



Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London

NEWS



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Imperial after dark // Imperial College London

Imperial's Dodgy Dealings

NEWS

Andy Djaba
Editor-in-Chief

Imperial College London amongst UK beneficiaries of US trust embroiled in drug crisis

Imperial College London has been revealed to be the largest UK beneficiary of donations from the controversial and

much-maligned Sackler Trust, receiving £2.5m last year.

The Sackler family has come under recent scrutiny amidst the US opioid addiction and overdose crisis. Last year, the family donated £7m through its philanthropic trust to British institutions, including the Old Vic, the National Theatre and several other UK cultural and educational institutions. As reported by numerous national newspapers, including *The Guardian*, Imperial College London was the largest beneficiary, followed by Royal Museums

Greenwich, which received £1.5m. A student at Imperial College London, who asked to remain anonymous, told Felix:

“Imperial being the largest beneficiary of this dodgy money, who would’ve thought?”

The Sackler family’s influential philanthropic role has come under the spotlight after allegations that the transatlantic dynasty’s fortune has been tainted by the US opioid crisis. Much of the family’s wealth has come from OxyContin, the prescription painkiller launched in 1996 that has been a major aggravator in the opioid

addiction and overdose crisis that kills more than 100 people in the US. Data has revealed that US drug overdose deaths rose to a record 72,000 last year. Purdue Pharma and members of the Sackler family, including Theresa Sackler, a director of the Sackler Trust and one of the UK’s most prolific arts philanthropists, are being sued by the US state of Massachusetts. The Massachusetts case is being watched closely by some UK institutions, as pressure from US activists on galleries and museums funded by the Sacklers increases, casting a shadow

over their activities in the UK. A spokesperson for Imperial College said it received charitable donations from a range of sources that helped strengthen its research and education through scholarships, academic positions, research centres and capital projects. The source added:

“All donations are considered carefully under our relationship review and gift acceptance policies, and we keep all relationships with third parties under continuous review”.

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EDITORIAL

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A rather uneventful week...



Andy Djaba – Felix Editor

I don't even want to tell you what time it is right now but just know that this is by far the latest I've written my editorial. Every week I tell myself that it's the week that I will get organised and do things in advance and, every week, I flop the set...

With the excitement of graduating last week, this week feels like it's been really dull and uneventful. I'm genuinely wracking my brain trying to remember if anything of note happened this week. As you can probably tell, I still don't know how to write an editorial. At this point, I don't think I ever will. Alas, we ramble on...

It's perhaps quite depressing and embarrassing that the most eventful thing that has happened to me this week is attending my first ever Union Council meeting. After successfully skipping the first meeting of the year (I'm sure I had a good excuse), I could no longer dodge my responsibility as the resident fly-on-the-wall. With no voting rights, I sat there and watched riveting discussions and spirited debate about topics including Union penalties for sexual misconduct and Ethos' squash court pricing. A

motion to stop the stocking and display of racist tabloids, such as *The Sun*, the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express*, sparked a particularly heated debate which somehow spiralled into a wider discussion about censorship and free speech on our campus. It made for enthralling viewing, with personal attacks flying across the room left, right and centre. I was on the edge of my seat and the only thing I regret is not bringing my popcorn. There were even some afters between two Union Council members which may or may not have been accidentally

recorded by *Felix*... In all seriousness, although Council overran, was slightly tedious (so much so that ended my self-imposed football boycott and was driven to watching Mourinho's Manchester United team's attempts to play football for entertainment), the discussions had at Council were very important and raise further interesting points about the sort of community and environment we want to be a part of at Imperial. I urge anybody reading to get more involved in Council and to attempt to effect

change. Of course, that means nothing because nobody is still reading my incessant rambling anyway...

I'd like to end my editorial this week by thanking everybody that reached out after reading my editorial last week. The kind words, condolences and heartwarming offers of support have kept me going through what's been a tough few weeks. I found it incredibly difficult to write my letter to Lauren but I felt slightly better afterwards and I really hope that it was able to be some comfort to anyone that knew and loved her. The College is organising a Book of Condolences for us to take up to her family in time for the funeral next week. Anybody who would like to contribute can send their thoughts and messages via email to: engteaching@imperial.ac.uk. Lauren also requested that, instead of flowers, people should donate to <http://www.thealexandrasalestrust.co.uk/ways-to-donate/>

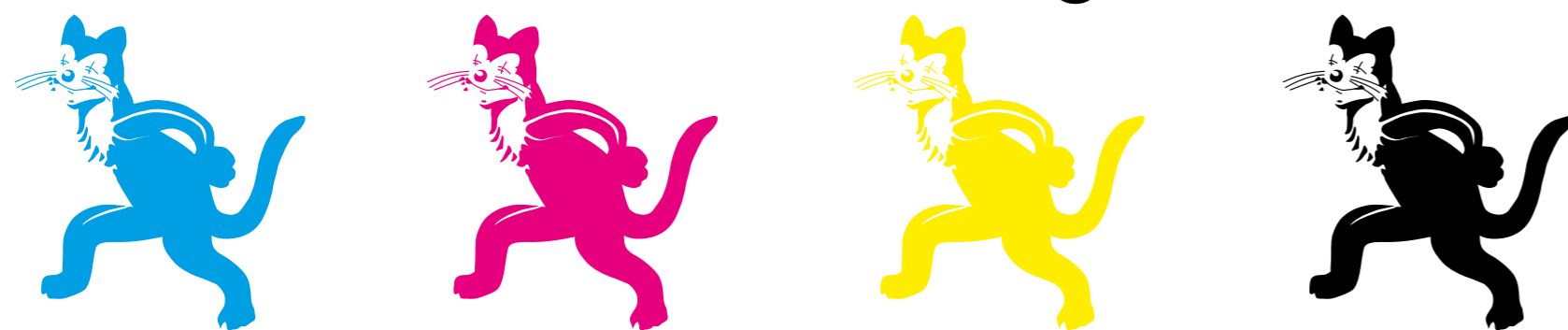


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Felix is recruiting!



We want you – yes, you! We're looking for writers, photographers, editors, illustrators, reporters, computer experts and grammar nerds to join our team. No experience needed – we'll teach you everything you need to know. If you're interested, send us an email on felix@ic.ac.uk

NEWS

Imperial College London

StudentShapers

Imperial's programme to support engaging with students as partners in Learning and Teaching

StudentShapers funded research project

Do you have 5-10 minutes to do a short questionnaire about the 'ideal' university student? If so, please go to:

idealunistudent.com

10 x £25 Amazon e-vouchers to be won
Open to everyone (students, staff, etc.)

By understanding how the 'ideal' learner is constructed in specific contexts, expectations of staff and students will be made more explicit and transparent, which are central to inclusive and diverse learning and teaching practices. If you have any questions, please contact Dr Tiffany Chiu (t.chiu@imperial.ac.uk). Thank you for your time!

Find out more about the new StudentShapers programme:
www.imperial.ac.uk/studentshapers
Follow on Twitter: [@studentshapers](https://twitter.com/studentshapers)

Imperial's Dodgy Dealings

NEWS
(cont.)

Accounts filed this month by the Sackler Trust show 12 entities received grants last year of more than £150,000, along with 53 miscellaneous donations of less than that figure. Beneficiaries included the Royal Court's resident company, the English Stage Company (£700,000), Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust (£500,000), the Old Vic (£300,000), the National Theatre (£250,000) and the Roundhouse arts and concert venue (£225,000). While it is unclear if negative publicity had been a factor, the Sackler Trust's grants last year have dwindled in comparison to the £21m given in 2016.

"Imperial being the largest beneficiary of this dodgy money, who would've thought?"

Among the most active critics of the Sacklers and Purdue Pharma has been the artist Nan Goldin, who recently recovered from a near-fatal addiction to OxyContin and has staged direct actions inside US arts institutions funded by the family. Nan provided comment, saying: "One of our goals is to try to force

the hand of the museums and other institutions to refuse future funding." Ryan Hampton, a US campaigner who is in recovery from a decade-long opioid addiction, said that the only acceptable philanthropy for the Sacklers to pursue was in "supporting resources and finances that will end the opioid crisis that poured billions into Purdue Pharma". He added: "The Sacklers are the direct beneficiaries of the vast and profound suffering created by purposefully misleading doctors about their company's products. Co-opting our cultural institutions is reputation-laundering and it's a distraction." The Sackler family members being sued in the case include Theresa and Beverly, the widows

of the brothers, Mortimer and Raymond Sackler, who grew Purdue Pharma into a pharmaceutical empire. Forbes magazine estimates that a core group of 20 family members in the Mortimer and Raymond Sackler branches of the family are collectively worth \$13bn (£10bn).

"The Sacklers are the direct beneficiaries of... vast and profound suffering"

This news comes in a week that saw the ongoing campaign against Imper-

al's investments in oil and gas companies by Divest Imperial, an Imperial College Union-affiliated environmental campaign group, intensify following the university's involvement in GB Green Week, as reported by Felix. Last year, Felix revealed that analysis of Imperial's investments showed significant

holdings in pharmaceuticals, tobacco, arms and oil and gas companies.



Much of the Sackler family's wealth has come from OxyContin // Toby Talbot

New Provost in Town

NEWS

Andy Djaba
Editor-in-Chief

Felix sat down with Ian Walmsley, the new Provost of Imperial College London, to reflect on his first month on the job

Professor Ian Walmsley FRS, who started his new role as Provost of Imperial College London on 1st September, sat down with *Felix* for an exclusive interview.

The Imperial alumnus and world-renowned expert in ultrafast and quantum optics, who joined the College from his role as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) at the University of Oxford to succeed Professor James Stirling, lets *Felix* know what makes him tick.

Felix: Not to be blunt but... what does the Provost do? The statement on the website says, "the Provost is Imperial's chief academic officer and provides the leadership to ensure excellence in Imperial's core academic mission in education, research and translation" but, in layman's terms, what does that mean?

Ian: It's a very good question because it's not a job that I was very familiar with from my time at Oxford, which has a very different structure. Imperial is unique in the UK in the way that it

has structured its senior leadership so it's an exploration for me as well but what I found attractive about it was that it was a position where developing the overall academic strategy of the institution and figuring out how you would implement that and resource it was key. So whether that's around our global research position or the student experience. Doing this is quite an exciting opportunity

Is there a typical day for the Provost or is every day different?

I've only been here a month so no typical day yet! I haven't got to that point yet but, at the moment, what I'm spending my time doing is going around getting to know people, getting to know the Heads of Faculty and Heads of Departments, visiting all the departments over the course of the next few months, academics, junior researchers, students, staff and getting a feel for the key issues and aspirations. Learning a bit about that will help inform how we develop the academic strategy in the future.

How would you describe your first month?

Very exciting. It's always great to be in a new place and learn about what's going on. But certainly there's a lot of stuff coming at me so trying to get some of that to stick and start figuring out how things fit with one another has been the challenge I think.

You were a student here. Did you have any impressions about



Ian Walmsley, Imperial's new Provost // Imperial College London

what the job would be like and have they changed? Have you been surprised by anything since you started working here?

I had had quite a number of research collaborations with colleagues, mainly in Physics, and also on other projects with senior leaders here so I had a sense of the place and the sort of dynamism and agility that it has, which I think was quite attractive. Learning about how that's working and how one might help improve that sort of thing has been the new sort of things that I'm beginning to see. In terms of surprises, only that it always looks more exciting than you think it's going to be but nothing that has made me think that I have at all made the wrong decision.

What inspired you to study Physics?

Certainly I found the idea of learning about the way the world is at its fundamental structure just fascinating so I got really fired up about it. I had some good teachers in school that, when I was thinking about what to do with that, pointed me to Imperial and I'm really glad they did because the idea of a university where you could study with world leading researchers, living in London, was absolutely the right thing for me to do. The course here, the people I worked with, the people I met, continued to drive that. I felt I had a really great start here and I'm really grateful for that.

Here at Imperial, Physics has unfortunately got quite a low student

satisfaction. Do you have any plans to tackle the low student satisfaction, particularly in Physics, but across other subjects?

It's really disappointing that we're in that circumstance and we absolutely have to fix it. I think there's no reason why every student here shouldn't really feel that they are getting not only a good education but are part of a thriving environment and community. I think that's the way we need to roll here. I met with the Head of Physics just this morning to learn about the plans that she is putting in place to really change the dial and engage with students to understand what it is that's missing, how they might fix it and I'm impressed that has happened rapidly and with intention to change

things. Simone, the Vice-Provost (Education) is also working with that group to understand how we share best practice across the College. Places that have done extremely well, like some of the Engineering departments, what are the things that they've been doing and how do we determine whether those will work in other places? That's now getting underway and it's absolutely the case that we need to get this right.

You say some of the plans are already getting underway, which specific plans are already in place?

Looking at ways to change the workload so you still get to learn the things you need to but in a way that gives a bit more time for thinking. Student-staff interaction- making sure

that the students and academics are part of the same community and that people know one another. Figuring out how to find study space for students and things of that kind. All of these I think are about building the student-academic interaction and making sure that what is being asked of the students is reasonable, without shirking on the expectation that they're going to have to work hard to do well.

"I think there's no reason why every student here shouldn't really feel that they are getting not only a good education but are part of a thriving environment and community."

What would you say is the single biggest problem that Imperial has and your biggest challenge in taking up the role? How do you see the future of Imperial and how you can help to shape that future?

I think the opportunity that Imperial has is as a world leading higher education institution that really is globally competitive. That's mentioned up there in the same breath as MIT and the places that are driving the forefront of research, coupled together with a cutting edge, really vibrant teaching and

learning environment and an education where the best students and best academics are learning side by side. That seems to me where we should be. We already have a really fantastic set of academics and some really great students so I think the core of that is there and our challenge is now how do we invest in that to really ensure that we are globally visible and globally competitive.

In terms of investing in that, what do you see as your input in shaping how Imperial becomes more spoken about on a global scale

Taking our academic strategy and vision and making that into a very clear narrative that we can use externally to show how Imperial is pushing the boundaries of knowledge and using that knowledge for the benefit of the world and providing people with opportunities to learn within that is a core thing. Drawing together that strategy and making it into a strong external vision. Also, figuring out how we implement that. We're not going to be able to do everything at once so how do we plan that out, prioritise and move along that trajectory? You'll be aware of the great opportunities around White City, around the Masterplan for this campus and all of the plans that the faculties have.

Last year there were the UCU strikes. What are your thoughts on the fallout from the strikes and what is the College doing to ensure that something like the strikes doesn't happen again?

Just as we talked about the student experience and the student community

needs to be a valued part of the institution, that's certainly true for the staff as well and the pensions are clearly a part of that. Of course I wasn't here when the discussion was going on earlier but what we're now going to take forward is we've got... a consultation from USS and UUK coming up. We're going to talk with academics about their response to the recommendations or the suggestions that have been made and how we respond to that consultation. I think it's a whole College conversation so that we can come up with a plan that is good for individuals and good for the College as a whole.

How is the university preparing for Brexit, what do you think will be the effect of a no-deal Brexit on Imperial?

Clearly Brexit is a major change coming up in the next year and it would be silly to think it won't have an impact on the College. I think a key issue, probably the leading issue, is how does it affect people. We've got a lot of European staff and students and we want to make sure that they consider themselves absolutely part of the community and valued. We will continue to work to make sure that happens. We're going to remain a globally facing institution. That's not going to change in intent. So all we're doing is navigating our way through when the new legislation comes down the line. In terms of other impacts, we do get a considerable amount of research income from the EU and it may be that that changes in some way. It's still up in the air entirely just what our relationship with the European Union will be. It's a little bit crazy but the signs from government have always been very positive that

research engagement is important for the UK. With a forward plan that's based on an industrial strategy, you just can't afford not to have world leading ideas generation and exploitation in this country. So I hope that we come to a position where we can continue to participate in the framework programs in some way.

Do you have any plans for Arts at Imperial?

This morning I was just meeting with Ollie at the Blyth centre and learning about what fantastic contribution that makes to College life. We talked a little bit about that aspect of what the Blyth Centre might be looking for in the future and may be looking to do. I cannot say I have plans yet but that part of the College, coupled with the location that we're in, this fantastic agglomeration of museums and colleges, has got to provide some really cool opportunities. The Dyson School of Design Engineering and that joint masters course between Imperial and the Royal College of Art is just a wonderful example of the kind of things we can do. There's joint programs with the Royal College of Music, Physics and Maths I think. That's great as well. The raw material we have is really fantastic and I'm sure there's something that can happen.

How do you spend your free time? Do you have any?

I like to cycle. I try to go out on weekends and ride around the countryside. My wife is the Director of Chapel music at Wadham in Oxford so I sing in her choir when I can.

Will Freedom of Speech on campus be protected?

Yes absolutely. It's crucial that people are able to speak their minds and we should do that in an environment of dignity and respect for that discourse.

the Equality Diversity and Inclusion strategy (EDI). For the last ten years there have been less than 5 black lecturers. In terms of speaking more broadly about EDI and also tackling this direct issue where there's not that much diversity in the senior lecturer position, what are yours and the College's plans?

I think you're absolutely right. If you look at our diversity profile in academics, not only in terms of race but also in terms of gender, there's clearly much work to be done. The strategy and its implementation I think are one way we get started on that but we do need to be very active in looking at ways to change that balance. Again, I don't have a detailed plan for you at this stage but we'll certainly do that in the context of world leading excellence in research and education- that will be the benchmark and we'll work within that framework and the EDI strategy to make sure that we increase representation from those groups

How do you spend your free time? Do you have any?

I like to cycle. I try to go out on weekends and ride around the countryside. My wife is the Director of Chapel music at Wadham in Oxford so I sing in her choir when I can.

Do you enjoy being an academic?

Yeah I do. I've really had a career that I've really enjoyed at every stage and the idea that you can think about the world and think about the way in which your ideas can impact it and work with great young students and

young people has just been fantastic. Wouldn't change it.

"If you look at our diversity profile in academics, not only in terms of race but also in terms of gender, there's clearly much work to be done"

What advice would you give to a student or someone just starting out in their career, in academia or a wider career?

Keep at it. Work hard, have confidence in yourself and just push along.

Which was your fav Love Island couple?

I have to say I did not catch Love Island so I can't really address that question. I have only very recently really briefly understood the concept of Love Island.

NEWS

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Union Clamps down on Lockpicking Workshop

NEWS

Andy Djaba
Editor-in-Chief

Imperial Left Forum saw their Lockpicking Workshop, which had 1.5K people "interested" in the Facebook event, cancelled by the Union

On Monday 22nd October, Imperial College Union cancelled Imperial Left Forum's Lockpicking Workshop amidst various concerns regarding the potential numbers that the event had attracted.

The event, which had initially been scheduled to take place on Tuesday 23rd October in Blackett 630, garnered a large amount of interest on social media, with up to 1.7K people "going or interested" in the Facebook event. Members of Left Forum described themselves as "amazed" by the "overwhelming response" to the workshop, which was a public event on Facebook. However their hopes of hosting their largest ever

event were dashed when the Union asked them to "indefinitely postpone" the event.

Imperial Left Forum, which launched three years ago and has faced opposition from the Union in the past, describes itself as "a broad and inclusive political society, with party affiliation, that discusses general politics in both national and international scopes." Amongst its various events, the society hosts talks and reading groups, holds screenings of political films, and has a "mighty" pub crawl, as well as "anything else" its members believe is a "good event for discussing left wing politics." Clearly, the members of Left Forum believed this Lockpicking workshop to be one such good event.

A spokesperson from Left Forum told *Felix*: "While we have been steadily growing over the past year, we've never had so many people interested in any one event. Entry to the event was completely free, we don't ask for any funding from our members and we don't get any from the Union either. We are all volunteers, putting in time and effort because we love what we're doing, we love being part of this society."

Members of Left Forum described themselves as "disheartened" to see that the Union had cancelled the event, especially at such short notice. The initial reasons provided for cancelling the event, which have been described as a "joke" by members of Left Forum, were that the Union deemed the event to be "incompatible" with the society's values. However, after members of Left Forum met with the Union, further reasons

emerged:

"It was too great a risk for the College and the Union, because someone might learn from us how to lockpick, then go ahead and get arrested for picking a lock and call us out for teaching them, and then newspapers like the *Daily Mail* might pick it up. We can't say it never crossed my mind that the Union wouldn't really like our event. The fact that we are a leftist society didn't

really do us any favours either", said the spokesperson from Left Forum.

Left Forum is accusing the Union of "bowing down to undue pressure".

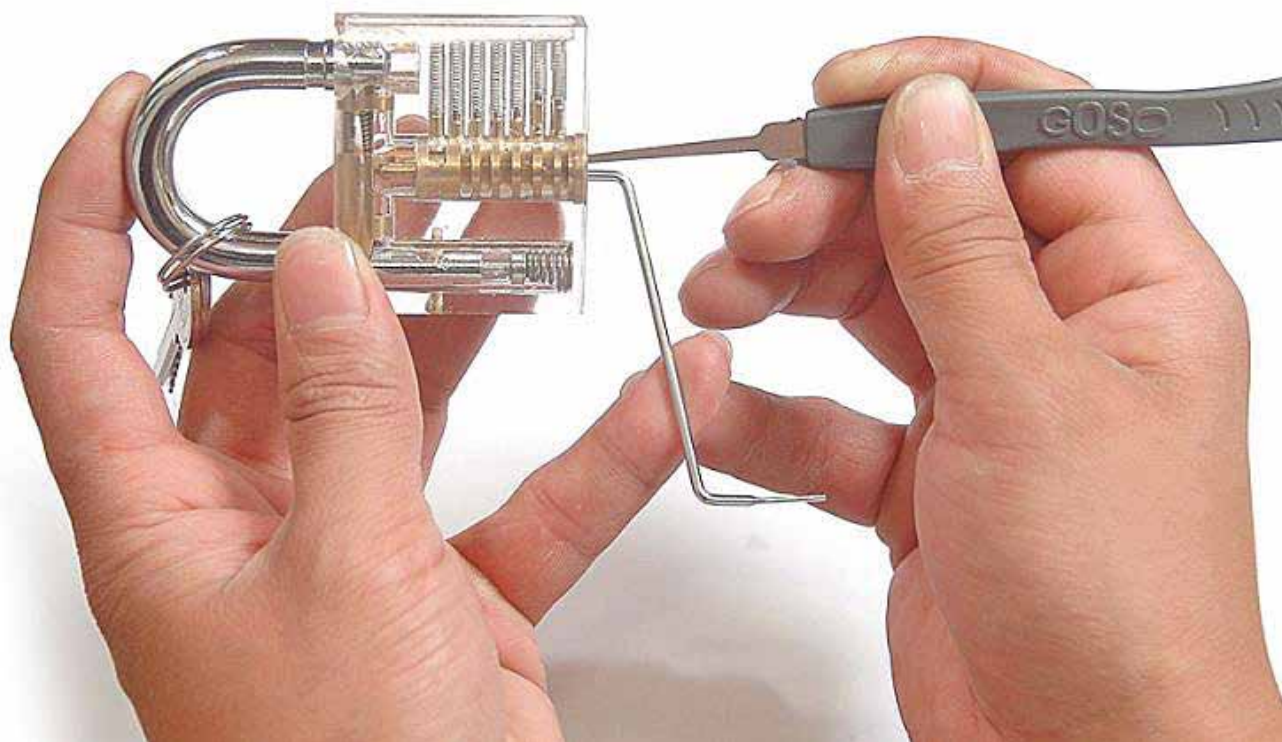
In a statement provided to *Felix*, members of Left Forum said:

"The event itself is completely legal, and much more detailed information than what we were going to teach is available online, like the famous MIT guide to lockpicking. Alas, the Union has decided to censor us, to curb the free flow of information that should - supposedly - exist within a university. We see a student organization that cares more about PR, tabloids, and shareholders than its own members, especially considering the response to the event".

Although the future of the event remains uncertain, the Union has assured Left Forum that they would eventually be allowed to run the event,

with various restrictions. Left Forum commented, "we're planning to run more security-related events, as we think it is of prime importance at this point in time. We'll also think very seriously about the future of this event. However, we feel obligated to report the Union's unjust behaviour to the student community".

"We see a student organisation that cares more about PR, tabloids and shareholders than its own members"



Imperial Left Forum's Lockpicking Workshop was sure to be a hit // *Odditymall*



Imperial Left Forum

Imperial Left Forum has faced problems from the Union in the past // *Imperial Left Forum*

POLITICS

felix@imperial.ac.uk



How to avoid a mess like Brexit: let's adopt a new voting system

The contradictions in our electoral traditions have only become stronger since the referendum. Here is a modest proposal that could help to solve the issue.

POLITICS

Divyen Vanniasegaram
Politics Editor

Since the Brexit referendum we've seen Brexit come to dominate British politics. It has been incredibly divisive and has created more problems than it has solved. It has sent both of the major political parties into turmoil. We need to ask ourselves how we got here and more importantly how can we avoid this kind of anarchy in future.

The fundamental problem of Brexit is that there is a clear disconnect between the Members of Parliament who are meant to represent us, and the will of the people. The vast majority of MPs are natural remainers and yet the public voted to leave the EU. This represents an obvious flaw in the system and David Cameron tried to fix this by way of a referendum. This evidently hasn't worked and one of the reasons why is because the UK system isn't geared towards referendums. Referendums introduce another mandate which can and will come into conflict with the mandate that MPs gain when they are elected to the Commons. This can be seen now as remainers in the Commons are being forced to enact something they see as fundamentally wrong and damaging to the country. This is a complete



Voting could become a more efficient process // Wikimedia

anathema under a Parliamentary system and will ultimately lead to an outcome that nobody will be particularly

“Brexit has been incredibly divisive and has created more problems than it has solved”

happy with. For this reason, it's best to avoid referendums and leave it to those who we elect to make decisions on our behalf which is precisely their job.

There must be another way to avoid this kind of problem arising in

the first place. The simplest solution would be to make sure there is a far better correlation between the views that are held by the general public and the views that are held within Parliament. This is obviously the best way for a democracy to function. However, under the current UK system this currently doesn't happen.

The system used at the moment is first past the post (FPTP) where the country is split into tiny constituencies and each constituency elects one person to represent them in Parliament. This has some benefits such as ensuring a local constituency link so that local problems can be raised and dealt with at a national level. The system also increases the chances of a single party gaining a majority

due to a landslide effect which in turn should allow for the formation of a strong and stable government, as Theresa May would say. The landslide effect means that the larger parties get a dividend for getting a higher percentage of the national vote. A simple thought experiment demonstrates this; if every constituency voted 51% for party A and 49% for party B then their national shares would be 51% and 49% respectively. However, party A would win 100% of the seats and B none. Whilst exaggerated this demonstrates the fundamental problem that parties that have a large share of the vote will win in a higher number of seats at a local level and this can be seen in the 2015 election where the SNP got just over 50% of the vote in Scotland and yet took 56/59 seats. This is

clearly entirely undemocratic and a poor way of running a country. It also means that minor parties such as the Lib Dems, the Greens and UKIP get far fewer seats than they deserve. Even if one doesn't agree with their politics they still deserve fair representation.

It is now time to reconsider voting reform. There are several models that would lead to far more satisfactory outcomes. One of these is the single transferrable vote (STV) system. This system works by electing multiple representatives to represent one area. On the ballot you list the candidates in your order of preference and then candidates that get above a set threshold (i.e. a fifth of the vote if 5 candidates are to be elected) and any additional votes are transferred to second preferences. If at any point no more candidates have crossed the threshold the candidate with the lowest vote share is removed and their votes are redistributed based on next preference.

This system has some key advantages. It will lead to a far more proportional representation of the popular vote and maintain the constituency link. Further, if you believe one of your MP is not doing a good job of representing your interests then there are other local MPs who should represent you. STV would be far better at dealing with an issue like Brexit which has caused internal

“Brexit has been an issue that has divided both parties for decades and it is time that we introduce a system that can cope with it!”

divisions within both parties. Parties are able to stand multiple candidates in one area under STV; therefore, they could stand a leaver and a remainer and leave it to the public to decide which candidate/opinion they prefer leading to a far better representation of people's views in Parliament.

Brexit has been an issue which has divided both parties for decades and it is time that we introduced a system that can cope with it. The public have a right to have their voices heard and referendums clearly don't work either. The time has come to abandon FPTP and to bring in STV as our voting system for general elections.

POLITICS

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Jamal, the Martyr

Something terrible happened in the Saudi consular office in Istanbul. The murder of Jamal Khashoggi reveals the dangers that journalists face everywhere.

POLITICS

Juan Ignacio Rubio

Politics Editor

In 1170, four English knights murdered the archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Beckett, following the orders of king Henry II. The assassination of Beckett had ramifications that reached continental Europe, and less than two years after his death he was declared a saint by the Church. Henry had to publicly repent, and the murderers were exiled to the Holy Land. The worship of St. Thomas of Canterbury grew strong among Christians, who saw him as the poor victim of a ruthless ruler. He became a symbol, a martyr of a bigger cause.

What does this have to do with Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi journalist born 788 years after the murder of Beckett? To understand the relationship, we have to explore the life of a man that had to endure throughout his life the tension of being a critical voice of the Saudi establishment while coming from an elite family himself. A life that was cut short in a dark room in Turkey on October 2nd.

Jamal Khashoggi's family was deeply linked to not only the Saudi royalty, but to the master classes of the whole Middle East. His uncle was the infamous arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi, and among his cousins one could count Dodi al-Fayed, the tragical companion of lady Diana Spencer. During his university years, he joined the Muslim Brotherhood,



A journalist that said too much.// Wikimedia

a political and religious group that defended a very rigorist interpretation of Sunni Islam. There he

"A talented journalist, he worked with the reformist media of the Saudi kingdom."

befriended Osama bin Laden, and defended him when the future Al Qaeda leader went to Afghanistan to fight alongside the Mujahedeen against the Soviet army.

Later, he moderated to more liberal positions. A talented journalist, he worked with the reformist media of the Saudi

kingdom, taking important editorial positions in diaries such as Al Watan, where he achieved the post of editor in chief. He was however under constant pressure, as the more conservative elements in the Saudi government were displeased by his criticism of the extreme religious policies of the state. Khashoggi was also critical of Saudi Arabia's action in the Yemen War, which has led to a famine that is threatening the lives of millions of people. He also opposed the attempts to isolate Qatar from other Muslim nations that the Saudi government enacted after the schism between the two countries in 2016, and advocated Saudi women's rights. Thus, he was increasingly becoming a thorn in the House of Saud's side, and one of the biggest foes of the power

behind the throne in the country, Crown Prince and Defence Minister Mohammad bin Salman. He became a bigger threat when his international profile started to rise as he was hired as columnist by the Washington Post.

He had become too dangerous and soon the trap was set. Khashoggi intended to marry a Turkish national, and in order to do so he had to obtain a set of documents from the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. It is not clear what happened once he stepped into the building. We know he was killed, because the Saudi state has admitted it after two weeks of waffling. It is strongly suspected that he was murdered in an extremely macabre way, involving tortures and dismemberment with a bone saw while he was alive. He was to become

a warning to other dissidents, a reminder of the fate faced by those who don't toe the line of the state.

But the action backfired. Ironically, by removing one of the voices that denounced the corruption and crimes of the Saudi government, the perpetrators have attracted the attention of the mainstream Western media, that had till then not given much attention to the foreign policies of the kingdom. Khashoggi has become the face of Saudi oppression, of the massacres in Yemen, of the plight that the female Saudis have to endure every day.

European governments have started taking action, with Germany leading the way to stop the trading of weapons to the country. The involvement of elements of the Saudi state has become more and more clear, as the suspects of carrying out the assassination have been identified as members of Bin Salman's closest circle. The evidence was still denied by Saudi Arabia, which argued for two weeks that Khashoggi had disappeared after leaving the consulate. They had the support of Donald Trump, who has never hidden his disdain for the free press and his cosiness to the House of Saud. But not even the backing of the American government was enough to hide the truth. Saudi Arabia admitted that Khashoggi died, though according to their version of the story it was following a brawl between him and the Saudi consul. The latest line of defence is blaming the crime on the

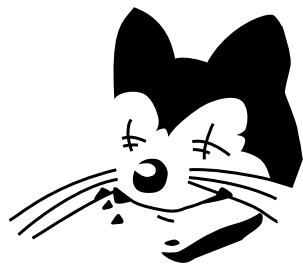
"It is strongly suspected that he was killed in an extremely macabre way, involving torture and dissection with a bone saw while he was still alive."

Saudi legation, insisting that the Saudi government had nothing to do with the murder.

Is Jamal Khashoggi a modern day Thomas Beckett? The killing of Beckett caused such an outrage that it forced the king of England to issue a public apology. It provoked universal condemnation in medieval Europe, and the kingdom was in risk of complete isolation for a time. Centuries have happened since then, centuries that have seen massive advances in human rights and the rule of law. While our governments comply with the march of progress? Or instead, will they ignore the matter in the long term, proving that they have lower standards than the feudal monarchies of Europe. Time will tell. Until then, we aspiring journalists can only mourn the life and work of a man that stood against powers that wanting him gone, and achieved so in the most gruesome fashion. *Assalaamu 'alaykum warahmatullah.*

COMMENT

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Should the Monarchy be Abolished?

Farhat Eamon argues that the monarchy should be abolished as a relic of a past that we should be ashamed of.

COMMENT

Farhat Eamon*Comment Writer*

What do Ellie Goulding, Ricky Martin and the Queen have in common? Other than the fact that they all used to be much more relevant 3 years, 20 years and 800 years ago respectively, they also all took part in the royal wedding celebrations over the weekend. Very much overshadowed by the spectacle of a ginger man actually finding a wife earlier this year, this royal wedding was between Princess Eugenie and a rich white man. Whenever an event like this happens, the age old question about the legitimises and appropriateness of a monarchy in modern Britain arises.

The opulence of the royal family in an austerity induced poverty stricken Britain is reason enough to abolish this institution entirely. Even without looking into the nitty gritty of costs versus benefit of having a royal family, this symbol of elitism has no place in modern Britain. Institutions, such as universities, are trying hard to combat elitism and increase social mobility. A rich family who have found themselves at the apex of British society due to circumstance alone will not help in inspiring.

One of the ways Imperial tries to encourage students from all backgrounds to apply is



The crown is a traditional symbol of royalty // Wikimedia

by running open days. As a prospective student enters the glass castle that is the Business School, the first thing they will come across is a statue of Queen Victoria looking down at them. This monarch had a role in the creation of Imperial College, placing the foundation stone for in 1888 and going on to open the building in 1893. She lay the foundations for one of the greatest scientific institutions in the world, but also during her lifetime she lay the foundation for

something much more destructive: racism. The British policy of colonialism and imperialism reached its peak under her reign and can be attributed to much of the racism, xenophobia as well as the plethora of wars and problems which we have faced in the last century as well as ones happening today.

When it comes to racism, it may seem far fetched to link it back to events which happened 150 years ago, however it is clear that the seeds of racism were sown a long time ago and the

harvest is still plentiful. As Britain went around the world and oppressed the local people, its actions created the image of the strong and powerful white man. Additionally, it became clear that to justify this oppression, the idea that these local people were inferior had to be solidified in not only the minds of the people being colonized, but also in the minds of the British public at home. As Britain pillaged much of Asia and Africa of its resources and created this racial hierarchy, the

royals grew richer and more powerful. Queen Victoria went on to be named Empress of India in 1876 despite never visiting the country and such irony is but a short summary of much of what colonialism went on to become. A white European, ruling with little to no knowledge or regard to what the local people wanted, and the royals were at the centre and embodiment of this. Imperial College is a very international university with students from across the world. But as Queen Victoria

stands in the Business School, watching every student scurry by, she sees many of us not as international students but as colonial students. Having a lady who contributed to horrors in the home countries of many of the students here standing so proudly is bound to send a few shivers down a few spines and for this very reason, British colonial history and the crowns part in it must be addressed.

While many see Meghan Markle as a symbol for change in the British monarchy, bringing in a little of racial diversity. Is it not too little too late? Can this new African-Amer-

“The horrors enacted in Queen Victoria’s name must send shivers down international students spines.”

ican royal change the deeply rooted racism which sits in many? Or is abolishing the monarchy and confronting its colonial past the only way in truly tearing down the entire idea of racism?

COMMENT

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Trust your Trustees?

Our Union loves touting its democratic credentials, but how much of what goes on do we really know about?

COMMENT

Abhijay Sood
Comment Writer

One month, and one more record-breaking election, has already passed here at Imperial. Last week, new student reps were elected in every department, and though turnout figures are certainly worth celebrating, today I want to talk about what comes next.

Every day decisions are made in our name that we never really hear about: at College and departmental meetings, by Union Council (made up of elected student reps), and by the Union's Board of Trustees (a handful of students and externally appointed 'laypeople', and our sabbatical officers). Even when items are technically public, there's a limit to the amount of digging its reasonable to expect full time students to be doing in their off-hours, and mass emails are far from perfect (does anyone read them?).

Last year I was elected to Trustee Board on a platform of transparency, and with that in mind I will be writing articles periodically to let any interested students know what's going on in the Union and more generally at the university. I won't pretend to be impartial, but I will try to explain things with which I disagree in good faith. I'd encourage you to at least skim these pieces; there will almost certainly be at least one or two things in here that matter to you, and it's difficult to



Where the union's power lies // Imperial College Assets

do anything about them without being informed.

Course content in every department is being reviewed

I've mentioned this before, but its probably the single most important thing happening on campus this year. Departments have until March to finalise their proposals on changes to their curricula, and though your academic reps should already be aware of and involved in this process, it wouldn't hurt to nudge them if you have any concerns. Search

for "Imperial College Representatives" if you don't know who they are.

Room bookings

This has been the cause of a lot of frustration for many societies so far this year. Consternation at the slow pace of change here is understandable, given that this isn't the first time there have been issues around room bookings. I've been told that part of the problem this year has been that clubs' annual bookings took so long to validate that start of term ad hoc bookings were disrupted. Conversations

are currently taking place around automating the former to leave more time for the latter. Hopefully, this approach and the Deputy President (Clubs and Societies)'s focus on "improving processes" will help ameliorate this issue, and I intend to keep raising it until there is a real solution.

Squash Courts/Ethos

A paper was brought to the last Council meeting discussing pricing at the Ethos squash courts relative to other venues. Naturally, the debate touched on the wider issue

of the Ethos price hike where (lest we forget) the university broke its word to all returning students and increased the charge from a one off £40 to £30/year. This would be a great rate for consumers, but we aren't consumers, we're students. Imperial as a whole, runs a significant surplus (£119m in 2016-17), orders of magnitude greater than its projected gains on this price hike. It is also worth noting that direct student contributions still

"Providing fairly priced services for students may involve a different way of allocating the budget"

constitute a relatively small proportion of the Ethos budget, begging the question – why increase these rates at all?

Considering this, one of the most important points raised at Council challenged the idea that in order to fund (for example) cheaper squash courts, Sport Imperial would have to take money from one of their other offerings. These budgets aren't zero sum games, each service doesn't exist in a vacuum. Providing fairly priced, comprehensive services for students may involve reaching beyond preordained de-

marcations in the budget and questioning the underlying assumptions College uses to decide where its money goes.

Pay rises for student bar staff

Last year, the bar staff organised a petition for pay to be increased to the London Living Wage, in line with other major London universities (notably UCL, KCL, LSE). This petition garnered over 900 signatures, though at the time the Union and the then Deputy President (Finance and Services) rejected the move to a Living Wage. Their rejoinder was that money could be better spent elsewhere and price rises should be avoided, though it should be noted prices did end up rising anyway.

This year, agitation around pay increases has restarted, citing the taxing nature of the work - particularly in conjunction with full time study, the pay at other student bars, and potential alternative sources of funding (i.e. without raising prices in the bar). Thus far, the outcomes of this remain to be seen.

Postgraduate (PG) Representation

Physics PG Rep and Natural Sciences PG Rep to Council Lloyd James has been working on the issue of PG engagement and representation at Imperial. His proposal consists of steps that would give PG students the opportunity to participate more actively

COMMENT

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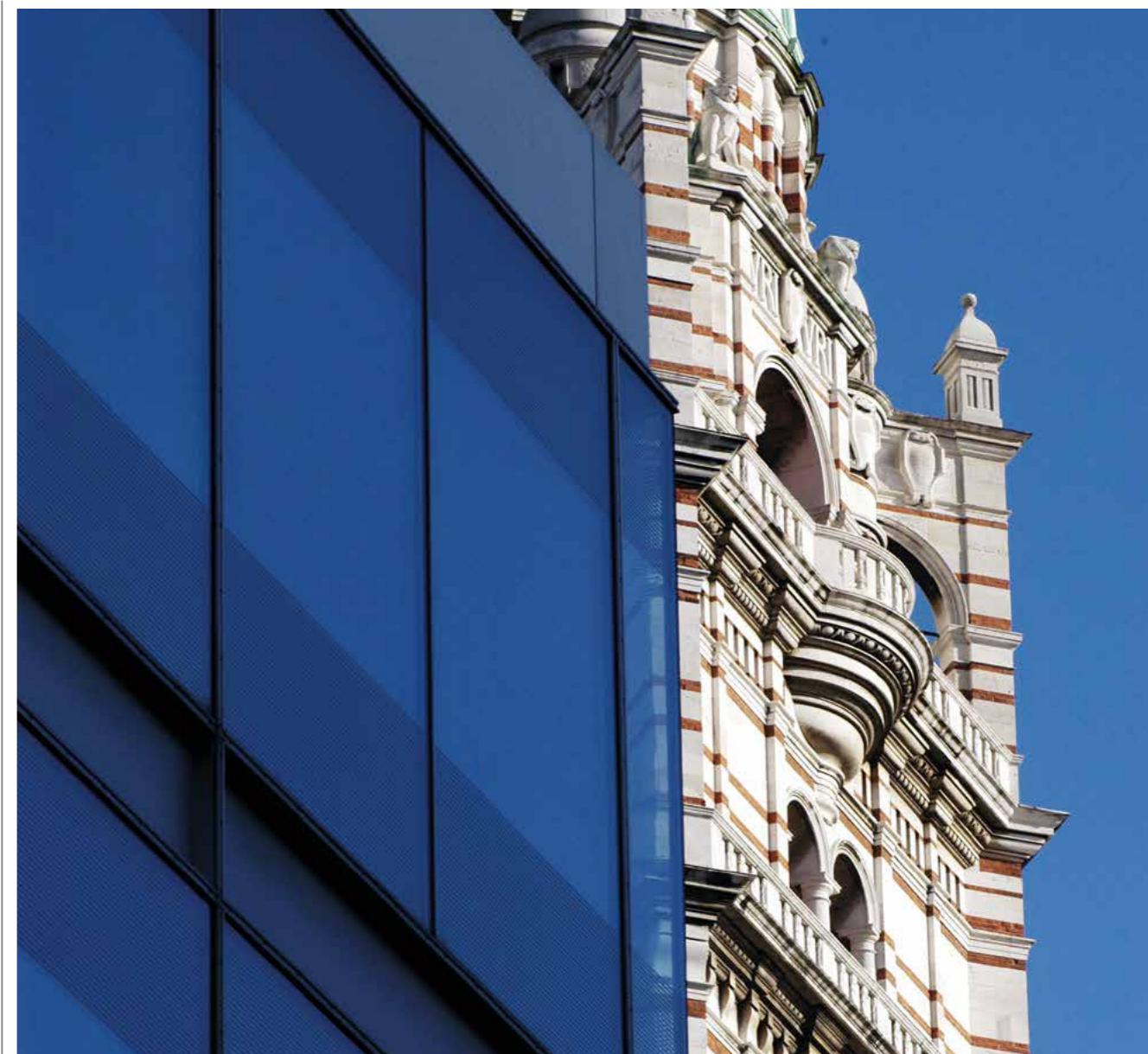
in the relevant Constituent Unions (CGCU, ICSMSU, RCSU, RSMU) which currently solely cater to undergraduate students. This would not affect their membership of the GSU. A discussion on this matter will take place at the next Union Council meeting November 13th, 6.30 in RSM G.01. These meetings are public, so feel free to attend.

Graduation Speech.

Union President Rob Tomkies was prevented from giving his own speech at the graduation ceremony this year and was instead compelled to deliver the same prepared remarks as in every prior year since 1949. While there's nothing necessarily wrong with tradition, the existing address' appeals to monarchism, imperialism and nationalism (in both Latin and English) miss the mark for a cosmopolitan university in the 21st century. Rob is currently working with College to ensure future speeches of this kind better reflect our values.

Penalties for Sexual Misconduct

Daniel Wigh, Chair of the 'Knowledge Sector' (which handles admin for the set of clubs focussed on careers, debate and education, such as FinanceSoc and Debate) successfully passed a paper at Council toughening punishment for those found guilty of sexual misconduct. Going forward, in addition to other sanctions, these individuals would be prevented from holding any elected office in the Union (i.e. as a rep or on any society committee). Given issues in this area in the past, this is a highly commendable step. As was said in the meeting, any student should be



Where the real power lies // Imperial College Assets

able to take for granted that their fellow students in positions of power haven't acted abusively.

Stocking of Tabloids in the Union Shop

Ansh Bhatnagar, Undergraduate Rep to Council from Natural Sciences, proposed a paper mandating the Union to cease its stocking and selling of the Daily Express, Daily Mail and the Sun, due to their explicitly racist content. This led to an impassioned debate on free speech vs. what we're comfortable promoting, with a compromise that these papers will remain in stock but any proceeds from their sale will be directed to anti-racist campaign groups,

and the Union will take a more active stance in raising complaints against inflammatory articles.

Divest Imperial.

Twice in as many weeks, students from Divest Imperial, the campaign pushing College to withdraw its investments from Fossil Fuels, have been displaced by Campus Security for handing out fliers and holding up placards near where events with government and fossil fuel companies are being held on campus. Given that their protests in these cases were not disruptive, and that we have a mandate to protect free speech, I will be working to lessen this kind of

undue interference, and hope and expect for Union backing to this end.

Left Forum Event

A "Lockpicking Workshop" event organised by the Imperial Left Forum was this week indefinitely postponed by the Union. The organisers were told this was because the content of the event did not match up well to the aims and objectives of the society, while at a Trustee Board meeting the sabbatical officers also cited the large number of responses on the Facebook event (1.6K going or interested) as a concern, as well as the large numbers of non-students responding to the event and the lack of an event budget (though I'm

viewing marking criteria. The full documents are available on the Union website.

Summer Ball

Given concerns around space and student numbers, it is possible there will be a search for an alternative (off-campus) venue for the 2020 Summer Ball.

This is far from a comprehensive list, and some key issues such as the fight for a common room for Life Scientists and the Counselling Service will appear in future articles. Nonetheless, I hope this has been a useful window into goings-on in the Union. If there's anything you want further clarification on, or anything you

"Societies should be able to host events without interference if they're not violating any rules"

would like me to raise, please get in touch at: abhijay.sood15@imperial.ac.uk

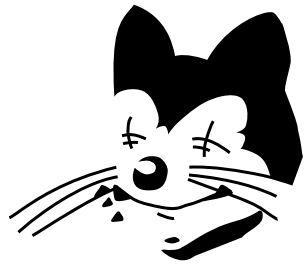
not sure one was necessary in this case). My own view is that, once any practical considerations around e.g. numbers are resolved, the event should go ahead. Our societies should be able to host their own events without interference if they aren't violating any rules around (for example) inclusivity or financial responsibility.

NSS/PTES Response

Responses to the National Student Survey and Postgraduate-Taught Experience Survey were produced (in record time) by this year's Deputy President (Education) Alex Luy. The responses include recommendations on training for weaker members of staff and re-

COMMENT

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Is feminism still relevant?

An anonymous student argues that feminism is more relevant than ever.

COMMENT

Anonymous
Comment Writer

At this point, you're probably tired of hearing, seeing, listening to and arguing about feminism. I'm not too big of a fan of the word either so please don't go ballistic just yet. Read on, try to keep an open mind, which I know is crazy hard, but how 'bout we try for just one sec?

Things are better for women now. I mean, of course they are, any woman can walk to the bank and open an account, any woman can walk up to a university's admissions and apply... I could go on and on. However, I'd first like to make sure we're all on the same page: I'm talking from limited experience as a white woman in Western Europe. I don't pretend to know about anyone else in any other position. This doesn't make what I have to say any less relevant, but it makes it my own: I just have a thought to share.

We keep letting anger get in the way of these important discussions, too concerned about how we get personally offended by what people have to say instead of remembering we all have opinions, right or wrong as we may consider them to be. It's tiring to want to explain something to someone and having to yell to make yourself heard, it's tiring to focus on the bad and forget the good, and it's tiring to focus on the good and

remember the bad.

I'm writing this down because I knew if I tried saying this out loud, I would probably let myself get angry and completely ruin my point. This way, I know where I'm headed.

I'm going to tell you a true story. This summer, my sixteen-year-old brother told me with disappointment, and some sadness too, that he didn't understand the women's rights movement. He told me he felt a bit disheartened that it was all about equal rights but not equal responsibilities. He said he had a hard time understanding the movement when every time he looked at the truth, he was faced with hatred for being a man or the veil of politically correct limitations that has come to surround most big social challenges. I was sad to hear him say that, but also proud to see that he had been able to, calmly and rationally, give voice to the opinions a lot of people, women included, hold.

He was factual, he was calm, he was also open-minded. When I told him he was mostly thinking of what people like to refer to as 'femi-nazis', he kind of agreed. I told him the 'real', 'original' feminists wanted to have opportunities and choices just like guys did. I told him I was a feminist, and to me that meant being allowed to go out at night without being scared, sitting wherever I want on the bus without being subjected to lecherous stares, walking into any university (humanities



One of the enduring symbols of feminis, Rosie the Riveter// Flickr

and science alike) and seeing fifty-fifty ratios. It also means looking at the top earners and seeing as many girls as dudes and not having to choose between career and kids. Men never have to, they never even consider that possibility! I have nothing against men, particularly shirtless ones. Oh wait... How does that feel? But... I'm not here to hate. I really want to make a fair, rational point, and if anger is part of what sparked this piece, it has no place in its realization. I was recently in one of the most frustrating, anger-inducing, disappointing, saddening arguments I have ever been in. I was told by privileged white young men that inequality between men and women didn't exist anymore. I'm going to let that sink in. Sunk in? They said that. Now, I think they meant they didn't understand shit about women's minds and position in the world.

I'm not here to hate or blame them. I'm here to say that it's sad that conversation happened. You see, they told me, amongst other things, that women made the choice by themselves to put family before career because it ultimately made them happier, that it was 'natural' and 'biological' for women to be closer and more involved with their kids than men, and that it was OK for women only to make the choice between children and career. They told me the feminist discourse of equal rights and opportunities was backwards, overturned, antiquated. I'm going to give you a moment to let that sink in too.

I'll admit that sexism is no longer an issue of men against women per se, and truth be told I think equal rights do - theoretically - exist. Sexism is a matter of society now, of preconceived ideas that we, young men and women, impose on ourselves for some reason. I said

that. Those two replied with something similar to, "society? That's just bullshit excuses to fuel bullshit causes." Ain't that bullshit? It's like an old Dove advert that my friend pointed out: kids of both genders were asked to run like a girl: the eight-year-olds all ran the same, and fourteen-year olds ran like constipated dodos.

I swear to you all those guys assured me it was true girls ran weird. I don't know if they thought that maybe I just wanted to run their faces through a wall at that point? Wait. I promised no hate. Much less violence.

This actually brings me to my last point: biology. So yes, there is a biological factor to the whole male-female dynamic. This is Imperial, and while we love making fun of our bio friends, we do recognise their existence. Guys buffing up at ethos, girls dieting, guys dieting, girls buffing up at ethos, we do it all

to be more attractive. That's true: we biologically want to reproduce. Our generation likes referring to it as 'being horny,' but we're smart, evolved creatures too, who can control primal biological needs with this mysterious thing called reason (also referred to as common sense, education or normalcy). I was angry, it didn't mean I punched anyone, I was sad and disappointed, it didn't mean I cried or shouted. The same way that just because you like someone you don't have sex in the middle of the freaking hallway. The same way that just because you 'think' it is manlier to be the provider doesn't mean you're emasculated by having a successful wife! I mean, watch the Intern! Anything wrong with a stay at home dad?

Let's speak the truth, boys and girls, we're all at fault here! We don't have to be sheep. But I mean feel free to wrap yourself in curly white wool and move to a field of grass and do what all the others do. Well... What the fuck. We can do better. It's not even about rights, responsibilities, choices, freedoms, whatever. It's about respect. For yourself, for others, those who are like and unlike you, those who came before and fought for change, those who come now and fight for change, those who will come to fight for change. Because things are never fine, they never will be. But that doesn't mean we stop making them better, and a little less bad.

COMMENT

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It's time for students at Imperial to have real opinions

It's ridiculous that at such a politically volatile time Imperial students are happy to just sit there with their curly fries. The time for change is now.

COMMENT

Andrew Melville

Comment Writer

Last week, Loughborough University announced they would be launching an investigation into two of its students, resulting in the immediate suspension of one. This was the University's response to what it referred to as a "racist and misogynistic" post on the "Loughborough Towersposting" Facebook group, a student run meme page. The offensive picture was posted to the "Discussion" section of the meme page by one of the students, an area where the posts are not vetted by the admins. The student that made the post was suspended, and the other student was an admin for the page. Should both receive the same punishment? Perhaps not, but the incident sets a scary precedent for how Universities should deal with student Facebook groups made in their name.

Memeperial, Imperial's own meme page, has around 10,000 likes at time of writing. College is obviously aware of the page, as they have "borrowed" content from them on multiple occasions. However, no action has ever been taken against the admins of the group, nor has any contact been made between the admins of the page and College staff, despite some posts erring on the edgy side. Similar to Loughborough Towersposting, Memeperial also has a



Loughborough Meme Page's current profile picture // Loughborough Uni Memes

visitor posts section. Crucially, posts in this section do not require admin approval to be shared on the page, and

"The admin should not be held accountable for what the user publicly posted"

so the same issue could occur here. That the admin for the page is being held accountable for what a user has submitted is ridiculous, but universities should have some influence in what is posted using their name and image. That the influence should extend to suspension of

students is awful.

I can understand taking action against a student who intentionally posts content that can bring the college into disrepute. The college has a reputation to uphold and donations from alumni and associations with companies to protect. But what if a graduate posts damaging or offensive content? How about a student of another university? Without the option of suspension, would these institutions opt for a legal route to punish such pages? The latter example is not just a thought experiment: Anglia Ruskin Memes (a page about Anglia Ruskin University of all things) is run by Cambridge Uni students. Who is supposed to punish them if they post unsavoury content? Would Cambridge University take action and

suspend the students? Would Anglia Ruskin take legal action?

While University should be a place where students are able to express themselves freely, an important part of being a student is being treated as a professional: this is where your career begins. Student activity can and does affect the bottom line of universities, either through donations from alumni or affecting admissions. That pages expect freedom to publish anything they want while using their University's crest badly photoshopped to include Pepe the Frog is unreasonable. But freedom to criticise the uni you pay so much to attend is equally a vital part of the student experience, as shown by the wealth of media run by and presented to students in almost every university

in the country.

Indeed, the content on many of these pages is of a similar nature to that published by student newspapers, operating outside the influence of the faculty. Often critical of their university, or faculties thereof, they are mostly free to post and publish whatever they want. Yet these pages don't benefit from the protections and rights extended to them by the unions that fund these institutions. Perhaps unions adopting their related pages would solve this issue, providing protection for the admins of the pages, while adding some necessary checks on what is and isn't posted in the universities name.

The actions taken by Loughborough University have resulted in student pages being shut down, and this a trend that we're beginning to see in universities across the country. That a large part of the community and modern student experience has been taken

"Pages need to find a way to stay afloat while monitoring the content posted"

away is such a shame. With student newspapers and student unions seemingly unwilling or unable to fill this niche, meme pages are able to tap into an undercurrent of the student experience that adds a new dimension to university life. Perhaps that is why Imperial is so willing to allow Memeperial to continue posting its shite, as long as it does nothing to damage their bottom line. Whether it is adoption by the union, or some other solution, these pages need to find a way to stay afloat, while monitoring the content posted.

Y'all n[redacted] think girls dont care bout how we lookin'? N[redacted] I wear this outfit everyday and got hoes on my dick 24/7 🍆🍆



The offending meme // Loughborough Uni Memes

COMMENT

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COMMENT

Henry Eshbaugh

Music Editor

The midterms are nearly upon us, and this is no fun for anybody. And before you get excited about a possible radical change in the US federal government, take a dose of reality, bud. Shit slides slowly. But, with luck, shit will slide the right way.

Quick refresher for those of you not knowledgeable about the US civic process: the legisla-

Revelling in the chaos of American politics

There's a lot up in the air right now. This is a brief survey - I'll be back next week with much more detail. The one thing I know is when I come to power Trump's first against the wall.

ture is a bicameral system, featuring the House (one representative per district, by population) and the Senate (two senators per state; this is the senior house). Senators are elected to six-year terms; representatives are elected to two-year terms. Hence, in these elections, 35 Senate seats and all House seats are up for grabs.

Unfortunately, the election cycle is not conducive to giving Trump the complete BTFO'ing he so desperately deserves. 23 Senate seats held by Dems are not up for reelection - compared to 42 on the GOP side. This is problematic - while the Dems are expected to pick up a seat or two in the

Senate, it's not looking so good for a majority.

The good news is that FiveThirtyEight (the most accurate and reputable election forecast besides the surprisingly spot-on proclamations of the infamous Carl "The Dig" Diggler, a creation of satirists Felix Biederman and Virgil Texas) ... ok, sorry for the long parenthetical - FiveThirtyEight predicts about a 6 in 7 (85%) chance of Democrats taking a majority in the House. Sorry for the run-on, Charlie, I'm tired.

This is good news because this will be sufficient to produce two years of legislative deadlock. The unfortunate game of obstructionism must

be played - Trump wants to bring back asbestos, forfuckssake. His administration is a trainwreck, obviously. He must be rendered impotent as quickly as possible; a Democratic house will yield this result.

Moreover, the House and Senate intelligence committees are currently controlled by Republicans, who so far have been primarily interested in covering Trump's ass, rather than do any kind of serious oversight. In particular, Devin Nunes is a bastard who should be taken to the wall and shot for his abandonment of bipartisanship (he and ranking Democrat Adam Schiff had previously

enjoyed a good working relationship).

This means that previous GOP obstruction of executive oversight, and, say, releasing details about the Mueller probe, will be counteracted. This, in turn, will help build momentum for the 2020 race.

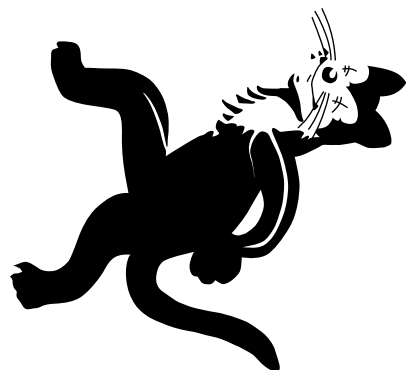
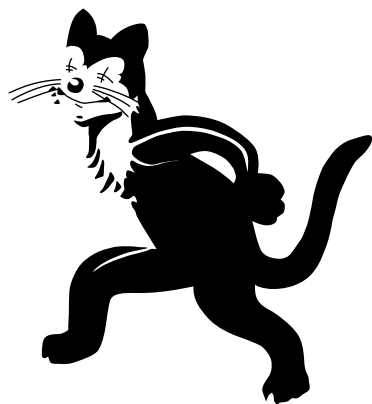
Speaking of the 2020 race, candidates are angling for their runs now, though nobody will announce until next year. There are tells, though - and it looks like Sanders will run again. This time through, he'll curb-stomp the establishment Dems (many are running, and they'll split the field like the GOP did in 2016).

And the orange take

on all this? Trump's producing some hilariously spicy rhetoric because he's shitting himself about the midterms. Have y'all seen that stuff about the Caravan? Watch out, there might be *Middle Easterners* in it. It's definitely not just Hondurans who hope for better living conditions and shelter amidst the growing threat of fascism in South America (see Brazil).

It's typical Trumpian rhetoric, and can obviously be waved off as hyperbolic racism. I hope he's panicking right now. Come to think of it, he should be taken out and shot, too.

Want to be on the *Felix* team this year?



***Felix* is recruiting new section editors and copy editors for this year!**

If you've enjoyed reading the paper, and want to help create it each week, apply to join the team! All training is provided, as well as weekly cake, so come and join us!

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SCIENCE

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Pick and Choose

While all-you-can-eat buffets always sound like a great idea, our bad choices can quickly turn them into much-more-than-you-can-eat sources of stomach aches and guilt. How do we choose between a juicy burger and mouth-watering lasagne? How do we figure out how much of this tempting apple pie is enough?

SCIENCE

Paula Rowińska

Science Writer

Neuroscientists from Johns Hopkins University studied how our brains help us make spontaneous food choices at buffets, in restaurants or in front of our own fridge. The research on rats helped them identify a brain region that could be responsible for our food decisions, according to the paper in Nature Communications.

Researchers offered the rats two types of sugary drinks: one sweetened with sucrose and one with maltodextrin. Rodents got much more excited when given the first option: they licked it faster. People react similarly to delicious food, “the dish that’s the favourite will likely be eaten faster and with bigger bites”, says David Ottenheimer, the lead author of the paper.

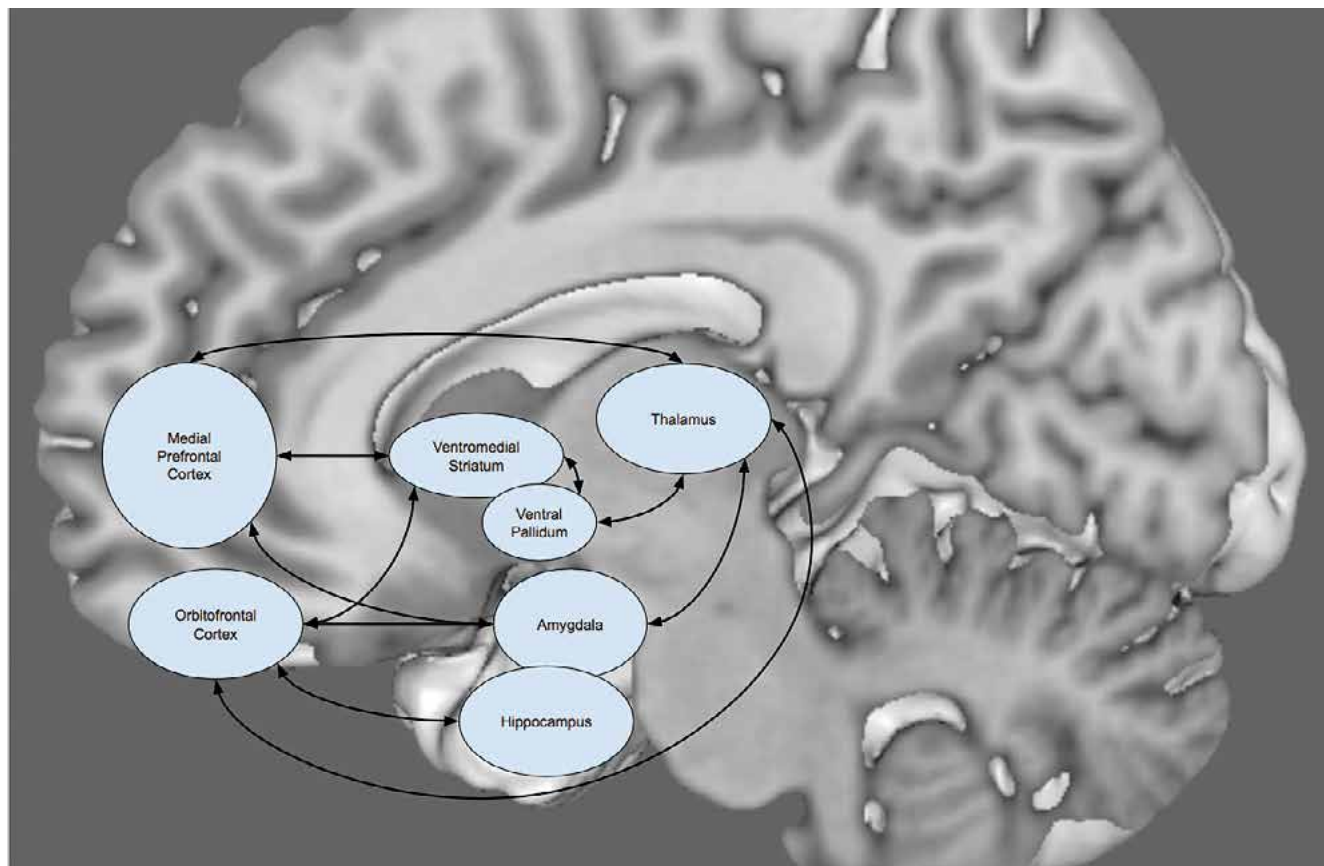
For a few days the team from Johns Hopkins University gave the rats one of the two sweet drinks. Researchers monitored their brain activity to

understand which neurons get activated when rats realised which treat they received. They registered increased activity in the ventral pallidum, one of the pleasure centres of the brain, whenever rodents got excited about sucrose and disappointed about maltodextrin.

In the second part of the study the rats were offered either the previously less-desirable

“They registered increased activity in the ventral pallidum... whenever rodents got excited.”

maltodextrin drink or just plain water. This time the activity in the ventral pallidum when animals received the sweetened drink resembled their reaction to sucrose drink in the first part of the study.



Just remember: when you eat too many sweets this Halloween, it's all the ventral pallidum's fault... // Wikimedia

The researchers concluded that food choices are likely to depend on the context: rats picked the best option available.

Neuroscientists still do not fully understand the purpose of such ventral pallidum's activity. According to one hypothesis, it is supposed to reinforce our current food choices.

“Food choices are likely to depend on the context: rats picked the best option available.”

Alternatively, it could encourage us to pick one type of food over another in the future.

“Our data suggest that further investigation of ventral pallidum will be critical for understanding how we make decisions about eating,” claims Ottenheimer. “If we want to figure out why a food can

be exciting in one scenario and disappointing in another, ventral pallidum could be the key.”

This study could be the first step to new treatments encouraging healthy eating. For now, if you eat a bit too much at the upcoming Halloween party, you can blame your ventral pallidum.

I, SCIENCE

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Hi! We're Jacqueline and Aoife, the current Editors-in-Chief of I, Science. Never heard of it? Well...

I, Science is an exclusively student run science publication made right here at Imperial. We're on Radio, TV, Online and In-print. We've covered everything from artificial intelligence to “female viagra” to what exactly death looks like. Needless to say we're prepared to tackle anything and all things Science.

That's why we need you!! For our very first issue of this academic year we've chosen to focus our theme on that planet we all know and love: Earth.

We are looking for a whole bunch of pitches (200 words max) on any stories you'd like to write for us within the theme for our online and news features. The more meta the beta.

If this isn't the issue for you, there are plenty opportunities available throughout the year to get involved with each of our platforms. Anything you'd like to be involved in? Drop us an email at iscience@imperial.ac.uk

TECH

tecfelix@imperial.ac.uk

Free this weekend? Go to MozFest!

Mozilla, of Firefox fame, is hosting their annual Mozilla Festival for the Open Internet movement.

TECH

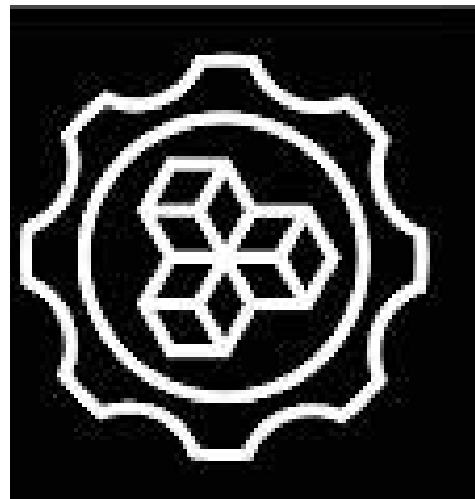
Artur Donaldson
Tech Writer

This weekend will mark the biggest party on the World Wide Web not on the World Wide Web – Mozilla Festival or “MozFest”.

“This weekend will mark the biggest party on the World Wide Web not on the World Wide Web - Mozilla Festival, or ‘Mozfest’”

Organized by Mozilla, the creators of that web browser with the fire-tailed fox as its logo, Mozilla Festival is a festival like no other.

Mozilla Festival will be split into six zones – Decentralization, Digital Inclusion, Openness, Privacy and Security, Web Literacy, and the Youth Zone. These are physical spaces (each occupies an entire floor of the building) embodying some of the most innovative and radical ideas and



Mozfest - the event that people from all walks of life can go to // Mozilla Festival

movements in cyberspace.

“For those for whom loving the internet equates to endless hours of Overwatch, there will also be throughout the event a large-scale dynamic game: Tracked”

Each zone invites you to explore the theme through workshops, discussions, art, and mini-hackathons. For a taste, the titles range from “Lab CoC: Why we need codes of Conduct and

how to get them into every research laboratory” to “BRRRAAaaaaiiiiNNN-NZZZZZ!!!!” (the latter one encouraging you to become a neuroscientist and not a zombie). For those for whom loving the Internet equates to endless hours of Overwatch, there will also be throughout the event a large-scale, dynamic game called “Tracked”.

Alongside this will be talks by leading figures from the open source movement including a talk on Saturday by the founder of the World Wide Web, Tim Berners-Lee, about what he has been doing since then.

If this isn’t enough, the tickets are only £45 for the entire weekend, with over 300 talks, unlimited hot drinks, entry to a party on Saturday night, and breakfast on Sunday where you will get a chance to talk with some of the other hackers, technologists

and journalists eager to improve the web.

“When I attended last year the only regret I had was that ... I can’t have a digital clone to attend the other events happening simultaneously”

With the increasingly tangible influence of the internet on the offline world, from its part in the election of Donald Trump to blockchain technology and the sudden explosion of internet-connected

devices in the developing world, there has never been a time when the freedom and openness of the World Wide Web has been more pertinent. As well as being a celebration of the World Wide Web, MozFest is an exploration and reaction to the potential harm that it can have. Last year, the first festival after the 2016 US presidential elections, talks included “What happened to the internet?” and “Debunking Fake News and Fake Science”. This year will almost certainly focus heavily on the effects of the Cambridge Analytica case with a panel discussion, “Who Controls the Internet?”, on Sunday and workshops on how to use Facebook without compromising your privacy.

The Internet is part of everyone’s lives and equally Mozilla Festival is open to and attended by people from all walks of

life. In 2017, the director of Wikimedia asked for a show of hands from the audience to see how they identified themselves – as a technologist, journalist, artist, scientist, activist, or just an average internet user. The audience was split almost equally between the categories.

When I attended last year the only regret I had was that technology has not progressed sufficiently that I can have a digital clone to attend the other events happening simultaneously.

If MozFest sounds like your kind of party be sure to grab tickets for the event from the website <https://mozillafestival.org/tickets>. Tickets: £45 for the weekend, £20 for Saturday (including night party at the RSA), £25 for Sunday. Doors open at 8:00 Saturday, 9:00 on Sunday.

Interested in writing about MozFest?

Tech Felix have a free ticket we can offer you if you would like to go and write about the festival.

If you are interested, please email at tecfelix@imperial.ac.uk

Please email us before 14:00 today (Friday)

FILM

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Don't Burn Your Bridges Before You Get To Them!

The BFI London Film Festival ran from 10th to 21st Oct, with 14 cinemas across London previewing some of the most exciting new upcoming movies. Among *Widows*, *Roma*, *Shoplifters*, and *Sorry to Bother You* featuring on the festival programme, is a South Korean indie movie, *Burning*.

FILM

BURNING



Dir: Lee Chang-dong
Script: Lee Chang-dong, Oh Jung-mi . **Starring:** Yoo Ah-in, Jeon Jong-su, Steven Yeun. 148 minutes

Sung Soo Moon
 Film Editor

The BFI London Film Festival last week drew to a close, showcasing films from newbie filmmakers and seasoned veterans from around the globe. I was lucky enough

to catch *Burning*, a South Korean noir directed by Lee Chang-dong. Lee offers a three-handed hypnotic and tense drama with impressive performances from the central three characters.

Burning is about an aspiring young writer, Jong-su (Yoo Ah-in) struggling with various jobs trying to write his first novel. By chance, he meets an unrecognisable Haemi (Jeon Jong-seo), a supposed childhood friend. Jong-su is entranced by Haemi's flirtatiousness and she seduces him back to her flat. Haemi asks Jong-su a favour – to feed her shy cat while she is travelling

in Africa; he obliges but never manages to catch a glimpse of the cat itself. On her return from Africa, Jong-su finds Haemi with a mysterious man, Ben (Steven Yeun). Ben claims to have never shed a tear, and hardly feels sadness; he drives a fancy sports car and lives in a luxurious apartment, yet doesn't seem to work; he smokes weed and burns greenhouses for fun – one every 2 months is his optimum 'pace'. When Haemi suddenly vanishes without trace, Jong-su wonders if Ben has anything to do with her disappearance.

Burning is a reimagining of the Haruki

Murakami short story, *Barn Burning* – the film takes liberties with the original plot, but Murakami's sombre and melancholic tone survives in the already bittersweet tale. This adaptation is realised with modern noir-thriller elements; traces of psychopathy, distrust, the unreliable narrator play a big part in this film. Moments of tension are done effectively – characters merely talking to each other become an increasingly uncomfortable watch. We expect something to snap and the gears to grind into place but it never happens in the way we expect. The film is like a pot full to

the brim of water, slowly coming to the boil from a low heat – before someone comes and turns it off to stop it overflowing. It liberally takes its time to breathe and ponder, and keeps its cards close to its chest throughout; when the moment did come, *Burning* finally revealed what kind of a film it really is. It subverted my expectations, but not in a wholly satisfying manner.

In some respects, you could read the film as a straightforward psychological thriller, but it clearly sets its target higher than that. The cinematography for a start, is unusual for a noir: its muted pastel tones and natural lighting supports its realism, as well as employing a hypnotic gaze, especially when the frame dances around the cursed freedom that Haemi embodies. Focus

so succeeds in making the modern Korean landscape as big but isolating as possible with the limited cast. A short motif score of a deep bass and hand drums weaves back and forth into the story, but where it is most effective is the silence it lets occupy in the scene – it's sound design done with confidence. *Burning* takes a naturalistic approach in its production, in line with its central debate of what's real and not.

Many Korean films, are rooted in politics and *Burning* is no exception. Trump is on the news channel while the protagonist urinates; it's set in Paju, near the DMZ, where North Korean propaganda broadcasts chirp in the background of the sleepy countryside; it talks of the rising levels of youth unemployment, while highlighting misogyny and mistreatment of women, classism, and hereditary personality traits. While it never succeeds to fully integrate coherent points on these issues into the main body of the film, you can easily interpret the finale as something other than literal.

I enjoyed *Burning* thoroughly; it was never boring or dull, keeping me on my toes until it revealed itself, albeit with a whimper. Steven Yeun gives an impressively measured performance, Jeon Jong-seo confidently expresses the melancholia of her character, and while Yoo Ah-in plays to our sympathies, his character is mostly unlikeable. It's easy to lose yourself in the frame and let the entrancing current take you on this trip of reflection.



"Top TEN pranks gone wrong gone SEXUAL" // IMDb

"The film is like a pot full to the brim of water, slowly coming to the boil from a low heat—and then someone comes and turns it off before it overflows"

is tight and intimate on the characters, rarely on their surroundings, and

FILM

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Venom: The Worst Kind of Bad Film

The latest superhero blockbuster with a dark edge to it hits our screens, and although doing incredibly well in the box office, fails to convince the critics. Film writer **Sam Welton** tells us more.

FILM

VENOM



Dir: Ruben Fleischer
Script: Jeff Pinkner, Scott Rosenberg, Kelly Marcel.
Starring: Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed, Scott Haze Reid Scott. 112 minutes

Sam Welton

Film Writer

Venom is a bloated mess. The spectre of studio compromise looms over it in a big way. It has some glaring flaws but I can't entirely hate it, since there were elements and sequences I

found really engaging.

It's the worst kind of bad film: passion and talent are on display and at some point this thing could have been truly great. But it isn't. Let's talk about why.

There is some good to be found here. Tom Hardy is as brilliant as always, and he brings depth and charisma to Eddie Brock through his performance, despite some poor scripting. Michelle Williams does a fine job as Eddie's ex-girlfriend Anne. Their chemistry is decent and is a defiance of cliché; you never get the sense she secretly wants him or would take him back. I found Anne's new boyfriend Dan, played by Reid Scott, to be another



I've got a voucher for Teeth Whitening on Groupon, I'll send it to you // Baltan

cliché dodge as he seems like a genuinely good person and never feels like his relationship is threatened by Eddie. In fact, you get the feeling this new relationship is far healthier than Eddie and Anne's, a dimension

I'm sure would have been explored if this film had a more adult rating.

Venom himself looks very comic-esque in a really good way and the design of the loose symbiotes is suitably weird and alien. There is the occasional animation quality dip, but for the most part it does the job. There are some solid action beats too. The motorcycle chase featured in the trailer is

"Carlton Drake, a painfully generic villain playing the 'humans are imperfect, I will bring a new age of evolution' card"

excellent and does an adequate job establishing Venom's powers. There is also a pretty good fight scene with a SWAT team later on, though the films climax is an incomprehensible mess with absolutely no stakes.

And with that let's segue into the bad. A huge amount of this film is taken up following Carlton Drake, a painfully generic villain playing the 'humans are imperfect, I will bring a new age of evolution' card. Puddle deep, in no way relatable, the worst type of villain. Drake is the head of Stock Amoral Corporation who made millions... somehow. Like, they're a pharmaceuticals development group who illegally test on homeless people, but they also have multiple high tech space shuttles that they use to search asteroids because maybe there is a miracle cure in space? It's clearly a case of trying to create an antagonist more evil

"The first few scenes after Eddie and Venom merge are genuinely excellent"

than the protagonist so we don't have to deal with any complex morality. This is also probably why, by the end of it, Venom (a classic comic book villain) is just another defender of earth. Oh, and the final boss is so dull and underdeveloped I can't even be bothered to discuss him.

I could talk specifics forever, but I think it's worth taking a look at the tone as a whole. In the Stock Amoral Corporation scenes the film tries for that *Alien* style of sci-fi unknown horror, but fails spectacularly given Drake's cartoonish level of evil. Frankly every time



"Tom, Tom... It's not your fault, you were good" // Sony Pictures

FILM

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

“There is good to be had, but do yourself a favour and wait till you can stream it”

Stock Amoral Corporation is involved the film dive-bombs in quality. The non-Venom Eddie scenes do a good job of establishing the character as grim but good at heart and the first few scenes after Eddie and Venom merge are genuinely excellent. He hears voices and has strange and disgusting urges he can't control leading him to start questioning his sanity. During this time you can see the semi-horror tone they were clearly aiming for shine through and the film comes alive to such an extent that

you'll start to forgive its mistakes up to this point. Unfortunately after Venom's voice develops he ceases to feel in any way threatening. He spends most of his time making quips to Eddie, at which point all tension melts away. Eddie and Venom's interactions aren't strictly bad – in fact they're probably the most consistently entertaining element of the film – but they play in stark contrast to the film at its best.

Venom is both too long and too short. Clearly content was added at the studio's request and there wasn't time left for all the content the director wanted. The film is 2 hours and 40 minute and everything with Stock Amoral Corporation drags, yet there is some painfully obvious cut content. Without spoiling, the worst case occurs near the end where there is clearly an entire sequence missing what would have both



Uh-oh, someone has just seen the Rotten Tomatoes score // Sony Pictures

explored a cool idea and developed multiple characters. It's absence is clear by how abruptly an event occurs and how significantly the characters change afterwards. This might sound vague but if you do see the film

you'll know exactly what I mean.

I could pick apart this film all day, but in the end, this is the overarching problem: *Venom* should be the story of a down on his luck man wrestling

with his humanity as an alien parasite threatens to turn him into a monster, but in reality, it's the tale of a grumpy reporter and his dark comedy sidekick fighting an 80's cartoon villain to save the world.

This could have been a smash hit, but instead it makes me worried for the upcoming 'Into the Spiderverse'. There is good to be had, but do yourself a favour and wait till you can stream it.

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IC Netball



MUSIC

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Everybody wants to change the world: Looking at the White Album's Legacy 50 Years on

MUSIC

Martin Flerin

Music Writer

Exactly fifty years ago, the year 1968 was to be the beginning of the end for the Beatles. Lennon had finally escaped the clutches of chronic acid tripping, partly due to his burgeoning love for Yoko Ono, partly due to the retreat the band made to Rishikesh where they were meant to have sworn off drugs forever in favour of transcendental meditation. But while the trip to India had given them new spiritual élan and innumerable new acoustic material due to the technological limitations of living in the foothills of the Himalayas, all was not well when they returned to the studio. Many of the recording sessions were tense, with Lennon and McCartney often pulling in opposite directions, while Ringo even quit the band for a short while to go chill out on a boat in Sardinia (the hiatus yielding one of my favourite Beatles songs, 'Octopus's Garden').

Although the spirit of *The Beatles*, their penultimate "proper" album, was borne out of the spirit of revolution, the songs bearing that name show that they were not completely in tune with what the world had in mind. The French student protests, MLK's death, and the Vietnam protests meant that the counterculture had a new urgency which would, almost a decade later, lead to the punk counterpunch to flower power. But

Lennon's cheeky treading on both sides of the issue "But when you talk about destruction // Don't you know that you can count me out (in)" shows that the Beatles were not ready to put their full weight behind the aggression brewing in the air. This may have garnered accusations from both the radical left – "elitist nonchalance in light of injustice" – and the radical right – "Maoists in disguise condoning the red apocalypse" – but they remained unmoved, perhaps helped by them having quit touring. What they would do instead of bowing to political pressures, was produce an album more varied than anything they'd made before, using it to show that the virtue of music can transcend earthly chaos.

"An album more varied than anything they'd made before... to show that the virtue of music can transcend earthly chaos"

Continuing in the tradition of all their efforts from *Help!*, the monstrous 95-minute double album kicks off on an unexpectedly fast thumper of a song. The tongue-in-cheek 'Back in the U.S.S.R.', which had the working title 'I'm backing the U.S.S.R.', incited enough outrage as

it was, pissing off almost as many as Lennon's famous quip about the band being bigger than Jesus. His arrogance may have been justified by their past three albums, but the opener on this one lacks the grandiosity to do so, perhaps giving a jet-engine-roar-tinged glimpse at why many doubt this album.

The mix of songs is almost kaleidoscopic. Many are either stories recounting Rishikesh drama ('Dear Prudence', 'Sexy Sadie') or echoes of their folk guitar-picking in the Indian north, like 'Wild Honey Pie', 'Mother Nature's Son', 'Julia' and 'Blackbird'. The last two are Lennon's and McCartney's respective odes to the opposite sex; 'Julia' being Lennon's way of telling his mother that he has finally replaced her with Yoko, while 'Blackbird' was McCartney's way of showing empathy for the civil rights movement and helped him win his future wife's heart the first time she came to his house. 'Blackbird' is an especially impressive piece as it was recorded and mixed in six hours. The poignant simplicity of it only underlines McCartney's genius and single-mindedness.

While many claim that the mixed bag of songs to have found themselves on the album are the reason why it cannot be counted amongst their best, I am inclined to disagree. The uniqueness of the songs means that one can pick out any one of them for a single listen and not feel like they're missing out. Despite their ability to be stand-alone listens, the whole that they form is still somewhat coherent, if



White on White - Kazimir Malevich (Oil on canvas, 1918) // Apple

"An important insight into a confusing time for the band"

not entirely free-flowing, and offers an important insight into a confusing time for the band. Even the songs that many love to hate, be it the hard-edged attempts by the foursome to keep up with the heavier, screeching sounds springing up from the UK underground in the late 60s, like 'Helter Skelter' (which helped set off Manson's killing spree in sunny California) and 'While My Guitar Gently Weeps' (featuring hard rock's morally contentious daddy, Eric Clapton), or the sugary nonsense of

'Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da' (a song loved both by me and Murakami, isn't that an esteemed fanbase), 'Rocky Raccoon' (who doesn't enjoy a wild west love story) and 'Honey Pie' (a warm-soup-like feel-good song in the vein of 'When I'm Sixty Four'), are some of my favourite Beatles songs to listen to.

An unfair criticism levelled at the album is that all the songs are too simple and complete nonsense. 'Happiness Is A Warm Gun' stands out as an incredibly complex and powerful song. The lyrics on 'Glass Onion' are at once revealing and completely opaque (a Lennon trademark), while 'Revolution 9' was something very revolutionary in music indeed – Ono's influence was responsible for this piece which

brought the concept of "random", Dada-like collage art into music. Oh, and it also features Ringo's first composition for the band, 'Don't Pass Me By'.

The album that developed from a single jam session which was half an hour long and powerful enough to spawn two songs (Revolutions 1 and 9), proves that the Beatles were still able to produce magic even when at odds with each other, drugged out (the drug hiatus only lasted while in Rishikesh; Lennon actually ended up on heroin), and out of favour with the hysterical political youth. If even their gibberish ad-libs can have this kind of pop-culture influence, it only shows why they are the greatest of all time.

ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The Wider Earth: a magical voyage of scientific discovery

Young Darwin's odyssey brought to life.

ARTS

1984



Where? The Natural History Museum

When? 13th Oct- 30th Dec

How Much? from £17.50

Claire Chan

Arts Editor

Two years old, fresh out of uni and off on a five-year journey circumnavigating the world. That's the story of Charles Darwin and his historic odyssey on the HMS Beagle – a fantastic tale that receives an enthralling dramatisation in *The Wider Earth*.

The Wider Earth takes us back to an age of discovery and uncharted waters. The coastlines were yet to be fully

mapped. Photography was not yet invented. The tectonic movement of the Earth's crust remained but an inkling in the writings of Charles Lyell. And as for living creatures? Few would dare challenge the biblical view that God had created each living being in its present form. It was in this scientific and religious climate that HMS Beagle set sail, with one enterprising naturalist on board.

The production, envisioned by the Australian theatre company Dead Puppet Society, is a masterpiece of digital animation, soundscape, puppetry and traditional theatre. Most of the action takes place atop a large revolving wooden structure, which undergoes a breathtaking number of transformations: from barren rock to Brazilian rainforest, from a stuffy library at Oxford to the

storm-tossed deck of HMS Beagle. This is made possible by a wide screen running overhead across the stage, on which stunning moving backdrops are depicted – watercolours of the rolling English countryside; maps tracking the journey of the Beagle; thunderstorms, volcanic eruptions, deserts and oceans. Lighting and sound effects match the backdrops with precise timing – a flash of lightning is accompanied by thunder rumbling throughout the theatre, immersing the audience within the scene.

However, the most unique feature of the production is the inclusion of over 30 extraordinary puppets, showcasing the diverse animals Darwin saw on his voyage. From a skittish iguana to two ponderous Galapagos tortoises, the mobile puppets are operated



Cast of *The Wider Earth* // Mark Douet

with lifelike skill by the seven-person cast and add yet another dimension of reality to the multilayered scenes. Looking at the jewel-coloured butterflies fluttering around the rainforest, or the odd shape of a duck-billed platypus, one can almost begin to understand how awe-inspiring it must have been to encounter these creatures for the first time.

In addition to showing off the wonders of the natural world, another theme heavily explored in *The Wider Earth* is the conflict between accepted Christian beliefs and the implications of Darwin's budding theories. Darwin, who was originally slated to become a pastor on his return from the voyage, struggles internally against his own religious beliefs and externally against proponents of Christian dogma, represented by Captain Fitzroy and Christian missionaries on board the

Beagle. While admirable, this attempt at meaningful political and social commentary seems somewhat out of place. Despite being based on real events and people, the characters of the play come across as quite one-dimensional. Darwin, for instance, is played with unrelenting enthusiasm by Bradley Foster, who depicts the young naturalist as the

“One can almost begin to imagine how awe-inspiring it must have been to encounter these creatures for the first time”

stereotypically idealistic, enterprising adventurer. This stylised version of Darwin, however, is sufficient to convey the message of scientific curiosity and sheer wide-eyed wonder that makes *The Wider Earth* such a magical experience.

Darwin's theory opened a path to new scientific discovery. Since his time, great leaps and strides have been made in our understanding of life and the natural phenomena on earth. Yet with all our technological and scientific progress, there is often a sense of fatigue – the idea that we are making only incremental progress on theories that were established centuries ago. *The Wider Earth* is a much-needed reminder of the spirit of scientific discovery, the beauty of the world around us, and the importance of looking at old things with fresh eyes.



Bradley Foster as Charles Darwin // Mark Douet

ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

We are all individuals: The Turner Prize 2018

The Turner Prize is awarded to a British artist for an outstanding exhibition in the preceding year. This year the shortlist features four films, each tackling pressing issues in society today. Arts Writer Calum Drysdale gives his take on the shortlistees for one of the world's best known awards for visual arts.

ARTS



Where? The Tate Britain
When? Until 6th January
How Much? £13; free for members

Calum Drysdale
Arts Writer

A friend and I had a conversation recently about whether there was something fundamental to non-conforming (he is into that sort of thing). “By going outside of what is socially acceptable one defies. That act of independence and definition of oneself not by others’ standards but by one’s own is the greatest sign of self-liberation possible.”

“Sure, I get all that, but don’t you all just roll your jeans up and wear non-functional shoes?”

Reading up about what was on at the Turner prize before going did give me a certain sense of validation. All four of the short-listed artists are exhibiting films, certainly enough to drive the annual Daily Mail think pieces asking ‘Is this really art? Really?’ into overdrive. How different, I asked myself, can you possibly be if you all insist on being different together?

Getting to the right gallery requires further hiking than expected, through ambiguously sized rooms that all squeeze in one and a half identical acrylic and steel sculptures intended to confound any sense of direction or taste.

A large, square and wonderfully sound-insulated room greets you as you come through the doors. On the walls are panels providing brief descriptions of each of the films and wonderfully suggestive open doorways that lead off into the darkness. It feels like quibbling but I would recommend reading up before going as the panels are rather heavy on niche film and technical jargon and proportionally light on content, but it is a miser’s complaint.

The films themselves certainly showed me the error of my ways. The prize, given each year, is intended to recognise and celebrate art produced or first exhibited the year before. This is art as contemporary as it is possible to be and, with a few notable exceptions, it bursts with life and ambition.

“This is art as contemporary as it is possible to be... it bursts with life and ambition”

The Charlotte Rogers film is a bizarre masterpiece of mashed together footage, but it avoids sinking into kitsch through the relentless humanity that powers it throughout. The audience is welcomed in to Charlotte’s life and can often see exactly what Charlotte herself saw through her



Luke Willis Thompson examines life through a magnifying glass // Andy Keate

use of small handheld cameras that allow a quiet to permeate the film, even over the amazing sound track. The long non-moving shots work to draw in the audience and, rather than growing dull (some go on for 10 minutes), they pulsate with tension and danger. Add to this the piece’s tying together of the ancient Yatesesque magic and myth of Aberdeenshire Scotland with modern gender-questioning identity and this is a film that makes worth the whole trip worthwhile.

Luke Willis Thompson takes a different approach in his submission. He very closely examines five separate lives and takes this magnifying glass approach to extremes, investigating human bodies – with an emphasis on people of colour and their historical and current reality. In his most surreal piece he moves the camera around and inside a house-like sculpture

made of human skin and dressmaker’s pins. The sculpture exists as an independent piece of art – *My Mother. My Father. My Sister. My Brother 1996-7 (The Estate of Donald G. Rodney. London)* – and is made of the skin removed by surgeons during Rodney’s treatment for sickle cell anaemia.

Uncomfortable is not a strong enough word to describe the feelings evoked. As the film goes on, the house begins to resemble a body itself, steel bones holding up an incredibly tiny and fragile creation. Where he overreaches is his portrait of Diamond Reynolds, the girlfriend of Philando Castile, shot at a traffic stop in 2016. The film is meant as an accompanying piece to her Facebook Live video shot in the aftermath of her boyfriend’s killing, but it feels cheap and profiteering.

Forensic architecture’s *The Long Duration of a*

Split Second has the most immediate and visceral appeal of the four films. Like a thriller, it jumps between light and dark, action and silence, and unlike the other three the content feels necessary and even vital. The real world, normally very far away in those dark showing rooms, rushes in and cannot be denied.

The film tells the story

“Like a thriller, it jumps between light and dark, action and silence”

of the killing of a villager in Umm al-Hiran, a Bedouin community in the Negev/Naqab desert which the Israeli army was attempting to destroy. This is modern activism

with baubles on.

Finally, there is Naeem Mohaiemen. His two films had, if truth be told, an incredible soporific effect on me. Watching an immaculately linen-suited man smoke cigarettes in an abandoned airport, cradling dressmakers’ manikins – it felt like there was meaning floating around somewhere, but it was too amorphous to grasp. The second one, an ode to Asian socialism, affected me even less. Wonderfully filmed vistas are not enough to justify radical and extreme change.

The Turner Prize, smarmy as ever but maybe, just maybe, a good day out.

ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Is love really all around? Maybe far far away... // The Cockpit Theatre

Find love, be happy: *The Distance You Have Come*

Depression, alcoholism, and fairytale romance: all this and more told through the medium of song in a star-spangled production of *The Distance You Have Come* at the Cockpit Theatre.

ARTS



Where? The Cockpit Theatre
When? Until 28th October
How Much? £32; £26 students

Calum Drysdale
Arts Writer

When the reviewer writes, he must remember that many, if not all, of the people that read his words will not actually get to see it themselves. He has incredible power to influence how a play is perceived and received. He must remember that his own perspective is subjective and that his prejudices are his own and must not be allowed to impact the review.

Let’s start with what *The Distance You Have Come* is. It is a ‘song

cycle’ – yeah, me neither – a play done purely in song. The ‘story’ is about six people who do love in various ways. In *The Distance You Have Come* there are plenty of positive moments. The singing was pretty good, important as the whole ‘song cycle’ is done ‘Les Miz’ style, though the music system sometimes failed to keep up with the actors’ gusto.

The theatre was close and intimate, the stage round and simple. The props, a bench and a swing, were often well used, though there is a limit to how many times one can stand up on a swing and it still be endearing. There are funny parts and Jodie Jacobs as Anna was exceptional, funny and endearing.

I can’t decide whether to include in this list the fact that LG and B is represented in a touching and non-tokenistic way. Should we cheer when

writers do what is right and proper? I include it as important and relevant and in recognition of the world we live in.

“This is why one becomes an art critic...”

This leaves what is less successful about the performance. The whole play comes across as a mix of *Into the Woods* and *Bridget Jones’ Baby* and the hybrid is less than successful. The whole thing opens with a series of characters expressing general discontent with their lives in trans-Atlantic show-tune style anthems that seem at odds with the search for a partner, descent into alcoholism and a long-term relationship breaking down.

What is more, these early songs all feature a superfluity of fairy tale

references (‘Once upon a time’, ‘I’m a Star’ and ‘Magic’ to name the first three). This makes the cast feel petulant and immature. These are grown adults making poor life decisions and singing about going to Neverland.

The first half continues in this way, lurching between the sugar sweet happiness of Brian and Samuel as the post-racial, post-hetero power couple and the unfulfilled misery of the rest of the cast. What is the point being made here? The two lesbians sing about one of them walking out and leaving only a note. They still look pretty happy in comparison to the other woman, who, failing auditions left and right, has pulled a disappearing act, and the remaining bloke who takes his clothes off to reveal an incredible body in a lovely set piece involving generic hooded figures. Depression never looked this good and we

retire for the interval and drinks.

This is a trendy place so date and I get a tumbler of red on the house. This is why one becomes an art critic; opportunities for accepting bribery abound. Potentially aided by the wine or loose journalistic morals, the second half begins strong. The show tunes feel more appropriate to the second half spirit of ‘it’ll all be alright in the end’ and the cast actually feel united in recovery, Brianuel having fallen into some easily resolvable strife. Drunk gets picked up and dunked in the magic cure-all bench whose seat lifts up to reveal a trough of all things. Quick wipe of the magic sponge and clothes back on and he is ready for a meeting with his ex, who lo and behold is the woman who magically/conveniently gets her Broadway part.

Love is amazingly revealed to be the cure to

everything as Samurian cop themselves a baby and Anna the “stereotypical lesbian in recovery” meets “stereotypical alcoholic in recovery”. She looks at his arse and, get this, the female jogger’s and your heart melts a little bit as they go for a walk. Top the whole thing off with yet another anthem called ‘The Distance You Have Come’ to tell us all to keep going, find love and be happy. *Love Actually* and *Shrek* come together in the end and we never saw it coming.

This could be someone’s cup of tea. The cast is star spangled and the music bounces along. Some of the songs are finger tappingly good (though I can’t remember any of the lyrics) and the actors are all very cute. The Cockpit Theatre is close in Marylebone, and if the mood took you this could be a very fun night out. Go if you want to, go if you don’t.

ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Pinter Two: a masterpiece of dialogue and discomfort

One of the two parts kicking off the Pinter at the Pinter season artfully displays everything that Pinter did so well.

ARTS

1984



Where? The Pinter Theatre
When? Pinter Season continues through 2018
How Much? from £15

Ned Summers

Arts Writer

If you didn't know that you were at The Harold Pinter Theatre to see 'Pinter Two', a double bill of Harold Pinter one-scene plays, the monolithic stage curtain resembling a tombstone for PINTER would certainly inform you of that fact. With this introduction, this staging of *The Lover* and *The Collection* throws itself emphatically into everything for which Pinter is known best. It is entirely bizarre, uncomfortable and filled with silences.

It is clear why these two plays have been chosen to be performed together. Both are wonderful, unsettling examples of the frailty of reality, particularly within interpersonal relationships.

The Lover opens with a husband asking his wife with only upbeat intrigue, 'Is your lover coming today?'. Through its twists and pauses, the play delicately paints a portrait of the equilibrium of roles between a couple. The bright pink set, with flush doors, a fold-down bar and an art deco sunburst clock, feels eerily impersonal; the role of costume further stands out in the space. The stage curtain remains half-closed, leaving it feeling like a sitcom on



Russell Tovey in Pinter Two // Marc Brenner

a screen but without the canned laughter, just a little disquieting.

The couple played by Macmillan and Squires make for an equally uncomfortable centrepiece of the performance. As the single act develops, the depth of unexpressed tension existing between these two characters becomes clear, and as it comes to a climax, with their increasingly manic attempts through stilted pauses to find stability, it is difficult not to shift a little uncomfortably in your seat through the laughter.

Still ruminating over unsettling questions after the interval, we are projected into a classy, posh London; two houses, one in Belgravia, one in Chelsea, coexist on the stage with only one connection point: a black rotary phone. Communication, or more precisely incommunicability, is the underpinning theme in *The Collection*. An affair, a woman's pride, a hotel room, sexuality, and boredom are the in-

redients of this explosive story, whose captivating narration, witty humour, and continuous innuendos successfully analyse the intricacy of human relations. Written in 1962, this play remains scarily relevant today. No true feeling is ever explicitly expressed, and characters regularly refuse to state the crude reality of facts. What results is a hilarious comedy of errors. Unlike *The Lover*, the dialogue here is often as playful and energetic as it is witty, and David Suchet and Russell Tovey are outstanding as they join Macmillan and Squires for a four-person act.

The Collection, though just as full of pauses as *The Lover*, also has its fair share of longer speeches, and Suchet's silk-robed Harry hurls lines with vivacity. Suchet shows extraordinary control of diction, and, at the same time, showcases Pinter's ability as writer. Throughout the performance, this character's speeches are mesmerising and

complex. On the other hand, Harry's housemate Bill, played by Tovey, is young, quippy and short. Caught somewhere between an adolescent pushing boundaries and an adult fully aware of his allure (in the original script, the age gap

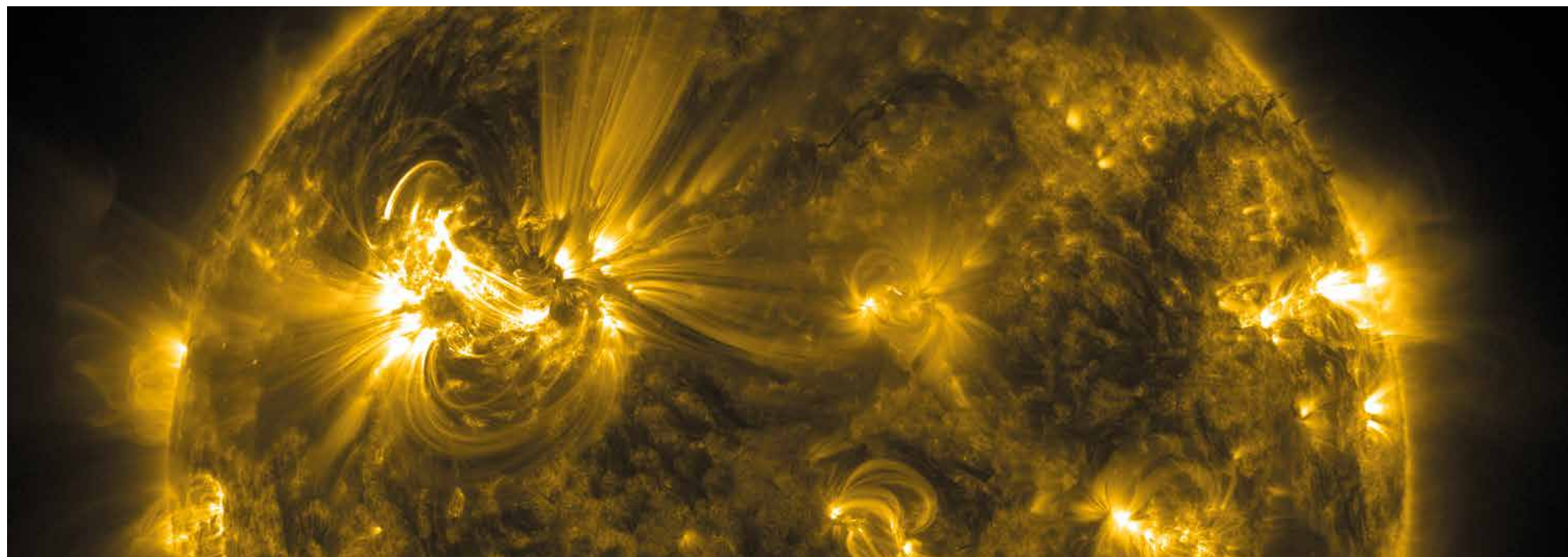
between these characters is smaller than between Suchet and Tovey, and the choice to ignore that is exploited to great effect), the play revolves around those impacted by Bill's carelessness. Tovey stretches each action to its maximum, with perfect awareness of his physical presence. The end result is a play dripping, in every aspect, with overt and covert eroticism.

The 'Pinter at the Pinter' is more than a commemorative season of one-act plays; it is a unique opportunity to delve into the fascinating mind of this beloved playwright. Starting now until February, the theatre hosts seven 'parts' or different shows, covering a total of 19 of Pinter's plays, all performed by undoubtedly talented and well-known actors. The quality of direction and the creative team meet that of the cast. The Jamie Lloyd Company, thanks to the actors' personal twists and liberties, does

a distinguished job, doing justice to the complicated analysis which the London writer carried out throughout his work. In Pinter Two we see how a high-level script is complemented by incredible technical work: from the usage of lighting in *The Collection* to create levels on stage, to that pink set, to the prop choices, these details play a fundamental role in both stories. An honourable mention has to go to the director Jamie Lloyd himself for his skill in preserving and, many times, highlighting the scenic details so dear to Harold Pinter. As expected, the cast is nothing less than exceptional: they are able to convey emotions in such a unique and passionate way that it's impossible to remain unmoved by their characters. Our advice: run to the Harold Pinter Theatre and grab a seat, you won't be let down by this sensational show!



Hayley Squires in Pinter Two // Marc Brenner



Here comes the Sun, doo doo doo doo // Solar Dynamics Observatory/NASA

The real star of the show

Things are hotting up in the Science Museum. This dazzling and interactive exhibition takes us through the history of humanity's relationship with our star, and features several contributions from Imperial College.

ARTS THE SUN: LIVING WITH OUR STAR



Where? The Science Museum.

When? 6th Oct – 6th May

How Much? £15; £13 students

Adrian LaMoury

Music Editor

Following the launch of the long-awaited Parker Solar Probe by NASA in August, the focus for many in the scientific world has shifted heavenwards, towards the most undeniably omnipotent giver of life we know – our Sun. The Science Museum celebrates our local star with a highly interactive and immersive exhibition that explores both the underlying physics of the Sun, as well as its profound impact on culture and humanity throughout history.

After entering through

a giant golden archway, you are immediately plunged back in time to begin a chronological exploration of mankind's relationship with the Sun. Figurines, pottery, and trinkets – each golden piece glistening in the low light – depict some of our earliest fascinations with the Sun, and its likening to various deities. The dawn of science comes swiftly, however, and you're suddenly surrounded by intricate hand-drawn books of sunspot observations, and an elegant replica of Copernicus' *On the Revolutions of Heavenly Orbs* – the seminal text in the development of a heliocentric model of the solar system.

In the absence of physical understanding, one of the major things that could be learned from the Sun was a sense of timekeeping. This is reflected in the exhibition via an array of clocks, ranging from delicate orreries, through to the first accurate atomic clock, built at the UK's

National Physical Laboratory in 1955. As always with the Science Museum, interactive displays take centre stage, and at this point we're treated to a fun game involving the use of different kinds of sundials.

Next up, we view the Sun from the perspective of health and medicine. Sunlight as a treatment for tuberculosis is a prominent feature, including some quaint advertising campaigns promoting beach holidays, and a rather horrific looking mirrored sunbed for children, designed by John Harvey Kellogg, of Cornflake fame. A manmade beach in neon and chrome offers viewers brief respite and the chance to recline while listening to the sounds of beaches around the world through handheld coconut speakers. The juxtaposition is frank, however, and worship turns to warning upon the realisation of the dangers associated with overexposure to sunlight. Now the posters promote covering up,

staying indoors, or better still, buying a range of protective products. This culminates in a television ad from the much-loved Australian 80s campaign *Slip-Stop-Slap*. At the close of this section, we're given the chance to try on historical sunglasses, from Inuit wooden goggles to 50s fashion glasses, in a virtual mirror.

From here we enter more modern times, with displays on how the Sun can be used as an energy resource, and our attempts to recreate its power in nuclear fusion projects such as JET and ITER. A stark yellow "sunbeam" installation punctuates and illuminates the room, and there are yet more hands-on experiences such as a giant LED screen where you can watch the sun rise in a location and season of your choice, and a challenge to charge a giant battery by directing a beam across the table with rotating mirrors. From here we learn about the Sun's structure, and its influence on Earth by virtue

of its powerful magnetic field. A charming animation tells the story of astronomer Richard Carrington and the great solar flare of 1859 which caused aurorae so bright that people were able to read at the dead of night without a lamp. The potential for a large solar storm to massively disrupt all technology on Earth is explained; there's a game where you can attempt to save the planet by spotting active regions on the Sun which threaten to erupt, and a 'survival kit' for a geomagnetic storm. While the dramatization is fun, it is perhaps overstated to the extent of fear-mongering, painting the Sun's awesome power as a deadly threat to life on Earth. While not untrue, it is perhaps at odds with the tone of the rest of the exhibition.

This segues into a brief history of space missions to study the Sun, including Skylab, Helios and Ulysses. Perhaps a personal highlight of the exhibition was a scale

model of the Solar Orbiter probe which, upon its scheduled launch in 2020, will carry a magnetometer built here at Imperial all the way to the Sun. Sitting far out on the back of the spacecraft, the instrument is designed to withstand temperatures ranging from 80°C to -140°C. A prototype sits in a glass case, beneath a video interview with instrument manager and department of Physics' very own Helen O'Brien.

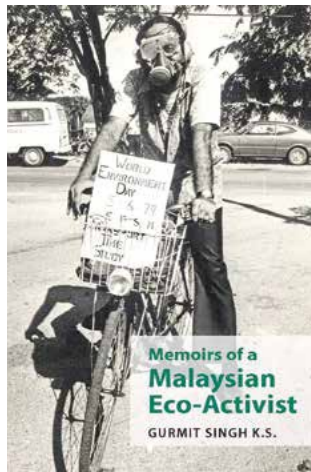
The grand finale is a cinema room showing stunning footage from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, where the Sun can be seen up close in a variety of wavelengths – turbulent and eruptive as its fiery plasma coils elegantly around its complex network of magnetic field lines. While quite short for a relatively steep price, this is an informative and enjoyable exhibition that covers everything about the Sun from our earliest understandings to the cutting edge science of today.

BOOKS

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More than just a memoir: Gurmit Singh K.S. on his

Like most people who are passionate about their work, Gurmit Singh K.S. is brutally honest about his causes but humble in nature. Memoirs of a Malaysian Eco-Activist details his lifelong journey as a recognised fervent voice of sustainability and human rights in Malaysia, hoping to inspire a new generation of like-minded activists.



BOOKS

JY Gan
Books Writer

The publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* back in 1962 launched the international environmental movement;

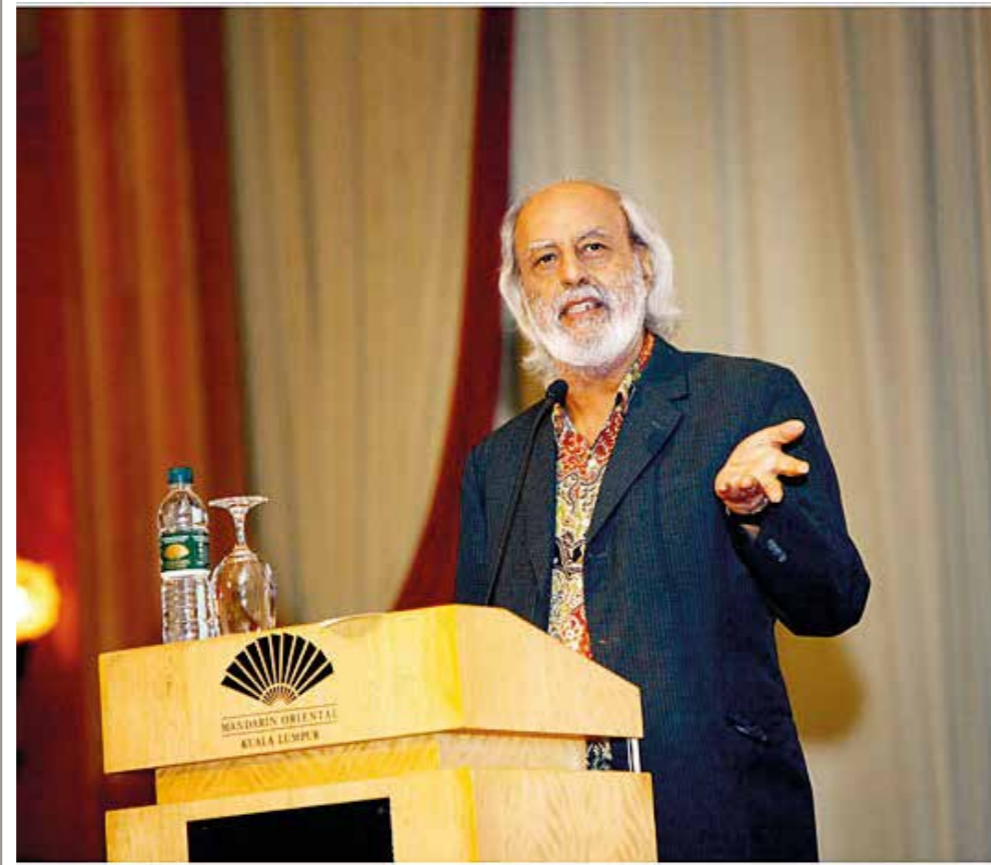
one can only wonder what book she would come up with if she were alive to witness the present developing world.

Thankfully, her life's work inspired a generation of staunch environmentalists around the world over the next few decades. Yet in a world where politics, celebrities and other matters dominate the news and social media, renowned environmentalists and their efforts are neither attractive nor offensive enough to garner public attention.

This is also the case with Malaysia, my native country, blessed with tropical biodiversity and ample natural resources but under threat from continuing urban development. Although public environmental awareness

has significantly improved in the country, the lack of genuine action and individual initiatives to address the situation is alarming. The few, ineffective, individual efforts to tackle environmental issues do not mask the general "selfishness" regarding the issue, points out Gurmit Singh K.S., a prominent Malaysian environmentalist and social activist.

It was World Environment Day on June 6, 1979, when he donned a gas mask and raced a car with his bicycle for 12 miles across Kuala Lumpur to highlight air pollution and traffic problems in the Malaysian capital. Nearly 40 years later, the photograph of him on his bike with the gas mask became his most iconic photo and



Malaysian eco-activist Gurmit Singh K.S. // ASEAN Affairs

eventually the cover for his memoir, *Memoirs of a Malaysian Eco-Activist*.

The book is obviously unlike Carson's *Silent Spring*, which is focused on environmental science. Rather, it is an honest account of Gurmit's life and journey as an environmental and social activist. While it is a short, straight-to-the-point account of his life, the

message he tries to deliver extends far beyond environmentalism. He took almost five years to finish the manuscript amid his busy schedules, constantly dogged by concerns that nobody would want to read such unexciting subjects. He feared that the average individual would turn indifferent once the word "environment" is expressed.

He tells his tale from the moment he was born in 1942 to Punjabi parents in Penang Island, during World War II when the Japanese invaded Malaysia (then Malaya).

"I never really picked up Punjabi as a language." He recalls during an interview in 2009, regarding his roots. "If you want to believe in the importance of your mother tongue, fine – but I don't feel deculturalised. In fact, I resent being reminded that I'm Indian, or Punjabi. People should be dealt with as individuals."

During his school days, he was an active scout and

frequently went out with his friends on bicycles to discover new places in the environment. From a young age he was taught by his mother not to waste by recycling cloth flour bags into bedsheets.

Initially an electrical

"Although public environmental awareness has improved, the lack of genuine action is alarming"

engineer by profession, he graduated from the University of Malaya in 1970 after encountering a few impediments due to his zealous activism in university affairs. By the time the Malaysian government enacted the



Can you see the twin towers? // The Star Malaysia

BOOKS

books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

environmental and social activism in Malaysia

Environmental Quality Act in 1974, Gurmit had met people from various scientific backgrounds during his job at the Rubber Research Institute and was ultimately drawn to environmental affairs. That was also the year he founded his first NGO – Environmental Protection Society, Malaysia (EPSM), from which he officially began his envi-

"With a population of 32 million, it takes tremendous collective effort to produce results"

ronmental activism career and never looked back.

About 10 years later in 1985, he would establish another NGO – Centre for Environment, Technology and Development, Malaysia (CETDEM) – which he chairs to this day. CETDEM's slogan, 'Always Promoting Sustainable Development', sums up their ambitious but challenging objectives – to improve environ-



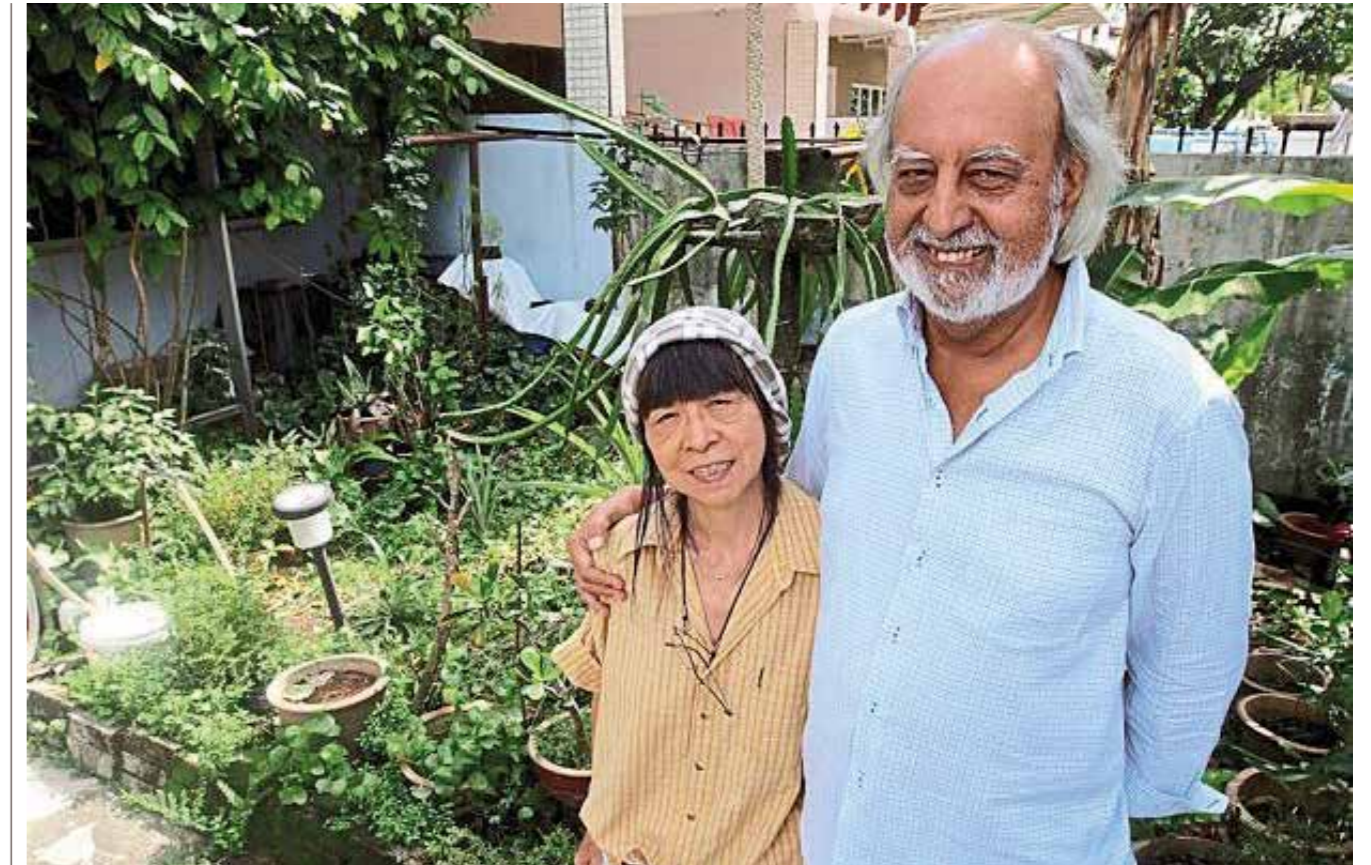
Neverending cars // Azhar Mahfuf

mental quality through appropriate use of technology and sustainable development.

His decorated CV speaks for itself; of the many awards he has received, notable ones include the 2013 MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability Award from United Nations Malaysia, the Green Catalysts Award in 2015, and most recently the 2018 Merdeka (Independence) Award in the environment category.

His outspokenness about environmental and social causes led to a turbulent relationship with the authorities; nonetheless he maintains his humility outside his field of work. I had the pleasure of attending one of his speeches during a CETDEM public forum in 2015, and although we had only a brief exchange of words, he came across as a relaxed and caring individual.

What about the current situation in Malaysia? Environmental NGOs are on the rise, awareness campaigns are overflowing, and countless projects are being introduced to address the unending issues. Yet the results are still to be seen. He reiterates that Malaysians are very good at starting new things but are dreadful at



Gurmit with his wife, Tan Siew Luang // Sheila Sri Priya

maintenance. Perhaps he is also pointing out the "one-off" projects and practices regarding the environment that have surfaced in the past.

"Everyone thinks planting trees is great. But they forget that trees have to be maintained." He said during his book launch in 2017. "I now tell people that 'I will support your effort if you check every six months to see if your trees are alive'."

With a population

of 32 million, it takes tremendous and dedicated collective effort to produce results on improving environmental matters. Beneath the celebrated multiculturalism, biodiversity and great food, there are political scandals, discriminations and selfishness. How are we supposed to focus on maintaining individual environmental responsibilities with so many other distractions playing behind the scenes?

"Too many people are selfish. But we must look beyond ourselves. And we must all take action to solve environmental problems, because governments alone cannot do it. The power is with the people."

On social issues, he hopes "that a day will come when we have real multiculturalism, when you don't have to specify your 'race' and 'religion' in a government form."

Now 75, he is still visible on the activism front and is a man of his word – living a life with

minimal ecological footprint. He resides with his wife, Tan Siew Luang, in a house equipped with solar panels, a rainwater harvesting system, a composting site and recycling spots. Today, with heavy traffic obstructions a trademark of the capital, he owns no car and depends on public transportation, walking

"This is a sincere account from one who witnessed his country's march towards industrialisation"

and cycling as modes of travel. Continuing what he started nearly 40 years ago, this is clearly something close to his heart. Of

course, he doesn't expect everyone to live exactly like he does.

"We can all make a difference in however small a way. Don't buy too much and refrain from buying unnecessary things, bring your own bags when you go shopping and so on. People always tell us they admire us, but they do not do anything on their part to save the environment."

Memoirs of a Malaysian Eco-Activist was published almost a year ago in April 2017, and though concise, the core message is still significant for readers: Malaysia needs to overcome selfishness and tackle environmental problems with determination. Whether you are a fledgling environmentalist or someone with an ambition to better the world, this book is a sincere account from someone who witnessed his country's relentless march towards industrialisation, and how his resolute passion shaped his journey.

Union Page



Autumn Elections 18 Results



Autumn Elections Results

229 new Student Representatives were elected last week across a range of positions in our Autumn Elections. 6,570 students cast votes across the week; this represents a voter turnout of 33.14% (rising from 26.75% in 2017) and a 1,455 increase in total voters.

This year's Autumn Elections had its highest ever voter participation, this year being the first time ever the voter turnout at Imperial has exceeded 30 per cent in Autumn, considerably higher than average for similar elections across Student Unions in the UK.

Numerous records were broken including highest ever Postgrad Research turnout for Autumn Elections which saw a 104% increase, while Postgrad Taught turnout increased by 58% over last year.

See the results and get more information at imperialcollegeunion.org/results.

Study Skills Sessions

So you're good at your subject area, but you struggle with grammar, time management, or note taking. That's quite common and our professionally staffed Advice Centre can help. The Advice Centre, in partnership with College, is running drop-in sessions for all Imperial students to help tackle any or all of the following:

- Organisation and Time Management
- Reading Skills
- Note Taking
- Research
- Writing Skills
- Writing Styles
- Grammar and Punctuation
- Memory
- Revision and Exams
- Stress Management
- Attention and Concentration
- Spelling

Drop in 14:00 - 15:00 every other week starting 18 October
Advice Centre, Imperial College Union, Level 2.
For more information email: advice@ic.ac.uk



University Challenge

Imperial last won University Challenge in 2001 and we think it's time to reclaim the trophy. We need a team representative of our diverse Imperial community to show our ability. All students regardless of year or level of study can try out to be part of team Imperial!

Two trials have already been held at South Kensington campus this week, but it's not too late to try out. **The next trials are being held in Blackett LT2 (and LT3) on Monday 29 October from 18:00.** We'll also have trials at our Charing Cross Campus soon.

You'll be expected to answer a set of questions individually to see if you can make it to the next rounds. Want to give it a shot? Email James Medler, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) at dpcs@imperial.ac.uk.

Get more details at imperialcollegeunion.org/university-challenge

Imperial College
London



Reflect on your experiences Gain the Imperial Award

Imperial Award - register

Most of us will get a great degree from Imperial - differentiate yourself with the Imperial Award. It's a scheme open to all students, which encourages self-reflection and personal development, throughout your time at Imperial.

The Award is recognised on your College transcript and is a great way to enhance your development, help you become more rounded, and stand out to employers.

The Union runs workshops for those who have registered for the programme and wish to understand how best to succeed in it.

You can find out more about the programme or register for workshops at imperialcollegeunion.org/imperial-award.

Your Union Events

Friday 26 October

ACC
CSP
WEDNESDAY
31 OCTOBER
19:00 - 02:00

26 October, Friday

iPOP
Beit Bars | 20:00 - 02:00

PGI Friday
h-bar | 19:00 - 23:00

Replay Friday
Reynolds | 19:00 - 23:00

1 October, Thursday

Pub Quiz
h-bar | 19:30 - 21:30

30 October, Tuesday

Super Quiz
FiveSixEight | 19:30

The Quiz
Reynolds | 18:00 - 20:00

Open Mic Night
The Union Bar | 19:00 - 22:00

31 October, Wednesday

ACC CSP Wednesday
Beit Bars | 19:00 - 02:00

Club Reynolds
Reynolds | 19:00 - 01:00

2 November, Friday

Common People
Beit Bars | 20:00 - 02:00

PGI Friday
h-bar | 19:00 - 23:00

[f](#) beitbars [f](#) hbarpub [f](#) reynoldsbarcx

For tickets and event details, go to

imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on

FOOD

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk


Guiltily delicious autumn hot chocolate and cake at Peggy Porschen Cakes // Ambika Bharadwaj

Five Decadent Hot Chocolates For Autumn

As the temperatures have started to drop, what better way to spend frosty nights than by wearing fuzzy sweaters & having a hot cup of cocoa, 'cause baby it's cold outside...

FOOD

Ambika Bharadwaj
Food Writer

This time of the year is not only perfect for flannels, plaids and woollen hats; hot chocolate is a perfect drink for transitioning into winter season. In this article, I've written about some of the most decadent hot chocolates I've had in London.

Choccywoccydoodah

Choccywoccydoodah is definitely one of the most quirky boutiques I've been in. The fiery-red walls and the mismatched furniture, coupled with the vibrancy of Carnaby Street, adds to the whole experience. Located in Soho, the boutique shop

has an array of chocolates and cakes.

If you like your hot chocolate with a side of novelty, head to Soho where your favourite cozy drink comes in three varieties – white, milk & dark – and the bottom third of the cup is pure melted chocolate. The menu has a wide range of items, and the prices are decent.

The Chin Chin Labs

Chin Chin does not mess around when it comes to decadent hot chocolate. The ice cream parlour has branches in Soho and Camden. If you happen to find yourself in Camden, then visiting this trusty parlour is a must. Drinking hot chocolate with the veggie-marshmallow fluff while walking in vinyl stores and snapping silly photos

with friends makes for an amazing weekend.

The venue is also known for its unique ice cream flavours, there is a lot of variety and the prices are quite student friendly!

Peggy Porsche Cakes Ltd

It is vital that you bring your camera to this whimsical pastel café - the pink and white colour scheme along with the pink-flowery façade makes the place one of the most Instagrammable places in London.

The bakery is popular for its gorgeous cakes, cupcakes and biscuits. It's a spot your taste buds shouldn't miss out on with its extensive range of baked goods! To get spooky for Halloween,

they have a pink skull (full of flowers) outside their window - how satisfyingly pastel-grunge, am I right? .

Found on Ebury Street, only a walk away from Sloane Square, Peggy Porschen Parlour makes for a great hot chocolate date! If you go there around 7PM, you might have to wait for an hour, but you could easily get a place before their closing time (which is 8:30 P.M.). There is always a long queue outside the parlour so it is advisable to go at an off-peak time or be prepared for *a lot* of waiting.

I recommend having hot chocolate with mini marshmallows and the raspberry and lime dry cake - both of these are awfully delicious! The place is a bit pricey but the lovely food makes up

for it!

The Peckham Pelican

You can easily hang out all day at the Pelican; a cosy and beloved gastropub/arts venue in Peckham. With a unique spin on hot chocolate, this place is something you must not miss out on.

Their thick and rich hot chocolate is a local favourite and pairs well with any of their delicious baked goods. When you order hot chocolate, you will get a mug literally dripping in flavour and nothing will ever taste as good again. Located in Peckham, when you visit the place, you won't be able to resist checking out other chocolate-y stuff.

Jaz and Jul's

Jaz and Jul's has a killer range of hot chocolate options. Having their "Raspberry Dream Hot Chocolate" was basically like a warm hug!

When you visit them at Broadway Market, have a look at their hot chocolate options - they have everything from a classic hot chocolate to a masala and chai infused concoction.

If you happen to be free on a rainy weekend, you might have to pop in and check out their scrumptious Weekend Chocolate Brunch. Did we mention it's bottomless drinks? Prosecco, here we come!

Their fantastic prices and the lively ambience theme going on really makes the whole experience amazing!

GAMES

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Halloween Horror Game Recommendations

You're in for a fright this upcoming halloween with our personal recommendations on horror games!

GAMES

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With Halloween right around the corner, there's always plenty of scares including: coursework deadlines, peer pressure and our very own Horror game recommendations! We thought we'd give you a fright this Felix issues with our personal selection of horror games old and new, that you can enjoy this upcoming Halloween. So here's our list:

Doki Doki Literature club

Let's get two things out there. First of all, this game is absolutely free. Incentivised yet? The second point is that this game is short. It should not take you more than 5 hours to complete, and that's including the time it would take to get the 'good' ending.

From the looks of it, this game looks like a colorful visual novel with pretty 2D girls. You let down your defences and play what seems to be an innocent dating simulator. But, when you least expect it, the game does a 180 and throws in something which takes you completely by surprise. From that point on, the game shows its true colours and things become more weird and distorted as you keep on playing.

A lot of classic horror relies on shock and scare tactics, preying on people's fight or flight

instinct. In this game, you see and experience different things which make you uneasy and put you on the edge. The game is brilliantly designed to achieve this effect with visual and audio distortions as well as clever fourth wall breaking here and there. You literally need to reinstall the game to play it again.

If you want something short, free and unique, this is the game to play this Halloween. The trigger warning at the beginning may seem odd and out of place, but believe me, things will turn when you least expect it, and they

“ Personal selection of horror games old and new, that you can enjoy this upcoming Halloween”

will turn for the weird.

Dead Space 1 & 2

You'd think that this game sounds horrifying, exploding babies, cultists, horrifically messed up corpses, and a intentionally limited number of resources. But there's a quiet power behind this lovecraftian simulation of black friday's aftermath. A sense of satisfaction that can be found in exacting vengeance upon jump scaring monsters, as you stomp on their crawling bodies, having tactically dismembered them and used telekinesis



//Capcom

to ensure that the eldritch horror stays down. None of these give you the exact power fantasy you get in many sandbox games, but it does deliver a fantastic sense of survival.

You faced a threat, you were afraid, you had no means of beating it and all you could do was crawl away in terror. But what was once prey, has now become a badass engineer; complete with a huge arsenal of weapons and enough telekinetic power to make professor Xavier envious. By the end of the game you're pretty much a walking apocalypse, making the undead wish they stayed dead.

TL;DR Engineering degrees help you learn how to mow down a super powered zombie horde

Alien Isolation

It's behind me. Those three words are what it feels like to play this game, once you meet the Xenomorph there are few so called "safe zones". Even more so with practically everything wants to kill

you as if they witnessed you kill their dog, in a John Wick rage you will have androids, humans and xenomorphs hunting you down. Androids and humans may be a hassle, but Xenomorphs ... nothing even comes remotely close to the sheer terror this creature, and I do mean creature not enemy or program, generates. Everything you do has a grave consequence:

“TL;DR Engineering degrees help you learn how to mow down a super powered zombie horde”

You try to find out where it is, using the scanner? It can hear you scanning. You try to wait it out in a hiding place? Go ahead, wait too long, it'll still hunt you down. Use weapons and distractions

to draw it away? It learns to recognise distractions and it traces them to you! In what seems to a game of you against a hyper intelligent military AI.

If you truly want to feel like you are in a Alien film, then by all means, this game will leave you dreading the overwhelming difference in league that lies between you, and the stealthy behemoth that stalks you. Never has the Bear Grylls phrase "Survive, Overcome, Adapt" been more suitable for a video game.

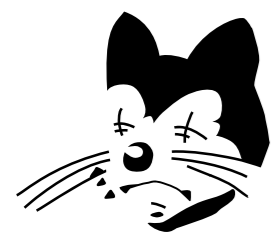
Writer's Note- Also you play as an engineer. Why is every horror game protagonist an engineer you ask? No idea, but they survive, and that's why I chose engineering.

Resident Evil 7

Consider yourself one of the family, in this extremely horrible simulator of meeting your SO's parents as you find yourself in a decrepit house in Dulvey, Louisiana running for your life from wolverine style

regenerating serial killers and not to forget Zombies; this is a resident evil game after all ;) . Returning to its original true horror roots, this installment in the resident evil series does not disappoint, with it easily being the scariest game in the series due to its close quarter nature setting as well as its spectacular stealth and running sequences.

Armed with handguns, shotguns, flamethrowers and explosives you pretty much macgyver weapons together in a more horror intense version of dead rising, as you scrounge for anything that you can get your hands on. All in all, just like the regenerative abilities of the monsters that dwell in the household, you'll find that *Resident Evil 7's* extremely tense atmosphere doesn't stay down for long . From its creepy soundtrack to its in depth story, you'll find yourself constantly on the edge of your seat as you attempt to unravel the mystery that is the Baker family.



Hangman



Freeze Peach // Imperial College London

Union Shop Extra to stock Der Stürmer

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

Students have made their voices heard - we need more racist newspapers on our shelves

The Union Shop Extra, on Sherfield Walkway, is due to stock and sell *Der Stürmer* following arguments made at Union Council this week regarding racist newspapers. Aaron Barmdinger, a concerned student, brought forward a motion

to stop the Union from stocking and selling "racist tabloids" such as *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail*, and *The Daily Express*. After a debate on Tuesday night that went on for far too long, the motion was rejected.

"Look, we can't just ban things we don't like" said Worzel Gummidge, a defender of liberty. "I personally find these views absolutely abhorrent - are you writing this down? Absolutely abhorrent. But like, you can only defeat abhorrent ideas by bringing them and shoving it in front of everyone's face while repeatedly screaming "ISN'T THIS DISGUSTING?". Did I mention that I find these views absolutely

abhorrent?"

"I don't know man, maybe we shouldn't be displaying 'immigrants are cockroaches and need to die', especially after that whole Union blackface incident?"

When Barmdinger was approached for a response, he quietly mumbled "idk man, maybe we shouldn't be displaying 'immigrants are cockroaches and need to die' especially after that whole Union blackface incident?" before walking away, head held down.

Lynsey Dickerson, Deputy President (Freeze Peach), issued the following statement: "This attempt to turn the Union into Soviet Russia has thankfully been defeated," she said. "I mean, just look at the science: if you're exposed to a virus you become immune to it. So if society is exposed to more racism, it becomes more immune to it, right? It's a racism vaccination - a public service. If

anything, we need to stock MORE racist newspapers - 3 isn't nearly enough to end all racism. What? The Union doesn't stock the best-selling newspaper of Nazi Germany, *Der Stürmer*? I'll get on it at once!"

The debate briefly touched upon the idea of controversial speakers. Tom Pilfer, Deputy President (Best Ideas), told the room that the best way to deal with a society inviting a controversial speaker is to invite an opposing speaker. "Look, if we invite Tommy Robinson, then it's fine so long as we offer an opposing view - someone like, idk, Anjem Choudary?"

It is unclear when the Union's joint Tommy Robinson - Anjem Choudary event is taking place.

"If anything, we need to stock MORE racist newspapers - three isn't nearly enough to end all racism"

HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

Shock as Prominent Political Leader Involved in Blueface Scandal

HANGMAN

Paul Belushis
CEO @ Memepierial

A series of compromising images involving the leader of the "Vote me, Tony Peng, to be your next bio social president" campaign have emerged

The photographs show the titular political figure and member of Union Council, Tony Peng, engaging in the act

of making gunfingers at the camera in what appears to be a gathering of more than 5 students in the Metric nightclub.

When approached for a comment, Peng replied "There's no way you're getting a quote from me for your article".

Peng rose to fame during his tenure as DocSoc President, involved in numerous acts of 'miscellaneous'. Most famous of these was the Nuggetpocalypse that terrorised upper Dalby Court during his run for Union President in the Leadership Elections last year, organised in tandem

with his partner in crime, Big Fluffy Unicorn. When approached for a comment on the leaked photos, BFU stated that "I can hereby confirm that none on the blue substance on my colleague's face has any connection to unicorn body fluids".

During our investigation of the matter, further images from the night in Metric were found, giving us clearer pictures of the marks on Peng's face - hexagons, perhaps a hint of his connection to DocSoc. He was also pictured with engineering Mafia boss and DocSoc events officer, Alasgna

Pepperonardi.

DocSoc President, Instagramji, declined to comment on the dealings of her minions.

However when approached directly, Don Pepperonardi himself spoke of his fondness for carbonara, confirmed the authenticity of the images, the presence of former-boss Peng, and requested that the private conversation between Pepperonardi and ourselves "better not go on Felix".

Although initial reports following his failed presidential campaign indicated that he had moved

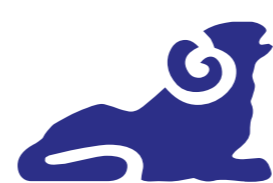


Peng can be seen dressed in blueface // Paul Belushi

into retirement, Peng may be on the brink of a career renaissance. This scandal therefore arrives at an unfortunate time for Peng, who is now on council but

not yet granted the rank of Master.

It remains to be seen if Tony Peng will blue-face the consequences.



ARIES

This week you hear rumours that Council is banning the Daily Mail. You sell the story to the paper. Unfortunately, it doesn't happen and the DM want their £50 back.



TAURUS

This week you're Deputy President (Welfare). Everyone is the Union office is watching you.

They all know you'll be the first to crack.



GEMINI

This week, to save money you decide to start cycling.

Unfortunately your campus is White City and you end up getting thrown off your bike by an Imperial shuttle bus.



CANCER

This week you're a returning member to Union Council. You're happy they moved to a room with moveable chairs - maybe we'll get some WWE style brawls this year!



LEO

This week you go all out at the Farmer's Market because you deserve. The pigeons in SAF, however, feel your pasta could use an extra bit of seasoning. The shit gives it an organic crunch, no?



VIRGO

This week, Venus, is in retrograde, and your love life is in jeopardy.

Coincidence? It's more likely that you're just an average Imperial undergrad engineer.



LIBRA

This week you're a former Sabb Officer. You miss the office. You long for the respect you once garnered from the student body. Then you remember Union Council. You get over it quickly.



SCORPIO

This week you're still pissed you didn't make the cut for the Techtonics. On the bright side, at least you don't have to wear those tacky red chinos. Deffo not your colour.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you're the Editor for Breitbart. You've heard the Union might be stocking a spectrum of print papers to be 'inclusive of free speech'. Might be time to hit up the printing press.



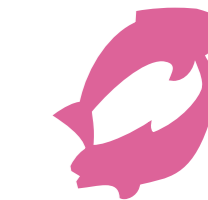
CAPRICORN

This week you're Alice Gast. You think you're ill (not freshers' flu because eww not the commoners) but actually every time a student mentions your salary in Council you sneeze uncontrollably.



AQUARIUS

This week you're a College counsellor. A month in and you already know so much about these students they're coming up as recommended friends on Facebook. What the hell.



PISCES

This week you decide to apply for a grad scheme. You don't realise you're still suffering from PTSD after all your summer internship rejections until you end up on the library floor rocking yourself.

INVESTMENT

icu.investmentsociety@imperial.ac.uk

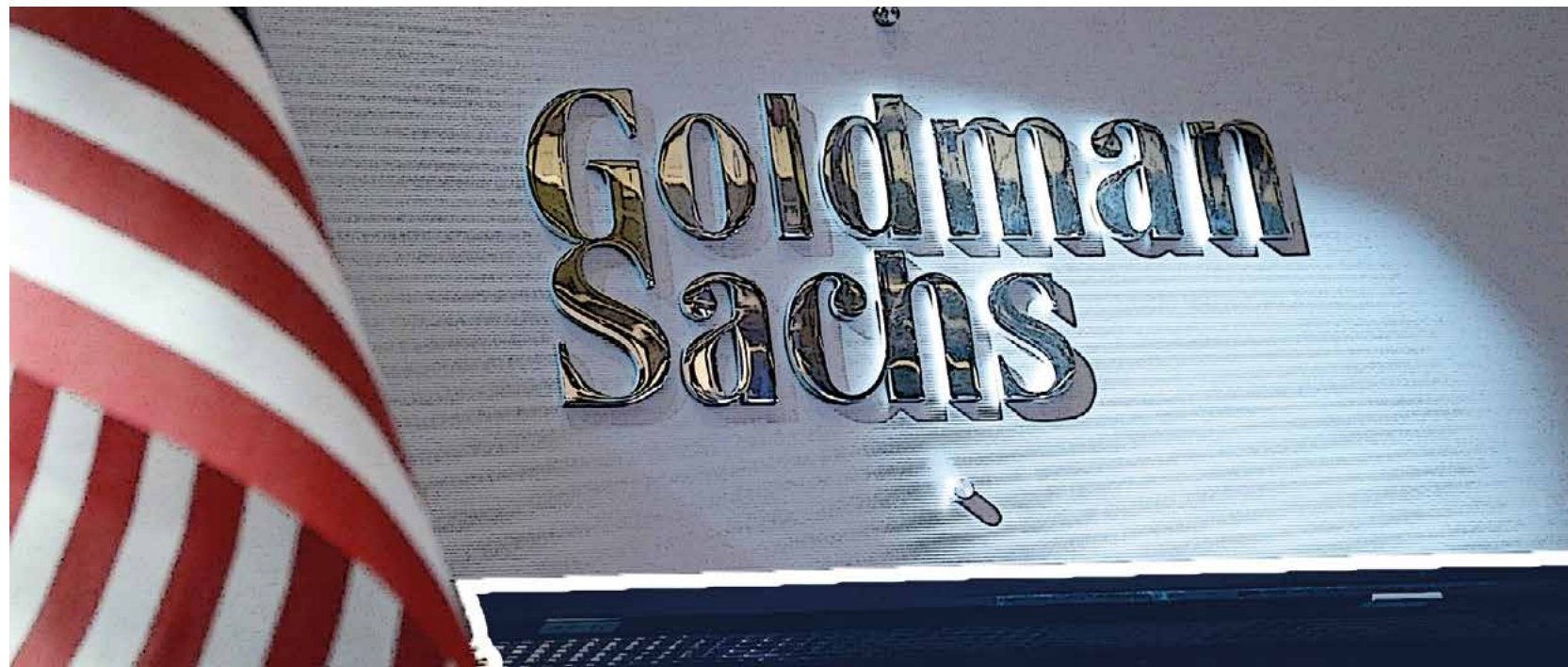

Investment banks relish in hawkish environment

INVESTMENT

Tom Alston

*Investment Editor
ICIS Editor in Chief*

It is a well-known fact that when interest rates are hiked, investment banks increase their profitability due to their massive cash holdings. Increasing the interest rates directly increases the yield on the cash it holds, and the proceeds go directly into the income statement. Furthermore, interest rate hikes tend to occur in environments where economic growth is strong and consumer and corporate demand for loans spikes. It is not surprising that with the current strong economic climate in the USA, powered by the tax cuts imposed by the Trump administration in addition to the recent rate hike by the Fed, that bulge bracket banks are starting to reap the rewards. One clear example of this is Goldman Sachs. The bank reported \$6.28 earnings per share (EPS) exceeding the \$5.38 analyst estimate, with revenue exceeding \$8.4 billion estimate coming in at \$8.65 billion. The business had benefited strongly from high demand for initial public offerings (IPO), where revenues for equities underwriting had more than doubled and fears that fixed-income would be hit were cushioned by higher revenues from FX and commodity trading. David Solomon, CEO who took over on 1 Oct, is also broadening the banking and trading client base, finding growth in smaller markets including pushing into retail banking. Marcus, the new retail banking arm of Goldman Sachs, hit the UK high streets earlier last month and it has been announced



Goldman Sachs quarter 3 earnings exceeded analysts expectation// **Daily Crypto**

that it will merge with its investment management unit. Solomon claims the new division will launch a “broader wealth-management offering combining Marcus’ digital capabilities with the more established sales channels and products currently housed within the investment management division”.

On the other side of the Atlantic, European banks have also recorded strong growth. Barclays published third quarter results with revenues from equities and fixed-income trading up by almost a fifth. Jes Staley, Barclays Chief Executive, said “There has been a comment that European investment banks can’t compete with the US, and I would just point out that for four quarters in a row we have gained market share”. The strong performance of Barclay’s trading desks compared well with the larger banks like Goldman and Morgan Stanley, but its revenues are still dwarfed by its US rivals. However, it looks like European private banks are the highlight. Selling lucrative products and services to the world’s growing

number of millionaires generated record profits of €15.4 billion for 111 private banks in western Europe, with an annual increase of 14.1% according to McKinsey the consultancy. UBS, the main player globally in private wealth management, reported that adjusted pre-tax profits for its non-US wealth operations rose by 15%. Compare this to BlackRock (the world’s largest asset manager with more than \$6 trillion of assets under management

based in the States) whose shares plummeted after its long-term net flows- a measure of how much money investors are handing it, excluding more short term volatile cash management vehicles- have hit a two year low. BlackRock CEO Larry Fink, laid the blame on choppy financial conditions, which have caused investors to scale back their exposure to the market saying, “Divergence in monetary policy and macro and geopolitical uncertainty

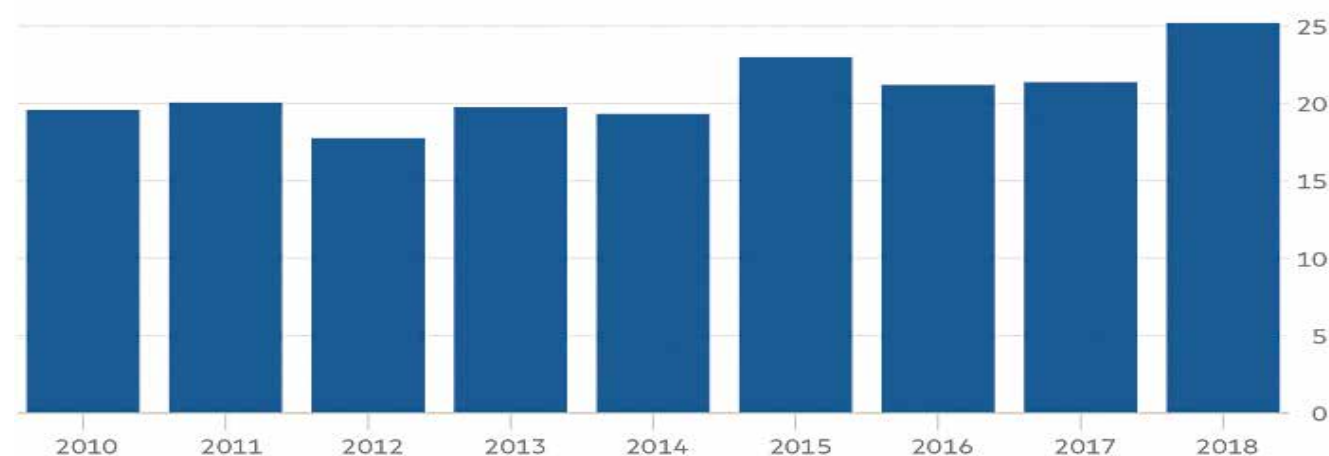
continues to impact investor sentiment and our financial markets, leading clients to reduce risk in their portfolios”. However, BlackRock is facing a seismic longer-term shift in the investment industry. The global asset management industry is facing intensifying pressure from cheap, index tracking funds, which have drawn hundreds of billions of dollars since the financial crisis.

I think, however, this shows what all investors

are worried about at the moment. The business cycle peaking. Despite strong growth results there is an underlying realisation that this is no longer sustainable, and that this is as good as it gets. What is worrying is that the debt load for US corporations has reached a record \$6.3 trillion, with increasing yields and what looks like choppy waters ahead will everyone be able to meet their liabilities?

Bumper stock trading revenues for US banks

First nine months (\$bn)



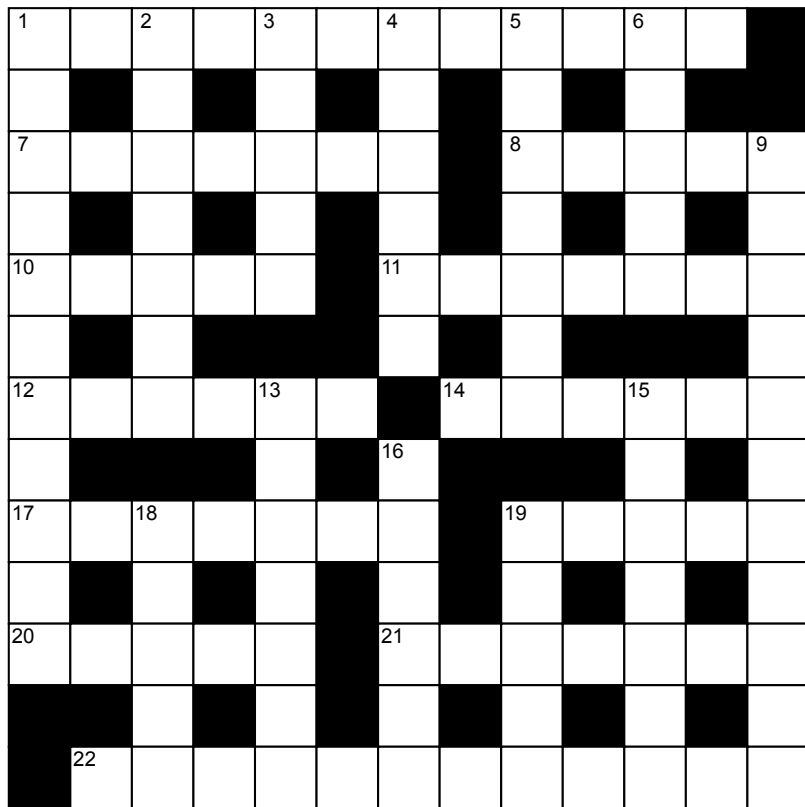
Aggregate equity trading revenues for Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup and Bank of America

Source: Autonomous
© FT

Trading revenues at bulge bracket banks have increased in 2018// **Financial Times**

PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk



CROSSWORD

It's Halloween soon! Leaves are falling, vampires are teething, and Felix has prepared a spooooooooky crossword for your consumption. Boo!

Across

- 1. Children's door-to-door request (12)
- 7. Reach full potential (7)
- 8. It's upon us. (5)
- 10. Master of Ceremonies (5)
- 11. Yummy when grated (7)
- 12. "X marks the spot" for a vampire (6)
- 14. One-room house (6)
- 17. Ghost (7)
- 19. Fearful air intakes (5)
- 20. Send to Coventry (5)
- 21. Poached egg's most fashionable friend (7)
- 22. A must-have Halloween event (12)

Down

- 1. Typical seasonal treat (11)
- 2. Unlawful (7)
- 3. A chef's weapon of choice (5)
- 4. Religious artifacts (6)
- 5. Butchers and werewolves alike rate it (3, 4)
- 6. Trophy (5)
- 9. Told around a campfire (11)
- 13. Escape to a safe place when the zombies attack... (7)
- 15. ...and then, lose all hope. (7)
- 16. Prepare a mummy (6)
- 18. Your Spanish friend (5)
- 19. A set of people (5)

FUCWIT

1	Maxiane	54
2	Sudoku-rself	50
3	Yeet Infection	43
3	CHZYNo.1InMy<3	43
5	Cat Ladies	39
6	HoneybunnySnugglepuff	35
7	Luncheon Pals	33
8	KBLB	30
10	Budget-Greg & 13Wales	16
11	Computer magic	15
19	The Indoor Sundial	12
22	Sleepy Honey Badger	6
22	Snails	6

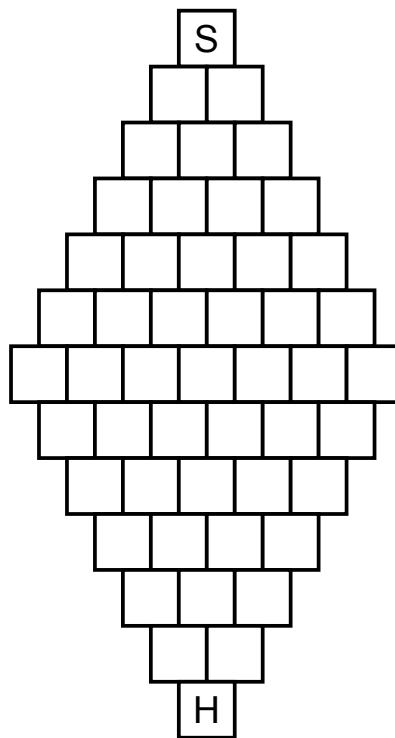
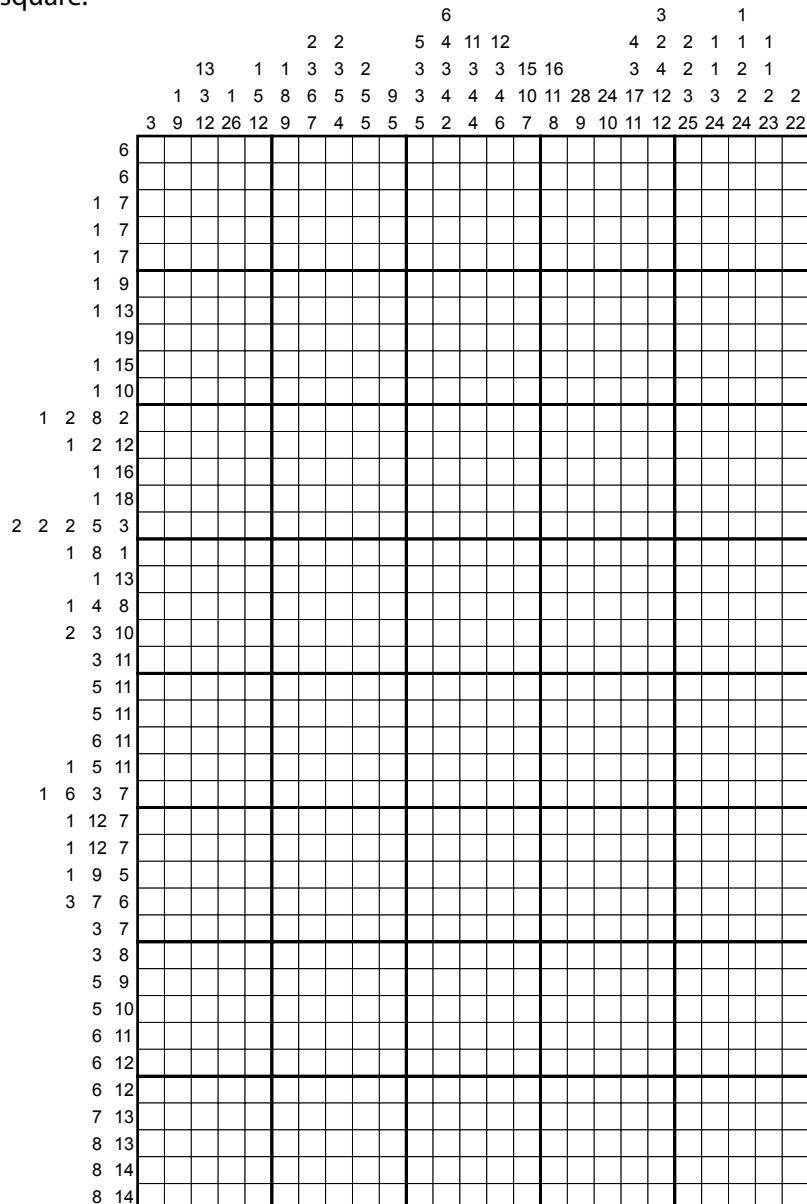
Send your solutions to fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk before Wednesday midday to take part in the leaderboard!

Points available

Crossword	6
Nonogram	4
Slitherlink	4
Word Pyramid	4
Total	18

NONOGRAM

Colour in some of the squares to make a picture. Each number represents a block of consecutive black squares within that row/column. Each block needs to be separated by at least one white square.



WORD PYRAMID

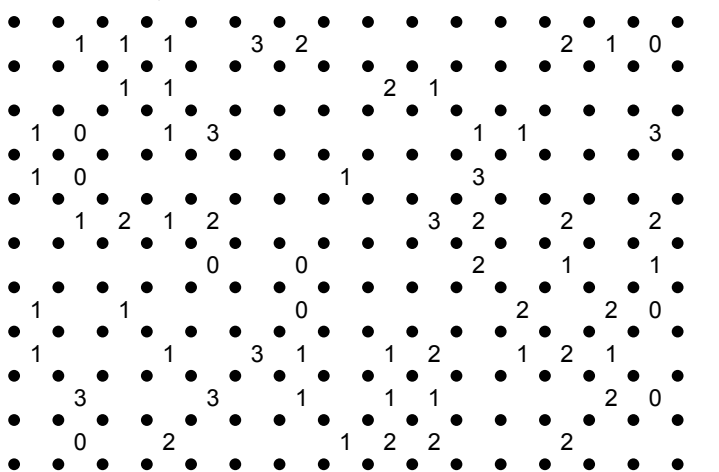
Each row is an anagram of the previous, plus or minus one letter.

Clues, from top to bottom:

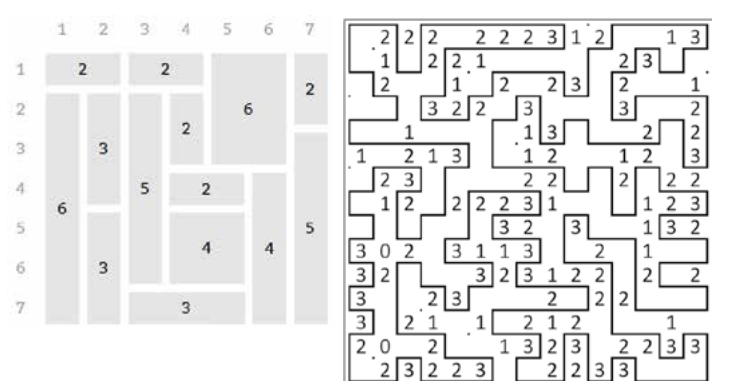
- Exists (2) – Grab a chair (3) – Strikes (4) – An ambitious robbery (5) – You wash them separately from your colours (6) – Children dress up as them on Halloween (7) – Morals (6) – Upper body part (5) – Engrave (4) – Most used word in English (3) – Male pronoun (2)

SLITHERLINK

Connect horizontally and vertically adjacent dots so that the lines form a simple loop with no loose ends. The number inside a square represents how many of its four sides are segments in the loop.



Last week's solutions





John, Marcus, Alan and Jack at the Catford CC Hill Climb - the oldest bike race in the world //ICCC

Cycling reach new heights at BUCS Hill Climb

Imperial's fastest club on two wheels journeys to the oldest bike race in the world

SPORTS

Miscellaneous

Imperial Cycling Club

The bikes had been stripped; bottle cages removed, handlebar tape gone, batteries only half charged, and we'd been surviving off sparkling water and lettuce for the last three days. The universal sign of an upcoming hill climb.

The BUCS Hill Climb, held this year on the infamous Mam Tor in the Peak District, marked the end of the road season for the cycling club. People

often question whether it is worth driving 4 hours each way for a 6-minute race and, to be honest, so we were as we set off at 7am. A journey made worse by the fact we couldn't eat (some dubious physics from Marcus suggested 100g in weight cost 1s on the climb).

Morale was low and the signs for Woburn Safari Park were tempting but it only opened at 10am so we pressed on. Finally the climb crept into view and the mood was summed up by Jack who said, "That looks quite big". We thought this would be a

good time to start getting the excuses in and moaned about how Sheffield University had an unfair advantage having this on their doorstep while we have Exhibition Road.

We went for a quick recon of the climb which didn't tell us much we didn't already know from some extensive street-view-based research the night before. There was a 18% ramp straight out of the start gate, with the gradient easing off (by easing off we're talking single-figure gradient) with the gradient kicking to 12% again for a brutal mid-section before a couple of hairpins into the finish. Overall stats were 2.2km at 10% (think Box Hill but twice as steep) – in essence it starts hard and gets harder.

We headed back to the minibus and talked very loudly about tactics and power numbers to give off a vibe that we knew what we were doing.

Roy Miles was the first rider off for Imperial

setting a very quick early time of 7:51, next was Julian who clocked 10:35, then Zach at 10:02. Alex was next off stopping the clock at 8:32; at 6'3 Alex was always fighting a losing battle against gravity but averaged that next year would be to watch in the time trials. Jack Hagger, who had an incredibly detailed power-based pacing strategy, was understandably gutted to see his power meter decide to re-calibrate itself on the start line though he still managed to clock an incredibly impressive 7:26.

There had been a huge amount of competition between Imperial's final three riders (Alan Slatter, John Shroff and Marcus Halson) - beginning on the recent training camp to Girona. With one win apiece in their previous three hill climbs this was very much the decider as the last race of the season, and their last hill climb for ICCC. Form was looking good with all three clocking Box

Hill PB's (the universally accepted form indicator) in the week leading up to the event.

Marcus was first off and, despite making it abundantly clear to anyone he spoke to that this "wasn't his sort of hill", clocked a 7:31. Alan Slatter was next and on the legendary pink bike could be spotted a long way off. Worryingly for Marcus he seemed to be going quite well and he crossed the line in 7:13 – a standout performance. John was last off for Imperial and, after a solid ride in the hill climb last year, was amongst the big-hitters at the business end of the event. Aided by some huge cheers from the rest of the team he also stopped the clock in 7:31 (later confirmed to be an all-important 0.3s behind Marcus).

The standard of the event is always very high, and this year was no exception. The winning time of 6:12 at an astonishing average speed on 18.7km/h was a

new course record on a climb that has previously been used for the national championships.

Post-race comprised a lot of calories and excuses and in the manner of Liverpool fans we all agreed that next year would be our year. Morale was buoyed slightly by seeing that a UCL rider had come last. We went over to offer our condolences and ended up getting roped into taking one of their riders back after they'd forgotten to book transport for the return leg. The invoice is on the way to UCL as we speak.

It's been an incredibly successful year for the club. There have been ups, such as Matt Langworthy winning the BUCS 10 mile TT, and downs such as missing out on the glory, and more importantly the £160 each, of winning the Catford and Bec Team prize by the merest of margins but we'll be heading into the off season with morale high ready to push on for next year.



ICCC captain John gurning his way to the top //ICCC

Imperial College Lawn Tennis Club heads to Nice for summer tour!

Nice. Very nice indeed.

SPORTS

Arnaud Legrand, Diego Vargas Ortiz, Bartu Akcaba, and Philip Mogul

IC Lawn Tennis Members

This summer we set out to Nice, France, for our summer tour. Aiming to experience clay-court tennis (a surface we never get to play on in London) we took this opportunity to spend some time together after a successful season.

The excitement to play on the top-quality clay courts in Nice was clear as soon as squad assembled at around 9am at Liverpool Street station. But that had to wait, the first stop was the Spoons at Stansted Airport for a pre-flight breakfast. Shout-out to the beloved President for being late, thankfully we didn't miss our flight! Advice to anyone heading to Nice, don't sleep on the plane unlike most of us - the landing is spectacular.

With the French sun showing its might instantly, the team took a bus to the city centre and walked down to the hostel. After some time to relax, Nice

was all up for exploring but it wasn't long before a hungry bunch of tennis players wanted to devour some traditional French food. The night carried far after dinner - and what better way to end it than a dip in the Mediterranean in the early hours of the morning.

On Saturday, southern French sunshine filled the hostel, and we rose up and headed to breakfast. This was followed by a trip to Nice's beautiful castle. The team were doubtful it

"Shout-out to the beloved President for being late, thankfully we didn't miss our flight!"

would be worth the steep climb to top of the hill, but the views proved them wrong. What followed was a little promenade around the gardens, waterfalls and gorgeous views of the Mediterranean. On the way back to the hostel,



Sun, sets, and suspicious serves //IC Lawn Tennis



Doesn't look like a lawn to me... //IC Lawn Tennis

everyone was delighted to try Socca, a type of crepe made from chickpea flour native to Nice.

As soon as the team made it to the hostel it was time to bash some tennis balls. Flip-flops were switched for tennis shoes, rackets were gathered and heads turned west towards the Nice Lawn Tennis Club. The scorching sunshine did not stop the fierce tennis lovers from enjoying two full hours of clay-court tennis as everyone got to hit with each other. Shout out to James for serving into Bartu's head during the doubles. As the whole squad was on the verge of a heat stroke by the time tennis was finished, it was time to hit the beach once again.

As the sun set over the French Riviera, the clay covered shoes were dusted off and shirts were worn. The night continued as the crew embarked on a bar crawl around Nice; the details of which won't be discussed to preserve the dignity of certain (all?)

members.

As we began the final morning, the sun forced its rays through the shuttered windows of the hostel dorms. No one stirred: they slumbered on through the first hours of the day. As a few of the chaps started to slowly wake up, heavy-lidded eyes were slowly prised open, and hands gently rubbed throbbing heads and roiling stomachs. Others lay completely still, heads heavily slumped against the sides of bins, unwilling to move lest the world start spinning anew. A soft stutter escaped from the lips of one slumping form: "Totally worth it".

The group eventually moved - the tennis courts were booked for 2pm after all! On court, movements started sluggish, weak, pitiful. But, as the team recovered, the hits gained in strength and vigour (if not precision) and balls went zooming through the air in yellow streaks, filling the air with the comforting sounds of rhythmic tennis rallying.

Soon, however, the squad found themselves tiring: legs were slogging, shoulders were slumping, feet were dragging on the rich red clay of the French tennis courts. Needless to say, the French were thoroughly impressed by our grand display!

Following training, the group went for a last quick swim in the sea and sunbathed, clearly uncomfortable on the pebble beach but too lazy to move. The evening slowly reared its head and the team finally decided to wander the city for a well-deserved last meal in France. And what better to enjoy in this country of exquisite local cuisine than a pineapple pizza fresh from the oven (the man was looked down upon and sentenced to an evening of judgmental looks).

And thus our trip ended here: the team dashing through town to grab their taxis, leaving for the airport, and bellies wobbling with their last meal. They accomplished

their mission and brought to Nice the best of Imperial culture: a swirl of high-performance tennis, a whole lot of "oui-ouis" and "Ouhlalaas", plenty of growling stomachs and parched throats and, most importantly, a belched rendition of Country Roads that undoubtedly

"Shout-out to James for serving into Bartu's head during doubles"

still reverberates throughout the whole town.

If you enjoy playing tennis or want to learn how to play, get in touch with us through social media and we'll be more than happy to get you involved in the club - and see you with us next year for our upcoming tour!

SPORTS

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Cross Country Runs for Parliament (Hill)

50 ICXCAC athletes head to Hampstead Heath for the start of another season

SPORTS

Henry Hart

ICXCAC HPR Organiser

Fergus Johnson

ICXCAC Club Captain

The first few weeks of October always seem to have surprisingly good weather to put the new freshers at ease, but eventually the first day of rain comes.

For years, engineers and scientists have been trying to refine the Navier-Stokes equations enough to be able to predict weather accurately. One thing that should be kept in mind is that there is nothing more certain to cause miserable weather than the looming advent of the first cross country race of the season.

This year as the leaves turned brown (and wet) Imperial's fittest and finest journeyed to North London for the first in the series of 5 races in the London Cross Country League.

The grass was definitely slick, but the conditions - unlike some races in previous years - were far from apocalyptic. The true challenge of the day

facing the intrepid ICXC runners was the famous Parliament Hill, which would need to be tackled at least twice by all during the course of the race.

After a hot debate over the route to get to the race start, the runners arrived to Hampstead Heath in dashing new spikes and vests (for those who managed to snag one before they sold out!).

Following a brief

"Imperial - with over 50 athletes - fielded the largest team of any club"

warm-up and the traditional chanting on the start line to drown out the health and safety instructions from the race director, the 200-strong crowd of runners from across the capital's student population were on their way.

St. Mary's (a team absolutely rammed with



All smiles before the race // Oliver Siddons

international scholarship talent) were on the right of the start line, flanking the strong showing from Imperial who - with over 50 athletes - fielded the largest men's and women's teams of any club.

As is tradition at the annual season opener, all the colleges had selected their respective "King of the Hill" contenders.

This strange competition involves completely ruining any prospect of having a good race for the victim as it involves sprinting to get to the top of the mammoth first hill

before anyone else.

Initially it looked like a Bart's runner would take the crown, but in the end they were no match for Imperial's heroic James Millett. An 800m man by trade, he used his superior speed endurance to overtake the fledgling offerings from Bart's and Mary's to bring back the (metaphorical) King of the Hill crown for Imperial.

The success for IC's band of merry runners did not stop there. Niki Faulkner, strong from the gun, finished a clear 2nd place behind "really fast" steeplechaser from St. Mary's.

On the women's side, Georgia Curry made a triumphant return to finish an excellent 3rd, taking home the bronze medal just ahead of teammate Kate Olding in 4th.

In terms of team performances, in the women's competition, Imperial's A-team packed well to put 5 (Georgia Curry, Kate Olding, Alix Vermeulen, Liv Papaioannou and Steph Hewitt) in the top 16 to place a close 2nd in the team competition behind

Mary's (who, unlike IC, were not missing any star athletes due to graduation ceremonies).

Imperial's B-team top the B-league, finishing in 4th overall ahead of A-teams from King's, Reading, LSE, RVC, RHUL, St. George's, and Bart's. Following hot on their heels, Imperial's C-, D-, and E-teams top their respective leagues too.

In the men's competition, Imperial have a bit of work to do to catch the 2 Mary's teams and UCL ahead of them in the rest of the season as they finished 4th team.

While only Niki (2nd) broke into the top 20 on this occasion, the depth of the men's squad is looking encouraging for the season ahead. Imperial A placed all of their runners in the top 35 with strong runs from Daniel Garcia, Fergus Johnson, Charlie McFadzean and fresher Lucas Kreifels.

Imperial's B-team finished 3rd in the B-league, ahead of A-teams from Bart's, LSE, and RVC. Imperial's C-team are also 3rd in their league, with the

D-team 2nd (because St. Mary's only had 3 teams), and the E-team top of the E-league (out of 1).

The team looks forward to getting some of their "big hitters" competing in the upcoming fixtures to complement their admirable strength-in-depth.



IC medallists Georgia & Niki // Oliver Siddons

Naturally, the race was followed by the mass-sampling of all-manner of baked goods made by members, with some new faces putting in early bids for club "Baker of the Year".

The next race is widely regarded as the flattest in the LXCL calendar, and takes place at Mitcham Common on Halloween. LXCL races are open to all abilities (F-team anyone?), so if you are interested in coming along, find us on Facebook and/or email run@ic.ac.uk.



Millett (white T-shirt) storms to "King of the Hill" // Oliver Siddons