



Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London

NEWS



White City
Woes

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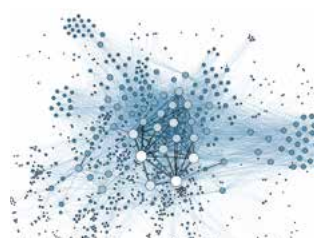
COMMENT



Remembering
the Boxing Day
Tsunami

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Network - the
new student
exclusive app

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SPORT



From Brighton
with love

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"What the hell is going on?" // Joseph O'Connell-Danes

Imperial joins forces with *The Times* to cultivate "shared interests"

Joanna Wormald
Deputy Editor

The partnership will host a series of events to promote the importance of student engagement with the news

A partnership between Imperial and *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* was officially launched this week.

The "What the hell is going on?" event marked the start of a year-long collaboration, which will feature joint events to "advance shared interests in the future of science and culture".

Tuesday evening saw *Times* journalist and political satirist Matt Chorley joined in conversation by universities minister, Sam Gyimah. The discussion covered politics, changes to higher education and the tuition fee system (as reported in last week's edition of *Felix*), and the future of British research

and innovation in the wake of Brexit.

When first announcing the partnership, Imperial College Union president Rob Tomkies said: "We are very excited about.. this partnership and the potential it has to benefit the student community at Imperial."

Emma Tucker, deputy editor of *The Times*, said: "*The Times* and the *Sunday Times* are delighted to partner with Imperial College London to promote our shared belief that it has never been more important for

young people to develop a breadth of knowledge and to stay up to date with the news."

Tomkies added: "We see this relationship as a way of exploring the broader issues around journalism, communication and culture – empowering people to lead and communicate in all fields, not just their scientific specialism."

To this end, the direction of the collaboration will largely be student-driven. The selection process for five student ambassadors is currently underway.

Those chosen will have a key role in designing and organising events, as well as representing the partnership on campus. Ambassadors will also have access to training and workshops with *Times* journalists.

All students and staff have been given a year's digital subscription, which also provides access to subscriber-only content, benefits, and events. Subscriptions can be activated via an Imperial email link.

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The calm before the storm



Andy Djaba – Felix Editor

This evening I received an e-mail from the printer. The email read, "we will need your pages here much earlier than they were last week please."

The jig is up. The not-so-firm print deadline that I've enjoyed and exploited all term is starting to tighten up.

Having said that, it's 11.21pm and I'm only now writing this. So we might not have a paper this week, depending on if the printers refuse to put up with my shit any longer. Who knows, they may even be like the College and cap it at 40%?

I've also just realised I haven't had the time to change my editorial picture. One day, my friends, one day. Or is it too late to even bother? I'm starting to think this is becoming kinda like my brand.

This week's *Felix* goes lite, with only 32 pages. I see this as the calm before the storm because next week's issue, which is the final issue of term, is certain to be a thicc boi. Coming soon to a

common room near you.

Funny how so many people told me, "it gets easier after Imperial", because this literal 11th hour adrenaline rush feels very familiar. At least this time I don't get kicked out of the building. And I get to control the temperature in the office (perks of the job).

We've got some great pieces in the paper this week. With almost a full term gone, we've heard from staff and students based in White City on how they've found it so

far. Some interesting opinions and perspectives were shared.

"I could probably write this editorial without shameless pull quotes, but why would I want to?"

There's also a comment piece from Lasith reflecting on his experience of the Boxing Day Tsunami almost 14 years ago, in Galle, Sri Lanka. A definite must-read.

As always, I couldn't get any of this done without the great work of the Felix team. Speaking of who, we took over ACC this week (hyberbole? Yes, but who cares). The next few weeks are shaping up to be very social-heavy in the Felix office is getting into the festive spirit. If any of you are interested in joining in a great (and wholesome) group of people, let us know! We're always happy to have new faces join.

Props once again to the Section of the Week: Arts! You guys are starting to scare me a bit with this level of efficiency. Like wow. The rest of you lot - step your game up.

(also shoutout to my ghostwriter for this editorial, who still doesn't get as much credit as they deserve. If only they put as much effort into their degree as they did with this paper)



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NEWS

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Library to pilot Study Break Card scheme

NEWS

Alejandro Luy
Deputy President (Education)

A promising answer to historical student feedback on lack of space in the Central Library

The Central Library is piloting a Study Break Card scheme for two weeks beginning Monday 3rd December.

The scheme is a direct response to the feedback from library users, via mediums such as the National Student Survey, Student Experience Survey and Library surveys, which prompted Library Services to investigate ways to allow users fairer access to study space.

One of the recurring themes in feedback received relating to the

library is how difficult it can be at busy times of the year for users to find a place to study. Based on the feedback, one key cause of this issue is that some library users leave their belongings to 'reserve' a space – sometimes for hours at a time. This causes dissatisfaction

"Introducing study break cards during the busiest periods - close to exam and assessment dates - will lead to more library users being able to find a space when they need to study"

among those trying to find a study space, and is not an effective or fair use of the limited space available in the library.

A Study Break Card scheme was chosen as a solution by looking to similar schemes successfully implemented at other university libraries.

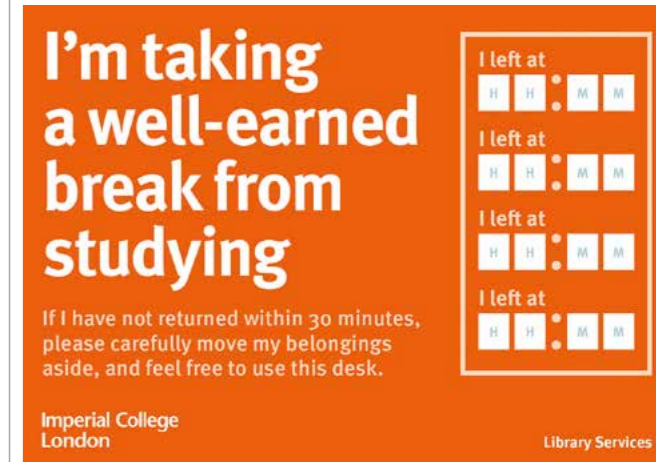
Introducing study break cards during the busiest periods – close to exam and assessment dates – will lead to more library users being able to find a space when they need to study, leading to a more effective use of the space available.

The scheme also encourages users to take regular breaks from studying which is positive for wellbeing and will hopefully lead to healthier studying habits. The scheme allows users to take breaks of up to 30 minutes without forfeiting the study space they are using by simply filling out a card and leaving it on the desk they are using. Users wishing to leave for over 30 minutes, for example to attend classes,

will be expected to clear the space they have been using and take their belongings with them.

"The scheme also encourages users to take regular breaks from studying, which is positive for wellbeing and will hopefully lead to healthier studying habits"

The scheme will expect users to carefully, and respectfully, move belongings aside and use the study space if it has been left unattended for over



Have a break // Library Services

30 minutes. The success of the scheme hinges on whether or not library users respect the cards and each other's belongings, and library staff will be monitoring for any abuse of the scheme during the pilot.

Feedback on the scheme is essential to make sure that it meets the needs of Library users – so please provide feedback to the library using ASK the Library <https://imperial.service-now.com/ask> or by emailing library@imperial.ac.uk. There are also paper feedback forms available and

friendly staff to chat to at the Information Hub on level 1 of the Library.

Cards will be available from card dispensers on all levels of the Central Library and at the Information Hub. Of course, please remember to never leave any valuables unattended at any time in the library.

More information on the Study Break Card scheme is available at www.imperial.ac.uk/library/study-break-cards/

London university students help blood cancer charity, Anthony Nolan, celebrate 20 years of lifesaving

NEWS

Andy Djaba
Editor-in-Chief

Volunteers from London universities will be celebrating 20 years of students saving lives with Anthony Nolan this academic year

Blood cancer charity, Anthony Nolan, celebrates 20 years of its student volunteer network, "Marrow".

Imperial is amongst ten London universities with a Marrow society and, over the last 20 years, Imperial Marrow has joined other Marrow societies in holding over 400 events to raise awareness of the work that Anthony Nolan

does to support families and patients with blood cancer. Over 90 students recruited through these Marrow events have gone on to donate stem cells. As part of a year-long celebration to raise awareness of the need for more stem cell donors, Marrow groups will be holding a series of fundraising and donor recruitment events.

Charlotte Cunliffe, Marrow Programme

Lead, said, "This year, our wonderful Marrow community is proud to be celebrating 20 years of saving lives. Our work in universities is vital, because it allows us to reach a young and diverse group of people. We are excited about the next 20 years and are looking forward to spreading the word about the lifesaving potential of students on campuses across London."

Patients from black, Asian or other minority ethnic backgrounds have just a 20% chance of finding a matching stem cell donor, compared to 69% of patients from north European backgrounds. As such, Marrow students aim to recruit potential donors from a range of backgrounds.

With more than 1500 people recruited by student volunteers having

gone on to donate their stem cells, Marrow has gone from strength to strength and continues to work hard to save the lives of people with blood cancer.

To find out more about Marrow Groups, visit www.anthonynolan.org/marrow. If you are 16-30 and in good health, you can register online at www.anthonynolan.org/join.

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

"I can't promise to know what is happening in the madness that is British politics at the moment, but I can explain why no one else knows either."

Rebels
Brexit
ANTISEMITISM
DEFECTIONS
MEMORANDUM
NATIONALISM
TRUMP
BORIS
BREXIT
RESIGNATIONS

Matt Chorley, The Times Red Box editor, in conversation with Sam Gyimah, Minister of State (Universities and Science)

Tuesday 27 November 5pm - 7pm
Sir Alexander Fleming, G13 with spillover into G34

White City Woes

NEWS

Andy Djaba
Editor-in-Chief

As the Chemistry department approaches the end of its first term at Imperial's new White City campus, Felix investigates the issues that have arisen

Autumn 2018 saw the opening of the Molecular Sciences Research Hub (MSRH), which represents a new research home for the Department of Chemistry on Imperial's new White City campus. With the first term in White City drawing to a close, Felix reached out to various staff and students across all levels of the Chemistry department, from undergraduate student to postdoctoral researcher and beyond, and invited them to reflect on their experiences of the new building and campus. The two questions that were asked were, "how have you found the move to White City in this first term?" and "what issues have you seen/experienced associated with the move to White City".

In a staff briefing sent out via e-mail on Friday 16th November, Professor Alan Armstrong, Head of the Department of Chemistry, was quite positive about the move to White City. Although acknowledging that "no move is easy" and recognising that there have been "teething problems", Professor Armstrong enthused about the open layouts for

office and write-up areas, which "provide a great contrast" to the buildings in South Kensington and "allow greatly improved interactions between researchers, which is already leading to better collaborative working and cross-pollination of ideas". Although many of the staff contacted by Felix shared Professor Armstrong's sentiment that many of his colleagues have been "struck most by how the building really has changed" the way they interact with each other, this rather glowing assessment of the move to White City has not proved to be accurate amongst the majority of staff.

"I'm pretty disgruntled by the lack of help and lack of caring over this"

When reflecting on Professor Armstrong's staff briefing, one member of staff commented, "It's PR isn't it? It doesn't really have any basis in reality. It's whatever they want to go out. Just like any business." The general sentiment of staff and students at White City has been less than positive, with one member of staff describing the move to the campus as "poorly managed and a terrible experience overall". They elaborated further, stating, "We (the students/staff moving the labs) received very little information in the months prior to the move and then were told 4 weeks in advance our specific moving dates. This was coupled with

confusing information surrounding logistics of packing of equipment/chemicals etc."

This member of staff's complaints were consistent with a number of other members of staff and also with many of the students and researchers that have been relocated to the new building. One major recurring issue was the general feeling that the move to White City was poorly managed. One post-doctoral researcher reflected on the "serious issues in the planning and handling of the moving process" as follows:

"Information passed on to us earlier this year from people involved in the planning process was that a 'one size fits all' policy had been applied to building design, i.e. all floors will be built to near-identical specification and corrections made as and when necessary. The diversity of research requirements in the department makes this a totally infeasible approach. This has affected both our ability to settle in to the new facilities, and the rate at which other issues can be addressed."

"Probably the main issue is the amount of time that we lost"

When approached for comment, Professor Alan Armstrong said the following:

"It has been an incredibly complicated operation. That's the first thing to say. We've got everything ranging from biology labs, laser labs and, of course, chemicals, so the whole process of moving



The Molecular Sciences Research Hub in White City // Joseph O'Connell-Danes

and getting everything across to White City has challenging. I think, given that complexity, it's generally gone as well as you can expect. Recognising what a complex scenario we had, it was inevitable that there were going to be some things that aren't perfect and it was actually pretty good."

One major issue that stemmed from the perceived mismanagement of the move is the significant loss of time while

moving. That is to say, the move caused large periods of "downtime", during which research groups were unable to conduct any research and were, instead, assisting with the relocation of labs. One member of staff added, "most students had to take at least 3 months to prepare, relocate and set up their laboratory space. However some were affected more than others, particularly students where there was only 1 or

2 group members responsible to move an entire laboratory."

This sentiment was shared with a particular post-doctoral researcher who provided Felix with a comment:

"I get the impression there probably should have been better planning in the initial stages. Our impression has been pretty good actually. There have been problems. Some of our equipment took a month after we had

moved to arrive. It's kind of essential to what we do. So effectively for a month we couldn't work as we normally would have been working. Compared to other people it's not that bad but again it's not great for us. We've had a bit of downtime on each side. There was sort of disrupted works. Some groups have had 3 months downtime. I don't think it's been particularly well managed. Obviously the completing of the building and stuff was relatively planned far in advance but I think things like where each individual group was going and what equipment and space was needed was last minute so I think that's probably a large source of a number of the problems."

"I think it's no surprise that, in how they've interacted with people as part of this move, Chemistry has also suffered the lowest NSS scores ever"

The staff and students generally recognised the inherent complexity of orchestrating such a move, acknowledging that "in a departmental move of this scale, snagging is unavoidable, and a new building is always going to have teething problems". However it was felt that "mismanagement of the move has caused huge losses of time and research output, which will disproportionately affect those whose time at the College is limited".

A further source of grievance that has resulted from this loss of time is the question of

reimbursement. This has been a source of major confusion, particularly for post-doctoral researchers who are still not completely aware whether the department or the College will provide any sort of financial reimbursement for lost time. Some researchers even went so far as to accuse the College of a misappropriation of funds given for research projects. "We were given money to look at developing drugs for cancer and Alzheimers research and not to cover a relocation budget shortfall by moving boxes."

Post-doctoral researchers, who work on a fixed term contract, were left in the dark for long periods regarding the possibility of reimbursement. Final year PhD students, who also suffered from a similar loss of time and productivity, have been reimbursed with an extension of a month (or two, depending on the circumstances). One researcher explained:

"You have a fixed term contract and that time is the time you have to do work so, if you lose a month of work... we're not getting that back at the moment unless the department decides to reimburse us for that lost time. The funding agency employed us to work for that time. There was a month where we couldn't work because of the move and we were doing other stuff, setting things up, moving things, cataloguing etc. Arguably a breach of contract. That's not really fair to us or for our careers. It's not great to lose a month of time where you could have been employed. So I think they haven't done a lot to even address that. There should be more of a policy in place because they've done it for final year PhD students, who've got an extra extension of a month or two to cover that. So they've just not addressed that with postdocs at all and it's as important for

us as it is for them."

"There was no real sympathy from the department"

In response to the complaints from post-doctoral researchers in particular, Professor Armstrong said the following:

"All the way through, we were trying to minimise disruption but something this complex, it was always inevitable there was going to be some and I think the fact that the handover was delayed and the final few weeks kept shuffling forward a week meant there was uncertainty as to exactly when we were going to move right near the end. We've said that, on a case-by-case basis, we will make up for lost time. We have paid an extension to their PhDs for the downtime and we dealt with those first because the end of their PhDs was September and that was right in the move period. Often people get a lot of their results at the end of their PhD, that's the most productive time, when you're frantically using the last time in the lab and that was the time the move was at the peak so we made the decision to act on the final year PhD students straight away and we gave almost all of them a bursary extension to cover the lost time. We'll do the same for 2nd years and 1st years when the time comes. If they've still got a year and a half funding left, we're not at the stage yet where their money stops so we'll deal with it on a rolling basis."

One researcher summarised the issues that have been experienced since the move as follows:

"Building not being complete, disability access not being clear,

facilities not operational when we arrived, limitation on the hours that we can actually do our work. Deep impact on the career of the researchers, the overall trajectory of the groups. Incredible impact on morale." This researcher went on to beg the question, "Why the hell did we have to move at this particular time, when the building was not ready and they knew it was not ready? It should have been left another year until it was absolutely spick and span. Then the move could have taken in a much more efficient way."

Professor Armstrong has acknowledged that the building is still incomplete and provided some explanation as to why the move still went ahead:

"That's completely true, there are two floors below ground where no research groups have moved in yet. Essentially the whole building project overran. Originally, for a long time, the building was going to be handed over in February and then it switched to April. It kept edging forward and eventually it was handed over in July and we had to make a decision, do we start moving or not? All the way through, what we've been trying to do is to minimise disruption to students, so we wanted to move during the longest holiday period we could. Summer. So, even though two floors are not finished, we decided to go ahead with the move. That's absolutely true, there are two floors that are not ready but we've done what we can to mitigate disruption."

The building not being completed has led to numerous issues. One member of staff complained:

"Drinking water taps and toilets go unrepaired and lifts are often out of service for weeks at a time, as well as other more major issues which

stem from inadequate design of the lab facilities. In light of this, the lack of presence of Estates facilities or external contractors throughout much of the building is striking. These problems faced by researchers, staff and students alike, are invariably described as 'temporary'. Whilst technically true, for a department comprised primarily of temporary workers - be they undergraduates, postgraduates or postdocs - this is of little consolation. Postdocs on short-term contracts risk losing out on grants and further positions if their research output drops; it's unclear if the significant downtime caused by the move constitutes a breach of contract in cases where a postdoc is contracted to conduct research work only. This situation is far from an unqualified success.

"Importantly, I want to clarify that the occupation of a new, more modern, facility is a positive thing"

Although largely negative, the feedback from this move was not all doom and gloom. Some positive feedback was received regarding the layout of the laboratory and study spaces. One PhD student said the following:

"It cannot be overstated how much the office working environment for chemists has improved in the new building - for the majority it is the first time researchers have experienced bright and clean office space."

This assessment was in keeping with some of the

positives included in Professor Armstrong's brief and, when asked what the department's response to criticism would be, Professor Armstrong said:

"What we could do for example is, now people have been there for a few weeks, we could put out a survey that says let us know what your thoughts are. We might pick up a load of little things that sometimes bother people but they don't feel they're big enough to talk to a member of staff. I think it would be a really good idea, now that we're in there and people have had a month or 2, to say what is missing? The amount of people that have been involved in the project from Estates, safety, as well as the researchers, it's actually pretty stunning that we've got as much done as we have. But I completely agree, there was no way it was going to be perfect and there are things that were not perfect and we'll listen to whatever students have to say."

The White City campus very much remains a work in progress.

"I think fundamentally what most of the White City campus really is, is a land grab. Really, Imperial College is not a science institute, it's a real estate business"

COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Remembering the Boxing Day Tsunami

How chocolate biscuits saved my life.

COMMENT

Lasith Ranasinghe
Comment Writer

December has always been a time of deep reflection for me. As the lights erupt and the Christmas spirit envelops the nation, it truly is a special time of the year. However, it makes me value the importance of family and the sanctity of life for a very different reason.

“On Boxing Day 2004, the deadliest natural disaster in recent history wreaked havoc across South-East Asia, claiming the lives of 230,000 innocent people”

On Boxing Day 2004, the deadliest natural disaster in recent history wreaked havoc across South-East Asia, claiming the lives of 230,000 innocent people. As I approach my 23rd Christmas, midway through my 5th year of Medical School,



The skeletal remains of Galle after the Tsunami / Wordpress Criketique

contemplating career choices and planning New Year's Parties, I pause for a moment to appreciate how phenomenally lucky I am to still be here today. On Boxing Day 2004, I was in Galle, Sri Lanka, one of the cities worst affected by the tsunami.

“On Boxing Day 2004, I was in Galle, Sri Lanka, one of the cities worst affected by the tsunami”

This is my story.

Having moved from Sri Lanka to the UK in 2002, I had always enjoyed going

back during the holidays to visit my family and friends. In 2004, my elder brother, my mum and I travelled to Sri Lanka for a 3-week holiday spanning Christmas and the New Year. My dad was tied down at work and had to stay home in Norwich.

On Boxing Day 2004, I was woken up at 6 am by my mum. We were in my uncle's house in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. Once I got through the initial confusion of being woken up so early, I was overcome with excitement. We had planned to go on a two-day trip to a coastal town on the south coast called Tissu. This meant pools, beaches and ball games – what more could an 8-year-old want? The travelling party consisted of my brother, mum, two cousins, aunt, uncle and myself.

We travelled along

the south-west coast - world-famous for its golden beaches, exuberant marine life and surfing opportunities. I watched inquisitively as the fishermen brought in their morning's catch – little did I realise that, for many of them, this would be their last day's work. At around 9 am, we took a pit stop in Galle, one of the largest cities in the south of Sri Lanka. Galle is a bustling city embellished with a giant 16th century fort, overlooking the Galle International Cricket Stadium. We parked the van outside 'Food City', a supermarket much like Sainsbury's or Tesco, as my mum wanted to get some snacks for the rest of the journey. Initially, my mum was going to go with my uncle, leaving me in the van with my brother and cousins. However, she then said something that,

in hindsight, saved my life. She said, “Lasith are you coming? You can get some chocolate biscuits”. Being a somewhat rotund 8-year-old with an insatiable sweet tooth, this was an offer that I could not resist. I jumped out of the van and eagerly

“The city of Galle was submerged in 15 feet of dark, violent sea water”

waddled up the stairs with my mum.

We entered the 2nd floor of the supermarket - only one thing was on my mind, ‘CHOCOLATE BISCUITS!’. I weaved in

and out of the aisles like a hyperactive PacMan until I found my target. I was stood in front of the biscuits aisle, expertly perusing the range, when I heard my mum screaming. I ran towards my mum, who was stood in front of a large glass window, and I was shocked by what I saw. The city of Galle, was submerged in 15 feet of dark, violent sea water. Innocent people were being thrown around like rag dolls. Buses, cars and tuk-tuks were being flung into buildings, as if they were weightless toys. Amidst this chaos, I saw something even more terrifying. Our van, with the scrambling silhouettes of my brother, cousins and aunt inside, was being battered by the waves before being completely submerged.

At this point, the gravity of the situation became

COMMENT

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apparent. ‘*This is serious, people are dying around me, my brother might die*’ lapped through my head, each cycle exacerbating my hysteria. We watched, helplessly, as people tried to clamber up buildings to get to safety, only to be mercilessly swatted away by the waves. As time went on, the hysteria transformed into frank consideration of how my life would be without my brother – thoughts that are beyond the usual remit of an 8-year-old. ‘We will never play cricket together again, he’ll never see me go to university, I’ll never see him get married’ – each simulation of his absence making it

“Buses, cars and tuk-tuks were being flung into buildings, as if they were weightless toys”

progressively harder for me to breathe or think.

My uncle was in a particularly bad state. His entire family was in the water, unaccounted for. He made the courageous decision (arguably, his only option) to enter the water to search for his family. My mum and I remained in Food City, praying to Gods we didn't routinely believe in, to perform a miracle on our behalf. I specifically remember bargaining with non-specific supernatural powers, explaining that I will strain every sinew for the rest of my life to make a positive difference to this world, if I could only have my brother back in return.

The city was enveloped in pain and misery - the cries of newly and reluc-



Galle, before the Tsunami // Wikimapia

tantly appointed widows, widowers and orphans, flooding every nook and cranny. A second and third wave had struck the city, deepening wounds and quashing hope. Then, 4 hours after the ordeal began, our prayers were answered. A soldier, who had been called to the city at this time of crisis, came to me and my mum, and told us that my brother was safe, and had been taken to the house of a local family on high ground. He was with my two cousins. My mum and I were overcome by an intense

“Innocent people were being thrown around like rag dolls”

feeling of relief. All those piercing thoughts that were tormenting me will, thankfully, never enter the realm of reality. We were then escorted by the

soldiers and reunited with my brother.

Once our emotions were finally under control, my brother told us of his experience. As the water started sweeping the van down the streets of Galle and the possibility of drowning became very real, my brother smashed the window and they all crawled out. At this point, the powerful torrents separated them. My brother got entangled underwater in a web of fallen telephone cables, causing a large laceration on his back. He managed to wriggle out only to be swept towards a canal running through the city. The canal was a particularly dangerous area – vehicles, rubble and people were being sucked in as if it were a black hole. If you were swept into the canal, that was it. My brother was pushed treacherously close, however, he managed to hoist himself onto a tree by the side of the canal. One of my cousins, similarly, grabbed onto a tree trunk whilst the other drifted close enough to

my brother, such that he could pull her up onto the tree. Once the waters had calmed, they were taken to safety at a nearby church. My aunt had been swept

“[We were] praying to Gods we didn't routinely believe in, to perform a miracle”

over a kilometre before latching onto a fence and being taken to safety.

Rather unexpectedly, my uncle, who entered the water after the first wave had struck, was worst injured. He had badly cut his foot and lost a lot of blood. He was found unconscious and taken to a local doctor who managed to dress his wound and resuscitate him. In the evening, once the water had receded for the last

the mighty power of the sea. 6 minutes, and the outcome could have been very, very different.

Every December, I stop to think about the 230,000 lives that were lost and the many millions of lives that were irreparably destroyed that day. If not for a very fine margin, my family could have contributed to that total. As we live our pleasant lives in London we may complain about coursework, exams, relationships and all sorts – when the going is (relatively) easy we often find something (relatively) petty to pin our dissatisfaction on. It's almost as if humans have an in-built dissatisfaction quota that must be fulfilled and it is often allocated to the least pleasing thing in our lives at the time. I'm not trying to undermine issues 'lesser' in magnitude than a natural disaster – these problems are, of course, of utmost importance to the individual who suffers

“If the tsunami had struck 6 minutes earlier or 6 minutes later, our van may have been on the road in thick traffic”

them. However, every now and then, I feel it's important to take a step back and be humbled by the fragility of human life, and appreciate how phenomenally fortunate we are to be alive and have the capability to make a positive difference to the world, no matter how big or small that may be. Enjoy your Christmas, embrace your family and friends, place your worries in the backseat for just a moment, and spend some time counting your blessings.

COMMENT

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COMMENT

Lochlann Allison
Comment Writer

The End of the Union as We Know It

Pissed off paddy, Lochlann Allison, explains why the DUP are the greatest threat to any chance of a successful Brexit.



Two sides have created an intractable problem for Ireland//Wikimedia

After a long day of uni, I return home to retire for the evening. I slump on my sofa and flick on the tv to a comedy channel for my daily intake of shits and giggles. The comedy channel I refer to is, obviously, BBC News. For the last two weeks, I have watched the comedy sketch, that is Her Majesty's Government, with crippling anxiety and debilitating uncertainty.

At this point, I think I will be one of the first to say it: Theresa May has come away with a workable deal.

The deal I refer to is the "Irish-Backstop Deal" which states that in the event of a no-deal being reached by 2020, no hard border would arise between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Intended to prevent a resurgence of the sectarian violence of the Troubles and significant economic damage to border businesses, the backstop deal would keep Northern Ireland as part of the UK, but in an annexed EU customs union. The Backstop deal was agreed as an acceptable contingency by the UK, the EU and the Republic of Ireland on Sunday.

In my opinion, the Irish Backstop is favourable to everyone and finally puts the uncertainty of the border in Ireland after Brexit to bed.

Those in Generation X should be happy with the

deal. If like me you're confused by generational labelling, this is our parents! Now be honest with yourself and admit it: your parents are massive Brexiteers. The impending sense of doom you feel at the dinner table when you invite your European friends over to stay during the summer sound familiar? The UK finally leaves the EU customs and is freed from the clasp of Brussels, which for many in the generation before us was a key reason for voting Leave.

The Tommy Robinson's (real name Stephen Yaxley-Lennon), UKIP/BNP/EDL supporters, and the generally racist should be happy at the

more stringent immigration laws in Britain. Even businesses inside and out of the UK should be reassured at the prospect of a more definite and final deal being reached, rather than the calamity of a no-deal, hard Brexit. As the border has been a key issue in Brexit discussions for some time now, it would show strength and stability to finally have a contingency for this aspect. And those that live on the Irish/Northern Irish border are just glad that they don't face the prospect of having to produce their passports or file for visas just to drop the kids off to school in the mornings or to pick up a pint of milk across the border.

Everybody is, admittedly questionably, happy. Everybody, bar the Democratic Unionist Party.

The DUP defied their allies, the Conservatives, last week with a blatant political warning shot. The DUP, who have 10 parliament seats, top up the Tories to form the government in a Confidence and Supply agreement, after May failed to secure a majority in the 2017 snap election. However, the DUP breached the arrangement this week when they voted with Labour on a number of amendments to the Finance Bill, helping them passing through the Commons, in response to the latest Irish-Backstop deal. DUP Brexit spokes-

man, Sammy Wilson said "the deal breached a fundamental assurance that NI would not be treated separately." He went on to say, "consequences were inevitable," referring to their withholding of support on the budget vote.

Essentially, the DUP have shown they are not afraid to hold the government and the success of Brexit for the entire UK to ransom if the terms of Brexit are not to their liking.

For many on the mainland, this may be too much to handle. There's a part of Ireland that's in the UK? And they use the pound too? (I've overheard these exact questions be asked on a flight to Belfast when a passenger was informed NI doesn't use Euros.) Who are the DUP, and what gives them the right to dictate our Brexit?

The Democratic Unionist Party is the largest political party in Northern Ireland and the single-handed reason for why Northern Ireland can't have nice things.

Are you gay and want to get married? Sorry, DUP says no.

Are you gay and want to order a cake to console your sadness at not being allowed to get married? Nope, can't have your cake nor eat it either.

How about teaching scientifically proven basics about the Big Bang and the origins of the universe to secondary schoolchildren? Of course not! However, some NI schools are looking forward to introducing the BTEC in Flat Earth Studies next academic year (Worth 4 A levels!).

They believe they can

be Northern Ireland's Brexit Champions by stalling any deal that treats NI differently to Britain, when they can't even be the champion for their own citizens in basic human rights. What's funnier is the DUP think they can lead/dictate the UK government during these Brexit talks, yet they can't even form a basic government back home in NI.

Only recently, Northern Ireland celebrated setting a world record for the longest time for a democratic nation to have no elected government. How did this happen you ask? The NI Assembly disintegrated after Sinn Fein, the nationalist equivalent of the DUP, failed to get into bed with their equally dysfunctional partner (as required in the Good Friday Agreement) after it emerged the DUP had been paying local businesses almost £500million to needlessly keep their boilers burning. It's called the RHI Scandal – look it up! No other government in the world, bar Trump, would have survived this colossal fuck up. MLAs (NI Assembly Representatives,) to this day, are still receiving pay even though no legislation has passed since January 2017.

The accountability of the DUP is perfectly summarised in their MP for North Antrim, Mr Ian Paisley Jr. Paisley Jr was suspended from the Commons for two weeks in September after it was discovered he had made an error of "gross misconduct" when he failed to declare a bribe from the Sri Lankan government.

The DUP are the epitome of political ignominy and have no

COMMENT

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right to oppose the government on this deal from behind the tactical facade of "protecting the interests of Northern Ireland" when they themselves fail their constituents on a daily basis.

The cause for their opposition to the Irish Backstop can be found in a fragile insecure sense of British identity. I cannot stress enough the magnitude of and effect this insecurity has on NI. In December 2012, Belfast City Council voted to reduce the number of days that the Union Flag would be flown over the City Hall, in a minor cost saving attempt. This technique had already been adopted by numerous councils on the mainland. Unionists, however, believed this an attack on the Britishness of Northern Ireland and sparked two months of violent riots in the capital, costing businesses £50 million in damages and lack of sales over the festive period.

Their exception to the Irish-Backstop deal is rooted in their belief that

this too is an attack on Northern Ireland's future in the UK. Regardless if a hard border in Ireland will return our economic prospects back to that of the time of the Potato Famine, spark a resurgence of IRA hostilities (as the Police Service of NI has warned it would) or directly damage the lives of those living on the border, the DUP will not settle unless Northern Ireland is treated exactly the same as the rest of the UK.

As a Unionist, I do not fear for the future of Northern Ireland in the UK with this deal. Theresa May has continuously highlighted NI will remain part of the Union in this deal for as long as we wish to. I will still feel British and retain my British passport. Life, I believe, will be largely the same. The economy should remain similar thanks to no nasty fuck ups from a hard border and benefits from remaining in the single European market. Travel to and from the mainland could not be much harder than

it currently is. Present an identification document at the airport gate? Already do that. Have my bags checked by customs/security? Already do that. Submit to a voluntary strip search? Perhaps not. The border in Gibraltar is what I envisage what the Northern Irish border could become. Passengers off flights from Gibraltar still have to pass through customs regardless of the fact that most Gibraltarians hold British passports. Goods also pass across the Spanish border with very little inspection. It has been proposed a digital surveillance system could be used in NI to inspect cross border movements and this would negate the need for any physical border.

Do not let the DUP's disapproval of the backstop deal miscolour Northern Ireland in your mind. The NI Chamber of Commerce, the Institute of Directors NI, the Director of the Civil Service and the Ulster Farmers Union all publicly support the backstop agreement.



COMMENT

Gritty

Left Forum Chair

Hey folks, welcome back to another instalment of your favourite pot-ties—comment column. Remember that *Felix* can be your voice if you email us by Monday; having more lefty voices would be pretty swanky. This column is gonna be short; Charlie's stealing my page. Sorry for the

US news is moving like constipated bowels

Until the new House sits in January, we won't have much of anything going on. Gather round, kids, as I slurp up dregs of news from the greatest shithole country on earth.

tereness.

RIP to a real one. Harry Leslie Smith unfortunately passed away this week. Left Forum will presumably be holding a candlelit vigil.

Paul Manafort's gonna get the book thrown at him, because he broke his plea deal and lied to federal investigators. Chucklefuck.

Donald J. Trump ("J" for "Jdiod") is refusing to believe his own government's report on climate change. In other news, it's hot as balls in the *Felix* office – take your snow-

balls and fuck off.

A new report indicates the Trump Foundation made no charitable donations last year, meaning it should lose its 501(c)3 charitable status. Presumably nothing will happen, though, because Trump is in charge and we live in hell.

A survey of senior Dem strategists suggests Sanders is the frontrunner. VINDICATION, BITCHES. THIS IS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE.

Hillary Clinton is kicking and screaming while she's dragged into

the future. She recently commented on the "importance of stemming immigration" in Europe. Is she center-right already or am I gonna have an aneurism? Guillotine her already.

Dems are on track to clinch their 40th House pickup – the last undecided race. They won the last House vote with the largest margin in history. Wow, it's almost like the morons in the comment section, but whatever.

Trump is trying to cover up his support for Kashoggi's killers by telling everyone how much we're gonna make from Saudi Arabia in arms

Furthermore she can't implement the Irish-Backstop deal thanks to the inevitable opposition she will face from the DUP and the rest of the Commons in passing any Brexit bill through the Commons. Even though this is the option most acceptable to Brussels as well.

I think the technical term is she is fucked and by deduction, the UK is also fucked.

To be fair, you did bring this upon yourselves. You

"May is fucked and by deduction, the rest of the UK is also fucked."

voted Brexit because a big red bus said the NHS would get £350million more each year, with no consideration for what Brexit actually meant for the country. You

also deserve this fate for thinking a bunch of Belfast politicians would help make Brexit a success. Belfast couldn't even build a ship without sinking on her first voyage, what made you think Brexit would be any different?

You may have noticed I also changed referring to the UK from "we" to "you." Yes, well that is because I'm jumping ship. Residency in Northern Ireland allows dual citizenship of the UK and the Republic of Ireland and I'm in the midst of applying for my Irish passport. You may be leaving the EU and have to file for a Visa every time you want to wear your Speedos in Magaluf, but I'm not. That's my bet for Brexit fully hedged.

I wish you all the best, and I will see you on the other side of whatever way this shit show ends up. But when you have meme sources like Jacob Rees-Mogg and BoJo leading the country, who needs luck, eh?

deals. How much more cartoonishly immoral does the ruling class have to get before we can sanction revolution in the press?

Finally, good news – in Detroit, undercover cops tried to buy drugs from undercover cops. They tried to arrest each other and the situation devolved into a fist fight. This is your brain on drug wars.

Alright folks, that's this week done. See you next time for the end of the world.

POLITICS

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Sri Lankan Politics is in a sorry state of Affairs

With the shock attempt to appoint Rajapaksa as Prime Minister, Sri Lankan politics is in turmoil yet again.

POLITICS

Divyen Vanniasegaram
Politics Editor

Over the last month there has been significant political turmoil in Sri Lanka which kicked off on the 26th October when the President of Sri Lanka, Sirisena, attempted to sack Wickremesinghe, the Prime Minister. Sirisena has tried to replace him with Rajapaksa, who was the sitting President Sirisena ousted in the 2015 Presidential elections, highlighting the strange nature of Sri Lankan politics. Sirisena's campaign was built on attacking Rajapaksa's regime for being corrupt and built to serve his own family before the rest of the country.

The Prime Minister's and President's respective parties formed a working coalition following Parliamentary elections in 2015 which left no party with a majority. In recent months the relationship between the two men has become increasingly acrimonious over issues ranging from economic policy through to accusations of assassination plots against the President. Despite these grievances the sudden attempted sacking of the Prime Minister was a shock decision. This has in turn led to a constitutional crisis in the country with Wickremesinghe refusing to go, claiming Sirisena acted beyond the remit of his constitutional powers. There have been mass protests on the streets both for and against the



Rajapaksa // Wikimedia

removal of Wickremesinghe which turned deadly when a protester was shot dead by a member of Wickremesinghe's security. There's little doubt that this has been a co-ordinated power grab by Sirisena and Rajapaksa, and the Supreme Court has suspended the decision pending full court procedures beginning on the 4th December.

Parliament's role in this saga has been vital. It was thought that Sirisena made this snap decision because there was a majority in Parliament to support Rajapaksa. When this looked

in doubt Sirisena proceeded to suspend Parliament to buy himself more time to ensure that more MPs could be convinced to back Rajapaksa. Parliament has since reconvened, but Rajapaksa has now lost 2 votes of confidence, demonstrating there is still no majority for him. In all of this Parliament has become a mockery. Rival MPs have physically attacked each other, throwing books and other items across the Chamber and threatened to attack the Speaker; virtually blocking any Parliamentary business from taking place. Both

sets of MPs have also boycotted Parliament in protest at the situation. Sirisena and Rajapaksa have now attempted to call for fresh elections as a way of shifting the Parliamentary arithmetic in their favour.

"Rival MPs have physically attacked each other"

For many the replacement of Rajapaksa as President in 2015 was seen as a step forward for Sri Lanka leaving behind an era filled with sectarian violence and war. Rajapaksa defeated the Tamil Tigers (a militant organization) in 2009 but in the process oversaw numerous war crimes and human rights violations with anywhere between 9,000 and 40,000 civilians dying in the final days of the conflict. The Tamil Tigers also committed war crimes including targeting civilians and child conscription. The war crimes committed by both sides could and should never be condoned. The government at the time and to do this day has resisted any attempts for an internationally led investigation to take place to look into what happened. Rajapaksa was seen as a hero to some for ending the war but seen as a murderer to others. It was difficult to see how he could bring about true reconciliation between the groups involved, and in truth there were few signs this was ever something he was really interested in as he stood on an overtly nationalistic platform. Sirisena was supported by nearly all the other opposition parties as a common candidate in 2015 showing how broad the movement to replace Rajapaksa was. Sirisena's surprise win brought with it optimism and hope that more steps would be taken for reconciliation and tolerance between the different ethnic groups in Sri Lanka. These events were followed closely by

the Tamil diaspora, many of whom had not returned to their home towns and villages for decades since they had left the country during the civil war. This was taken as an opportunity to visit their motherland and for some re-establish roots in the country. Sirisena's government has clearly seen in progress but has also been disappointing. On domestic policy Sirisena had pledged a reform program for the first 100 days of his Presidency. However; significant parts of his reform program such as electoral reform were never carried out and he now claims not to recognise the plans as is his own at all. Further investment is still needed in areas of the country that were worst affected by the civil war to help them develop and prosper.

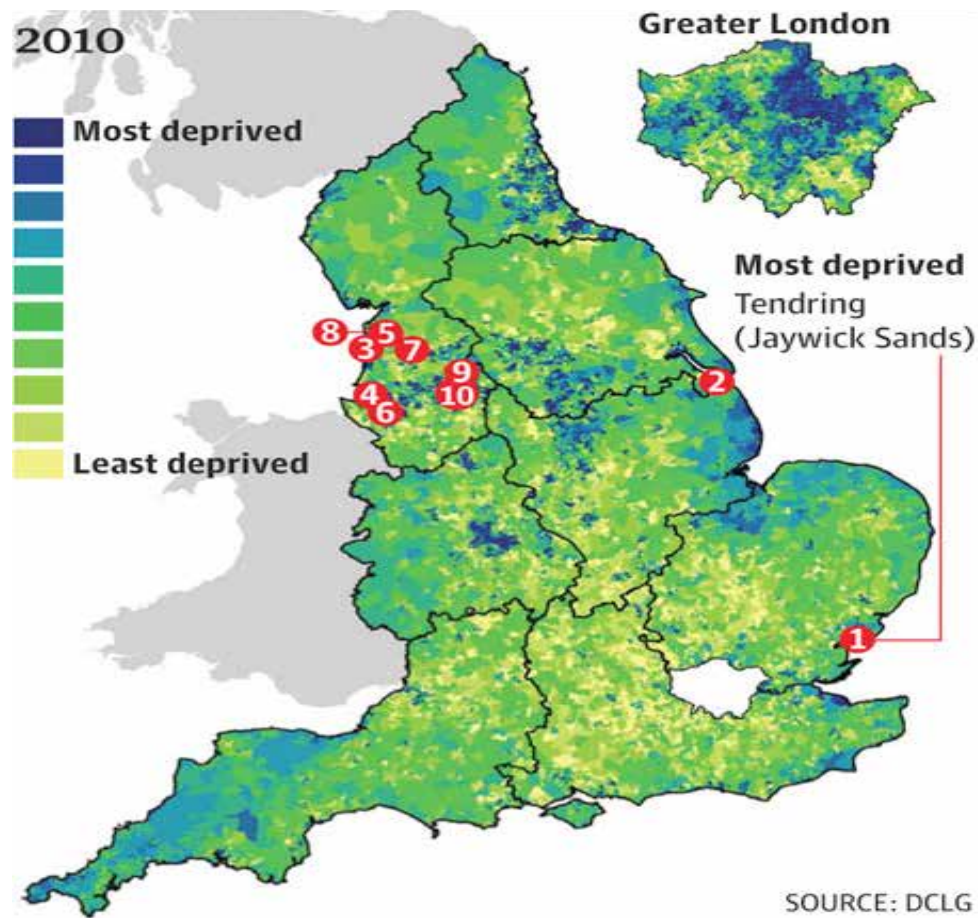
"The atrocities committed by both sides could and should never be condoned."

It's disappointing and worrying to see Sirisena attempt to thwart the constitution and the rule of law to appoint a man who he has accused of nepotism and corruption as Prime Minister. The crisis that has ensued has left Parliament in paralysis and the country in turmoil with little hope of a speedy resolution.

SCIENCE

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Poorest dying nearly ten years younger than the rich in “deeply worrying” trend for UK health



- 1 East of the Jaywick area of Clacton-on-Sea
Tending District
- 2 West of the Grant Thorold area of Grimsby
North East Lincolnshire
- 3 West of the Revoe area
Blackpool
- 4 West of the Anfield area
Liverpool
- 5 East of Grange Park/West of Normoss area
Blackpool
- 6 Speke area
Liverpool
- 7 West of Burnley area
Lancashire
- 8 South of Queenstown
Blackpool
- 9 East of the Weir area
Rochdale
- 10 Collyhurst area
Manchester

A map of England's Indices of Multiple Deprivation, listing the most deprived areas (2010 DCLG data) // *Guardian*

SCIENCE

Henry Alman

Science Editor

The gap between the life expectancy of the richest and poorest sectors of society in England is increasing, according to new research from Imperial College London.

The study, which was published in the journal *Lancet Public Health* and funded by the Wellcome Trust, analysed Office for National Statistics data on all deaths recorded in England between 2001 and 2016 – 7.65 million deaths in total.

From this data, it was found that in 2016 the life expectancy of women in the most deprived

communities was 78.8 years, compared to 86.7 years in the most affluent group. For men, the life expectancy was 74.0 years among the poorest, compared to 83.8 years among the richest.

They also revealed that the life expectancy of England's poorest women has fallen by 0.24 years since 2011, in what researchers say is a “deeply worrying” trend.

Equally shocking was that the life expectancy gap between the most affluent and most deprived sectors of society has actually increased since the turn of the century, from 6.1 years in 2001 to 7.9 years in 2016 for women, and from 9.0 to 9.7 years in men.

The team conducted their analysis by using

information on where each death occurred, which was matched to small areas of England known as lower super output areas by the Office of National Statistics. These lower super output areas, which each have a population of around 1,500 people, are given a score of deprivation from the Office of National Statistics (called an Index of Multiple Deprivation). The research team point out this means the comparisons are based on a community's deprivation and affluence, and not that of individuals.

Professor Majid Ezzati, senior author of the research from Imperial's School of Public Health, said: “Falling life expectancy in the poorest communities is a deeply

worrying indicator of the state of our nation's health, and shows that we are leaving the most vulnerable out of the collective gain.

“We currently have a perfect storm of factors that can impact on health, and that are leading to poor people dying younger. Working income has stagnated and benefits have been cut, forcing many working families to use food banks. The price of healthy foods like fresh fruit and vegetables has increased relative to unhealthy, processed food, putting them out of the reach of the poorest.”

He added: “The funding squeeze for health and cuts to local government services since 2010 have also had a significant impact

on the most deprived communities, leading to treatable diseases such as cancer being diagnosed too late, or people dying sooner from conditions like dementia.”

The research team also analysed the illnesses that contributed to the widening life expectancy gap. Although they found that people in the poorest sectors died at a higher rate from all illnesses, a number of diseases showed a particularly stark difference between rich and poor.

The diseases that led to particularly large loss of longevity in the poor compared to the rich were newborn deaths and children's diseases, respiratory diseases, heart disease, lung and digestive cancers, and dementias. In

2016, children under five years old from the poorest sectors of society were 2.5 times as likely to die as children from affluent families.

“This study suggests the poor in England are dying from diseases that can be prevented and treated,” said Professor Ezzati. “Greater investment in health and social care in the most deprived areas will help reverse the worrying trends seen in our work. We also need government and industry action to eradicate food insecurity and make healthy food choices more affordable, so that the quality of a family's diet isn't dictated by their income.”

Network - the new student exclusive application that

The student exclusive application that is rethinking the university experience

Tech

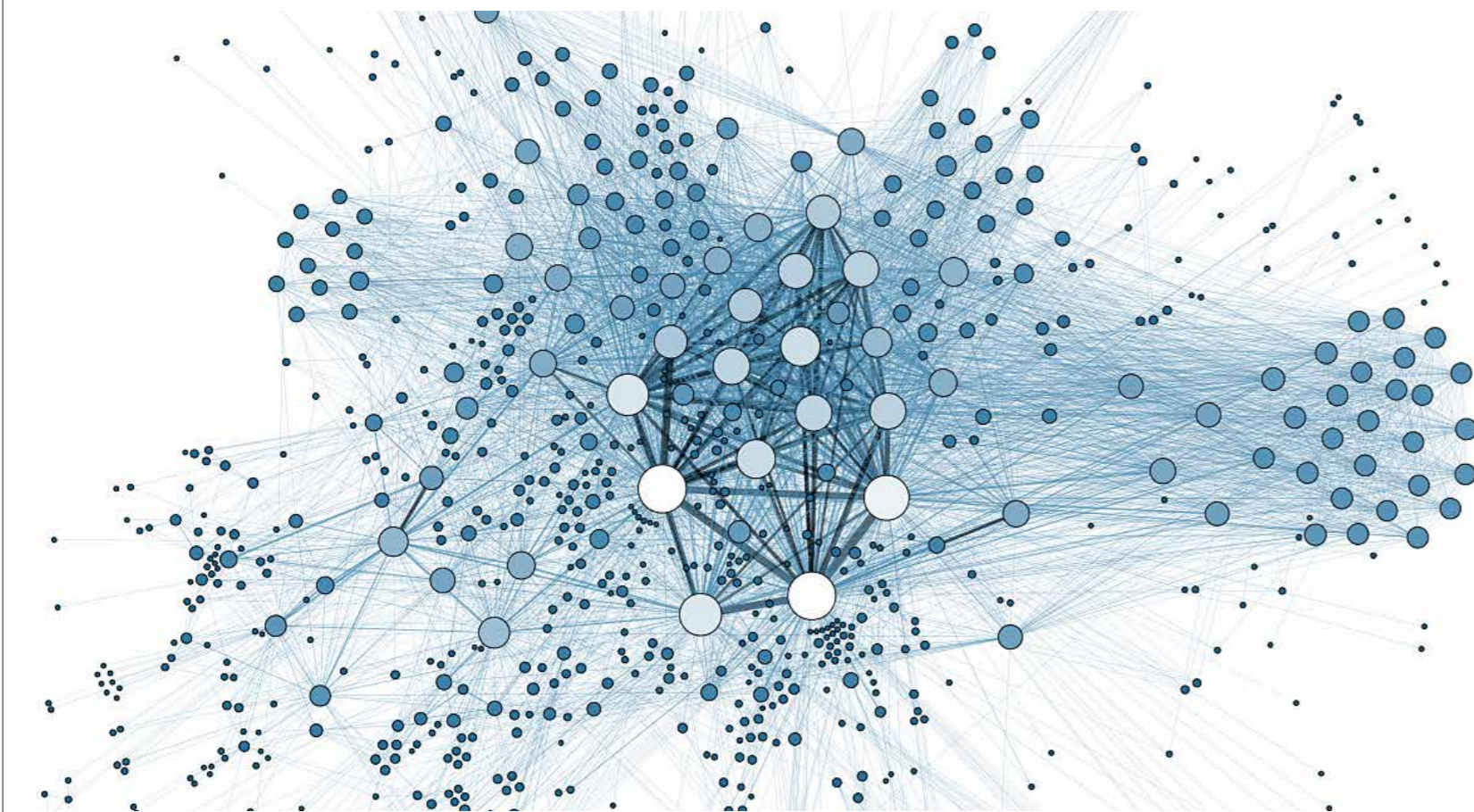
Erald Veliaj

Founder of Network

Network, a student exclusive application founded by Erald Veliaj, launched this summer at Goldsmiths, University of London and has now opened up for Imperial. The application automatically connects students based on information such as the course they're taking, what country they're from and who share common intentions, such as finding other students to rent a place with. "Network is rethinking the university experience," Veliaj said. "Moving to university you automatically become

"Network is rethinking the university experience"

part of a community, but that community is not visible to you right away. You have to go out and figure it yourself. In the majority of cases, you find yourself missing out on meeting people or doing things that you are really interested in because for one reason or another you are concentrating on the wrong part. Network provides students with the tools to view and better understand the community they are becoming part of as soon as they join Imperial, and that instantly opens up a whole new set of possibilities."



Take charge of your university experience with Network! // Wikimedia

An application like Network will greatly improve students' social experiences. Recent

"Recent reports show that the number of students having an unpleasant university experience has been on the rise."

reports show that the number of students having an unpleasant university experience has been on the rise. "The problem is

much broader than just the university experience. There is a vulnerability in our society," Veliaj said. "We are empowering students to interact freely with one another and to really focus on other students around them with similar intentions and interests, increasing the chances of teaming up regarding university coursework or personal projects, and creating meaningful relationships. Instead of watching artificial content from celebrities that is irrelevant to the student's reality and moreover has a negative effect on their wellbeing, students can connect and create a peer support system, leading to a bright professional future."

"Network is designed in such way that allows students to become part of the whole community unlike traditional applications that only allow

users to start with a small number of connections and limit their reach at some point. Content, connections and possibilities are moving with time and change," Veliaj said. "Even though we have now opened up to Imperial and Goldsmiths, Imperial's network will remain closed. Students will only be able to interact with other students and view content from their university, allowing them to feel comfortable expressing themselves."

It is exclusivity this that makes Network special. "Keeping it exclusive allows us to develop a product that students love," Veliaj said. "We are not putting numbers before doing the right thing for the students that use our service and this is a really good time to do that because embedding that culture really

early in our business is extremely important. In the end it really comes down to values and we are focusing on keeping Network valuable for students. We will continue to innovate and deliver great services for students and we know that if we listen to their feedback and provide them with things they love, they'll use our services."

Despite being exclusive, Network is also setting new industry standards, rethinking the way students interact with each other and how content is organised. First students have to set up their account by completing basic information about themselves such as the course they are taking, what year they are in, if they are living in the university accommodation or not and the country they are from. Once

they complete the setup they are automatically connected with students in their class, in the same course, in the same depart-

"Students can also look up other students that are looking for a place to rent or that are renting a place out."

ment and from the same country. Students can also look up other students that are looking for a place to rent or that are renting a place out.

is rethinking the university experience



Network is now available for Imperial! // Wikimedia

"Accommodation is a huge problem in London and we are thinking of new ways to tackle this problem," Veliaj said. "It is quite hard to find other students to share a place with and we want to change that. Not only should students be able to easily find other students to share a place with, but they should also find students from

"Looking at the big picture, there are so many problems Network could solve. One of the problems it tackles is dating."

the same department or with similar intentions. That way students don't have to live with people they don't like, and that would change the student social experience tremendously. As a student myself I am aware of the university regulations. When I stopped living in the university accommodation halls I still had no other option than to pay for the whole term since I wasn't able to find another student to take my place."

Looking at the big picture there are so many problems Network could solve. One of the problems it tackles is dating. "If we think about dating, it all starts with two people introducing themselves as friends. Once we give students the ability to get to know other students with similar interests and intentions, it's up to them to decide if that someone should be their date or not, it's very simple and it happens naturally," Veliaj

said. "It doesn't have to be this vulgar application aimed only at dating."

"Fundamentally we are trying to achieve two things," Veliaj said. "The first one is encouraging students to do more activities together, either a group of students planning something together or one student joining an activity organised by someone else. If someone is partying or playing tennis, other students should be given the chance to join them. Traditional applications do not support this because by the time the other person sees that someone is having a party, chances are that the party is already over or too far away to get there in time. We have the luxury to make this happen because university campuses are small and centralised and it's the perfect place for students to interact with one another. The second thing we are trying to achieve is to become the

main hub for students. Helping students cooperate with one another regarding different projects will lead to the creation of a new platform where the new influencers will arise. Myself being a Creative Computing student I envision that a growing self-supporting commu-

nity would be the perfect place for new upcoming artists and professional development."

"The second thing we are trying to achieve is to become the main hub for students."

Connecting students with their peers opens up a whole new set of func-

tionality that wouldn't be possible otherwise. "Our team approaches problems with almost a

"We are trying to push students away from the distorted reality of competing with their friends for likes and attention and really helping them build deeper relationships."

blank canvas," Veliaj said. "Having that open mindedness and willingness to approach problems from different angles is really important. We've not only managed to build a product, but have also laid an underlying philosophy that runs directly counter to traditional applications. We are trying to push students away from the distorted reality of competing with their friends for likes and attention and really helping them build deeper relationships."

BOOKS

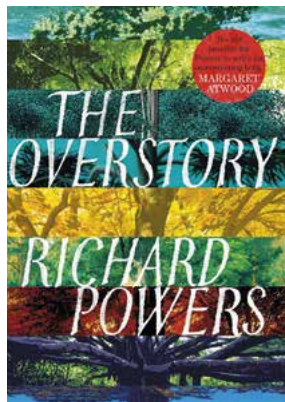
books.felix@imperial.ac.uk



A tale as ambitious as redwoods // ILTWMT wallpapers

The Overstory: a giant redwood of a novel

Interwoven storylines of nine characters merge like roots of a tree to produce a narrative which powerfully warns of impending worldwide ecological collapse, in Richard Powers's Man Booker-shortlisted novel.



BOOKS

Tom Stroud
Books Writer

This is not our world with trees in it. It's a world of trees, where humans have just arrived."

Ecological catastrophe, perhaps the biggest issue of our generation, has never been more vividly portrayed than in Richard Powers's twelfth novel *The Overstory*. After making his name with the award-winning *The Echo*

Maker in 2006, Powers has graced the literary world with a series of spellbinding tales. In this latest ambitious novel he challenges the selfish exceptionalism of humans through the eyes of nine tree-activists. The central message is clear: we are disconnected from a vast natural world surrounding us.

The story is structured into four sections resembling the morphology of trees: Roots, Trunk, Crown, and Seeds.

In 'Roots', he introduces us to the nine protagonists, a range of characters from a wide variety of backgrounds: an airforce loadmaster who is saved from falling by a banyan tree in the Vietnam War; a couple who, in an attempt to save their marriage, plant a tree in their garden every year only to be supernaturally rewarded; a 1980s college student who electrocutes herself and is mysteriously brought

back to life; a disabled botanist who discovers trees communicating with each other and eventually publishes a seminal book which becomes the bible of a new movement.

The botanist is Dr. Patricia Westerford, a woman whose years spent researching forests are prematurely mocked following her findings about trees communicating (a real discovery – see *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben), but who is later congratulated and vindicated.

As one becomes familiar with the ideas behind her findings, it is clear that the chemical interactions between the trees are symbolic of the later relationships between the characters. Powers's language is meditative yet scientific – "In summer, water rises through the xylem and disperses out of the million tiny mouths on the undersides of leaves, a hundred

gallons a day evaporating from the tree's airy crown into the humid Iowa air." He cleverly integrates his obvious scientific knowledge with literary talent, resulting in a book which is both poetic and educational.

Following the discrete and unrelated backstories in 'Roots', the later sections see the characters' lives become intertwined. This slower-paced part of the book allows us to see how the characters' unique and meaningful connection with trees drives their pursuit of the same interests, and ultimately leads to them taking up the same cause. By focusing less on the characters and more on the central theme, the author urges us to reconsider our relationship with Mother Nature.

While it may be argued that such powerful themes reduce characters into mere rhetorical devices, Powers raises pressing

issues which cannot be ignored. Just this month it was announced by the Met Office, in its first major update on climate change in 10 years, that UK summer temperatures could be 5.2°C hotter by 2070. Moreover, the US National Climate Change Assessment has found that climate change is to increasingly "disrupt many areas of life" in the future through consequences such as crop failures, wildfires, flooding, and altered coast lines.

Despite these warnings, the politicians of the world are slow to act, as demonstrated by President Donald Trump ordering further deforestation of North America's tree population. The message is apparently not clear enough.

The climax of the novel centres around a protest against the logging of an old forest. Some of the characters adopt 'alter-eco' names ("maid-

enhair", "moss-eater") and camp atop a giant redwood for a year to prevent the felling. Day-to-day living in the canopy is described in detail. Despite the absurdity of the situation, Powers succeeds in capturing the urgency and scale of the problem at hand.

I guarantee there will not be many things about trees left to know after reading this book. It has even left me pondering the trees outside my door. Trees have lives of their own: they eat, breathe, have sex, form networks, alert others to a threat. You will never look at a tree the same way again after this story.

Why a multifaceted, 512-page novel to combat the climate change issue? Richard Powers answers this from within his own pages: "The best arguments in the world won't change a person's mind. The only thing that can do that is a good story."

MUSIC

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I bet tubas look good on the dancefloor

The ten-piece brass band takes to the stage to play through Arctic Monkeys' 2006 bestseller Whatever People Say I am, That's What I'm Not in its entirety, reinvigorated and reimagined.

MUSIC OLD DIRTY BRASSTARDS



Venue: The Blues Kitchen, Brixton. **Date:** 22nd November 2018. **Ticket Price:** £13.16.

Bobbi Lang
Music Writer

How often have you dreamt of a live show consisting of just the Arctic Monkeys' first album, cover to cover? If your answer is like mine – nigh on every night – then ten-piece brass band, the Old Dirty Brasstards, have got your back. With four trumpets, three trombones, two percussionists, and a tuba, the Old Dirty

Brasstards frequent The Blues Kitchen with their blues, swing, and jazz covers for Friday night party-goers looking for a night-club alternative. This was their first foray into a ticketed headline gig, and what a triumph it was.

The anticipation for the gig was built around a month in advance, when out of the blue (heh) Facebook targeted advertisements suggested the event. It was with good fortune that I chanced across the tickets before the release as they sold out within the hour, prompting the addition of three further London dates and even a trip up to Sheffield.

The disco ball-lit room dimmed and the band members sauntered on

stage, instruments in hand, and immediately launched into 'The View from the Afternoon'. The main melody was shared between the lead trumpet and trombone throughout the evening, with bass lines being picked up by the tuba and remaining trombones. Each track had an added twist imposed by the band, most notably a samba feel on 'Dancing Shoes'. The atmosphere built through the set, as the audience danced, drank, and sang their way through the massive 2006 album.

The Old Dirty Brasstards gave an almost theatrical performance, with tight melodies and rhythms, and plenty of encouragement for audience participation. There was

"The melody was shared between the lead trumpet and trombone, with bass lines by the tuba"

even a hand-painted sign that was held up for the "da-da, da-da-da" section after the second chorus of 'Still Take You Home'. Much like all Arctic Monkey gigs I have been to, the crowd came alive for the instrumental bars after "He's a scumbag, don't you know!" in 'When the Sun Goes

Down' and sang their hearts out to 'Mardy Bum'. That being said, I have never before been to a gig where there are chants of "tuba! tuba! tuba!"...

My only slight criticism is that with no frontman to lead the crowd through Alex Turner's carefully crafted lyrics, the audience's singing left a lot to be desired, which sometimes seemed to put off the band, particularly during 'You Probably Couldn't See for the Lights But You Were Staring Straight at Me'. Personally, I believe the occasional messy verse and tempo differences added to the whole experience; the iconic nature of the album and the brass band lends itself to a mass

crowd singalong, even if, to some amusement, the verses are muddled or people come in too early.

The highlight of the night must be the unexpected encore, where we were treated to three more Arctic Monkeys songs; 'R U Mine?', 'Fluorescent Adolescent' and 'Brianstorm'. There is no doubt that every member is an incredible musician with a love for Arctic Monkeys; one trombone player even wore *Tranquillity Base* merch! I don't think this is the last we will hear of the Old Dirty Brasstards – I cannot recommend them highly enough. If they add more dates or expand their repertoire to *Favourite Worst Nightmare*, I'll certainly be the first one there.

What's your album of the year?

Let us know!

Send a short paragraph to music.felix@imperial.ac.uk by Tuesday 4th for our final issue of 2018!





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Hello Ian. There are some things that I would like to talk to you about regarding your exhibition...

... trapping people in the exhibit by not making the exit clear, while clever, does not actually boost attendance figures.

ARTS



Where? British Museum
When? Until 10th August
How Much? £10; free for members

Calum Drysdale
Arts Editor

Alone again. I had two tickets. VIP ruddy tickets and no one bit. Although having been to the exhibit, let it not be said that the students of Imperial had bad taste. I jest. Some.

Hislop occupies an odd place in our national consciousness. He enjoys acting like an outsider, happily jeering at the “establishment” yet does this from his position as an established and comfortable member of it. Even his position as “the most sued person in England” (Independent, 2011) does little to distance him from the people he attacks. A wise man once said “A BBC panel show does not an anarchist make”. In *I Object*, Hislop attempts to make a virtue out of cocking a snoot at the powerful and weaves a narrative through a history of people doing so. He tries to show that he is only the latest iteration in a long line of comics and satirists that stretches back through history.

It is an interesting idea and a laudable one. The British Museum stands for empire, even more so than Hislop, and their willingness to acknowledge alternative

histories is a positive development. There is, however, a problem. I am not sure that this narrative exists. Cruikshanks, the 19th century cartoonist and icon of Hislop’s (he has written a play about him), features heavily and delights with humorous, crude and colourful depictions of anyone from the king to the common man. This is a man after Hislop’s heart and it shows. However, yet again, there is a flip side. Cruikshanks was also known for his xenophobic views and his anti-abolitionist drawings, curiously absent from the exhibition.

At the other extreme, the woven Afghan rugs that feature Soviet tanks and South Korean lino prints of elderly, weeping

“Despite the numerous placards, the exhibition feels disjointed and lacking in unity”

workers are a far cry from the cheeky thumbing of the nose that Hislop aspires to. These are visual cries of horror and to place them among cartoons and shows a misunderstanding of the realities in which they were conceived. This means that despite the numerous placards and the endless pictures of the little man, the exhibition feels disjointed and lacking in unity. Not even



I spy with my private eye // *The Guardian*

by including the Banksy prank – a slab of concrete with a drawing of a prehistoric man pushing a shopping trolley, put up in secret in the British Museum – can the exhibit be redeemed, nor the irony diminished of such an anti-establishment piece being celebrated. The slab looks instead like a lion head, a trophy on the wall that stares glassily out of its case.

The exhibition adds insult to injury by putting on show pieces of government propaganda. The remains of a statue made specifically to shame a woman, old fashioned ‘revenge porn’, and a carving of Cleopatra in a compromising sexual position; these constitute not protest, but state-sponsored smears. Their inclusion makes a mockery of the exhibition’s purpose of highlighting the weak attacking the strong

throughout history. This is a sniggering mix of serious and obscene, and visitors get what feels like a giggling schoolboy’s desk turned upside-down to expose graffiti carved on the underside. The scarfed and bespectacled public nods and hums.

“In some cases, the lack of context is irritating and hamstrings understanding”

In some cases, the lack of context is irritating and hamstrings understanding. While nearly any modern visitor will be able to appreciate how the pink

‘pussy hat’ is a charged object, even as it sits, plonked on a wooden mannequin head under lights, the yellow umbrella of the Hong Kong democracy movement may be a less understood symbol to some. To show off items that once stood for so much without explaining them is a pointless gesture. Most people will not be able to notice that a character is misspelled in a piece of Chinese calligraphy from the Cultural revolution and even when told will not appreciate its significance. That requires a complex understanding and too many words for a small placard. In other cases, the lack of context is frankly insulting. To include a coin with the pope depicted hanging from some gallows is to forget the Catholics that were killed in England during the Gordon riots. This is a celebration

of a popular Protestant anti-Catholic sentiment that should be viewed as a darker part of our history, rather than a cheeky side note.

All in all, the exhibition is boring. Items with their lives and vitality wrung out of them sit empty and without context. You could walk around the bizarrely laid-out room for hours and not really gain any greater understanding of anything. The funny man seems to have forgotten a very basic rule of comedy. Once you have to put a sign underneath a picture explaining that, by putting a red hat on Louis XVI’s head, the author is being funny by suggesting that the king was a revolutionary, the joke is dead.

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Way down, *Hadestown*: a story of love, loss and wonder

ARTS



Where? Olivier Theatre
When? Until 26th Jan
How Much? Limited availability

Disha Bandyopadhyay
Arts Writer

Lights went off as soon as I took my seat. Jazzy Hermes filled the stage with snappy tunes and energy. He introduced Eurydice, Orpheus and the inevitable tragedy waiting to happen in *Hadestown*, the realm of Hades. A Greek myth transported to a post-apocalyptic Great Depression era setting, *Hadestown* by Anaïs Mitchell made me laugh, cry and wonder. Disguised as a love story, carefree

Orpheus falls in love with strong willed Eurydice only to lose her again, and again, and again.

The story is about self-sufficient Eurydice who just craves warmth and food in the harsh cold winter. Orpheus who is madly in love with her needs but all he can give her is his incomplete song. Hermes identifies this song as the song of the gods, and when Orpheus sings, his sweet melody makes flowers bloom and winter seem almost tolerable. Enchanted by this, Eurydice falls in love with Orpheus who in turn hurries to finish his song, so winter can end.

Tired of waiting, and with Hades and Persephone’s marital strife, Eurydice is approached by Hades who gives her the choice to sign off her soul to him, so she can

work in his factory in the underworld. And she agrees. Terrible decision. The premise of the play is Orpheus’s adventure to save and bring back his girl.

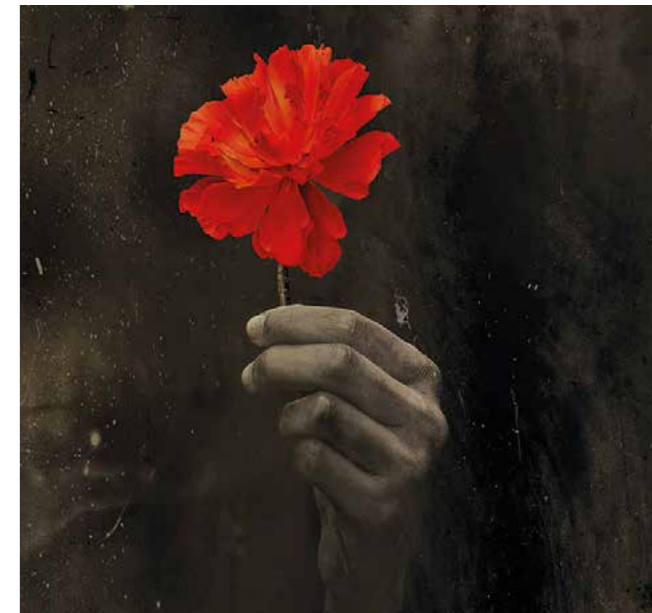
Upbeat, energetic music being a personal favourite, nodding and tapping to the beat was inevitable. This was also true for the rest of my row. All performances were lively, with Persephone (goddess of vegetation and Hades’ wife), portrayed by Amber Grey, giving a sensational performance and bringing a contagious positive energy to every song.

The best part of the show was a routine done in the underworld when the miners chant about their treacherous working conditions and Persephone being aghast by the industrialism of *Hadestown*. The clever set

design made it a spectacle because of the combination of the awe-factor and simplicity. Mining lights and a revolving platform conveyed the struggles and problems that everyone – god or sold soul – has.

I watched the show expecting to be surprised. And I was. The unpredictable turns kept me captivated and engaged (more than some lectures I sadly admit). There were times when the cast would stare into space, but it felt like they were looking straight at me so that I, too, was somehow involved. The overarching themes of unity, revolution and righteousness with the song ‘Why We Build the Wall’ are particularly relevant to our times.

The character portrayal of Orpheus felt like something was amiss. Orpheus had a boyband-ish persona



Beauty and Tragedy // *National Theatre*

which made him seem like an outsider in comparison to a well-knit, classical cast. Yet, somehow the beauty of the tragedy and the spectacular routines made this passable.

The lost love just showed how easily humans can complicate

simple lives. We should all just live a little and worry less. Possibly by watching the play again, and again, and again.

Switzerland: Patricia Highsmith is deeply unlikable... but is there more to the iconic author?

ARTS



Where? Ambassadors Theatre
When? Until 5th Jan
How Much? £15

Ozbil Dumenci
Arts Writer

Patricia Highsmith (portrayed by Phyllis Logan), the American author of some of the most beloved murder novels such as *Strangers on a Train* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, is visited by Edward Ridgeway (Calum Finlay) in her retreat bunker in Switzerland. Ridgeway, a young publisher, has been

sent there to convince Highsmith to write one final Ripley novel.

The production is thrilling and captivates the audience from the get-go. As the exchange between the characters heats up and cools down, as the dynamics change, the tension is truly palpable. This is, for the most part, thanks to the wonderful acting by Logan and Finlay, who portray two very unlikeable characters. Highsmith especially is made to be as unlikeable as possible in this production, spewing hate with each sentence that comes out.

The stage design is particularly unwelcoming and fits the theme and the characterisation perfectly. There is a sense of unease even prior to the

actors taking centre stage. The Swiss Alps visual in the background is slightly tacky, though. Maybe a little too on-the-nose for my liking, driving the point that we are, in fact, in *Switzerland*. It’s not like they never mention it throughout the play.

The play is far from perfect, with little character development up until the climax. Even then, there isn’t much giving these characters a third dimension. All we know is Highsmith is a nasty woman, and Ridgeway is a young, charming publisher. Yes, for those familiar with Highsmith’s work, Ridgeway does in fact present a striking similarity to Tom Ripley, although this is a tad too subtle for those who are



Calum Finlay and Phyllis Logan in *Switzerland* // *Nobby Clark*

not. The twist near the end may be a bit confusing for the latter group, although when it happens, it’s not exactly a shocker; though a chilling conclusion to a thrilling plot, it isn’t particularly surprising.

In conclusion, *Switzerland* is, on paper, a wonderful idea, exploring

the author’s relationship with her most beloved character. In practice, though, it is let down by the script which does not allow for character development and relies on the audience being familiar with Highsmith’s work. The actors deliver a high-quality performance

with the script they have been handed. While the play does make for an entertaining evening out, and might leave you wanting to sift through Highsmith’s catalogue, it doesn’t do much more.

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National Youth Theatre's genderfluid *Macbeth*:Claire Chan talks to lead actors Olivia Dowd (*Macbeth*) and Isabel Adomakoh Young (*Lady Macbeth*).

ARTS

Claire Chan
Arts Editor

The National Youth Theatre company is finishing up an exciting performance season with their new genderfluid version of *Macbeth*. Abridged by Moira Buffini and directed by Natasha Nixon, it certainly is an intriguing premise! I had the opportunity to sit down with Olivia and Isabel and find out their thoughts on the production.

This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

Q: It's a very new production of *Macbeth*. The whole idea is that it's genderfluid – what exactly does that mean in the context of the play?

I: We use the term genderfluid to refer specifically to the casting, in that characters who have

been traditionally played by men can be female, and vice versa. So two of the witches are male, and *Macbeth* is a woman, which is very exciting.

Q: I was just wondering about the casting – are there specific decisions to make certain characters male and certain characters female? *Macbeth* is female, but *Lady Macbeth* remains female – it's not like a genderswap.

I: You'd have to speak to the creative team to know the whys and wherefores, but I think the idea was that they wanted to get the best actor for each role, regardless of gender. Except for *Macbeth*. It was very much the idea that they wanted a female *Macbeth* and a queer relationship – a relationship between two women – at the heart of the production.

Q: So the relationship between *Macbeth* and *Lady Macbeth* is a queer relationship.

O: Yes. They're

married, just as they are in the conventional *Macbeth*. But I think it's interesting that *Macduff* and *Banquo* are male, and *Macbeth* is female. She's a warrior amongst male warriors, so what does that say, what questions does it bring about for the audience? It could have been a totally different play if *Macduff* was also female. But here it's still a man's world, especially on the battlefield – there are moments in the play where we still use the language "I dare do all that may become a man", and, "What, are you a man?"

Q: That's very interesting, is it supposed to be the original script? In the original text, there are so many references to gender and 'manliness' – *Lady Macbeth* tells *Macbeth* to man up and do things. How is that going to work now that *Macbeth* is female?

I: Yes, it's absolutely the original text. *Moirra*'s streamlined it a little but all the famous speeches,

the dynamics of every single moment of the original text are still there.

O: Well, we've sourced back to it! I mean, she (*Isabel*) says "Are you a man?" and I say, "Aye, and a bold one". It still exists! It is still a patriarchal world and that is still currency between us. Whether that's a dig, you know, like "Are you a man?", as if that would be an insult, or it's like, still "man up" because that's seen as power. To be manly, to be masculine, we still use that language.

I: Absolutely. And I think what's really interesting about having both *Macbeth* and *Lady Macbeth* as women is that *Macbeth* has chosen for her life path to lead into the military, and she very much judges herself based on masculine standards. Whereas *Lady Macbeth* plays a more domestic role – she's chosen to be the partner to a very high-flying person rather than to be the high-flying person herself. It com-

plicates things, certainly, but also makes it more interesting.

Q: Okay. So the play was centred around *Macbeth* being female and the queer relationship between her and *Lady Macbeth*, and the rest of the cast just fell into place?

I: Yeah, I would say that was more or less the shape of things. There were certain central tenets

"It was very much that they wanted a female *Macbeth* and a queer relationship – a relationship between two women – at the heart of the production"

of what we wanted to make the production, but then it becomes a creative project – finding what feels the most true and interesting and fruitful.

O: Definitely. And things arose within that – for example, *Fleance*, who is traditionally *Banquo*'s son, is now his daughter. One of the prophecies is that *Banquo*'s children will be kings, and that's quite interesting, because *Fleance* doesn't know it yet, but she's going to be queen. I really like that at the end the fight still continues for power, between

genders and between humans.

I: *Moirra*'s not just pared it down, she's played more of a functional role. There are things in the production, like the stage directions, where you can see what her interpretation of the play is and what she hopes ours will be. Things that you wouldn't necessarily infer from the original text. It's been really fun bringing them out and staging them in a way that's true to the original script but also expresses *Moirra*'s vision of it.

O: I think it makes it very rich. Hopefully as an audience member you're shown not only the main story but also the subtext, which is brought to the surface in flashes. There's so much I think you can glean from it, which is why I think she's [*Moirra*'] sprinkled certain extra things around as well.

Q: Playing a female *Macbeth*, what sort of interpretation do you feel you could bring to the role that mightn't be possible with a more traditional male *Macbeth*?

O: It's really interesting. I have to confess that I've never seen *Macbeth* played before, so to answer that question honestly I feel like I have to tell you that first. But what's my interpretation? It's all from the text, really – she's so complex. Yes, she's a murderer, we kind of refer to her as almost psychopathic, but she's not. She feels so deeply about her wife, she's married, she has to work really hard at her job to earn the status of worthy warrior, *Bellona*'s daughter, the goddess of war – her work ethic's

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interview with the star couple

great! She's strong, but she also loves her wife and she's ambitious. So my interpretation is to bring all those things to the surface while also allowing a kind of softness. I don't really know what it's like for a man to play it but I certainly know that our [*Macbeth* and *Lady Macbeth*]'s bond... The end of the play, "Tomorrow, tomorrow and tomorrow..." is really, really sad – and yes, it's nihilistic, but I feel it. I can't help but feel that speech. And yes, she stifles those feelings, because she's lost her mind, she's killed so many people, she's lost her wife and she's wondering what's left. So my interpretation is that she feels these things.

Q: Does that tie in to what you've said about how girls have to stifle emotions and appear very outwardly strong or take on masculine roles?

I: I can certainly see some parallels to that, but I feel that *Macbeth* is kind of about that anyway. When you see *Macbeth* having all these second thoughts and doubts and forging ahead anyway, that's very human. Staging *Macbeth* with a female *Macbeth*, it's

"At the end the fight still continues for power, between genders and between humans"

Oseloka Obi as *Macduff* and Olivia Dowd as *Macbeth* // *The Other Richard*

really shown us that the role isn't limited to being played by a man – but rather playing the character truthfully and bringing the best to what is a very interesting character. I don't know how useful it is to look for female stereotypes to crowbar into that – I think seeing *Macbeth* being played by a woman is pure and powerful in itself.

Q: So it's not that there's anything particularly different about a female *Macbeth*, it's just *Macbeth* who happens to be played by a female actor.

O: Definitely. And it's been such an incredible opportunity to have been cast as *Macbeth* – to have been cast as this utterly complex, happy, sad, tyrannical overthinker, lover, whatever – it's really made me think. And this isn't anything new, but what I hope it will do for people watching is to ask, why don't other

women get the chance to play complex characters like this? I think it reveals the spectrum of humanity, or the spectrum of gender, that you just don't get to see you just don't get to see.

Q: Is there a huge focus on gender in this production, or is it just a regular production of *Macbeth* that happens to be played by male and female actors?

I: It's a huge creative decision to take a gender-fluid approach, but I don't think it's about trying to make people read certain things into it. Each actor will know what their gender is contributing to their playing of the role, but it's not like we've decided, for example, that *Queen Duncan* should be very effeminate. It's very deliberate, but it's subtle.

O: Yes. I hope that people will be able to come and glean things from the gender structure, or whatever it is in this

production, themselves. Which is actually, in my opinion, much better.

I: There isn't a specific message we're trying to bring across by saying, for example, *Donalbain* is female. It's about learning what we can learn from something which hasn't really been done before, and it's been a process of discovery for us – finding out along the way what a female *Macbeth* might mean. We're still finding stuff out.

Q: Genderswapped or genderfluid casting is quite popular nowadays. Do you think there should be a reason to deviate from the genders the playwright has set out? Or do you think casting should just be more genderfluid, and that anyone should play whatever they want?

O: I don't know. For me it's always case-by-case – depending on what the story is and how it could be made more relevant by

opening up the gender.

I: Yeah, it depends on the show so much. There are certain things – and people talk about this with race as well – where if the story is about a character's experience of having a particular identity, then obviously it's a really big decision to alter that. I'm not going to say hypothetically whether that decision is right or wrong, but, you know, it's one step to take. But I think when it's a story about ambition, and love, and what people will do to get something – there's no reason why that shouldn't be explored in a different way. In fact I think there's every reason why it should be. And for me, even just seeing casting open up recently has brought so much to plays that I thought I knew well.

O: It's theatre. You're telling a story, and you're taking people away from their everyday lives and making them believe that

there's a world on stage. There are so many things that we're used to just accepting, we could go a bit quicker with telling them in different ways. With different people.

I: Like, these rules are only necessary for as long as they're useful and interesting, right?

Look out for Felix Arts' review of *Macbeth* next week!

Where? The Garrick Theatre

When? Until 7th Dec

How Much? From £15

Olivia Dowd as *Macbeth* and Isabelle Adomakoh Young as *Lady Macbeth* // *The Other Richard*

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War Horse: Theatre At Its Finest, Moving From First Moment to Curtain Call.

Set in the French trenches during the First World War, Nick Stafford's adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's novel dazzles both kids and parents alike.

ARTS

War Horse



Where? National Theatre
When? 18th Nov-5th Jan
How Much? £15

Ozbił Dumenci

Arts Writer

My friends always make fun of me for seeing certain plays multiple times. There are some shows, like *Hamilton* or *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (I know, controversial), that as I leave the theatre, I know that I need to witness again to truly appreciate. Well, let me just say that, not only did I see *War Horse* twice, I saw it twice in a single week.

Returning to National Theatre eleven years after its initial debut, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, *War Horse* explores the bond between young Albert and his beloved horse Joey.

Adapted to stage from Michael Morpurgo's novel of the same name by Nick Stafford, and directed by Marianne Elliott and Tom Morris, the play is unlike anything I have seen on stage before. The biggest props, perhaps, goes out to the Handspring Puppet Company, though. From the first moment Joey appears on stage as a foal, I had chills. Imagine my disbelief the moment he

appears as a full-grown horse moments later, moving so realistically, with so much personality, that I immediately started crying. I cried at how realistic a horse puppet was. It was that realistic. Throughout the play, there's this weird awareness of the fact that these 'horses' (yes, there are multiple, and they are all amazing, with individual personalities) are fake, although within moments you learn to suspend these thoughts, convincing yourself that these are real, living animals on stage. And with the intricacy shown by the incredible puppeteering company, it really isn't that hard to do so.

"War Horse explores the bond between young Albert and his beloved horse Joey."

Horses are not the only animal puppets in the play. The decision to include birds here and there add a wonderful touch of nature, and the goose acts as a much-needed comic relief, that never takes away from the serious tone of the play.

The play is magnificently paced; there's never really a dull moment as the characters (human and puppet) are continuously thrown new obstacles to



A scene from the play// Brinkhoff/Moegenburg

overcome. Not only do these build up in terms of intensity throughout the play, putting more at stakes for the characters, they also allow for a hefty amount of foreshadowing, and subtle call-backs to previous events.

The war scenes are perfectly executed, with just the right amount of gruesome, holding a mirror to the ugly realities of warfare. These scenes are loud and intense and had me at the edge of my seat.

The acting is also great, with a special shout-out to Thomas Dennis, who really manages to portray Albert's youth and innocence beautifully, and Jo Castleton, who delivers an emotionally packed performance as Albert's mother, Rose Naracott.

"The war scenes are perfectly executed, with just the right amount of gruesome, holding a mirror to the ugly realities of warfare."

Without giving too much away, Rose's reactions and feelings towards certain events in the play are perhaps the most gut-wrenching of all.

Although not a musical,

there is bits of singing dispersed through the show. At first, I wasn't fully sold on these, as I wasn't sure what they really added, but by the interval, I was on board. They still don't feel like an integral part of the play, but I did enjoy the commentary they provided. Additionally, I think they also helped pace the play, dispersing and adding tension as needed.

Overall, if I was to sum up the play with a single word, it would be magnetising. The play moved me deeply from the first moment until its last, and I wept like a baby. *War Horse* is a combination of everything I love about theatre, and each aspect is expertly curated to work like magic. Morpurgo's novel might be widely classified as a children's novel, although on stage,

War Horse is not only a play suitable for everyone, it is a play that should be seen by everyone (above the age of 10, according to National Theatre). So deeply moving and effective, the play stays with the viewer long after leaving the theatre. If there is a single play I would recommend anyone to see this year in London, it would undoubtedly be *War Horse*. Playing at National Theatre until January 2019, *War Horse* is a not-to-be-missed visual and emotional spectacle that any theatre enthusiast should get to witness.

GAMES

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One of the first of many fantastic pieces of Deltarune fan art // Reddit User: u/ItzDFPlayer

Felix Reviews: Deltarune Chapter 1

Another fantastic addition to the series. Toby Fox yet again hits gold with a game set in a different version of the Undertale universe that brings everything you loved from the first game and so much more!

Games

Connor Winzar

Games Editor

It has been three long years since the release of the RPG wonder that was Undertale. With its interesting gameplay mechanics, outstanding OST and plethora of brilliant characters, it's hard to believe that its creator, Toby Fox, could possibly top it. I can just about say that Deltarune has the potential to surpass its predecessor, with an inventive combat system, new well fleshed out characters and spectacular OST that is arguably better than the first game. The reason that I say 'potential' is because only one chapter of the game has been released thus far; without a complete story it cannot truly be compared to the source

material. Nonetheless the game retains some of the qualities and characters of the previous game (for example Temmie, who returns with a good supply of poorly constructed sentences) whilst putting a twist on the game with it being set in a different universe from Undertale.

Story:

Right from the opening character customisation, Deltarune retains all the charm and personality many of us grew to love in Undertale--a mixture of comedy, philosophy and nihilism that we can all appreciate. As well as plenty more satirisation of the RPG genre, with certain points in the game bluntly reminding you of the linear nature of the genre as a whole and the expectations that lies with it. This sort of whimsy is carried out throughout the entire game with moments

of bluntness to silliness to borderline tears for how sweet the characters can be. Compared to the stale dialogue and arc that RPG's usually have, Deltarune managed to keep me invested in its characters. Following your atypical Earthbound style RPG, the game starts off in a suburban town, complete with iconic undertale characters. Just like its predecessor, you find yourself in a similar body to the previous protagonist, with just as much of a talkative personality as you navigate the town whilst seeing characters of the previous game in different sideline roles. However, this doesn't last for long as the game abruptly transitions into a different world. Along with your ultra-violent classroom bully Susie, you encounter the lovable pushover Ralsei, who informs you of the prophecy about their

combined forces being needed to save the world. Trying my best not to spoil the treasure trove that is the story, the game continues with the characters defeating enemies with either kindness or a blood fuelled rampage, with plenty of laughs, fun and soul eating heartbreak. The game is ruthless when it comes to hitting you right in the feels.

Gameplay:

Taking the gameplay style of Undertale, Deltarune improves upon it by including a party system in which characters can each carry out one of the following actions: attack, act, item, spare, defend. Striking the same vein as final fantasy, characters are situated on the left hand side with enemies on the right in a turn based fight. Attacks can be avoided with the previous game's

mechanic of the player moving the heart to dodge them. The player also has the ability to carry out the classic act of sparing, but they also now have the ability to use pacifist or non-pacifists actions, in which the theme of good and bad is made abundantly clear. The actions themselves are unique to each character with some going the pacifist route and others not so much. Similar to a standard RPG, one of the characters is a mage who is capable of using spells, provided the player has generated enough of the TP metre (essentially mana points) from avoiding attacks or defending. With plenty of laughs and gags inbuilt into the combat, it's a nice change of pace from the usual RPG monotony and seriousness.

The Verdict:

Under the humongous

pressure of living up to Undertale's reputation, Deltarune does a fantastic job of building on the material from the last game whilst providing new and original content. I struggle to find any fault with the game given that it lives up to every standard set by the previous game, with fantastic characters, OST, gameplay, and overall fantastic story arc that leaves you enamored by its universe. And that's not even mentioning the spectacle that is the slapstick humour of the game that makes you appreciate that much more. My only possible critique of the game is that I want the next chapter to come out ASAP, I want to experience more Lancer wholesomeness as well as the return of 'that face' he makes!



Unwind with Under Pressure

Our stress busting campaign is back next week to help you cope with the pressures of university life. Free massages, mindfulness meditation sessions, games, giveaways and more, **Under Pressure 2018 will help you unwind and reset your mind.**

From **Monday 3 December to Friday 7 December**, the Union will be running activities to help everyone relax or find strategies to cope. Find us in the **Junior Common Room** at South Kensington Campus **everyday from 12:00 to 14:00**, or at any of the other sessions being run throughout the week.

For a list of all the activities, and for other resources to help you cope, visit imperialcollegeunion.org/under-pressure.



Help the homeless

Have you ever thought what it would be like to be hungry, cold and have nowhere to go? In those moments even little help can make a difference.

Join us in bringing some love and hot food to the streets this Thursday 6 December, 16:45 - 19:30. We'll be joining The Dinner Club of Notting Hill Community Church to listen, talk and eat with the homeless people of our community.

Meet us on Level 1 of the Union Building (in between the Union Dining Hall and Activity Spaces) at 16:45 to go together by bus (we will reimburse your travel expenses). We'll be there until around 19:30 so drop by if you want to help out.

Sign up here: imperialcollegeunion.org/homelessdinnerclub

Escape the cold in our alpine retreat!

Come discover **The Union Chalet in Metric!** From midday each day from **29 November to 6 December**, you can unwind in our cozy Alpine retreat.

With a **specially created winter menu**, we have a range of festive season favourites for you to enjoy, such as brie wedges with cranberry sauce and pigs in blankets, as well as marshmallow hot chocolates, gingerbread lattes or something with a little bit more kick like the festive punch.

We'll be hosting fun and relaxing activities each day. From board games and Christmas crafts to Ceilidh classes, we have something for everyone, so **bring your friends and family and enjoy the last days of term.**

Visit imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on for more info.



Imperial goes Ice Skating

Nothing captures the fun of the festive season like Ice Skating around a Christmas Tree at the Natural History Museum, so at **14:00 on Wednesday 5 December**, we're going to skate together!

Everyone is welcome to join us, whether you're a first-time or experienced skater. This is a great chance to make great memories and have some classic festive fun!

A skating ticket is £9 (+ booking fee) - which includes your entry, skate hire and a free beverage (beer, wine or soft drink) at the Ice Rink Cafe. Non-skaters are also welcome to join and watch from our area reserved at the side of the rink. Tickets are available online, or on arrival.

Visit imperialcollegeunion.org/whats-on more for details.

Make great memories



30 November, Friday Board Games Metric 15:00 - 17:00 Good Form FiveSixEight & Metric 20:00 - 02:00 PGI Friday h-bar 19:00 - 23:00 Ladies Hockey BOP Reynolds 19:00 - 00:00	3 December, Monday Christmas Crafts Metric 12:00 - 15:00 Guitar Soc Open Mic Night Metric 19:00 - 23:00	4 December, Tuesday Super Quiz FiveSixEight 20:00 - 22:00 The Quiz Reynolds 18:00 - 20:00 IC Christmas Jazz Jam Union Bar 19:00 - 23:00	5 December, Wednesday Christmas Yoga Metric 15:00 - 16:00 CSP Wednesday Christmas Jumper Special Beit Bars 19:00 - 02:00 Club Reynolds Reynolds 21:00 - 01:00
6 December, Thursday Ceilidh Class Metric 17:30 - 18:30 J&R Acoustic Night Union Bar 19:00 - 23:00		7 December, Tuesday Common People Beit Bars 20:00 - 02:00 PGI Friday h-bar 19:00 - 23:00 Replay Friday Reynolds 19:00 - 00:00	

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

SUSTAINABILITY

esoc@imperial.ac.uk

An app a day keeps the greenhouse effect at bay

Apps can provide food for thought and your belly

SUSTAINABILITY

Theana Johnson
Sustainability writer

To start, a few facts: 12 million tons of plastic end up in our oceans each year. One third of all food produced globally goes to waste. The greenhouse gas emissions involved in the production of food which go to waste mean that if food waste were a country it would be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases, after China and the US.

This is astounding, and should make all of us think twice. Each of us can contribute to combatting climate change by changing our daily habits.

There is no magical solution to this problem. But there are small steps individuals can take to make a change. To do so is to get informed and involved. The smartphone is a brilliant tool to do just that. So, without further ado, here is a list of eight apps (all free) and services to help reduce food waste.

Love Food Hate Waste



<https://lovefoodhatewaste.com>

This website has a host of tips and tricks on how to waste less food, as well

as recipes and ways to store food for longer.

“One third of all food produced globally goes to waste”

Olio



<https://olioex.com>

Olio is a platform for users to post unwanted food (and non-food items) to prevent them from going to waste. Users interested in the item get into contact and arrange a pick-up. Olio also has volunteers partnered up with cafes and restaurants. At the end of the day they collect the leftover food and post them on Olio for everyone to benefit from. What's better than free food?

“If food waste were a country it would be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases”

Too Good to Go



<https://toogoodtogo.co.uk>

Too Good to Go provides a solution to the problem of leftover food in restaurants and cafes being thrown away. Through the app, outlets can offer leftover food at a discounted price. Every day they estimate how many portions they will have left at the end of the day and users can buy them. At closing time, you just go to the selected venue and collect your food. Portions vary depending on how much is left each day but these can be very big, way more than you would usually get for that price. (Side note: Wasabi also does 50% off all food left 30 mins before closing). The app Karma provides a similar service, offering 50% off food from various locations. Shops selling discounted groceries are also included in this one.

Plant Jammer



www.plantjammer.com

<https://www.plantjammer.com/>

Plant Jammer is a super easy-to-use app which will come up with

recipes for what you have leftover in the fridge: half an onion, one carrot, an open can of chickpeas... You can choose cuisine, portions, staple dishes etc, and quickly whip up something delicious.

Giki



<https://gikibadges.com/>

Giki allows you to scan supermarket products and find out if they are healthy, sustainable and ethical. It suggests alternatives for those who don't comply to these and guides you through sustainable grocery shopping.

Oddbox



<https://www.oddbox.co.uk/>

Oddbox provides a service where it collects wonky, too big, too small, scratched fruits and vegetables that don't meet shelf standards from supermarkets and farms across the country and delivers them right to your door. Every week you receive a box (you can choose size and type) full of a variety of different produce starting at just £8.99 per week.

“What's better than free food?”

Refill App



<https://refill.org.uk/get-the-refill-app/>

This app finds the nearest refill water stations to fill up your reusable water bottle. No need to buy plastic bottles anymore!

depop



<https://depop.com>

Selling and buying second hand clothes has never been easier. On this peer to peer social shopping app, the photos of the clothes are surprisingly good, price and state are described. In addition no need to pick the piece up, the clothes are shipped directly to you. Sustainability is also about recycling and upcycling, trying to keep products, foods etc in the cycle rather than throwing them away and buying new ones.

Critics point out that an app does not equate to action. Proponents argue that apps create an entirely new means to tackle issues, like Giki

providing information to shoppers at the point of purchase.

Leading a sustainable lifestyle is not expensive or constraining. On the contrary you will eat better, save money by wasting less (on average UK households waste £700 worth of food), all in all contributing to preserving the planet.

So why not take a challenge and try one of these apps today?

“Why not take a challenge and try one of these apps?”

Going on in the world

SUSTAINABILITY

Artur Donaldson

Sustainability editor

Brazil – This week Brazil's government announced that it will no longer be hosting the UN global summit on climate change next year citing costs. The conference could cost Brazil up to \$100 million. Brazil spent \$4.6 billion on the 2015 Olympic games and it is expected that \$33 trillion worth of damage worldwide will result from climate change by 2050 according to a 2016 report. Brazil's prime minister, Mr. Bolsonaro, has called manmade climate change a plot by “Marxists” to stifle economic growth.

INVESTMENT

icu.investmentsociety@imperial.ac.uk


Scandals raises questions over Goldman Conduct

INVESTMENT

Tom Alston

*Investment Editor
ICIS Editor in Chief*

Back in 2010, Goldman Sachs was sued by the US Securities and Exchange Commission over allegations that it had misled clients over the mortgage backed securities it had sold. Internal Goldman emails surfaced showing how arrogant self-interest bankers had left their clients out in the cold to save their jobs and the cost to the Wall Street bank. However, Goldman soon recovered as the then chief executive Lloyd Blankfein paid \$550m to settle the allegations, launching a top to bottom cultural review and spending 18 months visiting clients to reassure them that Goldman has received the message on ethics and will in the future put clients' interests first. Despite this, at the beginning of the month the US Department of Justice revealed that two former senior Goldman bankers had been charged with money laundering in connection with the Malaysian state investment fund 1MDB, in what is alleged as one of the biggest frauds of

“the likely future Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has condemned Goldman Sachs role in the scandal as “disgusting” “



The sovereign wealth fund was supposed to bring economic prosperity to Malaysia// Financial Times

all time. The purpose of the fund set up by Najib Razak, Malaysia's Prime Minister in 2009, was to promote economic development. According to the Department of Justice, at least \$3.5 billion was stolen from this fund and had found its way into the hands of Najib and many of his associates, to help in the purchase of a luxury apartment in Manhattan, a corporate jet, and ironically even helped finance the movie *The Wolf of Wall Street*. Goldman enters the picture 10 years ago, when it aimed to target Southeast Asia as part of its regional expansion. The bank built relationships with Malaysian tycoons and the government of Najib Razak. Consequently, state run 1MDB hired Goldman to work on \$6.5bn in bond deals that reeled in \$600m in fees, an unusually high rate for the service. Now Anwar Ibrahim, the likely future prime minister, has condemned Goldman Sachs' role in the scandal as “disgusting” and has demanded that the bank should return significantly more than the \$600m the banks were paid, due to the fact that “it's a cost to the

image of the country, it's a cost to investments, and it's now a burden shouldered by the government because of the complexity of so many of these so-called credible, renowned financial institutions”. Goldman refused to comment of Mr Anwar's comments. Goldman had previously insisted it had no knowledge of the fraudulent activity, but it has now surfaced that Lloyd Blankfein met with Jho Low, the man at the heart of the scandal, at the

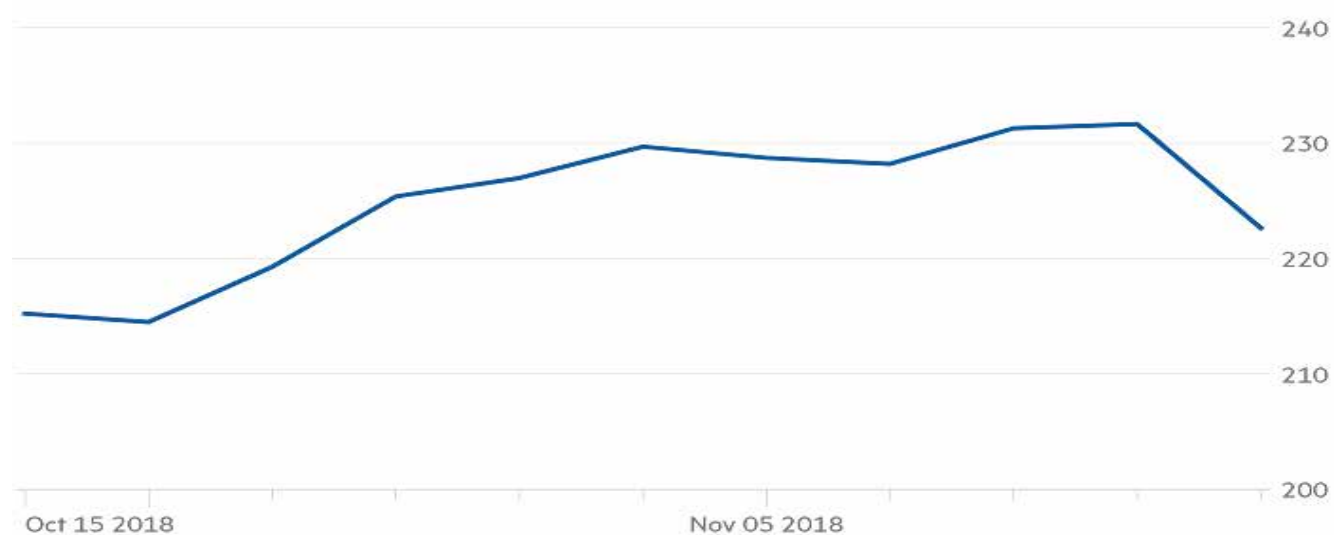
banks New York headquarters during a meeting with the CEO of Aabar, an Abu Dhabi investment fund. It has emerged that the Abu Dhabi investment fund has filed a lawsuit in New York, claiming that Goldman bribed Mohammed al-Husseiny, chief executive of Aabar, to make them act against the funds interests as part of “a massive, international conspiracy to embezzle billions of dollars” from 1MDB. It is then no surprise that

Goldman's image has taken a significant hit in Southeast Asia, taking 17th spot for fees as of the start of November, as the Malaysian ruling coalition faces up to \$10bn in debt repayments linked to the 1MDB scandal in time when it is grappling with a weak fiscal position, having revised the 2018 fiscal deficit from 2.8% to 3.7% in the latest budget issued in early November. Goldman could perhaps recover if it was an isolated incident,

however, on Wednesday South Korea's financial regulator imposed a \$6.7m fine on the bank for conducting a type of short selling that is banned in the country. The question Goldman must be asking themselves now is whether this new scandal threatens to undermine Goldman's claims to be cleaner and more ethical, and whether its leaders have lost control of their empire amid their pursuit of growth.

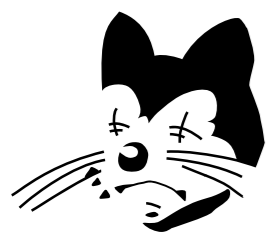
Goldman Sachs shares drop amid 1MDB fallout

GS stock price (in US dollars per share)



Source: Refinitiv
© FT

Goldman's share price has suffered as a result of the scandal// Financial Times



Hangman

Imperial College Exposed

Imperial College Exposed // Facebook: Imperial College Exposed

Imperial College Exposed

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

Following the banning of Imperial College Secrets, a new venue for students to safely vocalise their inner thoughts and feelings has emerged: Imperial College Exposed. Originally gaining large amounts of traffic due to students mistaking it for an extension of the Felix centrefold, Imperial College Exposed is now one of the staples of Imperial student interaction with the College reportedly considering it as an option for supplementing the overburdened student counselling service.

“Originally gaining large amounts of traffic due to students mistaking it for an extension of the Felix centrefold”

Bamish Heck, 23 and ¾, said, “I’ve just gone through a really hard break up and I just didn’t know where to turn. When I found out about Imperial College Exposed I realised what I really needed was to splash my problems all over the Internet and make thinly veiled references to the people involved. Sharon if

you’re reading this, I still love you.” In further statements, Bamish claimed to have found the amateur psychology practised in the comments incredibly helpful. “The comment that resonated with me the most was “LMAO.””

“The comment that resonated with me the most was ‘LMAO’”

Of course, Imperial College Exposed isn’t just a venue for students venting their personal problems, it’s also a place where students complain about their course, complain about their housemates and complain about their relationship

status. Imperial is considering offering a BPA (Bachelors, Passive Aggression) offered through the Business School, with the Provost describing it as “probably more useful than anything we teach in there anyway.”

“The Imperial ban hammer comes for all. Except Memeperial, but that shit’s dead anyway”

Taking all things into consideration, Imperial College Exposed is now the sole forum for mass student discussion at Imperial. Given the

controversy surrounding the previous iteration of this page, bets are currently being taken as to how long it can remain operational. How long can it act as a graveyard of dead memes and the

void for people to scream into? This correspondent is unsure, but if one thing is for certain, the Imperial ban hammer comes for all. Except Memeperial, but that shit’s dead anyway.



Imperial College Exposed // Facebook: Imperial College Exposed

HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

Error 404 advice not found

HANGMAN

Felicity Felissy
Agony Aunt

Dear Felicity,

I’m a bit stuck. I’ve never been rejected from anything, but my personal tutor has told me to apply to more than one job. I feel like it would be inappropriate to tell him rejection isn’t really my thing, and that anything I want I’ll get, but a failure to fill in more than one application is still a failure (and I don’t do failures). I passed my driving test first time, have never been rejected for a date, and got undergraduate offers from Oxford AND Cambridge. Yeah, they broke the rules for me. Anyway, the idea that I should be expecting some sort of a rejection has got under my skin, and it’s sort of putting me off. To be honest, it’s keeping me from applying to stuff and this is a new feeling. How do I deal with this? It’s pretty soul crushing...

Yours truly,
Dee Ked

Dear Ms Ked,

Thank you for your letter. Unfortunately, we have decided not to take your application for advice any further. We receive hundreds of letters each week and it is not feasible to offer advice to each applicant directly. After careful consideration, we have deemed your letter not fit for advice, as it is our view that you do not have a real problem. We appreciate that you are interested in our advice, and encourage



you to apply again should you encounter another problem that lines up more closely with our values.

thank u, next // Wikimedia

Yours truly,
Felicity & Co.



ARIES

This week, your PhD application gets rejected. Apparently your supervisor overheard you chatting shit about him in the café. Loose lips sink ships.



TAURUS

This week it’s your first job interview. When asked about a recent failure, flustered, you start blabbering about the time you failed to secure a wine at Carnival. Tragic.



GEMINI

This week you think it might be a great idea to buy roller-skates. Probably easier to knock people out of the way on Exhibition Road than zig-zagging like a buffoon.



CANCER

This week you can’t wait for your boyfriend to finally shave off that ridiculous moustache. He finally does and you realise it wasn’t really the moustache..



LEO

This week your application to form a safe space for ‘arrogant pricks and the medically insufferable’ gets rejected. Apparently it overlaps too much with FinanceSoc.



VIRGO

This week you decide it’s time to start ‘networking with industry professionals’. Is that what they’re calling it these days? You do you, sis.



LIBRA

This week you protest against the lack of inclusive food in Fusion. Some of us are averse to seasoning, you know! #BlandLivesMatter



SCORPIO

This week, you’re excited for Christmas. Or maybe you’re anxious because of exams after Christmas. Who knows, they’re the same physical reaction anyway.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you’re the resident Felix psychic. How are you expected to see the future when the light at the end of the tunnel is so dim?



CAPRICORN

This week, you’re the ICSMSU President. Apparently medics tend to be into BDSM. Why else would you add an extra year at Imperial just to go to Council?



AQUARIUS

This week your mum’s church friend asks for help with her son’s Mech Eng uni applications. What would Jesus do? Sabotage their UCAS to prevent future pain? Let the Lord use you.

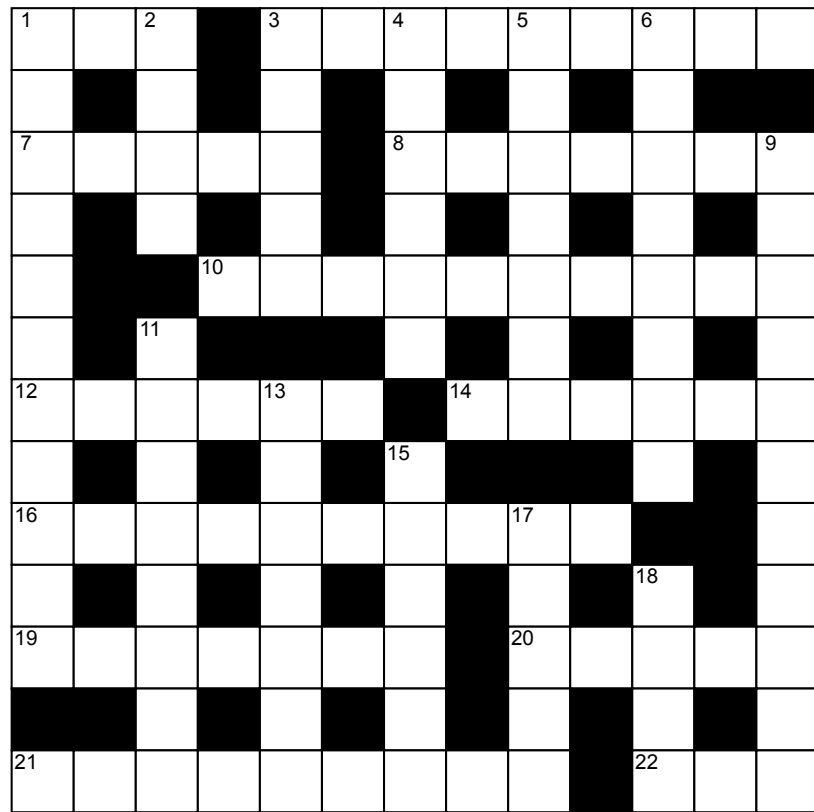


PISCES

This week you comment ‘lol same bro’ on an Imperial College Exposed post. You get 13 likes. Alice Gast’s PA hires you to run the Counselling service.

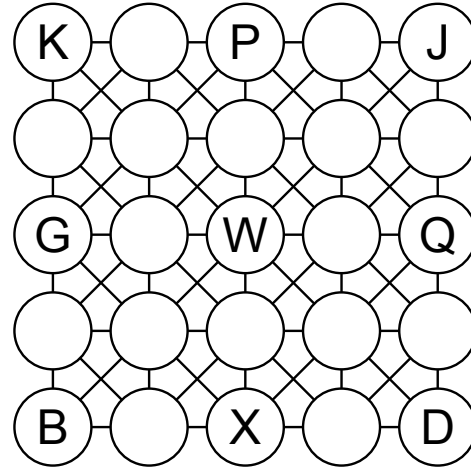
PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk



GOGEN

Write letters into each circle to form the listed words. Letters can be linked by moving between adjacent cells horizontally, vertically or diagonally in any direction. You may use each letter in the alphabet only once.



- | | | |
|-------|------|----------|
| BOXED | GLOW | NOSE |
| JUTE | MESH | GRIP |
| WAVY | GOLF | QUACKING |

FUCWIT

1	Maxiane	142
2	CHZYNo.1InMy<3	132
3	HoneybunnySnugglepuff	124
4	Luncheon Pals	121
5	Yeet Infection	119
6	DQ	117
7	Lunar Lunacy	108
8	S. B. S.	103
9	Budget-Greg&13Whales	101
10	KBLB	99
11	Computer Magic	75
12	Lilmonix3	71
13	Castiel	70
14	Sudoku-urself	68
15	Cat Ladies	65

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

Points available

Crossword	7
Shikaku	5
Gogen	2
Nonogram	3
Total	17

CROSSWORD

It's tube geek time – in addition to your regularly scheduled crossword clues, some of the answers are popular stations on the London Underground network.

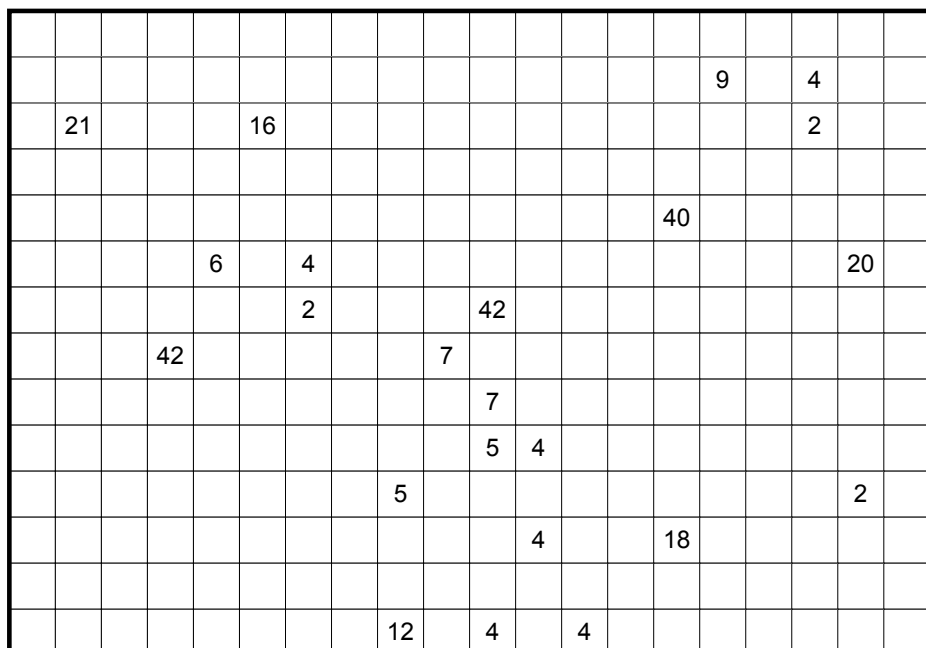
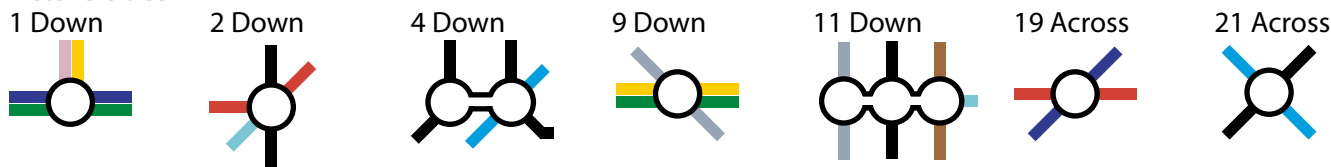
Across

- Circular food-heating device (3)
- Always lookin' fresh, even during Winter (9)
- Abbey-dwellers (5)
- Ingest (7)
- Needs to be tested with an experiment (10)
- They're 58p or 67p depending on class (6)
- Yell (6)
- Repetitions (10)
- See picture 19 (7)
- The basement of a bank (5)
- See picture 21 (9)
- What roads and cigarettes have in common (3)

Down

- See picture 1 (11)
- See picture 2 (4)
- A classic homework assignment (5)
- See picture 4 (6)
- Visual (7)
- Followed the advice of Lord Kitchener (8)
- See picture 9 (11)
- See picture 11 (8)
- Showy bird (7)
- Boyfriend < x < husband (6)
- Paperback (5)
- Sudden burst of wind (4)

Picture clues

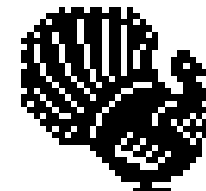
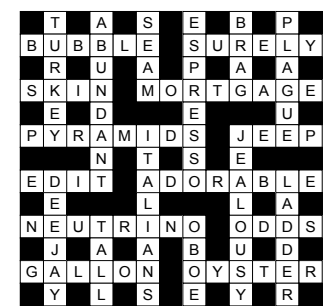


SHIKAKU

Divide the square into rectangles, such that each rectangle contains exactly one number. The numbers given represent the area of the containing rectangle.

Last week's solutions

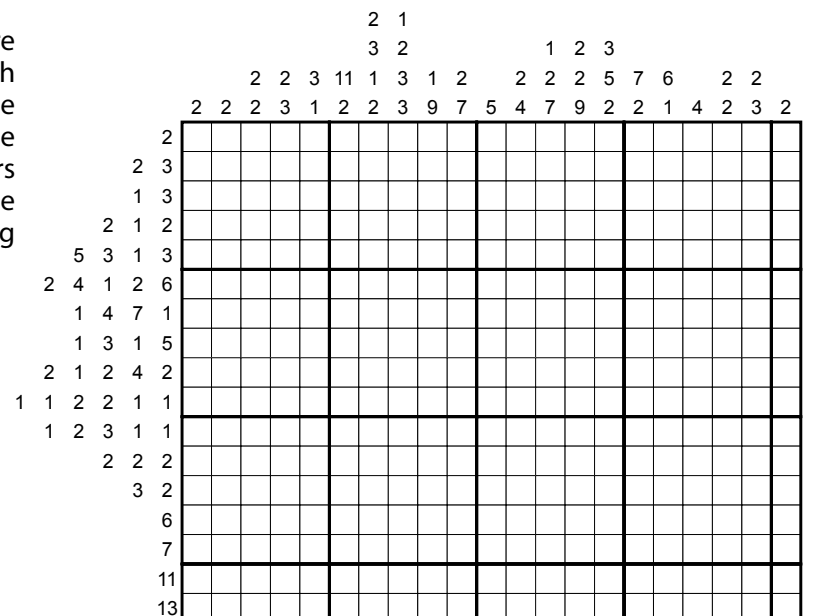
1	2	8	6	5	7	9	4	3
3	6	7	8	4	9	2	5	1
9	4	5	2	3	1	7	8	6
4	8	9	3	7	2	6	1	5
5	3	1	9	6	8	4	2	7
6	7	2	5	1	4	8	3	9
2	9	3	7	8	5	1	6	4
7	1	6	4	2	3	5	9	8
8	5	4	1	9	6	3	7	2



*					1	*				1	*	
1		1	2	*	1		1	2			1	1
2	*	2	1				*	2	1	1		
*		1			*				2	*	2	
2		1				2	1			1	*	
1	*	1	1		*	1				1	1	
*	2	1	2	*	1			*				
1	2	1	2		1						*	1
2	*	1	*					1	1		2	2
*	1	1	1	1			*	1	1		1	*

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.



SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Immortals Fight Back Against QMUL Vipers

SPORTS

Daniel Grumberg
Publicity Officer

For the first time this season we faced a new opponent, the Queen Mary Vipers. Our squad was much improved from last week, due to an addition of new recruits, and the return of our starting running back Jonas "Vegan Bull" Eschenfelder, coming back from a hand injury.

With the Queen Mary grounds being so close to London, Jacob our Gameday Manager, decided to book a "Gatis Special" coach, which reached full capacity for the first time this season, leading to some close encounters. The additional numbers were welcome, but we are still looking to

recruit.

After a bit of special team tactical adjustments and an extended warm-up featuring everyone's favourite Zip-Drill punctuated by Frans' usual moans about his shoulder. Both teams were ready to take the field. Unfortunately, due to a flag on the field for delay of medics the game started late. The Vipers hit us hard on their first drive, mostly due to their girth-y statures, and finished with a touchdown. However, we responded with a 60-yard drive of our own that unfortunately was cut short at the foot of the end-zone due to a holding penalty on one of our players. On defence, we reacted with an excellent fumble recovery by Nikolai "Smice" Smirnov to set the offence up on Queen Mary's 40-yard line, and hoping to pound the ball

into close vicinity of the end-zone. Unfortunately, a couple of drops in the red zone meant we were unable to capitalise. At the end of the half our defence suffered two lapses which lead to two Viper TDs in the last minute of the half, putting the score at 24-0. Undeterred, we came back out and scored a touchdown of our own, with a catch by Daniel "Old Windsorian" Loughran, who redeemed himself after a particularly pathetic false start on the previous play. On the following QMBL drive, Ed "Ballhawk" Martin produced an insane pick 6 that included five shed tackles, making the score 24-14 halfway through the third quarter. For the rest of the game the defences reigned supreme, apart from an amazing one-minute drill down that went for 80



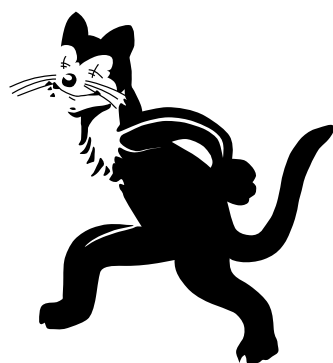
Squad goals // Immortals

yards and ran out of time at the 5-yard line. This last minute effort included a 35-yard scramble by our QB Ben O'Brien, and deep contested catch by "Magic" Mike Corio. Unfortunately, this still meant a defeat for us. However, there were plenty of positives to be taken away

from the game, with our offence having made more yards than the Vipers and our defence looking very robust apart from right before half-time. A special shout-out goes to Thomas "Flipper" Smith for fulling transitioning to his new offensive lineman role.

With a bye-week in our sights, we are looking at improving even more and creating an upset against Kent in mother Harlington before the mid-season break. If you want to join a young energetic American Football team get in touch on Facebook. #BecomeImmortal

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!

If you're interested, please email felix@ic.ac.uk

SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk



The runners prepare for the challenge ahead by yawning, face-painting, and undressing // Noemie David-Rogeat

From Brighton With Love

Cross Country and Athletics make their annual pilgrimage to Brighton for a fast, flat 10km race along the seafront

SPORTS

Mihai Vanea

ICXCAC Social Member

Last Sunday 18th November, Imperial's keenest and finest runners went on an adventurous trip to one of the most hotly anticipated events in the autumn term running calendar.

It was long, it was girthy, it was fast, and it was flat. Yes, you guessed it, it was the Brighton 10k.

With only a few hours sleep, the runners got up at 5AM to take the train to the south coast of England. Some of the team were surprised to find out the employees of Southern Rail were not on strike at that time of the day.

At 9:30am sharp the race began with the 51 Imperial students competing against 2000 runners. The weather was perfect, with no clouds in the sky and the mercury staying firmly above 50 C.

Niki Faulkner lead the

team with an amazing pace; keeping up with some of the best runners in the field. He managed to finish the race in 31 minutes and 52 seconds! Wow!

The Club Captain, Fergus Johnson, managed to score another great result, finishing the race in 35:02, and registering a new personal best in the process.

Another PB was earned by Euan Bell, who came third in the Imperial men's rankings, finishing the race in 37:14.

ICXCAC's ladies also ran great times; scoring some amazing results and reminding us why they are in the first place of the cross country league. The club was glad to be visited by one of the club legends, Anna Lawson, who lead the ladies with an amazing time of 38:34. The Imperial alumna commented, "I finally got a sub-40 10k!" That probably excludes splits in the many cross country races and marathons she has done.

Alex Mundell, a former

Club Captain put in a lot of effort, finishing the race with a superb time of 39:30.

Back on the men's side it was surprising seeing James Millet, one of the finest young track athletes, taking part. He likely treated it like any other 800m race, done 12.5 times back-to-back. Great effort, James! It only took him 35:47 seconds to finish the race.

At the scene, Millet questioned, "Why is this race so long?!"

The club eagerly awaits his debut in the cross country league, as he could help the men's team take a higher position in the ranking. Maybe I should have talked about him in the first paragraph of the article, but hopefully he will not mind.

It was a great day to see some new faces in the club running at fast pace - faster than the wind. Some of those were Lucas Kreifels and Cedric Ormond who ran the race in 38:14 and 39:38 respectively. Alix Vermeulen ran her first 10k in an amazing 39:49,

proving herself a strong contender for the Fresher of the Year award. Keep the momentum going!

Well, my friends, after reading those paragraphs about how well everybody did, you are probably wondering how I found the race. The race was great, the sun was smiling and I think I know the answer to "Who was first, the chicken or the egg," as at some point I found myself racing a giant inflatable duck. That is when I realised I needed to step up the pace and finish the race with a decent time. I also think it was sunny enough to start building my base tan. It was great having other members of the club who could not run that day cheering and supporting their fellow students.

The wonderful Women's Captain, Charlotte Barratt, celebrated her birthday with the club that day and made sure everyone was able to get some top quality face paint with personalised designs.

While I was running

I could hear Secretary Duncan Hunter shouting, "You're a tank! You're the predator, he's the prey!" I'm not sure what he was referring to - maybe Remy Shaieb, who ran an amazing sub-40 race.

In the afternoon, our athletes headed to the beach to chill and chat. We had some interesting discussions about rocks and how they are so simple, yet they can represent the complex society

we are part of. All rocks are different; they come in different shapes and sizes, but they are still happy to lie next to each other. When you look into the distance you cannot tell them apart - all you can see is the beautiful beach that never ends.

Until next time, keen beans!



The giant, inflatable duck that was chasing me down // Noemie David-Rogeat