



Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London



EDITORIAL

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A Christmas Miracle

Andy Djaba – Felix Editor



MERRY XMAS! It may seem a bit premature seeing as we only touched December a week ago, however, tonight, a Christmas miracle is taking place. You won't guess what time I'm writing this editorial. But at the moment, we are on course to submit the paper on time. By on time, I mean less than two hours after the "print deadline". Baby steps but progress is being made. We keep it moving!

In an attempt to organise myself and speed up the editing process, I actually planned out my editorial slightly. In the knowledge that I would be without my trusted ghostwriting sidekick (the Robin to my Blackman), I knew I would have to actually pull my finger out for omce.

The other day, I reposted a meme I saw on Instagram. The meme said: "The fact that I procrastinate and still get the job done is the reason I still procrastinate". Never has a meme touched me so deeply. I felt this with every fibre of my being. The reason I've been sending the paper to print later and later each week

is because I keep getting away with it. The thought of what will happen if my risky game ever fails to pay off fills me with anxiety. Last week, I acknowledged that the jig is well and truly up. As we approach the end of the year, it is time for reflection and, as I reflect on my first term in the role as editor, one thing I definitely hope to improve on is my organisational skills. The late submission is unsustainable and I don't actually know what would happen if Felix went a week without printing. To the printers, if you're reading this by any chance, I love you man.

Wayne, you're my guy! I'm rambling now...

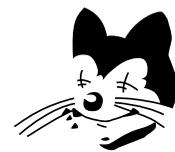
This week, I made my long-awaited, triumphant return to the Music section to give the culture what it needs, my annual Top Ten Hip-Hop albums round-up.

"This week, I made my long-awaited, triumphant return to the Music section"

I would be lying if I told you I've spent longer on an article this term. For once, I started drafting this article in advance, ahead of a Thursday night. My number one might be a controversial pick but, it's my list so...

This week's issue is the final issue of term. I had hoped we could go extra thicc this week but, alas, it wasn't to be. Regardless, the issue is 48 pages of quality content as per and I can't help but marvel at how far we in the Felix team have come. Felix Fam, we've done a madness this term to be honest. You've all put in an almighty shift and I couldn't be happier with you! Time for a well-earned break. I'm not one to pick favourites and maybe I'm showing my bias here but Section of the week is undoubtedly the Music Section! Special acknowledgement to the Postgraduate section, which is a new section that we are looking to grow next term. Anyway, I'm going to wrap this up now. See you in the new year.

FELIX NAVIDAD!



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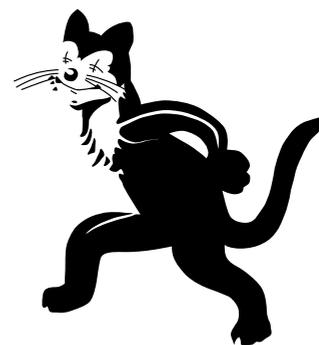
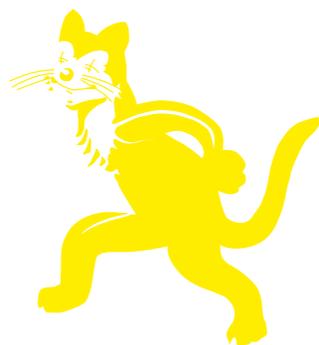
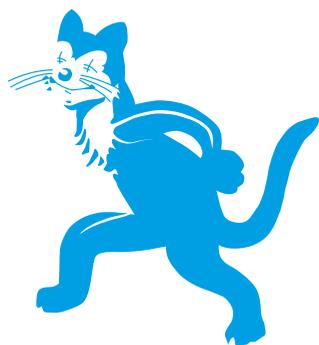
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NEWS

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

January = Trial of *Meat-Free Mondays!*

NEWS

Claudia Caravello

Deputy President (Finance & Services)

Why should you spend one less day a week eating meat?

January. New Year, New Resolutions, so why not introduce some New Changes?

This January, College and the Union will be trialing their joint campaign, 'Meat Free Mondays'. With student clubs (Enviro Soc, Veg Soc & APES), other interested students and Greening Imperial all wanting to start similar initiatives, they've combined forces

alongside the Deputy President (Finance & Services), College Catering and College Campus Services to produce an Imperial-wide campaign, stretching over South Kensington, Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Silwood Campuses!

"Reducing methane emissions would create tangible benefits almost immediately"

With global meat consumption on the rise, there

is more and more research into the impact this will have on our world. The United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization states that livestock are responsible for 14.5% of global greenhouse gases produced. However, during the Climate Summit 2014 it was highlighted that 'reducing methane emissions would create tangible benefits almost immediately'. One simple fix to this: spend one day fewer a week eating meat. Not only would this reduce methane emissions from animals, but cut down on CO₂ and nitrous oxide gas production too.

Reducing our weekly meat consumption has many benefits, including health improvements and financial ease. But taking a step back to look at the wide picture, working

together to reduce the world meat consumption also has environmental, social, and animal welfare impacts.

"Spend one day fewer a week eating meat"

Every Monday venues across campus will be switching their meat (excluding fish) dishes for vegetarian alternatives. Aiming to encourage students to try the new dishes, FiveSixEight, HBar, Pieminister, Fuel, the Senior Common Room (SCR), Queens Tower Rooms (QTR), SAF café, Library Café, College Café, Wolfson Restaurant (Hammersmith), and



Which is easier? // Meatless Monday

Reynolds Bar (Charing Cross) are all teaming up to take part, with other food outlets also considering joining in.

But that's not all that's happening! Be prepared for a packed month of events, activities and pop up stalls. Catch students and staff at lunch times

on stalls explaining the campaign, showing you why it's worth taking part, and giving tips on how to continue Meat Free Mondays at home. Or, join them in the evenings for joint events with our student clubs and societies (more information will be released soon).

Ethos gym expanding!

NEWS

Andy Djaba

Editor-in-Chief

James Medler, the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) provides Felix with an update on Ethos gym and more

Ethos gym is to be expanded in the new year, following months of collaboration between the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) [DPCS], Sport Imperial and the College.

This change comes following complaints of the gym being too small and overcrowded in feedback taken over the last two years. Plans to expand Ethos have been in the works for the past year, however funding for the proposal has now been secured.

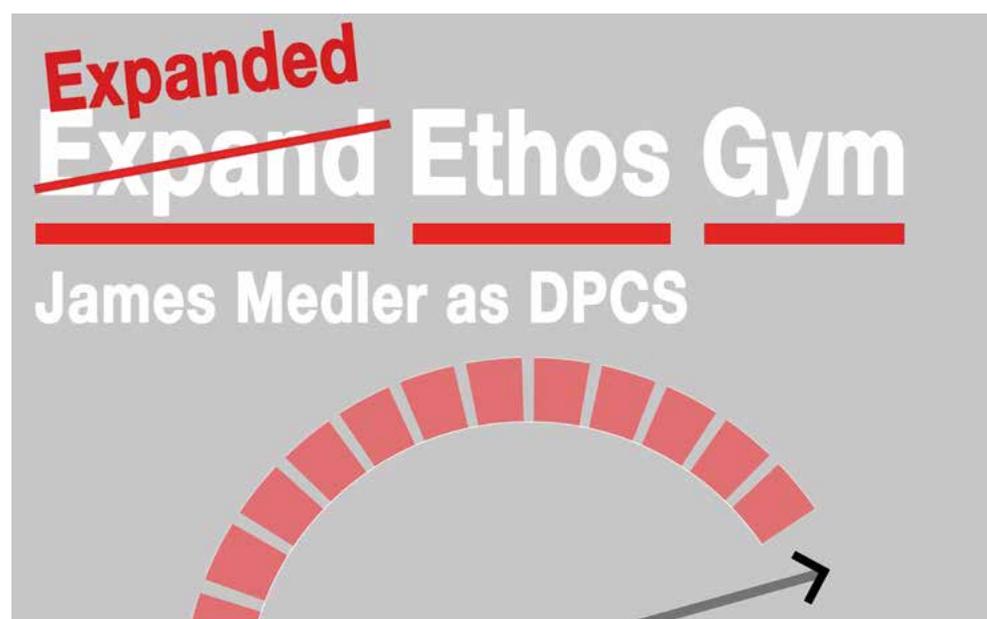
The expansion will see a new functional room created within Ethos, to cater for approximately 30 extra people, boosting the gym's capacity up to 110 people. The initial aim for the project completion is the end of the current academic year, with more information on the designs and type of space to be released in the near future.

Expanding the gym

was the first of the DPCS, James Medler's, manifesto points and this announcement can be seen as something of a success story. In a recent blog post, James states, "think of it as an early Christmas present".

Imperial students are being encouraged to complete the Student Experience survey "so projects like the Ethos Gym expansion can happen". In a statement, James wrote:

"This project has come about because of the Student Experience survey. Over 2 years, it became overwhelmingly obvious that there was a desire and a need for the gym's size and availability to be improved. These results were presented in a paper to college which



James Medler as DPCS // Joseph O'Connell-Danes

has resulted in the funding being given."

The Student Experience survey, which is sent to all non-final year students once a year, provides students with the opportunity to make their voices heard by telling the Union about their experiences of Imperial

so that their time here can be improved. Last year, the survey received over 2000 responses but James is urging more students to complete the survey:

"This survey is one of your major opportunities to actually create positive change at Imperial and

make a real difference. The more of you filling it out, the bigger the impact the Student Voice has in creating real change."

The 10-15 minute survey covers a range of areas and respondents to are automatically entered into a £500 prize draw

It's a Sabb, Sabb Situation

NEWS

Andy Djaba
Editor-in-Chief

With their first term in office nearing its end, Felix sat down with the Union sabbatical officers to discuss their progress so far

Felix: For the people that don't know, can each of you explain what your role is

James: I'm DPCS. My role is two-fold in looking after our 370-odd clubs and societies, their creation, their day-to-day running and, when things go wrong, basically helping them out of a pickle and supporting them through that. It's also to do with the representation side, which we all work on. When a club, society or general student has an issue that they want to make better - be it about spaces, be it about the activities they're doing, be it about how College is supporting them - taking that to College, working with them and trying to make that change.

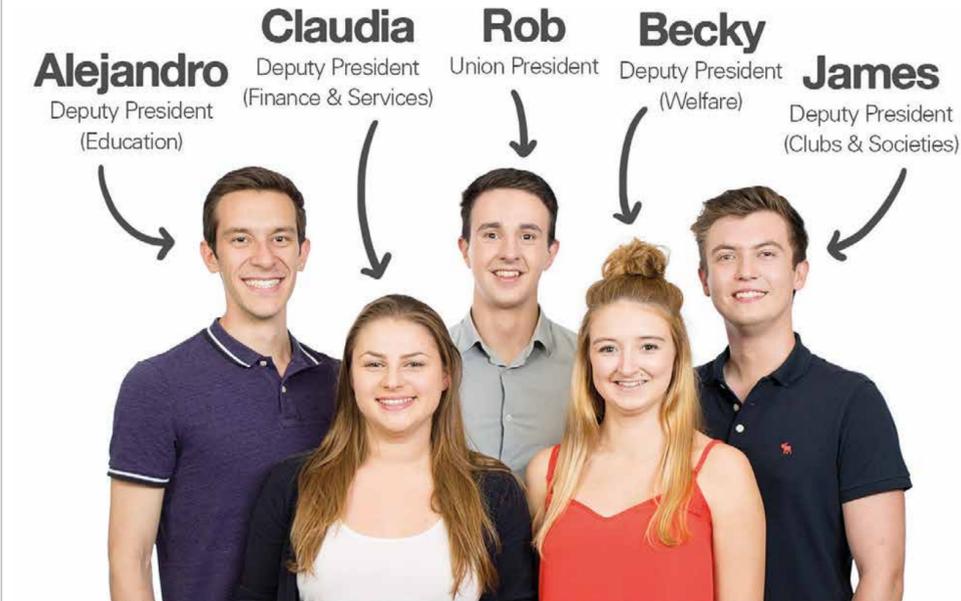
Becky: I'm DPW. I work with College quite a lot to look at some of the student services and look at how they can be improved and how they work for students and look at different policies and things that are in place around welfare. I also work with two teams of students: the wellbeing reps, which are really important because College is actually talking about wellbeing now rather than being a bit afraid of it. Students are talking about wellbeing, which is really exciting. Then I also work

with the Liberation and Community officers, who we're trying to build a bigger platform for.

Dan: Hi I'm Dan, I'm the President of the School of Medicine's Students' Union. I look after the Students' Union along with 19 other volunteer officers. Our main role is to ensure that all of medical school life runs smoothly in ICSM and then also ensuring that the unique interests of medical students and BSC Medical Biosciences students are represented and taken into account at all levels of the College, Union and the faculty.

Claudia: Hi I'm Claudia, I'm DPFS. My role comes in two parts: the finance part is looking at the general overall Union finances, contributing to annual budgeting as well as looking at our investment strategies and where our money goes. I also look at club finances, so helping advise on event budgets, financial planning and helping them out with any day-to-day transactions. The other half is the services side; looking at commercial services within the Union, what else we provide in terms of health and safety in the Union and then also working with College, looking at the kind of special projects they've got going around 24 hour vending, looking at catering, looking at how sustainable the College is.

Rob: I'm Rob, I'm the Union President. I probably touch on a little bit of everything in the way that, in the Union, I support all my Deputy Presidents and then also I take control of things such as governance and democracy. In terms of what I tackle at College, my main role is probably ensuring that the student



voice is heard at all levels. So all the meetings all the way up to top of College Council to individual one-on-ones in areas that we really want to prioritise - working on things like widening participation, wellbeing, educational reform and so on.

Alejandro: I'm Alejandro, I'm this year's DPE. My role is similar to the other OTs in that it has two parts. The first is to lead and manage the Academic Representation Network. That's a network of over 500 volunteers and that consists of everything from the election process, through training and support, right up to making sure that they're embedded in decision making at all levels; that includes departments, faculties and College-wide. The other side of my role is representing all students at the higher levels - influencing College policy to improve it and keep students at the centre and essentially helping College to shape some of their projects.

How have you found it so far?

Becky: It's been really good. It's been surprising that College actually listens to us. Basically, I didn't expect College to listen to us at all but College can't listen to 19,500 people at the same time, they have to listen to one voice. They can't reply to every single student's e-mail so it's actually really important to talk to us and then what we say is really important because College does make big decisions based on what we say.

Claudia: I'd agree with Becky, I think the most surprising thing for me has been working with College, how much they listen to you.

Do the rest of you think similarly, you've been surprised with how much interaction you've had with College?

Alejandro: Not just the level of interaction but

the level of partnership that exists that I didn't think existed when I first went into the role. So, like Becky, I didn't think they'd listen as much as they do and it's hard to quantify that but the way that I would describe it is, when any of us are sitting around a table with a bunch of College staff, we're an equal at that table and our voice is just as relevant and important.

Over the course of the year, how much change do you think you can actually effect?

Claudia: I think we all had our manifestos coming in but, although they're things we want to achieve and, if we solely focus on that, we could achieve most of them, coming into the role, I've noticed certain issues and bigger priorities so some points on my manifesto have been put on the side to address bigger issues. I think it's important to do things that are relevant to

Your Officer Trustees // Imperial College Union



Dan Faehndrich, ICSM
President // Imperial College Union

our current students. My priorities have changed throughout the year, addressing other things.

Rob: There's the projects that are handed over from a previous year, which can be of varying scale. It could be just a little thing that needs a tick-off. To be honest, the main project that I have to do at the moment is a disciplinary review, which was delightfully handed over by Chippy. That now takes up a lot of my time. I do think that, actually, we'd be surprised with how much we can tick off our manifestos. The first month, you're figuring out what the hell are we doing

and the second month, all of a sudden, you get that wave of all the easy wins that you can have, with the little changes happening one after the other. After that, things slowed down, but the second month for me was a really productive one. There are things that seem like they will be a big fight and, for whatever reason, you meet the right person in College and it works or it could be that there's just loops and loops and loops. My biggest frustration so far has been the excuse, "we're doing it because we've always done it this way" or "it's a step forward", when actually we're like, "well if you're making a step forward, let's make the right step forward". So, in that way, it's been frustrating and that's been both in the Union and in College. Probably, just because of my role, it's mainly in College. It's one of my largest frustrations of being there.

Give me a description of what a typical day or week looks like.

Alejandro: I go to a lot of meetings. We all go to a lot of meetings but, Rob and I in particular, go to a lot of meetings. The idea behind that is to get the student voice and opinion embedded into all levels of decision making. I go to certain meetings to try and help departments to develop action plans and then also to keep them accountable to those action plans. The whole idea behind that is just to improve the local student experience in every department. The academic reps are heavily involved in that as well, they're working with departmental staff to develop those action plans, together with all the work that's happening with the curriculum review to just improve the overall situation. But a typical week, I'll be

working on some of that, I'll be doing some Union projects, we might have something like Union Council or Board of Trustees or a sub-committee which requires some additional preparation. In one day I can train reps and work with reps, so that's a very local level of working, and then, later on in the day I'll have a meeting with the OTs to discuss a Union project. So it's all different levels that I can work on and any day could look like that or it could be different.

Rob: Things rotate quite often because of how many College meetings all rotate on a monthly basis. Probably about a third to half of my time is spent in those meetings, which can range from anything from a half an hour quick chat with someone to 3-6 hour stints in certain committees on all sorts of topics. The project work fits in around that. Also, because of Union Board and Union Council, quite a lot of the mandated things tend to end up coming toward my direction so I have to fit that into my timetabling as well. It's tough because it's so variable.

Claudia: I would say I probably have a more average month than an average week. I think one of the most important things to highlight is that the OTs meet up once a week for at least two hours and we catch each other up on all the different projects. We get each other's views on things and then we also discuss any papers coming up to any of the meetings happening that week so we have a kind of collaborative view. We've thought of the student perspectives from all different thoughts and gathered our group's knowledge. The rest of the week, it varies between doing e-mails and meeting with a lot of clubs and societies to talk over event budgets, looking at POs, dealing

with financial issues. You won't always find me at my desk because, like the other sabbas, we have meetings we're going in and out of.

Dan: None of my days are regular 9-5. I'll either have early stuff so I attempt to finish early. A lot of it going between campuses, meeting with faculty students. Just ensuring all of the volunteer officers under me aren't overburdened. I can facilitate them with any projects they want to work on. If there's anything that they need help with then ensuring that I can help with that. A lot of it is quite student-facing but it completely varies day on day. Some days I have absolutely nothing, I can sit down, smash through some emails, do general admin, but then some days are lots of meetings with different stakeholders. It's nice to keep it quite varied to be honest, doesn't get monotonous at all.

Becky: I probably get two or three students coming to me with their individual welfare related problems. They can be really serious ones, really little ones. Sometimes people come to me when their friend has an issue and they want to know what to do. Then I tend to be in touch with the wellbeing reps at some point. Normally one of them or some of them have some sort of questions or something they want to know and so, between me and someone in the Education & Welfare team, that question is normally answered. There will normally be something the Liberation & Community officers want to do so there will be something around that. Maybe it's an event that I'll help them do or an event that I go to to go and see what's going on. Then there's Union projects that are happening.

James: My days are

split a bit reactively and a bit proactively. It's quite nice, I get the consistency of working on projects much similar to a uni project - plan it, execute it, evaluate it at the end. But also the chaos of students getting up to things, which is great fun. It's also quite worth saying, a normal week for all of us as a team is quite an odd concept.

How have you found working together as a team?

Becky: We're all quite different, we all have our strengths and our weaknesses but they seem to work quite well together. We all have very good knowledge bases of different areas that also gel quite well together. We haven't had any major fallouts yet, which is pretty impressive.

Claudia: We're quite willing to challenge each other. I've noticed Becky challenges a lot on accessibility so I've actually become better at challenging now College when they mention something. Trying to think of all the OT's perspectives, "have you thought about this in terms of policy? Have you thought of this in terms of accessibility? Have you thought about how it's going to affect all the clubs and societies that use this?" Its quite nice. I think we push each other quite well.

Do you have any specific plans for getting more involvement and engagement across the student body with the Union?

Becky: One of our team goals is communication. It's definitely something that's on our radar and something that we're trying to work on

to improve. We're trying different methods of communication to see what the students are interested in. We're trying to engage people that we've previously not been as good at engaging - post-grads, people on different campuses.

Claudia: I think communication is two things. We have team and Union goals of how to do it but also it can be quite personal for communicating what we do as an OT or a sabb. We're each trying our own different styles in some ways because I would say the best way to connect with someone is actually feeling like they're not a robot just telling you stuff. You actually feel a bit more of a personal connection, so your methods of communication change there. I've tried it with writing Felix articles and blogging. We're open to ideas.

Alejandro: We have a feeling of what we could do better and we're all working on that individually. I think the postgrad one is an example of where it's a systematic problem that we have to not just tackle in throwing more messages at them but actually asking yourselves "why don't we get postgrads engaged?" They're not very well represented at council, that's a contributing factor.

Sum up the first term of being a sabb. What have your prioritised this term?

Dan: It's been a really steep learning curve but a really fulfilling experience being able to work with a bunch of really passionate individuals from a lot of different backgrounds trying to achieve mostly a common cause. Trying to empower my volunteers to get done what they want. I can't say I've done it correctly all of the time but I've tried my

best. Also trying to ensure that the new curriculum that's coming in next year and one of the national exams that's coming in is consulted with students as much as possible.

James: Let's start with a cliché. It's been a whirlwind. It's not at all been like what it was advertised as.

Alejandro: I didn't expect to be so challenged and to learn as much as I have learned. This role is like a supercharged graduate scheme in that you are thrown into the mix and you have to pick things up and you have a lot of responsibility from day one, which is great.

Rob: Cliché-wise It's definitely like trying to go on to a moving treadmill in that, if you don't hit the ground absolutely running, you're going to fall flat on your face. In terms of what I've prioritised, graduate student engagement, that's a big bit of work that we're going through. Progress is being made.

Claudia: A big priority I want to tackle this year is looking at our food supply on campus. Looking at the variety we offer, especially in College after certain hours, there isn't much available for people studying late at night so we're looking into 24 hour vending.

Who has the most banter in the group chat?

Becky: NOT CLAUDIA
Read the extended interview online at www.felixonline.co.uk

NEWS

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

As Tuesday's Brexit vote looms, Imperial left in dark about future

NEWS

Jason Murugesu
Editor-in-Chief

One fifth of Imperial's student body is EU. What do their futures look like?

All day the news rumbles on. Theresa May continues to push her Brexit deal, and MPs continue to push back. The truth becomes abundantly clear, that not one politician, nor pundit truly knows what Brexit looks like for the people of this country. In this climate, universities must reassure their staff and students alike, that their futures are still secure.

Last week, the Provost and President sent an email to all staff saying they are "ambitious about the future." They encouraged staff to keep applying for European research grants and to continue to recruit EU staff and students.

The College Brexit Advisory Group, they added, were preparing contingency plans for all scenarios. Though what this actually means is unclear.

These are all hopeful statements in an uncertain time.

Students themselves have had little reassurance so far. The government has promised that EU students applying until 2019, will be guaranteed the same fee status as UK students. No promises have been made beyond that so far. Though Imperial say they are campaigning for the government to provide clarification for the years 2020 and 2021.

Of all the student populations in the UK, Imperial's has the third largest proportion of EU students. A fifth of Imperial's students are EU. More so than UCL, Oxford and Cambridge.

Imperial received £141 million in EU cash last year and currently has 317 projects funded by Horizon 2020 (second only to UCL). The university more so than any other in this country will be affected greatly by the UK leaving the European Union.

So what does the future for Imperial look like? Will the proportion of EU students have to fall in Imperial, after Brexit? So far the signs suggest that they will not.

Vice Provost of Education, Simone E. Buitendijk, told *Felix* that student application numbers "both from the EU and the rest of the world, have continued to grow since the Brexit vote".

"Will the proportion of EU students have to fall in Imperial, after Brexit?"

Moreover, Imperial's recently acclaimed novel partnership with the Technical University of Munich, could be a boon for students too. The partnership, the first of its kind for a UK university, means that any new hires to Imperial, will work jointly for both universities. This allows the staff member to still apply for certain EU research projects.



Imperial wants to retain EU links and perks for students and staff // Wikimedia

It is widely assumed other major research intensive universities will follow suit, and forge such partnerships with other EU universities. Buitendijk says the partnership with Munich will also

allow for "new student exchanges and summer schools."

Buitendijk adds that the university is campaigning for "visa reforms that will offer easier access for

international students to come here and for recent graduates to stay here".

Ultimately though, everything is up in the air, and there is only so much the university can do to

reassure us.

So for now, all Imperial staff and students can do is wait until Tuesday's vote on May's Brexit deal, and hope for the best.



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Medical Devices under the Spotlight

This week in the tech section: The ICIJ investigation into how and why the medical device industry is failing globally.

TECH

Aline Buat

Tech Writer

Krithika Balaji

Tech Editor

Technology has dramatically changed every aspect of life as we know it, with medicine being one of the most important aspects. Medicine has been revolutionized through medical imaging, drugs, implants and more. What happens, however, when the medical device industry fails? The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) conducted a year-long global study on this and published their findings.

Tight regulations surround the pharmaceutical industry, requiring a large amount of clinical testing before being approved. While there are regulations put in place for medical devices, they aren't as rigid as for drugs. As a result, medical devices are put on the market faster and have a higher chance of causing harm, such as puncturing organs, delivering errant shocks, poisoning blood and more, leading to "explant operations" or permanent harm. So, what could have led to such mistakes?

Firstly, it is hard to find reports on defective devices. Some regulations, such as the ones in practice in the US until 2017, allowed breast implant companies to bury evidence of harm by not publicly disclosing their reports. When this practice stopped, the number of injuries reported skyrocketed. Outside of the US,

it is even harder to obtain information. For instance, in Europe many reports cannot be disclosed or are never collected in the first place. Detailed data such as the number of devices on the market and their use are also unknown. In other words, there is no way to do statistical analysis on a device behaviour, and neither patients nor their doctors can take informed decisions.

"While there are regulations put in place for medical devices, they aren't as rigid as for drugs"

Secondly, we would expect regulations surrounding the health domain to be extremely rigid. The reality is, regulations are a bit more lenient in the medical device industry. Some devices sold on the market have never been tested on humans and only need to provide "reasonable assurance" of the product's safety and effectiveness. For some devices, it is enough to be "substantially equivalent" to devices already on the market or to an earlier version of the product. They also do not need to demonstrate that the device delivers a benefit to the patient.

Moreover, Europe, with some of the lightest regulations in the developed world, is seen as a "testing ground" for big corporations, waiting to see the success of their products on the market before selling it in the



Metal-on-metal hip implants such as Depuy's have been accused of being faulty by many UK patients// *Dailymail*

US. From the data that the ICIJ journalists could gather during their investigation, it is expected that the number of reports of injuries due to medical implants will dramatically increase, doubling in the UK in nine years, either due to improved report practice or an increase in injuries.

Thirdly, lobbying plays a role as well. When a market is concerned by regulations, the companies involved intervene with representatives to attempt to have their viewpoint protected by politicians. For nine years, lobbyists put pressure on representatives during the rewriting of plans to reform Europe's safety rules. During the whole process, as the ICIJ journalists claim, lobbyists fought to keep as much as possible from the "light-touch safety regime".

Currently, the regime in Europe uses a range of for-profit certification firms, the "notified bodies", to approve new devices for market release

on behalf of the European Union if they conform with the regulations. They are supposed to look through technical files that truthfully describe the devices, including issues and testing, and then decide whether they meet the regulations. Sometimes, notified bodies might have never seen these files and might have loosely awarded the CE certificates to unsafe implants for the companies that pay them for their services. The European Commission proposed to transfer responsibility for assessing high-risk devices to a new department within the European Medicines Agency. In 2012, however, a centralized regulator was deemed "inappropriate". According to the Journalists investigators, the commission repeated lobbyist's arguments: increased costs for hospitals with no increased safety to European citizens. Although there is no fundamental change in the structure, new reg-

ulations will push for a stricter control of medical devices.

"It is expected that the number of reports of injuries due to medical implants will dramatically increase"

It is important to note, however, that despite the harm that has been caused by faulty medical devices, the general effect of the devices on health is massively positive. Nothing is black and white. Health manufacturers don't focus primarily on increasing revenue and decreasing costs, but it is a consideration they need to have to keep the company up and running, which will then

allow them to produce more devices that can revolutionize the healthcare domain. Regulations do fail, but they still protect us from many mistakes.

We can decide to leave things as they are, but as the next generation of scientists and engineers, we believe it is our role to positively contribute. Moral issues and fairness to stakeholders should be considered when creating any device. When regulating them, ethical behaviour is important because finding dangers in a truthful description of a device is easier than analysing lies. Finally, even after devices have been released, follow-up is essential, and we believe this area is dramatically under-developed and would have massive impacts in the long run. Scandals and criticism are central to raise awareness but constructively working with all parties involved is even more vital.

POLITICS

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Nothing but Mayhem

Both the Prime Minister and the country face their fate in the parliamentary vote on the Brexit deal next week.

POLITICS

Juan Ignacio Rubio
Politics Editor

Theresa May's survival ability is something to behold. She could be half-jokingly compared to the character of the Black Knight in Monty Python's Holy Grail who kept fighting King Arthur even after losing his four limbs. In an ironic twist, her constant resilience mirrors that of Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, her fiercest opponent in Parliament (at least when looking across the floor), who has also survived countless plots against his leadership. However, time is running out for the Prime Minister, as next week Parliament votes on a Brexit deal that does not look like it has the support of a majority of MPs.

How did we get here? Three weeks ago, the

"Time is running out for the Prime Minister, as next week Parliament votes on a Brexit deal that does not look like it has the support of a majority of MPs"



Enjoy this weekend, Prime Minister, as it may be the last in your current job // BBC

Prime Minister finally reached a deal with the European institutions on Brexit, which included prerogatives on issues as varied as the rights and obligations of the EU citizens staying in the UK after the country leaves the bloc and the border situation between the UK and the Republic of Ireland. However, this victory proved to be short-lived as several cabinet ministers, chief among them Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab (who was supposed to be the main negotiator behind the accord) swiftly resigned, citing deep disagreements with the deal and the negotiation strategy of the Prime Minister. The problem for May lies in the fact that among the

ministers that left the government one can find both ardent Brexiteers and passionate Remainers, indicating that the deal satisfies nobody but the most loyal supporters of the Prime Minister in her party. Her situation has been further complicated by the permanent threat of a confidence vote against her leadership plotted by the Conservative MPs of the hard-core Eurosceptic European Research Group, led by Jacob Rees-Mogg and former mayor of London and former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson. So far, it looks that the rebel Tories do not have enough support within the party to trigger the vote against May, but this impasse could be broken next

week.

On Tuesday 11th December 2018, the honourable members of the House of Commons will vote on accepting the Brexit deal brought by Theresa May's government. It is unlikely that they will. Leaving aside the fact that the practical entirety of the Labour, Scottish National and Liberal Democrat parties will vote against it, the Prime Minister has lost the support of her main parliamentary ally, the Northern Irish DUP. This deprives her of an effective majority to pass the deal, and her mission is further constrained by the opposition of up to 60 Conservative MPs that will not vote for her, according to some sources.

Therefore, several scenarios are open once the rejection of the accord becomes a matter of fact.

What could happen? Well, for once May may resign, leading to a leadership election within the Conservative Party. The new leader (who would automatically become the Prime Minister) may seek to renegotiate the deal or just scrap it and leave the EU without any kind of deal whatsoever. The latter possibility has grown less likely this week as Remainers in the Conservative Party have reached a secret agreement with Labour that would allow Parliament to block the no-deal option.

There is yet a third scenario, which involves May refusing to resign the premiership. She could try

has refused to concede one more inch) fails to pass, the government will collapse and a general election will be called.

May does not need to resign for a people's vote to occur. If she sees that

"On Tuesday 11th December 2018, the honourable members of the House of Commons will vote on accepting the Brexit deal brought to them by Theresa May's government"

Parliament will not be able to make a decision, she may call for an election, or even a rerun of the referendum. The EU has heavily implied that the transition period could be expanded if the British government decides to bring the issue again to the voters. Of course, the question and options will surely prove to be a very controversial issue, and one cannot ignore that, again, she will have to ask for parliamentary approval in order to hold another electoral process.

There is yet a third scenario, which involves May refusing to resign the premiership. She could try

POLITICS

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to renegotiate the deal in Brussels, praying that the EU softens its position. That can be guaranteed not to happen (the EU is the stronger party here), so this would most likely result in the government collapsing. Of course, May may not even enjoy the chance of carrying on with the negotiation. Her position untenable, she may be toppled by the Tory rebels. Go back to the third paragraph of the article to what would happen. I know, Brexit is a headache.

Nobody can claim in confidence to know what will happen. For what we know, Theresa May may be entering the last week of her tenure, bringing an end to an agonising and con-

vulsed time in Number 10. Or, maybe, she will prove her doubters wrong for the nth time and survive the defeat by the skin of her teeth. Perhaps the government will miraculously get enough Labour defections to pass the deal, giving an end to a negotiated Brexit. Perhaps the British voters will be recalled to the polls again, either to vote for a new government or to settle the matter of Brexit once and for all. The only thing that is secure is that, as it stands today, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will leave the EU on the 11pm of the 29th March 2019, whether there is a deal or whether there is none. We can only wait and see.



A House divided // Sky News



POLITICS

Gritty
Left Forum Chair

Merry Gritmas. Since Parliament voted to hold the government in contempt, I've been jerkin' it constantly, and have released more "legal advice" than I knew my body could produce. Well, let's get to it.

The Mueller probe is chugging along. Trump is now known to be "Individual 1" - the central focus of the investigation. Legal briefs mention all sorts of misconduct with the term "Individual 1," including close work with aides relating to the Rus-

Now's the time to tune back into US news

The lemmings in power are jockeying for pole position, to be the first off the cliff in January.

sia-Trump Tower deal. Spicily, Trump was to offer Putin a \$50 million penthouse in Trump Tower Moscow, ostensibly to convince oligarchs to buy up properties in the building. Negotiations over the deal carried on well into Trump's candidacy - placing Trump in direct legal peril.

The Feds have recently raided the Chicago offices of alderman Ed Burke, who consulted on Trump's taxes for 12 years. There be spicy information in those there filing cabinets. Can't wait to see what comes out of this tangle.

Speaking of raids - Deutsche Bank got a visit from German police carrying out a money-laundering probe. You might remember Deutsche Bank - former associate SCOTUS justice Anthony Kennedy's son

ran the real-estate division that bailed Trump out during the Great Recession, when nobody else would. Spice, spice, spice. Janky dealings the whole world over - a prosecution is coming soon, and it's gonna be better than WWE.

Manafort, Flynn, and Cohen are expected in court; Flynn has apparently sang like a canary (Mueller's asked for no jail time), and Cohen is now openly contradicting Trump in his testimony. Manafort will get the book thrown at him. Mueller is over-prosecuting; more details are likely to emerge when the filings are completed.

Changing tack, George HW Bush died. His disability legislation was decent; his dedication to bombing the Middle East (a thirst shared by his

son) was not. Watching Bob Dole get dragged out of his wheelchair to pay tribute stands in well, metaphorically, for the feeling I have trying not to speak ill of the dead.

Wisconsin and Michigan Republicans are holding lame-duck sessions to attempt to limit the power of the incoming governments. Bills passed include slowing an increase on minimum wage, axing paid sick time for companies with fewer than 50 employees. Other provisions target the authority of the attorneys-general to prosecute cases, and even contradicting amendments to state constitutions passed in the last election cycle. In other words - they're full of shit, and this is an unprecedented power-grab. To the cheese-heads: may your ventricles

promptly clog like the 2014 Congress.

Finally, the House Dems are pushing sweeping anti-corruption legislation as their first bill in the majority. This bill, which will include provisions for campaign finance reform, strengthening ethics laws in the executive and judiciary, and expanding voting rights, will be introduced as HR.1 in early January. For example - after holing office in the Cabinet, individuals would be barred for life from participating in lobbying groups. Other provisions provide for transparency in PAC donations - which directly targets the dark-money infrastructure that evolved in the wake of the *Citizens United* ruling. A tenner says it won't pass the Senate; Republicans have no shame.

Speaking of Bob Dole, and having no shame - one time he showed up to Congress, lobbying them to adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons; he sat in his wheelchair and watched his own party vote down such a disgustingly humane measure. To reiterate a fundamental position: our government is run by lizards.

Well, folks - have a pleasant end of term, a merry Christmas, and a happy new year. We'll be back at the start of next term, venting leftist propaganda into the void. In time, comrades.

COMMENT

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Is mass immigration compatible with the idea

The question of mass immigration is neither new or one we have dared to think more compatible with nationalistic governments and their ideas?

COMMENT

Auguste Rodin
Comment Writer

Perhaps to begin answering this question we should start by defining what really is nationalism. As with many other abstract concepts, what tends to happen is that different communities chose to define the concept in a way that suits their agenda, but in the simplest way of putting it, nationalism "... is primarily a political position, which holds that the national unit and the political unit should be congruent" according to Ernest Gellner.

So, what does this statement actually mean? In physical terms it means that the community that is being considered would be the same community that is in power. Arguably, this seems like a very legitimate concept that coincides with the right of self-determination. You have the inherent right as a community to decide who governs you, and as a general rule, we tend to choose governments made out of people that think like us, that we identify with and that we believe represent us as much as possible. But this can break down in two situations: firstly, when the community demographic shifts in a very sudden and inorganic manner and thus the government is no longer representative of said community, or alternatively, when the community is too diverse for it to be accurately and fairly represented by one party in power.



Migrant family running away from tear gas at Mexican American border// Reuters

Both of these instances can arise as a consequence of mass immigration, because ultimately, this significantly shifts the nationhood that is being represented in an unnaturally fast way, and thus means that there is a disconnect between the 'national unit' and the 'political unit'. However, this does not mean that a functional government is not viable when the nation is diverse in background and ethnicities, and there are many case studies of thriving countries that have established their government as federal or community based, or similar structures that are sub-divided to represent

each 'sub-national unit'. An interesting example to look at is Lebanon, dividing its parliament seat allocation according to religious groups, to ensure all of them are represented to one extent or another. Paradoxically, this example can also be used to illustrate the exact opposite argument: because communities should govern themselves. Lebanon has had to engineer its way around the fact that its community is so diverse, in order to fully and optimally represent all of the groups and preserve said congruence that nationalism requires. But then again, this begs the question: what really is a community? Is it a

religion, as the Lebanese government model could lead us to think? Is it a collective of same language speakers? Is it even race? History has proven that it is both none of them and all of them at the same time. Maybe that is the true question that we should be asking, and if had known the answer we would have saved humanity a lot of bloodshed. Africa would have not been so poorly divided by its colonisers using a geographical criterion as opposed to a nation/tribe-based criterion, thus avoiding a very large proportion of tribal wars and conflicts. Perhaps we would also understand that nations

cannot be manufactured artificially, and it would make it very obvious to the international community what the aim of Israel is. They too seem to ask themselves what a nation is, and are trying to tick some sort of checklist of ingredients you need in order to form one: religion (Judaism), history (their alleged historical claim to the holy land), language (reviving Hebrew, that had ceased to be an everyday spoken language somewhere between 200 and 400 CE) and culture (this one much harder for them given as the Israeli community is made up of many different nationalities and radically different cultures, so in

turn they often resort to cultural appropriation of the Palestinian culture). But for the sake of the question we have posed today, let us accept that a nation is a community united through characteristics they share such as, but not necessarily; religion, culture, common history, language amongst others.

Having taken a slight detour to establish what we think is a nation, and what nationalism is, we return to the initial question: can mass immigration be compatible with nationalism? The answer, I believe, depends on a very important factor: whether or not the immigrating community is the same one that then acquires power or not.

Let us assume that the migrating community does not then go on to be represented by the organ in power. In that case they are not compatible, since the core definition of nationalism relies on the fact that both the governed and the governors are the same. If the amount of immigration is of a smaller scale, the shift in demographic traits is less perceivable and thus a significant change in the government body is not of utmost necessity. The extent to which the principle of nationalism is violated is not notable enough for us to say that the link between both entities has been broken. However, because we are specifically outlining that the order of magnitude of the immigration wave is much higher, this means that there is an upset in the equilibrium of the system.

COMMENT

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of nationhood that nationalism requires?

thoroughly about. Is the reason behind all the pain and controversy this topic brings perhaps due to it not being

If we were to consider national unit as a balance of two sides, and the nation as one weight on the balance, and the government as the other, nationalism merely says that both must be in equilibrium, the weight being a metaphor as to how truly the government represents the nation. Adding mass immigration into the equation means that the balance tilts towards the nation very suddenly, and unless you adjust the government, the equilibrium breaks and the proposal of nationalism no longer holds true.

Alternatively, there are two scenarios where mass immigration is still compatible with nationalism. The first one, as previously mentioned, is when the government is re-adjusted to suit the needs of the new demographic. Most examples of this situation generally involve a colonial community forcibly removing the native community through mass immigration



Forced mass Palestinian migration during al Nakba(Arabic name for their ethnic cleansing)// Wikipedia

and imperialistic use of power, and it is through these same tactics that the new government is put in place to maintain the nationalistic principle. Some examples include the United States of America, with their mass immigration and ultimately almost eliminating the Native Americans originally living in the land, and similarly, the same can be said about Australia.

Another possibility which is in fact subtler

but just as interesting can be very clearly illustrated in the example of Jordan. Jordan is a country of about 9 million people (CIA, 2018), where 2 million are Palestinian refugees (UNRWA, 2018) and an even higher proportion of which are of Palestinian descent. In this particular case the government was never changed from a monarchy, and there were no major internal conflicts within the Jordanian society

itself. The influx of Palestinians was not organic, as it was triggered by mass ethnic cleansing, so this is indeed a suitable example to consider as mass immigration. It is worth noting that there was a full-scale war between Jordan and Palestine from 1970 to 1971, known as the Black September (ThoughCo, 2015), but this is not related to the coexistence between Palestinians and Jordanians within Jordan. This is another example

where a community of a significant enough size existed within a host community without disrupting the existing government, and the nationalistic proposal did not in fact hold true.

On the other hand, an argument that mass immigration is not compatible with nationalism is the fact that when the colonial community is unsuccessful in fully establishing itself, the native community usually restores

nationalistic balance through a revolution that enables them to be represented by a government of their own community. Some case studies include Algeria and India, both respectively succeeding in removing the colonial body from power since the nation's demographic did not in fact, match the demographic in power. This furthers the notion that mass immigration is incompatible with nationalism, because the reason why the revolution occurs is to restore the connection between the people and their leaders.

Ultimately, I believe it is safe to conclude that the very basic principle of nationalism, that nations should govern themselves, holds true in most of the situations of recent modern history, and that mass immigration, unless followed by a re definition of the governing body, will upset the established equilibrium, and thus is not compatible with nationalism's core principle.

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COMMENT

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And then what?

The Tory party is wrestling like Lacoön with its own ideological demons. Is this when the oldest political edifice in the world falls?

COMMENT

Calum Drysdale

Comment Writer

At some point, this Brexit nonsense must end. Reason, though seemingly in short supply nowadays, demands it. Any transition period will come to an end. Any backstop will be withdrawn from and a new norm for the country will arrive, however uneasily. The question is whether this new norm will arrive for the Tories. Once known for their ruthless pragmatism the Conservative party has served as the ‘safe pair of hands’ ever since Disraeli. His phrase ‘One nation conservatism’, meant the protection of all classes through measures to reduce class differences and improve the lot of the common man through sensible, paternalistic policy that is at its heart non-ideological. This manifested itself most strongly in support for Labour’s National Health Service and the Welfare state. This support was not just an electoral necessity but instead an alignment of ideology characteristic of the post-war consensus, the period between 1945 and Thatcher defined by nationalisation, strong trade unions, strong regulation, high taxes, and a generous welfare state. Universities were built, a national curriculum devised and economic integration with Europe and the capitalist world was encouraged. The state was recognised as being



vital to maintaining a functioning society and a mixed economy was the norm.

Then in the 70’s with Friedman, the Laffer curve and Thatcher, the Tory party made a sudden about turn. Suddenly, the old Keynesian attitude that government intervention to inject money into an economy was necessary to fight a recession was cast out and the country changed as a result. The message became one of tax cuts and money trickling down. Thatcher worked hard to cut and scrimp and save and young Tories

The Conservative party tree has bits missing// *Wikimedia*

coming up the ranks at the time took her message to heart, gold plated it and made of it an ideology. To them regulation was restrictive, tariffs abhorrent and quotas the work of hell, meant only to stifle an economy. This, not anger over loss of control, fuels the Hard Brexiteers of the Economic Research Group (ERG) Reese-Moggs’ personal mouthpiece. The belief that once freed from the shackles of super-governmental control, Britain will be able to become a new Singapore, a haven for international business.

I personally don’t think

that it is likely. When parroting the fact that Britain is the world’s fifth largest economy, the ERG forgets what the world in fact looks like. Both the US and China have the might to demand such concessions from Britain that any agreement would likely look more like patronage rather than partnership. Japan may be won around but Germany will certainly not. This leaves Britain scrabbling around to form a patchwork of deals with countries smaller and less significant than itself.

I do not believe that Brexit will deliver an economic bounty and

neither does the House of Commons Exiting the European Union Committee. This will be punished by voters. I hate to be the one to say ‘It’s the economy stupid’ but it is in fact the economy. Stoopid.

The only way that the Tories can hope to remain a relevant political force is to acknowledge the mistakes that they have made and to regain the centre ground that they seceded. Voters are worried about Corbyn

“Any agreement with China and the US would be patronage not partnership”

and his ability to lead the country but his message, however garbled and unclear, resonates. People want to feel that the government stands with them against exploitative businesses not against them. Citizens of this country have the right to be protected, not preached to about how, in the long term, cutting and austerity will bring them greater fortune.

A new ‘one nation’ policy platform might look something like this; a massive investment of money into schools nationwide. The bringing of academies under far closer government control and being quicker to move

in when standards fall. Education is the best way of

levelling the socio-economic playing field. Success will be when private schools close because parents recognise the world class level of our state system; rail nationalisation and the building of a trans-Pennine service. If Brexit brings with it a compulsory period of withdrawal from the world stage then rather than focusing on London, money must be found to balance out the North-South divide. A recent study has found that the North has suffered a brain drain going back 200 years. This is unacceptable and could be challenged by supporting urban regeneration and house building schemes in Northern cities; an expansion of social care to include prevention of diseases such as obesity and cardiovascular disease and geriatric care. These are time bombs that have been shamefully ignored in the name of individual freedom and must be acted against; Finally, Britain must act independently of America on the world stage, projecting power via the Royal Navy and building a new consensus of how a major economy can take care of its people.

These are the values that must be regained if the Tories hope to remain relevant and why I despite setbacks call myself a (small c) conservative.

COMMENT

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The grief of Brexit is nearly over

Comment writer **Akil Eamon Farhat** argues that we must approach Brexit with certainty.

COMMENT

Akil Eamon Farhat

Comment Writer

There are five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. We as a country have finally gotten near the end of our Brexit grief. First there was the denial that we as a country would ever vote for such a preposterous idea. Then there was anger as it became apparent our country was much more divided than we had thought and that Brexit was now a reality. Next came the long bargaining with the EU, to come up with a deal while still reassuring ourselves that everything would be ok. A government report that came out last week hints to the next stage: depression, the chancellor Philip Hammond saying the country would be worse “in pure economic terms”. If this metaphor continues to hold true, the next stage is acceptance. We as a country, both remainers and leavers, will learn to accept what has happened and move on. With an important vote taking place on the 11th of December, it is finally time to accept May’s Brexit as the possibility of a revote is negligible and the prospect of a no deal is disastrous.

There are logical reasons why a people’s vote is not viable, but the common argument that such a vote would undermine the will of the British people is not the one being made here. A



Theresa May has definitely looked funnier than this// Flickr

democratic vote that could be undemocratic is as oxymoronic as a strong and stable government under Theresa May. Unfortunately despite support by MPs as well as an alleged 700,000 protestors in London, as long as the conservative government is in power, there is no chance of this vote. The cross party campaign for a people’s vote is a true thing of beauty. It spreads hope and tries to redefine how to spread a political message after the dirty campaign fought back in 2016.

Unfortunately, campaigning for something

that will never happen is a simple waste of great minds and resources. The campaign for a people’s vote in some ways is like the LGBT movement or the Suffragettes: a massive fight for basic rights (freedom of movement, etc) which defines what type of country we are. There is one important distinction with the aforementioned historic movements: the people’s vote has a time limit, Brexit. Looking practically there is no time for a people’s vote to take place. The preparations, legislation and political coordination take longer

than the 4 months left until Brexit day. Sure, an extension could be granted but that would be at the discretion of the European Council and would just add more uncertainty, a commodity that is not lacking. Overall, unless circumstances change drastically, such as a new of government, a people’s vote is unlikely.

Even if we accept that Brexit will go ahead, and that a people’s vote won’t happen, many still believe an alternate version of Brexit is possible. In fact, never before have so many MPs, from every corner of the commons,

united against May’s deal. Whether it be a harder or softer Brexit, everyone thinks they can do it better and yet no one has the details to back that up. You can’t remove the backstop when there is a possibility of a hard Northern Irish border. You can’t end free movement of people while retaining the economic perks. The EU has made their position very clear on these issues for almost 2 years and no backbench Tory MP will change that.

While we were promised the stars and the moons when the negotiations began, it quickly became clear that

we would probably get a few cheap fairy lights instead. Now, 30 months later, reality has struck and what we have is a reasonable compromise. Unfortunately, it will most probably not get the support of parliament and thus the country will be thrust into another period of uncertainty as May goes back to renegotiate. Other than a few small concessions from the EU, the deal will not change drastically and thus will potentially never get through parliament. With no clear alternative the future has never seemed so unsure. As many fret about the economic damage that Brexit could cause, they do not consider the damage caused by this uncertainty. What the country needs more

“This deal, even after renegotiation, will likely never make it through parliament”

than ever is to be sure of what is to come, whatever it might be. What the country needs is a strong and stable government which will implement Brexit and mitigate the consequences. If the government cannot do this and the uncertainty continues then maybe it is time for a change, or is it too late?

SUSTAINABILITY

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I started a Summer social project!

An unconventional way to spend your Summer

SUSTAINABILITY

Yan Kai Kee

Sustainability Writer

Hey, what are you going to do for the summer man? Intern? Which company have you applied for? As we creep towards the end of second term, that's the question to ask whenever you meet another fellow high-achieving acquaintance of yours at Imperial, isn't it? For my first and second year at university, the peer pressure never got to me. I backpacked, travelled and spent some quality family time during summers. Third year was a different story, like many others, I applied for companies that interest me, refined my CV, wrote cover letters, etc. But, unlike many others, I had zero offers back and that hit me hard. For a short while.

I decided to take a break from all the corporate pressure and coursework,

I went to my aunt's place in London for a refreshing weekend. During that time, my mind was clear enough to ponder what I really wanted to do, soon followed by a moment of excitement when I concluded that I would start a summer social project. Something new, something impactful, it was a mixed feeling of excitement and confusion as I also had no idea of how I would approach this challenge. The plan, the execution, the end goal, everything was a blur other than the location. It needed to be Genting Village, Tioman Island in Malaysia; where I spent my last two summers working as a tour guide. All I could remember from the times were flashbacks of locals openly burning their garbage and causing pollution. Surely there's some waste management problem to be fixed, right?

It was May 2018, supposedly my project was going to start in August 2018. Things got slow after that weekend, after that initial rush of adren-

aline. I knew majority of the work would be done on-site, but procrastination was real. I would put the project at the top of my to-do-list and I'd still do nothing. The only tasks I accomplished within that three months' gap was a 6-hour reading into the general waste management system and getting a logo done by my friend). The rationale behind that was, once I publicise the logo on social media, telling the world about my summer social project, there's no turning back. The public is my invigilator.

It's 1st August 2018 and I've just landed in Genting Village, Tioman Island, after a gruesome 9-hour bus ride plus a 2-hour ferry ride. In the beginning few days, I was uneasy about everything. What if there is not a problem for me to solve? What if the locals despise my project? What if I fail? The moment I stopped asking those "What If" questions was the time that I got to work. Roadblock number one – psychological problems. I started by talking to the locals about my project. The government cleaning worker, the guys that played volleyball, the resort owner, the son of the head of village, the bride of the son of the head of village. I was talking to everyone. Out of the people I met and talked to, many of them ended up playing a big role in my project.

The first relevant guy I met was Alvin, where we met in another village on the island. We met online after I found a 4 year old blog written by Alvin about implementing recycling policy on the island. Alvin was brilliant, he



First meeting with Alvin // Yan Kai Kee

was friendly and he told me about the whole story of them coming about increasing the recycling percentage of the village, how and why they design their recycling bin this way, etc. I took Alvin's advice and was thinking of doing it in Genting Village. Two or three days later, I met roadblock number two – funding. What Alvin did was only possible with some grants. However, what Alvin gave me was something more influential, my first hope and confidence that things can be done on this island if you believe in it.

Alvin soon introduced me to Hisyam, a crazy dude that lives in a hut by the beach, does in-house recycling for Alvin's village, and organises surfing competitions for Red Bull during monsoon season. Red Bull, mate, Red Bull. I must meet the guy. Hisyam was really talkative, and when he heard about my initiative, he was very supportive and started throwing me ideas and promised me his help. I was very thankful for his support and his ideas were solid and practical.

Soon after I met Hisyam, I met Z, a resort

partners for the project. Just like that. Finally, one thing that was happening in my favour.

Two weeks into the project, I realised I was rushing. I was taking in ideas from people and wanting to do it all. At the time, I was still doubting myself a lot. Adding onto that is the pressure of not completing the project in time. Perfect cocktail for a morning anxiety attack. I made the rational choice and took a day-off. A day where I slept till noon and had nothing on my mind other than chilling. After the well-rested day, I started from scratch and drew out a 'big picture' map of the waste route of the village. Generally, waste from businesses and locals are gathered at one location and get sent to the incinerator in another village. In the words of Alvin and Hisyam, the incineration procedure is "not done properly", causing air and water pollution to the surrounding ecosystem. Hitting the reset button



Meeting Hisyam in his recycling house // Yan Kai Kee

SUSTAINABILITY

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Z dancing to music // Yan Kai Kee

was the right decision as now the goal was clear – try and get as many recyclables to be sent to the in-house recycling centre of Hisyam. Killing two birds with one stone; not only will that increase the recycling awareness of the village, at the same time it indirectly reduces the pollution, with less waste being sent to the main facilities.

Proposing that simple solution to Hisyam and Z, the logistical route of recyclables was easily laid out as three of us had a meeting over a cup of tea. Z being the passionate local decided to allocate some space in his resort for recyclables collection, before being sent out to Hisyam's recycling house. With that, we met roadblock number three – the lack of local support. How are we going to motivate the business and

locals of Genting Village to recycle? Rather than thinking far ahead, we figure the first step would be informing them about the new recycling route that'll benefit our environment i.e. raising awareness. We came out with many ideas like volleyball competitions and cleaning sessions but settled on a door-to-door campaign where a group of us would gather one morning and walk the entire village (12 resorts and 120 locals), telling everyone about the good news.

During the campaign day, we manage to gather around ten passionate volunteers (mainly divers because everyone knows how much they love the environment) and began our six-hour campaign. Knocking on people's doors with a hand-drawn map, we started talking passionately about the



Volunteers for the door-to-door campaign // Yan Kai Kee

new route that will help protect our environment even more. The response we got? Some remarkable, some remained neutral and some straight up ignored our message. Anyway, we got the message across and even sparked some healthy discussions about how we can help protect the beautiful environment of the island better. One con-

versation with a Chinese chef stuck with me. His approach towards food waste? Let the monitor lizard on the island eat them. His also raised another problem about openly burning polyfoam, as that's the only material that can allow him to bring fresh seafood in from the mainland. Perhaps my next project can focus on that? (GWWet a real job Kai)

Two days after the campaign is where I ended my own journey. After the project, I went back to my hometown to spend some time with my family before heading back to the UK for my final year. I rarely contact Z, Hisyam and Alvin anymore as other priorities start creeping into my life (job applications *cough *cough). All in all, the entire project was not straightforward, if anything, the whole process was filled with curveballs, sharp turns, stagnant procrastination, twist and spikes. However, this is what makes the project worth remembering. Five, ten years down the road, you ain't going to remember the smooth sails in life but rather the hardship and people you met as you struggle and stumble across challenges. Be brave enough to take the first step, and let the world guide you to your next destination.

**ZERO
WASTE
TIOMAN**

Project logo // Yee Ting Hong

Carols by Candlelight

A service of readings & carols
with music from the Imperial College Chamber Choir

Monday 10th December
6pm

Holy Trinity Church (next to Beit Quad)

Free admission

Please feel free to invite your friends

Imperial College
London
Chaplaincy

MULTI-FAITH CENTRE

SUSTAINABILITY

esoc@imperial.ac.uk

I'm dreaming of a green Christmas

A good christmas needn't cost the Earth . Here are some practical tips on how to make your christmas better for your friends, your purse and the planet.

SUSTAINABILITY

Matilda Burridge

Sustainability Writer

Tables heaving with plates of food, stacks of presents spilling out from under a tree smothered in tinsel and baubles, and rolls of lights beaming into outer space... This may seem like the epitome of the festive season, but is Christmas really not about more than what we consume? Christmas has become synonymous with over-indulgence - over-eating, drinking and spending. We feel compelled to make the best of the offers that are constantly thrown at us- even if we don't need, want or even like the products that we are buying. What's more, each year there is pressure to improve upon the previous one - by buying and spending more. But how much need for this is there? Shouldn't we stop to consider how much waste we are producing - all the excess food, packaging, and gadgets we are churning out for this festive season? At such a wasteful time of year even making small changes can make a difference to our impact on the environment.

When buying a new smartphone do we consider the hundreds of thousand workers at factories who work overtime to churn out gadgets and trinkets at this time of year? Do we consider what happens to all the packaging, or all the food we throw away after a

Christmas day roast? Is this kind of gift-giving really all so good? Could we instead invest our time and talents to make a better Christmas for all?

1. Plan ahead

The key to both a more ecological and economical Christmas lies in the planning. Good intentions are often thrown to the wind in the last-minute panic to get everything done. If you know exactly what you want to buy and where from, you can pretty much finish your Christmas shopping in one go, simultaneously avoiding those hideously expensive delivery fees (plus the stress of seeing if they arrive in time) and the excessive boxes and

“We feel a compulsive need to make the best of the offers that are constantly thrown at us even if we don't actually need, want or even like the products that we buy”

packaging that come with it.

Equally, if you force yourself to decide what you will cook and when you will eat, you can actually buy the right

quantity of food, clear freezer and fridge space so that you have room for extras, and make use of the huge abundance of great leftover recipes like those on BBC Good Food. Not only are you reducing your food wastage but also preventing the costly impulse buys.

2. Spend less,

give better

According to the Centre for Retail Research, around £79 billion was spent in the UK between mid November and the end of December last year, and particularly as a student it's very easy to feel a mounting panic at the amount of money disappearing from your bank account in the approach to Christmas. However, by spending and buying less you can not only save money but also reduce the amount we are wasting. When it comes to presents less really is more. Our society makes us feel it is necessary to spend time and money in shops in order to express our gratitude for each other. but is there really any point in giving gifts for their own sake and in receiving yet another useless trinket? Gifting ideas like Secret Santa mean you can afford to buy fewer, but more meaningful, gifts.

Another great way to reduce waste is by gifting experiences rather than items, especially here in London where there's so much to do and often so much money required to do it. Tickets to a concert, a football match or the theatre are after all so much more memorable than a generic gift box.

3. Upgrade your cards

Our habits in less-considered areas also need to change when you consider that, according to A Sustainable Life, an online guide to sustainable living, an astonishing one billion Christmas cards end up in the bin. If sending cards is important to you why not go paperless? There are a huge number of affordable options for sending e-cards: companies like Greenvelope are focused on sustainability; Ojolie allow you to send unlimited cards for a £12 yearly membership; Paperless Post allows photo customisation. Even better, you can donate to charity at the same time. Large charities including Barnados, Oxfam and Macmillan offer good e-card services as well. It's also worth considering how you dispose of any cards you receive. Recycling these may make you feel better, but especially since China's ban import of waste for recycling (see Sustainability section in Felix 1706) they may still end up going to landfill or incineration. Instead, why not reuse them as gift tags or make into ornaments or wreaths?

4. Be creative with

wrapping

Accepting that there will be some physical presents to give, how to give them is a whole dilemma in itself. In the UK alone 227,000 miles of wrapping paper is used each Christmas - that's enough to go around the Earth nine times!

Following the old



Proof that wrapping with brown paper doesn't mean your presents will look plain years to come // Deavita

mantra of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' the best option yet again is to wrap fewer presents. Often gifts come already in a box or festive packaging, so resist the temptation to put wrapping paper on top of that. Awkwardly shaped gifts may actually look better unwrapped and consider how much time can save just by covering them with a scarf or blanket. If you do want to do some actual wrapping you could invest in some reusable fabric such as the reindeer print produced by Happy Wrap. This actually looks really festive and the higher price is justified by the fact it will last. This could be a really good option for giving gifts to close family as you can reclaim it afterwards! If you want a more classical wrapping method you could consider using newspaper or brown paper - both very cheap materials - and add festive twine like the ones offered from eco-craft to make it look prettier and biodegradable tape to make it recyclable. Alternatively, if you're not such a pro at wrapping and can't produce an artistic masterpiece you could opt for

some recycled wrapping paper. Rewrapped has some nice Christmas designs to choose from or if you're happy to spend more Oxfam has some pretty handmade paper. As long as you're careful you can reuse these wrapping papers as well - any crumples shouldn't be beyond the flattening capabilities of an iron. As a last resort checking that it is recyclable - paper with glitter on it or that won't hold its shape when scrunched is definitely not recyclable - is better than nothing.

These ideas are just a starting point to so much more, but Christmas is the one time where embracing even a few small changes can reduce so much waste. Lets resist the temptation to forget about the environment over the festive period, and as we give presents to our friends and family, try to give this present to our planet too.

SUSTAINABILITY

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The cost of wasting meat

Eating meat is bad, here are ways to minimize your waste without going vegetarian.

SUSTAINABILITY

Roberta Franchi
Sustainability Writer

Consuming meat is bad for the environment. Meat production produces huge amounts of greenhouse gases, consumes millions of liters of water and takes up monstrous quantities of land. Yep, we've heard it over and over again. However, have you ever considered the impact of actually throwing away the meat that is not eaten?

Food waste represents a huge problem, with 7.3 million tons of food wasted by UK households every year. In fact, a third of food purchased in the UK is thrown away. Of that amount, households are wasting around

570,000 tons of fresh meat each year which is equivalent to about 50 million chickens, 1.5 million pigs or 100,000 beef cattle. Globally it's close to 12 billion animals, a huge amount of living creatures born to be killed and wasted.

Producing, processing

"Every year in the UK 570,000 tons of fresh meat are thrown away each year"

and transporting food involves using huge amounts of land, water, and energy, which all contribute to climate change. Most animals reared for

food in the UK are no longer grazed on grass or, in the case of pigs and poultry, fed food waste. Instead, over recent decades a highly industrial system has emerged, with animals being housed in large numbers and fed on feed shipped in from all over the globe. This feed takes huge amounts of land to grow, it consists of a third of all crops grown globally, and in countries such as Brazil and Paraguay, forests are cut down and rural communities thrown off the land to make way for them.

One quarter of global freshwater use relates to producing meat and dairy, which is likely to increase if production continues to rise. Livestock is responsible for nearly 15% of all global greenhouse gas emissions contributing to global climate change. Beef, in particular,

produces 25kg of CO₂ per kg of meat.

From this, it is clear that wasting food and especially meat uses up valuable resources and is terribly damaging for the environment.

So, what can we do to help? Some argue that veganism is the only way forward. A study last year showed that if all Americans substituted beans for beef, the country would achieve over half of the reduction in greenhouse gas emission agreed by the United States in 2008. This would also free up 42% of the country's crop land. Nevertheless, not eating any meat is not the only answer. If you don't want to completely give it up, a simple contribution would be to waste less of the meat you buy. That in itself will help prevent resources being used for nothing.



This is how your meat is made //Erdei Katalin

There are simple steps you can take to make a difference:

- Find out about different date labels. Did you know you can freeze food right up to 24 hours before the use by date?
- Eat less but better quality meat, and avoid beef, so that there's less meat to waste and what you do use will be kinder to the planet.
- Plan meals, get your portions right and make

the most of the food you buy.

- Store your food correctly to keep it fresh for longer.
- Make last night's leftovers today's feast.
- Try making one day a week vegan or vegetarian, and try limiting the amount of red meat you consume to just one portion a week, the planet will thank you!

Extinction Rebellion campaign continues

Over a thousand take part on the third wave of protests to demand action on climate change from the government.

SUSTAINABILITY

Celina Chien
Sustainability writer

Over 1,000 protesters from the environmental campaign group Extinction Rebellion came together in Central London on the Saturday 28th November to demand environmental justice and demand legislative action to confront climate breakdown and the global biodiversity crisis.

The Extinction Rebel-

lion campaign has mobilised thousands of activists across the UK to participate in acts of mass civil disobedience, causing major disruptions across London. This Saturday's protests blocked Parliament Square, marched on Buckingham Palace and finally went on to block Westminster Bridge. They marched clad in black as a funeral procession, with memorials that were stacked at the Palace gates for all that has been lost and all that might be lost if governmental inaction continues. Saturday's

demonstration follows 2 weeks of action organised by Extinction Rebellion. The previous weekend, 6,000 people gathered on London's 5 major bridges, blocking all roads across the Thames river and creating gridlock in the city centre in one of the biggest acts of peaceful civil disobedience in the UK in decades.

Some have criticised the movement for the disruptions caused, but the organisers argue that "the 'social contract' has been broken...it is therefore not only our right but

our moral duty to bypass the government's inaction and flagrant dereliction of duty and to rebel to defend life itself."

In their declaration of rebellion, read aloud by all who participated this weekend at the gates of Buckingham Palace, Extinction Rebellion "call[ed] upon every principled and peaceful citizen to rise with [them]." The declaration ends with the following, "we act in peace, with ferocious love of these lands in our hearts. We act on behalf of life."



Protestors flocked outside the gates of Buckingham Palace // Celina Chien

BOOKS

books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Joy to your bookshelf

'Tis the season for giving, and Felix Books is here to help with four of our recommendations to spread literary cheer!

BOOKS

Jingjie Cheng

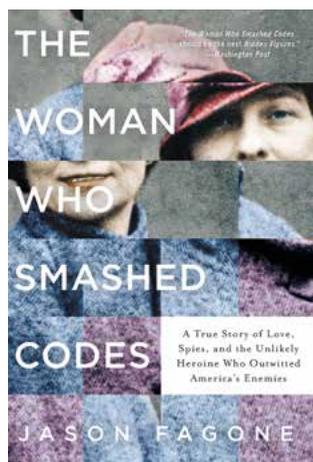
Books Editor

Jia Qi Tan

Books Writer

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

Winner of the British Book Awards, this stunning debut novel by Gail Honeyman delves deep into loneliness, connections and the power of kindness. The theme of isolation is one that is rarely explored in contemporary culture; as Honeyman puts it, “These days, loneliness is the new cancer – a shameful, embarrassing thing, brought upon yourself in some obscure way.” The premise of a solitary heroine is interesting, but Honeyman takes it to the next level, crafting a beautiful character and inviting the readers to know Eleanor intimately through her narrative. I smiled at Eleanor’s hilarious comments as she navigates through common aspects of human life; I shed tears when she is overwhelmed by love and care. I especially want to applaud Honeyman for her portrayal of mental illness, breaking stereotypes and presenting a perfectly layered and flawed character who is a product of her environment. Simply put, this novel has it all – humour skilfully intertwined with heavier material, an emotional roller-coaster and a charming protagonist. A heart-wrenching yet soul-soothing read, it’s the perfect gift for those whom you love and treasure. - *Jia Qi Tan*

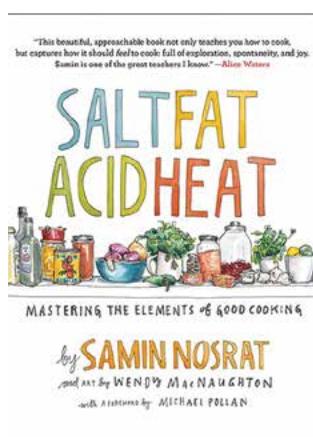
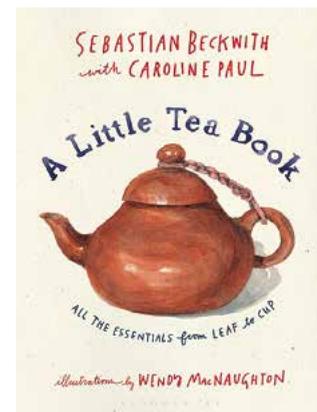


The Woman who Smashed Codes by Jason Fagone

Have an inspiring woman in your life? This book would be the perfect gift. The title lady is Elizebeth Smith, half of one of the greatest codebreaking duos in history. With her husband William Friedman, she pioneered the field of modern cryptology during the height of World War I. An expert on Shakespeare, Smith was asked by her employer, who had ties with the government, to apply her language skills to code-breaking. There, she met her husband, and they became some of the most important people of the US National Security Agency. Despite that, their story has never been fully told, until this new biography by Jason Fagone. During World War II, Smith worked on the Enigma machine used by the Germans, cracking multiple versions. At the same time, her husband worked on the Japanese version of Enigma, Purple. This is the story of America’s cryptography history told through the prism of Smith’s life, and how it shaped modern intelligence. A fascinating and inspiring read. - *Jingjie Cheng*

A Little Tea Book: All the Essentials from Leaf to Cup by Sebastian Beckwith and Caroline Paul

Know someone who loves their tea? *A Little Tea Book* is an ode to tea, the art of tea-making, and the joys of tea-drinking. Sebastian Beckwith fell in love with tea while working as a guide in Bhutan in the 1980s, and over the years has sought out the finest, most sustainably-grown and ethically harvested teas and brought them to the menus of some of New York’s finest restaurants. He distills his tea wisdom into this very book. It is everything you ever wanted to know about tea – part field guide to choosing, preparing and enjoying tea, part love letter. He touches on the history of tea, as well as exploring some of the common myths of tea. It is beautifully illustrated by Wendy MacNaughton, full of lively, colourful drawings. The book is a lovely work of art that one would keep on the bookshelf for time to come, to be leafed through regularly for a dose of tea-happiness. - *Jingjie Cheng*



Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat by Samin Nosrat

There are shelves upon shelves of cookbooks in every bookshop, each surrounding a certain theme or cuisine. This book is different. A former chef at Chez Panisse, Samin Nosrat distills all cooking into four elements – salt, fat, acid and heat. With an understanding of these four elements, one can cook anything from first principles, she believes. Perfect for the aspiring chef in your life, this book starts from the basics, and is written in an approachable way. It is also charmingly illustrated by Wendy MacNaughton (again!). Nosrat has been praised as a teacher, and this is evident in the way she instructs in this book. Her theories are easy to grasp and applicable to a wide variety of dishes. Now, the book has been adapted into a Netflix series of the same name. It is by no means introducing revolutionary new ideas into cooking, but it certainly distills food science into its essentials. - *Jingjie Cheng*

MUSIC

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Earl Sweatshirt's back at it with some rap songs

Rap's prodigal son delivers his most focused (and challenging) effort yet.

MUSIC

SOME RAP SONGS



Artist: Earl Sweatshirt.
Label: Tan Cressida; Columbia. **Top Tracks:** Azucar; Peanut; The Mint; Eclipse. **For Fans Of:** MIKE; Sixpress; MF DOOM. 24 minutes

Miles Gulliford
Music Writer

With his critically acclaimed debut *Earl* dropping at just 16, Thebe Kgositsile has a strong claim to the familiarity with his audience the title of his latest release - *Some Rap Songs* presumes. With a 24 minute run time (admittedly less surprising in 2018) and eerily blurred selfie as its cover, Earl is making an understated return after two years of silence.

"Imprecise words" chimes a sample of 60s social critic James Baldwin on the album's opener: 'Shattered Dreams'. Earl, son of recently deceased poet Keorapetse Kgositsile, has always shone as a lyricist, with unforgettable features including Odd Future's 'Oldie' and Danny Brown's star-studded 'Really Doe'. However, on his own material, the lyrical expectations of hip-hop, as well as the imprecision of language have hindered him from delving into the darkness that permeates his music.

Throughout this record, Earl digs deeper into his emotions, a theme punctuated with imagery

of bleeding or drowning "It was holes in the boat, we ain't make a fuss" rhymes Thebe on 'Shattered Dreams', while the refrain repeats "Why ain't nobody tell me I was bleeding? / Please nobody pinch me out this dream".

Earl shows a much deeper understanding of the malaise that plagues

"There is little doubt this reord will have a huge influence on innumerable artists."

him and uses it to provide us a much more visceral tour of his private hell. "...I revisit the past / Port Wine and pages of pass / Momma say don't play with them scabs / It's safe to say I see the reason why I'm bleeding out" are shining examples of this from 'Ontheway!', a track featuring the genre-bending Standing on the Corner. "Pages of pass" referencing the apartheid in South Africa where Earl has roots, while also mentioning the importance of Earl's mother as a supporting figure.

On the album's first single: 'Nowhere2go' we hear Earl even more raw "...spent most of my life depressed / only thing on my mind was death", perhaps more impactful when surrounded by tracks about Earl "pissing problems out the bottle" and other references to his substance problems- "muffle my pain and muzzle my brain up". The 24-year-old rapper seems much more at terms with



This is 2013 Snapchat culture. // Earl Sweatshirt

this burden thankfully: "I still give thanks to the most high / even when I

"Some Rap Songs is not for background listening, not for the faint at heart."

hit a low".

Thebe's flows have always been dense and polysyllabic, dripping with the influence of underground legends like MF DOOM. On *Some Rap Songs* he folds them together with even greater intricacy, albeit at the price of pace, with track after track plodding by at Sweatshirt's leisure: fans of high-speed lyricism should look elsewhere. Earl oozes with impossi-

ble ease and languor over his knotty, sample-based instrumentals, keen listening is necessary to catch half of the subtlety of the verses on this record. This is not helped by the vocal mixing of the LP, which finds vocals buried almost beneath the hiss and crackle of J Dilla style loops.

The production on this record distinguishes it greatly from his previous work: while Doris bustled with synthesisers and *I Don't Like Shit I Don't Go Outside* packed aggressive drum machines, *SRS* is built almost entirely from samples. Simple, brutish loops often slowed beyond recognisability and far from sweet on the ear.

While Earl handles most of the production on *Some Rap Songs* himself, its more beautiful moments come when other producers take the wheel. 'Azucar' is

produced by pro-skater and Odd Future affiliate Sage Elsseser, a heavenly mixture of xylophones and strings, dropping in, out and behind walls of EQ seemingly at random. Other stand out instrumentals include the glitched vocals of 'Nowhere2go' and 'Peanut' built largely on vinyl hiss and spare piano notes, matching Earl's sombre ruminations on his fathers' death.

Some Rap Songs is not for background listening, nor the faint at heart: it unapologetically demands the listener's attention for its entire run time to even catch Earl's lyrics. While this can be a difficult task - it rewards the listener by shedding its calloused exterior to reveal brutally honest poetry and innovative instrumentals. There is little doubt this record will have a huge influence on innumerable artists, even if it doesn't make a splash straight away.

ASAD'S '18 HIP-HOP TOP TEN

MUSIC

Asad Raja
Music Editor

10.
FM!
Vince Staples

9.
ASTROWORLD
Travis Scott

8.
Die Lit
Playboi Carti

7.
Carter V
Lil Wayne

6.
KIDS SEE GHOSTS
KIDS SEE GHOSTS

5.
Invasion of privacy
Cardi B

4.
Championships
Meek Mill

3.
CARE FOR ME
Saba

2.
DAYTONA
Pusha T

1.
Some Rap Songs
Earl Sweatshirt

MUSIC

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Imperial's albums of the year, 2018

We asked, you delivered. This year at Felix we decided that rather than a conventional top-ten, we'd take a bunch of submissions from you, the people. And so here are, in no particular order, Imperial's albums of the year 2018.

MUSIC

Felix Music
Music Writers

Everything Is Love The Carters

It's a piece of a Jean-Michel state of mind, with Mona Lisa right behind. Embedded in a celebration of black love we are given the final piece to a love story that started with Beyoncé's *Lemonade* and JAY-Z's *4:44*. Assembling succinctly as The Carters we see the world's biggest power couple revel in their extravagance as they detail a memoir of their marriage. This masterpiece truly lives as a musical manifestation of their cultural sovereignty.

High As Hope Florence and the Machine

What is Florence and the Machine if not grand? The theatre of their albums is something listeners have come to love and expect. In that sense, this album serves as another step along a well-established path of the band's passionate and elegant method. Having said that, it would be a great shame to overlook the quieter, less familiar beauty this album radiates. Florence's lyrics and vocals have always guided the band's instrumentation. The especially daring, layered yet assured soundscapes presented here therefore make perfect sense. Where Florence's openness has previously been an act of wearing her heart on her sleeve, this time, though equally thorough, immersive and lush, she gives

us more by giving us less. That is to say, as well as her soul, she lets us hear her conscious dialogue with her soul, unaltered and unfiltered. Don't mistake this for subtle or new: *High As Hope* is a sentimental optimist who you love, breaking down and proving to you that, beneath a thin but taut layer, they have always been just as self-aware, introspective and nuanced as you suspected. Being boldly timid without apologising for an innate hope and doing it flawlessly is what makes this album.

- Asad Raja

I'm All Ears Let's Eat Grandma

The second studio album from Let's eat Grandma, a duo of precocious teenage girls from Norwich, runs the whole gamut of electro pop/rock. From the SOPHIE produced mechanised chaos of lead single 'Hot Pink', which gleefully plays both with concepts of femininity and chain-sawesque synths, to the epic eleven minute closer 'Donnie Darko', this album is a kaleidoscopic gem. Indeed, the wondrously coruscating production throughout, coupled with the piercingly emotive lyrics makes this easily my favourite release of the year.

- Josh D'aeth

Iridescence Brockhampton

After a turbulent year for the "best boy band since one direction", including the loss of a key member and a multi-million dollar record deal, Brockhampton finally delivered *Iridescence*. Packed with

industrial-tinged bangers and shapeshifting, introspective gems, this album packs a serious punch. Production veers from visceral to glistening instantaneously, often both at once. By far the strangest album to top billboard this year.

- Miles Gulliford

Honey Robyn

In the eight years since Robyn released her seminal album *Body Talk*, her music has become something of a template for an entire generation of pop-writers. With their four-to-the-floor beats, catchy hooks, and emotionally-insightful lyrics, singles like 'Dancing on my Own' helped birth a new era of music appropriate for both the club and crying in your bedroom.

The expectation for follow-up *Honey*, therefore, was sky high. But Robyn delivered. She did so not, as many presumed, by continuing with the icy synth-pop of *Body Talk*, but instead by introducing a new warmth into her sound, while paying tribute to the club culture in which she has immersed herself.

Coming off the death of a close friend and the

breakup of a long-term relationship, *Honey* acts as an aural balm, soothing our wounds while retaining a melancholy depth. While there is a clear link to her previous work, *Honey* marks Robyn out as a modern pop iconoclast, breaking out of a blueprint she created.

- Fred Fyles

Twin Fantasy Car Seat Headrest

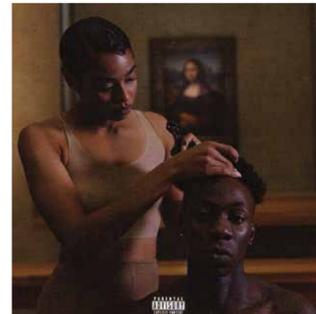
While it may be a remake of the 2011 lo-fi original, the explosive reworking of this coming of age story make it enough of a new album to be included on this list. Angry yet assertive, the album's narrator details his hopeless longing for a nameless man who he recognises he can't be with. It's a tale of what-could-have-been-but-never-quite-was, told through both wit and sorrow. It's musically

dense, spanning classic indie rock instrumentals and screamed choruses, through to phase-shifted spoken word soundscapes, all drenched in

Will Toledo's signature anecdotal charm.

- Adrian LaMoury

Bottom: Everything Is Love; High As Hope; I'm All Ears.
Middle: Iridescence; Honey.
Top: Joy As An Act Of Resistance; Love Is Dead; Inter-scope; Matador; Polyvinyl



MUSIC

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Time 'n' Place Kero Kero Bonito

On their debut LP *Generation Bonito*, KKB showcased their infectious brand of dance-pop filled with ebullient melodies and childlike lyricism. Despite this leading to quite the cult following, with *Time 'n' Place* they shed the computer-based beats and Japanese rapping in

favour of noisy guitars and poignant lyrical subjects. What results is a fleshed-out, dreamy, nostalgic indie rock masterpiece which maintains the youthful optimism of their roots.

- Eren Akadimir

Love Is Dead CHVRCHES

CHVRCHES' third album *Love Is Dead* sees



Across: E.MO.TION // Saddle Creek; PW. Everum & Sun; Columbia; Polydor; Polyvinyl; Partisan; Glassnote; Interscope
Bottom: Hop Along; Now Only; Little Dark Age.
Middle: Odyssey; White Is Relic/Irrealis Mood.
Top: Joy As An Act Of Resistance; Love Is Dead.

them reach new heights as they continue to construct addictive melodies with clever, emotive lyrics. The album asks the question: is love dead? And explores themes surrounding it. In 'Graves', lead singer Lauren Mayberry, croons: "Leaving bodies in stairwells and washing up on shores". This is a clear allusion to the tragedies that occurred in Grenfell as well as the current refugee crisis. Other songs explore the theme in terms of relationships and friendships, but each one can be enjoyed for its melody and its meaning.

- Eamon Akil Farhat

Joy As An Act Of Resistance IDLES

Following on from their eccentric first album, Idles dropped a punchy post-punk project for Brexit Britain. Politically charged from start to finish, *Joy as an Act of Resistance* tackles everything from male suicide rates to immigration, all with smirking lyrical flair. With production to back-up the sharp lyricism, the album can make you want to kick in

a door and bawl your eyes out in consecutive tracks. A humorous, well-crafted release, *Joy as an Act of Resistance* is the perfect antidote to the depressing political landscape of 2018.

- Joe O'Connell-Danes

Odyssey Take That

Almost 30 years-worth of banging tunes and many, many memories; five working class men with the ambition and determination to work super hard for success; great motivation in the morning to face the day and escape on the way home. Though I do have restrain myself from performing the well-known dance moves on the Piccadilly line home!

- Catrin Davies

White Is Relic/ Irrealis Mood Of Montreal

Of Montreal's fifteenth studio album *White Is Relic/Irrealis Mood* is a paranoid electronic spin on the band's usual work. It brings the focus on social commentary we have come to expect from the band's lead Kevin Barnes, who sings in disbelief about the state of the world, citing social critics James Baldwin and Noam Chomsky as influences.

Barnes, in shock at the state of late capitalism and in anger at "toxic American White identity", suggests reality really exists inside a simulation: in 'Plateau Phase/No Careerism No Corruption' he

sings "If we put our ear to the ceiling / we can hear the government breathing / [...] we can hear the simulation wheezing."

His sharp anxiety soaks the complex lyrics in a pulsing drumbeat and elaborate instrumentals. This is perhaps one of the least accessible albums from the group, but its more electronic focus represents a new direction for them, and one I look forward to hearing more of.

- Josef Willsher

Bark Your Head Off, Dog Hop Along

This album is 40 minutes of indie rock bliss. Every single song is gorgeous, catchy, and beautifully written. There are more incredible hooks than I know what to do with; some songs even have more than one. It sounds wistful, big-hearted and romantic, with vocals and lyrics that are so heartfelt you can't help but be captivated.

- Alex Large

Now Only Mount Eerie

Phil Elverum aka Mount Eerie follows up on last year's tragic *A Crow Looked At Me*, with a slightly sweeter, more free-form collection of songs, he leads us through the twists and turns of his life in the wake of his wife's tragic death. While the instrumentals and vocals are fragile at times, Phil shows us again that dwelling on mortality and the fragility of life is what he does best.

- Miles Gulliford

Little Dark Age MGMT

MGMT's *Little Dark Age* is their strongest release to date. That said, while it is a good, possibly even great, album, I was hesitant about whether it was album-of-the-year-

worthy. But looking back on 2018, it is the best album that my unashamedly ignorant ears came across this year. The title track is an undeniable banger with its goth-synth-pop sound, and the musical and lyrical quirks throughout the record make for an engaging and amusing listen, especially on tracks 'She Works Out Too Much', 'When You Die' and 'TSLAMP' (Time Spent Looking At My Phone). One can't help but feel that MGMT have gleefully adopted a post-ironic stance on this album, and in my book that beats chart-oriented pop any day. *LDA* might not objectively be 2018's best album, but as of now for me it is.

- Neel Le Penru

E.MO.TION Carly Rae Jepsen



Well, she's done it again folks. It may be hard to believe, but Ms. Carly Rae Jepsen - queen of modern pop, master of the break-up ballad, Canada's number one producer of sad bops (sorry Drake) - has yet again obtained the top spot in this year's album listings with *E.MO.TION*.

'But wait!' I hear you cry, 'wasn't *E.MO.TION*, Ms Jepsen's wig-snatching, banger-stuffed, epic-for-our-times actually released in 2015?' Yes, dear reader, you are indeed correct. But until another artist releases anything remotely era-defining as *E.MO.TION* I refuse to make Carly give up her throne. I mean, have you even listened to 'Boy Problems'? I rest my case.

- Fred Fyles

MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Andy's Top Ten Hip-Hop Albums of 2018

After a term of writing about the library and Union breakfast, Editor-in-Chief, **Andy Djaba**, makes his triumphant return to the Music section

MUSIC

Andy Djaba
Editor-in-Chief

I don't actually think 2018 has been a very good year for hip-hop. There were very few ambitious projects dropped this year and not enough artists took risks with their music. J. Cole's *KOD* is a prime example. Although a very good album, with it being featureless again, it felt like he produced much of the same.

Kanye attempted to shake things up but that whole June weekly seven-track album experiment was just a hot mess. From that mess, the only albums that are even in end-of-year conversations are Pusha T's *Daytona* and *KIDS SEE GHOSTS*.

Having said that, there are some honourable mentions that couldn't quite make this list. From stellar projects from seasoned veterans like Nipsey Hussle (*Victory Lap*) and Royce da 5'9" (*Book of Ryan*), to impressive sophomore efforts from lesser known artists like Noname (*Room 25*), Saba (*CARE FOR ME*) and Dreamville-signee J.I.D. (*DiCaprio 2*), let's get into 2018's top hip-hop albums.

10. Black Panther
Various artists

I may be showing my bias here but I had to include my mandatory TDE album. Jay Rock's *Redemption* was an excellent showing and

very nearly made my list but, in the end, I had to go for my guy Kendrick. The *Black Panther* film was a moment and this soundtrack, curated by Kendrick, complemented it well. This album may also be the closest we will ever get to having a Black Hippy album so we should relish what we can while we can.



Black Panther // Amazon

9. Noir
Smino



Noir // DJ Booth

I wasn't actually feeling this album the first time I listened to it. It took me a few spins to get into it because Smino's music has such a weird vibe to it. With his unique blend of melodic singing/rapping, it's often difficult to understand what Smino is saying. There's a lot going on in this album and Smino includes a host of skits and different voices which make the album difficult to follow at times. However, it is important to appreciate that this is a reflection of his creativity. This album is undoubtedly a vibe and a solid follow up to 2017's *Blkswn*.

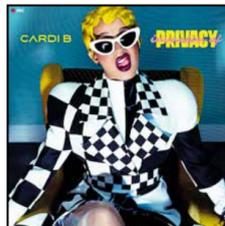
8. Oxnard
Anderson .Paak



Oxnard // Genius

It feels strange to say that I was left slightly disappointed by Anderson .Paak's album. Prior to hearing it, I thought that Cheeky Andy would deliver the album of the year with *Oxnard*. Unfortunately, although it is still a very good album, *Oxnard* is not that. What *Oxnard* is, is a typically funky, groovy, summery project filled with no bad songs and many enjoyable funny skits. The strength of the features on this album is indicative of how well-respected Anderson .Paak is in modern hip-hop.

7. Invasion of Privacy
Cardi B



Invasion of Privacy // Wikimedia

Cardi B's meteoric rise to the pinnacle of hip-hop will go down as the stuff of legend. In two years, Cardi B transitioned from stripper to reality

TV star and Instagram personality to the first female rapper to claim the top spot on the Hot 100 chart since Lauryn Hill in 1998. Her breakout single, 'Bodak Yellow', was a ubiquitous smash and pressure mounted ahead of the release of her debut album. I was intrigued to hear what a Cardi B album would even sound like and to see how she would handle the pressure and weight of expectation on her shoulders. With *Invasion of Privacy*, Cardi delivers a surprisingly impressive debut album which is an enjoyable listen all round. With Nicki Minaj's antics in 2018 showing that she's absolutely done out here, Cardi has cemented her position as the new Queen of rap.

6. Championships
Meek Mill



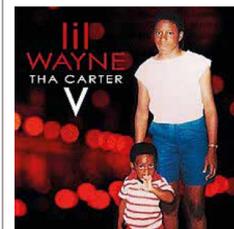
Championships // Rap-Up

Ever since "getting bodied by a singing nigga" and taking an L in his 2015 beef with Drake, Meek Mill has held more than his fair share of Ls. However, none more so than violating his probation and getting sent back to jail for five months "just for poppin' a wheelie". However, Meek has managed to flip his accumulated Ls into the biggest W. He's back and

sounds as focused as ever. Even the album cover screams focus. Meek Mill has been stalked by the system for almost the entirety of his adult life, following a gun charge when he was 18, and, although Meek Mill has always used his music to discuss the flaws in the American criminal justice system, the message now sounds more urgent and pressing on this album. This discussion comes to a head on the Rick Ross and Jay Z assisted 'What's Free', on which Jay spits one of the best verses I've ever heard. One criticism of the album is that it's a bit long but if you're going to fit in both the typical Meek Mill tracks stunting about money, cars and jewellery, and a serious conversation about prison reform on to one album, what do you expect?

"He's back and sounds as focused as ever"

5. Tha Carter V
Lil Wayne



Tha Carter V // Wikimedia

Ordinarily I would complain that an album which stands at 23

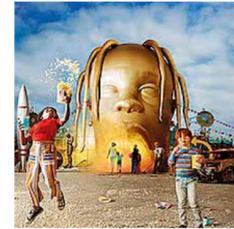
tracks long and 1 hour 28 minutes is too long. However, in this case, it's cause for celebration; after keeping it from us for four years, Birdman finally freed up the ting! *Tha Carter V* is one of those rare albums that actually lived up to the insatiable hype that had built up while we waited patiently. 'Dedicate' starts with the declaration, "if it wasn't be!", and this album serves as a necessary reminder of Wayne's impact on the game. Lil Wayne's influence pervades the current hip-hop scene; he's basically fathered half the game and his legacy deserves respect. Wayne packs this album with more bars than seems possible and reminds us why he deserves to be mentioned in GOAT conversations (he's firmly in my personal top five). On 'Dope New Gospel', Wayne spits, "thank God Weezy back / Order is restored, all is right with the world". Couldn't have put it better myself.

"Lil Wayne's influence pervades the current hip-hop scene; he's basically fathered half the game and his legacy deserves respect"

MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

4. Astroworld
Travis Scott



Astroworld // Wikimedia

Although *Astroworld* is musically in keeping with the rest of Travis Scott's discography and doesn't sound very far from what we've come to expect from the Houston rapper, something feels different about this album. It is almost like Travis has moulded his career after Kanye West's early career because *Astroworld* feels like Travis Scott's *Graduation* moment. That is to say, the moment his music transcends hip-hop and receives mainstream recognition and accolades. Following the success of his two early mixtapes *Owl Pharoah* and *Days Before Rodeo* in growing a cult following, and the success of his two previous albums *Rodeo* and *Birds in the Trap Sing McKnight* in cultivating this following, *Astroworld* appears to be the album to propel Travis Scott to the superstar status only held by artists like Kendrick Lamar, Drake and J. Cole. *Astroworld* is a crisp listen and the album takes listeners on a chaotic rollercoaster journey guided by Travis Scott's unique musical vision.

"Astroworld feels like Travis Scott's Graduation moment"

3. Swimming
Mac Miller

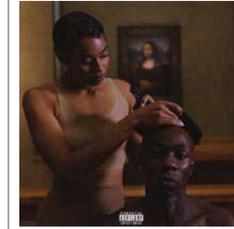


Swimming // Wikimedia

With Mac Miller's and Travis' albums dropping on the same day, it was impossible not to directly compare the two. Of the two, I lean toward Mac Miller's, simply because *Swimming* provides a different vibe - something to chill to.

Mac Miller had been on a musical journey of creative development and his last album, *The Divine Feminine*, proved that the days of 'Easy Mac with the Cheesy Raps' were long gone. After effectively dedicating *The Divine Feminine* to his love for Ariana Grande and, following the couple's ensuing public breakup, I was expecting *Swimming* to be a bitter breakup album. However, with *Swimming*, Mac delivered a mature album addressing his personal struggle with mental health, suicidal thoughts and addiction. He poetically described dealing with these as floating and drowning simultaneously. The album sounded like it was a turning point for him, however his content battle with his demons, namely depression and substance abuse, ultimately cost him his life. Mac Miller sadly passed away on 7th September, at age 26. The only thing left to say is R.I.P. Mac Miller. Your music touched a generation and will continue to live on for years to come.

2. EVERYTHING IS LOVE
THE CARTERS



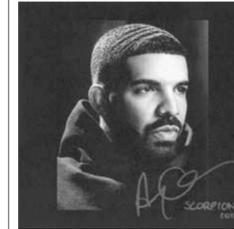
EVERYTHING IS LOVE // All Music

On reflection, Jay-Z is actually lucky he cheated on Beyoncé with "Becky with the good hair". His infidelity spawned a world tour and three amazing albums, Beyoncé's *Lemonade*, Jay-Z's *4:44* and now this.

Lemonade was Beyoncé's abrasive warning shot to Jay-Z, addressing his cheating and declaring she is not a woman to be messed with. After sounding uninspired on 2013's *Magna Carta Holy Grail*, Jay-Z delivered a masterpiece and one of the best albums of 2017 with his apology album, *4:44*. *EVERYTHING IS LOVE* is a celebration of love. Not to sound moist but, when I listen to this album, I can't help but think, "their love is so pure". Beyoncé really rides for Jay and the post-infidelity Carters embody black love at its finest. That is not to say that black love involves infidelity (I don't know if I'll ever fully forgive Jay for jeopardising the "Black Men Don't Cheat" movement) or that women should tolerate cheating just because Beyoncé did.

Although, to an extent, this sounds like a Beyoncé album with Jay-Z on it, it sounds truly collaborative and Beyoncé proves she's a better rapper than most of the game right now. Also, it can't be overstated how important the narrative around building black generational wealth on the album is. The Carters remain relationship goals.

1. Scorpion*
Drake



Scorpion // Amazon

The fact that *Scorpion* lands so highly on my list is not an indication of the quality of the album but more an indictment on the state of hip-hop in 2018. Drake has had a very interesting 2018. After seeing the end of his phenomenal eight-year Billboard Hot 100 Streak finally come to an end in a quiet end to 2017 (by his own lofty standards), Drake suddenly faced doubts and questions about his legacy and whether he was slowly passing his peak. Drake addressed this when he says, "I've been gone since like July, niggas actin' like I died", in his feature verse on Blocboy JB's 'Look Alive'. This track marked the start of Drake's 2018 assault on the charts and he has since virtually been an ever present in the Top Ten, breaking the previous record of 28 weeks at Number One with tracks like 'God's Plan', 'Nice for What' and the infectious 'In My Feelings'.

2018 seemed to be going to plan for Drake. That is, until Pusha T happened. By revealing Drake's baby momma drama ("YOU ARE HIDING A CHILD!") on his scathing diss track 'The Story of Adidon', Pusha T handed Drake a crushing L and effectively ruined his otherwise immaculate album rollout. We will never know what *Scorpion* would have sounded like had Drake not taken an L but, with the beef spawning tracks like '8 Out Of 10', 'Mob

Ties' and 'Can't Take a Joke', we all owe Pusha T a debt of gratitude for dishing out the fattest L and forcing Drake to get in his bag and give us the album we deserve.

"YOU ARE HIDING A CHILD!"

Drake's success has garnered a hugely diverse following, meaning that it is almost impossible for him to cater to all of his fans. He has struggled to fit his different styles (be it R&B Drake, pop Drake, rap Drake or whichever iteration of Drake you prefer) onto one project in a way that pleases everyone. So, after complaining since *Take Care* that Drake's subsequent albums have lacked cohesion, I was actually happy to see that he abandoned cohesion altogether with *Scorpion* and released a double disk album.

After an almost flawless Side A ('I'm Upset' aside), Side B disappointed and proved that, although Drake arguably birthed their style, artists like 6LACK and Bryson Tiller now run the moody trap R&B sub-genre. Like Drake said on *Nothing Was the Same*'s 'Wu-Tang Forever', "it ain't about who did it first, it's 'bout who did it right'".

On 2013's '0 To 100/ The Catch Up', Drake says, "I been Steph Curry with the shot", and he is right to liken himself to the Golden State Warriors' point guard. Not just because they are both lightskin. Steph is the best 3-point shooter in NBA history and, similarly, Drake is the best hit-maker in hip-hop history. However, it's important not to let Drake's innate ear for a hook distract and to remember that, much like how shooting 3s is only one aspect of

being a basketballer and Steph's shooting ability doesn't mean he overtakes Lebron as the best player alive, making hit songs is only one aspect of being a rapper and has little bearing on the quality of Drake's albums. Having said all that, it's impossible to overlook the sheer number of potential hits on *Scorpion*, from 'Nonstop' to 'After Dark'.

At 25 tracks and 90 minutes, *Scorpion* is simply too long. However, the fact that it's a double disk album somehow made it easier for me to simply discard the tracks I don't like from what is a bloated album. Once I did the necessary fat trimming, removing tracks which appeal to a different type of Drake fan to me, like 'Peak', 'Summer Games' (which sounds like progressive church music to me) and 'Ratchet Happy Birthday', I was left with a custom *Scorpion* which gave me everything I needed from Drake in 2018.

*I know what you're thinking. "Andy, didn't you just say don't let Drake's hit-making distract you from the quality of the album itself? You can't just cut out the songs you don't like and say the remaining tracks are album of the year?"

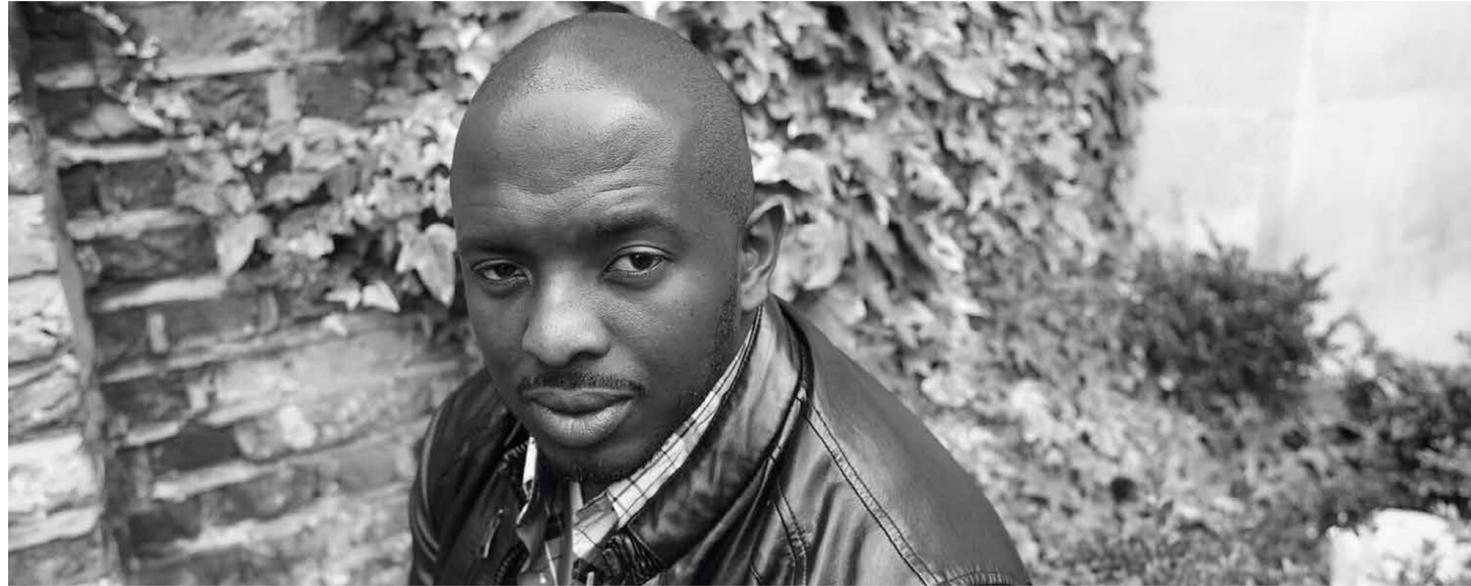
I'm sorry but I just can't ignore the hits on my custom *Scorpion*:

1. Survival
2. Nonstop
3. Elevate
4. Emotionless
5. God's Plan
6. 8 Out Of 10
7. Mob Ties
8. Can't Take a Joke
9. Sandra's Rose
10. Talk Up
11. Is There More
12. Finesse
13. That's How You Feel
14. Blue Tint
15. In My Feelings
16. After Dark
17. Final Fantasy
18. March 14

Anyway, it's my list. Make your own if you're upset...

Kinky Klub





Nick Makoha has written a poignant and moving tale // Helen Murray

Nick Makoha: poetry on the boards

Award-winning poet Nick Makoha turns his hand to theatre with a show pregnant with beauty. Arts writer Calum Drysdale interviews him on his latest work, *The Dark*.

ARTS



Where? The Ovalhouse
When? 21st Nov – 1st Dec

Calum Drysdale
Arts Writer

At the beginning of *The Dark*, Michael Balogun, one of the show's two actors, introduces himself. "Hi, I'm Nick". We are then asked to close our eyes and remember that "You are me". In this disarming way begins a play that subtly whisks the audience into the complicated and human world of Idi Amin's Uganda, only to then run them screaming out of it again. Telling the story of poet and playwright Nick Makoha's escape from Uganda, this is the kind of show that you dream about going to see as a student.

The entire story is told

by a single actor and actress. They spin and whirl around each other, moving from character to character – each one defined less by the minor clothing changes but by the huge changes the actors themselves make, altering voice and body like contortionists to welcome us into the world they have created.

"At every moment on stage, there are these two characters. They are always on stage. For an hour and 10 minutes these two actors have to be on all the time. It is very intense for the actors and the audience," explains Nick when I ask him about it.

Meeting Nick Makoha is like stepping onto a cruise liner. He hums with a vast sub-audible energy and a mind made of bright and spinning wheels.

"There is always the duality of the two characters, the pairs that bounce off each other." This is more than just guff. The

play manages to make scenes alternatively very full and very lonely. We move from a crowded bus station onto the bus (or matatu) heading to the Kenyan border – using only some benches and a hanging structure representing the baggage rack of the bus, piled high with peoples' lives – to the lonely road plagued with checkpoints and soldiers who are a mix of high, bored and greedy.

I ask him how he manages to bring people with him into the African world of his childhood.

"When you are watching *Star Wars*, you totally believe you are on Tatooine or the Death Star." He sighs; this is a question, I think, that he has answered before. "People will think this isn't my world, but they [the actors] bring across the humanity and allow you to suspend your disbelief – to make this your story, make this a story that you are willing

to watch without questioning, with the same inquisitiveness of a child"

He goes on to talk about how "in many parts of the world people have

"A story you are willing to watch without questioning, with the same inquisitiveness of a child"

an image of that part of the world. I tried to strip away that version of Uganda. Just to tell you a story about a mother and a son on a bus and the people that they met. This becomes a story about the thorough investigation of two characters."

For Nick, a lot of our discomfort when engaging with Africa as a continent stems from our lack of familiarity

with the people there. "I could say America is nice or I could show you some Americans. I could say that Uganda is a very strange place or instead let me tell you about this mother and her son."

He laughs. "Though I am a metic. My metic experience is unique and I cannot speak for all of the continent" Metic. The word crops up again and again. Literally 'a foreigner living in an ancient Greek city who had some of the privileges of citizenship', the word has come to represent those immigrants stuck in a penumbra between their country of birth and their adopted country, "an increasingly common situation nowadays".

What Nick stresses over and over is that the play was never intended to be about Uganda. It was meant to be about people, Ugandans, who had to flee their country of birth and set up a new home elsewhere. The play's greatest

success is how, even after the words that begin the play ["You are me"] are an hour and ten in the past, Nick has been so successful in his spinning of the world around the audience that when we – Nick and us – are confronted by the immigration officer at Heathrow asking why we don't have the correct papers, it feels like an unjustified attack. We are made the immigrant and it is hard and shocking. Having grown accustomed to voices speaking in a thick and easy Ugandan accent, the sound of clipped and too-perfect vowels challenging us, questioning us, and doubting us hits like a train. Nick Makoha has crafted a masterpiece that emerges from the true and silent dark of unlit Ugandan roads, not to challenge us but to welcome us and ask us in its insistent and convincing tones to go forth and challenge with it.



La Bohème at the ENO // ENO

La Bohème | One of opera's great classics

Let us tell you all about this amazing show, with prose written by experienced writers, well-versed in their chosen topic.

ARTS



Where? London Colliseum
When? 6 Dec – 22 Feb
How Much? From £12

Claire Chan
Arts Editor

The romanticised notion of the struggling artist – impoverished but ingenious, penniless but praiseworthy – was a big hit with the public when *La Bohème* first premiered in 1896. As a uni student living on a budget, the plight of Rodolfo (Jonathan Tetelman), Marcello (Nicholas Lester), Colline (David Soar) and Schaunard (Božidar Smiljanić) feels only too relatable. Well-educated but without proper jobs, they talk of Demosthenes

and the pleasures of high society while freezing in a drafty garret. And who hasn't suffered from self-doubt about their work like Rodolfo, who burns his five-act manuscript for kindling?

The witty repartee and exchanges of the four friends are one of the best things about *La Bohème*, with the original Italian libretto the result of four years' intensive collaboration between Puccini and his two librettists Giacosa and Illica. Amanda Holden's English translation, thankfully, does it great justice: hilarious banter flies back and forth between Lester, Tetelman, Soar and Smiljanić, who portray the four friends with effervescent camaraderie.

These moments of levity in *La Bohème* only make the tragedies of the play more acute. As Colline and Schaunard battle it out with baguettes, Musetta rushes in to tell them that Mimi is dying. It's a rollercoaster

trip that entralls from start to finish. But for it to work, the audience has to be invested in the love story between Rodolfo and Mimi that lies at the heart of *La Bohème*. Here, great onstage chemistry between Tetelman and Romaniw makes their story genuinely moving.

The scene when Mimi and Rodolfo brush hands in the dark has got to be one of the most beautiful pieces in opera. Tetelman's soaring, romantic tenor is a delight to the ear in the famous aria "What a cold little hand", though possibly a little overwrought even for a poet in love. Romaniw's response, "Yes, they call me Mimi" is entirely in-character, appropriately measured and shy, while showing her voice's full clarity and range – not an easy thing to do. What an ENO debut to make! In fact, the acting from the whole cast was on point. Nadine Benjamin, fresh from ENO's recent, very well-received Porgy

and Bess, is especially enjoyable to watch as the vivacious Musetta, revelling flirtatiously in her sensuality.

This year marks the fourth revival of Jonathan Miller's classic production; watching it, it is easy to see why. Miller has really captured the essence of the *La Bohème* that Puccini envisioned. Set in 1920s Paris, the set is wonderfully designed; the sunlit second-floor garret morphs quite magically into a crowded Parisian street outside the Café Momus, and then into a desolate alley on a snowy winter evening. Playful details and vignettes abound without distracting from the main action, adding a touch of reality to the events on stage. With this production, all that is needed for perfection is a good set of singers. Fortunately, the cast all deliver solid performances, Romaniw especially standing out as Mimi.

With the orchestra

playing the swelling notes of Puccini under the masterful direction of Alexander Joel (a *La Bohème* veteran, having conducted it over a hundred times), it is a fine evening of opera indeed. A treat for the ears and eyes – and an emotional upheaval for the heart!

Helen Money-Kyrle
Arts Editor

Watching *La Bohème* for the first time. I was devastated to watch the love story crumble before my eyes in the third act.

Why is it that opera's greatest love stories always seem to end in tragedy? Verdi's *Alfredo and Violetta*, Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, to name but a few – all deeply and utterly in love, all ultimately destined for death or heartbreak (or both – this is opera after all).

That these tragic stories

have been so deeply loved by audiences for hundreds of years is telling. Though often with far-fetched mystical plots, opera allows us to experience stories ordinarily unattainable, unimaginable, in our everyday lives. More importantly, these stories allow audiences to experience a passionate range of emotions, with revealing and relatable tales full of life, death, joy, anger, and, perhaps most relevantly, love.

Perhaps I was naive to be shocked by the sad conclusion of *La Bohème*. But even though I know that Rodolfo and Mimi's love is ultimately doomed, I'm sure I will be equally, if not more, moved next time, the futility and fragility of their love making their story all the more poignant.

ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The Cat in the Hat Strikes Back!

ARTS



Where? Southwark play-house

When? Until 29th Dec

How Much? From £20

Eamon Farhart

Arts Writer

When books are made into movies, fans and critics flock like vultures to tease apart the catastrophe to come. When the holy works of Dr Seuss were converted into a musical by Monty Python's Eric Idle, similar scenes could be predicted. The story tries to integrate characters from across the Seuss universe like The Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz and many more. The story focuses on Horton trying to protect the tiny planet of Whoville, which lies on a speck of dust, from the

inhabitants of the Jungle of Nool. Aimed at children, the character of Jojo (Anna Barnes), a young inhabitant of Whoville with an overzealous imagination, allows the young audience to connect to the performance. Themes of acceptance, bullying and loyalty are explored with the mantra "A person's a person, no matter how small" repeated throughout.

The Cat in the Hat, played by Marc Pickering, deserves a special mention as his perfect choreography and impeccable comedic timing brings the whole show together. The way Pickering moves and holds himself means that despite not looking very cat-like, the children are fully convinced that he is in fact The Cat in the Hat. The costumes are all subtle but effective – no cheap face-painted animals here! There are a few instances where Pickering performs silent comedic scenes, a little

like Tom and Jerry. They are seamlessly executed and allow even the youngest children, who may not be following the plot, to have a giggle. Disappointingly, the extremely talented Ngozi Ugoh (portraying the Sour Kangaroo) is given the least solos, despite being one of the most engaging and fun cast members. Her energetic dancing, sassy mannerisms and amazing voice give her the diva quality that captivates the entire audience, no matter how small.

The plot is one problem area. The story is unsurprisingly too simple for the adults in the room and yet too complicated and dragged out for the younger children to follow. Other than breaking into impressive dance numbers, the disconnected performance lacks the crafted perfection of Dr. Seuss's works. Horton the Elephant, played by Scott Paige, epitomizes all the problems with the pro-

duction. Firstly, he is the only character dressed in ordinary clothes and it is often hard to believe that Paige is anything other than a paid actor. Paige is given many solos, which were the lowest energy parts of the performance, a problem when the room is full of children with short attention spans. These ballads are important for moving the story along, but, as much of the audience is not even listening, they do not serve their purpose. To make things worse, these scenes have very little in terms of visuals: no choreography, no colourful costumes, nothing.

It must be said that other than the handful of moments where Horton takes centre stage, the choreography, colours and staging are a huge strength and, along with the fun songs, the main selling point of the performance. With a small cast of only twelve and a single set, creative staging and



Dr Seuss on stage! // Adam Trigg

multipurpose props allow for the scenes to come alive. The distractions caused by the complex choreography also allow actors to sneak away for a quick costume change, and be back before anyone realizes they are gone. The drastic costume changes, along with the distinct mannerisms of each character, makes it hard for adults, let alone children, to see that the actors are in fact the same. This performance is definitely aimed at children and families and for the most part works

perfectly for this target audience. It was slightly comic how many children were scared by the overzealous singing of The Cat in the Hat: tears were shed! Fortunately, the cast plays off any crying or even heckling (from a 7 year old!) and, throughout the performance, interacts with the children, shaking their hands, having a quick chat and even a little dance. Overall, this is a high energy performance which runs only 75 minutes and can be enjoyed by the whole family.

Amateur dramatics is a powerful thing

Writer Samuel Welton reflects on the ability of youth theatre to inspire confidence in young people.

ARTS

Samuel Welton

Arts Writer

At the weekend I went home to see my family, and while there saw a show from the local youth drama club. My sister was in it; she'll be going to university next year, making this her last performance. The show was great fun, not exactly Shakespeare but the cast were having a good time and that spirit was infectious. At the end of the show there was a very tearful goodbye from all the members leaving this year, and it showed just how much the club meant

to them, and how much it still means to me.

I joined "Parsnips" youth drama company during year 7. The move from primary to secondary school was unkind – I wasn't ready for the change and friend-making process to start again, so I retreated into my shell. My happiness was on a downswing; that was until I joined Parsnips. I knew some of my old friends went, but I had never thought drama could be for me. At the time I was stocky and certainly not conventionally attractive, but more than anything I was quiet and nervous.

But I gave it a go, and it was the best decision

I made in my years at school. I didn't take to it immediately, but seeing my friends again was nice and the sessions had a compelling energy to them. Established and run by Claire Parsons (that's where the name came from), her goal was never to groom future stars – all she wanted was to instil children with the same love of arts she had. And it certainly worked.

It wasn't long before I was invested in the group. Each week consisted partly of dramatic exercises and partly of devising short pieces using what we learned. I've never been in a group where everyone was so "up for

it". As time went by it helped me break that shell I had hidden in. My social comfort and confidence improved in line with my time in the group, but more than that I learned the joys of entertaining others.

"She wanted to instil children with the same love of arts she had. And it certainly worked"

Throughout the seven years I had with the company I knew every week, no matter the circumstances, I would have two hours of happiness and sanctuary.

Seven years moves fast, and after many shows I finally found myself on that stage, saying that tearful goodbye, better for the experience and yet horribly sad to see it end. Parsnips was more than a club, it was a family that pushed you to be better, with a mother who worked unreasonable hours to make sure you had the best experience of your life. And that stuck with me. It stuck with all Parsnips, as the row behind me

last weekend was filled with 25-26 year olds. The show was written by Claire seven years ago, and the row behind was full of members of the original cast, together again from across the country to support the next generation.

When done right amateur dramatics can be a powerful thing.

ARTS

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London and Life Lessons

ARTS



Where? Soho Theatre-
When? Until Dec 8th
How Much? From £12

Eamon Farhart
Arts Writer

Anyone who has grown up in a small town or community surrounded by the same people can relate to the feeling of social claustrophobia. During adolescence, when emotions are high and everyone wants to fit in, this becomes even more pronounced. In “Cuckoo”, written by Lisa Carroll and set in Ireland, these themes are explored on a whirlwind journey of popularity, insecurities and general teenage angst.

Iona, played by Caitri-

ona Ennis, has spent her whole life yearning to be part of the popular crew. Her mute non-binary friend Pingu, played by Elise Heaven, convinces her to leave the small town of Crumlin, Ireland for a new life in London. All of a sudden, the popular crew – Toller (Sade Malone), Pockets (Colin Campbell) and Trix (Peter Newngton) – take an interest in them and the drama of teenage life ensues! The plot is not the most original, but the journey that each character goes on is incredibly emotive. Pingu is able to convey so much with so few words (none). Their characters are unique and well executed; the manner with which the non-binary element is introduced and developed is perfect. Other writers should take notes! Iona and Toller are quite unimaginative

characters who go on the usual expected journeys: the loser who realizes what she had all along and the popular girl who realizes being nice doesn't hurt. That being said, the actors all execute their characters brilliantly. With such a small cast (only five people) and approximately two hours of high energy material without an interval, the endurance of these actors must be admired.

The script constantly throws in references which hit a sweet spot for millennials. Iona, for example, lists her London to do list: “the big Topshop, Ministry of Sound and Wetherspoons”. Phones are used throughout the performance. Whether it be actors texting, taking pictures or watching snapchat stories, these moments always worked with the plot and did not

feel forced. The themes of popularity, adolescence and bullying might be universal but by integrating social media, this modern take is all the more meaningful.

The audience was seated in a few rows facing each other, with a space in the middle, the stage. This made for some slightly uncomfortable moments as you could find yourself staring at someone in the audience across. This did however make for a truly shared experience as you could literally see others going through the same emotions, evoked from the play, as you were. The actors would storm onto and off the stage in different directions, making for a dynamic experience. Music was very important, especially for setting the scene as a party, just outside a party, or even a chicken shop. Strobe



Birds of a feather // David Gill

lighting was used to recreate the slow-motion clubbing scenes which are so ubiquitous to coming-of-age TV shows.

Overall, this play is perfect for the binge watching generation,

who won't want to take their eyes off of it. It is at times funny, at times sad, and at times moving but it is definitely unique in relation to the characters, the stage setup and the overall execution.

Jeannie: An Enchanting Revival

ARTS



Where? Finborough Theatre
When? Until Dec 22nd
How Much? From £16

Shivani Gangadia
Arts Writer

A long-overdue journey into the repertoire of an overlooked female playwright, this is (shockingly) the first professional production of Jeannie in nearly 80 years. Within two hours we are taken on a whirlwind journey with protagonist Jeannie, who, upon receiving a generous inheritance following the death of her cantankerous father, ventures outside

her “wee one-eyed” town and manages to attract the attentions of both a British washing machine inventor named Stanley, and a Viennese Count.

The very small, intimate theatre allowed the audience to become totally wrapped up in the story, and the set transitions help to signpost where you are in the play and transform the space completely. The only trouble with these transitions was that they did lag on at times, ultimately detracting from the immersive experience of the play. However, I do see that this was unavoidable with the drastic location changes between various countries, and admire the fact that the actors both played their roles and carried out the staging transitions simultaneously as smoothly as possible.

The performances of Mairi Hawthorn (Jeannie) and Matthew Mellalieu (Stanley) really stood out for me, with their natural chemistry and wonderfully witty repartee; after a slow first few scenes, the play only really started for me when the pair first met. The entire cast nailed every bit of dialogue in all its emotion and charm – even the questionable French and Austrian accents only added to the humour of the play. But the real magic of the dialogue is all thanks to the mastery of the playwright herself, Aimée Stuart (1886-1981). With a life full of questioning conventions and seeking adventure, she's incredibly underrated as an artist (what with her previously banned play *Love of Women*, which polemically depicted lesbianism,



Matthew Mellalieu (Stanley Smith) and Mairi Hawthorn (Jeannie) // Tristram Kenton

it's a real mystery that I'd never come across her).

The play isn't ground-breaking in its message or its themes, nor is it written as such. Rather it sends us home with a very real message – one that is universal and unrestricted by the era in which we encounter it, be

it the first show in 1940 or 2018 in Finborough Theatre. This is the story of a flawed and naïve woman, who indeed makes mistakes, yet at the same time gives as good as she gets with a fiery personality and determination to pave her own path. I'm certain we

can all see a part of ourselves in this character. It's a beautiful rendering which states that yes, life can be harsh and not at all what you expect, but at the same time it's never too late to start your own adventure, and it's always worth the risk.

ARTS

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NYT Rep's *Macbeth**Macbeth is female – but more than that, she's human.*

ARTS



Where? Garrick Theatre
When? 20th Oct – 7th Dec
How Much? From £15

Claire Chan

Arts Editor

Having had a chat with both *Macbeth* (Olivia Dowd) and *Lady Macbeth* (Isabel Adomakoh Young) a fortnight prior, I was particularly excited to see them on stage for the National Youth Theatre's production of *Macbeth*. Moira Buffini's abridged version results in a snappy, intense play which runs straight through for just under 100 minutes with no interval between.

The production opens with a bang, curtains rising on the three troublemaking witches who craftily instigate most of the trouble in *Macbeth*. In keeping with the 'gender-fluid' casting, two of them

are played by male actors, Aidan Cheng and Jeffrey Sangalang, with Simran Hunjun completing the trio. Gender doesn't really matter with the witches, who even in Shakespeare's original were not so much 'female' as 'unclassifiable'. Nixon has really run with the freaky theme for the witches here; Cheng giggles manically while tottering around the stage in white facepaint, fetish heels and a fluffy tutu, while Hunjun, draped head to toe in red, wanders about the stage like a monolithic Cassandra. Cheng is particularly convincing in his 'creepy clown' portrayal, although I did find it a bit over-the-top. But perhaps that was the point. The three of them are a looming presence throughout the play, and reappear as *Macbeth*'s hired assassins – a nice touch that underscores the central role of the witches to the events of the plot.

The lack of an interval works well, with no loss

of momentum as we are carried from plot twist to plot twist. Minimalistic and uncluttered staging helps achieve this with fluidity, while Helena Bonner's striking costume designs for the witches ensure we have our fill of visually arresting scenes.

Dowd is undoubtedly the star of the show, with her brilliant, layered portrayal of *Macbeth*. Hungry

"Hungry ambition, deep-seated self-doubt and crushing guilt"

ambition, deep-seated self-doubt and crushing guilt are written transparently in turn on her expressive features, and *Macbeth*'s famous soliloquy "Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow..." is delivered with such raw vulnerability that we really feel the



Olivia Dowd's *Macbeth*: ambitious, vulnerable and all too human // *The Other Richard*

empty meaninglessness lurking behind its words. Opposite her, Adomakoh Young sparks with energy as *Lady Macbeth*, urgently spurring *Macbeth* to action in the first acts before descending into a dark, guilt-driven madness. It's a well-balanced partnership, with genuine chemistry between the two of them on stage.

For all that the NYT's *Macbeth* has been advertised as a

genderfluid production, the fact that *Macbeth* and *Lady Macbeth* are in a queer relationship is barely noticeable. As Adomakoh Young said, there doesn't really seem to be a specific message about gender that Nixon and Buffini are trying to bring across. Rather, if it's about getting the best actors for each role, Dowd has certainly delivered on that promise.

The rest of the cast

delivers a solid supporting performance, but there remains a touch of the amateur about it – overall it definitely feels like a youth theatre performance. Which, admittedly, it is. The point of NYT Rep is to be a training programme for young actors, and it's good to see casting open up so that more actors, male or female, can cut their teeth on big roles like *Macbeth*.

Having a laugh at Winter Wonderland

Warm yourself up at Winter Wonderland's rip-roaring nightly Comedy Club.

ARTS



Where? Hyde Park
When? 26th Nov – 6th Jan
How Much? £10

Gargi Samarth

Arts Writer

A common theme at Winter Wonderland is walking around in the cold, drinking mulled wine in the cold, and riding the ridiculous rollercoasters, also in the cold. This year, there's a fresh new experience

to be had at Winter Wonderland, brought to us by the Evening Standard. Every night 'til the 6th of January, the heated Megadome will come alive at 9pm for the all-new Comedy Club. A welcome respite from the cold outdoors, and a warming end to your festive day.

Who's hosting at Comedy Club? It's a mix of everyone who's someone in the comedy scene today. The oversized, slightly ostentatious circus tent is set to host big-name headliners such as Mick

Ferry, Luisa Omielan and Eric Lampaert, all for the bargain price of £10 (£12 on Saturdays).

Tom Lucy kicks off the show as compere this evening, going for openers which are reminiscent of a third-year medical student such as "What's your name?" and "What's your job?". He's an amicable guy though and does his best to warm up the slightly cold crowd by attempting to find the furthest-travelled audience member (New Zealand) and the unfortunate front-row members

who will be picked on for the remaining 43 minutes of the show. If you've brought in a drink, just have a sip every time he mentions something festive – you're guaranteed to find the rest of the show funny.

The first act of the evening is Keith Farnan, an upbeat Irishman who is quick to charm the audience by mocking everyone that isn't sitting in the front row, and through his relatable set pieces on Brexit, buying the perfect Christmas present, and even GDPR.

His jokes may have been PG-13, but his delivery is spot-on and left the audience feeling warm,

"Left the audience feeling warm, fuzzy and appreciative of the festive spirit"

fuzzy and appreciative of the festive spirit.

The headliner of the evening, Terry Alderton completely embodied the mania of the atmosphere outside; with bright lights, loud noises and a shocking Christmas shirt, he pulled off one audacious skit after another. An explosion of energy, his body-popping took the front row by surprise, and his operatic serenading of fans had almost the entire audience in hysterics.

So, if you're visiting with your mates, check out the Comedy Club – it'll have you in stitches one way or the other.

GAMES

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Everyone is here // Nintendo

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate

Everyone is here and here is everything you should know.

GAMES

Anthony Onwuli

Games Editor

Super Smash Bros. Ultimate is the latest entry into the Super Smash Bros. video game series. This franchise made its debut in 1998 on the Nintendo 64 and has appeared on every Nintendo home console since: with Melee on the Gamecube, Brawl on the Wii and SSB4 on the Wii U and N3DS.

For those who do not know, the Super Smash Bros series is a massive crossover Nintendo fighting game that features your favourite characters from a whole range of Nintendo franchises to 3rd party characters from other iconic video game series.

Who's here?

Everyone is here! SSB4 brings back every character who has made a playable appearance in the franchise so far – so

Solid Snake and Ice Climbers who were cut in SSB4 are now back on the roster. Moreover, we now have echo fighters (clones), which allow new characters to be brought into smash. These echo fighters play similarly to existing characters with different appearances. Returning characters who have been rebranded as echo fighters include Lucina (Marth) and Dark Pit (Pit).

Additionally, Sakurai has brought some iconic newcomers such as the famous Inklings from Splatoon and the guy that everyone thought was too big for Smash – Ridley. King K Rool from the Donkey Kong series makes his debut alongside Castlevania's Simon Belmont (Richter will be his echo fighter). Speaking of echo fighters, Princess Daisy, Fire Emblem's Chrom, Dark Samus and Street Fighter's Ken will be making their playable Smash debuts as echo fighters Peach, Roy, Samus and Ryu respec-

tively. Isabelle will have her own moveset and will not be an echo fighter of the Villager. So many new characters! But that's still not everyone. Incineroar from Pokemon Sun and Moon and Piranha Plant will also be playable characters – though Piranha Plant is a pre-order bonus.

Excited? Well, there's going to be at least five more characters released in the upcoming DLC packs, so the fighters will just keep coming. Given the shocking DLC characters for SSB4, no one can predict which fighters will be joining the Smash roster over the next few years.

Playable World of Light Waluigi?

Despite some dreams coming true (Ridley fans can finally wipe their tears), Waluigi will be making an appearance in Super Smash Bros Ultimate – as an assist trophy.

New Modes

With new characters also comes new game modes.

Smashdown is a mode where your previously selected character becomes unavailable for the next round. This means players have to learn to adapt and cannot just rely on their main.

Squad Strike can be played as either a 3-on-3 or a 5-on-5 elimination battle. Players will cycle through their fighters consecutively until a winner is determined.

The training mode in Ultimate is new and improved, now with launch distance and trajectory displayed.

World of Light

It's been almost ten years since the Smash series had a proper story mode. The Subspace Emissary in Brawl was an interesting way to engage players and make them connect to the characters. The cinematic cutscenes added depth and an extra dimension to the Smash Bros experience. It was

also a great way of unlocking characters, as you added them to your party during the story.

Now ten years on we have the World of Light, which Sakurai and Nintendo are keeping under complete wraps. What we do now so far is that there is a new villain, Galeem, only Kirby manages to escape his attack on all the fighters. You now take control of Kirby as you navigate the World of Light to find your friends (both fighters and spirits) and discover the mysteries of this world.

Similar to Brawl, you'll unlock the majority of the characters in the story mode.

What are these Spirits?

There has been a mention of spirits, but what exactly are these spirits and how do they impact the game?

Spirits are game characters which can be equipped to your fighter to

boost their stats in a battle. There are two categories of spirits, Primary and Support. Primary spirits raise the attack power of your fighter and come in three types: Attack, Grab, Shield. Like rock, paper and scissors, the types have advantages over each other: attack beats grab which beats shield which beats attack. So make sure to choose your spirit well.

Gameplay

Melee (and Project M) fans rejoice! The fighting mechanics in Ultimate will be tailored towards the gameplay that made melee popular. Picking which direction you can dodge mid-air is now back to allow you to quickly avoid enemy attacks. Don't be over-reliant on dodges though; overusing them will reduce their effectiveness over time.

Super Smash Bros Ultimate is available now (as of Friday 7th December 2018) on the Nintendo Switch.

FILM

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It's a Wonderful Felix Film Christmas: The Lowdown

FILM

Mikhail Demtchenko

Sung Soo Moon

Aidan Chan

Film Editors

The Nightmare Before Christmas

Less of a nightmare, more of a dream for a Christmas movie choice

Sick of the Jingle Bells and the Christmas lights? Tired of fake white beards and elfen tights? Well you are in luck my mates, for The Nightmare Before

Christmas awaits. From the inexplicable mind of Tim Burton, this is a story about Jack Skellington, who became weary of hosting Halloweens, and instead wanted to decorate Christmas trees; who became a castaway, for his desire to celebrate the Christmas holiday.

From the ghouls and witches, to the skulls and stitches, creativity is found in every creature. Grotesque and eerie, without being gross and creepy, this film is the antithesis of a Christmas feature. Yet its final celebration of love and heroism would be considered the perfect Christmas message by some. Of course this film is impossible without director Henry Selick, a stop-motion maverick, who created so many iconic and inspiring



Spooky Scary Skeletons, send shivers down your spine // Touchstone Pictures

frames. Who doesn't recognize the silhouette of Jack standing in front of the giant moon, while he was singing his melancholic tune? This brings

me to Danny Elfman, whose songs and score augments the magic in every way.

So wave goodbye to the red-nosed reindeer, or

whatever you watch for Christmas every year. It is time to witness the utter delight that is The Nightmare Before Christmas.

Nightmare before Christmas will be available on Disney's new streaming service and 'other sources' - AC

Children of Men

An Alternative Christmas Flick

A week into December and all the frivolous consumerist tosh brings out the cynic in the best of us. You're already overloaded with sickly sweet festivity—all that Christmas cheer can leave you with heartburn. 'Tis the season to binge on Love Actually and Home Alone, even though you've probably watched both at least twice this year already. Rather than scouting for a sub-par flick that'll "just about do" for your next night in, switching channels like spinning the barrel of a revolver for a game of Russian roulette, you'd best hear me out on an alternative 'Christmas' gem.

Children of Men is directed by Alfonso Cuaron, based on the book of the same name by P.D. James. It is set in 2027, when the world faces an infertility crisis that leaves civilisation in a politically unstable

state, Theo (Clive Owen) is coerced into helping a group of freedom fighter terrorists to protect Kee (Clare-Hope Ashitey) who appears to be the first pregnant woman in eighteen years.

Every moment of this

film is simply beautiful. The cinematography is helmed by Emmanuel Lubezki, a frequent collaborator of Cuaron. Lubezki uses the frame as a passive character in the drama, with long takes that drift off into the

bigger picture. The richly dystopian world created in this film is a perfect canvas to paint the story with Lubezki's cinematic brush, often with visceral 'one-shot' take set pieces that are the precursors to Lubezki's work in

Birdman.

But is it a Christmas film? What makes this a perfect alternative festive treat is twofold. It is lathered in the sour, (very) British pessimism that is missing from these vacuous times; having said that, it is profoundly uplifting and poignant in its final third. Children of Men is a modern retelling of the Nativity and deals with updated themes for the 21st Century audience, hitting home ideas about terrorism, refugee crises, and war. It's not a "feel-good-film-of-the-year" per say, but it will overwhelm you with a humanitarian passion. This film is an essential festive antidote.

Children of Men is available on Netflix and Amazon Prime, so there's no excuse to not watch this masterpiece - SSM



He's not the Messiah, he's a very naughty boy! // Universal Studios

FILM

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of Must Watch Christmas Films this Holiday Season

With a combined score of 27% on Rotten Tomatoes, these three movies will give you a great excuse to torture that annoying cousin who's visiting, or provide a great drinking game by encouraging you to drink to forget.



Oh god... // Revolution Studios

Christmas with the Kranks

Tim Allen makes noises for 98 minutes

A movie so excruciatingly bad that never stops shoving the idea of a Merry Happy Consumerist Christmas down your throat, backed up by an incredible cast that never manages to hit anywhere close to their comedic timing. This movie is a nightmarish representation of the hell space that is capitalist

Christmas, but for some reason, maybe the so bad it's good effect, never fails to entertain with it's cringy humour, half assed execution that's laughable and sometimes honestly just absolutely bizarro plot. Do yourself and your closest most loved family a favour, and discover the meaning of Christmas with Tim Allen this year.

Not available on any of the popular premium streaming sites, but good god if you're gonna watch this, do NOT give them your money! - MD



Ohhhh gooooooohhhh... // IMDb

Deck the Halls

Danny DeVito is not the only thing to fall short

Now a movie with Matthew Broderick spending months learning how to speed skate, production plagued with problems, mainly huge disagreements between the cast over sex scenes, and Danny DeVito, should lead to a masterpiece. But it isn't, even with the sheer volume of effort it took to actually get made.

The jokes land flat, the plot is confusing and on my list it comes second highest rated at 6% on rotten tomatoes, but don't let that deter you. Every moment of Danny DeVito and Matthew Broderick using their witty banter and natural onscreen presence to find the spirit of Christmas will leave you laughing, most of the time when it's not meant to be funny.

Deck the Halls is available on Netflix, and also any HMV bargain bin. - MD



OH MY GAWWDDDD!!! // 20th Century Fox

Jingle All the Way

This should Jingle All The Way into the trash

This movie screams alarm bells from the very get go with a cast of some of the most notorious actors of the time, Arnold Schwarzenegger providing nothing more than just showing up for his Christmas paycheck alongside none other than the 'Immortal Sinbad'. The movie truly comes into its element when you

realise that all of Sinbad's lines are improvised, and better yet Arnie decides to jump in on the action and add his own artistic flair to it. The result is a witty repertoire of organic, real dialogue that could rival the likes of 'Pulp Fiction', 'The Social Network' and 'The Godfather'. Must Watch/10. (There's even a sequel with Larry the Cable Guy).

Available in your local dump, hazardous waste disposal or melting in the fires of Mt. Doom. - MD

LISFF: A Celebration of the Possibilities of Short Film



After two years of sold-out screenings, premieres, and dozens of excellent short films, LISFF is delighted to return to Kino Bermondsey for a third year.

LISFF 2018 will run December 9th - 12th, showcasing new talent,

and filmmakers of independent spirit making creative and innovative use of low budgets.

For any who are interested, the full schedule can be found at 'http://www.lisff.com'. For any aspiring writers, contact md5315@ic.ac.uk for free tickets.

POSTGRADUATE

gsu.president@imperial.ac.uk

Share your PhD supervision story - anonymous and impactful

POSTGRADUATE

Ute Thiermann
Graduate Students' Union
President

The quality of PhD supervision is becoming a hot topic, not only at Imperial College but across the whole UK. Decision-makers across Imperial College are becoming increasingly aware that the quality of supervision is the major predictor of satisfaction and wellbeing of any PhD student. Together with the Imperial College Union, the College administration works hard in improving the supervision and the welfare system for students with problems.

There are many excellent supervisor-student relationships across Imperial College, where the mutual expectations as recommended by the Graduate School, are fulfilled by both parties. But sometimes, over the long duration of a research project, these relationships can collapse and cause stress and mental health issues. Severe cases of bullying and sexual harassment continue happening at most British academic institutions, as frequently reported by *The Guardian*.

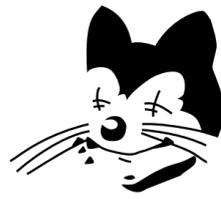
Together with *Felix*, the Graduate Student Union (GSU) is creating a platform where supervision stories can be shared anonymously. Show others how supervision can work well. Tell the

story of how you found support in the College pastoral system when you had a problem. Or help us to point out where the system failed to give the response you wished for, or where fear and frustration stop you from taking action.

"Together with *Felix*, the GSU is creating a platform where supervisor stories can be shared anonymously"

The GSU will make sure that your stories are published fully anonymously and depersonalised in *Felix*. Once a month, *Felix* will publish two diverse supervision stories. Be one of the first to share yours and help the GSU in making the systemic improvements our students need.

Submit your 300-400 word story to the GSU via Google form to be accessed only by the GSU president.



Supervision Story

POSTGRADUATE

Anonymous
Postgraduate Student

My experience as a postgraduate research student at Imperial was in complete contrast to my expectations.

"My experience as a postgraduate research student at Imperial was in complete contrast to my expectations"

A diligent and hard-working student, I was accustomed to high-level problem solving, difficult tasks, proposing and defending arguments and manipulating complex data and ideas. Eager for the challenge that I believed lay before me, I was quickly astounded at the lack of care for student wellbeing and happiness. Over my time at Imperial, I became so frightened of my supervisor that I used to be sick before and after supervisory meetings: a presentation of anxiety which has continued since leaving the College along with vivid 'flashbacks' of my experiences. I also had to hide my tears from other post-docs and researchers in the department. To my shame, I

remember having to force another co-student who was in tears out of the bathroom to do an experiment which required two people, because I was too afraid to not complete the task. They were in tears because they were so frightened of making a mistake and of what the supervisor would say if they did so.

"I was quickly astounded by the lack of care for student wellbeing and happiness"

I was told I "didn't use my brain", was "lazy" and that "you women don't think for yourselves". At this point I was working 80-hour weeks, and barely eating or sleeping. I'd regularly get home after 23:30, work until 02:00 and be commuting again by 07:30. Despite this, I was criticised for not being a dedicated enough scientist and didn't love what I was doing enough. During my time at Imperial, I believe that I became a worse scientist not a better one.

"Pastoral support was limited... I did not feel there was anyone I could turn to"

Collaboration, sharing of ideas and discussion was virtually non-existent. I was not encouraged to offer up alternative points of view, and upon using peer-reviewed reports to question and critique previously generated data from or methodologies of the laboratory, received verbal attacks of such ferocity I became afraid to speak at all. At no point during my time at Imperial was I welcomed into lab meetings. Indeed; the groups I worked with didn't seem to have them. I was ridiculed for asking questions which, judging from my academic interactions prior to and after my studies at Imperial, were perfectly reasonable, valid and part of the learning process. I increasingly felt that Imperial students were required to be 'seen and not heard'. I have been afraid to speak out because of the reputation of the institution and the fear that I would be compromising my future academic career.

"Over my time at Imperial, I became so frightened of my supervisor that I used to be sick before and after supervisor meetings"

Whilst at the College, pastoral support was limited, and I did not

feel there was anyone I could turn to; when I tried to raise my concerns, I was made to feel like a nuisance and like it was my fault for having difficulties because I wasn't good enough to be at the College.

"During my time at Imperial, I believe that I became a worse scientist"

Since leaving Imperial, I have tried to access the complaints procedure via student support so that no other student should have a similar experience to me, but the thought of being identified to my supervisor is so terrifying that I have not followed through on the formal process.

"I was told I 'didn't use my brain', was 'lazy' and that 'you women don't think for yourselves'"

POSTGRADUATE

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Graduate Students' Union hosts Hammersmith Event

POSTGRADUATE

Clare Chan
Graduate Students' Union
Events Coordinator

On Wednesday 21st November, Imperial College Union and the Graduate Students' Union (GSU) teamed up with Feast Bar, located close to the Hammersmith and White City campuses of Imperial College to throw a fabulous social for postgraduate students located in the area. The event itself lured students with some exclusive deals, including 50% off all food and drinks for any student showing a valid Imperial College Card. Representatives from the

SU and GSU also attended and provided some free drinks for students.

"The event was organised in response to calls for more social events for postgraduate students"

The event was organised in response to calls for more social events for postgraduate students located in the Hammersmith and White City buildings and will be one of many events to encour-

age more of a community feel at these locations, especially following the move of the Chemistry Department to White City.

The event was a success, attracting many students with the large selection of good food and drinks available under this offer. However, it was noted that more events like this need to happen in order to attract a greater attendance. Hannah Jones, the GSU Event's Officer commented, "we need more events which are exclusive to postgraduate students at these campuses and that also bring together students from South Kensington, to allow the feeling that we are one University and not separated by location. My team at the GSU and I are in the process of



Feast Bar // Incipio Group

organising more events of this kind with more networking to bring more of a community feeling. I welcome any suggestions from students who have

ideas for future events." It is hoped another collaboration deal with Feast Bar will be set up in the future. To get in touch with the GSU Events

Team with any feedback, comments or suggestions, contact Hannah Jones at hj3217@ic.ac.uk.



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How do you experience Imperial?

Here's your chance to tell us about your ups and downs at Imperial! Whether you are a non-final year undergraduate or a first year taught postgraduate student, you are invited to complete the Student Experience Survey. Access it here: imperial.ac.uk/student-experience-survey.

Your responses are going to give College and the Union a better idea about what they're doing well, what can be improved and what else can be done to enrich student life at Imperial.

The data collected in the past years from the Student Experience Survey has helped make real change. The Library received funding to improve ventilation and aid cooling during the hot months of summer while Ethos was refurbished and replaced all gym equipment - all due to your responses. Complete the survey now and enter a prize draw to win one of the 20 vouchers up for grabs.

Make great memories

Après Ski
Winter Carnival

Friday 14 December
20:00 - 03:00

Get your ticket now:
imperialcollegeunion.org/wintercarnival18

Make great memories

The Union Chalet
29 November - 6 December

Imperial Christmas Sweaters

£17.95



Get yours now!
imperialcollegeunion.org/shop

shop



Try Meat Free Mondays in January

Every Monday in January, our bars and other venues across all campuses will be switching their meat (excluding fish) dishes for veggie alternatives. This is part of the Greening Imperial campaign where the Deputy President (Finance & Services), College Catering and College Campus Services are all teaming up to take part.

Reducing your weekly meat consumption has many benefits, including health improvements and financial ease. But taking a step back to look at the wider picture, working together to reduce the world meat consumption also has environmental, social, and animal welfare impacts.

Be prepared for a month packed with events, activities and pop up stalls. Students and staff will be explaining the campaign, showing you why it's worth taking part, and giving tips on how to continue Meat Free Mondays at home. More information is coming soon on our website: imperialcollegeunion.org.



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

6 December, Thursday

Ceilidh Class
Metric | 17:30 - 18:30

J&R Acoustic Night
Union Bar | 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

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

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

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



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

felix.clubsandsocieties@imperial.ac.uk

MasterMines: A *landslide* victory for ESE

On Tuesday 27th November, the first RSM-wide quiz took place. Staff, students and post-grads participated, using their general knowledge to support their department

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Amy Tall

RSMU Academic Liaison
Officer

For many Imperial students, Tuesday 27th November was a typical evening. Some were rounding off their CV's with society activities, others were sweating it out in ethos, and many a student could be found in the library, studying hard for the approaching end of term deadlines. These students were oblivious to the epic showdown, taking place in the Royal School of Mines, to answer an important and controversial question: Which is the more knowledgeable department: Materials or Earth Science and Engineering?

Four students (Academic and Welfare RSM Faculty Reps, Amy Tall and Chloé Lewis, and Materials and ESE appointed 'Quiz Masters', Seif Mehanna and Sam Casement) took it upon themselves to formulate a

challenging (some would say impossible) set of questions, carefully constructed to accurately distinguish the learned from the uninformed. Long and heated deliberation took place to ensure that the questions displayed no bias, and the Materials students were eventually convinced that an "International Geography" round would not give ESE an advantage.

"Which is the more knowledgeable department: Materials or Earth Science and Engineering?"

A total of eight teams, four from each department, scribbled furiously to answer the bombardment of questions with which they were faced. Every individual naturally

wanted to contribute to their department's success, however the single highest scoring team had also been promised a lucrative chocolate-based prize. The stakes were high. Yet, despite the extreme importance of the event's outcome, spirits were high and the mood was jovial. Students, post-grads and staff were united by a common goal and fun was had by all. The only thing missing was sufficient snack provision (apologies, we underestimated the amount of brain-food required to fuel the average miner).

The quiz proceeded as follows:

1. Imperial Knowledge
2. History
3. Science
4. Pop Culture
5. International Geography
6. Sport
7. Literature
8. Technology

There was an additional photo matching round to be completed throughout the entire event - "Match the Celebrity to the



The winners revealed! Hard luck Materials...//RSM

Degree".

Materials demonstrated superior knowledge regarding ICL, both departments drew for Pop Culture, Literature, Technology and the education of celebrities, but ESE knew more about everything else! Thus, by a landslide victory, ESE were deemed the most knowledgeable department.

Further congratulations are extended to the overall winning team, ESE 1.

Only 1.5 points behind was Materials 3, claiming 2nd place. A further 0.5 points behind was ESE 3 and Materials 4 rounding off the rankings in 3rd position. It was undoubtedly a close race!

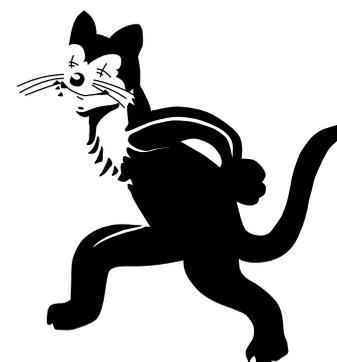
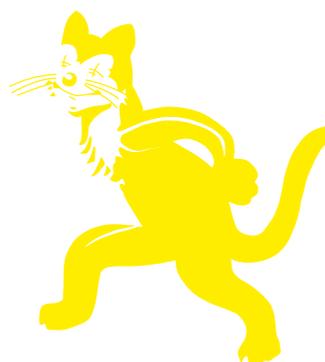
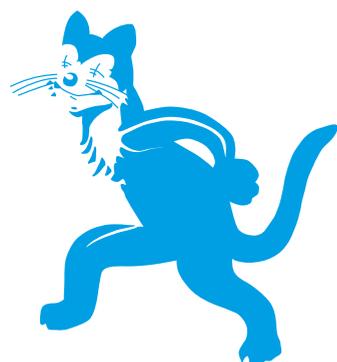
We hope those who attended enjoyed the event, and would like to thank our Quiz Masters, Seif and Sam, once more.

Who knows, maybe this monumental battle of the brains could become

an annual event...

"Thus, by a landslide victory, ESE were deemed the most knowledgeable department"

Felix is recruiting!



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

INVESTMENT

icu.investmentsociety@imperial.ac.uk


Risk in Investment Management and Financial Services

Part 1 :Credit Risk

INVESTMENT

Esuabom Dijemeni

ICIS Member

The objective of this series, Risk in Investment Management and Financial Services, is to provide a top-level introduction to risk in investment management and financial services. A broader and wider understanding of different types of risk faced in investment management and financial services is critical towards our understanding of different investment and financial products, services and strategies adopted in a growing risk-dynamic environment that we are experiencing today. The different types of risk include: credit risk, operational risk, market risk, investment risk, liquidity risk and model risk. The aim of this article is to focus on credit risk in investment management and financial services.

Credit risk is the probable risk of loss resulting from a borrower's failure to repay a loan or meet contractual obligations. It is the risk of default on a debt that arises when a

“The higher the credit exposure of an investment firm or financial firm, the higher the likelihood of credit default”



Lehman Brothers had to file for bankruptcy during the 2008 Global Financial Crisis// Linda Nylind/Guardian

borrower fails to make required payment. This implies a lender does not receive the owed principal and interest. This leads to a negative disruption in the lender's cash flows and increases costs of debt collection.

Three key components of credit risk are: counterparty risk, issuer risk and concentration risk. Counterparty risk is the risk associated with the risk that each party of a contract will not meet its contractual obligations. Issuer risk is the risk associated with the probability of loss resulting from the default of the issuer of the credit. Concentration risk is the risk arising from the concentration to a single counterparty, sector, country and/or industry. The key issues associated with credit risk includes: probability of default, loss given default, exposure at default, recovery rates, credit events, maturity, wrong way risk and non-performing credit asset.

Credit risk measurement and

reporting plays a vital role in credit risk management. Three commonly used techniques for assessing credit risk are: credit exposure; credit risk premium and credit rating. Credit exposure measures the total amount of credit extended to a borrower by a lender. The higher the credit exposure of an investment firm or financial firm, the higher the likelihood of credit default. Credit risk premium is the return in excess of the risk-free rate of return on a credit-based investment is expected to yield. Credit risk premium rewards an investor who tolerates extra risk. High risk credit-based asset attracts a higher credit risk premium. Credit rating is a credit score that reflects the likelihood of payment by a borrower. The higher the credit rating, the higher the likelihood of payment. The big three credit rating agencies are: Moody's, Standard & Poor and Fitch rating.

An effective credit risk policy is paramount and essential for modelling,

controlling and managing credit risk. The key stages of credit risk policy development recommended by Basel are: development, validation, approval, implementation, review and post-implementation monitoring. Credit risk can be effectively managed by using: a reliable credit scoring system; understanding financial, non-financial and extraordinary input factor to a firm; conducting robust stress testing, setting limits or caps to control risk; monitoring and tracking key risk statistics and key risk indicators and continuously carrying out internal and external credit audit. It is important to note that effective credit risk mitigation is also required. This involves having underwriting standards, guarantees, credit limits, netting, collateral, diversification, credit derivatives, credit default swaps, insurance and central counterparties.

The 2008 financial

crisis remains a prime example and a prime reminder of credit risk failure. There was a high default rate in the United States subprime home mortgages sector (mortgage-backed securities). On one hand, this was partly caused by deregulation in the financial industry which led banks to execute very risky derivatives trades. On the other hand, the credit

“Credit rating is a credit score that reflects the likelihood of payment by a borrower. The higher the credit rating, the higher the likelihood of payment”

failure was due to an extremely large appetite for banks to increase their profit margin at all cost. The result of the credit risk failure can be highlighted as follows:

1. Worst recession since the Great Depression
2. House prices in the US fell by 31.8%
3. 8.8 million jobs lost in the US
4. \$19.2 trillion lost household wealth
5. Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy
6. Global financial systems came to its knees

The role and sound practices of credit risk management and credit risk policy development in practice is complex and challenging. However, continuous and iterative credit risk management and credit risk policy development remains central and critical to the success of firms in investment management and financial services in an ever growing dynamic environment.



Hangman



Winter Wonderland // Geograph

Winter Wonderland not so Wonderful

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

Amidst all the Christmas cheer, NegaFelix reviews Winter Wonderland

This week Felix can exclusively report does not inspire that much wonder or is even

that wonderful. One student was left confused by the vast numbers of tourists flooding in to see something that is essentially the same every year. "What is there left to see? You can see photos of all the shit plastic facades anywhere on the internet, normally posted by some yummy mummy that can't quite afford to go to Lapland. Just use google maps idiots." Another said, "If I really wanted the experience of being surrounded by loads

of whiny twelve year olds, I'd just play fortnite. The added benefit is that I can yeet them without any legal consequences." Upon closer inspection by this correspondent the Wonder of Winterland was further eroded: the combination of cigarette ends, traces of vomit from over excited toddlers and the worryingly realistic yellow snow, significantly lessened the induced euphoria. This correspondent wonders exactly what kind of depraved psychopathy could have

produced such results at a family oriented facility: the close proximity of Imperial College London and opening after dark provide an immediate answer. Amongst the possible entertainment offered at this Wonderland of Winter was a Santa's grotto. It was mildly heart-warming for this correspondent to watch 6ft tall Imperial students sit on Santa's knee to Santa's obvious disappointment. A failure of CRB checks perhaps? Having asked a collection

of Imperial students what they were wishing for Christmas, one responded "a first," the next, "someone to love," and the final student, "something to keep me going." A poor imitation of the Wizard of Oz or a reflection on our interviewees: business, physics and mech eng respectively. Overall Winter Wonderland has disappointed many. Our Russian correspondent, Alexander Skribal provided this comprehensive review: "Not enough

bears and no magnificent Cathedral towers to climb up." It is understood that in response to this, Winter Wonderland will be updating the haunted house with the KGB experience. Just don't touch any of the doorknobs. In this correspondent's opinion, Wonder Winter Lander is certainly worth the visit if you're prepared to accept piss poor mulled wine, bucks fizz that tastes like piss and hot chocolate with piss in it. Or it could be baileys. One can never be sure with baileys.

HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

National Student Survey results prove a mixed bag for Imperial

HANGMAN

Felicity Felissy
Agony Aunt

Dear Felicity,

I am super unhappy. As a vegan, I am offended. Why does every advertised Christmas dinner feature a carcass? It's totally inconsiderate to me and every other morally superior vegan out there. Our

sensitivities just aren't respected or taken seriously.

I'm upset and unhappy and, as a vegan, I need you to do something about this. My veganism is very important to me. I just want to make it super crystal clear that I'm a vegan and this is about my veganism.

Yours,

Vee Gan

Dear Vee,

Unfortunately there is only so much you can change your surroundings. There is, however, more you can do to convince yourself things have already changed. I understand that, as a vegan, you have designed your own utoipa to live in and is a great shame others aren't going along with it, this is disappointing. How about engaging less with the wider world? That way you can make sure you only see what you want to. What I could do is make you some blinkers, or get you a

specific map of Tesco so you can avoid the aisles that will offend you. If that doesn't work, have you considered moving to California? Maybe Shoreditch?

Hope this helps!

All my love,

Felicity
xoxo



The safe way to advertise Christmas // The Home Depot



ARIES

Last week you were the universities minister. Life comes at you fast, and after one evening at Imperial you decide it's just not worth it. Felix 1 - Universities minister nil.



TAURUS

This week you take your platonic companion to winter wonderland. You leave without your hoodie. Cuffing season strikes again.



GEMINI

This week someone adds you as a "close friend" on instagram and you manage to keep your cool. Congratulations sis x



CANCER

This week you book a holiday and get ready to start telling people you "haven't even packed yet LOL!"



LEO

This week you have some deadlines. A mix of lack of time and poor organisation leave you a hysterical mess. It's ok, you can pass it off as the Christmas spirit.



VIRGO

This week you throw a christmas party. You're so inconsiderate, don't you know how cold it is outside? People have to get there AND pretend to have a good time. You should be ashamed.



LIBRA

This week you start your christmas shopping. You buy one gift for your cousin and about six for yourself. Tis the season?



SCORPIO

This week your music is played in the felix office. We lu u xoxo



SAGITTARIUS

This week you attempt to get veganism declared a religion. You succeed in proving yourself a pretentious cunt.



CAPRICORN

This week the Gast of Christmas past comes back to haunt you and the FBI are hot on your heels



AQUARIUS

This week you appeal your lab report mark. It kicks off at least a week of debate starting with question to whether the rubrik can be released.

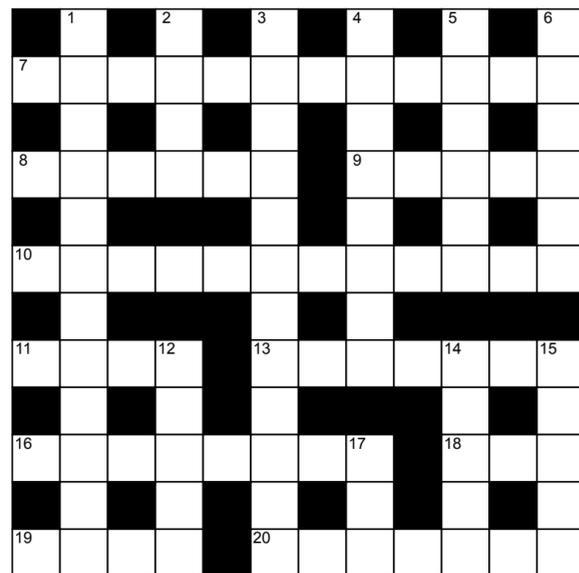


PISCES

This week you're struggling to decide what to get me for secret santa, but all I want for Christmas is EU.

PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk



Across

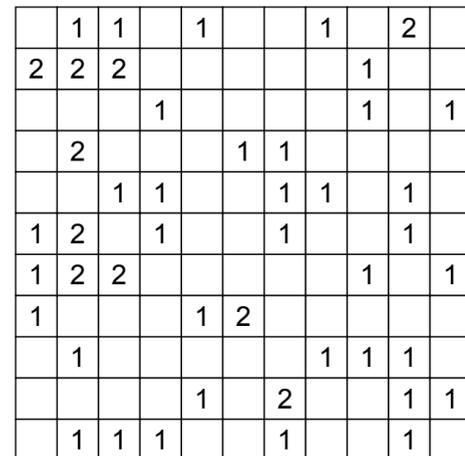
- 7. Almost twice as big as the EU (12)
- 8. C-shaped blade (6)
- 9. Elephant teeth (5)
- 10. Supplementary (12)
- 11. Blesses the rains down in Africa (4)
- 13. Acute (7)
- 16. Intimidating (8)
- 18. Company, but not a crowd (3)
- 19. Like, really really close (4)
- 20. Santa's bad list (7)

Down

- 1. Sweet warm drink (3,9)
- 2. Leave out (4)
- 3. Mornings on a digital clock (12)
- 4. Protects from car crashes (8)
- 5. Lots of people keep skeletons in there (6)
- 6. Tool for wood carving (6)
- 12. A 16th of a pound (5)
- 14. The flagship feature of the iPhone X (5)
- 15. A type of plastic (5)
- 17. Cousin to antelopes and goats (3)

MINESWEEPER

The number in a cell represents the number of mines adjacent to that square (up/down, left/right, diagonal). Find and mark all of the mines to clear the board.

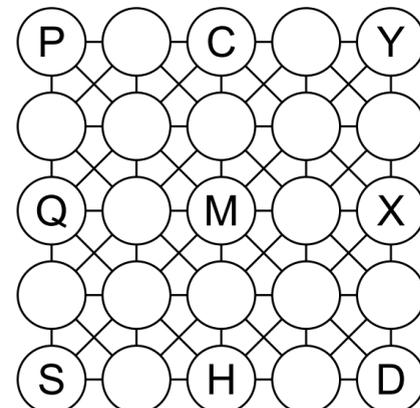


PUZZLES

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.



- BIN COAX
- DRAWINGS FOWL
- HEAVY JAM
- PIQUE TREKS

CRYPTIC SONG TITLES

Each line of emojis names a popular Christmas song. What are they?



FUCWIT

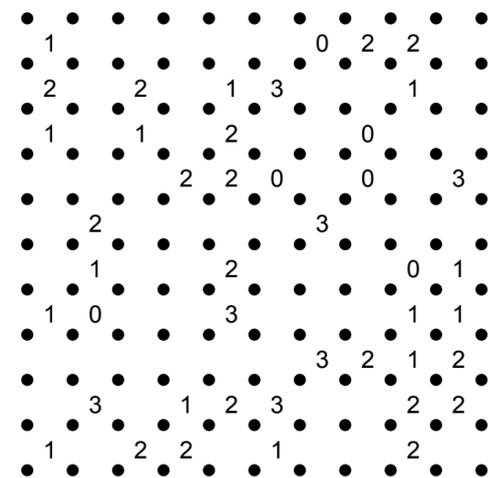
1	Maxiane	159
2	CHZYNo.1InMy<3	149
3	HoneybunnySnugglepuff	141
4	Luncheon Pals	138
5	Yeet Infection	136
6	DQ	134
7	Lunar Lunacy	124
32	Antonius	17
37	M.C. Potato	11

This edition marks the last round of the Autumn term leaderboard. The winners and full rankings will be published in the new year! Send your solutions to fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk before 2019 to take part in the final leaderboard!

BONUS PUZZLE (aren't we kind)
2 bonus points available if you figure out what the theme of this edition is, the significance of each individual puzzle to the overall theme, and name which puzzle is the odd one out. Happy holidays!

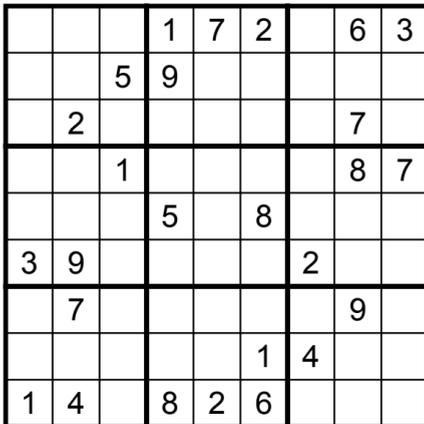
SLITHERLINK

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



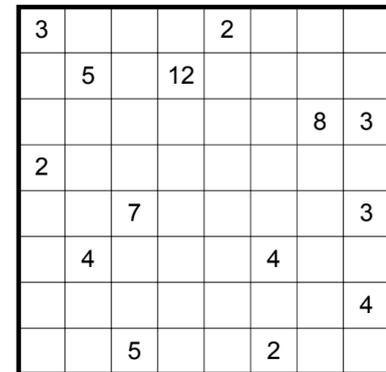
SUDOKU

Fill all the boxes with a number between 1 and 9. A number can only appear once in a row/column, and only once in each sub-box.



SHIKAKU

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

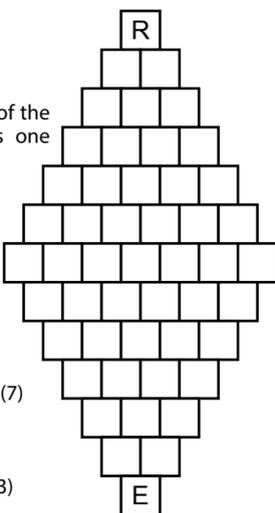


WORD PYRAMID

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

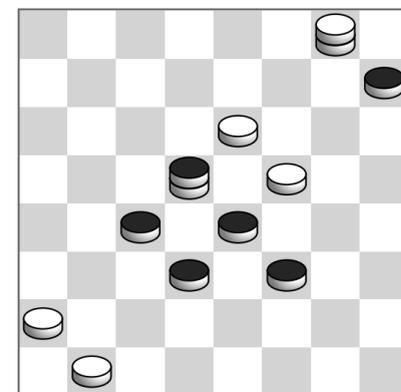
Clues, from top to bottom:

- A&E across the pond (2)
- Before (3)
- Lord or lady (4)
- Shopping frenzy (5)
- Annoy (6)
- Under the Christmas tree (7)
- Regret (6)
- Un-exit (5)
- Bauble holder (4)
- Piece of golf equipment (3)
- Mobile provider (2)



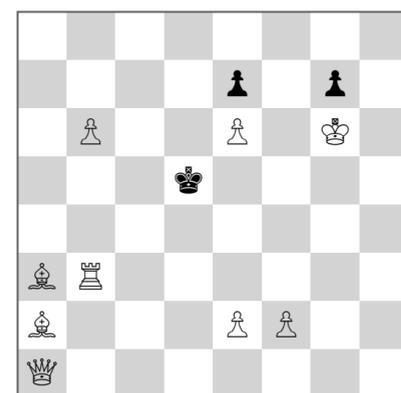
ENGLISH DRAUGHTS

White to move and win in 4 moves.



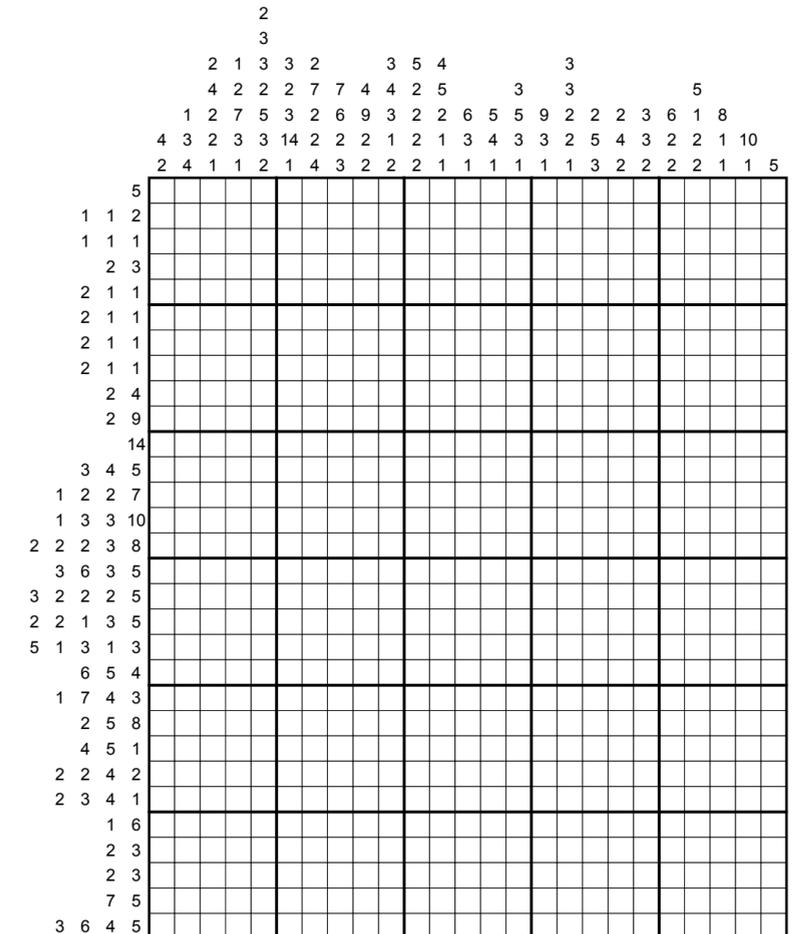
CHESS

White to move and checkmate in 2 moves.



NONOGRAM

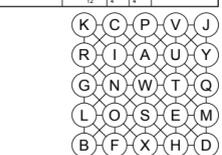
Colour in some of the squares to make a picture. Each number represents a block of consecutive black squares within that row/column. Each block needs to be separated by at least one white square.

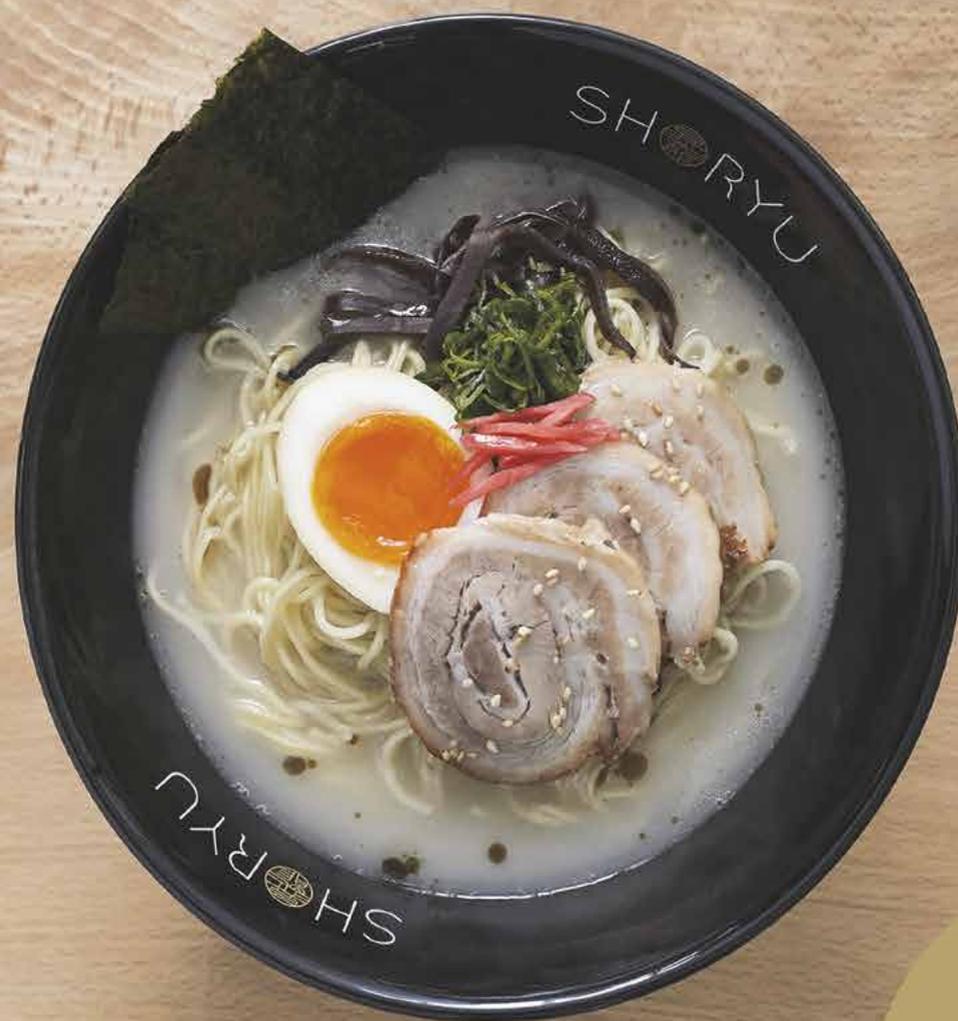


Points available

Crossword	5
Minesweeper	2
Slitherlink	3
Sudoku	3
Shikaku	2
Word pyramid	3
Spot the difference	3
Gogen	2
Draughts	2
Cryptic titles	2
Chess	1
Nonogram	4
Bonus puzzle	2
Total	34

Last week's solutions





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SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial Taekwondo returns successful in first of three national student Competitions

ICUTKD returns from the Autumn Championships with 13 medals and a deeper knowledge of their individual strengths and weaknesses

SPORTS

Sojin Park

ICUTKD Publicity Officer

Sunday 18th November saw 14 members of Imperial College Union Taekwondo (ICUTKD) competing in the nationwide Autumn Championships and London University Sports League (LUSL) in East London.

The team brought back three gold, three silver and seven bronze medals.

ICUTKD travelled as a team from Notting Hill Gate to Jean Brown Indoor Sports Arena at dawn for registration and weigh-in.

Regardless of level of experience everyone was nervous (and hungry).

After waiting in the team fort for what felt like hours, the competition began. It was time to show what they had prepared for weeks!

This was the first of three league national student taekwondo competitions for the academic year.

The scale of the competition had grown, newly consisting of World

Taekwondo (WT) and International Taekwondo Federation (ITF) patterns from this year.

In addition to this was the annual WT sparring.

Also new this year for the club was an exciting opportunity to take over the Imperial College Instagram account on the day.

With the team were four coaches and other students from the club, who supported each and every patterns performance and fights.

From the first poomsae there was a crowd of familiar faces cheering. Some highlights with outstanding performance in patterns came from Lucy Lei (silver), Andrew Bates (silver) and Cynthia Ho (bronze) from C class, and Wenbo Chen (bronze) and Bryan Chong (gold) from A class.

After a short break, there was an adrenaline rush as competition draws were up on the wall.

Once again, members gathered to cheer outside the ring for every kick thrown.

We were especially delighted to have the opportunity to enter ITF practitioners into the competitions.



ICUTKD competitors, volunteers, supporters and coaches in the Autumn Championships 2018 // ICUTKD

Wenbo Chen, Angela Sun, Fatima Khan and Savya Arggawal all brought back bronze medals.

Many fighters had more than one round and refuelled vigorously in breaks.

Nick Hyunh (gold) and Johnny Kim (gold) were exhausted by the end of the day, having won all three rounds.

Special thanks to Johnny who returned to compete as an alumnus representing Imperial.

Thomas Kloska (bronze), a beginner in taekwondo, competed in both WT poomsae and sparring.

Claire Tjokrowidjaja (bronze), competed in both ITF and WT sparring for the first time!

We applaud everyone in the club for competing regardless of gaining a medal.

Competing provides an amazing chance to learn about everyone's strengths and weaknesses, which are addressed in

further training.

Many thanks to club volunteers and to our coaches who spend extraordinarily large proportion of their time for us.

For readers who are unfamiliar to the amazing sports that is taekwondo,

“The team brought back three gold, three silver and seven bronze medals”

it is a Korean martial arts that has been a part of the Olympics since 2000.

Student competitions by British Student Taekwondo Federation (BSTF) are open to all students and alumni of all levels (A, B, C class), including all genders, background and experience.

Sparring is then categorised by gender and weight.

Points can be scored with kicks to the head, body and punches, with a bonus for spinning kicks.

A class WT sparring uses electronic equipment, as done in international competitions.

These are all under the careful supervision of the central referee and corner judges to guarantee fair scoring.

Historically, November was when the Imperial College Open (ICO) was held, which has been organised by ICUTKD from 2012. The aim was to introduce more taekwondo competitions in the academic year. ICO was the only national competition organised by students and started on our home ground in Ethos. The popularity grew exponentially.

After five years of successful consecutive student-led competitions, the BSTF stepped in to

help in 2017.

Now, what was ICO has been incorporated into a series of league championships.

Although we are no longer part of the organising team, we are proud to have reached our initial goal of expanding opportunities for students to compete.

ICUTKD was ranked 4th overall from the Autumn Championship out of 34 universities.

Every hour practising, training and controlling weight was worth it.

Next, we will travel to Nottingham on 17th February for another day of fierce competition.

We will do our best to continue training hard and representing our university.

Equally importantly, we will continue having fun, supporting each other and pushing ourselves to our limits!



Bryan Chong in WT poomsae finals // ICUTKD

SPORTS

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Imperial College Water Polo Make History For Both

Whilst the ICSWP Men's Water Polo Captain recounts (in surprising detail) his boys' impressive performance against Bristol, the Women's Water Polo Captain has plenty to say about how her girls have progressed this term with a review of a number of their matches over the past few weeks.

SPORTS

Ramon Fernandez
Men's Water Polo Captain

A couple of weeks ago, the water polo boys hopped on the 'banter' bus and headed to Bristol's pool. It not only has a reputation for being very yellow, but also for being the field of battle for a water polo team that has always ranked in the top 5 in the UK. In fact, Imperial's

Men's team had never won against Bristol. Our luck was no different that day and, after a very close match, we lost 10-9. We knew we could beat them. And this weekend was our best chance. On Saturday, we received them in our temple, Queen Elizabeth's School Swimming Pool in High Barnet, nicknamed the home of Water Polo. Bristol used all their intimidation techniques: got to the pool half an hour early, did their

synchronized-high-knees warm-up and slapped each other very hard before diving into the pool. Those tricks wouldn't work on us. We knew that despite their perfectly matching trunks, their nice water bottles and their glucose sachets; we were better than them and were ready to show it. The match starts. Will Moore receives the ball and with his magical left hand scores an amazing goal straight over the goalkeeper's head.

Even though this happened within the first two minutes, he had to sub himself out, completely out of breath after a wild night with the former ICSMWP president. Our latest signing, Joe Ortiz, scored another one and the narrator one more after a great pass from our keeper, Joe Ireland. 3-0 up and things were not looking good for Bristol. Somehow we got distracted and, all of a sudden, we were losing 6-7. It wasn't the time to give up. Suzy to Sasha, Sasha to Suzy, tiki-taka, joga bonito. Suzy panicked for a second there thinking that he wasn't wearing a hat and that his baldness would be finally revealed, but then he remembered that in water polo we wear hats, all calm. Ball to Sam Hanrahan on the counter attack (duh, of course he's on the

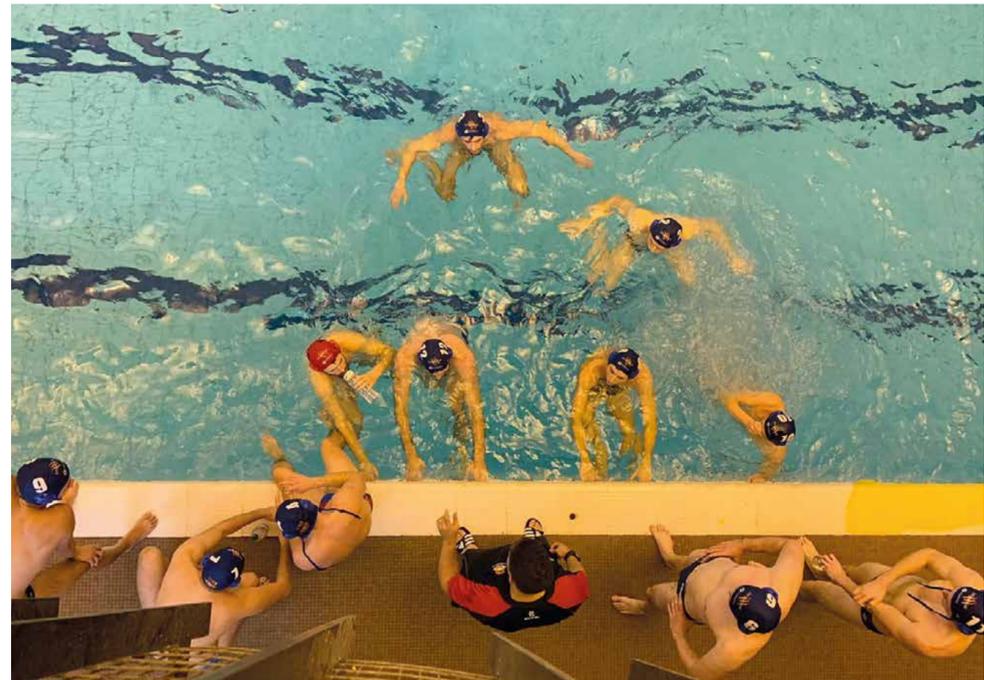


All smiles for the men after a change in fortunes // ICSWP

counterattack, he swims 50m in 24s). Sam looks to the middle and witnesses something incredible. Our other centre-forward, Laszlo Gero, a Hungarian superstar who weighs more than the whole team combined, was on the counter too! Ball goes to Laszlo who lobs the keeper with perfect technique scoring the equaliser. Later that day, Laszlo confessed that at the time he didn't realise that he was swimming very quickly, he thought that he was in Metric chasing a girl. With the match finely poised, we resorted to our special tactics. In defence, our centre-backs Leo Pashov and TJ wouldn't let their pit player score and MASSIVE TOBIAS would drown any opponent that dared to look at the goal. In attack, it was all about man-ups. Someone shouted "Frosties!" and, like a perfectly oiled machine, we all knew what to do and another goal came. One goal up and another man up. Someone shouted "Jacks!" and again, another goal. Two up, one minute to go. However, Bristol

"For the first time in history, the Imperial Men's team beat Bristol"

wouldn't make things easy for us, with some extra energy from their glucose pouches, they scored a cheeky backshot and they were back to within 1 goal, 9-8. 17 seconds to the end of the match, tensions building. We had the ball. Bristol desperately tried to force a penalty, hoping to get possession after a potential miss. However, it appears they had failed to read an up-to-date rule book before the game; the rules had been changed a few years ago and we could choose to simply keep playing. Unlucky. We kept the ball till the end and, for the first time in history, the Imperial men's team beat Bristol! There were lots of tears, but of course, everyone used the high percentage of chlorine as an excuse... Big shoutout to our coach, Adam Walzer, who made this possible after years of hard work.



A rare ariel view of a crucial team talk for the men's squad // Lia Trimarchi

SPORTS

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Men's and Women's Teams

SPORTS

Laura Bevis
Women's Water Polo Captain

After a sickening 30-3 defeat in the away game that left them shaking (literally), the IC girls skipped merrily along to High Barnet with little expectation from Saturday's game other than to have a nice time and not get as destroyed as last time they played the Bristol women. After a quick warm-up consisting of just walking into the humid conditions of QE, Barnet, the top team in the league took the first goal of the match (not us). But plot twist. Orsina Dessi wasn't having any of that and stole the second goal of the game for IC.

shoot, so casually dropped in another one, while the rest of the team had a lovely time annoying the opposition by stopping all of their goals. So far, so good. Bristol were only winning 6-2. But IC wanted some goals, and it all went down in the last quarter. Swimmer turned polo-er Georgina Powell realised that if she kept swimming towards the goal, she would get closer to the goal, and with two incredible assists from newbie Daisy Ellis this led to two more goals for IC. 10-4 to Bristol. But wait, there's 5 seconds left on the clock, they have the ball, and there's been no goal from la Capitana... she was absolutely not having that. A cheeky steal from Bristol and a quick sprint for the goal with 3 seconds to go... she shoots... she SCOOORES with 2 seconds on the clock. A WIN FOR IC! Oh no wait they lost 10-5, but it felt like they

"A WIN FOR IC! Oh no wait they lost 10-5, but it felt like they had won"



The team leap into the Serpentine // ICSWP



The women's team poses with a small, inflatable, fire-breathing dragon // ICSWP

had won. They were hyped and ready to face Bath the next day. The last time Bath saw the IC girls, they were young and innocent, in their third week of term and for some of them, only in their first or second week of polo. They came all the way from their little pool in Ethos to find themselves literally out of their depth in Bath's enormous pool and had their first glimpse of the opposition. Their warrior-esque face paint surely would have intimidated the newbie IC girls if they weren't already bricking it at the fact that they wouldn't be able to stand and have a rest in the shallow end. IC gave it their best shot and came away with a 20-8 loss. This Sunday it was IC's turn to host. Little did Bath know, the IC girls had grown

strong. The bruises from training were worth it - the innocent newbies had blossomed into experienced polo-ers, and they were ready and excited to destroy Bath. The opposition was left ShOoK after IC set up a perfect opportunity for centre-forward Liina Jukko and scored after only 26 seconds! The girls decided that even that wasn't good enough, and in a record time of 23 seconds later, IC took the second goal. Seeing the blue smudges running down the faces of the opposition as well as the 4-0 score after the first quarter was enough to satisfy IC that this one was theirs. But Bath wasn't giving up. The excitement of the first quarter led to a few tactical errors from the IC team, including forgetting that they were whites and passing to the wrong

team. Bath managed to sneak in 4 goals. Luckily our girls weren't far behind. With a beautiful shot from leftie Maria Medeiros and two incredible counters from Maria Pitteri, they were still up 9-4 at half time. The third quarter was owned by Georjie Powell with a repeat of her flawless performance to the questionable levels of chlorine, pretty much nothing at all happened. Little did everyone know, the IC goalie Nastya Kolesnikova has super strength and chlorine resistant eyeballs and was able to put in the performance of a century, saving not just 1, not 2, but 3 one-on-one shots IN A ROW. Absolutely outrageous. After the longest quarter in history with no substitutions, time-outs or goals - even after some very desperate counters from the captain - it was finally over. IC had won 12-5. With another win last weekend against Birmingham and a draw against Cambridge, the IC girls are looking seriously strong this year and are now enjoying a well-deserved break before their final two games next term. Watch this space.

"In a record time of 23 seconds, IC took the second goal"

SPORTS

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Triathlon gives BUCS Duathlon a 'tri'

SPORTS

Amy Devila

Triathlon Secretary

Sunrise came. The sun was finally shining, giving relief to a week of grim weather.

It was BUCS duathlon.

The biggest race in the duathlon calendar.

A season finale.

The challenge? A 2 mile run, followed by a 10 mile bike, and then another 2 mile run.

Nice.

With an air of excitement, the team travelled down to Castle Coombe racing circuit in Bath.

After hours of Ed² chat from the two Eds, the team was relieved to finally arrive at the course.

The squad spent the remaining time sorting out pre-race plaits, matching wheel to bike and admiring the TT bikes

that were almost certainly going to lap them.

Before long the gun went and they were off - the 'elite' men.

Within, our very own Romain, Ethan, and Ed Clark set the bar high.

With the front of the pack completing the 2 mile - 1 lap - run in under 9:30, they were already in full aero gear pacing it round on the bike in a blink of an eye.

This was where our own strengths shone through - with Romain coming in the top 30 for the bike leg.

Then as soon as they had begun they were striding through the final run chasing down the rest of the field.

Swiftly following the men, the 'elite' women set off, featuring much-loved alumna member Millie.

The wind was picking up meaning for half the bike lap one would feel lightning quick and for the

the other half one would "look like you were just pedalling static."

In spite of this, the team emerged strongly with everyone coming in within an hour and improving on last year's times!

The final mixed race of the day provided excellent performances all-round to finish off an already amazing day, with seasoned Imperial triathletes like Ema and new club freshers showing how it's done.

Shoutout to Ed for not only driving us there and back despite being injured but also for capturing some beautiful and photogenic action shots of these moments along with David Ho - Instagram anyone?

The day topped off by the eating of countless cakes and treats brought along by the team.

Turns out Triathlon will cycle for cake - who knew.



15 rather happy duathletes //ICTri



16 rather happy athletes //ICXCAC

Cross country gives in-doors athletics a try

SPORTS

Fergus Johnson

ICXCAC Captain

This week Cross Country & Athletics ditched muddy hills to tackle some faster terrain - an indoor athletics track.

The state-of-the-art Lee Valley Athletics Centre is situated amidst a desolate wasteland in the far reaches of north London. After meeting at Beit Quad to collect some of the famous navy and blue running vests, the squad made the arduous journey via two tube lines, an overground and a bus.

Imperial was packed with a strong team consisting of everything - sprinters, throwers, jumpers and distance athletes.

In the men's team, the highlights came in the middle distance events, where club-favourite James Millett took on both the 800m and the 1500m.

In an exhilarating 800m race in which he was leading the way for a good portion of the 4

laps, he narrowly missed out on a medal after being outsprinted by the LSE and Barts athletes, and finished in 2:03.94.

Undeterred and determined to bounce back in the longer 1500m - his favourite event - Millett went one better than last year to scoop a silver medal in a fantastic time of 4:15.17.

The star of the day was on the women's side, with Kate Olding bringing home two golds and retaining a rather large 800m trophy for the two middle distance events.

She ran two masterfully tactical races, turning up the pace in the final laps to finish a huge 8 seconds clear in the 800m and 5 seconds clear of teammate Steph Hewitt in the 1500m.

Steph also comfortably brought home the silver in the 3000m - an impressive feat after racing in the two longest races of the day.

There was a number of stand-out performances from some first-years, with orienteering scholar Mihaly Ormay coming 11th and 12th in the 1500m

and 3000m respectively.

Also doing it for the freshers was Alix Vermeulen who came an impressive 6th in the women's 1500m and 14th in the long jump. Fellow women's fresher Nina Rinsky came 10th in the 3000m.

Taking home the 6th and final Imperial medal of the day was Marta Van Ginkel Gonzalez, who leapt 9.36m in the triple jump.

Imperial ended the track events on a high, with top sprinter Mahmoud Barrie winning the infamous Mascot Race by out-sprinting a griffin, polar bear, giant man and a cow being milked

Overall, Imperial finished an impressive 4th out of the 15 teams in the LUCA Championships.

The competition continued at a joint social with a number of other London colleges, where there were very many games of beer pong.

It transpired that Imperial is stronger on the athletics track than at throwing table tennis balls into red cups of beer!