free as possible without the already stressful year of exams and coursework. Finding accommodation should be simple and financially possible, not a wild gamble and a stab in the dark.



The deadly orangutan cocktail

Interbreeding between Orangutan sub-species could lead to their extinction

Elizabeth Riach
Writer

Orangutans from a completely distinct subspecies have been accidentally introduced to another wild population, a recent genetic study has found. The population in question is situated in Camp Leakey in Tanjung Putjing National Park, within the Indonesian portion of Borneo (Central Kalimantan).

As their natural habitats are continually destroyed by human interference, increasingly orangutans are being displaced, with less space available for them to be released back into. There are currently two species of orangutan located in Borneo and Sumatra. Via genetic sampling and 44 years of Camp Leakey data, it was found that two females reintroduced into the park in the 1970s were actually translocated from a different subspecies usually found in a separate part of the island. This isolation means that they have been kept genetically distinct for around 176,000 years. Sudden interbreeding could now have serious unforeseen consequences. To date, these females have produced around 22 hybridized descendants.

In the past, hybridizations have

had positive or negative effects on existing animal populations. In some species, the cocktail of genes can lead to an effect of ‘hybrid

Crosses are less locally adapted to the prevailing ecosystem, leading to decrease of mating success

vigour’, where good qualities from each parent combine, leading to offspring of increased fitness.

However, the opposite may occur in the form of ‘outbreeding

depression’, resulting in crosses being at a disadvantage compared to purebreds, usually because they are less well adapted to the surrounding environments. And in primates with differing behavioural traits, that may decrease mating success. So what has been the consequence for the Camp Leakey orangutan population?

The two females in question, Siswoyo and Rani, were rescued from the pet trade having originally been captured from the North West part of the island. Rani has interbred prolifically with local individuals, producing one of the largest families in the park with 14 descendants over three generations. Could this be hybrid vigour in action? At the other end of the scale, Siswoyo has much fewer, unhealthier offspring than any other female in the park. After two offspring dying in infancy and after contracting a follow-up infection, Siswoyo died ten days after her last birth. The only daughter Siswoyo produced has since had a stillborn offspring, a daughter that died in infancy and a son that regularly requires medical treatment. Could this be a tragic example of outbreeding depression? As such, this mixture of results for a population that is very much at risk has got scientists worried about the fate of Camp Leakey orangutans.

“There is no definitive evidence of outbreeding depression”, says Banes,

one of the main scientists in charge of collecting the genetic samples, “but our findings are enough to cause serious alarm.” At the moment, not much is known about how stable the future is for this population, however with constant habitat destruction, hybridization may be a necessity in order to allow the species survival. Many, including the scientists in charge of the study, are strongly opposed to this idea, and uphold the international conservation guidelines. These state genetic testing should be done prior to reintroduction to avoid interbreeding that could effectively decrease population fitness, and lead to higher rates of extinction. A parting quote from Banes perspective on hybridization; “orangutans from different populations haven’t shared a common ancestor for tens of thousands of years. For the sake of short-term welfare, we’ve compromised the viability of wild populations – we can never take that back”.

Threats to these wild populations include poaching, habitat destruction and the illegal pet trade. But at the top of the list lies the production of uncertified palm oil in Southeast Asia, which is used to manufacture a variety of food and cosmetic products. So in the future, try to look for as RSPO or Green palm label that indicates the palm oil is sustainably sourced.

Science & the City

Despite huge changes since the 19th century, there is still an uneven playing field for women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and maths).

Recently the Academy of Sciences in South Africa found that globally, women make up less than 12% of the membership of the influential bodies of science academies. This number is lower in the UK; women make up only 6% of the membership at the Royal Society; contrast this to many countries who have less historically established institutes and scientific societies, like Guatemala or Ghana, but have double the rates of female membership at 12% and 11% respectively.

Somehow through the course of education and employment, women are rapidly losing their footing in STEM fields.

WISE - Women In Science, Engineering and technology – is a UK organisation looking closely at these dynamics. In 2014, they found an equal gender ratio of students at the GCSE level, but girls outperformed boys in almost every single STEM subject. At the A-levels, the gender ratio begins its skewed trajectory with fewer female students, although they still continue to outperform boys.

In further education, numbers of women are currently increasing in apprenticeships, vocational qualifications, and academia, but gender ratios still lag behind. These also vary greatly by field, with ratios of women as low as 2.6% in qualifications for construction, planning, and built materials.

At the level of employment, the numbers still show the same trend, with less than 13% of workers in STEM fields being women. So it should be no surprise that by the time women are in a position to become members of the Royal Society, the ratio is skewed at just 6%.

These numbers are telling of an inverted pyramid with numerous glass ceilings for women progressing through the course of an academic career. If we all start out equal, it’s more than worth a ponder as to why women are not progressing as far and as often up the STEM career ladder as men.

NAOMI STEWART

Did you know...

There are two orangutan species of which the Borneo is divided into three subspecies

Orangutans spend more time in the trees than any other great ape

The orangutan’s orange colour allows them to blend better into the surrounding swamps that tend to be muddy orange due to peat

The orangutan is one of the most intelligent primates, using sophisticated tools to construct sleeping nests



What lies ahead for the future of this little one? Photo credit: Eric Kilby

FELIX SCIENCE



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Sh!t Science

Scientists left hanging over left handed fish conundrum

MARIANNE GUENOT



Ah... the scale eating cichlid *Perissodus microlepis*... lurking about, ready to attack its next victim Photo Credit Wikimedia

At Sh!t Science, we argue that all research, no matter how outrageously ridiculous-sounding, has a purpose and contributes to widen our knowledge of the world. Even when it is a study of how fish can be left-handed.

Well... not left-handed, per se. It turns out that a specific type of fish called the scale-eating cichlid has a mouth that is angled a couple degrees. For half these cichlids, the mouth tilts to their left and for the other half, it tilts to their right.

This particular species could be considered rather foul, leaching off larger fish and ripping off scales from their sides as they obliviously swim. And since this phenomenon was first described in 1993, it was thought that the way their mouth is slanted determines which side of the fish the cichlid will prey on. So we were pretty sure that we knew why, but we weren't really sure that we were sure.

That is, not until researchers from Toyama University's Graduate School of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences captured 200 of these fish and ripped them open (they deserve it, let's be honest). Surprisingly, by analysing the stomach contents of young and adult scale-eating cichlids, it turned out that even though the young fish have slanted mouths, they eat scales from both sides of their prey, and it is only later that they start to attack the fish from the side their mouths lean, when they become more efficient at preying. This tells us that the fish learn how to take advantage of their physiognomy. And this finding makes this curious piece of research important to the field of laterality.

Let me explain. As humans, we love symmetry, and a symmetrical face is a mark of attractiveness. However, our bodies are profoundly asymmetrical. Researchers are very interested in laterality, i.e. why

humans and other animals use one side of their body more than the other.

Most humans are right-handed, and it turns out we are mostly right-sided as well, we will prefer to use our right foot, our right eye, our right ear... Why is this laterality so strongly ingrained in our biology? It is thought that in our species, *Homo sapiens*, our strong laterality is a result of the lateral laterality of our brains, our centre for language residing in our left hemisphere, perhaps encouraging us to use our right hand. But we still don't know whether laterality is genetic or acquired. Studies such as this one, showing an example of behavioural laterality, where the phenomenon is acquired through learning, give us better insights into our own development.

Natasha Khaleeq
Writer

This week's science picture

Unmanned micro air vehicles (MAVs) are being used for a range of applications, from surveying dangerous areas to delivering packages. So far however, long range and high manoeuvrability are mutually exclusive. A collaboration of Imperial with Southampton, is developing a MAV prototype with bat-inspired wings. The wings use polymers situated in the membranes, stiffening and relaxing in response to the electrical current running through them. According to Dr Rafael Palacios, from the department of Aeronautics at Imperial, "The MAVs will be able to travel longer distances in tighter spaces with high controllability, just like a bat" making them and their production more economical. The aim is to get the bat-inspired technology to fly a distance of 30 or 40 miles. However this requires a lot more work as they will need a battery or chemical device. In the future these MAVs could rival the 10 mile range of Amazon drones.



Dr Rafael Palacios giving us a little demo of his modelling. Photo Natasha Khaleeq



Robot or Human?



A large number of Human and Robot characters fill the screen. Photo Credit: Channel 4

Saad Ahmed
Television Editor

What does it mean to be a human? That's the question Channel 4's sci-fi show *Humans* dances around. Created by Sam Vincent and Jonathan Brackley, this show tells a compelling story with multi-layered characters.

Based on an original Swedish series called 'Real Humans', created by Lars Lundstrom, there's nothing particularly new about the premise of *Humans*, which features 'synthetic' humans or robots with artificial intelligence. For all its imagination, sci-fi is certainly a genre that recycles old concepts. The intrigue lies in the execution and the re-imagining of them. We've certainly seen plenty of robots wreaking havoc on humanity, but the show finds a way to bring something different to a very familiar conflict.

Humans features a world just like ours, with the exception that it's a world filled with robots, called synths, who look just like humans. The synths are part of the society, performing menial jobs like manual labour, looking after the elderly, and even working as prostitutes. Amongst these mindless robots, there's a small group who have emotions and can think for themselves. Naturally, this group is on the run from people who seek to stop them (or help them?) and they inadvertently get split up.

The series mostly centres on these

robots trying to find each other, while at the same time, trying to deal with the circumstances they find themselves in. In addition, there are also human characters central to the plot. These include, but are not limited to, the Hawking family who buy one of the synths, reprogrammed, a retired old inventor and a police officer who dislikes synths with vengeance.

The show finds a way to bring intrigue to a very familiar conflict

One of the amazing characteristics of *Humans* is that the premise isn't really such a big leap or advancement. AI is being developed and robots are being modified as you're reading this. Whether the robots will be as pretty as Gemma Chan as Anita (who's very convincing as a semi-humanoid) remains to be seen. *Humans* takes place sometime around now, not in a technologically advanced future. It's a sci-fi show for the non sci-fi fan; sci-fi that has a foot in sci-fact.

This show is a clever, well written and high-energy thriller. It has a breathless urgency and a

tachycardiac pace that keeps you on the edge of your seat. The show is written so that it's not really possible to divide the characters into good or bad. There's a more complicated, more realistic, and frankly more interesting morality to *Humans*, where everyone is acting around the moral grey areas. The writers are able to nail the real-life worries and emotional connections that come when synths are a part of everyday life.

The show also addresses, but doesn't directly answer, questions relating to having robots in our everyday life. When machines can do all the things you can do, then what's the point of us? What's the purpose in our lives? The teen

character Mattie helps to convey this well; she believes education is pointless because eventually the synths will develop to be faster, better and cheaper than us. The show also talks about what it means to be a human and actually live. Are emotions inherently a part of us, or can they be taught and developed? In one brilliant scene, the synth Anita says to Laura, the mother of

When machines can do all the things you can do, then what's the point of us?

the family, that she can look after her children better than her because she does not get tired, angry or forget things; however, unlike Laura, she cannot love.

Speaking of the acting, all the actors are able to deliver engaging and impressive performances. With the Hawking family, we see each person react in different and believable ways to the new synth. The youngest daughter idolizes her, the teenage son feels attracted to

her, while the mother and teenage daughter are suspicious and curious. Gemma Chan is great as the synth Anita, conveying a smoothly-robotic nature with 'human' qualities through a compelling and alluring performance.

Another standout actor is William Hurt, as Dr. George Millican, an engineer on the original synth project and owner of Odi (Will Tudor), an out-of-date model that the government is looking to recycle. But George can't bear to part with Odi because he's come to feel like family and all the memories they share. Hurt imbues George with a sense of loneliness and regret; he doesn't like the idea of upgrades destroying the connections that families have to their synths. He also brings humor to the role as he suffers through his new, no-nonsense model, Vera, who strictly monitors his health.

By bringing these kinds of emotional touches into the episodes, Vincent and Brackley succeed in making *Humans*, well, very human – concerning itself not only with the humanity of the real people we meet, but with the humanity of the synthetic ones, too. With a plot full of twists and surprises and dazzling performances all around, *Humans* is an amazing and beautifully made show. It deserves more attention than it currently has and is worth a watch.

Humans is available on Channel 4 and Amazon Prime



Keeping all your old and faulty junk in the Shed. Photo Credit: Channel 4



CAST YOUR VOTE!



Your vote
will create change that
makes a difference
at Imperial.

Voting opens
12:00, Friday 4 March

Voting closes
12:00, Friday 11 March

Vote online at
imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

Visit our website to get more information.

imperialcollegeunion.org/elections





The Future of Pop

Charli XCX's Vroom Vroom Recordings aims to leave a mark on the pop music world

Cale Tilford
Music & Games Editor

Until recently, many saw the netlabel and electronic collective **PC Music** as the future of pop. However, even after a number of brilliant, innovative releases they've remained on the fringes. **Danny L Harle's** debut EP *Broken Flowers*, their first release on a major

Sharp,
potent
and
deadly

label, might have had a single that made it onto BBC Radio 1's 'A-List', but he's failed to capitalise on this success. Similarly, **SOPHIE's** compilation album, *Product*, which was released last year seemed like a bit of a flop, considering that its release also coincided with the launch of a sex toy.

The collective have now started to look towards mainstream pop to find their success. Before the debut

of his record last year, a collaboration between **SOPHIE** and **Charli XCX** had been circulating around the internet for a while. It combined Charli XCX's familiar voice with the sugar coated production of **SOPHIE**, creating something truly futuristic.

This collaboration, 'Vroom Vroom', would end up being the name of Charli XCX's new label, Vroom Vroom Recordings. She describes it as label where the artists will be "sharp, potent and deadly". The first release on the label, an EP also called *Vroom Vroom*, was released last week – produced by **SOPHIE** and with a guest appearance from **PC Music's Hannah Diamond**.

Starting off full throttle, the EP's namesake sees Charli XCX imitate a car. She sings "Beep Beep" and "Vroom Vroom" mixed with the real sounds of an automotive. And on the chorus she's fully aware of her pole position in the race to the top of pop: "Bitches know they can't catch me". The song is a confident, and energetic statement of new lifestyle, having recently moved to L.A.

'Paradise' begins on a chipmunkified chorus, with ethereal tones reflecting the core lyric: "Tonight, we're in paradise". It soon skitters into more experimental beats, with the pops and squeaks which

SOPHIE has become known for.

Uma Thurman's line from *Pulp Fiction*, "I wanna win / I want that trophy," is sampled on 'Trophy,' a song which will feel far more familiar to fans of Charli XCX's previous work. She exclaims "All the

She's fully
aware of
her pole
position in
the race to
the top of
pop

girls 'round the world, now we in control," and there's clear aspiration to be like Marilyn Monroe: "Take the crown, shut it down, 'bout to steal the show / Shooting star, I'm a boss" (a reference to the book *Shooting Star: Marilyn Monroe*). Empowering would be an understatement, 'Trophy' is



Vroom Vroom! Photo Credit: Vroom Vroom Recordings

thunderous and explosive, with the chant "Throw it up" encouraging club goers.

The ballad-like closer, 'Secret', is the EP's biggest surprise. It's snappy and trappy, with a cheeky "Shh" emphasising it's obvious theme.

Many have called **PC Music** hyper-consumerist pop, self-aware in its commercial appeal. *Vroom Vroom* is the first sign of the

collective transcending this label; Charli XCX adds substance and meaning to their winning electro-pop formula.

PC Music are branching out and assimilating. Charli XCX is savvy of the true future of pop; her next album, also produced by **SOPHIE**, could be her biggest hit yet.

Vroom Vroom is out now on *Vroom Vroom Recordings*.



Sharp, potent, and deadly. Photo Credit: Vroom Vroom Recordings

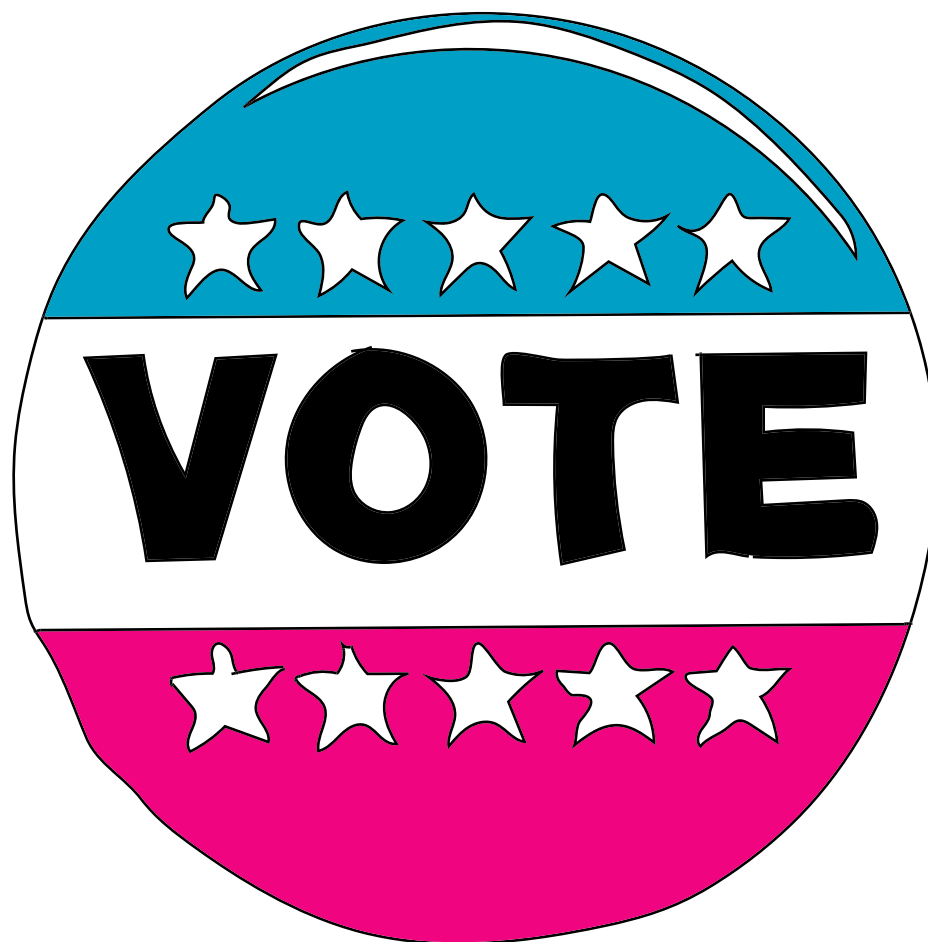


PC Music rule the world. Photo Credit: Hannah Diamond and SOPHIE



ICSM Drama presents A Midsummer Night's Dream
Dates: 9th-12th March
Venue: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Time: Doors Open at 7:00pm. Curtain up at 7:30pm.
Tickets are £5/£7 student/non-student.

LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS 2016



THE MANIFESTOS

Voting opens from midday today:
vote.union.ic.ac.uk

Union President

John Golden



Great strides have been made this year towards improving mental health services and support. But to fully realise permanent change and truly improve our student experience we cannot lose momentum. We must look beyond the next year.

- It's unacceptable that luck will continue to determine which students are supported in times of difficulty and which are not.
- The cost of your world class degree can no longer be your mental health.
- I want to pick up exactly where previous officers have left off,

ensuring progress does not slow.

We are at a crossroads and must maintain pressure on College to fulfil their commitments to improving our wellbeing. This is more than just welfare; it is about education, clubs, societies and the services that we offer - it encompasses everything we do.

A year as ICSMSU Treasurer, three years as a Union bar manager and four years in the Faculty of Medicine has made it clear the problems here are firmly entrenched and change is no swift process.

I have committed to making no promises I cannot keep. But if you want a President who:

- has the experience to hit the ground running as the Union embarks on its next three-year strategy
- prioritises long term change for lasting benefit over short-term and short-lived
- has a real vision for what this university could one day be then vote for John.

Let's not reinvent the wheel. Let's do what we're already doing, but do it better. Let's finish what we've started.

Cat Stuttard



My name is Cat Stuttard, a third year geologist here at Imperial. I want to inspire real, positive changes for you, as Union President, convince you that I can help to improve the wellbeing and happiness of students. I want to give you something meaningful, tangible and achievable and I want students to believe that the union is working for them. An Imperial study of more than 1000 students indicated 70% of you are stressed on a weekly basis, and many are suffering far worse. This is not acceptable!

- I want the college to prioritise

students' mental wellbeing. Too many of us suffer stress.

- Develop training of personal tutors to help and improve the student experience.
- Students should feel engaged with the union body; understand what it can do for them. I want to engage you with schemes like the 'Seat with a Sabb' campaign, the Sabbs coming to you directly on campus!
- I want to improve co-ordination and communication between the Clubs, Societies and Projects, with the Union and Sport Imperial so less goes wrong. We can do better.
- Peer support schemes encouraged and elder student mentor schemes developed, so that we can all help each other.
- Develop the Graduate Student Union (GSU), proactively consult postgraduates and make initial steps to improving the postgraduate experience and their representation. Emails don't cut it.
- Reconsider options for rent decrease of first year halls.
- Direct updates on what the union is doing for you. Students need to see the wins.

Raven Connelly Beng Hung

Hi everyone! I'm a second year life science students.

Okay. I'm not gonna waste your precious time here giving you sweets talk like what or how I will make your university life better. But, instead of just typing, I'm gonna show by action.

As far as a true candidate is concerned, the ability of promoting/marketing a product has reigned supreme. It is often said that a true leader is a leader who has impeccable persuasion and convincing skills. So, this manifesto will be a platform for

me to test my promoting abilities. Here, I will demonstrate that by promoting Uber and Giffgaff simcard.

"Uber is my life, I can't live without Uber". This is the common phrase we heard among university students, especially late-night-having-fun-students when the tube stations are closed. For anyone who doesn't know what Uber is, it is technically a "taxi" that you can order by downloading an app through your phone. Freshers, "Uber" app is a must thing in your phone after your tinder.

<https://www.uber.com/invite/imperialpromotionou>

Secondly, in the era of globalization in telecommunication, everyone knows SIM card is a must for life. But how do we choose a good and cheap telecommunication provider? I've simplified them for you. For international students especially, giffgaff simcard is yours. Great location coverage services in London, cheapest phone calls rate, unlimited Internet and tethering. Basically, with Giffgaff, you can't go wrong.

<https://www.giffgaff.com/orders/affiliate/ravenconnelly>

Easily, I have equipped you with two most important surviving tools in University. Thank you very much.

Melody Ball



I'm Melody Ball, a Taiwanese/English, Beit Hall senior studying in the final year for Biomedical science with a strong artistic flair and passion for change. I have worked closely with the Union through multiple societies and voluntary roles.

I believe I am the best voice to lead the organisation that represents us. I want to make your time at Imperial College London as valuable as

possible. To achieve this I have 3 main objectives:

1. Satisfaction
2. Support
3. Ambience

To improve satisfaction:

- Promote 'find a sponsor' event for projects, societies, and clubs: ensuring informed choices and successful funding.

- Increase 'skills' workshops to enhance opportunities for students to gain well-rounded experience outside academics.

- Greater efficiency and fluidity for communication between different faculties, student representatives via multiple communication tools

To improve support:

- Enhance quality of potential references such as personal tutors by using staff that are rated well on student feedback forms

- Greater awareness and

publicity for services and tools available such as Imperial Plus scheme and Student consultation frameworks.

- Increase ease of 'house hunting' by organising information stalls with student-led advice and recommendations

To improve ambience:

- Promote more cultural events other than Imperial's annual 'Celebration of Culture' evening.

- Strengthen student communities by enhancing intra-faculty 'Mum & Dad' schemes via organised set timetables dedicated to it.

- Strengthen student communities by promoting inter-faculty schemes such as Althea Imperial programme and social events such as Artfest Exhibition.

Level up with Melody for President. See votemelody.org for more details.

Patryk Fryzlewicz



PRIVATISE THE UNION

Our Union has never truly been the property of the students. It has instead been the property of unashamed 'CV-Padders', the vagabonds prolonging their 'university experience' at our cost, or

the power-hungry careerists.

The students' money has been wasted on failed events and campaigns by this staggering bureaucracy. The future of our Union is a £7 million question.

My solution: PRIVATISE THE UNION. Each Imperial Student, for the duration of studies, will be given a share in the Union; and receive dividends from the profits. The Union will become a productive organisation, driven by the right motives of creating value for students and representatives paid based on performance.

At the heart of this idea is a simple yet effective restructuring of governance. Several other proposals stem from this privatisation:

1. Free Speech at University. The

non-interventionist policy will ensure freedom of expression, treating students as the adults that they are.

2. Individual Responsibility. In cases of conflict, the club's representatives should find appropriate solutions. There is no such thing as group responsibility, and it follows that group bans are wrong.

3. No More Agitation. We will be in the business of creating value for students in the form of dividends, not in the business of propaganda 'campaigns' on the students' dime.

Make your vote work for you and not for someone else's CV. Vote for a Union which, rather than losing money, makes money for you.

Vote for Patryk Fryzlewicz. Vote to PRIVATISE THE UNION.

Ivan Brown



MAKE IMPERIAL GREAT AGAIN!

The Beit Quad cartel have forwarded 10 candidates this year: you can vote for the status quo, with policies made up of corporate speech: "streamlining, improvement, working in synergy with".

I, Ivan Brown, offer simple solutions to the everyday problems that the student actually faces at Imperial College London such as:

Compulsory PANOPTO recordings of all lectures

More jacket potato toppings should be available in the library café: beans, chili, cheese and tuna remind us of our Imperial serfdom

Regular servicing of the vending machines in the library and

departments

Kick out the DJ's from 568: Metric is for music!

Build a WALL in the library (or at least a divider): to make a sensible and comprehensible queuing system for food in the library: separating out queues for hot food and drink, and for snacks

Make the revolving doors at the main entrance revolve slightly quicker for ease of access

A special flood response for WHEN the library toilets flood

Expressing actual opinions on student accommodation

Remove the surcharge at the union for entrance on Fridays

Re-instate the RAG bungee jump Keep the card office OPEN at reasonable hours

A referendum on the name of Metric

Regularly collect opinions on campus of how you would like to see your experience change, making the small changes that make a big difference

A review of Union spending on sports and other activities

Re-organise the Union website

Remember, the silent majority stands with Ivan Brown: A vote for change

Nas Andriopoulos



In four years as a Chemist, the Union has played a major part in my student experience. As President, I would make sure that the Union delivers value for ALL its members, works with College to put us students at the centre of decision-making, and builds a sense of community on all campuses.

RIGHT IDEAS

•Rent guarantor scheme for international students and home students from low-income families - to prevent extortionate upfront payments.

•Strengthen the Imperial Identity by pressing College to improve services for recent Alumni.

•Re-structure membership to allow YOU to remain part of the societies you love, even when you graduate.

•Ensure student input for all aspects of the Imperial White City migration – possibly the biggest change in Imperial's history.

•Support YOUR views and campaigns with a technologically enhanced democracy.

•Mentality Report: ensure that the response is fully implemented and continue to push for further mental-health provisions.

•Unified booking system for Union performance/licensed spaces.

•Extend Charing Cross café opening times.

Full manifesto: votenas.in

RIGHT EXPERIENCE

I have two years of management-group level experience on the RCSU-Executive and have represented FONS students on Union Council (the Union's decision-making body). Beyond that, I've got involved in a range of clubs: from representing Imperial at quiz tournaments to co-founding Imperial Comedy. I am a driven believer in student-led change within College, which was central to my achievements as ChemSoc President.

With my varied experiences and track record I can deliver the BEST DEAL for students – PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE.

#VoteNas

David Moores

I forgot to pull out. I don't want this. I'm now quite worried.

Levi Ordog

"Honesty is stronger than ideology."

Ideas to raise student satisfaction: President: Incompetent and arrogant leadership is a disgrace.

SOLUTION: Negotiation, honesty, competency, liability towards students.

Clubs and Societies: The biggest issue that clubs are facing is STORAGE at Imperial Campuses. If you ask any society, they will mention it.

SOLUTION: Buy a container, transform it accordingly.

Student Welfare: There is NO welfare community at Imperial, who students can approach for advice, raise issues about gender equality, or ask for help in house hunting.

SOLUTION: Allocate space for students where they can relax and



meet people from welfare.

Union Finance: Societies, who are contributing more, find harder to receive funding (e.g. Tectonics), because most of the societies' money stays on their account, making the Union less able to invest into quality.

SOLUTION: Encourage wealthier societies to invest into active societies, like the Finance Society did.

Eddy Kardouss



Your time at Imperial will be a turning point in your life. You will learn how to live independently and will be laying the foundation for your career. You will want to have the best experience at Imperial and be prepared to contribute to society,

impacting the world. I can be the one providing you with the support to let you make your mark.

In the past 4 years, I've been involved in several positions at the Union by being President of the Aeronautical Society, Departmental Representative, Industrial Liaison Officer and Year Representative 4 times in a row. I believe I have gained knowledge and understanding of the Union to become its President.

My main aims are to:

- Create and promote a start-up culture.
- Strengthen student-alumni relationships.
- Facilitate the search of accommodation for all students.
- Empower students to contribute to changes and decisions.
- Improve support for students and societies.

To realise these objectives, I will:

- Introduce a start-up fair and invite entrepreneurs for talks.
- Increase funding for student projects.
- Create a platform in each department allowing students to contact relevant alumni.
- Introduce a service where graduates can provide their flats to those of you who are seeking accommodation.
- Encourage societies to get sponsors to increase their budgets and exposures.
- Organise more joint events between Imperial and other universities to build new connections.
- Encourage postgraduates to join societies and contribute to the community.

Allow me to achieve these aims and let's shape the future together.

Be Ready. Vote Eddy.

Yulia Bulgakova



Hi, I'm Yulia, a 4th year Computing student.

I've been a year rep, events officer, sat on the Union Council, and chaired DoCSoc. During this time, I significantly increased the number of events (to over 15), doubled the society's sponsorship funding (to

£12,000), and encouraged new levels of student engagement with the society. I absolutely loved all of it, and I wish to use the experience I've gained in order to contribute to the overall improvement of the Union.

What?

* Revise welfare.

* Improve the student experience.

* Work towards an efficient Union.

How?

* Create a welfare scheme similar to academic representation.

* Re-think welfare positions and make them more appealing to volunteers.

* Make it easier to advertise Club and Society events and for students to find out about them.

* More support and recognition from the College for students with side projects.

* Improve collaboration between

departments and societies to promote more cross-field projects.

* Improve collaboration with other Unions, bridging the gap between our students and other universities.

* Increase representation of short-term students (masters, business school, exchange).

* Re-design eActivities & improve Union technology; provide part-time work opportunities for students with software development skills.

* Improve the communication process between the Union and the volunteers.

I will be making the effort to seek out criticism and suggestions on how to make the union a better place for students. I believe that being a president of the union is not an individual job but is about collaborating with students, listening to their suggestions and feedback.

Deputy President (Welfare)

Emma-Louise Little



for years to come. I also introduced a Trans Healthcare Seminar- the first of its kind at Imperial, opening the door to more, specific welfare training in future.

I sit on the Community and Welfare Board, Union Council and am involved with a range of societies, both IC and ICSM, providing me insight into issues college-wide and within specific faculties, sub-groups and minorities.

What I will do:

Mental Health

Introduce student-led and personalised support - from workshops directed at specific groups (i.e. international, club captains), to expansion of counselling and support services on ALL campuses, and even a nightline app.

Gender Equality and Consent

Use education to tackle

discrimination and harassment by introducing sexual consent questionnaires but also devise a clear zero tolerance policy - so staff and students are equipped to handle any issues.

Housing

Ensure the college provides affordable student housing for all and continue to work on a system whereby International Students are able to privately rent fairly, without excess fees.

Higher Education Green Paper

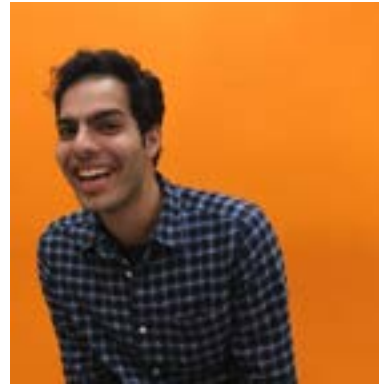
Campaign against potential rising of tuition fees, the scrapping of the maintenance grant and a new system that will see teaching standards fall, not rise and

Push for a consistent welfare framework across college faculties.

#VoteForLittleGetALot

Follow the links for more details!

Akash Jyoti



4th year International Physicist, RCSU Welfare Officer 2 years, amateur footballer and comedian. I love being a part of Imperial. Yet student satisfaction is appalling. Expectations at Imperial are exceptionally high, irrespective of your course and year, often without proper support. While this helps us become tomorrow's leaders, it's not pleasant today. That's why I'm taking a STAND!

GAME PLANS

- CENTRALISE all personal and professional contacts here to support you
- Be available in JCR/SCR EVERY WEEK
- Host a welfare open forum EVERY TERM
- BATTLE mental health stigma by advocating its NEED for increased awareness

- Support student-led campaigns like Mentality and IC Sexism so your voices are HEARD and concerns ACTED UPON
- Lobby for a MORE EFFECTIVE and RELEVANT College support system, including a 48 hour reply deadline for personal tutors
- Extend the Union's support network to include POSTGRADUATES
- Put a SMILE on your face

WHY ME?

- I am one of you and I wish someone had helped me
- RCSU Welfare Officer since 2014, dealing with student issues in Union Council, and leading last year's AND this year's Welfare Week, SO LOOK OUT!

• As an international student, I know what it's like to live very, very far away home, conversing in a second language and being immersed in a new culture

- DEFEATED a physical injury in 2013, and extreme stress in 2014, to personally know the improvements needed in physical and mental health support, especially during exams

Read my full manifesto and stay tuned for multiple campaign videos (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1663990713855447/>) !!

#akashtag #akashforyourwelfash
<http://www.akashforwelfare.com/>

Claudia Mihai

Hi, I'm Claudia, a final year Computing student.

I will:

- Keep fighting against the mental health stigma.
- Speed up the process for obtaining financial help.
- Make sure no one is left behind.
- Demand more funding for IQ, Cultural Societies.
- Maximise open hours to ensure all students are heard.

We need to continuously encourage open discussions on mental health, to ensure that everyone is accustomed to their normality and frequency. I will continue the development of systems such as IC Mentality and



the Student Space, and significantly increase their visibility. You deserve to know help exists, and you deserve access to it at all times.

The process for obtaining financial help is incredibly slow. Bottlenecks need to be identified and solved in order to provide the necessary help at the right time. Moreover, prospective students are

intimidated by the idea of living in such an expensive area, and this is undoubtedly a waste for our community.

Regardless of how hard you work, life might sometimes happen. Perhaps as a mental health issue, minor surgery, or something else entirely. I plan to set up a group of volunteers per department, who would provide academic help to students in need. A one-time thing doesn't have to evolve into a downward spiral.

Within AstroSoc, I fought for a developing society and a supportive environment. As an academic rep, I ensured all voices were heard. I wish to contribute to improving the overall experience at Imperial, and this starts with proactively committing to student support.

Emily-Jane Cramphorn

VOTE FOR SOMEBODY WHO BELIEVES YOU MATTER!

- Co-founder of Mentality: eliciting change & working with IC Union
- Mental health activist: founder of youth support group, media work, educational tools, b-eat award winner
- Active volunteer & fundraiser - I care about people!
- Personal experience of welfare at IC, mental/physical health issues & interruption of studies
- Experience of financial limitations



of Student Finance & difficulty attaining emergency funds

- Active member of the Imperial community: involved in/supporting societies, campaigns & FELIX

ACTION PLAN

- Listen to YOU & act on feedback
- Education sessions on changes to student finance, budgeting & emergency funds
- Aim to increase access to emergency funds regardless of parental income
- Continue mental health activism on campus: work with ICHC, college tutors, Counselling Service & Mentality to improve support & awareness
- Mental health first aid training for staff, wardens & union employees
- Freedom of choice in GP practice when documentation is required (and for freshers)

- Better support for those with health issues/disabilities & reintegration after interruption of studies
- Workshops on sexual consent, sexism, sexual harassment & safe sex
- Support for students with dependents
- Campaign for affordable housing: work with Shelter & lobby IC
- Tackle bullying, homophobia, racism & sexism
- Better signposting & access to available support
- Better communication with & training of senior/personal/college tutors
- Education about & support for

- drug & alcohol abuse
- Regular stress less events
- Aim to hold referendum on re-joining NUS/ULU
- Work with charities & fundraising to improve student support
- Workshops on managing student life
- Online resources for self-help/advice/stress management
- EVERY STUDENT IS DIFFERENT, EVERY STUDENT MATTERS!
- YOUR WELFARE, YOUR SAY!
- VOTE FOR CHANGE!
- VOTE EMILY-JANE: BECAUSE YOU MATTER!

Millie Tsang



Hiya!
Six months in, as much as I have achieved quite a lot as the current Officer, there's still more to do. I've discovered new issues within welfare, particularly in the field of mental health, stress management and the protection of sexual assault victims. Over the last months I've opened up the CGCU as somewhere you could go for concerns or questions, and have shown that I can be trusted and relied upon.

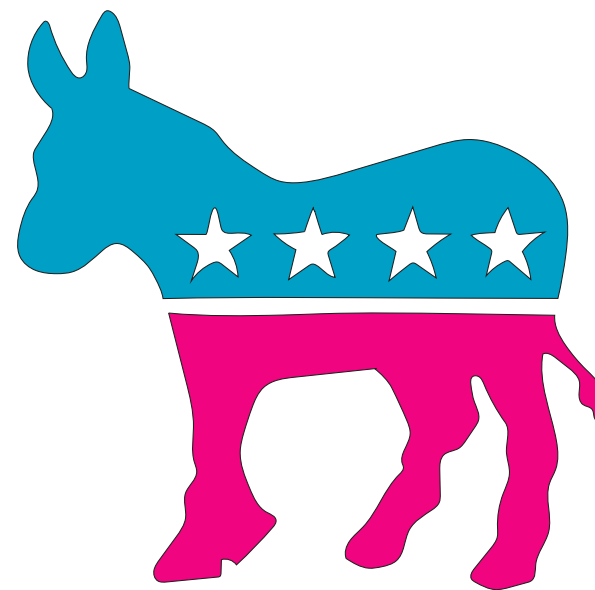
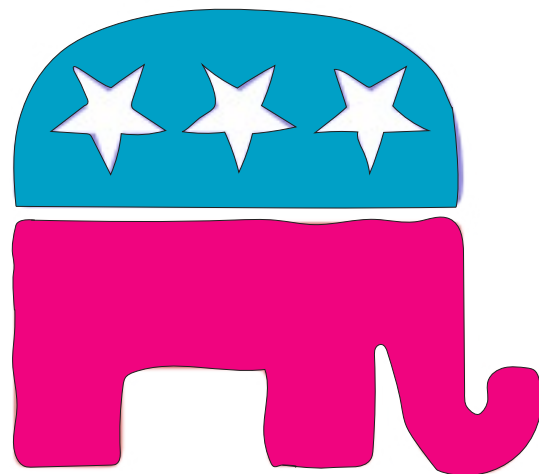
Having had time to get into the nuts and bolts of the role and Union system, I would like to keep the momentum of my work going. New initiatives include:

- 1) Formalising the role of Welfare Reps or a Welfare sub-Committee
- 2) Further increase signposting & awareness of mental health services and investigating how effective students actually find them
- 3) Combating the issue of consent and lack of rape victim support on campus.

Further developments include:

- 1) I'd like to implement the newly approved puppy therapy scheme properly and perhaps introduce other temp events
- 2) Improving the pilot scheme of confidential sexual health deliveries - which has received positive reviews so far. This includes improving efficiency by increasing stock supplies.
- 3) Raising issues with College over their sketchy sex offenders policy.

Come August, I would have had a year's worth of experience and would have the same passion and drive as I did when I first started, if not more. Email me for queries (mt1613@ic.ac.uk)



Deborah Schneider-Luftman



Read my full manifesto at <http://DebForDPW.com>
Choose a subwarden with extensive welfare experience for Deputy President (Welfare) in 2016/17!

University can be the most fun, educational, but potentially daunting time of your life. In fact, last year alone, three out of four students reported problems with mental health at Imperial. It's therefore vital that we constantly strive to improve the welfare system at ICU and in the college.

I started my PhD at Imperial in 2012, and over the last four years have been a society President, a graduate teaching assistant, and subwarden at Beit Hall. This means I have direct experience helping and understanding students' problems, and working with the Imperial welfare system.

- My priorities:
- Better Housing, on and off campus
 - Support International/EU students
 - Promote Women's Rights
 - Improve Mental Health Support
 - Increase BME and LGBT Representation
 - Increase Disability Support
 - Greater support in departments
 - More postgraduate support
- I will:

- Secure more access to GPs and mental health professionals, and provide easy-to-access area based information on local GPs and services

- Launch peer-led support groups, for both academic and personal problems

- Provide EU students with greater support, in case of Brexit, for funding and visas

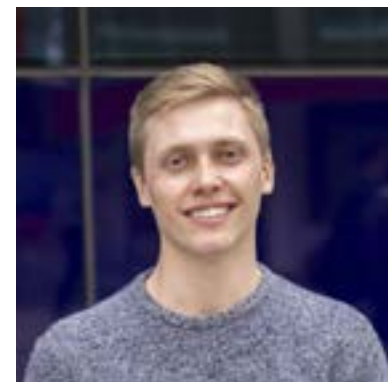
- Increased representation of EU/International, LGBTI, and BME students in union and college roles
- Cheaper/Closer hall accommodation on campus

- Secure more legal support for help living out

- Promote gender right campaigns on campus

- Work with departments to provide full-time welfare support staff, for UGs and PGs

Denholm Dott



We all know Imperial's welfare system has both positives and negatives. Through my own personal challenges with depression I've had the opportunity to experience both sides and the impact of the efforts of previous DPWs. My insights have given me the drive and resilience needed to make further improvements to create a more positive and fulfilling Imperial experience. I believe that the breadth of issues that we all face can be addressed through the following initiatives:

- Timetabling affects every student
- I propose:
 - Departmental consultations with year reps, mental health representatives, the DPE and DPW when planning the spread of deadlines and exams.
 - Stress-less days aligned with departmental peak periods.
- Reducing stress-levels improves mental health but better support across the College is imperative. We need:
 - An anonymous counselling app for immediate help from counsellors, the DPW and Union representatives
 - Obligatory mental health training given equal footing as first aid across staff, starting with senior and personal tutors.

- Support sessions for all students who are directly or indirectly affected by mental health issues.

- Hold Personal Tutors accountable through SOLE-inspired reviews.

- Consent:
 - Raising awareness around consent.

- Improving sexual assault support and communication.

- Student housing:
 - Building on work by the previous DPW to open the option of using Imperial as a guarantor on rental contracts

- Lobby the University for affordable accommodation closer to College, reversing current trends.

- Funding:
 - Create better awareness of all the funding resources and issues among students, especially for medics.

Find out details at www.denholmdott.co.uk and on my Facebook page. #DenholmCanDoIt

Deputy President (Education)

Yiya Mao



I'm Yiya, pledging to be your Deputy President of Education.

I have been fully involved in many aspects of the Student Union and gained further insights by being nominated as the Dean's Advisory Council, as well as representing the Graduate Student Union as the Academic and Welfare Officer of the Business School. I am currently the Lead Tutor in the Community Education Forum, representing Pimlico Connections, working with a group of undergraduate

science students. I am a proud member of the Fencing club and have played the British Universities and Colleges Sport 2015 for Table Tennis Women's First Team.

My main goal is to improve outcomes in the National Student Survey and Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey score by increasing your overall satisfaction studying at Imperial.

I will enhance the learning experience for students at Imperial and strengthen the connections between Undergraduate and

Postgraduate students, strengthen the career opportunities for students, create community footprints by encouraging students to become more involved in volunteering work. Facilitating the connections across faculties, foster the communication between them.

Connections

Further develop the "Daddy and Mummy mentoring program", Language Exchange, Business Dating and Academic Mingle Events

Feedback

Synchronise more research focus group on student, and new in-class voting system, always with action-plan and follow-ups

Social Media and Community Footprint

Encourage sharing, create platforms to engage current students and potential students. Support current students to better perform in their coursework and exams, rewarding all contributions with the Imperial Plus Volunteering Qualification

Please see the details on <http://voteyiya.uk>

Luke McCrone



Hi there, I'm Luke. I am currently a postgraduate student in ESE with three years' experience as a Year Representative in undergraduate Geology, which gave me the opportunity to receive feedback directly from students and to transform their ideas into tangible changes, such as increasing the use of Panopto and Mentimeter in the department.

My experiences as a Hall Senior, two years as an undergraduate at Tizard Hall, and currently as

a postgraduate-level Subwarden have given me extensive insight into education at Imperial, through interactions with fresher, international Erasmus and PhD students.

I will aspire to achieve the following aims if elected Deputy President (Education):

Feedback: Improve speed and quality of feedback across college by instigating a college-wide 'Feedback Traffic Light' system (already being piloted) to monitor feedback speed based on a two week return period.

Assessment: Utilise 'questionnaires' designed to obtain information on specific coursework assignments (e.g. how much time the student spent) which can be incorporated into departmental curriculum reviews to help regulate assessment quantity and quality.

eLearning: Develop college-wide strategies for 'Technology Enhanced Learning', which will address methods for utilising Mentimeter, Panopto, Blackboard etc. at the departmental level. Continue to explore new concepts,

including 'Blended Learning' and online discussion boards.

Postgraduates: Ensure all taught postgraduate courses adhere to college policy, including Wednesday afternoons free and the availability of personal tutors, who could also be project supervisors. Review the Graduate Student Union and reassess academic support in place for PhD students (e.g. dealing with supervisor issues confidentially).

Alexander Mytenka



Hi!! I'm ALEX MYTENKA and I'm a postgraduate studying MSc Environmental Technology, after recently graduating from the RSM/ESE with a BSc in Earth Science.

During my time here I have been truly fortunate to experience everything that makes Imperial College the greatest place for students to learn, succeed and gain the vital skills necessary to fulfil their dreams. My transition from undergraduate to postgraduate has also shown me that there is

still much we can do to make our student experience even better.

This is my mission:

TO ENSURE ALL STUDENTS, BOTH UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE, HAVE THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF OPPORTUNITIES, RESOURCES AND SUPPORT POSSIBLE.

As Deputy President of Education I aim to tackle 3 main goals:

1. Lay the foundations for a SIMPLER, MORE PRACTICAL, IN-HOUSE CREATED ONLINE LEARNING SYSTEM

FOR THE ENTIRE COLLEGE.

2. INCREASE STUDENT FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITIES, and AID DEPARTMENTS through incentives TO INCREASE STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN FEEDBACK AND IMPROVE STUDENT SATISFACTION, ensuring each student gets the most out of their education.

3. ADVOCATE GREATER ADOPTION OF NEW LEARNING TOOLS such as "panopto", as well as ENCOURAGE CROSS-COLLEGE MEETINGS TO

SHARE IDEAS/TECHNIQUES.

As an ESE academic rep (year 3) I saw that THESE GOALS ARE ACHIEVABLE!

Through my experiences as a former assistant station manager of ICTV, General Secretary of Media Group, Master of Ceremonies, sales consultant and uncle I also have the leadership and team-working skills, passion and relentless work ethic necessary to drive change.

SO TOGETHER: LET'S MOVE FORWARD!!

THANK YOU and VOTE ALEX MYTENKA :)



David Moores



My name is David. I would (clearly) like to be the editor of FELIX.

I need your help.

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Ju Yoo



I'm beyond passionate about helping you get the most out of our societies. To many of us, societies are what makes uni fun. They give us a chance to explore new experiences, make new friends and give us something to look forward to amongst all the exams, projects and deadlines. As your officer it'd be a privilege to help you enjoy your time as much as I have mine, and work hard to #makegoodthingshappen.

From my experience of starting up a new society, starting and running the Volunteer Dinner and being chair of Connect, I have a deep understanding and the experience to the problems in running our clubs and societies. I'd like to use these skills to make a kick-ass sabbatical officer, and get to know each and every one of the 340+ clubs and societies. As a year rep for 2 years, I've sat on numerous meetings to push for what the student body wants. I've held committee positions in philosophy society, AMSA and others and been a finalist in the Venture Catalyst Challenge.

As DPCS, I'd like to provide the following;

- Weekly afternoon drop-in sessions at Charing Cross Campus for students that live in this area.
- Create a monthly open forum for clubs and societies to raise issues any issues.
- Help volunteering societies expand and collaborate with other universities.
- Make it easier for societies to support each other and co-host events for a stronger, cohesive student body.
- Start sponsorship training for societies.

James Cox



I want to improve the communication between Sport Imperial and the union, and to increase funding for clubs and societies.

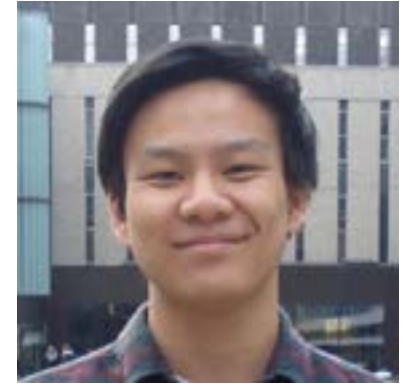
The allocation to C&S through budgeting has increased by ~10% from £307,000 in 2011 to £332,000 in 2015, whereas participation increased by ~40% from 18,000 in to 25,000 total memberships in this time; this is clearly not proportional. I would like to be able to allocate increased funding to clubs and societies with the aim to increase participation all across Imperial. This is important as they provide an

excellent way to make friends and a much-desired break from work, contributing to overall wellbeing and personal development.

There is room for improvement in the communication between Sport Imperial and the union. A joint strategy is currently being developed, the successful execution of which would be a vital task for the incoming DPCS. Our sports clubs are student-run, therefore it is important to me to ensure that students are heavily consulted in this process.

Having been the Vice President of Clubs & Societies for the RSMU, I have a good understanding of how to oversee clubs and to help them where necessary; I understand that most clubs are very happy to run themselves. I organised The Bottle Match, the second oldest rugby varsity in the world played between the Royal School of Mines and Camborne School of Mines; through this I learnt how to create a compromise to appease staff higher-up whilst maintaining the interests of the students.

Jonathan Zheng



Hi, I'm Jonny.

As the founder of the new Magic Society at Imperial, I know what it's like to start up a society, and I want to make the process better. I'll do this by keeping new clubs in the loop through meeting each one face to face, and giving them more updates on the progress of their applications.

I've also played hockey over my 4 years here, and sport at Imperial has seen its fair share of 'bad behaviour' in public, losing clubs a lot of time and money. I'm going to make the process for resolving these problems clearer, by having an open door policy to provide advice and guidance through the issues that inevitably arise.

Finally, I'm going to make sure that the people in charge of clubs know that they can count on me to keep them up to date with the information they need. The big problem I've seen in my experience with the union has been the lack of a reliable source of help, for those who come across problems when running their clubs. I aim to be that source, in order to keep the stress and frustration when working with the union to a minimum.

FELIX Editor

If enough of you vote for me, I can become editor of FELIX.

This means we will be able to do many good things.

These good things include:

Investigative student journalism
Non-investigative student journalism

Bigger, better, unbelievably good hangman section

Drunk acquaintance of the week

More puzzles

Crosswords you can actually solve

Dank memes page

Paul Balaji weekly column

We need more Imperial specific coverage. We need more interaction between the average Imperial student and FELIX. We need FELIX to be edgy, without being a stereotypical student newspaper. We need articles people actually want to read, not further reporting on news available in the BBC website 5 days earlier.

A student newspaper needs to be controversial, but without trying too hard. I can turn FELIX into something to be discussed, debated, shared, loved, and hated everywhere on campus.

Vote for me and I'll give you a free newspaper sometime next year. Promise.

Cale Tilford



FELIX needs an independent, experienced, and forward-thinking editor; someone to keep it free from Union interference, make it relevant to students, and lead it into the future – that person is me.

I've worked tirelessly as both Music and Games Editor to deliver quality, innovative content, writing over 50 articles this year alone. As editor of Imperial's forthcoming gaming magazine, Another Castle, I've had the opportunity to design and organise a publication from scratch.

While FELIX has a large physical presence on campus, its digital

presence isn't significant enough. I have the web development experience needed to further develop FELIX's online counterpart, having recently built 'Petition Map' for the UK Government petitions website.

I plan to:

Place an increased focus on student news and issues, investigating both the Union and College, to give you the information you need to enact change

Expand the Comment section, a platform that allows students to express a diverse range of views – the best comment pieces will be made into video content, giving them more traction

Introduce classifieds, allowing clubs and societies to advertise events for free

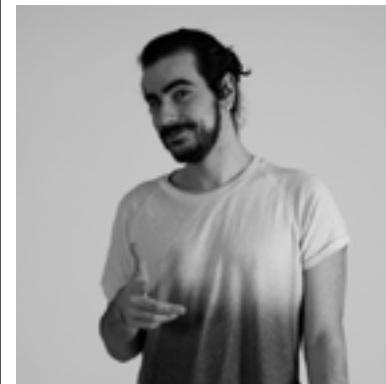
Start 'Coffee Mondays' – a weekly drop-in at the FELIX office, encouraging people to get involved

Expand FELIX's online presence by uploading news as it happens, and produce more interactive content

Introduce a weekly FELIX show, summarising the week's news

Host a FELIX Hackathon, using the expertise of our students to revolutionise online news media

Lef Apostolakis



I'm Lef. Some of you may know me from back in my undergrad days as a young, starry eyed biologist. I'm back in college now, slightly disillusioned, a science communication MSc student editing the science section for FELIX on the side.

Deciding to run for FELIX editor was not easy. From what I've seen, it's a hard and thankless job. Yet it is crucial that it's done well and based on my past experience as LeoSoc president, I'm confident I'm cut out for the task.

At Imperial, the diversity characterizing our community, whether that's disciplinary, or political, or sexual or what may you, is often forgotten, buried under the silence that results from our lack of communication.

Which is why as FELIX Editor, I would do my best to encourage more students to use FELIX as

a platform for expressing their thoughts and opinions. Through outreach initiatives and workshops I aim at embracing new ideas and believe I can increase student involvement, while fostering a much needed dialogue.

I would also continue the development of the paper's online platform and social media presence and try to use it to generate additional income through advertising. This should increase the volume and independence of the student voice and protect it against any attacks.

I want FELIX to be the paper we deserve. A paper that offers development opportunities to students and one that challenges its readers. A paper truly representative of the student community.

ICSMSU President

Alex Chippy Compton



Hey guys, me again! Vote Alex Chippy Compton for ICSMSU President and maybe I'll stop spamming you with yet another campaign...

We face a time of challenge. We need passionate and experienced

leadership to sustain ICSMSU's unique identity and build a strong foundation for the future of our union. My wide-ranging work on the SU and a variety of committees and representation of ICSM, both internally and externally, has given me the crucial skills and knowledge needed for this job.

- I have begun discussions with other medical schools and key ICSM faculty members which have opened valuable channels for academic development. I will build on these to explore how we can engage all of you in curriculum development and to support the implementation of Sofia, the new curriculum map, for you.

- I will strengthen our Welfare Committee so it can deliver effective assistance wherever needed,

including providing targeted help to international students and a more active response to LGBT+ and diversity concerns.

- I will review our events calendar to incorporate your feedback into what we currently do and explore hosting new, exciting events like Mum's & Dad's ice skating and an ICSM outing to Thorpe Park.

- I have in-depth knowledge of all our clubs and societies from my roles as SU Treasurer and Clubs & Societies Officer. I will use this to help maintain their traditions while widening student participation and involvement.

Visit <http://chippyforpresident.strikingly.com> to read more about me and my plans for ICSMSU.

Moving forward together to build a stronger ICSMSU.

Usama Asif



ICSM has a thriving community, one which I want to promote and improve. Together, we can achieve our potential and set a precedent for the future. We pride ourselves on the diversity of services we provide, internally, and more recently, externally. However, we are now more aware of our identity in recent times. I think I have had a lot of experience to see what ICSM can become in the future. I love ICSM and I want us to fulfil and exceed our potential. We need a focused President to facilitate this well and direct what we can do together to achieve this.

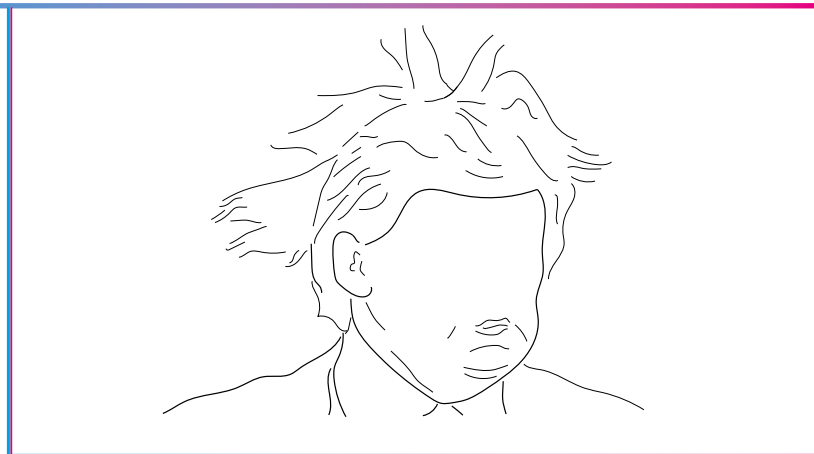
My core vision focuses on community and identity. Broadly, I aim to:

- Continue current work (e.g. Junior Doctor contracts, housing)
- Improve our relationship with College and ICU
- Identify other issues via open-door meetings and open forum discussions
- Promote what we, as a community, do
- Advertise the outcomes of meetings and welcome feedback on them
- Oversee the development of the new Reynolds Bar
- Continue work on the Curriculum Review
- Work to improve Sofia
- Dedicated open-door policy
- Promote awareness of issues such as funding and mental health
- Plan for the future. Maintain our identity in the face of adversity
- Facilitate the running of our clubs and societies to ensure they thrive

Together, we can make ICSM great. Thanks for reading.

Please visit my website/Facebook event for more information.

Stephen Ball



Council meetings are the chance for your voice to be heard throughout the year and to shape the Union into what you want it to be.

As someone that has been going along to Council meetings for four years, I have seen Council make big decisions and also get stuck arguing in circles.

In my role this year as Recreational Clubs Committee Chair, which has a position on Council, I know first hand how much Council can make

a dramatic influence on lives of students and the crucial role that the Chair has on making this happen.

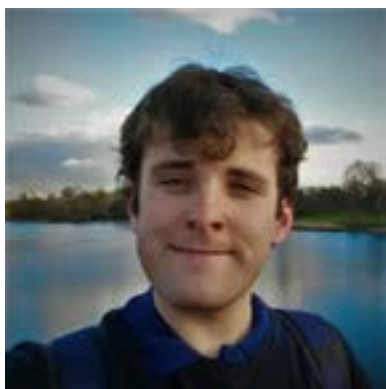
As part of this role, I have been pushing to ensure that the Union makes its work available to you, allowing you and your clubs to be informed about what the Union is doing and where it is planning on going. I will continue to enable your voice and opinions to shape the Union and its future.

As Council Chair I would act to make Council a body that effectively

represents you and that the new Officer Trustees hear your opinions on the matters that are important to you.

I would also work to bring the activities of the Trustee Board to wider consideration to ensure that the whole Union is able to have valuable input into their work and the long-term planning of the Union. This will help ensure that the Union continues to represent and support you in the best way it can throughout your time at Imperial.

Michael Edwards



Union Council is one of those little known and heeded necessities of running a Students Union that has so much to offer. It brings together student reps from across

the College, many of whom you are currently electing, to weigh in on how the Union should focus its time and efforts to best meet your needs as students of a world-class institution.

I'll admit, I'm no constitutional nerd like some of my Council colleagues, but I can learn. As Council Chair, I want to make Union Council a more visible and interesting body that acts to hold next year's officers and sabbaticals to account.

I'm sitting on the Council this year as an Ordinary Member for the Faculty of Natural Sciences and have gained a working understanding of

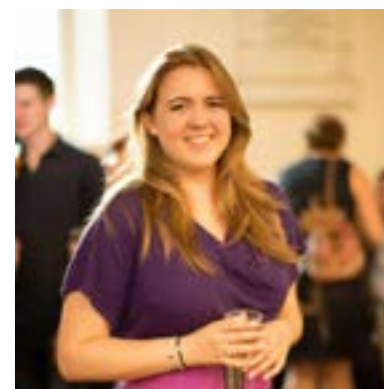
the Council and feel that I can step up to manage and lead the Council in its duties next year. During my time at Imperial, I've also been an academic representative in the Chemistry Department, meaning I have the experience in representing students.

I'll aim to address the challenge of low turnout for council by consulting voting members further in advance to ensure effective meetings, and opening more motions to email votes to ensure the important business of Council can occur even when we cannot physically meet.

Sound good? Vote for me; you can't go wrong!

Council Chair

Abigail de Bruin



Last year as Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) I sat on both Council and Trustee Board. I therefore have relevant experience for Council Chair where the role provides a vital channel of information between the two.

Ensuring all members of Council understand the relevance of their role on the board from the very beginning will hopefully tackle some of the issues with quoracy currently faced. I feel my broad experience training officers could be used effectively to hold training

sessions for the Ordinary Members, Liberation officers and other subsets of roles on Council alongside relevant staff from the Union.

One of the most important functions of Council Chair is to pass information back and forth between Council and Trustee Board. Having sat on both boards previously I know how to summarise the issues discussed and pass on key points to relevant audiences rapidly and succinctly.

As Council Chair, particularly when it comes to difficult meetings, it is important that the loudest voice in the room is not the only one heard, and also that the discussion is not allowed to loop back on itself. This is a skill I built as DPCS last year.

Council Chair empowers students to discuss issues that they care about with the highest levels of the Union. I would work with students to ensure their papers are polished ready for discussion and ensure they are comfortable and prepared to present to the sometimes intimidating membership of Council.



Against a sea of troubles – theatre in the Jungle

The Good Chance Theatre is aiming to offer escapism to refugees across the camp



The Globe to Globe tour perform Hamlet at the Jungle camp in Calais. Photo Credit: The Guardian

Indira Mallik
Arts Editor

The question of whether the arts are a luxury or a necessity has become one of the issues surrounding the 'Jungle' refugee camp just outside Calais.

Over 6000 displaced people from some of the most violent places in the world have gathered in the camp, a collection of makeshift shelters, home to people from over 20 different countries, from Syria to Eritrea to Pakistan.

The lack of organised infrastructure and aid effort has pushed the camp into a state of humanitarian crisis, according to a report conducted by the University of Birmingham with the medical charity Medecins du Monde. Despite the abject poverty and squalor amongst the mud, something of a self made community is emerging. Along the main street running through the camp, hairdressers, restaurants, schools, churches and mosques have

sprung up; born out of a necessity or a hope to carry on as usual despite the horrific situations the residents

Despite the abject poverty and squalor in the mud, a self made community is emerging

find themselves in. A theatre has also been set up by the British playwrights Joe Murphy and Joe

Robertson, supported by the Young Vic and The Royal Court theatres and many celebrated figures in British theatre including Tony award winning director Stephen Daldry, and artistic director of The Royal Court, Vicky Featherstone.

The Good Chance Theatre, which derives its name from the common debate amongst the refugees of the likelihood of crossing The Channel to Britain on a particular day, was set up to become a place where refugees from all the different countries come together to tell their stories.

Under the geodesic plastic dome of the theatre, a daily roster of events is put on by volunteer artists. These include music lessons, dance and acting workshops, English lessons, and even workshops in specific arts as varied as circus or clowning. The Good Chance website declares they have hosted "poetry slams, stand up comedy nights, acoustic sets, theatre performance, rap battle", providing escape from the rest of the camp's dreariness.

The space has become especially important for the women and

children living in the Jungle. Women are outnumbered one to ten within the camp and do not

Everything from English lessons to clowning workshops take place in the theatre

stray outside of their family tents for fear of becoming targets of sexual violence. Likewise, the camp is a

dangerous place for the hundreds of unaccompanied minors who have found their way to Calais but have become separated from their family. These most vulnerable of the refugees find it difficult to make use of the paltry resources available, for they are seldom able to leave the safe spaces they have created for themselves.

For this reason, many of the visiting artists have made it their mission to draw the women and children out of their constant fear and give them an outlet to express themselves. Recently, Afsaneh Gray, a playwright associated with The Gate theatre in Notting Hill, ran a workshop encouraging the young refugees to draw scenes from stories told to them in their childhood. In his powerful essay about Calais in The Guardian, Christopher Haydon describes some of the drawings by the young children, many featuring the emblems of the war that has been ongoing in their native Middle East for their entire lives; guns, Chinook helicopters, the threat of ISIS.



The images, so far removed from the childhood these kids should've had indicates the burden of mental health problems in this population.

Most, if not all of the residents of the Jungle are suffering from the mental effects of brutal and close encounters with violence and war. In most cases, the refugees are not receiving adequate medical care for physical ailments, let alone support for mental health. The Good Chance Theatre and similar initiatives may be one of the most effective ways of tackling the issue. Art therapy has been shown to be effective in tackling post traumatic stress disorder in returning soldiers, ameliorating aggressive and depressive tendencies. It is only reasonable to assume that the civilians fleeing from those war zones would benefit from the same therapies.

Not everyone has been convinced about the value of the Good Chance Theatre however. In particular, the performance of Hamlet by the touring 'Globe to Globe' arm of The Globe theatre became a lightning rod for controversy.

Critics argue that the residents of the Jungle camp are living in fear for their lives, often going without food, sharing one toilet between 75 people, completely without washing facilities; a theatre has no place in such an environment. Do they have a point? Should we be talking about food for the soul when there is a shortage of food for their bellies? Some might

consider the idea of performing centuries old theatre to people in such destitute circumstances to be very definition of leftist ivory tower thinking; a peculiar brand of champagne socialism ("let them watch Shakespeare"). In Elliot Eisner's words such people view the arts "as nice but not necessary".

It is good
to see
theatre...
it is good
to enjoy
something

Yet, it is clear that to the 300 refugees who watched the outdoor performance, it was a welcome break from the monotony of life in the Jungle. One refugee, speaking to The Guardian, said, "I've read the play in a book but never seen it... It is good to see theatre, ... It is good to enjoy something".

Throughout history, in times of despair, people have sought refuge and comfort in the arts.

Why else is Verdi performed to packed out audiences in the Donetsk Opera House as shellfire echoes around them? Why else, in



Refugees gather inside The Good Chance Theatre dome. Photo Credit: goodchance.org.uk

the midst of the darkest days of the First World War, did British soldiers start publishing and distributing poems and satire on the front lines in the 'Wipers Times'? Indeed, why else did our earliest ancestors start scrawling bison on the walls of Spanish caves when by rights they should have been more concerned with the woolly mammoths after them?

The idea that the arts are a luxury is a myth that should be readily and swiftly dispelled. The arts should not be sequestered away in gilt galleries, privy only to the privileged few. The arts more often than not

are utterly necessary to survival and in maintaining humanity, and surviving in a desperate situation.

The arts
are utterly
necessary
for surviving

Imagine for a second that you had braved war, survived sinking boats, travelled across continents, when you finally arrived on safe land would you rather be rescued by the leftie 'lurvies' with their Hamlet and writing workshops, or the so called pragmatists who wouldn't look beyond a meal a day and bare necessities? I know which one I'd choose.

Should we
thinking
about
culture
when
people are
starving?

The Good Chance theatre company and others like them are doing necessary and excellent work, but they may now face extinction. Though the theatre is still standing, the French authorities have begun demolishing the Jungle; churches and restaurants have already been bulldozed along with dozens of homes. Theoretically the residents, now twice displaced, should be rehoused in other parts of the city, but for many – especially the 500 unaccompanied minors – the situation remains precarious

It is a striking indictment of European politics that the people who have gone to extraordinary lengths to flee violence and terror from their own countries find themselves on the shores of one of the richest countries in the world still fearing for their security.

Despite all odds, in face of European governments that oscillate between barely acknowledging the plight of the refugees and openly denying their right to seek refuge, the men, women and children who have found their way to Calais are starting to rebuild their lives, but they need our help.

As with most things, governments are far behind the mentality of the citizens, but it is time that the powers-that-be in Europe recognise the displaced people, not as "a bunch of migrants" as David Cameron so charmingly termed them, but as human beings, just like us, deserving of shelter, food, warmth, and yes, even beauty.

Find out more about donating or volunteering at goodchance.org.uk



Joe Murphy and Joe Robertson, the founders of The Good Chance Theatre. Photo: The Guardian



The top three *car chases* that aren't in *Fast & Furious*

They're great guilty pleasures, the *Fast and Furious* films, aren't they? How can anyone not enjoy having some drinks and a pizza while watching several ripped guys illegally street race and pull off stupid heists? *Fast and Furious* is simply a very fun, enjoyable set of action films, and – of course – they feature some great car chases. However, my opinion that *Tokyo Drift* is the best one is apparently some sort of cardinal sin... let's see if my friends can agree with me on this list at least:

Blues Brothers (1980)

There's actually several big car chases in this 80s classic. The two that really stand out to me are when the brothers completely destroy Dixie Square Mall and, of course, the ending. No film since has packed so much comedy and carnage into such short periods of time. Fun fact – a record (at the time) 103 cars were destroyed in the making of this film.

The Raid 2 (2014)

Hey guys, have you heard that I like *The Raid* films?!? I think I may have mentioned the series a few hundred times in this column alone. In all seriousness though, any list of the best car chases that doesn't include the incredible highway fight scene in *The Raid 2* is just objectively inaccurate. I would also recommend watching the horrifically convoluted making-of for this incredible scene.

Lupin III: The Castle of Cagliostro (1979)

Hey guys, did you hear that I like Miyazaki films too?!? Oh, right, sorry. At least here I have some big-name back up for my love: Steven Spielberg has famously described the opening car chase of animated classic *The Castle of Cagliostro* "one of the greatest chase sequence ever filmed". The jazzy soundtrack here is also a perfect remix of the classic theme to the 70s TV show *Lupin III*.

BEN COLLIER

Dispatches from the Oscars



From left (clockwise): DiCaprio and Iñárritu with their awards; Jenny Beavan, BAMF, for *Mad Max*; Ruffalo et al. celebrate *Spotlight's* win. Photo Credit: AP

The Academy Awards took place last Sunday evening, and your intrepid FELIX team stayed up until the early hours of Monday morning keeping track of the ceremony on an illegal live-stream, significant portions of which were dubbed into Turkish. Truly, there is nothing we will not do for journalism. As usual, there were victories, surprises, snubs, and questionable jokes, and that was only in the office...

The biggest story of the night was the success of *Mad Max: Fury Road*, who swept up awards for six of its ten nominations. The awards may have all been for technical achievement – Sound Editing/Mixing, Costumes, Make-up & Hairstyling, Editing, and Production Design – and George Miller may have missed out on the Best Director prize. Nevertheless, the evening showed that big-budget action spectacles can have more of an impact than perhaps previously thought.

And, of course, after *Mad Max* claimed all those prizes, there was little left for *The Revenant*, who managed to win three Oscars,

despite being nominated for 12. Sure, Leo won his Best Actor award (is it right to put 'finally'? This may have been his fifth nomination, but I think you'd be hard pressed to name a year where he was actually 'robbed' of the award), Alejandro Iñárritu collected his Best Director trophy the second year running, and Emmanuel Lubezki was awarded Best Cinematography for the third year in a row. But *The Revenant* entered the ceremony as the frontrunner, and failed to clear up.

Most notably, *The Revenant* failed to win Best Picture, an award which went, in possibly one of the biggest surprises of the night, to investigative drama *Spotlight* – also winner of Best Original Screenplay. Writing in *The Guardian*, Alicia Shepard said the win for *Spotlight*, which focuses on the *Boston Globe's* uncovering of the Catholic sex scandal, "can expose to a whole new generation why journalism matters". That's us here at FELIX. We're journalism.

In a charged speech, producer Michael Sugar said that the message of the film should "resonate all the way to the Vatican", issuing a

direct challenge to Pope Francis to "protect the children and restore the faith".

Spotlight's win for Best Picture wasn't the only surprise of the night. Mark Rylance won Best Supporting Actor, which was widely expected to go to Sylvester Stallone, for his role as Rudolf Abel in *Bridge of Spies* – the film's only award. Best Visual Effects went to *Ex Machina*, the British sci-fi drama whose budget was minuscule compared to its competitors; *Ex Machina* beat out stiff competition for the award, including *Star Wars*, *Mad Max*, and *The Revenant*, whose CGI bear scene garnered acclaim. Alicia Vikander, the star of *Ex Machina*, also took home Best Supporting Actress for her role in *The Danish Girl*.

Ennio Morricone took home the Best Score award for his treatment of Quentin Tarantino's *The Hateful Eight*. Going up to receive the award, the 87-year-old Morricone was treated to a standing ovation, a recognition of his decades of work in the industry. *Inside Out* took home the award for Best Animated Feature, as expected, and British documentary *Amy*, following the life

of the late singer Amy Winehouse, took home Best Documentary.

Sugar's speech on the Catholic Church wasn't the only pointed statement of the night; in fact, nearly all winners had something to say about the state of the world. DiCaprio used his time to address climate change, calling it "the most urgent threat facing our species"; Best Adapted Screenplay winner Adam McKay, who won for *The Big Short*, told the audience "if you don't want big money to control government, don't vote for candidates who take money from big banks" (a thinly-veiled attack on Hillary Clinton, who made \$3 million from 12 speeches to big banks in 2013-15); and even Best Costume winner, Jenny Bevan, said that we might be heading towards a *Mad Max* world if "we're not kinder to each other". Such an innocuous message didn't stop a whole row of celebrities from giving her the stink-eye as she strolled down the aisle to collect the award, decked out in a bejewelled leather jacket and scarf, giving the sartorial finger to any notions of what women 'should' wear at awards.



Chris Rock's introduction of Stacey Dash left us all totally stumped

But all this was overshadowed by host Chris Rock, who used his platform as host to point out the racial inequality of Hollywood. If you've ever wondered what a room full of white people unsure whether to clap or not sounds like, just give his opening monologue a watch. There were some aspects of his hosting that did work well, such as

the segment where he interviewed black cinema-goers in Compton, none of whom had heard of *Bridge of Spies*. It pointed out the glaring disconnect between what the public actually watch, and what gets nominated, as well as highlighting the disappointment at the lack of nods for *Straight Outta Compton*. Elsewhere, his jokes left a sour taste in the mouth, like when he quipped that in the past African-Americans were too busy getting "raped and lynched" to protest about diversity, or when he said Jada Pinkett-Smith boycotting the ceremony was like "me boycotting Rihanna's panties – I wasn't invited". And then there were some that left us totally stumped, like his introduction of Stacey Dash as director of the 'minority outreach programme', who came on and wished the bemused audience a happy black history month.

Singer and 'musician' Sam Smith also tried to get in on the social-justice act when collecting his award for Best Original Song for 'Writing on the Wall', dedicating his award to the LGBT+ community.



Stacey Dash (right) confused all of us, not least of all Chrissy Teigen. Photo Credit: Getty/ABC

Unfortunately, he also tried to claim that he was the first openly gay man to win an Oscar (there have actually been, at my count, at least ten Oscars going to gay men). To be fair, he prefaced this with the claim that the fact no other gay man had won an Oscar "[might not] be the

case", showing us all that ignorance should never get in the way of saying what you want to say. When corrected of his mistake, he simply presumed he was the second gay man to win an Oscar. Someone then pointed out Howard Ashman had won two Oscars for Best Original

Song, to which Smith quipped "I should know him. We should date". Ashman died in 1991 from AIDS-related complications. Smith has since quit Twitter, and will – no doubt – claim that he is the first gay man to do so.

FRED FYLES

Documentary corner: *Dear Zachary*

Ben Collier
Writer

Before I begin this review, I'm going to really strongly recommend that if you haven't already seen the film you should avoid reviews or summaries online. Should you watch this documentary – as I did – with no foreknowledge then I guarantee that watching *Dear Zachary: A Letter to a Son about his Father* will be a genuinely unique experience. Director Kurt Kuenne has a very important message to get across here, and the structure of the film – the way it progresses, slowly giving you drips of information – is essential to its effectiveness.

To give a very simple synopsis of the film, it was made (as per its namesake) as a memorial to the life of Andrew Bagby, a good childhood friend of the director. He was murdered by his girlfriend, Shirley Jane, after ending their tumultuous relationship of several months. The recipient of this letter is the couple's son, Zachary, born shortly after Shirley's arrest. The film is split between documenting the murder case and speaking directly to



Director Kurt Kuenne (left), at the graduation of friend Andrew Bagby, the subject of the film. Photo Credit: Mongrel Media

Zachary, telling him about the kind of man his father was. The level of love and care that went into this film is apparent, as is the love Kuenne, and the dozens of friends and family members interviewed had for Andrew. This cinematic scrapbook

showcases Andrew's personality, his likes and dislikes, and the effect that he had on so many people's lives. Much like the ending of *It's a Wonderful Life*, certain parts of this film are life-affirming, highlighting all the positive effects a single man

can have on so many people.

Dear Zachary is really an experience above all else. I honestly cannot remember the last time I was so viscerally affected by a film. And for this reason, despite it being one of my new favourite documentaries,

I doubt I'll ever watch it again. A full range of emotions are elicited through the viewing experience, and anyone who gives it a watch can expect to be angered, amused, depressed, sickened, and everything else in-between. No other film has conveyed the impact of losing someone in such an emotionally intelligent and accurate way. However, despite all the dark moments, the lasting feeling most people will experience is one of hope and inspiration – at seeing the dignity and love shown by Andrew's parents throughout.

The film masterfully avoids the pitfall of slipping into overly sentimental territory. There's sentimentality, for sure, but nothing is forced. The charmingly amateurish way everything is shot and edited, along with the backstory of why the director is completing this project, just adds to the appeal. Overall, *Dear Zachary* is a very human documentary and one I cannot recommend enough; its contents are incredibly important, and I would consider it a disservice to yourself not to give it a watch.



**AND THE
WINNER IS...**

RESULTS PARTY

Friday 11 March

20:00 - 02:00

Metric & FiveSixEight, free entry

Hear the results from the Leadership Elections from 20:00 before our
Impulse DJs take over to help us celebrate from 22:00.

IMPULSE BASHER

FELIX CLUBS & SOCS



felix@imperial.ac.uk

DramSoc heads to the LSDF

Their submission, N.E.E.T, will be performed at the Semi-Finals on 5th and 6th March

Alsan Sayfimehr
Writer

The London Student Drama Festival is an annual event with a wonderfully self-explanatory title. Eight universities from London (recently down from nine; some people just can't take the heat) have to develop a play from scratch: writing, rehearsing, rewriting and then rehearsing some more. They then battle it out in suitably dramatic fashion for the prestige and rewards associated with winning. Oh, and put on a good show.

Our submission this year is called N.E.E.T. (Not in Education, Employment or Training), and tells the tale of protagonist Nate's arrested development proceeding the death

of his mother, with imaginary characters & antisocial behaviour in tow. It's funny, moving, emotionally rewarding and much, much more. As an unbiased commentator I thoroughly recommend checking it out.

DramSoc's productions are the cornerstone of campus culture

It's hard to avoid drama at Imperial; from our capital-renowned tech crew to the dazzling talent themselves. DramSoc's productions are a cornerstone of campus culture, and the LSDF provides the opportunity for us to spread this culture to the rest of London, whilst also seeing what the more socially competent students get up to. Goldsmiths did some crazy shit involving flashlights last year, so they'll be sure to whet your appetite for the more artistic.

The semi-finals are at Student Central on Sat 5th & Sun 6th of March (we're on the Sunday), and then the top 4 plays will progress to the finals on the 13th at the Pleasance Theatre.

Come on down, support Imperial and enjoy an evening or two of the best student theatre London has to offer.



Some of the official publicity for LSDF. Photo Credit: Student Central

Imperial College
London

PRIVATE HOUSING EVENING

7 March 16.30 - 19.30

Join us for tips and advice on finding private accommodation.

16.30
exhibition in the Queen's Tower Rooms.
Meet estate agents, private halls providers and other service providers.

18.00
presentation begins in the Great Hall

imperial college union

@icstudenthub
#privatehousing
imperial.ac.uk/accommodation

Student Hub
student life support

FRIDAY 4 MARCH

FREEZE FRIDAY

In association with Beit Bars and Imperial Snowsports

Snow party and DJs

FRIDAY 4 MARCH

20:00-02:00 | Metric & FiveSixEight

£1.50 EARLY ENTRY GUEST LIST

£2.50 ENTRY ON THE DOOR



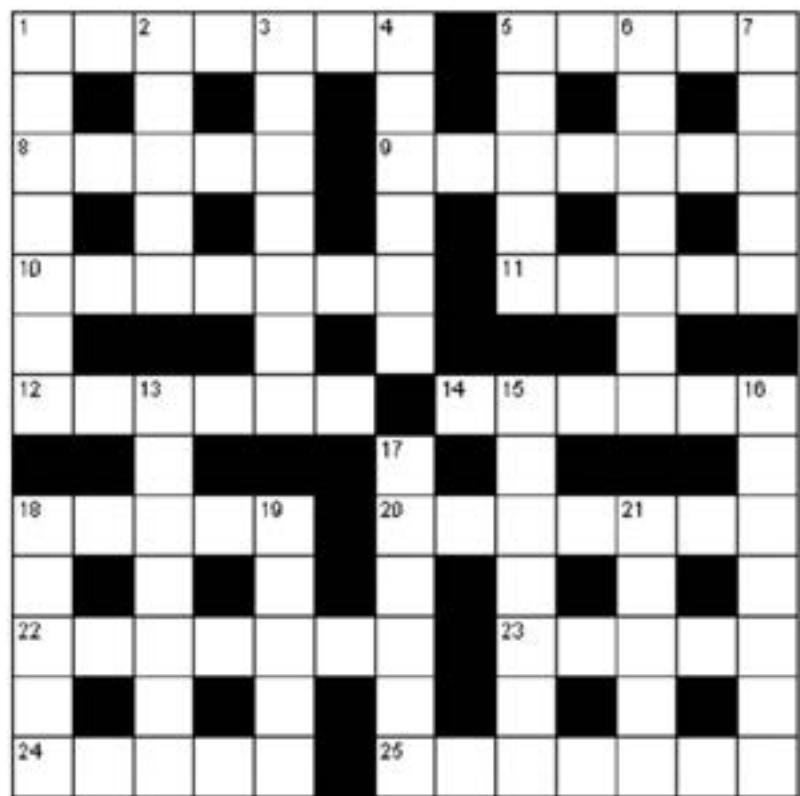
COMING UP!

Date	Event	Time	Location
Every Tuesday	Super Quiz	20:00 - 22:00	FiveSixEight
Every Tuesday	Cocktail Night	18:00 - 23:00	Metric
Every Wednesday	CSP Wednesday	19:00 - 01:00	Metric & FiveSixEight
Every Wednesday	Sports Night	19:00 onwards	Reynolds
1st & 4th Thursday of each month	Pub Quiz	19:00 - 21:00	h-bar
1st & 3rd Thursday of each month	Quiz Night	19:30 - 22:00	The Foundry
2nd and 4th Friday of each month	Karaoke Night	20:00 - 23:30	The Foundry
Every Friday	PGI Friday	16:00 onwards	h-bar
Every Friday	Reynolds Cocktail Club	17:30 - 00:00	Reynolds
Friday 4 March	Freeze Friday	20:00 - 02:00	Metric & FiveSixEight
Friday 11 March	Leadership Election Results Party	20:00 - 02:00	Metric & FiveSixEight
Friday 18 March	Common People	20:00 - 02:00	Metric & FiveSixEight
Saturday 19 March	CSP Saturday	19:00 - 02:00	Metric & FiveSixEight
Wednesday 23 March	Spring Carnival	20:00 - 03:00	Metric & FiveSixEight

FELIX PUZZLES



fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

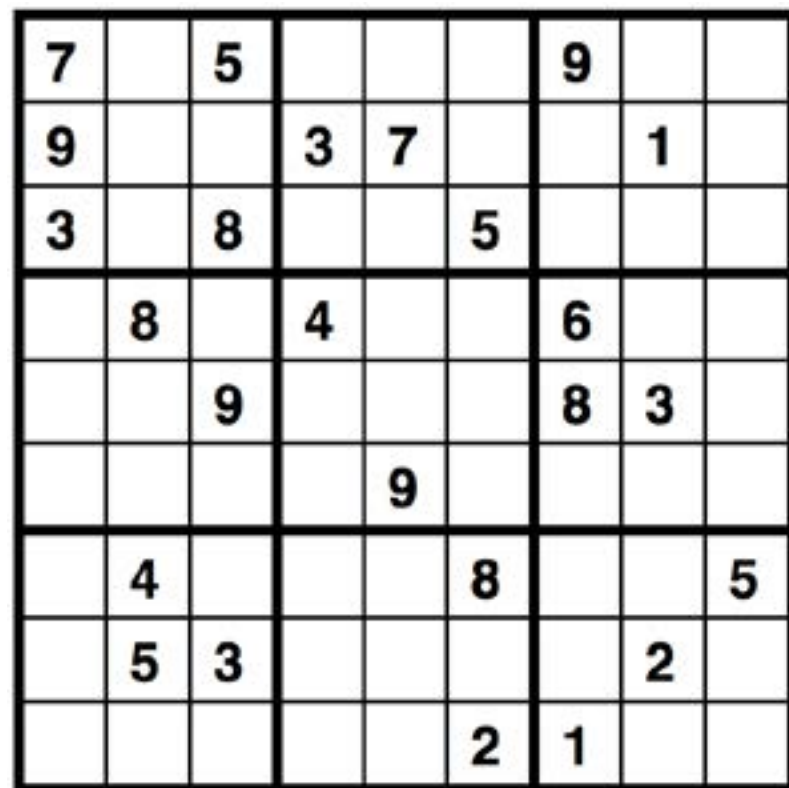
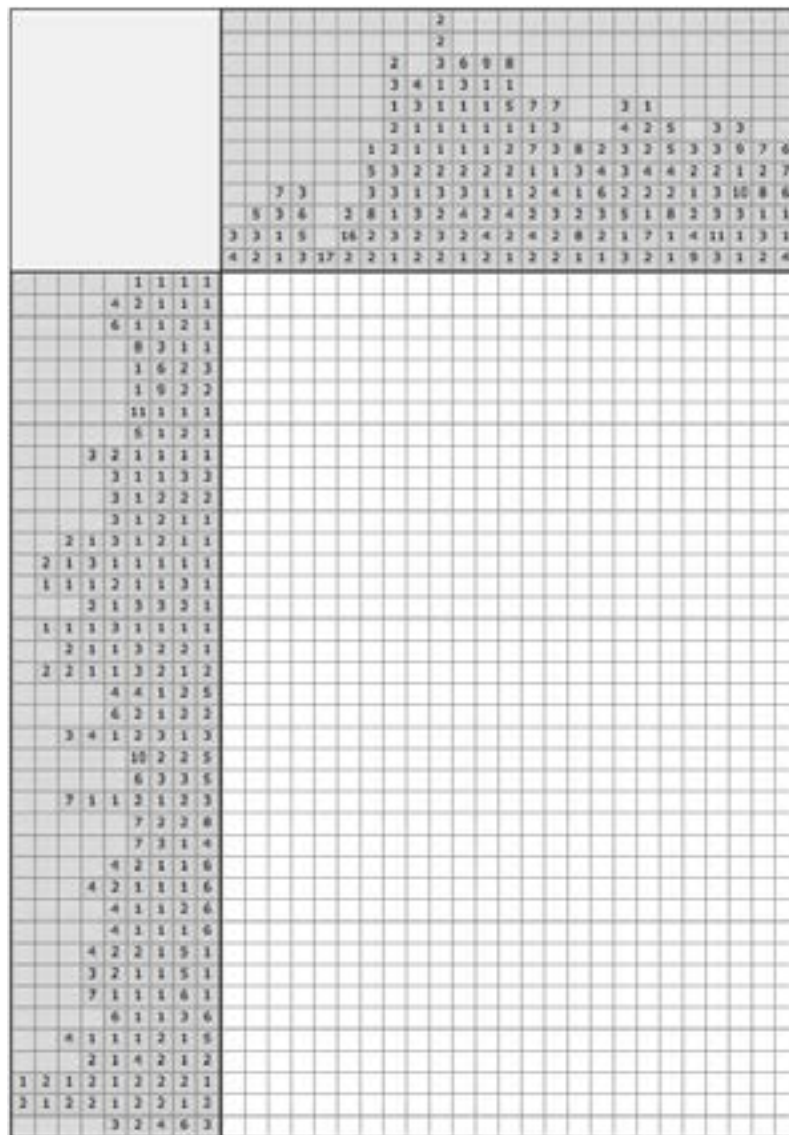


Across

- 1. Local language (7)
- 5. Type of parrot (5)
- 8. Sounds (5)
- 9. Water-based sporting event (7)
- 10. Roman sea god (7)
- 11. Soft white limestone (5)
- 12. Mollycoddle (6)
- 14. Customer (6)
- 18. Back of a boat (5)
- 20. Nuclear apparatus (7)
- 22. Refuge (7)
- 23. Magnanimous (5)
- 24. Endured or carried (5)
- 25. Highest on Mohs scale (7)

Down

- 1. Evil (7)
- 2. Fable writer (5)
- 3. Keep out (7)
- 4. Large soup dish (6)
- 5. Supernatural (5)
- 6. Small house (7)
- 7. Onomatopoeic blow (5)
- 13. Gracefully slim (7)
- 15. Novice (7)
- 16. To bully (7)
- 17. Despicable person (6)
- 18. Indian term of respect (5)
- 19. Hangman's loop (5)
- 21. Data arranged in rows and columns (5)



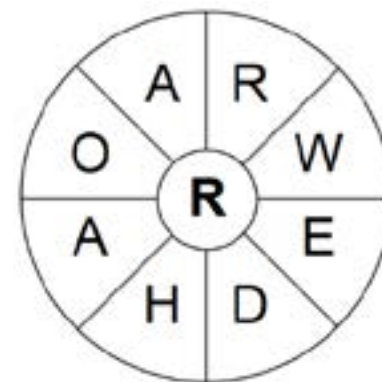
FUCWIT

Solo Efforts

1 st	Cherry Kwok	240
2 nd	Nicholas Sim	236
3 rd	Greg Poyser	62
4 th	Ayojedi	46
5 th	Sunny Amrat	30
6 th	King Lam Kwan	15
7 th	David Fengchu	
	Zhang	14
=8 th	Jan Xu	13
=8 th	Sach Patel	13
10 th	Harry Secrett	10
11 th	Joshua Wan	8
12 th	Ho Chin	7.5
=13 th	Grace Chin	3
=13 th	Jeremy Ong	3
15 th	Megha Agrawal	2

Groups

1 st	Pufulezzi	118
2 nd	CP Fanclub	79
3 rd	Gap Yahhhh	58.5
4 th	Parmesan	9.5



Points Available

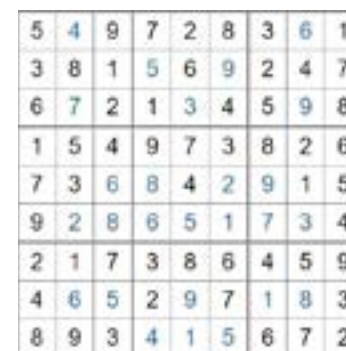
Crossword	4
Nonogram	3
Chess	4
Sudoku	3
Word Wheel	3



White to move. Checkmate in two.

Solutions

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



Should students care about the EU? Debate next week



For the first time in 40 years, we will choose whether or not to remain in the European Union. Following the referendum announcement by the Prime Minister, the deciding date is set for the 23 June 2016.

There are nearly two and a half million students in the UK who could play a decisive role in this referendum debate.

To explore these crucial issues for students Universities UK is hosting a major national event, a Question Time style debate on Tuesday 8th March in partnership with the National Union of Students titled 'Should students care about the EU?' The event, which will feature speakers from both sides of the debate, will take place in at The Church House, Westminster, London from 19:45-21:00. The event will be chaired by Javier Espinoza, Education Editor, Daily Telegraph. It's free to attend, but booking is necessary. For more information and to book, go to:

imperialcollegeunion.org/eu-referendum

Fridays in the h-bar - bar food on till 22:00 from 4 March



From Friday 4 March, the h-bar will be extending its bar food service until 22:00. Grab an h-bar burger for yourself or tapas to share with friends and colleagues with your drink for a little bit longer!

Coming soon at the h-bar:
Pub Quiz - every second and fourth Thursday
Wine Tasting, Friday 4 March
PGI Friday, every Friday from 16:00

imperialcollegeunion.org/h-bar

Grab yourself a £5 Amazon Voucher courtesy of move'm

Many of us have had issues with poor quality housing or rogue landlords (or both if you've been really unlucky!), and it is time to put that to an end. As part of the Union's campaign to tackle housing issues, we are thrilled to be collaborating with Move'm!



Move'm is essentially a TripAdvisor for student housing. Similar to how you would rate a hotel or restaurant, you can now rate your student houses too. You can review and advise on properties that you loved and properties that you hated. Other students at Imperial are then able to benefit from this inside knowledge, by knowing which properties are pleasant to live in and which should be avoided.

In the past Move'm has been able to pre-warn students due to move in to a negatively reviewed house and has even got them out of their contract and got their non-refundable money back. It has also put pressure on landlords local to other Universities to ensure houses are of the best quality.

To kick things off we would like as many of you as possible to review accommodation you've lived in within the past 5 years. As a reward, after reviewing your property (and confirming your Imperial email address) you will be sent a £5 e-voucher for Amazon! Go to the Move'm website and submit your review easily via: www.movem.co.uk/listing-submit

FELIX HANGMAN



felix@imperial.ac.uk

NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



UNPRECEDENTED WIN FOR CANDIDATE WHO DID LITERALLY NO CAMPAIGNING



SAM SMITH FIRST GAY MAN TO LEAVE TWITTER

HOROSCOPES



ARIES

This week you pick up a flyer informing you about someone running for Deputy President, Welfare; however, you don't read the fine print, arrive at their event hoping for some DP and receive nothing of the sort.



TAURUS

This week you are wondering who to vote for as next year's FELIX Editor; however, you realize it doesn't matter as you only read FELIX for the nudes and the dank horoscopes. I will always be here for you.



GEMINI

This week your girlfriend tells you if you put anymore jokes about fucking her mum in the horoscopes, she will leave you. I'm-a see how long I can get away with it and when I'm single I'll let you know.



CANCER

This week you accidentally paid too much for sainsburys delivery and so, next time, decide to only buy the heaviest cans of beans possible. You cause the delivery guy to have a heart attack.



LEO

OMG! You got the Oscar! Congrats.



VIRGO

This week you are outraged that Imperial College London's Alice Gast didn't win an Oscar for best actress at last week's awards. I mean, she has been acting like she cares about Imperial students for two years now.



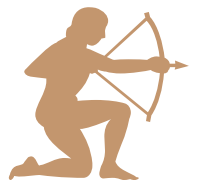
LIBRA

This week the government ask you to #CleanForTheQueen. You do your bit by taking some unwanted cones and roads signs home after a night out, whereas the rest of your housemates continue to leave the kitchen like a health hazard.



SCORPIO

This week, you're watching Meet the Candidates, but the level of cringe reaches toxic levels, and you curl up and die as Bob Marley's 'Stir it up' plays on quietly in the background.



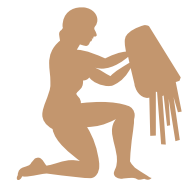
SAGITTARIUS

Hi, I'm the horoscopes writer. Um, sorry, hold on... Yeah, okay. I believe I should be your horoscopes writer because I have the experience of writing the horoscopes. You can find out more at double you double you dubble you dot vote for horoscopes writer dot co dot you kay.



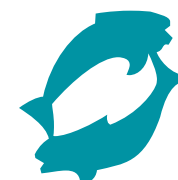
CAPRICORN

This week the stream to the Meet the Candidates Live breaks, and amidst the static you hear one of the candidates for Deputy President, Welfare admit that he was the zodiac killer. Spooky.



AQUARIUS

This week you accidentally eat Cale, the guy running for FELIX Editor, instead of the green, iron rich vegetable. Other Lefy greens and Moore are available.



PISCES

This week you wish the bees in your head that chew at your brain would stop.



IC Kendo Club host dojo showdown

Imperial Kendoka organise UK tournament and win silver

Wilko Duprez
Writer

Last weekend, the Imperial College Kendo Club organized a major event in the world of kendo in the UK: the University Championship, or 'Taikai'. It was a frank success, with students gathering from as far as Scotland and Wales to the Ethos gym here in South Kensington for the traditional annual competition between university dojos. A total of 150+ kendoka – making it the largest UK Taikai since its inception 20 years ago – sparred over the two days in different categories, individual and team competitions, split between beginners and veterans (and genders for individuals).

The contest was fierce, and the Imperial students fought very well, with captain of the club, John Jonsson, taking second place



Imperial Captain John Jonsson leaps into action. Photo Credit: Natasha Khaleeq

in the beginners (kyu) individual competition and one of the Imperial teams (consisting of John Jonsson, Byung Sup Song, Spencer Cheung, Francis Poole and Wilko

Duprez) also winning a silver medal – in the beginners category. The Taikai was also an opportunity for kendo students to pass exams by demonstrating their skills under the

eye of the BKA, the British Kendo Association, to progress further up in grades. Congratulations to all the Imperial students who successfully received their Ikkyu and Sho-dan!

Feedback from participants revealed a high level of satisfaction about the tournament's organization and proceedings – for which the Imperial Kendo Club can also be proud. Next year's Taikai will take place in Cambridge, hosted by the University of Cambridge Kendo's Society – and Imperial students are determined to bring back gold this time.

The week before the Taikai, the Imperial Kendo Club also received fellow kendo students from Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo, Japan, building the friendship between the two university clubs through practice and friendly competition as well as attending the Union bar. The Imperial College Kendo Club has existed since 1998 under the coaching of Emiko Yoshikawa Sensei 6th Dan, who has represented the UK at the World Championships, and practices three times a week in the union building.

Boat Club head off on a Tour de France

ICSM Boat Club cycle nearly 300km to Paris for RAG

Annually, the Imperial College School of Medicine Raising and Giving team organise a trip to a European city for a night out; with this year's destination being Paris. When this was announced, the ICSM Boat Club thought, why take the coach when you can cycle there for charity instead? It's only 295km after all!

At 4:45pm on Friday evening, twelve naïve cyclists set off from Queen's Tower for the ride to Paris, with a target time of under 24 hours. Initial progress was slow, given the Friday afternoon rush hour, but after surviving Tooting and escaping the M25 we sped into the pitch black roads of the South-East. Shortly before our first scheduled stop with our supporters (Tom and Luke), we suffered our only two punctures of the journey. After a quick repair we set off in search of Newhaven; 100km and five hours after leaving IC we reached the ferry, ready to catch a couple of hours of poor sleep on the four hour crossing.

At 4am (Local Time), we disembarked at Dieppe, ready for the 195km leg of the journey. Despite an initial navigation error, we made good progress through the short hours and sub-zero temperatures along the Avenue Verte. The sun was, finally, seen after about 100km and, energised by a sweltering 3°C, a chain gang was formed through the French countryside. Suddenly finding ourselves just 40km outside of Paris, entering Poissy, we stopped for a final food, toilet and caffeine stop and were ready for the final push. Central Paris and the Eiffel Tower remained in our sights as we

Why take
the coach
when you
can cycle?



The Boat Club took on Paris in a blistering ride in aid of charity. Photo Credit: ICSM Boat Club

took the 'scenic route' via the Bois de Boulogne, but eventually, with Tom, Luke and the Van behind us, we rolled up the Champs-Élysées towards the Arc de Triomphe and it was all over.

21 hour and 54 minutes of pain, dodgy banter and freezing temperatures were all well worth it for the tremendous total of over £1100 for RAG. To support us further, please consider donating

a small amount to <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/lewis-rogers-1>

JACK STUART AND LEWIS ROGERS