

# felix ...

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON



## RESIST



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demand better  
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Grab the  
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I will not challenge the status quo  
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I will not challenge the status quo

# Resistance is not futile. We think.



**W**ell we honestly tried - you know, taking a break from the doom and gloom. With the end of 2016, we were eager to turn over a new leaf, start anew with starry eyes full of hope for the future. But since Trump's inauguration last Friday, it's just been an onslaught of bad news, dumb news and outright ridiculous news. Since Friday, the Donald has broken Obamacare, has withdrawn from the Transpacific Partnership, has reintroduced the Mexico City Policy which effectively strips federal financial support from any NGO lobbying for reproductive rights, revived the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines, ordered the construction of a Mexico wall, allowed six journalist to be charged with felony for covering the anti-trump protests from last week, frozen science grants from the Environmental Protection Agency, and removed any mention of the LGBT movement from the government's website.

Also jumping on the bandwagon, every >>insert descriptive term of choice<< in the US is proposing backwards bills such as bills "to repeal the Environmental Protection Agency's most recent rule for new residential wood heaters" or bills proclaiming "each human life begins with fertilization" or bills requiring "pipelines regulated by the Secretary of Transportation to be made of steel that is produced in the United States" or God knows what.

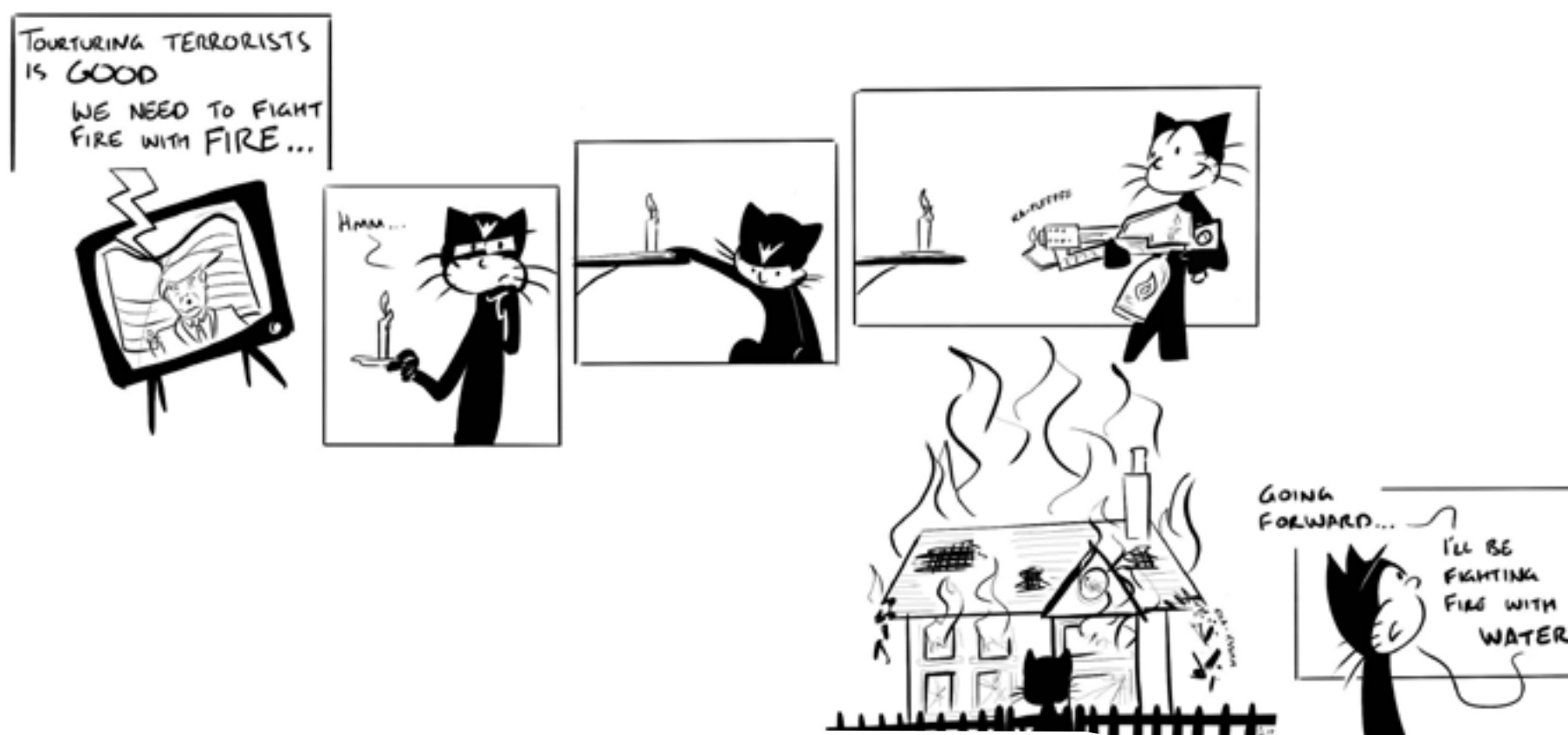
Meanwhile the Brexit saga is dragging on and on. It's turned from hard to soft to fluffy to snakeskin. Honesty I just want to know when to pack my bags. Come on people, I got plans to make, flights to book and a mojito somewhere in a beach-bar with my name on it.

So read on and resist I guess, cause Shia Labeouf is in prison and we need a new glorious leader to create motivational viral hits, urging us to "just DO IT".

T H E  
T E A M

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# Student calls out Career Services

Lef Apostolakis

## Union pushes for resolving funding and staffing issues

**T**he Union has resolved to put pressure on Imperial College to Improve Career Services. The decision came after Eric Suen, a third year medic raised the issue during Council last Tuesday.

Suen acted on results from a survey he carried out with help from Officer Trustees and Union staff, which revealed an average satisfaction score of 3.6/5. The survey (which admittedly had a small sample of only 48 participants) revealed that users found booking appointments with Career Services very hard (3.9/5) with 30% of participants having tried and failed to secure appointments.

Career Services employ 17 members of staff of which only six are career consultants. The equivalent services at LSE

employ twice as many career consultants, an additional six CV consultants and eight freelance career consultant presumably for seasonal spikes. Considering that Imperial College has 17,000 students while LSE has approximately 9,000 students, the quality and quantity of career advice at Imperial is significantly lower.

This might come as a surprise to many, as Imperial is renowned for producing highly employable graduates. According to The Times and the Sunday Times' Good University Guide 2016, Imperial is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in terms of graduate prospects. This discrepancy is thought to be due to the support departments give out themselves though.

Weekly Career talks are for example routine practice in the departments of Earth Science and Engineering. Similar-

ly the Science Communication MS offered by the Department of Co-curricular Studies is well known for facilitating the networking of students with industry giants through seminars and internships.

Other departments are less lucky. Industry oriented career events in the department of Life Sciences are notoriously few and far between with student looking to follow 'greener' paths such as Ecology often left to their own devices.

Those coming from such less career-oriented departments face a mediocre service.

The testimonials from Suen's survey don't paint a flattering picture

"They always say "very good" to CVs and rarely give any good advice. In terms of job search they say "just google it" - Anonymous

"The most useful thing would

have been to know the deadlines. Goldman Sachs' graduate deadlines were in August! I have been applying this October when really I should have been applying the latest September. Wish someone had told me especially since I had been to a careers appointment".

Perhaps College will take a page out of the book of Simone Buitendijk (Vice Provost for Education). Buitendijk has been working on redefining the teaching strategy and one of the key elements of her plan has been identifying pockets of good practice within departments and trying to apply them across the College.

When asked about the student dissatisfaction surrounding Imperial's Career Services, a College

spokesperson told *felix* that "support is available to students throughout the year, including during the summer vacation, and we encourage students to begin thinking about their career plans as early as possible"

Furthermore we were informed that when demand is high Imperial also recruits freelance consultants, while the Services also offer a full range of group support through daily workshops, seminars, interactive sessions streamed workshops through Panopto. Whether these services are insufficient or simply inadequately advertised will be debated during the long lobbying process that is certain to come in the following months.

# Mental Health Officer joins Union roles

**U**nion Council has voted to introduce a new liberation officer, representing students struggling with mental health issues. Appropriate steps will be taken for the position to be created in time for the elections in March.

Liberation officers exist in order to represent and campaign for underrepresented students and support the Deputy President for Welfare. Currently there are seven roles. There's a Disabilities Officer meant to represent the needs of students with disabilities (both

physical and mental) but there also are LGBT, Ethics and Environmental, Gender Equality, Interfaith BME, Campaigns, and International officers.

Despite the existence of a role meant to deal with mental health, the paper proposing the introduction of the new role suggests it is not enough. Arian Sadr-Hashemi, chair of Mentality and author of the paper believes that the current role "does not provide appropriate representation for all students with mental health issues", that its duties are "too broad" and that it is necessary to bring "short term mental health issues [such as]

grief and stress" to the Union's attention.

During her presentation on Tuesday, Sadr-Hashemi said that "we are at a very weird point at mental health, where it's becoming more acceptable to struggle with mental health issues", however she stressed that despite positive steps, some mental health issues receive a very different public treatment to others. "We have to push that [sic] all mental health issues are acceptable". While addressing Council members, she stressed the need to represent all minorities and urged the Union to "keep up".

The role would provide a point of contact for students wishing to get in touch with the Disability Advisory Service, Departmental Disability Officers and the Mental Health Advice Service. It would also liaise with Mentality (a ICU campaign raising awareness for mental health) to "facilitate engagement of students with mental health issues in Union activity".

Concerns of the constitutional inclusion in the role description of Mentality as a point of contact were shut down using the LGBT Officer as an example who is constitutionally meant to liaise with Imperial

600 and IQ, Imperial's network for LGBT+ staff and students respectively.

Still there are valid concerns on what happens once the role is created. It's not uncommon for Liberation Officer positions to remain vacant after the first or even the second round of elections. At the moment, such is the case with the Disabilities Officer. We will have to wait and see whether the Mental Health Officer position proves to be more attractive.

Lef Apostolakis





# Union launches 2017-20 strategy

## But where did all the measurables go?

Lef Apostolakis

The Union launched a new three year strategy last week in Metric, at an event that was the culmination of a six month effort to meet (or at the very least express) the needs and wants of Imperial students. Despite vigorous consultation though, student reaction was luke-warm.

The strategy is a collaborative effort between the Officer Trustees and the Management of the Union. Efforts first began last March and involved multiple public consultations, surveys and interviews. During the launch, welcome speeches were given by Union President Nas Andriopoulos addressing "the young minds" of Imperial, followed by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Neil Sachdev, and the Union Managing Director Jarlath O'Hara.

Its five main "aims" and 15 "objectives" can be summarised in increasing the Union's reach, its support capacity, enhancing student enjoyment and "talents", empowering students and overall ensuring a smooth running Union.

The strategy might look nice on paper, however there is not much information on how the Union aims to achieve its objectives. Undeniably "deepening, firing up and extending democracy" is a noble (and meme-inspiring) ambition, though some students felt that the lack of measurable strategic points detracted from the sentiment.

"You can't just hold an event for deepening, extending and engorging. Where is the rest of the strategy?" said Theresa Davey, a materials PhD student who's spent nearly a decade at Imperial. "Five sets of bullet points and three student testimonials are not a strategy that you can have a

party for."

This becomes particularly obvious when comparing the new strategy to the previous one. Although the 2013-16 strategy had very similar aims, each aim had not only more objectives but objectives which were much more tangible. For example to improve the student experience, the 2013-16 strategy clearly and concisely outlined eight measures to be adopted by 2016 such as "ensure that the Union delivers at least three key contributors to the College's Graduate Attributes project" or "increase the number of students employed by the Union in each year of the plan".

Similarly to build the student community the union would try to "publish an annual 'Advocacy to Action' Report" and "develop, publish and deliver a Campus Outreach Plan" by 2016. These are parts from two specific proposed actions from a list of seven.

The new strategy on the other hand aims to "enhance the enjoyment and talents of

**\\ "Deepening, firing up and extending democracy" is a noble (and meme-inspiring) ambition \\**

our members" (i.e. enhance student experience in 2013 lingo) by "[providing] systems, staff support and funding for volunteers to enable them to maximise the impact of their Roles" and "[being] recognised as leaders for the value that our activities add to students' personal and professional development". These are two full objectives from a list of three and quite literally amount to almost a

**Strategic Aim**

By 2016 we will be recognised by the College, our membership, and by external measures as providing a fundamental part of the student experience at the College.

**Goals - By 2016 we will:**

- SE1 Continue to grow membership in Clubs, Societies & Projects each year of the plan and develop the support available to them.
- SE2 Introduce a Volunteering Accreditation scheme, which is recognised by the College, and helps students identify the skills they gain through their involvement in our activities.
- SE3 Increase the number of students employed by the Union in each year of the plan.
- SE4 Introduce and establish a Development Programme for key volunteers and provide formal volunteering management qualifications.
- SE5 Achieve Investing in Volunteers status.
- SE6 Grow our Student Volunteering scheme and increase the amount of students volunteering in the outside world.
- SE7 Develop and publish, in the first year of the plan, a Postgraduate Student Engagement Strategy, in tandem with the College's review of Taught Postgraduate provision.
- SE8 Ensure that the Union delivers at least three key contributors to the College's Graduate Attributes project.

**FOR YOU**

SOMETHING FOR ALL STUDENTS

**AIM:**

To increase our reach to all students and ensure that we are making a difference to their lives no matter their location or level of study.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- We will cultivate student communities by understanding our membership and meeting their needs.
- We will inspire an Imperial-for-life mindset that encourages students to maintain an active role in their Imperial communities once they graduate.
- We will have the strongest and most inclusive democracy of any students' union in the UK.

2017-20 is a lot more sparse on the details and a lot more vague (Left: 2013-16 Strategy, Right: 2017-20) \\ felix

fifth of the strategy.

"The 2013-16 and 2017-20 strategies are intentionally very different in their style and composition," says Andriopoulos. "The 2013-16 strategy, Our Plan, had the task of transforming Imperial College Union after a challenging period, and it did so by setting specific, measurable targets - consolidating our strengths (such as Clubs, Societies & Projects), creating specific new initiatives (such as the Student Academic Choice Awards, Imperial Plus, and Give It A Go), and focusing on financial viability." Andriopoulos refers to the disastrous 2011 Summer Ball which made a loss of over £100,000, effectively bankrupting the Union.

Yet it's not quite as straightforward to tell what was actually achieved during the 2013-16 plan. There is no comprehensive report on the strategy. Instead there are plans "to publish a review of Our Plan 2013-16 later this

academic year." Andriopoulos continues by saying that "when the plan was in effect, there was an annual Operational Plan which set out that year's specific targets, and the performance of staff teams was assessed against these. We also published updates in our Impact Reports, as well as extensive communication to students and internal communication to staff." It's unclear however what the policy makers learned from the previous strategy and whether they've implemented it in this round of policy making.

The Union claims its strategy to be in line with best practice from the charitable sector, drawing comparison with the strategies of Amnesty International and Shelter, which have annual operational plans with more concrete, measurable goals. The Union does suffer an annual brain drain due to the electoral process though, so coming up with an annual operational plan and handing it over to

a new team of Sabbatical Officers every year might not be the best plan for moving forward effectively. With such a short term vision and a lack of long term measurables, it is easy to lose the ball especially when most changes require years of lobbying.

On the plus side the students did get a series of positive announcements including a long overdue 10% increase in Clubs and Societies spending (which has been lagging behind inflation for a number of years), as well as the refurbishment of the Charing Cross common room.

According to a Union source that would like to remain anonymous, the lack of detailed action proposals might be due to current staffing problems. There certainly has been a lot of mobility recently, with several staff members leaving the union and reshuffling within the organisation over the last year. The union has refuted such claims though.



# BEEP BEEP BEEP | Brexit update

Matt Johnston

More optimistic than you getting a 2:1 degree?

**T**he sun keeps on rising, the world keeps on spinning and the Brexit debate rages on. Last week Theresa May made a speech at Lancaster House which outlined her twelve point plan for the UK's negotiation plan as she looks to trigger Article 50 and leave the European Union for good.

The main headline is, if the PM gets her way, the UK will be pursuing a "harder" Brexit, one in which the UK leaves the single market. This is in tandem with the UK planning to forge new trade deals with the wider world, likely the topic of conversation as May meets with President Trump next week.

With the UK leaving the single market (or at least planning to), freedom of movement is almost undoubtedly going to diminish, but May still wants to maintain the Common Travel Area within Ireland. Having a land border with the EU is tricky to say the least, especially with the mantra "controlling our borders" being brought up time and time again. Speaking of the constituent countries within the union, May has promised

**\\ With the UK leaving the single market (or at least planning to), freedom of movement is almost undoubtedly going to diminish \\**

that when powers are brought back from Brussels, the relevant ones will be devolved to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. How much is devolved remains to be seen though. This is also a little tricky in Northern



Brexit (noun): Brexit \\ felix

Ireland at the moment as the two parties in power are having their own fight over heating bills (like you and your housemates) and have called a set of elections in early March to try and restore order again.

The PM also announced a bit more transparency with regards to her strategy, but would not be revealing the "blow-by-blow details" (that's one for all you playing Brexit buzzword bingo at home). It was also announced, unsurprisingly, that a new free trade agreement with European markets is being pursued after we leave the common market, as we try and pick and choose as much of the good stuff of EU membership whilst avoiding all the downsides. Easy, right? The final proposal will be put to a vote in both Houses at the end of it all, but it's likely that this vote will go through in the Commons at least, due to the Conservative majority.

Science and innovation was also brought up in the speech,

with May possibly realising that this could be the route that the UK needs to take post Brexit. Britain will "welcome agreement to continue to collaborate

**\\ Britain will welcome agreement to continue to collaborate with our European partners on major science, research, and technology initiatives \\**

with our European partners on major science, research, and technology initiatives", chiefly because without this collaboration, UK universities just aren't as attractive to students and researchers.

Slightly more concrete plans

are to be laid out in a 'white paper', essentially a more formal statement of government policy going forward. This will be a statement of intent from the government and gives opposition parties (and indeed opposition within her own party) a chance to scrutinise the plans in full.

One scientific institute that is likely to leave sooner rather than later is the European Med-

icines Agency, predicted to take itself and its 700+ jobs to another European location. A similar UK board may emerge in its place to try and pick up both the jobs and the role, but that might be a little too much planning and foresight for Jeremy Hunt.

So what can we expect in the next few months? Well aside from the actual negotiation of Brexit, the Supreme Court dismissed the Government's appeal of the High Court's ruling on the process of triggering Article 50. What it all boils down to is that a bill needs to be passed that then allows the Government to trigger Article 50. Tory MPs in favour of Brexit are looking to fast track the bill as soon as possible (likely before the end of February) but opposition MPs may try and amend/stall the bill on its way through. Put simply, barring a massive shock, this bill will go through the House of Commons and likely through the House of Lords too. Any attempt to block the bill after the referendum will probably spark chaos. Chaos that could range anywhere from the Daily Mail getting a bit upset, to a general election or even the abolition of the House of Lords.

Stay tuned.



Global Britain or Little Britain? \\ Jay Allen





# Protesting Trump | The Women's March

We talked to some of our editors, contributors and readers about their participation in the weekend's anti-Trump marches. Here are their hopes, their fears. Here are their thoughts. Here are their testimonials.

I asked myself a question the first time I heard about the Women's March: Is it necessary? The answer is yes. I joined tens of thousands of people because I needed to share a message too. It was not a complaint. We advocated tolerance and respect for everyone, after all, women's rights are human rights. I marched because I could and some could not – as one placard read, "I raise up my voice so that others can be heard". And it mattered because it was part of a movement.

Hope was the predominant feeling amongst all kinds of supporters. Carrie Fisher's Leia was one of the leaders of this rebellion, portrayed alongside the

words "A woman's place is in the resistance". All of us, we are the resistance. I will keep on marching so that little girl who was by my side knows that she is powerful, that when the world turns upside down, we rise up. I am not afraid of the future, because democracy will eventually listen. Because we will build bridges instead of walls. Because love trumps hate.

Ana Villanueva



Indira Malik



Esther Maltby



Tom Hartley

The march was fantastic! It was primarily the atmosphere that did it because despite it being the Women's March all sorts of causes came up to join us. So it felt rewarding and inspiring just to be surrounded by SO many people who really believed that the world deserved better and the 'power of the people' would help it become that. Personally, I do have strong feelings about equal rights and peace and I want to stand up not just for my friends or my sister/mum but for women from around the world who are mistreated or who aren't granted the basic human rights we all deserve. On hearing of an event to primarily campaign for these issues I couldn't not go.

Though the march was centred around

Trump, that didn't seem to make it feel more political. It didn't take away the feeling of solidarity.

It felt very empowering and exhilarating to walk through central London (especially in tights, a thong and a pair of balloons) and there was a strong sense of togetherness. In the end I came out of it feeling like there was more hope in the world especially after seeing masses and masses of people walk by me; people who believed in the same things as me, as all of us. It was great to actually voice my opinions!

Esther Maltby





# through the eyes of Imperial students

**A**s the Women's March on London made its way down Park Land and Piccadilly that bright, clear Saturday, traffic and tourists were brought to a standstill by a mass of bodies, placards, and flags. Among the signs about pussies and abortion rights, there were a few that stuck out like sore thumbs, no more so than the one that read "Clean Coal is a MYTH!" At the time it seemed incongruous, but today it seems eerily prescient: over his first five days in office, Trump has not only decimated global abortion rights by signing a gag bill, blocking US-funding overseas, but he has lied about how many people attended the inauguration, reinstated the Dakota Access pipeline, and started planning his border wall. His team even coined the idiotic neologism 'alternative facts', which would be laughable if it weren't so terrifying.

So to see environmental protesters at the Women's March wasn't only to be expected, but to be celebrated. Those opposing Trump are now faced with two choices, given the wide range of targets he has taken on: either we can spread ourselves too thin, trying to take on way too many topics at one time; or, environmentalists, civil rights activists, and feminists of every colour and creed can unite together to resist any moves that Trump tries to make. Based on last Saturday, when it is estimated up to 100,000 people marched, the latter route is being taken. I can only hope that the momentum is kept up long enough to enact real, tangible change.

Fred Fyles



Esther Maltby



Indira Mallik

**R**egardless of whether you believed Donald Trump meant what he said, there was little doubt that he had made some shocking statements. In my eyes, this left two possibilities for those who voted for him in November; either they agreed with his statements, or they voted for him despite of them. And I was satisfied with neither.

I marched because I feared that the election result would legitimise comments of this nature,

and in particular for my concern over the President's seeming dismissal of issues concerning sexual harassment.

Sadly less than a week in his presidency our worst fears have turned out to have been prophecies.

Helen Money-Kyrle



Piramol Krishnan



Indira Mallik





## Indira Mallik sees protests as the only way to exact change



## Giacomo Boscaini-Gilroy is dismissive of Saturday's protests



In a liberal democracy, political dissent by citizens can take the form of writing letters, lobbying, or voting representatives out at the ballot box. These act through intermediaries. Direct action – boycotts, demonstrations and strikes circumvent these. Street protests are a way of physically manifesting a group's opposition to an idea – letters can be thrown out, elections come around every four years or so, but large groups of people shutting down streets in response to an issue are harder to ignore.



can eventually lead to a sea of change. Women's suffrage was achieved by protests, and protests advanced civil rights for ethnic minorities, addressed AIDS funding, and led to the overthrowing of autocracies in favour of democratic elections. Successful campaigns of change are built on sustained organised dissent, but they rely on the spark of protest on the streets to bring the issues into focus. Demonstrations ensure that those in power know that their problems won't be going away. It's no coincidence that the first thing on a despotic agenda is to limit the rights of people to peacefully assemble.

**"White moderates", wrote Martin Luther King Jr, the greatest hurdle to the black Americans' goal of equal rights. His words are just as applicable to other types of moderates – the kind of person who is "more devoted to the absence of tension than to the presence of justice". Some of those who railed against the Women's Marches agree with the need for equality, but question the "methods of direct action". Dr King writes that these are the people who believe they "can set the timetable for another man's freedom", 'allies' who preach waiting "for a more convenient season."**

There will of course never be a 'convenient season' for any sort of protester – any public show of opposition is bound to bring tension and disrupt traffic. Likewise, single protests cannot solve all the world's problems. A protest about equal pay in the UK is unlikely to do much for oppression in Saudi Arabia, but that doesn't mean it's worthless; there isn't some pot of equality that will run out. If you disagree with the ideals that those in power broadcast, it's not enough to stay at home and voice that disagreement in private or via Facebook likes. It behoves you to turn up and keep turning up – to write letters, make calls, and to vote (even in the boring elections); to be visible in your dissent.

**O**h, you went on Saturday's march? You must have the moral high ground now. You 100% changed the world by walking around with a sign. Here's a reality check: the only way to influence the nation is through government. You didn't make any tangible change, you sent a letter of complaint: 'Hi, I think you are meanies and this is how angry I'm going to get if you continue.' How often does a head of state listen to a protest?



Let's be honest, people go on demonstrations for their own self-indulgence. It gives them a good feeling when they see others who think the way they do. It gives them confidence and hope in a world of hate. So it's a shame that it doesn't make any difference in the real world, and they're helping themselves rather than others.

Chanting 'Fuck Tory Scum' is preaching to the preached. Everyone there knew that already. But what do you think Theresa May's thoughts on your choice of wording are? FOX News viewers and *Daily Mail* readers are those who you should really be communicating yourself to, but you're not going to get through to them that way.

I got proper fired up by the Brexit protests on 24<sup>th</sup> June and in the days after. It makes me seethe. If you cared so much about staying in the EU, why didn't you do anything when, say, it actually mattered? Do you really think going for a stroll because your mate asked you will change something?

I'll grant you that in isolated cases, protest itself can make change. UCL's rent strike was influential because it affected the university's income, and they can't ignore a lack of funds. But if you do nothing more substantial than going on a march and you think the work is done, you're wrong.

So what more do I suggest that people do? Get out there and prompt others to develop their views. Start controversial conversations with people you know, friends, family, stand on a soapbox at Speakers' Corner. Ask questions to tackle issues like consent and the pros and cons of tuition fees. Discussion is key. There are also ways to make your voice heard in the media or in the political sphere. Join a political party and be involved in its policy-making. I'm not perfect but I went to the EU parliament in Brussels to present a petition to save Erasmus in Britain. I also wrote to my MP to show my distaste at Theresa May's treatment of our international students when she was Home Secretary. Let's have real change, and that comes through real action.





FREEZE PEACH

C O M M E N T ...felix

# So you went to the march. What's next?



Madeleine Webb discusses how to stay politically engaged now that the world has exploded

\\ It's important to recognise that the fight is only starting because you can't win fights you aren't in \\

Protesting was the easy bit. Sorry to break it to you, but the Women's March was not the finale, it was the opening number, and the rest of the show is no fun at all. I hate to ruin the mood because I was there on Saturday so I understand how intoxicating it can be – screaming "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore" is satisfying, but it doesn't actually change anything. It's important to recognise that the fight is only starting because you can't win fights you aren't in. So what can we do?

Helpfully, the Women's March London has launched *10 Actions in 100 Days*, providing a list of ten things we can all do to channel our post-march energy. The first step is writing to your local MP or Theresa May herself, to encourage her to reaffirm the UK's commitment to human rights when she meets with Donald Trump. There is even

an email template for you to use on their website. Easy.

## Stay Informed

Don't get your news from Facebook or Twitter. Please. One of the biggest stories of 2016 was the ridiculous amount of fake news flying around social media and people not fact checking the stuff they retweet. And yes, the leading political commentators probably won't be sharing stories about Hillary Clinton being a murderer/paedophile/lizard person, but a little thing called confirmation bias means even if you're following the 'honest' people, you'll only be getting the side of the story you already agree with. Odds are if your sources are websites like *True Conservative News* or *The Liberal Review*, you're in a bubble of facts some people may consider to be 'alternative'. Reliable sources are the safest way to not become 'that friend' on Facebook who constantly posts political garbage. Sticking to BBC, C-SPAN, and the fact-based sources should do the trick.

## Donate

You're a student, you don't have any money, and I get it. However, even the smallest donations can make an impact, especially since governments both at home and in America are cutting funding to non-profit organisations; it's time to put your money where your mouth is. However, charitable organisations don't always want your money. Healthcare

clinics need escorting staff for patient safety, homeless kitchens often need volunteers, and refugee charities take clothing donations for those who have lost everything. Also, research the charities your giving to, as some are more effective than others at bringing about change in the world. If you're specifically looking for feminist causes close to home post-march, Reclaim the Night, Rosa, and The Feminist Library are all great projects based in London.

\\ Being honest about your own biases is also key: you are not excluded from this step \\

## Call people out (including yourself)

A lot of the institutionalised discrimination in the world is cultural; the way different groups are represented (or not represented at all) in the media and wider society reinforces stereotypes and cultivates ignorance. And although it feels like the world is full of it, calling out bullshit when you see it can actually help. Trump's election doesn't mean sexual assault is a joke –if you know people who think that it's 'locker-room' talk, correct them. Thoroughly. I

know it's awkward and terrible but laughing with them isn't a solution. As for less gross political disagreements, calmly and respectfully talking about why someone may be misinformed or why you disagree can be productive. Most people will respond thoughtfully even if they don't change their minds.

Being honest about your own biases is also key; you are not excluded from this step. For example, the Women's March was hailed (rightly so) as a show of political force for women globally and for men who support gender equality. But this doesn't remove the uncomfortable fact that 53% of white women voted for Trump despite (or more worryingly, possibly because of) his opposition to women's healthcare rights, pay equity & his well-known "pussy grabbing" comments. Other people have written far more eloquently about the issues around mainstream 'white feminism' but recognising your own blind spots and doing your best to educate yourself can only help.

## Empathise

OK, so this one is for the people who thought the march wasn't a big deal and we're all just being overly dramatic or competitively 'woke' or whatever. I'm not going to try and convert you to the cause because I'll just be wasting column inches and my breath. You don't have to agree with me, or the rest of the people who marched. But millions did march worldwide, so



dismissing everyone who was involved as 'sensitive snowflakes' is an ignorant move to begin with. Whether you think their feelings are justified or not, in the world of Trump and Brexit, people are scared. Islamophobia has never been so obvious than the online abuse Linda Sarsour, one of the organisers of the Women's march, has faced, including false accusations of anti-Semitism and terrorist links. We like to think discrimination of minority groups was a problem we left behind us, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but the data just doesn't back that up, the success of the Trump campaign confirms it. I think being told you have 'privilege' whether it be male, white or straight provokes such a strong response in people because it implies you've had it easy. The truth is very few people have it completely easy. But really, it just means that other people have had to deal with obstacles that you haven't. It doesn't mean you have to feel bad, but in a world of instant outrage and political polarisation, empathy to those who are different from you is invaluable.

\\ Screaming "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more" is satisfying, but it doesn't actually change anything \\



## Jonathan Masters doesn't care about Trump, but does care about Eurovision

**Y**ou can listen to as much Jamie XX as you like, you can watch black and white films with French subtitles, but there is not a single person on this earth who when viewing the *Eurovision* song contest doesn't enjoy the sheer ridiculousness of it. Every year, each one of us remembers that Azerbaijan is a country, that all the best pyrotechnics are found in Europe, and wish that hopefully one of the novelty countries like Australia wins. Even with post-Brexit Britain, millions of people will tune in, with many more illegally streaming it on iPlayer because who actually pays the license fee? It is an aged



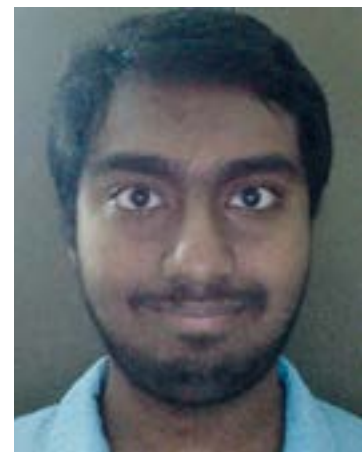
tradition to listen to Graham Norton creatively talk nonsense and use the most abstract of mathematics to try and calculate a way that the UK could ever finish on the left of the leader board. Why is it, however, that every year Britain puts the least amount of effort into selecting their act?

Every year the shadowy organisation known as the BBC tries to put the least amount of effort and expense into selecting a competitor which has brought us such delights as Jade Ewen, Molly Smitten-Downes, and the dream haunting Scooch. Just in case you didn't recognise any of the previously mentioned names, there is a reason for this: the UK doesn't send anyone famous. Indeed all the singers are talented at – well at the very least technically, as it seems unlikely that any of

them can write, let alone write songs.

The vast array of European entrants all send pop stars with at least meddling level of popularity in Europe, and most of their songs embrace the fact that the competition is a little bit silly, that the songs should be fun and joyful, as evidenced by Sweden's pastiche of how to win *Eurovision*. England does not embrace this attitude and instead decides to put its lot in with po-faced misery and half-hearted melodrama. You only have to look at the fact that Engelbert Humperdinck, a seller of over 150 millions records and a renowned (I guess?) artist a few year's ago. His song was a languishing, stolid piece of boredom and he came second to last. The thing England needs to decide is whether or not it actually wants to whole-heartedly try. If not, then stop wasting the money, stop making us listen to beyond-mediocre songs, and stop getting our hopes up.

## Avirup Banerjee thinks Trident is an expensive accident waiting to happen



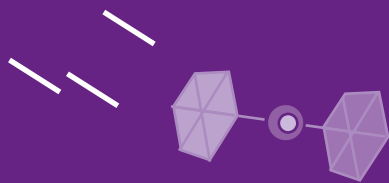
n the small town of Goldsboro, North Carolina there lies a casual road sign saying that it is a site of a "nuclear mishap". If that's not an understatement, what the hell is? In 1961 a B52 bomber carrying two nuclear bombs blew up mid-air, dropping the nuclear payload which came excruciatingly close to detonating. The surprisingly long list of barely averted accidents involving nuclear weapons has gained a new member. Last week it was revealed that Britain's nuclear deterrent experienced a catastrophic test failure in which unarmed Trident missiles were fired on the coast of Florida in the summer of 2016 before being aborted. Whilst they were unarmed, it does dispel the idea of 'smart weapons' – the missiles were targeted on West Africa instead of North America, so were only off target by a few thousand kilometres. Furthermore, what is outrageous was the inexcusable concealment of the important failed test results from MPs before parliament voted in favour of a £100 billion multi-decade commitment on the next generation of Trident. Even the government's excuse of secrecy in the name of national security does not hold weight considering that nations usually inform other nuclear powers, especially their rivals, before conducting nuclear tests to prevent dangerous misunderstandings. In 2012, the last time Britain conducted nuclear test, Russian ships monitored and even congratulated the Royal Navy after carrying out the successful tests.



slowest world wide reduction of nuclear weapons since the 1970s – weapons which even five-star general and US Secretary of State Colin Powell admitted to being unusable. Today we no longer face an ideological, antagonistic nuclear-armed state in the form of the Soviet Union. The real threat posed by Russia or China in our globalised economy is cyber-warfare targeting the theft of intellectual property. Trident ballistic missiles are also useless against non-state actors committing terrorism, which instead requires counter insurgency. Should we not spend our limited resources on defence measures we actually need rather than relics of the cold war? Maybe the time has finally come to pressure our government to eliminate the illusion that there is a widespread consensus that we must recommit to a new generation of Trident. And perhaps the time may come again that the world truly begins the process of universal disarmament.

However, perhaps most worrying is the near-universal acceptance of the need to expand the British nuclear arsenal amongst the political elite. Gone are the days of the 1980s when hundreds of thousands around the world marched for nuclear disarmament, forcing right-wingers like Nixon, Thatcher and Reagan and their Soviet counterparts to commit to arms reduction treaties. Whilst it would be naive to unilaterally disarm, what is worrying is that the last ten years experienced the





# Clean eating | The dirty truth

Alexandra Lim describes her thoughts, after watching a documentary on why clean eating is not as healthy as we think

**S**weet potato brownies, smoothie bowls, tofu cheesecake, courgette noodles. Call it, name it, it's all out there. The crowned diet gurus so charismatically persuade you to convert to these superior versions. God forbid refined sugar. No dairy. No gluten. Capri-Sonne? What's that?

I don't hate these things, and one of each healthy dessert category a week (give me a warmed vegan apple crumble cheesecake anytime, friend) could do my sweet tooth and insulin levels some good. Some may also turn to these options for ethical reasons, to avoid animal products. But something is a little fishy when trends become obsessions, and obsession turns into fear, and fear spurs total elimination of food groups. This health consciousness does have a rather ugly truth.

Just recently, I had the personal privilege of watching a pretty newly-released BBC documentary, hosted by the clever and amusing Giles Yeo, who sharply and fluidly shuts down all nonsensical nutrition theories promoted by today's social media-cum-pseudo-health gurus such as

**\\ Some diets are anti-intellectual, anti-fact and anti-evidence based \\**

the anti-grain Hemsley sisters, sweet-potato-head Deliciously Ella (Ella Woodward), and alkaline diet king Dr. Robert Young. I implore you all to watch the documentary yourselves for a more hard-hitting impact than my black and white words, but a few key points I did find intriguing and simple enough to relay right here.

Let's start with the alkaline diet, championed by Dr Young. He proposes the idea that more alkaline foods such as most fruits and vegetables, soybeans and tofu, will balance the pH of our slightly acidic blood, all in the context of disease supposedly being down to the environment in which the bacteria are in, not the pathogen itself. Effectively, this is a big slap in the face to the founders of the germ theory of disease, such as Pasteur and Koch, who acknowledged the bacteria or virus as the causative agents, not the environment. This sounds slightly horrific in the context of science



and medicine, as it is germ theory which forms the platform of our biomedical understanding. Yeo called it 'anti-intellectual, anti-fact and anti-evidence based'.

Another popular diet nowadays is the gluten-free diet, which only has an effect if you're born with coeliac disease, or an intolerance to this particular food group. Gluten itself is the main protein of wheat, and proponents of this diet such as the sparkly Hemsley sisters argue that gluten increases inflammation and enhances all sorts of nasty infections. The science behind this? Dr. Yeo went behind the scenes to meet scientists researching this effect. The idea is that gluten creates gut permeability thanks to its protein component, 'gliadin', and this consequently allows more foreign substances through, enhancing infection infiltration and sustained inflammation. Though it does make sense, this, once again, is not properly scientifically backed, and you may already be born with a leakier gut, a faulty immune system, or simply have a genetic predisposition to intolerance of gluten.

Oh, and the whole no-grain fad? Dr. William Davis, author of *Wheat Belly*, argues that a completely grain-free diet supports a healthy immune system since there are apparent connections

between grain and some auto-immune diseases. However, gastroenterologist Alessio Pasano, who ironically inspired Dr. Davis with some of his studies in the first place, does not agree. In fact, the popularized book 'Grain Brain' argues that less than 50g of carbohydrates a day could have a positive effect on a whole host of diseases such as tourette's, ADHD, mood disorders and epilepsy.

I hate to admit it, but this is the zenith of unnecessary harm. All around us there are just scintillas of truth. The current proliferation of too much and too far should be stemmed, and maybe you should put your feet up and relax with a real brownie. If you're one of those who feel anxiety around a piece of cake, acknowledge the fear, but try and see how these foods actually effect your body, as everyone is different. Think about what's really wrong here: your choice, or false information?

**\\ Current nutrition advice is too far stemmed. Maybe you should relax with a real brownie, and see how it actually affects your body \\**



## I don't think you're ready for this jelly



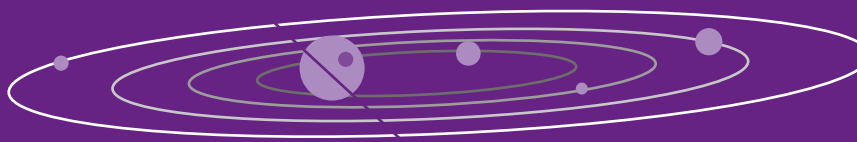
**F**act: You can get glow-in-the-dark ice cream. You might have heard somewhere that Tonic water glows under UV light, but the story of the glow-in-the-dark ice cream takes all that one step further. Its jellyfish flavoured!

Using the physics of fluorescence, animals can produce light by a phenomenon called bioluminescence – they produce proteins which absorb light and then emit it in a particular colour, making them glow in the dark to attract mates or warn off predators. Jellyfish are some of the most famous bioluminescent creatures, since the 'green fluorescent protein' (GFP) made by them revolutionized biological experiments by allowing scientists to mark specific proteins in cells and thus watch them under a fluorescent microscope.

The company 'Lick Me, I'm Delicious' has now put that same protein in an ice cream, so when the protein is warmed up and exposed to the ions in your saliva it begins to emit light – or to put it simply, it glows when you lick it. Awesome? Yes. Expensive? Yes: £140 per scoop to be precise.

Perhaps more insane, the same company made a flavour of ice cream called 'The Arousal', which contains 25mg of Viagra per scoop and tastes like champagne. Just make sure you don't comfort eat the whole tub in one sitting.

Another one of Mr. Aran Shaanak's Little Bites of Science



# Wearing your heart in your sleeve

Lizzie Riach gives an overview of new **robotic** technology designed to help keep the heart **beating** after heart failure

**A** so-called 'soft robot' has been invented to help keep the human heart beating. Developed by researchers from Harvard University and Boston Children's Hospital, the robot fits around the heart and helps it pump blood. This could mean a significantly higher quality of life for people that have survived heart attacks but suffer from heart failure, a growing population in this day and age. The robot itself does not come into direct contact with the blood, reducing potential risks such as blood clotting. Instead, the heart is encased in a sleeve which mimics the outer layers of cardiovascular tissue, allowing the material to act in a similar way to the heart within it.

**\\ The robot does not come into direct contact with the blood, reducing the risk of blood clots \\**

Around 41 million people suffer from heart failure worldwide, which is termed as 'the inability to pump sufficient blood to the body'. Up until now, the only option for people with severe cases has been heart transplants, but donors are thin on the ground and many die whilst on the waiting list. Previous devices to help heart function, known as 'ventricular assist devices' (VADs) are limited, and are used mainly as life-prolonging therapy. VADs work by interacting with valves to increase blood flow, whilst patients

have to take blood-thinning medications. Despite this, clots often occur and cause severe problems in up to 20% of patients.

This new soft robot is comprised of a silicon sleeve that takes inspiration from the heart itself and is designed to simply enhance heart function by closely mimicking it. There have already been in vivo results on a pig heart. The robot itself is customizable depending on which side of the heart is weaker and therefore needs more help to pump blood. Despite problems such as inflammation at the device-tissue interface, these preliminary tests look promising. In the current model, the device is a tethered implantable system that uses wall-compressed air supply to allow the robot to work. Future models will

either have to be made smaller or, like other devices, be worn around the waist of the patient. A lot more testing on live models and in animals with chronic heart failure



\\ Ellen Roche/Harvard SEAS

**\\ More testing will have to be done to look at long-term effects of implantation \\**

will have to be tested to look at the long-term effects of wearing this heart-saving sleeve, as well as finding new ways to attach it to the heart tissue (the current methods are not good for long-term implantation).

This is an exciting step in the field of applied robotics. It looks like robots that can easily interact with and mimic tissues is the future could have a firm future within the medical world. Perhaps one day it'll be the norm to have robotically-enhanced tissues keeping us alive?

## Choosing mates using logic

Ipsita Herlekar explains how **fruit flies** have been found to use **logical reasoning** when choosing partners

**A** new study has discovered that fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*), unlike many of us make rational decisions while choosing partners.

Experiments were conducted by scientists from the University of British Columbia and University of Washington, where, individual male flies were given the choice of choosing between two females as their mates. Male fruit flies were paired with 10 different females flies of

different genetic strains. With as many as 2700 trials using different combination of male and female fruit flies, it was found that males were able to pick out females that are most likely to produce the maximum amount of offspring.

The males were also found to be consistent in their choices, choosing females ranking higher in the hierarchy over the others. For example; if female fruit fly A is the highest in rank, followed by B, C, D and so on, males, when given a choice between A and B, always chose A. Similarly when given



\\ stoppestinfo

a choice between B and C, the males chose B. The ranking of a female fruit fly relates to the amount of offspring it is able to produce.

Similar experiments were

conducted but, after impairing either the sense of smell or the sight of the male fruit flies, their mate choosing pattern remained unchanged. However, when both their

eyesight and sense of smell were impaired, the males failed to detect the ranking hierarchy in females, leading the scientists to conclude that the choices made earlier were based on a combination of visual and olfactory cues.

Making decisions based on logic has always been associated as a trait unique to humans. This study turns out to be among the first of its kind, providing evidence that some species besides humans may also be capable of rational decision making processes.





# There will never be another Camelot



Natalie Portman, whose pitch-perfect Jackie captivates \\ 20th Century Fox



Jonathan Masters

Chilean director Pablo Larraín makes his English-language debut with *Jackie*, a **simmering** biopic of first lady Jackie Kennedy, played **masterfully** by Natalie Portman, in the days following her husband's **assassination**

by Chilean director Pablo Larraín, probably best known in the UK for his Gael García Bernal-starring 2012 film *NO* – is a wrought, tense, and immensely powerful drama, one that has not left my mind for days.

The screenplay by Noah Oppenheim is an extremely impressive piece of writing, expertly weaving multiple timelines and interactions into a straightforward story. The narrative straddles a number of timeframes, but is underpinned by an interview for *LIFE Magazine*, conducted a week after her husband's assassination by Billy Crudup's unnamed journalist. From the front room of Jackie Kennedy's house in Massachusetts, we flick back

\\ Noah Oppenheim's screenplay is an extremely impressive piece of writing, expertly weaving multiple timelines and interactions into a straightforward story \\

and forth between the assassination itself, Jackie's 1962 televised tour of the white house, and meetings with various characters in her life.

The supporting cast is comprised of many fine performances, with a particular highlight being Peter Sarsgaard – who is endlessly charismatic and mercurial in any role he is given – as John F. Kennedy. The film also features Greta Gerwig, Richard E. Grant, John Carroll Lynch, and John Hurt, whose Irish priest character seems to be unsure in what accent he is supposed to be speaking. Since most of the film is spent in Boston and the wider Massachusetts area, it is inevitable there is an Irish priest, but Hurt's accent seems to slip from Dublin, back to his own, and then somewhere

in-between.

Larraín displays a huge amount of control and reserve in his depiction of the assassination and its brutal aftermath. It is a perfect demonstration of the effectiveness of controlled violence, where the explicit gore lasts merely seconds, but stays with you long after the scene ends. From the opening scenes, Larraín manages to maintain a pace that never feels self-indulgent. Each interaction and every shot of Portman feels important in creating this emotional landscape, and at no point in its one hour and 40 minutes' running time did I feel bored. The camera is primarily focussed on Natalie Portman's face, allowing us to see every quiver of the eyebrow, every pursing of the lips. At times Stéphane Fontaine's cinematography is almost claustrophobia-inducing, and in the most emotional scenes it seems almost too invasive, making you wish that the camera would step away from Jackie.

Natalie Portman's performance is a masterful one, with every vocal tic, nuance, and the breathy lilt of Jackie's voice being captured in a hauntingly perfect interpretation. There have been many reviewers who have described her performance as camp and alienating, and in all fairness, there are a few lines where the theatricality and archness of her delivery seem almost overacted. With that said, this is clearly intentional: Larraín shows us how Jacqueline Kennedy, the wife of a former congressman, has been thrust into the spotlight with no obvious desire to be famous, and as such has created this public persona as an extension of her husband's political persona. The way she trips over her words during the white house tour, or the nervous darting of her eyes, casting around for support, add up to create a woman whose entire identity was contained within her husband and his career. From the moment she was left grasping the splintered fragments of her husband's skull, this duality was shattered, and this

\\ Natalie Portman's performance is masterful, with every vocal tic of Jackie's voice being captured in a hauntingly perfect interpretation \\

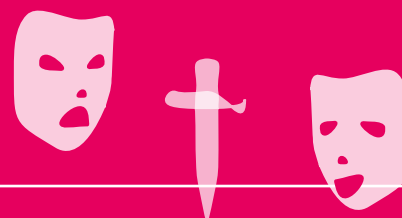
theme is echoed throughout the film.

Indeed, this is found within the excellent *Under the Skin* composer Mica Levi. First of all, it is refreshing to find that the composer is not a middle-aged white man or Justin Hurwitz. Levi is the first female nominee since 2000, and one of only three women to have been nominated for scoring a film. The music hauntingly combines both synthesised keyboards and strings, and – like all great film music – works as a unique piece of art by itself. Even if you remember no melodies at all from the soundtrack, you will remember the hair-raising string leitmotif that starts the film: as the strings descend, they slur, almost out of tune, but eventually find a solid note upon which to remain transfixed. In a lot of ways, this main theme seems to be emblematic of Jackie herself. Her inner turmoil manifests externally as rambling about how Lincoln's widow had to sell all their furniture and died alone, but towards the end of the film, as she dictates what may and may not be published in *LIFE*, we see her move past the grief to find her stability.

As the credits started to roll, and everybody remained in their seats for just a moment longer, there was one line that echoed through my head: "I have grown accustomed to what people believe and what I know to be real". *Jackie* is an immersive examination of the dichotomy of public and private personas, but above that, it is a complex interrogation of grief and what the living must come to terms with once the dead are buried.

The first feeling I had when viewing the trailer for *Jackie* was a familiar weariness: here was a story that sounded interesting, but was

to be packaged in a 3-hour-long portentous montage of shots of Natalie Portman looking sad out of windows. What I am happy to report, however, is that *Jackie* – the first English-language film



# Our Academy Award #hottake

Our Culture Editor, **Fred Fyles**, gives you the run-down on the **Academy Award** nominations for this year, from the meteoric rise of *La La Land*, to the possible success of *Moonlight*, and all those films that they **missed** along the way...



*La La Land*, a love-letter to Hollywood, wins massive acclaim from Hollywood industry – shocker! \ \ 20th Century Fox

**T**he announcement of the nominees for the 89<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards this week marked the beginning of the end of the year-long awards process, which begins with the Cannes Film Festival in May, and ends with the Oscars, 8 months later. As usual, the list of nominees contains few surprises, with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences choosing to stay on the straight and narrow, throwing out very few left-field choices.

Damien Chazelle's musical romp through an imagined Hollywood, *La La Land*, leads the pack, with 14 nominations; a record-tying haul, this puts in on par with *Titanic* and *All About Eve* as the most nominated film of all time. The raft of nominations – which includes Best Film, Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Director – is unsurprising; there is nothing more that the Academy loves more than a film which indulges their romantic fantasies about what commercial film-making can achieve. One only needs to look back to 2012's

ceremony, when *The Artist* and *Hugo*, both in thrall to the 'magic of cinema', took home five awards apiece. Taking this into account, the success of *La La Land* – which essentially functions as a love letter to Hollywood – is not a shock.

The question is whether *La La Land* can continue the run it's had this award season, which peaked with a record-setting night at the Golden Globes, or whether *Moonlight* or *Arrival* – each with eight nominations – can knock it off the top perch. If either had a chance, it would be *Moonlight*, which has been picking up critical acclaim since its premiere at Telluride. (*Arrival*, which has the bulk of its nominations in the more technical categories, is likely to fill in the *Gravity*/*Mad Max*/*Grand Budapest Hotel* space, with a high number of wins, but none of the 'big ones'.) Online, there seems to have been a rumbling of a

backlash against *La La Land* – after months of being told that it was a masterpiece, those who went and found instead an empty-hearted, reactionary imitation of past greats were sorely disappointed.

*Manchester by the Sea* has also had a good run, being nominated for six awards, all of which are in



*Manchester by the Sea* has picked up six nominations \ \ AllStar/Studio Canal

major categories. Casey Affleck already seems to be a shoe-in for the Best Actor prize, with his emotionally understated performance as a man consumed with silent grief. The Best Actress award, meanwhile, is a more open field: Emma Stone (*La La Land*), Isabelle Huppert (*Elle*), and Natalie Portman (*Jackie*) have all been picking up gongs, and Ruth Negga's performance in *Loving* could also get some traction. The inclusion of Meryl Streep on the list – for the underwhelming *Florence Foster Jenkins* – leaves a nasty taste in the mouth, especially considering that Amy Adams (who delivered two great performances this year in *Arrival* and *Nocturnal Animals*) is not even nominated. I would have also loved to see Rebecca Hall rewarded for her performance in *Christine*, which – for me – has been the best performance I've seen all year.

The Best Director category

seems to be a breath of fresh air, if only because Alejandro G. Iñárritu decided 2016 was miserable enough without him releasing another film (thank God). The last few years have seen mainly big-budget spectacles getting the Best Director prize, but of the list this year, only *Hacksaw Ridge* seems to fit the traditional macho mould (it remains to be seen whether Mel Gibson's previous racist and homophobic behaviour will stand in his way). I would argue that *Arrival* is more of a cerebral affair than an SFX-flick, and *La La Land* might be grand in scope, but its set pieces are noticeably more musically-inclined than previous winners.

What is grating with this year's list is the lack of daring. Tom Ford's *Nocturnal Animals*, a deep, heady thriller, only gets a nod for Michael Shannon in the Best Supporting Actor category; Amy Adams' performance goes unrecognised, and so does Ford's direction and screenplay. Similarly, *Jackie* only has three nominations, for Best Costume Design, Best Score, and Best Actress. It is a far more audaciously daring





# CULTURE... felix

Could Isabelle Huppert become the third foreign-language winner of the Best Actress // Picturehouse Entertainment

work than, say, *Arrival*, with complex direction from Pablo Larraín bolstering the tricky screenplay, which darts back and forth. That being said, I am thrilled that the Academy has recognised Mica Levi for her haunting score, following her noted omission for *Under the Skin* a few years ago. She is only the third woman to be nominated for scoring a film, and she more than deserves to win the top prize. The most noted omission, for me, is Antonio Campos' *Christine*, which tells the story of depressed TV presenter Christine Chubbuck. As already mentioned, I feel that Hall should be up for the Best Actress award, but it would also be a well-deserved nominee for Best Picture, Best Director or Best Screenplay, as well as any number of other awards for its pitch-perfect 1970s production design.

So, what will happen come February 26th? My prediction – and everyone else's

– is that *La La Land* will take home most of the awards. But what do the Academy Awards even mean? Not that much really. This might be the most obvious of hot-takes for anyone who follows the world of film, but looking back over the last decade or so of ceremonies, and a pattern becomes clear: how little we really care about the Oscars after everything has died down. How many of us can say that we regularly watch *The King's Speech*? Or argue that *Slumdog Millionaire* really represents a masterpiece of modern cinema? For me – and I know this isn't an opinion shared by others – it seems unlikely that I will watch *La La Land* again, even if it wins top prize on the night. But I will make sure to watch the ceremony itself. I might disagree with the nominees, I might disagree with the winners, I might even agree with the entire ethos of artistic competitions...but

damn if it's not fun to take part, even for an evening, in all the pomp of Hollywood.

In the run-up to the Academy Awards, felix will be running innumerable articles on the nominees. If you're interested in letting us know who should win Best Picture, who has been overlooked, or just how sick of awards you are, drop us a line.



Gorillaz are back – and this time they are as political as they are whacky. Having teased a new album through Instagram and SoundCloud releases over the past few months, Gorillaz released the brand new track *Hallelujah Money* (ft. Benjamin Clementine) on the eve of Trump's inauguration. The Damon Albarn-led virtual band described the track in their own words as a "commentary on a politically-charged, historical moment".

The track itself heavily features the deep, powerful voice of Clementine, which dominates the track with an omnipotent, commanding aura. The lyrical parts sung by Clementine imitate the voice of Trump with eery lines such as "Thank you my friend/for trusting me" and the sobering "It is love, that is the root of all evil". Further to this, the music video and lyrics are littered with references to current affairs with the imagery of "scarecrows from

the far east" and "I thought the best way to perfect our tree / Is by building walls". This is all underscored with the most standout trait of the song – a hypnotic underlying beat, marked by an arrhythmic beeping which persists throughout the whole track like an incurable sickness.

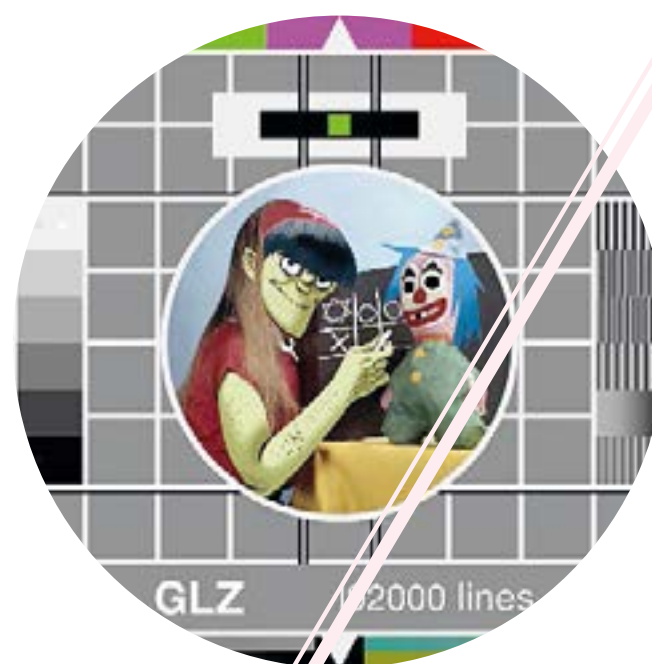
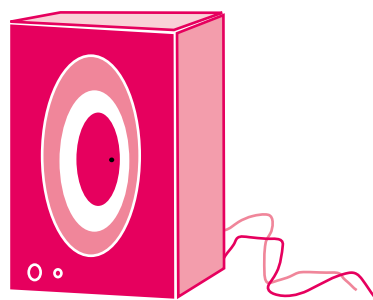
The verse builds up into an exhausting chorus calling for "hallelujah money", which is backed by an innocent sounding choir, contrasting Clementine's deep vocals. The resounding message of the track follows succinctly with Albarn's melancholic vocals which question how we can know "we are still human" in this new era of politics. Albarn's speaker-tronic voice also humbly asks "How we will dream?" and "How we will love?" in this new system.

Artistically, the face of Gorillaz is still recognisable since their last commercial outing in 2010. Interestingly, this is not a marked official Gorillaz release - the song is not a single and can only be found on the YouTube channel of culture site uproxx.com.

The song comes with an accompanying music video, which is nowhere to be seen on the recently revamped Gorillaz website, suggesting the piece is not something from the body of work of the upcoming album.

Although rather half-handed in the nature of it's release, *Hallelujah Money* is an excellent piece of work, teeming with signature Gorillaz quirks. Whilst the track offers loads in itself, it's only one side of the coin, with the accompanying music video providing thought-provoking visuals on top. Whilst *Hallelujah Money* is intentionally separate from the upcoming album, if it were considered a sign of the music to come, it wouldn't be a bad thing at all.

By Sam Wood



\\ Gorillaz (@gorillaz)

Hallelujah Money

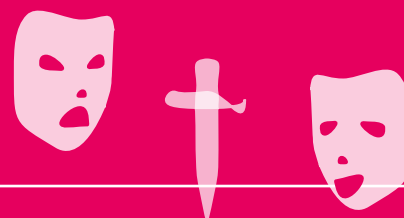




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# Most anticipated hip-hop albums of 2017

2016 was an outstanding year for hip-hop and urban culture, with all the major players dropping projects. Even artists like J. Cole and Frank Ocean rediscovered their ability to actually release some music. In the UK, the grime and urban scene continued to flourish. It seems like an impossible task for 2017 to top last year but, after only a month, we've already been treated to new material from Wiley and a 'playlist' from Drake on the horizon, we have plenty to look forward to.

Andy Djaba

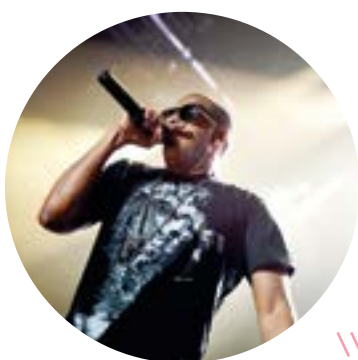
## 10. Lil Wayne | *Tha Carter V*

Cast your mind back to June 2008. Lil Wayne and Birdman were still best mates and Wayne had just dropped his critically acclaimed sixth studio album, including four top 20 singles, and went on to be Wayne's most successful to date, selling 3.6 million copies and winning the Grammy for 'Best Rap Album' in 2009. Since then, a lot has happened in Lil Wayne's personal life, including a prison sentence and the threat of retirement. It's fair to say that Lil Wayne's career has stalled in recent years. In 2013, Wayne announced that *Tha Carter V* would be his final album. It was originally scheduled for release in late 2014, however a messy contract dispute between Lil Wayne and Birdman has meant that fans have been starved of *Tha Carter V* for more than two years.

## 9. A\$AP Rocky

A\$AP Rocky, the leader of the A\$AP Mob, hasn't released a solo project since his second studio album: 2015's *At. Long. Last.* A\$AP. The album was brilliant and definitely one of the best projects of that year, but his releases have been sparse ever since, with Rocky preferring to instead focus on his other interests, like Kendall Jenner. He's recently been pictured in the studio with the likes of Lenny Kravitz and Jim Jonsin and, if the experimental style of his last album is anything to go by, it will be interesting to hear what's being cooked up.

The Come Up Show \\\



## 8. Jay Z

Jay Z is undeniably a living hip-hop legend and doesn't need to prove himself to anybody. However he hasn't released a classic album since his epic collaborative effort with Kanye West- 2011's *Watch the Throne* (2013's *Magna Carta Holy Grail* was solid but nothing special in my opinion) and it feels as though we fans are owed one more classic album from this true hip-hop great before he retires. Jermaine Dupree and Vic Mensa have both hinted that this album does in fact exist and is not just the stuff of legend. With his superstar wife Beyoncé effectively releasing a Jay Z diss album in *Lemonade* last year, Jay has a lot to address on this album, not least the infidelity rumours. Will he tell us who 'Becky with the good hair' really is?

\\ Matthew Harrison

I was a big fan of Vic Mensa's EP, *There's a Lot Going On*, which he released last summer and it whetted fans' appetites for his debut album. Vic is a frequent collaborator with the likes of fellow Chicago rappers Kanye West and Chance The Rapper and features heavily on Chance's early mixtapes (his verse on *Cocoa Butter Kisses* is breathtaking). There are many similarities between Vic and Chance, but where Chance paints an optimistic and hopeful picture with his gospel-inspired raps, Vic's music has a much darker message. Vic's raps also carry a very political message, addressing matters ranging from police brutality to systemic racism in America. With Donald Trump beginning his presidency in earnest, I'm sure Vic has a lot to get off his chest on this album.

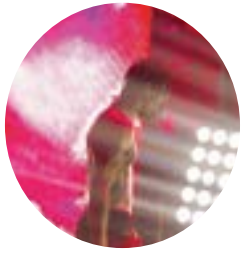
## 7. Vic Mensa

## 6. Joey Bada\$\$ | *A.A.B.A.*

Joey Bada\$\$'s debut album *B4.DA.\$\$* was a low key banger and one of the best projects of 2015. He's been very quiet since its release, preferring to focus on his acting skills (he has a recurring role on *Mr. Robot*) and dropping just a handful of tracks in the meantime. His follow up album *A.A.B.A.* was originally scheduled to drop on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (U.S. Election Day) but was delayed for "perfection". He seems to be wanting to take a more political approach with his music and dropped a freestyle called *Land of the Free* on 20<sup>th</sup> January (his birthday and Trump's Inauguration Day). If you are a *Narcos* fan or if you just want to hear some pure heat, listen to his track *Front & Center*, which samples the theme tune.



\\ The Come Up Show



## 5. Travis Scott | Astroworld

Travis Scott had an incredible 2016, releasing his stunning sophomore album, *Birds in the Trap Sing McKnight*, which went to number one and was one of my favourite albums of 2016. The simple fact is Travis Scott's music is pure fire and, if his past solo albums, *Rodeo* and *Birds*, are anything to go by, we can safely say that *Astroworld* will be lit.

\\ The Come Up Show

## 4. Big Sean | I Decided

Big Sean's fourth studio album, *I Decided*, is scheduled for release on 3<sup>rd</sup> February and he's already released two singles *Bounce Back* and *Moves* to promote the album. Both tracks are impressive and are further proof of Big Sean's continued progression as an artist. The concept behind the album centres on how making the correct decision at important moments can completely change your life. Big Sean has also confirmed that Eminem is featured on the album and, following a co-sign from Andre 3000, I can't wait to hear this album.

The Come Up Show \\



## 3. Migos | Culture



Atlanta rap trio Migos first started seeing major success in 2013 when they burst onto the scene with the Drake-assisted *Versace*. They swiftly followed this up with hits like *Fight Night* and *Hannah Montana*, but the buzz around Migos had seemingly died down in the last couple of years. That is, of course, until they dropped *Bad and Boujee*. Its success saw it reach number one and brought with it a fresh wave of widespread appreciation of Migos. This went as far as a shout out from Donald Glover (Childish Gambino) at the 2017 Golden Globes award show, where he thanked Migos for making *Bad and Boujee*, describing it as "the best song ever" (I couldn't agree more!). Quavo, the 2016 king of features, is complemented well by Offset's staccato delivery and Takeoff's crazy ad-lib game, making Migos the perfect blend of high energy trap music. *Culture* is scheduled for release on 27<sup>th</sup> January and they have recently released more tracks to promote the album. Most notably, they released *T-Shirt*, the visuals for which are cold, and *Call Casting*, the video for which was recorded in Nigeria, where they gave what looked like a truly incredible performance.

\\ Brett Weinstein

## 2. Drake | More Life

I am of the opinion that Drake actually releases too often and it diminishes the impact of his music. Having said that, Drake had a phenomenal 2016 and you simply can't ignore him or deny his ability to make bangers. Therefore, when he announced on 24<sup>th</sup> October that he would be releasing a 'playlist' called *More Life* in December, I was naturally excited (and intrigued to know the difference between a playlist and an album). Nineteen85, producer and member of OVO R&B duo dvsn, revealed that Drake will use *More Life* to "introduce new music and new artists to the rest of the world". *More Life* is expected to be heavy on features, with rumoured guests including Bryson Tiller and J. Lo, and Drake has already released three tracks in support of the 'playlist': *Fake Love*, *Two Birds*, *One Stone* and the 21 Savage-assisted *Sneakin'*. Drake delayed its release to the "top of 2017", so we could be listening to *More Life* in the very near future.

m.shattock \\



## 1. Kanye West | Turbo Grafx 16



In the last few months of 2016 alone, Kanye West went through enough drama to fuel multiple albums' worth of material to comment on. His wife, Kim Kardashian, was robbed at gunpoint in Paris and this traumatic event seemingly triggered a downward spiral which involved the cancellation of the remainder of his *Saint Pablo*, saw his public rants become even more erratic and confusing and culminated in his involuntary hospitalisation due to exhaustion and stress. Nobody knows what kind of mental state Kanye is in right now, but we do know that the last time Kanye went through emotional turmoil and receded from the limelight, he returned with *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, a classic album which is widely regarded as his best work. It's impossible to know what to expect from Kanye's next project, which makes its release all the more exciting. I am firmly in the *I miss the old Kanye* camp and, in my opinion, his first two albums, *The College Dropout* and *Late Registration* are topped only by *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*. Will this album see the return of the old Kanye? Could we will finally get an explanation for that infamous meeting with Donald Trump? The fantastic *The Life of Pablo* was one of the highlights of 2016 and, if Kanye can follow it up with an album of comparable or even better quality, then we are all in for a treat this year.

\\ Gage Skidmore





## Terrains of the Body is a bold but beguiling show



Hellen van Meene, *Untitled (79)*, (2000) \\ Hellen van Meene and Yancey Richardson Gallery



Fred Fyles

*Terrains of the Body* is on at the Whitechapel Gallery until 16th April 2017

Free entry

John Berger once wrote, 'A woman must continually watch herself.' The writer and critic who died earlier this month continued, 'she is almost continually accompanied by her own image of herself.' There is never a situation where Berger's words don't shed light on complex ideas, but these lines have heightened relevance in regards to *Terrains of the Body*, a collection of photographs from the National Gallery of Women in the Arts, currently being shown at the Whitechapel Gallery.

The show – deliberately taking place opposite a Guerrilla Girls exhibit highlighting the lack of women in the arts – attempts to pack a legion of narratives within a small space, connecting works from 17 artists working across five continents. The linking thread is that all works attempt to deal with how women photographers deal with the female form in their work.

In some works, this is crystal clear: Nan Goldin's piece from *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency*, which charted her life in New York of the early 1980s, perfectly captures the heady combination of celebration and tragedy which defines her work. Similarly, Rineke Dijkstra's photos are taken from her *Beach Portraits* series, which show teens posing on a beach; Dijkstra's work speaks of the awkward transition point between child and adult at which the subject is placed.

In Anna Gaskell's masterful work, *Eraser* – a highlight of the show, and the only video-work on display – a number of schoolgirls tell the story of her own mother's death in a car accident. Throughout the video, the narrative voice changes, through first, second, and third person, until the boundary between performer and audience, surveyor and surveyed, is completely distorted.

This blurring of voices mirrors Gaskell's photographic work: entitled *Untitled #104 (A Short Story of Happenstance)*. The image shows a

woman's legs, sticking up and juxtaposed against a backdrop of woodland trees; the implication is that something has gone horribly wrong, but the viewer is caught in the middle of the story, left unsure about what is happening or why. Interrupted narratives are further explored in Justine Kurland's unsettling works.

**\\ While multiple meanings can be a great thing to experience, the exhibition is let down by the lack of explanatory context for many of the works \\**

One shows pregnant women and young children frolicking by a waterfall, while the other features two girls lying on a raft, being dragged by a third, possibly into the sea. These images present the female form in a way that denies the viewer the satisfaction of a complete narrative.

Hellen van Meene's works combine this unsteady storyline with a heady mix of sensual textures and colours. Her works are celebrations of surface, with Vermeer-light like dappling across her subjects, bringing an incredible sense of tactility. Janaina Tschape's work shares this obsession with tone, and both her and van Meene's works are reminiscent of Francesca Woodman's haunting self-portraits, albeit with less of an emotional punch.

For other artists, photography can be an opportunity to examine the structures present within the art world itself as an institution. Kirsten Justesen's piece, which draws on her previous work in the feminist art movement, sees the artist herself transformed into a work, as she climbs into a display case of small statuary. Justesen, who trained as a sculptor, is simultaneously the creator of art and a work of art itself; she both represents and is represented. Justesen is no doubt aware – as the

Guerrilla Girls point out – that many galleries would much rather hang images of women on their walls than works by actual women. In a similar theme, as part of her *Räumer* series, Candida Höfer shows the empty hall of the Palazzo Zenobio in Venice, but retains a reflection of herself in a mirror, making her presence fully known.

One of the highlights of this show is the multiplicity of voices on display. The name of the show itself reflects the multiple domains within the works: 'terrain' can be a representation of nature, tracing the lineage of the 'earth mother' iconography; but it also links in with power, asking who has the right to define what constitutes a certain territory.

But while multiple meanings can be a great thing to experience, the exhibition is let down by the lack of explanatory context for many of the works. This is most obviously a problem in Marina Abramović's piece, *The Hero*: originally a video-work dedicated to her father, which featured her singing the Yugoslavian national anthem from the time of General Tito, in this exhibition it is only a still, meaning we miss out on the full power of the original. Similarly, Nikki S. Lee's pieces, from her series *Projects*, depict her immersing herself in different American subcultures until she is accepted – like Cindy Sherman gone method actor – but the audience is never made aware of this.

Throughout *Terrains of the Body* there are moments of clarity, where everything begins to come together, but these are too often interrupted with pieces whose lack of contextual information distorts their meaning and lessens their impact. If you want to get the most of this strange terrain, I'd suggest bringing your own map.

# CALL FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Phoenix is our creative outlet dedicated to showcasing the artistic and literary talents of our student body.

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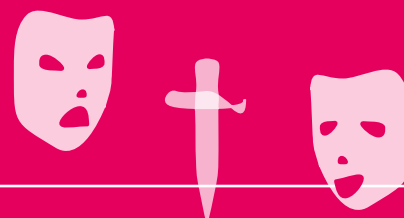
ART

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To submit email your work to [phoenix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:phoenix@ic.ac.uk)

Deadline | 28 February 2017





# The rising chorus of South Asian voices



Change rarely comes from where you expect it \\ Tyler Ross

\\ Riz, a Pakistani Muslim, and Heems, a Hindu Punjabi, blend their individual identities and loudly shout down the casual racism often directed towards brown people \\

and Heems, a Hindu Punjabi, blend their individual identities and loudly shout down the casual racism often directed towards brown people. The album loudly kicks off with stereotypical Arabic music – the kind that one might normally find in the soundtrack for Homeland, loudly announcing the arrival of a terrorist. SSB, however, embrace the beat and use it to rail against the injustices and frustrations propagated by racial profiling. Throughout the course of the rest of the album, Riz and Heems weave a tapestry of ear-worms and bangers that catch the attention of any listener, simultaneously filing their grievances with an unsuspecting audience.

Echoing the Public Enemies and Black-stars of the past, SSB channels the frustrations and concerns of South Asians through a virulently pervasive medium. Hopefully, more South Asians will ride the slipstreams of Ansari, Ahmed, and Heems to vocalise our concerns unflinchingly.

Last Saturday, Aziz Ansari continued his meteoric rise to prominence by being the first person of South Asian descent to host SNL. In his speech, he highlights the rise of a so-called 'lower-case KKK'; the subtle resurgence and renormalisation of white supremacy. Now more than ever, he suggests, minorities need to speak out and resist.

South Asians especially have traditionally been under-represented in media, and whether by chance or for cultural reasons, any distinct South Asian voice has been virtually non-existent in the zeitgeist. With Trump's building assault on Islam and the inevitable swell of suspicion and racism that follows, it is

increasingly important for there to be prominent brown voices in the mainstream.

Fortunately, this seems to be changing as of late, with the increasing popularity of shows like *Master of None*, and *The Night Of*. These are shows that explore the South

\\ South Asians especially have traditionally been under-represented in media \\

Asian voice with grace, subtlety and, most importantly, reserved ferocity. For the longest time, any defences of 'brown' culture had to be made timidly, as if making the defence itself was some sort of indication of guilt. Those like Ansari and Riz Ahmed, however, are no longer afraid to flaunt their identities. Following the paths laid down by people like M.I.A, Ansari and Ahmed speak boisterously, unafraid to hold society to account.

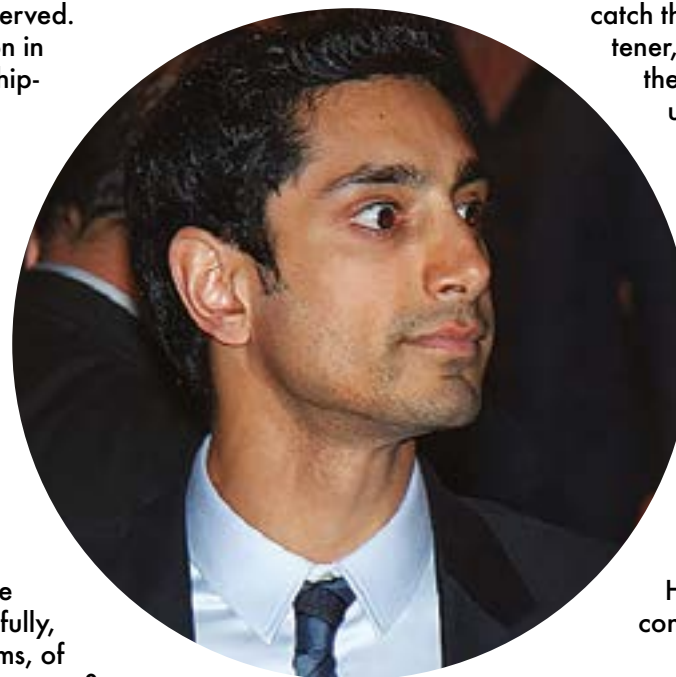
Ansari's *Master of None*, hopefully returning for its second season this year, deals with his difficulty getting work as an Indian actor, and the

way western media tends to reduce them to stereotypes. Similarly, *The Night Of* deals with the uphill struggle young Muslim men face just to not be presumed guilty. To his credit, Ahmed has long been producing work that explores alternative minority narratives, such as *Four Lions* and *The Road to Guantanamo*. Unfortunately, these didn't have anywhere near as much attention as they deserved. Ahmed's participation in *Rogue One* and the hip-hop duo Swet Shop Boys seems to be changing all that.

Hip-Hop was conceived as a triumphant voice of rebellion. There is no need to be timid or defensive, and it demands the full embrace of any culture that uses it as a voice. If any medium would lend itself to the protest we need, it is this. Thankfully, Riz Ahmed and Heems, of *Das Racist* fame, have seen fit to give us exactly that. Swet Shop Boys fuses and covers every niche of South Asian culture, and flamboyantly flaunts them.

Riz, a Pakistani Muslim,

\\ Whether by chance or for cultural reasons, any distinct South Asian voice has been virtually non-existent in the zeitgeist \\



On the prowl for another injustice to fight \\ Gordon Corell





M I L L E N N I A L S ...

felix

# The ballad of *Pokémon GO*

Saad Ahmed gives the dirt on why *Pokémon GO* isn't fun and was doomed to fail



Blasted server issues again \\ Skinny Casual Lover

**A**h, *Pokémon GO*. What it was and what it could have been. It was a sensation that gripped so many people only to come crashing down.

Let's think back to early 2016 when *Pokémon GO* was just an innovating idea. One that got people excited. It was touted to be an AR game which would essentially be the closest thing to *Pokémon* in real life. Given the popularity of the original games and how many people have watched the anime over the years, it was something many of us were really looking

\\ A lot of features from the original games are absent in *GO* \\

forward to.

Skip ahead to July: *Pokémon GO* is released and is an instant hit. It becomes the most downloaded app game; even people who have never had anything to do with *Pokémon* start playing it. It gets to the point where

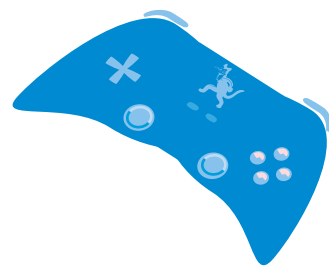
people in other countries hack their phones to play it.

The app isn't exactly like a *Pokémon* game and has its own mechanics. You basically walk around, looking for *Pokémon* and have to catch as many as possible. To evolve them, you need to catch more of the same rather than battle. So the game gets one of the great things about *Pokémon* right, the catching aspect. Wanting to catch all the *Pokémon* and evolve the ones you have gets everyone in a frenzy to walk down every possible street and try and see how many critters they can catch.

Unfortunately, there is nothing more to *Pokémon GO*. That's it. If you aren't willing or able to go on two hour walks around pokéstop populated areas, the game basically becomes unplayable. This is because it's the only way to get pokéballs and it is the only way to get health recovery items which you need to level up or fight at gyms. Also, a lot of features from the original games are absent in *GO*. You can't form a good team and have strategised battles, you can't battle gyms and collect badges, there's no story to indicate progression, and you

can't even battle or trade with other people.

These are all crucial elements that made the original *Pokémon* games so popular. Though there was hope that Niantic would expand on the *GO* concept and add on some of the missing elements, it didn't, and without them the novelty of *Pokémon GO* wears out fast. There weren't really any rewards or stories



to keep us going. We never felt any connection to our *Pokémon*. In the *Pokémon* games, we could pick certain *Pokémon*, battle with them, and raise them. In *GO*, it became just about catching them and discarding them for more candies.

Battling is a big part of *Pokémon*; the competitive battling scene is really strong and can be as complex as chess. In *Pokémon GO*, gyms are the only place you can

battle your *Pokémon* against those of other players. The battles are just about tapping the screen, which spams your basic attack, until you build up enough charge to hold down on the screen to charge up an advanced attack that does more damage and pauses the battle to play a cut scene. This mechanic is dull, infrequent, and does not compare to the more intense and strategic battling of the Nintendo games.

The novelty of *Pokémon* is catching them, but *GO*'s mechanism manages to muddle that up. In the original games, catching them all is very possible, provided you put in the time and effort. You also need to battle *Pokémon* before you catch them which makes the act of catching more intense and more satisfying. In *GO*, all you do is throw pokéballs, taking away some of the appeal. Also, only certain *Pokémon* are common, the rest vary between rare and non-existent. You need to go to all sorts of areas and really push yourself just to complete a fraction of the Pokédex and get your beloved Charizard.. If you "gotta catch em all" but you actually physically can't, what's the point?

And now? Well, *Pokémon GO* is dead now. It didn't go down overnight, it was more of a gradual decline as

\\ There weren't really any rewards or stories to keep us going \\

people started to get bored and realize there really wasn't anything left to do. Even the rivalry between the three factions couldn't keep it going. The rivalry was really just people insulting each other on the internet. And sure, updates might be coming out soon introducing new *Pokémon* and features but honestly, it's too little too late.

It's a real shame, *Pokémon GO* could have become something really special. Unfortunately it jettisoned a lot of what made *Pokémon* special with the end result being a mediocre game which was constantly plagued with server issues. Maybe in the future it will make a resurgence and regain its lost glory, but until then, I'll play *Pokémon Moon*.



# Union Page



**Our Strategy 2017-20 is our vision for the future of Imperial College Union.**

On Thursday 19 January, student leaders, Imperial College Union staff and College figures gathered in Metric for the launch of Our Strategy; an ambitious plan to take our activities to the next level. The launch event also saw the reveal of our new strategic themes: For You, For Your Support, For Your Development, For Your Voice and Your Union. We also have a refreshed set of organisational values which set out the kind of organisation we aim to be: one that demonstrates leadership, partnership, democracy and inclusivity in everything that we do. You can explore the strategy and download it online.

[imperialcollegeunion.org/strategy](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/strategy)

## Register for the Social Enterprise workshops



As part of the Union's continued support of student social entrepreneurs, we are pleased to announce a series of bespoke workshops designed to develop entrepreneurial talent at Imperial.

We've lined up three fantastic workshops for social entrepreneurs in the run up to the A.C.T. Now! final showcase in March. These free sessions are open to all students who are engaged with, or are looking to start, social enterprise initiatives during their time at Imperial.

Each session is specifically designed to enhance the skills of student social entrepreneurs, enabling them to move their social initiatives forward and explore the world of social enterprise.

Join us on Wednesday 1 February for the first session, **Building a Powerful Presence**, delivered by the Royal Central School of Speech & Drama. This hands-on session will help you to: develop your confidence in public speaking, make an impact when presenting, pitching or networking, speak with confidence about your enterprise initiative.

Find out more and register now at [imperialcollegeunion.org/news](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/news)

## Nominate someone great for a Student Academic Choice Award

Has someone in College helped you through tough times or gone the extra mile to explain a concept or support your research? If there's anyone who stands out to you, then let them know! Our Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs) celebrate great work at Imperial and gives you a chance to say thank you.

You can nominate as many people as you like, in as many categories as you like - and if your nominee is shortlisted, you might get a free ticket to the ceremony! Nominations are open until Sunday 26 February. Show your appreciation by nominating someone great for a SACA.

[imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas)





M I L L E N N I A L S ...

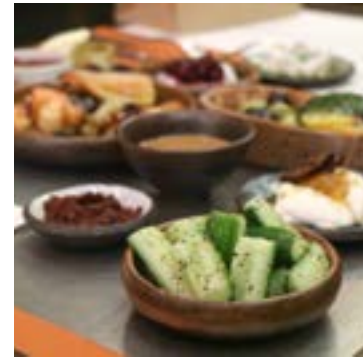
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# Avocado for breakfast? So #2k16



Firedog is on a mission to revamp the hipster breakfast, causing panic amongst avocado growers worldwide. Enter a morning realm of grilled halloumi, Sujuk and Lor.

Christy Lam



**M**ezze. A word meaning a selection of small appetizers.

And a word that I have recently started noticing following a sharing plates trend that has finally hit the London food scene. After some hearty meals, I have adjusted my taste buds (and stomach) to this wonderful dining culture home to Turkey, Greece and the Middle East.

For me, the beauty of mezze is to watch the dishes on the table grow into a party of flavours, textures and colours. Not only that, but the hours of cheerful, relaxed socializing and drinks that come with it.

Last week, an invite landed in my inbox from Firedog to try their breakfast mezze menu. Firedog is a new Aegean inspired restaurant near Tottenham Court Road, boasting of their unique menu of dishes influenced by Greek and Turkish culture, and their mission of reinvigorating the morning dining scene with their 'no avocado' policy.

I'm always up for trying all the new restaurants popping up in London, but waking up to a feast of these delicious small plates? YES, please! (They did say to eat breakfast like a king.)

So one bright, sunny

morning a few days later, I hopped along the quiet Newman Street to Firedog. Pushing open the dark, wooden doors, I was lead to a surprise – bassy, electronic music, a bar, and their logo in bright neon lights in pink, blue and red on the wall. I instantly fell in love with their unique vibes.

The waiters were just laying the table with the mezze dishes as I walked further into the restaurant. Just seeing the tiny terracotta plates and tiles was enough to get my adrenaline rushing. Even the slab of butter had its own mini tile. I was not the only one – the whole room was filled with gasps and sparkling eyes set on the tables.

5-minutes later we were all seated and excited to start. Our eyes were bombarded with the burst of colours, the variety of food and textures: Aegean olives, grilled halloumi, freshly made Lor (a soft, Turkish curd cheese), Sujuk (a dry, spicy sausage), tomatoes with purple basil, cucumber with specks of poppy seeds, clotted cream with honeycomb... and of course, a bowl of flatbreads to share and to mop up the tahini.

The spread was an adventure for my taste buds, from my normal western flavours to a hit of spices, ingredients, and flavours. The tomatoes and cucumber

were refreshing, balancing out the cheeses and Sujuk. My favourite was their house chilli eggs, that is, scrambled eggs with harissa – it was a delicious change from my usual scrambled eggs on toast.

And when we thought we'd eaten enough to ditch our lunch boxes and cancel our dinner dates, we were also

**\\ Their mission: reinvigorating the morning dining scene with their 'no avocado' policy and instead having you wake up to a feast of small plates \\**

introduced to the four all-day breakfast dishes, an option for those who (sadly) can't fit the breakfast mezze. The plates were again a burst of colour, offering a taste of Aegean ingredients and

flavours in the form of staple brunch dishes.

The baked eggs came with herb yoghurt, chilli oil, the sweetness from the charred peppers and the strong, enticing smoky flavours from the smoked tomatoes.

The Sujuk hash starred chunks of the sausage itself, combined with sweet roasted onions, spinach, potatoes, and a runny poached egg on top.

The Ozdemir Pasha II was like a mini mezze selection on a plate, featuring grilled halloumi, the tasty smoked tomatoes, fried eggs, and a beetroot hummus that was a beautiful purple colour.

What's a breakfast menu with a sweet option? How about a jaw-dropping presentation of toasted brioche, juicy chargrilled plums, kaymak (clotted cream), pistachios and honey? I'd happily replace my French toast with this lighter, yet equally indulgent and eggless version.

It's customary in the Mediterranean and the Middle East to not let your guests

**\\ Just seeing the tiny terracotta plates and tiles was enough to get my adrenaline rushing. Even the slab of butter had its own mini tile \\**

leave without a 3-month food baby – and neither did Firedog. This breakfast was indeed a creative, contemporary and delicious twist on the traditional Aegean recipes for anyone who's tired of their boring crushed avocado on sourdough!





# Imperial College London



## Student Support Fund

If you suddenly find yourself in **financial difficulties** or experience an unexpected change in circumstances, you may be eligible to apply for **emergency financial help** through the Student Support Fund.

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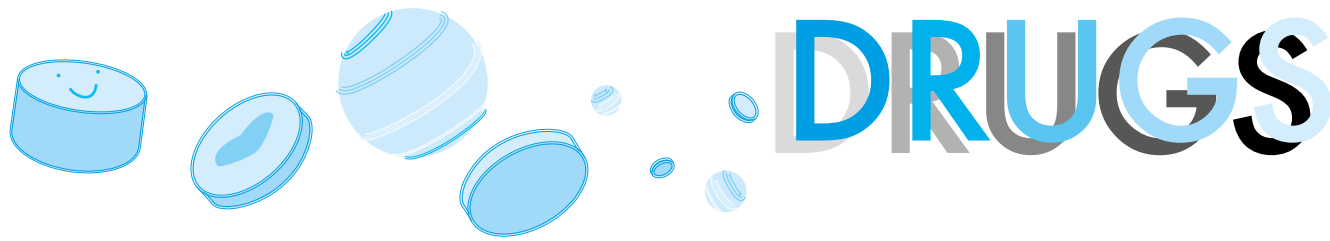
Student Hub, Level 3,  
Sherfield Building

[www.imperial.ac.uk/fees-and-funding](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/fees-and-funding)



MILLENNIALS...

felix



# Hands off our salvia

Christopher Haigh

**E**ight months ago the UK government banned so-called 'legal highs' under the Psychoactive Substances Act.

The law was intended to stunt the trade of synthetic chemicals that reproduce the effect of traditional illegal drugs. According to the Office for National Statistics, deaths linked to new psychoactive substances (the catchy government-approved name for legal highs) rose from 82 in 2014 to 114 in 2015, so it's easy to see why politicians wanted them banned so quickly.

\\ I can't imagine the grade I'd get if I shit out a lab report without doing any background research //

After the first three months of the ban coming into force, nearly 200 people were arrested due to some form of involvement with legal highs. If nothing else, we can say for certain this has put an increased strain on our already creaky police department. Additionally, hundreds of shops have also shut down or stopped selling legal highs. So much for the government's commitment to help small/local businesses.

The National Police Chiefs Council's lead on New

Psychoactive Substances, Commander Simon Bray, said in a press conference that nearly 14,000 nitrous oxide canisters (commonly known as laughing gas) had been seized by the Metropolitan Police since the introduction of the act on May 26<sup>th</sup> 2016. He said this in a rather glum-faced serious manner. Maybe he should have had some laughing gas before he went up to speak.

Before this new legislation was introduced, suppliers of legal highs could often skirt around existing rules by simply tweaking the chemical formula of the substance. Once upon a time, when the government was made aware of a new chemical composition they would outlaw that unique molecular structure. As a result, manufacturers would then simply tweak their

\\ This doesn't apply to alcohol, caffeine, and cigarettes, despite their also have psychoactive effects //

product to bring it into line with the law. The government since has since become tired of this cat and mouse game, which has led to the introduction of the current legislation. Basically, "the law can't be outwitted in that sense anymore because if it's psychoactive, it's

psychoactive full stop", said our old friend Commander Simon Bray. Therefore, this allows the police to criminalise vast swathes of young people under the blanket ban automatically. Perhaps not something very in touch with the democratic underpinnings of the United Kingdom.

It is notable that this doesn't apply to alcohol, caffeine and cigarettes, which are exempt from the new ban, despite

this in mind would it not be logical to, you know, perhaps research them? Coming from Imperial College, an almost all-science university (Business School I'm looking at you), it is inherent to us to perform research. I can't imagine the grade I'd get if I shit out a lab report without doing any form of background research, experimental research, or just any kind of research. But that appears to be the

Barry!

Grab the boys some poppers will you?



Not sure how but this feels relevant

also having psychoactive effects. I would wager that the percentage of people that die due to alcohol or cigarette related deaths is vastly higher than the percentage of those who die from psychoactive substances. With

exact approach of the British government, you'd think that none of them studied a respectable degree. Oh wait. They didn't. With the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Secretary of

State for Health and Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice all having studied philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford this confirms my suspicions. When so many of the leaders of our country studied basically a degree in banter, it's hardly surprising that they're immune to the benefits, or methods, of research.

With the new law banning all psychoactive substances coming into effect only eight months ago we are yet to see its full effects. In all probability we will probably see a reduction in the usage

\\ What do you expect when the Prime Minister has a degree in geography? //

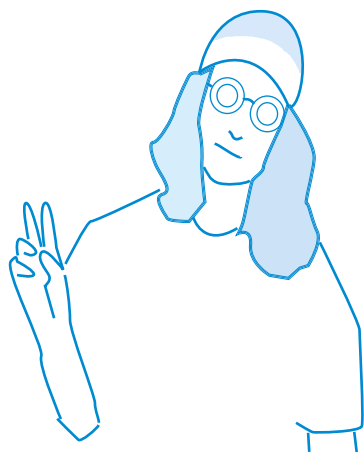
of these drugs, however, cocaine has been banned for many decades and that stuff still hasn't disappeared.

With the government continually waging an all-out war on drugs, it appears that we will never see the day when these potentially innovative substances could be used in research. But then again, what do you expect when the Prime Minister has a degree in geography?

If you're struggling with drug use, visit [talktofrank.com](http://talktofrank.com)



## felix ... M I L L E N N I A L S

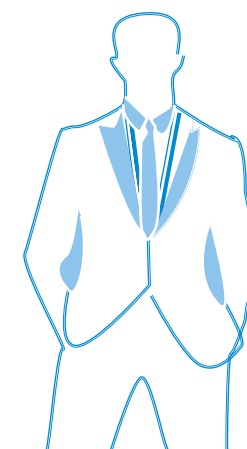


If we ignore all the bad things that are happening then they'll just go away

Jonathan Masters has much better things to talk about than what happened last Friday

If we can't actually imprison them, we can just build a wall around them

Monathan Jasters is finding the tears of the liberals a pleasant addition to his week



VOS

Obviously something happened last week on Friday, but of course if something bad happens, the best thing to do is just ignore it and hope that it resolves itself. I take the same approach to medicine – instead of putting unnatural additives onto my body, I just hope that lotus flower extract rubbed onto my genitals will arrange the tai chi of the infection and leave my penis un-rotting. It may take a few more flowers, but I think that little Jon is getting there.

Anyway as I was saying, absolutely nothing happened last week, specifically at 5pm Greenwich Mean Time. In other news they announced the Oscar nominations – unfortunately my own black and white film which is three hours of a camera zooming into my own asshole didn't get nominated. Not even for best hair and makeup in a motion picture. I mean mon-keys can get that award. I liked Los Angeles Los Angeles Land, especially the joke about George Michael's passing, but I can't help but feel that maybe there should have been more than one black person in a film about jazz. Also there should have been more use of the sitar – If they plan on doing a sequel, I just want to shout out to Ryan that I'm in perpetual state of unemployment/writing my novel and would happily appear on the film for a fee.

Of course you all know what event didn't actually happen. Something happened in America. Just between Maryland and Virginia. I don't think we need to talk

about it though. I mean what else happened this week? Well there were all those Women's Marches around the world for no particular reason. Even though I am not a woman, I decided to make myself the centre of attention at this parade and lead chants and tweet angrily when people made body shaming signs about Trump's tiny penis and hands. Fuck I mentioned it. Trump. OK FINE. DEATH TO THE WEST. COMMUNISM MUST RISE AGAIN. THE HAMMER AND SICKLE WILL SLIT THE ORANGE THROAT OF THE WOMAN-OPPRESSOR. I watched the entire inauguration in some sort of state of self-harm whilst sobbing violently into my favourite block of tofu. I later masturbated at the photoshopped picture I made of Hillary spending her first day in the White House, spending millions on Native American heritage, and renewable energy programmes. It was the saddest but the best thing that happened to me last week.

Those who want to live, let them fight, and those who do not want to fight in this world of eternal struggle do not deserve to live." I can't remember what great leader is responsible for that quote, but it is a quote that I have held in my heart for the whole of this week. I am not a homosexual, but I am not ashamed to say that I shed a few tears when that orange saviour placed his tiny hands on the bible and the liberals started to weep. There were no alternative facts in sight on that most magnificent of days: the gays, the abortionists, the vagina-havers, the Latinos, and the Blacks will finally suffer their due. Too long have they experienced the leniency of Barack HUSSEIN Obama and his administration. Finally we will feel the fist of power. A strong, powerful fist will penetrate right into the hole that the democrats have left, reaching around to try and grab at the stragglers that have previously been inside this hole. Trump is that fist.

Of course whenever someone that the liberal contingent dislikes is democratically elected, it means that they will line the streets and play some African drums, eat some kelp bullshit, and cry. No one on the right did anything like this when Barack HUSSEIN Obama was re-elected. Sure we made a few signs where Obama was an African witch doctor, and were convinced that he was born in Kenya, but we did it in small groups. I don't get why the women and the minorities feel like they have to disrupt to such scale. Don't

they have abortions they need to get to? With that said, however, I did attend the protest. Not to actually protest, but with binoculars from a rooftop bar so that I could see the proletariat weep as they realised that it would not be another four years of hand-outs. There is nothing sweeter than the tears of butt-hurt liberals – if they could find a way to milk them for their essence and bottle it, I would buy a gallon every day.

I can't wait for this wall either. Finally being able to stop the Mexicans from entering the rear of America is the first step to making it great, but why stop there? We should be building walls around everything – if you build a wall around abortion clinics, whores will no longer be able to have a get out of jail free card. Build a wall around Mosques and then no terrorism related incidents will ever happen again. Build walls around Hillary and she can finally be imprisoned for being technologically incompetent. WALLS WALLS WALLS WALLS.

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Dear Chris,

I need advice. I'm having second thoughts about my decision of voting Donald Trump for US President. I was totally behind him. Like sure, he's not exactly charismatic or attractive. He doesn't have good skin, or great hair. And I wouldn't call his eyes kind. I mean I can't actually see them through all those flaps of eye-bag skin. But the way he says SAD always gets me.

But I digress. I'm second guessing my vote because I got upset after his waterboarding comments. I mean I have to draw the line somewhere and torture is kind of a deal breaker for me. I don't know. I'm really conflicted.

What do you think?

Yours,  
Kathrin Kim Karchner

## CRISIS

Chris

Dear Kat

Can I call you cat? Personally I'm not a massive Trump fan. It's not about the looks, let's be honest under the right lighting you couldn't tell him and Hillary apart.

It's about policy. And I just can't get behind this executive order rage. Like ok, maybe don't wait seven years until you stop caring and start signing executive orders (you know who you are \*cough\* OBAMA \*cough\* – wow coughing is a lot less discreet when it's in writing), but you're a democratically elected official not Kim Jong Un.

Anyway as I was saying. I care about policy. Not whatever it is he likes to do in bed. I mean sure, waterboarding is not exactly my cup of tea. I mean ew. I can barely handle my own wee let alone someone else's. Truth is I'm really

vanilla. Like a friend once gave me edible underwear and... well hm.. Actually I don't think I ever spoke to Tom again after that. See?

So to summarise; Though your decision to vote Trump is indeed deplorable, the fact that him making some prostitutes pee on a bed is making you rethink that decision is even worse!

So grow a backbone and if you're gonna make bad decisions, at least stick with them until the bitter end. There's nothing worse than the lack of conviction (other than the lack of condoms when you really need one).

Big luv,  
Chris xxxx

## HOROSCOPES



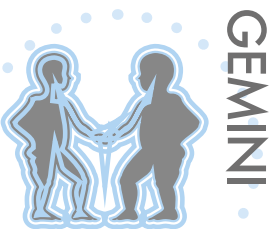
ARIES

This week you're Usain Bolt and lose one of your gold medals as your teammate tests positive for drugs. And you thought group project work at Imperial was frustrating...



TAURUS

This week you're beginning to plan for your Union election campaign, taking influences from the successful political leaders of the recent past. You try the Nigel Farage method, drinking heavily and spreading hate. Instant success.



GEMINI

This week you attend the Union Bar's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. First event with floor coverings. Biggest ever. Period. And pictures showing anything else are doctored.



CANCER

This week you're locked in your department overnight. Tired, hungry and confused you stumble into the PhD staffroom to find them all sleeping upside down from the ceiling like vampires. You're one of them now.



LEO

This week you're Piers Morgan, and you're a tool. Except that's unfair on tools as they're useful and advanced human progress in the Stone Age. The era where Piers's views are from.



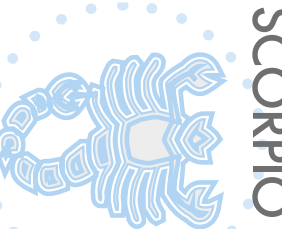
VIRGO

This week you figure out a loophole in education. The trick to passing your exams isn't to learn the material but rather your own, alternative, facts. Genius.



LIBRA

This week you watch Trainspotting 2. You thought the sequel would finally live up to its name but the only Flying Scotsman you saw was Ewan McGregor.



SCORPIO

This week you attend the super secretive, super shady event on campus. Media blackouts. Heightened security. Police dogs. DocSoc bar night must've really got out of hand.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you're Shia Labeouf and his new art installation. Probably the cringiest thing to happen on a webcam since, well... we don't talk about that anymore.



CAPRICORN

This week you're Barack Obama. After eight years of putting up with everyone else's shit, you're finally free of the White House. You spend all week just in your pants.



AQUARIUS

This week you're Mexico and end up paying for something that you'll never use and in the grand scheme of things is worthless. Cheer up, at least you're not paying £9000 a year at UCL.



PISCES

This week you're SportImperial. Will you ever catch a break? Maybe next year everyone will finally forget about that pesky sexism scandal.



# Your Union events

Friday 27 January



## GIN MASTER CLASS

Become a gin coinessuer, learn all about the marvoulus tipples history, and try our drinks. We're celebrating our new gins, and we want you to join us.

£6.50 per tickets, or four for only £20.00

Friday 27 January, 19:00

[imperialcollegeunion.org/food-drink](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/food-drink)



## COMMON PEOPLE

A NIGHT OF 90S AND 00S  
INDIE, ROCK AND BRIT  
POP FLOORFILLERS!

Free entry to the first 25  
people who post their song  
choice on the wall!

FRIDAY 27 JANUARY  
20:00 - 02:00  
METRIC & FIVESIXEIGHT

£1.00 On the Facebook Guestlist  
£2.00 On the door



**SUPER BOWL PARTY**  
**SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY**  
**23:00 TO 04:00**  
**FIVESIXEIGHT & METRIC**

**DRINK & FOOD OFFERS**  
**ON THE NIGHT**

**£3.00 ONLINE OR £4.50**  
**ON THE DOOR**

**VISIT [FACEBOOK.COM/BEITBARS](https://www.facebook.com/beitbars)**  
**FOR MORE INFO**

[imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on)



## Coming up in our bars



### Super Quiz

Every Tuesday  
20:00-22:00

### Cocktail Night

Every Tuesday  
18:00-23:00

### CSP Wednesday

Every Wednesday  
19:00-01:00

### Common People

Tonight  
20:00-02:00

### iPop

Friday 3 January  
20:00-02:00



### Pub Quiz

Every 2nd & 4th Thursday  
19:00-21:00

### PGI Friday

Every Friday  
19:00-00:00

### Ale, Beer and Cider Week

23-27 January  
All day

### Wine Tasting

15 February  
17:30-19:30



### Quiz Night

Every Monday  
18:00-23:00

### Board Games & Film Night

Every Tuesday  
18:00-23:00

### Sports Night

Every Wednesday  
18:00 onwards

### Pizza Night

Every Thursday  
18:00-2:00

### Gin Master Class

Tonight  
19:00 onwards



### Quiz Night

Every Thursday  
19:30-22:00

### Sunday Roasts

Every Sunday  
All day

### Find us on Facebook!

[fb.com/thefoundryw3](https://www.facebook.com/thefoundryw3)

Get exclusive offers, discounts and more on our bars' Facebook Pages.

[imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on)





# Push them down, tire them out, win!

**R**andori nationals are coming up, and Imperial Jiu Jitsu has to be prepared! This weekend an Imperial versus Queen Mary friendly, regional ground-fighting competition took place as practice for both clubs before nationals. Groundwork is a lot of fun, but very tiring when you're the one stuck in a hold. It is very much like trying to escape a really, REALLY tight hug. Here, most competitors agreed not to use any chokes or strangles; let's all play nice and friendly.

The session started with a warm up led by QM instructor Alex Macaulay, involving the usual running around: push ups, sit ups, squats and burpees, but also climbing over and around each other, because why not? Forget all notions of personal space once you start any kind of groundwork, the more up close and personal you get, the better. In fact, to keep your opponent pinned to the ground you have to put them in a hold they cannot escape, usually by putting all your weight on top of them (gets a bit more difficult to breath if you do that on their chest), or applying some kind of joint lock. As you go up the grades you can learn more techniques, holds, and locks such as the ones Imperial Jiu Jitsu affectionately nicknamed '69' (officially 'yoko shiho gatame') or 'the mount' (officially 'tate shiho gatame', another mouthful) because, well...it becomes evident when you see them.

In this type of competition, fights can start from a sitting position or a standing position (officially for green belts and above). If starting from a sitting position, the two opponents are initially back to back, legs straight, feet together, and hands on

their thighs. The fight starts when the referee says the word 'hajime' (Japanese for 'begin') and ends when one of the opponents pins

trying to wiggle out of your hold. It can also end if one of the participants taps out (because they were in a joint lock or feel they can't escape

managed to hold the other for 20 seconds or made them tap out, the winner is decided based on their pro-activity and control. The referee must

to throw each other to the ground, ideally making both their adversary's shoulders (the famous 'ippon') touch the ground, or at least one, with control from the tori (the one throwing) over the uke (the one on the receiving end), to declare a win. The referee judges if the throw was clean or if the round needs to be reset. Here rounds were also of roughly two to three minutes, and as before the winner is chosen based on their initiative and control if neither manage to throw the other.

As rounds are very short, genders and grades were mixed during the competition so all could enjoy as many fights as they wanted and fight with everyone. The participants were still roughly separated by height/weight class, as it is still a very important parameter in groundwork: there's not much you can do if somebody twice your size is sitting on your chest...maybe tickle them? Hit them in the- wait no, that's not a legal move.

To finish on a nice and friendly note after all that rolling around on the tatami mats, Imperial Jiu Jitsu organised a great (and cheap) social in a fancy Korean restaurant in Soho. Eating as much Korean barbecue as you want, mostly paid for by the club. What more could you ask for?

Imperial Jiu Jitsu is going to have more friendly regional competitions with other London universities before the big Randori Nationals at the end of February in Northampton, so watch this space! Jiu Jitsu is an amazing discipline open to all in which you can progress really quickly if you set yourself to train regularly, and you're constantly supported by your peers and instructors who want to help you learn and get the best out of every training session.

Sam Smith



their adversary's back to the ground for 20 seconds, which is an awfully long time when the person underneath you is thrashing like crazy and

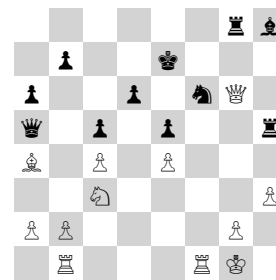
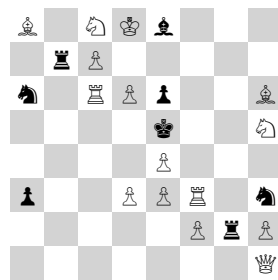
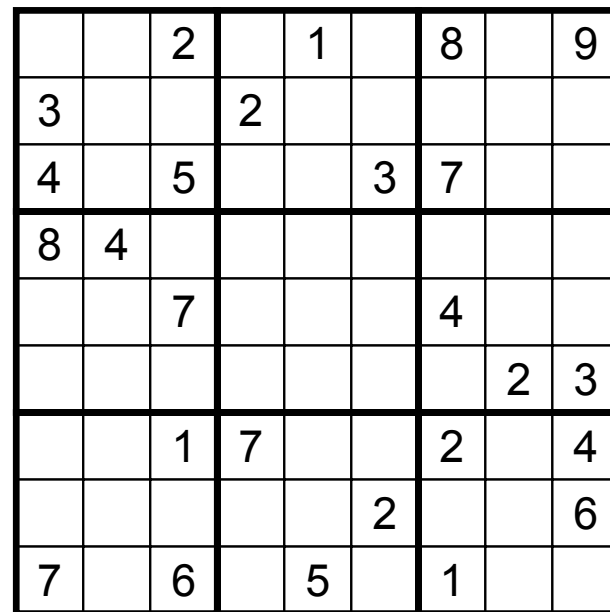
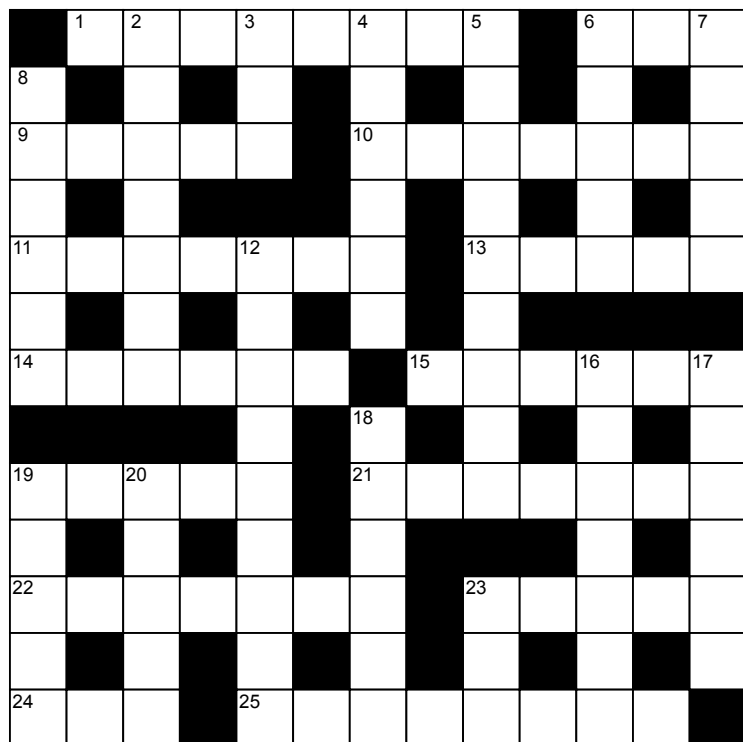
a hold) or if time runs out. The rounds here were two minutes per fight, plus one extra minute if there is no defined winner. If neither opponents

say 'yame' ('stop') to officially cease any fight.

If starting from a standing position then the opponents are face to face and try



# felix ... PUZZLES



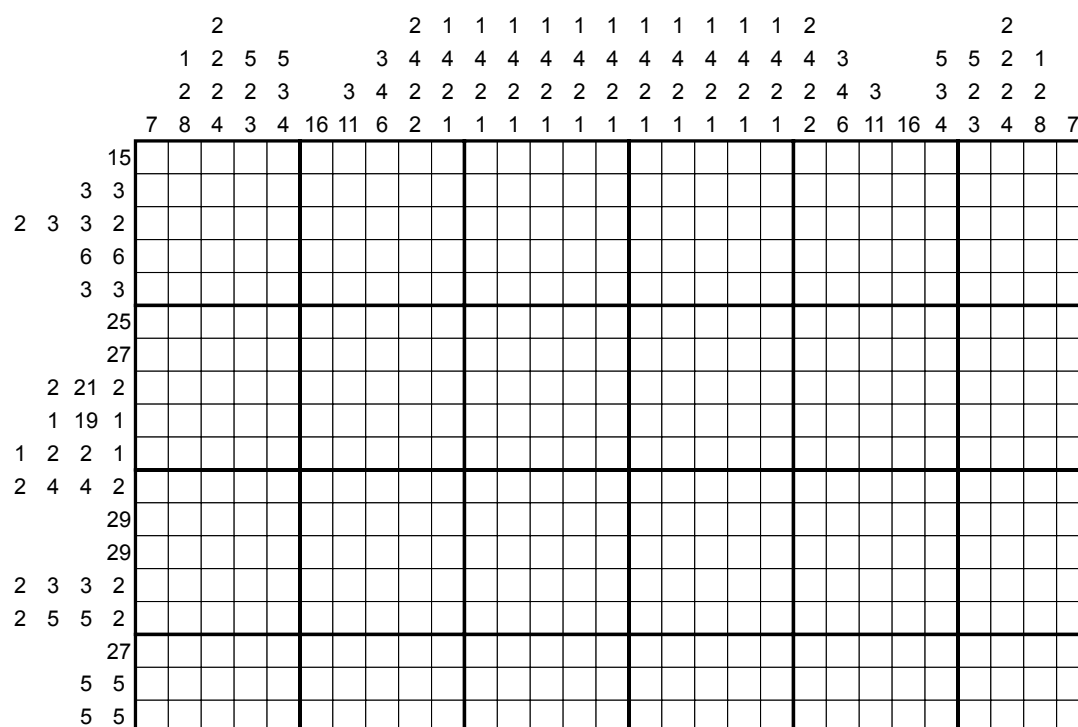
Forced checkmate in 2 moves (left) and 3 moves (right). White to move first in both problems.

## Across

1. Disclosed (8)
6. Favourite (3)
9. Bed covering (5)
10. Slaughter (7)
11. Enquire into (7)
13. Scrounge (5)
14. Avoided (6)
15. Liquid fuel (6)
19. Brown pigment (5)
21. Imitator (7)
22. Company operating flights (7)
23. Tick off (5)
24. Before (3)
25. Collected (8)

## Down

2. Green gem (7)
3. Consume (3)
4. Servile follower (6)
5. Bargain-priced (4,5)
6. Tartan cloth (5)
7. Subject, topic (5)
8. Go up (6)
12. Repeating (9)
16. Lie back (7)
17. Missive (6)
18. Receive willingly (6)
19. Trap (5)
20. Money bag (5)
23. Snooker-player's stick (3)



**Nonogram.** The numbers show, in order, the length of blocks to be filled along that row/column. Each block must be separated by at least one empty cell.

## FUCWIT

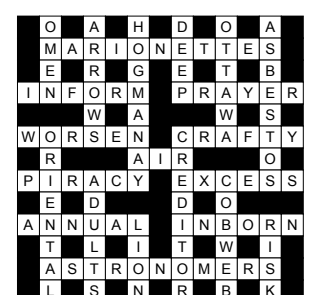
### Leaderboard

The Czechmates	227
Anonymous	226
NSNO	220
Willie Rush	220
Schrödingers Cat Strikes Back	207
Sneezing Pandas	161
Guinea Pigs	119
Les Nuls	117
CEP MSC	105
The Gravitons	97
TIA	95
Grilled Cheese Inc.	68
Yellow Fever	65
Puzzled	62
Kenny Wangler, Cunnyfangler	53
Chemical Brethren	46
The Ultimate Fucwit	38
Big Mahmoud	36
The Anti-Gravity Acorns	36
THE Crystallographer	29
The Couple on the Train	26
Grand Day in Cullercoats	25
RollIEEr	25
Lube Lords	23
Banananana	20
The Mystical Spankyman	20
Beasts	18
Les Baguettes	18
Civeng Eating	15
Poulet	15
Hillary Killed Harambe	14
Computer Magic	12
Pseudo-coup	12
Shusie-Q	12
G. Hackman	10
Salmon ft. Kanye	9
Tessa and Simran	9
Pollux	7
Dairylea Dunkers	6
Too gay 2 f(x)	6
Crosswordy McCrosswordface	5
Singed Potato	4
TP-LINK_M5_B057AD	4
Fanny Schmeller	2

### Points Available

Crossword	6
Sudoku	3
Chess	6
Nonogram	6

## Solutions



Send in your solutions to [fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk) before midday Wednesday to get your score added to our leaderboard. Make sure you include the name/team name that you'd like us to use!