

EDITORIAL

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Centrefold // Taja Strle

The Changing Attitude

Henry Alman – Felix Editor



It is not a secret that there is an issue with satisfaction at Imperial. The most oft-quoted metric of this are the National Student Survey scores for student satisfaction – naturally, Imperial students tend to the quantitative data first. Scores have fallen to a startling degree over the past several years, starting most notably in 2015.

I do try not to fear that this is because I joined the College in the 2014-2015 year, and thus brought doom and gloom upon you all. My slightly narcissistic, reptilian brain can't quite shake the feeling.

Of course, the evidence is perhaps more obvious in the qualitative sense. The jokes we make, the IC Exposed posts – they're relentlessly negative. Mental health breakdowns have become a norm, to the extent that it's topical enough for us to use humour to bear the tragedy. That's always a good marker for an issue being endemic – when it's a reference made off-handedly; when the lore of humour around it starts to become complex and take on a life of its own. It's when you make meta-memes about it. It's intrinsic at that stage. We have long since surpassed that point.

Even as someone who is no longer a student, and as someone who gets asked if they're "all right" about 12 times a day, I'm fairly sure I've given the same half-joking response every time for the past several weeks: "oh, surviving." Nobody questions it – they laugh, or give a knowing smile that speaks not of sympathy, but of empathy. "Me too," it says. "I get that feeling."

I don't think there could be a clearer sign of the problem – no, not even a statistical one drawn

on a pretty graph. It's been the same since I got here. We're quite a tame university in many ways, such that our social hazing of new entrants doesn't take the American fraternity-esque overtone of ridiculous and humiliating tasks, but rather unnerving them with assurances that their mental health is soon to collapse.

That's not normal. That shouldn't be so common as to become a community ritual, as our own trial-by-fire upon entrance to the university. But it is.

What's rapidly changing, it appears, is the College's interpretation and response. This comes as a surprise to older students, who generally feel very entrenched at this point in the view that the College does not care about them. Perhaps my brief and extremely scientifically valid survey of the Felix office is more biased than the most p-hacked of papers in the 'Journal of Advanced Journalology', but I still feel it valid – I feel that the feedback is consistent no matter who I talk to.

But undeniably it is happening. New buzzwords abound. My favourite is "holistic"; a close second is "inter-linked". It is evident in the thinking of both the

College and the Union. It is, in fact, becoming endemic in itself. Maybe having such deeply-embedded thinking shaping every decision in a unilateral way is the more fundamental underlying problem, but I'll take this over what existed before.

Everyone I interview seems energised. Tired, often, but energised. This is, to a large extent, a renaissance in College attitudes and approaches. The idea that problems are not isolated to individual people, departments, or faculties, but are sourced in the atmosphere and experience of simply being at the College, seems to be genuinely new.

It's the result of hitting a crux point, a catalyst moment. The renewal of the directing Strategies of the College have intersected with a student body that is finally sick to the back teeth and becoming a little more vocal. They elected Union sabbatical officers with a fair bit of fire and backbone, who have already announced ambitious plans to renegotiate rent and tackle big structural decision-making issues. For Imperial students, characteristically quiet and with the stiffest upper lips known the mankind, this is equivalent to screaming aloud.

And so we see what appears to be a genuine dedication to change; to shake things up; to fund and invest and support the innovative. I've been genuinely surprised in my interactions with people across the College, especially at the level of upper management, given I am part of the corrupted 'golden oldies' who joined a few years ago and have been taught to be disheartened.

This week, we spoke to the two staff members running Chemical Kitchen, an off-the-wall idea that flies in the face of traditional teaching perspectives. We ran a double spread in the freshers' issue about the development of a high-tech and interactive 'active learning' space in Blackett. We won't shut the hell up about the move to White City and what that means and entails. Everywhere I look for news around the College, these themes pop up – it's about change, growth, throwing out the old.

I do wonder if this is a reflection, in some ways, of the UK voting for Brexit – which, whether you agree or disagree with it, can almost surely be referred to as a "protest vote" in response to the utter stagnancy of British politics prior. I'd argue that Donald Trump's election in the US was a similar phenomenon. It's a lurching away from the status quo. Our little Imperial community, at every level, is doing the same thing – rubber-banding away from what existed before. 'We are not happy, and we need to change things.'

I see this as needed, but I am concerned that in the fervour not enough consideration of future ramifications is being given. That may be a topic for another editorial, but this is my hot take of the week.



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College Reveals Academic Strategy 2020-2025

The College has developed and revealed its Academic Strategy for the next five years, which contains details of the direction of their decisions and investment at the strategic level

NEWS

Henry Alman
Editor-in-Chief

The Academic Strategy (AS) for the next five years has recently been unveiled by the College after a long development cycle. The Strategy will be used to inform the direction the College will take with regards to investing in new spaces, curriculum review, research foci, and more.

It builds upon the broader College Strategy, which identifies the overall mission of the College as an institution, by providing more concrete direction in terms of what it refers to as themes and capabilities.

As the Provost, Professor Ian Walmsley FRS, described it: “the themes are intended to recognise areas where the college has strengths or can see how to build strengths, where the college can see that it can make an impact, and ways in which it would go about delivering that impact.”

The areas affected by the Strategy are broad, encompassing staff and student experience. For example, the Strategy’s outlook on societal impact touches on researchers by guiding projects towards particular applied foci, or students via support for entrepreneurial activity. Most directly, it influences the decisions of the Provost’s Board to provide funding and support by proposed projects – whether they successfully align with the AS will be carefully considered as each moves

through a “three-gateway” process of assessment.

It was developed via meetings with Faculty Deans, each of which presented their own strategies and vision, as well as Heads of Department, followed by rounds of discussion and consultation both from staff within departments and with students.

The AS identifies four themes: Sustainable Society (e.g. energy and manufacturing), Healthy Society (e.g. disease prevention), Smart Society (e.g. data science and machine learning), and Resilient Society (e.g. infrastructure.) Each of these will not exist in isolation, but instead have interlinking sub-themes, in line with a core goal of transdisciplinary research – which is one of the four main capabilities of the College identified within the AS, alongside quantitative research, entrepreneurial spirit, and engagement on the local, national, and regional level.

Ian identified that the way Imperial remains world-leading is by stimulating the “intellectual vibrancy” of the College, and that transdisciplinary research will play a large part in that. A large part of the College’s dedication to this is focused on the White City campus currently being developed – which offers opportunity for new spaces, fit-for-use in the 21st century, to be constructed with this type of research in mind. The space then vacated in South Kensington can be repurposed to further support this shift in style and perspective – such as the transformation of the Chemistry building into a

multidisciplinary teaching hub.

One issue identified with this is that, further down the line, new fields may develop which require departments relocated to White City – two miles away – and departments still in South Kensington to co-operate. In this sense, barriers may be constructed to transdisciplinary research. Ian, however, remains highly optimistic:

“Firstly - I would hope that in 30 years, the mix of disciplines we have at the university has changed - it's a vibrant and living entity, so that's bound to happen. As for how to avoid the problem, take bioengineering as an example. They have a footprint in White City and also one in South Kensington – so people will have to talk across campuses internally, but also their footprints in each location allow them to talk to a variety of departments across campuses. I can imagine that having those communities now connected that way provides new opportunity.”

The AS is but one of multiple strategies the College employs to explain and drive its vision forward. For example, the Learning and Teaching Strategy, which encompasses pedagogy and curriculum structure. Each of these Strategies is, Ian said, intended to fit together like a “jigsaw” – each one informing the others. He gave the example of projects under the Estates Strategy, which would typically have more concrete goals, and how they feed into higher-level people- and ideology-focused



Ian Walmsley, the Provost, who leads on the Academic Strategy // Fergus Burnett

strategies like the AS or College Strategy.

“We have lots of projects we'd like to do, ranging from delivering a multidisciplinary teaching hub in the Chemistry building here [in South Kensington], to student study and social spaces around College, new research buildings at White City, and so on. The way we prioritise those Estates pieces should also reflect the priorities of the Academic Strategy. The intention is that these strategies all fit together.”

This type of thinking – both in terms of emphasising research across departments and interlinking different strategies – is reflected in the AS’ vision for the student experience.

It, too, uses the buzzword of “holistic” experience that has become a staple of both College and Union communications. The new perspective follows from low NSS scores in recent years, which have been recognised as broader College issues rather than localised to departments or faculties. As Ian explained it:

“There were many things one could see were more fragmented than they might be, and maybe drove us to decisions that didn't take into account all of the aspects and ramifications of those decisions. So ensuring that was minimised was a key part for me of thinking about this part of the Strategy. Many problems are an issue for

the whole College, not for just one or two people, so we need to make sure that is brought together. Part of it is finding out where people in the College have succeeded, and how we can then utilise and share that with other parts of the College – joining up those ideas.”

Within the strategy’s structure are several working groups – one for each theme, and one for student experience. All of them feature staff, but also student representatives selected in conjunction with the Union. The goal is to draw on these “community leaders” to reach out to students, and to draw on their individual expertise and knowledge.

NEWS

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Chemical Kitchen: Leading the Charge on Innovation

First year Chemistry students have been introduced to laboratory work this year via an unexpected medium: cooking and the kitchen

NEWS

Isabelle Zhang

News Writer

Chemical Kitchen, a new course rolled out within the Department of Chemistry, aims to introduce students to laboratory skills and practical experience via a more approachable and unconventional method. In groups of fifteen at a time, students spend three hours a day for three days in a newly renovated kitchen space in the Sir Ernst Chain Building, working on lab skills in a relaxed atmosphere, wearing aprons instead of lab coats, and working with food instead of synthetic chemicals.

In assigned groups of three, students follow a simple protocol to make cheese or tofu using coagulating agents and filtration on the first day,

“They have a chance to funnel creativity into the dish they create on the last day - no two plates are the same”

design an experiment to find the optimal method and temperature needed to cook egg yolks in a specific way on the second day, and on the last day

make a plated dish using molecular gastronomy ingredients such as xanthan gum and alginate to create garnishes. Throughout the process they practice skills such as measuring and recording observations or calculating yields, use chemical glassware and apparatus, and learn molecular gastronomy techniques like spherification. But they also have the chance to funnel creativity into the dish they choose to create on the last day, so that no two groups end up with identical plates.

“Whether you want to be a chemist or a chef, skills such as meticulous planning and detailed observation and recording are vital,” said Alan Spivey, Assistant Provost (Learning & Teaching). This was the key inspiration for the course: taking advantage of the overlapping skills between working in a kitchen and a laboratory to teach students the soft skills involved in chemistry.

Students coming into Imperial have varying levels of lab experience and confidence in lab work. Chemical Kitchen aims to level the playing field by providing an opportunity for all students to familiarise themselves with the ‘thinking and doing’ involved in experiments, under the guise of a kitchen environment. The focus isn’t about the exact technical skills involved, but rather students’ deeper appreciation of why things are done the way they are done. In this unpressured environment, students come to understand why their workspace in labs should be kept tidy, how to take lab notes throughout the experiment and what

to record, why instructions should be followed closely, how to manage their time, and more. With food, there is an immediate visible impact of their actions on the results.

Chemical Kitchen isn’t just a standalone part of the course. The skills taught are relevant to the chemistry education the department wants to deliver, in that the experience of creating something in the kitchen bears resemblance to the synthetic chemistry labs students will eventually do. Accordingly, the three days spent at Chemical Kitchen are followed by two days of the very first synthetic chemistry labs for Y1 students. Whilst students receive feedback on the lab notes the produce during Chemical Kitchen, their first summative assessment on lab notes will be from the synthetic chemistry labs that follow. This is an approach embraced during the chemistry curriculum review – that students should receive feedback on a task before being assessed on it.

Recrystallisation using a Buchner funnel is one such technique that students will come across multiple times in synthetic chemistry labs, but may have their first encounter with through Chemical Kitchen.

The idea for the course was born out of the recognition that the skills an undergraduate chemist should have overlap with the skills a chef may have. One of the people who recognised this was Jozef Youssef, Chef Patron and founder of Kitchen Theory, a multisensory design studio which (among other activities)

investigates how our senses detect factors like colour and symmetry to influence our enjoyment of food. He helped to develop the recipes used in the lab. From Imperial, Professor Roger Knee-bone from the Imperial College Centre for Engagement and Simulation Science, Assistant Provost Professor Alan Spivey, Teaching Fellow Dr Luke Delmas, and Culinary Education Designer Dr Jakub Radzikowski helped to push through the course’s implementation under the umbrella of the curriculum review.

In particular, Luke and Jakub spent the summer carefully designing the activities such that they successfully deliver the learning outcomes they had in mind: for students to practice meticulous techniques, plan and perform simple experiments, and more. As they explain it, “it’s the same chemistry skills but

putting a different kind of face on it – so they don’t feel like they have to be experts. A student may be happy saying ‘I’m not good at cooking’, but saying ‘I’m not good at chemistry’ probably leaves them feeling more vulnerable. Chemical Kitchen is serious but not serious chemistry, so we think that students would feel more comfortable and confident.”

They said that the initially zany-seeming idea was met at first with

“It’s the same chemistry skills but with a new face, so students feel comfortable being unsure or vulnerable”

positivity from students, but a more mixed response from staff.

“Many were kind of dismissive,” said Jakub, “but I don’t see why. It’s on a small scale right now, and if there is a chance that it will improve the student experience and make them better scientists, I think it’s worth trying.”

Luke explained that it’s because introducing new methods can seem like an implied criticism of old styles, though once exposed to innovation many staff change their minds – a sentiment that Professor Simone Buitendijk, the Vice Provost (Education) and head of the Learning and Teaching Strategy (LTS), agreed with.

“Older methods weren’t bad, it’s just that times are changing and we know of more efficient methods now. Some of it is, for example, due to technological advances. The data we have from



A dish created by students during Chemical Kitchen // Thomas Angus

NEWS

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universities such as Cornell and Stanford is really promising in that it shows that both staff and students have more fun teaching and learning with a more interactive and innovative style.”

One example of technological changes being integrated into Chemical Kitchen is the use of electronic lab books (specifically, ELN), replacing the traditional pen-and-paper method. This allows students to use pictures and video to note changes, as well as having a lab book that follows them between lab cycles.

Simone also said that her initial reaction was excitement, and, most of all, faith in innovators. “It was a really well thought-out proposal, and some of our top professors like Alan Spivey and Roger Kneebone were involved in that. If they can get excited about it, I think it’s

worth trying – sometimes you have to take risks and see how far you get.”

Chemical Kitchen, it is worth noting, is not funded by the department. Instead, it is funded and developed through the aforementioned LTS – a College-level strategy that dictates the vision and direction for investment and development of innovative new teaching. A big part of that, Simone says, is bringing together individual pioneers like those who came up with Chemical Kitchen – and giving them “strategy, budget, and support,

“The success of the project really relied upon Student shapers input”

rather than having them feel isolated.”

To that end, and to facilitate the launch, a space in the Sir Ernst Chain Building was stripped back and refurbished into a suitable kitchen area over summer, textbooks and ebooks were bought and stocked in the library, and students from the StudentShapers program co-developed the course in what Luke described as an “authentic staff-student partnership”. He continued: “the success of the project really relied on their input; they did a lot more than just fine-tune.”

There is a possibility of the lab being tailored for use in other departments in the future, and the course may also be offered to students from other departments through the I-Explore program – though the current focus remains on successfully seeing through the first



A student participating in Chemical Kitchen // Thomas Angus

cohort of this pilot. There are “penciled-in” plans for a showcase in Spring that demonstrates the benefits and outcomes of this course. This sort of cross-department and multidisciplinary

approach is a focus of the LTS – regardless of the financial structures behind them.

“Even if they’re financially tied to a department, we want it to be normal to work with

other departments as well. Projects like I-Explore are another example,” Simone elaborated.

Chemistry Introduces Roxy the Therapy Dog

NEWS

Henry Alman

Editor-in-Chief

The Chemistry department has introduced weekly sessions with a therapy dog this term, in conjunction with the charity Therapy Dogs Nationwide, as one of a set of new wellbeing initiatives.

Originally, the suggestion for a ‘dog day’ was requested by students and reps, but the department felt that regular sessions would benefit students much more than a one-off event. They organised the weekly sessions – three a month in South Kensington and one in White City – as a response, which began in August during the resit examinations and launched fully during

Welcome Week.

Sessions last around fifteen minutes with up to four students, meaning Roxy usually sees up to 50 students each time she visits. The appointments are offered to undergraduate students, but staff and postgraduates in White City also regularly drop in.

The benefits of pet therapy have been well-documented in hospitals, as a method of relieving stress, encouraging physical activity, and as a boon to mental health. Small group sessions also encourage open and relaxed social engagements between students. Student feedback has noted that many miss pets at home, and visits with Roxy alleviate homesickness. Several students have visited regularly in a bid to teach Roxy new tricks.

Feedback thus far has included a wealth of positive statements from students. Examples from third years include “she’s the most wonderful dog”, “favourite member of the department”, “she’s a good dog and deserves more treats”, and “she needs to come to uni more!”, as gathered by wellbeing departmental representative Angharad Smith.

Amelia Barron, the Student Experience Officer in the department, said that there has been interest from wellbeing officers in other departments after she shared Chemistry’s plans and subsequent experience via an inter-departmental network of people in similar roles – which may lead to therapy dog sessions in other departments.

The initiative is one in a

range being trialled by the Chemistry department, in a sincere effort to revitalise student satisfaction. Amelia said that “We are already getting positive feedback on this but we can and will continue to strive to do more. The voice of our students and their wellbeing drives what we do and we will continue to do everything we can to make the student experience as special as possible.”

Other new initiatives include increased wellbeing-related posts on social media via Twitter and Instagram, ‘ActiviTea’ sessions which get students relaxing with simple tasks while enjoying tea and a chat, and ‘ChemUnity’ lunches which bring students from all years to eat with key members of undergraduate staff. First years also now go bowling with personal

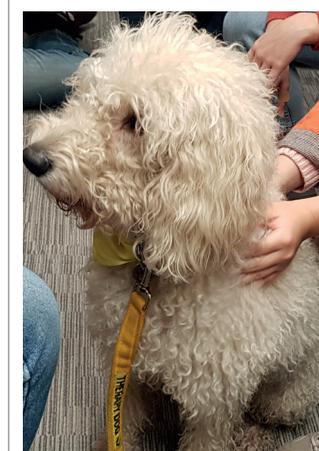
tutors in Welcome Week, and similar sessions are set up for third and fourth years later in the term.

The results so far seem to be making a large impact on student sentiment – Francesca Wittmann, a 3rd year Chemistry wellbeing rep, gave glowing praise to the department.

“Of course there will always be stressful times at Imperial and the extent to which individual students feel it varies greatly. I think the department is very aware of this and does a great deal to try and help us all through it. From what I have been hearing from talking to my peers, they have been very positive about changes made over the summer to the way courses are run, and they feel that the department is listening to them.”

She feels that the

continued low NSS scores are the result of the ‘delayed effect’ – NSS is filled out by final-year students, so the effect of changes being rolled out often are not reflected in NSS for three or more subsequent years. This was a thought echoed by the Union’s Deputy President (Education), Ashley Brooks, during an interview with Felix earlier in the year.



Roxy // IC Chemistry

A CONVERSATION WITH...

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This week, Felix sat down with the Deputy President (Clubs and Societies), Thomas Fernandez-Debets, to talk about space, room bookings, Ethos, White City, and more



Tom Fernandez-Debets, the Deputy President (Clubs and Societies)

//ICU

Felix: Talk to us about room bookings – there have been issues!

Tom: It's not a secret to say the activities team is nonexistent – we have a Student Activities Manager, and a person working on minibuses but she's moving to a new team next week. We should have three coordinators but just don't; they left all at the same time. The new roles are out for recruitment now, and one of those shut yesterday for which we will be doing interviews soon – but with notice, those new roles won't be starting until mid-December, and

then with training them we might be into second term before things come together.

The Union needs to look into room bookings; it's causing stress on staff members and CSPs, and it's been identified as a problem for a long time. At the moment, the Events and Conference team from College have been going through the backlog of bookings and I believe are about caught up – we have an agreement with them. But it does raise fundamental questions about who should be doing it – do we, with our current structure, have the

capacity to deliver the service we want to deliver to CSPs?

Additionally, as part of my role I sit on the Space Steering Group (SSG) which brings in people from different departments like timetabling and IT and is chaired by Chris Banks – who is Assistant Provost (Space) and Director of Library Services. Room booking is a topic on their agenda, as everyone wants to book rooms for exams and lectures and activities. They're finally getting to the bottom of it, and Chris has been doing good work with her teams,

putting in place tools that adequately address staff or student needs.

The big issue we have at Imperial is that everything is very modular between departments and such, where each one has ownership of their own space and has their own individual databases for bookings. Those are now bringing bought together, which is a huge project and has been being worked on over two years.

Felix: So the SSG have people working on unifying the databases, or are they the 'vision people' determining how it needs to be done?

Tom: The latter – it's a project management group. If any projects are falling behind then they get flagged and what they need gets discussed (e.g. finances, support.) We look at how new projects fit in with ongoing ones, how they fit in the bigger picture for different departments, and improving the use of space and space-sharing across the College's different campuses. The way it works right now ridiculous; you have different systems for everything.

Space-sharing wise, a lot of departments have their own rooms and don't want to share them, but obviously it works better if someone has a space not being used that's fit for another's purpose. The projects are trying to address this problem, this isolation of individual departments, and doing so with facts and data – there's a big piece right now around data collection in terms of space usage, on top of merging systems together.

Felix: You talked

about who should have responsibility for room bookings where. Currently College have taken over your backlog of room bookings – how's that moving forward, would the College be taking over bookings even in the Union building?

Tom: We just handed over their own rooms to College – I think we still manage our own space. Before the loss of staff, we had Hannah Hart doing it for Union and College buildings. We have privileges and rights for usage of space within the Union building, but we have to follow agreements with College about their space – for some rooms we can use them whenever we want over the weekend, for example, whereas for others we need to ask permission from building managers. But Hannah has left, and the loss of knowledge hits hard. The silver lining is that her being so good at it hid a lot of fundamental issues in the background, and now we can see those and take a look at what it requires in terms of time and resource and CSP engagement. It's really informative for looking ahead and at how that team works. In my Union Council report, I talked about mapping out our operations and getting a better understanding of how our team works, because currently I think none of us really understand it – we're too reliant on individuals, rather than processes that are robust and reliable over time and systems to review those over time.

As always, manifestos are one thing – but you come into the role and there's always a lot more to focus on and deal with.

Felix: What have you been working on from your manifesto?

Tom: Looking at training has been one, specifically for CSP officers, academic reps, and so on. It's becoming a much bigger project in terms of developing a training strategy, and looking at how knowledge will always sit with the Activities and Education & Representation teams, as well as how the Student Development team can help to build the frameworks and work on delivery of training and own that side of things. It's not about the content, but how teams in the Union can support and facilitate that.

Felix: Your predecessor, James, worked all year really hard on a new room booking system – the digital side of it. That was meant to speed things up, but hasn't – partially because of staffing issues, true, but it wasn't enough to solve the problems.

Tom: I agree with that – there's things that need to be done at the SSG level to improve the efficiency of processes. What James designed is incredible and will help in the longer term. This is a new system, just being rolled out too, so we perhaps haven't used it to its maximum potential yet. It will be interesting to see how it fits in with other projects being done at the College – especially as it could, in future, allow certain things to be automated rather than manual.

Felix: Recruiting the new coordinators, while also reassessing how the roles and teams should work. How do you plan to address the conflict between need for people in the team now, but also

A CONVERSATION WITH...

felix@imperial.ac.uk

the potential need to change those roles very shortly after new staff join?

Tom: The Student Activities Manager, Iain Pullar, has been working on this sort of thing – less me. The new Head of Student Experience, Tom Newman, has come in now and so we're also looking at the directorate as a whole, which can affect things on a Union-wide scale.

We've found ourselves in the situation where we do not understand everything that we do, and the current structure hopefully is an improvement. It doesn't mean a restructuring, it's about looking at efficiencies. That might require new staff to learn new skills, that weren't in their original job descriptions – but the major stakeholder, and our major focus, is the students. We need people in those posts. We're hoping to hire people who are really interested by the things they'll be doing, with the right mindset, who will put students first – and thus will be on board with improving these efficiencies. We definitely will keep all of this in mind, and will support them.

We don't do that enough as it is – we have high staff turnover. It would be short-sighted to say it's just as a result of being a Union, and we want to be an exceptional place to work so people want to stay, and we're not there yet. We can do things like training and giving staff a sense of joint ownership with students over their projects. We need to empower staff to deliver the vision we have, so we can do our job – which I see as facilitate student activities.

Students can do a bunch of stuff better than we can, Imperial students are smart and capable – we should facilitate that with systems development,

processes, consultation, rather than 'providing a service'. My involvement with CSPs has aided and complemented my academic experience at uni, and my professional future, and I hope other students in CSPs would agree.

Felix: Okay. So what's happening with Ethos – a new gym has been opened downstairs, and students are confused about whether they will be charged to use it or not. Can we get some clarity? Why was there such confusion in the way it was communicated?

Here, Tom offered a detailed explanation of the new structure of specifically sports clubs in the Union, the Sports Hub, Move Imperial, the College's Sports Board, and other related organisations. For more information, see papers from last year's Union Council.

Tom: A new CrossFit gym called SW7 was opened on the ground floor, and was funded by the President's Fund. What the email said "the gym is specifically run as a functional class program with four main concepts, as well as being open to existing members outside of the program." The members it's referring to are not the SW7 members, it's members of Ethos. So if you have the membership to the gym at Ethos, you do get access to SW7 with no further fees – but you don't have access to the classes or the MyZone technology. For those things specifically, you have to pay £50 a month, which I believe is open to the public as well like Ethos is. So it is an extra gym space being provided at no extra cost to students, so long as classes are not being run in there at the time.

Move Imperial have recently told me that since opening SW7, they've

only had waiting times at Ethos once as students will just go to SW7 when Ethos is full. Before that, wait times were a regular problem. It's a really positive improvement.

The wording of the email could have been better, but hopefully this clears it up!

Felix: The new structure of the Sports Hub and Move Imperial and how these decision-making structures are set up seems to be quite confusing to students thus far. Do you feel it's obscuring clarity about, for example, who to contact about problems or where funding is coming from?

Tom: The Sports Hub is a project that's still being phased in, and we're still figuring out a lot of the logistics, like how financially it will work. It won't be clear right now. The idea is to have a parallel structure to the old CSPB specifically for sports clubs. The papers submitted to Council last year give example structures – which are not set in stone, but are currently being looked at. For example, we now have management groups for different sports clubs, such as Martial Arts or Team Court. It's the same volunteers doing these roles, but creating a new parallel structure to facilitate their needs better and work efficiently with Move Imperial to do that.

So as an example of what we're looking at with the phasing – which is overseen by meetings of the old CSPB structure – is that if we make massive savings with the Sports Hub structure, do they need the same amount of funding for it and if so how can that funding then be fairly redistributed?

So hopefully I can talk more about it next time we do an interview!

Felix: What else have you

been working on?

Tom: One thing is the first point of my manifesto, which is looking at the new sports complex – specifically, working with the College on consultation about Heston and Harlington. So, the College – specifically Campus Services – are conducting a review of their facilities across campuses. They've looked at Heston and Harlington, the main sports grounds, and think that Heston is not fit for purpose and are considering selling it.

They're really keen this year, after it hasn't been done at other times, to consult with students about this sort of decision – and they said that the sale wouldn't go ahead without student agreement. We held a joint consultation workshop with Move Imperial, and all the clubs who use the space got an individual invite along with all the clubs in general receiving an open invitation, along with other representatives.

The facilities at Harlington have been renewed to the tune of around £700,000 over the last year, including renovating pitches, improving changing rooms, and so on. They're steps in the right direction and there's a strong desire to see it through and continue improving Harlington. The sale of Heston would mean a lot of teams shifting to Harlington, as well, and there have been issues with more clubs being at Harlington – for example, Heston had better football pitches.

The feedback was that so long as there is investment into Harlington, there isn't a strong feeling against selling Heston – there isn't a sentimental attachment as such. But it will be a big ongoing project, including looking at things like transport

strategies for students to get there.

Felix: That's very positive to hear. This all touches – almost everything we have talked about – on the space problem at Imperial, which we've covered a lot this year. What are your thoughts on moving to a multi-campus university, and how this might affect both CSP communities as well as logistical operation of the Union as a whole?

Tom: It's an interesting question and one we maybe do not ask ourselves enough. I'm leading a project looking into the space that CSPs use, and it's huge – it's funded by the Harlington Trust, and involves people at the College as well. This might be something to be looked at there.

Felix: You were talking about how much CSPs benefitted you – so I'm asking, what are your feelings about it? For example, the idea of having a DPCS for each campus, or having CSPs be fragmented between different campuses.

Tom: As DPCS I think it's really exciting! There are a lot of potential that would come with having multiple campuses, although there would also be great challenges. With the new Head of Student Experience, we're meeting with key student volunteers from different management groups and even down to the level of specific CSPs that operate in unique ways – such as Felix – over the next few weeks to talk about various things. One question we are asking is whether people have a sense of community at Imperial, and what you find is that within constituent unions they find it in the constituent union, within clubs it's in their club, and so on. So you

raise a good point – for a lot of people maybe it would affect their sense of community. For some clubs – such as those which operate out of 'core hours' – it's maybe less of a problem.

We need to look at how we deal with things like transport and communication across campuses, as often right now we are quite South Kensington-focused, and that modularity is something I began this interview by noting as a problem. That applies even now, with other campuses that we don't do enough to work with, and we'll have to look at those problems too when we tackle White City.

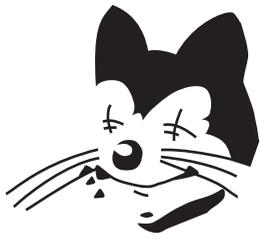
We need more of a presence in these other campuses. Even right now, we have some presence in for example Reynolds, but I don't think that's enough. I'm planning to work there once every two or three weeks to get involved, get to know people, and get to grips with their specific issues – whereas right now we're dependent on that structure feeding in, rather than personally having a presence.

Felix: Do you think the way things are set up with the medics right now – for example, having a full-time sabbatical officer specifically to address many of their unique issues as they're often spread across other campuses – might be a model to emulate? Having a "White City" sabbatical officer, for example?

Tom: It depends on whether the needs at different campuses are very different. Like, currently Silwood have their own structures that then feed in to the centralised Union, so perhaps that would work.

COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



RE: “An opinion on the Hong Kong issue” – a Reality Check

An anonymous writer's outraged response to last week's Comment article on the ongoing Hong Kong Protests.

COMMENT

Anonymous
Comment Writer

Have you ever read a piece of writing so factually inaccurate that you feel physically compelled to reply to it? That was the exact scenario in which I found myself after picking up a copy of Felix last Friday afternoon.

The article in the 1ST of November issue called ‘An opinion on the Hong Kong issue’ initially thrilled me as I was glad to finally see some coverage on this ongoing issue. However, as soon as I read past the title, it was all downhill from there.

The writer introduced the Extradition Bill that the Hong Kong government tried to enact on the people (on China's behalf) – an act that resulted in more than two sevenths of the entire population on the streets protesting. Had the bill passed, it would have had detrimental consequences on the freedom of all Hong Kongers, giving China

“... in what reality is respect towards a flag a greater issue than one's future and freedom?”

the power to extradite anyone in Hong Kong to be judged under the Chinese legal system which many organisations, such as Amnesty International, have expressed concerns about due to their repeated violation of the defendants' rights to a fair trial.

In paragraph 3 of the article, the writer stated that “the Hong Kong police have been markedly restrained in the face of blatant violence by the protesters” – a severe disinformation easily disprovable by simple acts of Googling. Instances of unnecessary violence from the Hong Kong police happened far too often to be counted, but an incident that immediately comes to mind is what happened on the night of the 31ST of August.

Known as the ‘831’ incident, the police charged into the Prince Edward underground station in pursuit of the protesters trying to go home. This turned into one of the most horrific conflicts between the police and the citizens, in which several men and women, including teenagers, were trapped in an underground carriage, senselessly beaten and pepper-sprayed by the police. No arrests were even made afterward, showing that the police felt no need for the scrutiny of law, just the need for violence in an attempt to silence those who disagree with the system.

Not only have the protesters been caught

in the scurry of excessive police violence, so have the volunteers and journalists on the scene. On the 11TH of August, a medic was shot with a beanbag round in the eye, shattering the bones of her face. On the 29TH of September, an Indonesian journalist was permanently blinded by a rubber bullet. These are just a tiny fraction of cases in the overwhelming plethora of unjust violence committed every day by the Hong Kong police force.

The writer then said, “I could have sympathised with the protesters had they not shown such disrespect toward their country: stamping, burning the Chinese flag” – in what reality is respect towards a flag a greater issue than one's future and freedom?

In the same paragraph: “Most of us view social and economic stability as a precursor to the extra freedom held as sacred in the West”. Freedom of speech is not ‘extra’; freedom of press is not ‘extra’, freedom of assembly is not ‘extra’; they are fundamental human rights. Those who hold a different view should not be pushing their agenda onto others, which is exactly what China tried to do to Hong Kong with the Extradition Bill and will continuously do so unless something is done about it.

Also, “foreign interference” is deducted with negative connotations from “photographs of protest leaders with Western officials”. First



Police violence // Flickr: Studio Incendo

of all, this protest is known to be leaderless – one of the reasons why all Hong Kong Protesters were chosen by TIME to be one of 2019's most influential people on the internet. Secondly, to quote Martin Luther King: ‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere’. It is in human nature to right what is wrong. It is also in human nature to seek help and to help. And that is the reason behind both the leaderless-proactivity from the Hong Kongers and the bipartisan support from the US Congress for this pro-democracy protest.

Paragraph 8 states: “Anyone who is familiar with the Basic Law and its complexities can see that Hong Kong is an indivisible part of China.” What the writer failed to mention is that later on in the very same set of laws, it is promised that the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong gov-

ernment shall ultimately be elected by the people with universal suffrage. That could not be further from the political system in Hong Kong right now. The people only want as much - for everyone to have the basic right to choose their own leader, for everyone to have the basic right to vote. It seems ironic that the writer accuses those with opposing views of unfamiliarity with the Basic Law when they themselves merely cherry-picked a section that supported their own view.

On top of all the censorship and police violence, Hong Kong's democracy is also being ever-corrupted by puppets of the Chinese Communist Party. Joshua Wong, the founder of the pro-democracy activist group Scholarism and the secretary-general of the political party Demosistō, was recently

banned from running in the upcoming district council election. This is a clear obstruction of political freedom and, again, a step in further taking away the self-determination of all Hong Kongers.

When the police resort to murder, who do you call? When your government turns on you, who do you rely on? When your democracy is being taken away from you, you must take a stand.

Felix welcomes all student opinions on this or any other issue. If you want your voice heard, whether to agree or disagree, contact the Comment editors at comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The original article ‘An Opinion on the Hong Kong Issue’ is available in our PDF issue archive at felixonline.co.uk

COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Companies in China

Comment editor **Charles Titmuss**, argues that companies should behave ethically when operating in China

COMMENT

Charles Titmuss

Comment Editor

For those of you that live on Instagram and have never met a cheeto-eating basement dweller, Blizzard are a gaming company that have developed some of the most popular titles over the last 20 years including Starcraft, Hearthstone and, of course, World of Warcraft. These games are popular all over the world. Starcraft launched the e-sports industry; World of Warcraft is perhaps one of the most popular and enduring games the world has ever seen. The perception of Blizzard was generally favorable for many years. This week Blizzard managed a PR fuck-up of epic gamer proportions, when it banned multiple people that showed support to the protesters in Hong Kong.

A Hearthstone player going by the name of Blitzchung gave an interview on a Taiwanese programme in a gas mask and shouted pro-Hong Kong slogans. He was later banned for breaching Blizzard's community rules specifically the rule against offending "a portion or group of the public, or otherwise damag[ing] Blizzard's image." Additionally, the two casters on the livestream were also disavowed by Blizzard as a result of the player's words, which seems rather unfair given that they had no idea what the person they were interviewing



China's lil bitch // Wikimedia

was actually going to say – that is, without assuming prescience. To add insult to injury, members of an inter-collegiate Hearthstone team were immediately banned after they held up a piece of cardboard reading "Support Hong Kong."

Both of these actions have gone down like a lead balloon in the wider gaming community that has interpreted these actions as efforts to ensure that the company does nothing to offend mainland Chinese sensibilities at the expense of freedom of speech. Reddit communities such as r/Blizzard and r/Hearthstone have been dominated with some high-quality

memes showing Blizzard as China's little bitch. Go and take a look. Furthermore, furious Blizzard associates and employees have responded by distancing themselves from the company or covering up a rather ironic plaque in Blizzard HQ that reads "all voices matter."

This issue ties into wider problems that Western companies have experienced when operating with the Chinese market in mind. In the US, a National Basketball Association manager tweeted in support of Hong Kong and immediately faced the wrath of China's state broadcaster who threatened to pull their contract with the

NBA. NBA representatives rapidly rowed back and disassociated themselves from the tweet. Google came under fire for "Project Dragonfly", a search engine designed to work behind the Great Firewall. During the project, it surreptitiously dropped one of its key mottos, "Don't be Evil."

China possesses economic might that most nations, bar the US, can only dream of. The past and present of Chinese economic development is intertwined with the Chinese government, a one-party autocracy that is considerably more oppressive than others. With this clash of cultures in mind, companies

migrating from the West are often faced with the prospect of having to compromise whatever ethical code they may have used in order to make a profit, hence Project Dragonfly. Other examples of companies wilfully ignoring the ethical implications of their work include Microsoft, with their development of AI for facial recognition in concert with Chinese partners. AI for image recognition can be used for multiple nefarious purposes of surveillance and repression, but the attraction of wealth is more than enough to settle whatever moral qualms Microsoft may have had. China is now a world leader in this technology.

It is important to point out, perhaps controversially, China is rightly free to operate as it wishes. China is a sovereign state, and the West should not attempt to interfere with the Chinese government. Fiddling with sovereignty has been a terrible experiment for the last 20 years of Western foreign policy, leading to widespread disaster in almost every case. However, the current position of Western companies presents two issues, appeasement and abetment.

In order to maintain their access to the markets in China, companies such as Blizzard are willing to appease China by silencing critics in the West in return for potential economic benefits. This is not acceptable. China must not be allowed to leverage power through economic manipulation of ethically malleable companies.

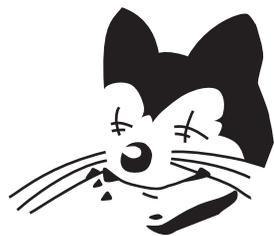
Companies must also not abet China. Companies such as Microsoft must accept moral responsibility for aiding the Chinese government's goal of information totalitarianism over its population. Companies should avoid working on projects that are likely to be ethically dubious and if they do, should be forced to accept some form of penalty. Perhaps a moral tax as a practical means of dissuasion.

Companies have an opportunity to do the right thing. They won't, but wouldn't it be good if they did.

Make Xi Jinping Winnie the Pooh again

COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



A Response to “Companies in China”

Yuchu Liu, responds to Companies in China and hopes that the insults offered to China and its leader will not occur again

COMMENT

Yuchu Liu

Comment Writer

By accident I noticed the article ‘Companies in China.’ As a Chinese international student at Imperial, the wording in this article is an insult, not only to me personally, but also to the whole Chinese community and our country. Imperial College should be a place where students from all over the world, including China, as well as Hong Kong and Taiwan which are by all means parts that cannot be separated from China. Students can come to study, progress, and live peacefully together. However, Mr. Titmuss published this article which is clearly about politics, a topic that is not encouraged at Imperial, without any perceivable attempt to seek the truth. Instead, he has written an article that is biased, flawed, arrogant, humiliating, and irresponsible. This should not be tolerated under any circumstances.

First of all, as Mr. Titmuss seems to be an advocator of freedom of speech, I would first like to ask a question here, not only to Mr. Titmuss, but also to all those who are now believe that mainland China is a so-called “oppressive” regime according to Western interpretations. Here is the question: Do you know that THE EXERCISE OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH CARRIES SPECIAL DUTIES AND RESPON-



China is a so-called oppressive regime according to Western Interpretations // Wikimedia

SIBILITIES? It is clearly stated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Furthermore, it is subject to certain restrictions “for

“THE EXERCISE OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH CARRIES SPECIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES”

the rights or reputation of others” and “the protection of national security or of public order.” Mr. Titmuss successfully practiced his freedom of speech and I don’t have a problem with it, but his insult at the end

of the article to the leader of our country, and flawed reference to China as “oppressive,” is unacceptable, as it harms the reputation of our country. Therefore,

I hope an apology can be made by Mr. Titmuss in public to all Chinese students at Imperial and to our nation.

As a visitor here, I feel generally pleased because Imperial has a culturally

inclusive atmosphere. I would like to talk about my own experience. The first night I arrived at my hall of residence, we had a floor dinner. One of my floor-mates from the UK asked about the situation in Hong Kong. My answer was that mainlanders and Hong Kong students may hold different opinions. A Hong Kong student agreed and said we should not talk about it. While this was not the best situation as we didn’t fully exchange our ideas, it was at least not the worst where an argument may have occurred. I personally respect the attempts of

a few rational Hong Kong

“I hope an apology can be made by Mr Titmuss in public to all Chinese students at Imperial and to our nation”

locals to call for freedom peacefully. However, what

has happened in Hong Kong recently is far from peaceful. From vandalism by painting and smashing windows of government buildings protesters have moved to attacking police officers using iron pipes, molotovs, and even petroleum bombs. I have the sense that western media like the BBC, CNN report events selectively, as they had always done, to picture China as “oppressive” which is not true. They show their audience police reacting using arms without telling you how violent the protests were. While Western countries claim that they have freedom of the press which “China does not have,” I always find this statement ridiculous and sad. The fact is that people outside mainland China, even those in Hong Kong, have long been deceived by the distorted facts intentionally reported by the media. I suppose Mr. Titmuss is not aware of that, therefore I think his article is irresponsible, and is not part of properly practicing the freedom of speech.

Being in the UK for nearly a month, I used YouTube a lot to watch videos about China from a western perspective. I found that people outside China had a lot of misunderstandings and stereotypes about China. Here I will list some that are prevailing:

China wants to rule the world or East Asia

China is ruled by a communist party so it is bad

COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

One-party autocracy must be evil, especially when it is a communist party

China uses its economic power to pursue political aims

China has strong censorship so it does not have freedom of speech

Western values/ethics are universal

Let me clarify the first misunderstanding by my own personal thoughts which might be a little exaggerated. Unless all humans except Chinese nationals died out, China would not seek any form of global or regional hegemony. Please do not take that seriously, but more authoritative comments have been given by those who have a say on this again and

“Unless all humans except Chinese nationals died out China would not seek any form of global or regional hegemony”

again, including Kishore Mahbubani who was the former president of the United Nations Security Council and former ambassador to the UN from Singapore.

The second one and third one come from a Western prejudice because most Western countries have “democratic multi-party systems,” and they have long wanted to impose this system on China. As a Chinese national, I admit that



Chinese troops on parade // Wikimedia

the Chinese Communist Party has its problems, but I still believe it is the best party to make China prosperous, which is the will of all Chinese. We don't want any form of foreign-imposed values and systems because that brings back the memory of the humiliating history of the 19th and 20th century. We don't export our communist ideology, and at the same time, we don't want any foreign party to export their ideas and values to us by force. We have our own way, and we need mutual respect. As a guest here, I respectfully point out that your “democratic multi-party system” is more problematic than a “not democratic one-party autocracy” and will not do any good to China, so please just focus on your own countries and stop telling China what you want us to do.

The fourth one is true to some extent, but what China did has nothing

to do with threatening foreign companies in China. It is agreed around the globe that a corporation should obey the local laws in order to be able to do the business, and there is no exception in China. In China, it is illegal to spread ideas containing separatism, hate, racism and terrorism online. I believe it should have counterparts in British and American legal system (otherwise it means the “oppressive” Chinese legal system is actually better). The Blizzard occurrence happened because it is found that some Hong Kong protesters spread illegal content mentioned above in games, so by law Chinese government asked Blizzard to censor the chats in games. If Blizzard were to allow those contents, the Chinese government have to right to stop its services in China. So again, I would like to emphasize

that this is not about the problem of freedom of speech, because duties and responsibilities are not separable. By this I think the fifth misunderstanding is also clarified.

The sixth point is the most prevailing of all. To make it simple, I would say that the statement is

“We Chinese have our own history and we are proud of it!”

wrong. We Chinese have a different culture, which contains different values. Personally, one difference that I think could be used to explain most of other differences is that Chinese believe in collectivism and solidarity whereas western culture emphasizes individualism. In

short, the difference is so large and Western people should accept the fact that your values and ethics does not prevail over others'. We Chinese have our own history and we are proud of it. We don't want to prove our superiority and we don't even think our culture has it. All cultures are equal, so please try to learn about it before you want to comment on, especially criticize it.

Lastly, I would take the advantage of this event to promote the communication between the Chinese community at Imperial and others. It is impossible to be aware of the globe without being aware of China with a population of 1.4 billion and a unique culture from that of the West. I wish all those who are interested in what China really looks like can start to learn about China without prejudice. A book I would recommend is On China

by Henry Kissinger, the former United States Secretary of State. The book might be boring, but as a Chinese national, I found the content very objective and especially sharp on his analysis about how the Chinese think and how is it influenced by the Chinese history. There is also a YouTuber Nathan Rich who uploaded several videos about China that you wouldn't know from Western media reports. It will probably be a mind-changing process, and I am willing to provide help to any friends from any cultural background if possible. I hope this initiative can boost the communication between all ethnic groups at Imperial.

COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



A Response to “A Response to Companies in China”

Comment editor, **Charles Titmuss**, responds to the demands that he apologise for “Companies in China”

COMMENT

Charles Titmuss

Comment Editor

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote an article concerning Blizzard’s censorship of pro-Hong Kong protests entitled “Companies in China.” We have republished the article in question to provide context to this issue. Felix received a response which I recommend you look over before reading this, on the pages preceding this article.

The article is, quite frankly, an insult to logic. As opposed to a reasonable point by point refutation of my own argument, the author relies on a sense of overwhelming personal outrage. Unfortunately, anger does not make an argument. The overriding theme of the article is that I have overstepped the bounds of free speech by criticising China as oppressive and mocking Xi Jinping. Furthermore, the article attempts to clarify the errors in Western attitudes with regards to China. The author has remarkably gathered his comprehensive summary of these attitudes in under a month from the prestigious and oft-cited website “YouTube.” I shall not deal with the second section of the article any further.

The author accuses me of describing the Chinese government as oppressive. To be completely clear, the



The hairy honey bear himself // Wikimedia

Chinese government is oppressive. It is currently in the process of interring an entire ethnic group in re-education camps. It is still widely suspected of extracting organs from its executed political prisoners, despite claiming that it ended this practice a few years ago. It prevents access to the external internet using a Great Firewall and provides instead an extensively monitored and censored alternative. This has been used to control the flow of information into China as well as erasing memories of past events, such as a certain massacre that definitely didn’t happen in 1989.

There are almost countless examples of the Chinese government preventing those that live within its borders from exercising various human rights, including the right to free speech, through insidious and violent state coercion.

To a certain extent, the Chinese government is perfectly within its rights to operate in this manner. It is an independent sovereign state with a government that certainly appears to have the support of the masses of China. In the last few decades, the Chinese system of government has overseen rapid economic growth and the uplifting of

many millions from poverty. The issue arises when China attempts to extend censorship of Chinese government censorship to other sovereign states, such as the UK, in an effort to stem international criticism. This can manifest itself in attempts to regulate foreign discussion of Hong Kong by applying economic pressure to companies that operate within China. Or it could involve attempting to shut down mockery directed at Xi Jinping even though this type of commentary is entirely within the laws of the UK.

Some Chinese nationals are certainly con-

sidered to have a part to play in this strategy. At the University of Queensland, Australia, clashes were sparked when pro-Beijing counter-protesters ripped up protest signs from a peaceful pro-Hong Kong demonstration. Only last week, new morality guidelines were issued by the Chinese government instructing Chinese citizens to defend China’s honor when travelling abroad. Although I am absolutely not accusing the

again

3. (Optional) A PDF is attached in response to this article and I would like it posted on school newspaper. If any moderation is necessary for it to be posted, please tell me.

Unfortunately, I will not offer an apology. I will also not promise to not write about or deliberately insult China again. Neither will the Editor-in-Chief apologise on behalf of Felix, and Felix will continue to cover stories or opinions about China (in Politics or Comment respectively).

What we will do is what we have always done: offer a platform to anyone that would use it to inform the rest of the students at the University of your opinion under the proper operation of Freedom of Speech in the UK. Anyone can write for us and they will be published, providing we’re not bored of the topic as we hope we’ve shown today. Just be coherent next time.

On a personal note, I am rather delighted by the response. It is not very often that it is demanded of one to apologise to the entire nation of China. I was worried that I had lost the ability to piss people off. I shall leave you, dear reader, with this: Free Tibet, Taiwan Number One, Glory to Hong Kong. And of course, make Xi Jinping Winnie the Pooh again.

“New morality guidelines were issued instructing Chinese citizens to defend China’s honour abroad”

author of acting on behalf of his government, this article would surely please the CCP back in Beijing.

The author sent Felix the following list of demands, copied verbatim from the email:

1. An official apology by Felix and the comment editor Charles Titmuss to the Chinese community at Imperial on school newspaper, twitter, and Facebook

2. Promise that such case will not happen

COMMENT

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Fringe Parties: What are they good for?

Eamon Akil Farhat discusses fringe parties and the part they have to play in the UK general election

COMMENT

Eamon Akil Farhat

Arts Editor

The trigger has been pulled on what every political pundit is calling the most important general election of our generation. A choice between chaos with Johnson or a strong and stable Corbyn, or maybe it was the other way round? For many it is a choice between Brexit, championed by Boris Johnson, and remain, championed by a woman that would be prime minister: Jo Swinson.

Although Brexit will define and dictate the outcome of this election, there are a plethora of other issues which desperately need to be put to the people. Whether it be the NHS, housing, education or the environment, since this decisive (or divisive) question was asked, everything else has been put on hold. Already, the privatization of the NHS has been the first headline issue but as with most elections, it will probably be forgotten quicker than you can say “Jacob Rees-Mogg has no common sense”. What this election needs is some healthy debate about a range of issues.

In recent years, the Labour-Tory duopoly has been breaking down due to the appearance of smaller parties. Unfortunately, the current first past the post voting system, a party can win a majority of seats in Parliament without having even near to a majority of



Catherine Mayer, one of the WEP co-founders//Wikimedia

the popular vote. This was the case in 2015 when the Tories won a parliamentary majority with only 37% of the popular vote. As weird as this sounds, parties only need to be the most popular party in each constituency and thus when third place parties become more important, the margins for victory become tiny.

One party, which is trying to push a more diverse set of issues, has had some impact despite being very new. They have over 65,000 members across the country, 15,000 more than the Greens. They have over 50 branches across the UK but chances are you’ve never heard of them. They are the Women’s Equality Party.

Formed in 2015 by Catherine Mayer and the legendary Sandi Toksvig, the Women’s Equality Party hoped to push for an egalitarian society. Equal

pay, representation, and fair treatment of women in the media were some of the party’s initial goals. Much like Brexit, this new sort of political ideology united those from across the political spectrum who all agree that women’s issues have for too long been put on hold.

Unfortunately, the party has had very limited election success in the 350 million elections we have had since 2015. Their candidate, Kay Wesley, was elected as a councillor to Congleton Town Council in 2019, but what about women outside of Congleton? Former party leader, Sophie Walker, understood that winning elections was not the primary goal of the party. Places where the party made an appearance, women’s issues were all of a sudden put on the table by the other mainstream parties. You can’t ignore women’s issues if you

come face to face with the unapologetic feminist stance that this party has taken. An example of this was when Labour mayor Steve Rotherham embarked upon a long-term plan to end violence against women and girls in Liverpool. This bold move was done, according to him, due to Tabitha Morton, the Women’s Equality mayoral candidate, who had made it a priority in her campaign. There are many other examples of this across the country, and although they are not always as tangible, a general shift in the conversation towards women’s issues is being seen.

This is all well and good, but unfortunately, a strong Women’s Equality party or any other small party for that matter could split the vote and misrepresent the views of constituents. As aforementioned, the system

is flawed and as smaller parties become stronger and stronger, our voting system gets weaker and weaker. Women across the country who may be inclined to vote for this feminist party might be doing themselves a disservice if they take votes away from Labour, for example, and pave the way for the Conservatives.

Although the Women’s Equality Party is the main focus here, other parties are available too – and they all pose the same issues. The Green Party for example, has been faring better and better in elections with a historic result in the European elections. However, they could also cost Labour some seats as they split the vote. Labour’s new initiatives like the Green New Deal can be seen in part as a way of reconquering some of the political territory linked to environmental issues. The Green Party will probably not have more than a bike-load of MPs journeying to parliament on December 14th, but they have had an impact on the politics of other parties which could possibly make their way into government.

Unfortunately, it is not all sunshine and rainbows in the current political scene. The Brexit Party, which may or may not have huge electoral success, has already had a huge impact especially on the Conservative policy. The pressure, and the chances of a mass exodus of bumbling British Brexit voters from the Tory’s former fanbase has changed the game for Boris Johnson. Taking a

hard stance on Brexit is now his top priority, but will it be enough to prove that he is in fact the real Brexit party?

Another small party which is worth a special mention is the Lib Dem’s. They definitely do not want to be known as such and want so desperately to gain the credibility of being a main party with a real chance of winning the whole thing. A Lib Dem majority seems as likely right now as Brexit by the 31st of October (2019). Unlike the Green party and the Women’s Equality party, the centrist politics of the Lib Dems means they do not really cause shifts in other parties’ policies. Sure, Labour has adopted the policy of a confirmatory referendum, but many within the party had been pushing for this for a while.

Fringe parties can help open political discourse, diversifying the debate and pushing bigger parties on key issues. However, when they get a bit too big, they start to actually cause more harm than good – at least in our current electoral system. The Lib Dems today, have the potential of letting a ditch-dying Boris Johnson walk into number ten stronger than ever. But at the end of the day, small parties do have the power to impact politics without winning that many votes. Maybe one day an LGBTQ+ party will spring up shifting the discourse or even a Students party hoping to lower tuition fees to pre-Clegg levels.

POLITICS

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Election Section: Understanding the Spanish Election

A general election has been called for 10th November, the second in six months and the fourth in four years

POLITICS

Maeve Johnston

Politics Writer

Spain will be holding general elections yet again on the 10th of November, the second general election in six months and the fourth in four years.

In recent decades, the Spanish political landscape has been drastically reshaped by the new, younger politicians entering the scene and a surging number of small political parties, whilst the larger parties face multiple corruption scandals. This provides many explanations as to why we are facing elections only six months after the last cycle in April; one of these relates to the fact that the increasing quantity of parties is not matched by a growing number of effective politicians.

After Francisco Franco's dictatorship in 1975, a two-party system very much dominated Spain's new democratic government, with the People's Party (right wing) and the Socialist Worker's Party (left wing) alternating in power over the years. This relative stability was overturned in the last decade when numerous corruption cases within the government arose, and a general discontent of Spanish people with the government led two new political parties to gain traction, Ciudadanos (centre-right) and Podemos (left wing), causing the Congress of Deputies to transition from a bipartisan to a tetra-partisan landscape.

Since then, no party has been able to win a majority of the vote, nor

have any been able to build coalitions to form a working government, which led to the dissolution of Congress and the convocation of a new general election in July 2016. These elections resulted in Mariano Rajoy of the People's Party becoming the President of Spain, thanks to the formation of a coalition with Ciudadanos and the abstention of the Worker's Party. Yet, in July of 2018, there was a vote of no confidence against the government and Pedro Sanchez - from the Worker's party - became the new president of Spain. Last April, new general elections were held yet again as the Spanish Congress

"The Spanish political landscape has been dramatically reshaped by new, younger politicians and smaller parties"

refused to support the State's General Budgets, with a new party entering the scene: Vox, a right-wing populist party. The votes became even more contested over and history repeated itself: the different parties were not able to agree and establish a government, requiring elections to take place again in a few days.

The transition from a bipartisan to a multiparty system has led to political



Pedro Sanchez, the current Spanish Prime Minister//Wikimedia

instability and inefficiency. Since the 2016 elections, negotiations and horse-trading that arose from attempts to build coalitions led to a broken government that was focused on solving internal party problems than actual nationwide issues.

One could argue that a multiparty system could be an improvement for Spanish politics. When smaller parties are forced to form coalitions, they are forced to move towards a middle ground in order to maintain power, which is better than any fanaticism when governing a country. As the Spanish

ex-president Adolfo Suarez said about Spain's current situation, "what at street level is simply normal, has been elevated to the political category of normal"; there is a better representation, response, and articulation of the views of all voters these days than there was 40 years ago, brought on by smaller parties that have been forced to respond to popular preferences rather than particular interests.

Yet, it is apparent that the Spanish multiparty system has become a challenge. Indecisive politicians have focused more on solving issues within their party than

on solving national and social issues, ranging from unemployment to corruption, as well as the current situation in Catalonia. As American political writer Ben Rhodes wrote, "things cannot change unless you change the people making the decisions" ('The World as It Is', 2018). Spain's recent political instability and inefficiency did not arise by chance, but is caused by the increasing number of smaller parties competing for a divided electorate, and the mediocre politicians leading them.

In the upcoming elections, a new left-wing party (Más Pais, led by

Iñigo Errejón) will be entering the race, joining five original candidates to become the sixth party competing for the presidency. While polls predict a similar result for this upcoming election, hope still remains that after the 10th of November they will be able to do their job and form a government that is very much needed to face domestic problems like high unemployment, and international ones like Trump's tariffs on Spanish products and the infamous Brexit.

POLITICS

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WHAT IS CAPITALISM?

The State we're in...

After a short hiatus due to the General Election call last week, we return to the third part of our 8-part political economic series: "What is Capitalism?", where we look at the State: police, the judicial system, and the military.

Politics

Ansh Bhatnagar
Politics Writer

In the previous article it was established that the state is a necessity for capitalism, as without a state private property rights could not be enforced. A state was defined by political economist Max Weber as "a political entity that maintains a monopoly on the use of violence". We discussed how this violence is wielded by the state for the enforcement of its laws and private property rights domestically; but how else is the state used to prop up capitalism?

On the domestic front, the judicial system has allowed for interpretations of free speech law that permit corporate lobbying and funding. In the US, the Supreme Court's 'Citizens United' decision meant that corporations could freely spend money on political communications as a form of 'free speech' – allowing for a strengthening of the influence of corporations in liberal democracies. This influence affects everything from domestic to foreign policy.

The police play the main part in exercising a state's power domestically, and the military does so globally. The judicial system is meant to hold these bodies and individuals to account, and does so with varying levels of success. Often, however, we see that the police and military are



U.S. Army provide crowd control while Iraqi citizens line up for food // Wikimedia

more or less kept protected by the judicial system as it is in the state's best interests that these units work together. When it comes to racially biased police brutality, or even war crimes abroad, the courts often acquit police and military officers involved with these incidents despite evidence of wrongdoing.

The protection afforded to the police and military allows them to operate more or less freely on behalf of the state's interests, and thus capitalist interests. For example, strict immigration laws create an underclass of migrant workers that are afforded less rights and

protections than non-migrant workers. These can include migrants with strict visa conditions as well as those here illegally, and thus they can often find themselves in precarious work. The creation of an underclass of workers gives employers a wider choice on who they should employ, and with migrant workers

"Strict immigration laws create an underclass of migrant workers"

often willing to work whatever they can and for less, this can result in wages falling across the board. As noted in the first article of this series, lower wages means more of the value produced by the workers goes towards the capitalists as profits, meaning the capitalists benefit from having this choice as a result of our immigration laws.

Illegal immigration will always exist and people will resort to more and more dangerous ways to get to other countries, especially with the refugee crisis and with the impending refugee crisis to come as a result of climate change. Therefore, the state enacting strict

immigration laws is not primarily to stop or limit the number of people coming here, but rather to increase the number of people that are not afforded the same rights and protections as domestic workers have, leading to falling wages and more profit for capitalists.

When we hear about refugee crises it's also important to ask why the crises are happening in the first place. In Latin America and the Middle

"Illegal immigration will always exist and people will resort to more and more dangerous ways to get to other countries"

East, we see a pattern of American (and British) interventionism designed to install governments that take a more favourable foreign policy and trading approach to the United States – sometimes at the cost of overthrowing democratically elected leaders to install US backed dictators. These interventionist wars cause instability in these regions and harm local economies in order

to bring in profits for American corporations. In Latin America, this was so common that the term "Banana Republic" came into use to describe situations where this occurred, such as in Honduras with the US corporation the United Fruit Company. More famously, in Iraq and Syria, Western intervention destabilised the region leading to the growth of Daesh and the subsequent refugee crisis. The intervention proved profitable for the defense and oil industries. Later on, the Iraq War was found to be predicated on false premises.

Capitalism has always been a global system that continuously seeks out new resources and new markets to expand to. Foreign policy has thus historically played a key part in keeping capitalism ticking. In the next part we will expand more on the history we have discussed in this article, particularly in the context of free markets, the global economy, colonialism and imperialism. Stay tuned!

POLITICS

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EUphoria and the EU's Role in the People's Vote

How the lack of a 'left-wing' Brexit has allowed the EU to become the party of the people

POLITICS

Julio Pérez

Politics Writer

Brexit has been the main object of political attention for the past year, dividing UK's population in half: pro-Brexit and pro-EU. The latter is interclass, constituted by voters mainly ranging from centre to left from all ages. In 2018, a pro-EU campaign group aiming to hold another referendum was formed, People's Vote, and with it subsequent marches of masses in London throughout the past year.

Among the supporters of the People's Vote group are Liberal Democrats, some conservative MPs, and companies like Superdry that do not want to renounce to the EU market. Although supported by them, People's Vote represents the more humble sector of the pro-EU movement, usually referred to as "the people" in political discourse. This has morphed the pro-EU faction into a popular mass movement fighting for immigration, social progress, and job security amongst other issues, professing a feeling of love and faith in the EU being the solution to these issues: "EUphoria". But how is this pro-EU attitude related to the motivations behind People's Vote?

Brexit per se refers to the action of the UK leaving the EU, and thus originally was a politically blank term that allowed for interpretation of any political and economic flavour. Brexit, as seen today, however, is a political process associated

with the right wing of the political spectrum. With a Conservative government, Brexit has become a materialisation of a xenophobic and materialist mindset of "the EU is stealing from us", which is just one of the two sides of the separatist movement coin (we will consider the other side later). This conservative agenda of Brexit

"[The EU uses] travelling, free movement of labour and trade as bargaining tools to attract outer states and keep its members in"

negatively implicates the lower and middle classes of society, including immigrants, which is what motivated a reactionary progressive attitude against Brexit.

However, the EU is one of the least democratic organisms in Europe, neoliberal and historically in favour of austerity measures. The main fears of Brexit are rooted in how the EU has monopolized certain rights to itself: travelling, working abroad, trade... it uses these rights as bargaining tools to attract outer states and keep its members in. The EU has previously put these methods in practice, the prime example being the billions worth in cuts imposed to Greece in exchange for loans to solve the very crisis that EU's liberal market

induced. This same bargaining attitude was taken when UK decided to leave the EU, enforcing stricter and stricter requirements on the conditions of a deal as time passes. So, why have these measures not awakened an anti-EU movement in the lower classes that conform the People's Vote?

The other side of the separatist coin is that of "the people's": wanting economic independence to secure jobs and support for lower sectors and social progress. In other European countries, this sentiment is often represented by leftist euro-skeptic parties like Syriza in Greece (before accepting the EU's loans) and Podemos in Spain. These parties tend to be populist (meaning they focus their political discourse on "the people", or the working class, and often pit them against "the elite", such as the EU as a political institution) and are often born out of mass movements in times of crisis, whether political, social

or economic. This origin in the masses gives the party enough knowledge about their motivations to articulate a coherent framework for them: an ideology. Once the group accepts this ideology, the

"the people are left alone, forced to turn to the EU for an already established ideological framework that is not fully coherent with their motivations."

movement goes from having a passive role reacting against opposing conditions to being able to actively assess them from

their ideological ground and loses its spontaneous character due to their organized representation as a party.

In the case of the UK, the political conditions of Brexit resulted in such a popular movement: the People's Vote. With no political force similar to the ones discussed above, members of what now is the People's vote only had Labour as a last resort. But Labour's indecisive support for the left-wing case for Brexit and their intrinsic centre-left position does not allow them to fill an organizational role for this movement. As Brexit has been presented as right-wing from the start, and with no immediate alternative that is consistent with their political interests, "the people" are left alone, forced to turn to the EU for an already established ideological framework that is not fully coherent with their motivations. In this way the popular anti-conservative opinion organized itself into the People's Vote movement.

Thus, this has resulted in "EUphoria", a sort of Stockholm syndrome where people fighting for certain rights deposit their hopes in the very same institution that threatens to take them away.

Due to these circumstances, the EU has become the opposite of what a conservative Brexit (or just Brexit itself) stands for: a source of ethical authority, tolerance and democracy. It has taken on the role of leftist parties, mobilizing "the people" through the People's Vote movement and neoliberal forces alike. This has resulted in a fervent defence of the EU as the natural antagonist to the right, and further ingrained the European idea of democracy in the left wing. Through People's Vote, Brexit has become the key to the EU to strengthening its hold over the UK, even for socioeconomic classes whose interests they work against.

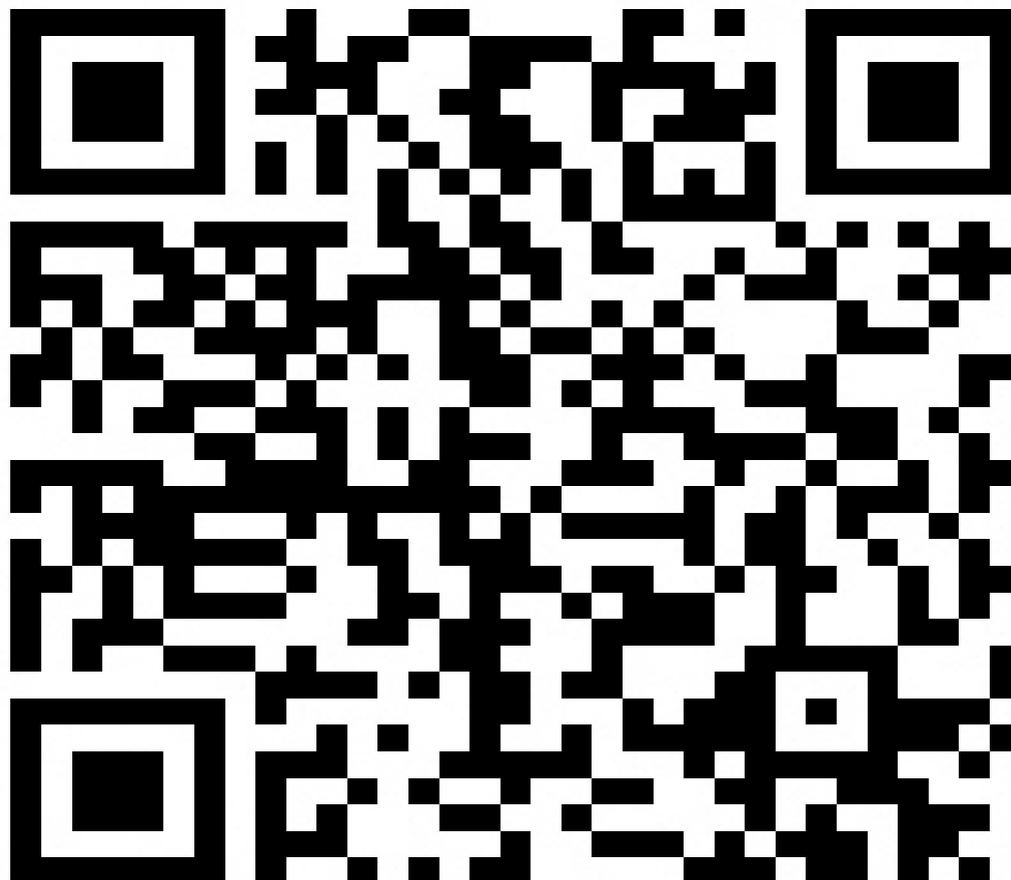


Peter from Somerset loves an All Day Brexit // Wikipedia

The Imperial Mock Election: Have Your Say!

Follow the link or use the QR code below to take part in an anonymous survey about British politics, the results of which will be published in the final December issue!

https://imperial.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1FYD1VqDV3FqE8B?fbclid=IwAR3nIKTv6fyEQRIZKcn_QyPCwqpT1FXCEb8wLmM4Lp3Dd3MCSDnsD-r0Ows



ARTS

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Frankenstein: Resurrected for the Modern Day

Forget the body horror of the original - this monster is a cold and calculating AI from the future, a relentless killing machine that will chill you to the core

ARTS



Where? Southwark Playhouse

When? 25th Oct – 17th Nov

How Much? Students £18

Charles Titmuss

Comment Editor

It's been a long time since Frankenstein was first published. Written in 1818 by Mary Shelley, the gothic novel swiftly became a cultural icon. Widely regarded as one of the first science fiction novels ever written, Frankenstein follows the tragic tale of Dr Victor Frankenstein and his destructive relationship with the monster he created. Relying heavily on themes of religion and the supernatural, it is perhaps unsurprising that the story fails to fill us with as much horror and dread as when it was first published over two hundred years ago. However, this recent, ruthless update by the National Youth Theatre proves that Frankenstein

is as relevant a tale as ever. It was brilliantly set and incredibly acted, and it made use of innovative storytelling techniques.

This play was all about forcing Frankenstein into the present. Forget the crumbling tower, maniacal laughter, and dead, stitched-together flesh: the Frankenstein I watched was firmly modern, even futuristic. A brilliant researcher, Victoria Frankenstein (Ella Dacres), working at a laboratory, successfully creates an anthropomorphic AI (Sarah Lusack). Upon the realisation that her effort to emulate intelligence and feeling has been successful, Victoria is filled with disgust at her creation and rejects her. What follows is the robot's murderous revenge on her creator, as Victoria repeatedly fails to satisfy the robot's demands for a companion.

In the original, much of the tale is told through letters, between Captain Bob Walton (Natalie Dunne) and Garth, her brother. Letter writing

being rather passé these days, this antiquated method of communication was imaginatively replaced through on-stage Skype calls between the two siblings. Fortunately, they manage to avoid the usual Skype connectivity problems. Each member of the cast was dressed in identikit futuristic white tunics that I would normally assume to belong to the kind of doctors from a nightmarish future.

The most futuristic segment was the unexpected addition of Virtual Reality to the play. VR headsets were left under

“VR headsets were left under each seat... truly fantastic”

each seat during the interval and we were all directed to put them on to witness Captain Walton's expedition to the North Pole. Some truly fantastic



The creator gazes upon her creation // Helen Murray

imagery was beamed through the headsets, with breathtaking shots of the Arctic rescue accompanied by how the world looked from the robot's point of view. We saw the digital renderings of faces that were used to train the robot's emotional sensitivity (trippy and quite disturbing, especially when they got stuck on 'terrified'). Most interesting of all, previous scenes were displayed to us from the robot's point of view, the cast being shown in the VR world as 3D-rendered, Matrix-style figures which shouted at and attacked us.

Overall, this production of Frankenstein was truly stellar. The cast, the set, the sound - each element came together to bring the full menace of a highly intelligent, vengeful machine, violently waging war against humanity and its creator. Forget Terminator, Lusack as the monster was cold, calculating, but at the same time entirely rational in her treatment of Dr Victoria Frankenstein. It was remarkable how I empathised with the creature even as it ruthlessly murdered Victoria's

family and friends. Each murder was accompanied by visceral neck-snapping sound effects, more than enough to make me wince. In scenes where Victoria appeared happy and safe, the monster loomed large from the side-lines, a constant reminder of her terrible presence.

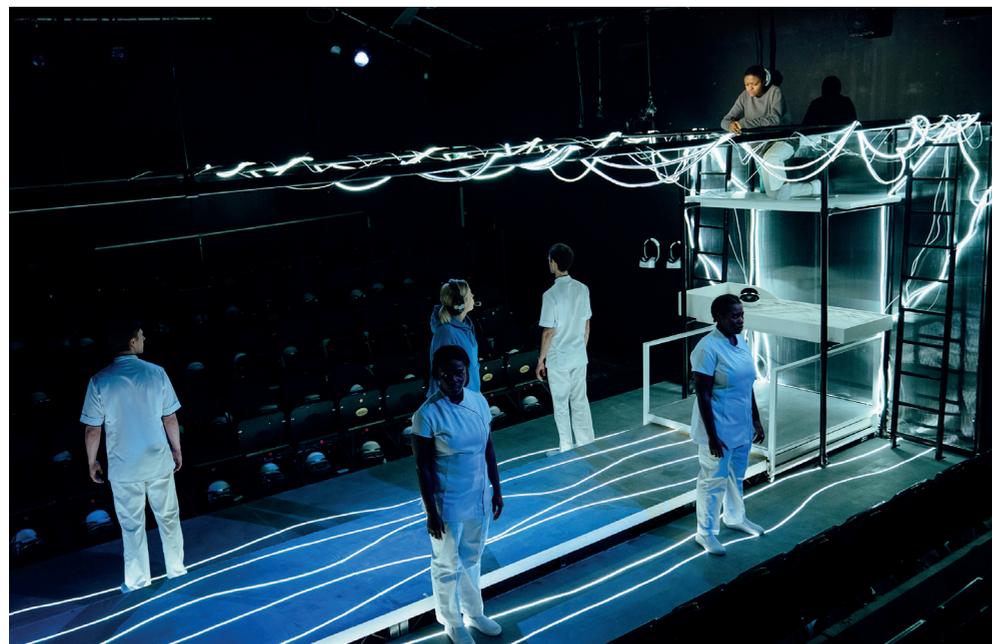
Dacres as Dr Frankenstein was as irrational and prideful as can be. Her failure to deal honestly or effectively with the monster was convincingly acted as the agony of her

“What should our response be when our tools achieve sentience?”

arrogance came home to roost. I thought that the gender-blind casting choice was very interesting. In the original text, both Frankenstein and the monster are male, and appear to represent a human's poor imitation of God's creation of Adam. The gender-blind casting choice further divorces

the production from the increasingly irrelevant religious aspect of the novel. Instead, it forces the audience to focus on the more relevant relationship between mankind and their tools. What should our response be when our tools achieve sentience? Will we continue to use them as our slaves or will we be forced to make concessions?

The rest of the cast were equally fantastic. Guy Clarke deserves a special mention as the most Inspectory Inspector that I have ever seen. He has clearly been watching more than enough Taggart. The tragedy of Victoria's husband-to-be's death was brought home perfectly by Jamie Foulkes. Thought-provoking and chilling in equal measure, NYT Rep's brilliantly updated Frankenstein provided a wonderful evening at a particularly spooky time of year. Given the remarkable display of Great Expectations put on by the same cast the week before, I am very excited to see what each of these talented actors will grow into over the coming years.



The backdrop to mankind's downfall // Helen Murray

ARTS

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Felix Arts: Interview with Anita-Joy Uwajeh

Anita-Joy is playing Roxane, the heroine in Jamie Lloyd's upcoming production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*

ARTS

Ozibil Dumenci

Arts Editor

Cyrano de Bergerac is a French verse-play written in 1897, telling the fictionalised story of the eponymous nobleman, whose large nose prevents him from winning his love, Roxane. Despite its somewhat peculiar plot, the play has proven surprisingly timeless through the ages. There are at least five new stagings of it this year alone - one of which is Jamie Lloyd's upcoming production at the Playhouse Theatre. Felix Arts interviews Anita-Joy Uwajeh, who has been cast as Roxane, on the remaking of this 19th century play.

Felix: How would you roughly describe the play?

AJU: Traditionally it's known as a play about a man with an incredibly large nose which is

"...it's a play about a man with an incredibly large nose."

perhaps some kind of deformity for him. This prevents him from getting the woman he loves because she is in love with the beautiful Christian, who she believes to be a great writer when in fact it's Cyrano. With all of that in mind, for me the play is really about love and insecurity and a longing

for an intimate connection that looks beyond one's exterior image.

Felix: Why is now the right time to bring *Cyrano de Bergerac* back to the London stages?

AJU: With regards to the production we are trying to create, it is a very modern outlook to this classic play. I think it's vital now because it's a universal story that a lot of us are dealing with regardless of what era we are in.

Felix: You play Roxane, who is the primary love interest for various characters within the play. On a deeper level, though, who is Roxane?

AJU: Roxane is a young woman in a man's world who is trying desperately to reach others with her mind and language and make them understand that beauty is not everything. However, she herself falls victim to being distracted by Christian's beauty. Which makes her a very real, flawed character and that's exciting to play.

Felix: What drew you to be a part of this production as this specific character?

AJU: The opportunity to work with Jamie Lloyd and James McAvoy. I also love Martin Crimp's writing and I am excited about that. In addition, when I read the play and prepped for my auditions each time I found myself uncovering another layer to Roxane and the play.

What do you hope to bring to the character through your

portrayal of Roxane?

AJU: I hope to bring to life a fully fleshed out woman that audiences can connect to.

Felix: How similar is your own character to that of Roxane?

AJU: I would say Roxane is similar and different in a way to me. She's quite sharp tongued at times which is similar to me. But she thinks a lot faster than myself when it comes to finding a witty solution for a particular problem.

Felix: The details of this production have largely been kept out of the spotlight - are there any surprises we can look forward to?

AJU: It wouldn't be a surprise if I told you :)

Felix: This is not the first English adaptation of the play. What do you think makes it special?

AJU: Well I believe it has been translated directly from the French. I would also say it's got a very particular style.

Felix: Is there anything specific that you hope the audience globally take away from seeing this production?

AJU: I hope that the audience globally can feel inspired to not be held back by their own 'big nose' aka insecurity and go for what they desire.

Felix: You have an extensive background in both TV and the silver screen. However, your roots seem

to be strongly within the theatre. What makes you keep coming back to the theatre, and the West End specifically?

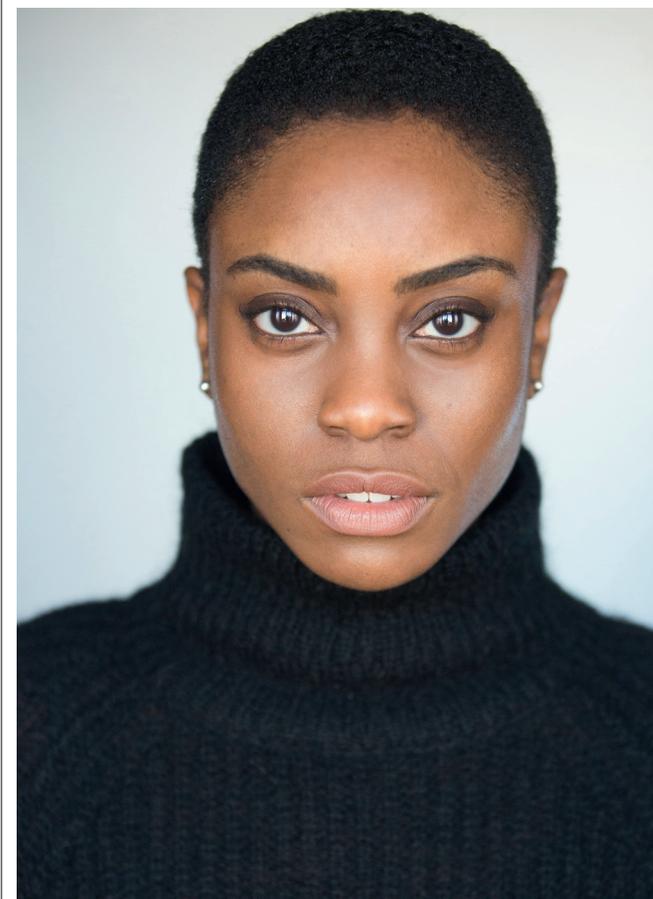
AJU: I love that fact that every night is different for both the actor and audience member gets their very own experience in the theatre even if they are watching the same play and I love being a part of that.

"...the play is really about love and insecurity and a longing for an intimate connection that looks beyond one's exterior image."

Felix: Theatre has a reputation for being inaccessible for many. The initiative to release 15,000 tickets for free, and another 15,000 for £15 is definitely a step in the right direction - what else do you think can be done to allow more people to enjoy theatre?

AJU: I think encouraging it with schools more and local communities will really help broaden the demographic that goes to theatre.

Felix: What advice



Anita-Joy Uwajeh // Curtis Brown

do you have for the student actors, directors and the crew who spend their time outside of their studies to put on these productions?

AJU: Whatever work you are putting on should be produced from a place of love and enjoyment.

Felix: What are some of your favourite productions in London and where do you recommend a theatre novice starts with the London scene?

AJU: I loved *The Inheritance* when it was on and a play called *The Royale* at The Bush a few years ago. The Young Vic is a great place to start or Globe Theatre or Arcola or The Bush.

Felix: Have you had any crazy stage door experiences?

AJU: Don't know if this is a crazy stage door story but when I was working at the Globe I had an audience member completely fan-out at me in foyer. It was very sweet and I was glad she enjoyed the show but it was a little intense for me at the time.

In support of broadening access to theatre, the Jamie Lloyd Company is offering 15,000 £15 tickets across the season for under 30s. Tickets for *Cyrano de Bergerac* were released on 4th November. If you'd like to catch Jamie Lloyd's new production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, tickets can be booked from www.atgtickets.com/cyrano15.

ARTS

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A fairytale on Old Compton Street - Soho Cinders

Anne Boleyn, from Six, and Jamie, from Jamie, shine as hearts are broken and political careers are ended

ARTS



Where? The Charing Cross Theatre

When? 6th Nov – 21st Dec

How Much? From £23.50

Eamon Akil Farhat

Arts Editor



Big dance numbers give the show an air of sophisticated flamboyance // Pamela Raitha

After an initial run back in 2012, Soho Cinders is back off the west end at the Charing Cross Theatre, and its unique narrative and warm characters are more relevant than ever. Set on the iconic Old Compton Street in the beating heart of the West End, this modern Cinderella sees young Robbie (Luke Bayer) navigate a rather complicated

love life. Sugar daddies replace fairy god mothers and a closeted mayoral candidate may just be his Prince Charming!

The opening number "Old Compton Street" really encapsulates the theme of the rest of the musical. Setting the story in such a recognizable place gives an instant connection to the audience who themselves may have spent many nights in the

Soho area. For those who haven't, the essence of this street is explained. Theatre goers, winers and diners, and a much younger crowd all flood the street every day - albeit at very different times. The times where these demographics overlap gives a real insight into the diversity that makes London the best city in the world.

No Cinderella story,

even this very loose retelling, would be complete without the ugly step sisters. Michaela Stern and Natalie Hern give a hilarious performance as these classic characters. Despite being the bitchiest and meanest incarnation of the characters probably ever seen, they project a real charm and have the audience laughing non-stop. Their song in the second half, with them-dressed in unicorn onesies for their 15 minutes of fame, does seem a bit out of place in what is otherwise a much more focused and intense part of the musical. Nevertheless, stumbling across the stage drunk and singing at the top of their lungs while still hitting all the punchlines takes real skill.

Despite the title and premise of a Cinderella retelling, this seldom

actually becomes important for the plot. What makes this story so special is the depth of each character. Even supporting characters have their moment in the spotlight and win over the audience in their own way. For example, Ewan Gillies gives an exceptional performance as the Malcolm Tucker-esque spin doctor,



A big mood from the ugly step sisters // Pamela Raitha

raising the bar for singing and drama for everyone. The fiancé, played by Tori Hargeaves, seemed a bit one-dimensional and quite frankly inconsequential in the first half but is then presented to the audience in a much more nuanced and complete way after the interval. A special mention for Millie O'Connell who plays the best friend Velcro who brings a real human touch to the story. Despite not being given that much stage time, her performance is arguably the most impactful.

Whether you are looking for a sappy romance story, a political thriller, or just a bit of a laugh, this modern musical has it all. Come down to The Charing Cross Theatre for a show that will have you dancing, laughing, and crying the night away!

The Magic Flute - Mozart's classic

ARTS



Where? The Royal Opera House

When? 1st – 27th Nov

How Much? From £63

Aya Hayakawa

Arts Writer

It isn't easy to picture a more magical setting than sitting in the historical auditorium of the Royal Opera House as you listen to the overture, eagerly waiting for the curtain to rise.

Back for its seventh revival at Covent Garden, Mozart's Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute) manages to retain the level of excitement and exhilaration

throughout the three-hour performance. Needless to say, both the music and singing are exceptionally melodious, and the production lives up to all expectations, an impressive treat for both the ears and the eyes. The director also strikes a perfect balance between the solemnity of opera and the comedy inherent to the plot presenting Mozart's masterpiece in an elegant and joyful manner.

The Opera follows Prince Tamino and Papageno's adventures guided by the Three Boys to rescue the daughter of the Queen of the Night, Pamina. The cast is excellent, each with their own characterful and distinct voice that combine to form an enchanting whole.

Every voice has a recognisable originality, be it its tone, richness, intensity, or depth. It is simply remarkable that the human voice can convey such complicated emotions and illuminate each character's personality. Some of the standout performances were given by Vito Priante as Papageno, singing 'Der Vogelfänger bin ich ja' very cheerfully and lightly, suited for the role, for he is an endearing and judicious character. Benjamin Hulett as Tamino has a firm and gentle voice, reflecting his nobility as Prince. The delicate harmony between the Three Boys are most clear and delectable, and Queen of the Night's effortless 'Der Hölle Rache kocht in meinem Herzen'

by Tuuli Takala is also not to be missed.

The performance is enhanced by the magnificent set design by John Macfarlane and the details included in the costumes and props. From the serpent in the opening scene manipulated by over 10 actors, the flying machine that carries the Three Boys, the monstrous tree, to a grand sun in the finale, the large-scale set designs add the finishing touches to an already stunning performance. The playful direction by David McVicar also enlivens the stage. The unexpected entrances of Papageno from the Stall Circle seats, clambering over the separation to get to the stage, and his humorous dialogues with



The Finale // Tristram Kenton

Tamino are especially vivid and convey the comical side of Mozart's personality itself.

Perhaps, a slight twist and some innovative interpretations and approaches would have given the audience some unanticipated joy. Nonetheless, the technical and musical sophistication of the production is nothing short of

phenomenal. Directed by David McVicar and featuring some of the most iconic pieces of music, Mozart's last opera Die Zauberflöte is on its run from the 1st until the 27th of November at the Royal Opera House. The classic magical fable that you wouldn't want to miss this season!

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BEAT: A breath of fresh air

Dance reconstructed for the modern audience

ARTS



Where? The Place
When? Until 9th Nov
How Much? £17; £13 concession

Sid Basetti & Maria Greca

Arts Editor

BEAT is at the forefront of contemporary dance, choreographed by Igor and Moreno, performed by Margarita Elliot. This production has taken four years to reach fruition and is the second piece from this duo. The

choreography encourages introspection and plunges into the millennial psyche. It will enthrall and captivate mature audiences.

Upon entering, the stage is level with the first row of seats. Layered squares of light form a backdrop, mimicking a discotheque. As opposed to other contemporary pieces that at times seem quite formal and detached from the audience, BEAT provides a breath of fresh air. From angled lights that allow the dancer to see the eyes of the spectators to the minimal staging where the DJ is nowhere in sight, everything is set to maximise engagement.

For contemporary dance first-timers, the opening section may be slightly confusing (we

certainly did not know what we were getting into) but it remains gripping nonetheless. Soon though, it becomes clear that the thought-provoking routine tries to explore many different facets of our generation. One of our personal highlights was the expression through movement of selfie culture, a part where the dancer stands in the middle of the stage and the lights change rapidly, creating the illusion of scrolling through a social media app.

The choreography itself is varied and innovative, incorporating a range of different styles, including salsa and ballet. The repetitive movements used throughout the dance are an expression of the

mundane, lives that we all live - clearly not utilising the full capacity - and the piece makes us painfully aware of our own physical redundancies. These actions are physically deconstructed throughout the piece on a background of deep house beats and rapidly changing lights; their colour and movement designed to rope you into this fantastic recreation of the disco culture. They also complement perfectly the attention to detail through which Margarita addresses her facial expressions, a quality that is lacking in many contemporary pieces (we learned this by speaking to audience members who were professional choreographers).

Towards the end of the



Powerful poses from the dancers // Alicia Clarke

routine, she swings her arms in an expression of freedom while the lights from all 6 directions around her cycle through red, green and blue. The rapid changes disarm you, and they completely fit the mood of the heavy basslines echoing through the hall. In an age of

hyperconnectivity, BEAT offers a chance to switch off and immerse yourself in the unforgivingly honest worldview by an up-and-coming company already making waves in the contemporary dance world. It's magnificently raw.

Birmingham Royal Ballet Mixed Bill: A three-course meal

ARTS



Where? Sadler's Wells
When? 30th-31st Oct
How Much? From £15

Deniz Ak

Arts Writer

Birmingham Royal Ballet is on tour at Sadler's Wells with a three-part mixed bill to suit anyone's taste. Three separate pieces by different minds to dive into.

The first piece, A Brief Nostalgia (directed by Jack Lister) is unsettling. Two large slates. One dancer. Her shadow cast on the wall whilst she in-

tensely holds a Couru position. The music, an eerie dramatic sound, is enough to stun you into a pleasant confusion. The focus shifts suddenly to another dancer with her shadow on a different slate. A stunning beginning, the darkness surrounding the slates formed perfect harmony with the music and movements. However, what followed provided no relief and the movements became more chaotic, leaving only confusion. The shadows on the slate became secondary rather than complementary to the dancers. Lister did end the piece with a beautiful duet nevertheless. Adding to the atmosphere, the dancers' loose clothing heightened the flow in their movements and tunnelling gas seeped

off the floor towards the audience.

Next was The Suit, directed by Cassa Pancho, founder of Ballet Black. Ballet Black aims to improve representation for Black and Asian dancers. Regardless of demographics, The Suit was humorous and well thought out. The plot follows a couple's strained relationship from when the female partner has an affair. The simple furniture used on stage and the acting skills of the talented dancers brought to life a play that could be followed by any audience member. Pancho successfully used the choir to accentuate the principal dancer's movements, to create separate storylines simultaneously and to clearly demonstrate the tension between the

couple. The choir members were even brilliant props, remodelling into everyday items as needed. The titular suit is an artistic symbol - the suit of the man the female partner slept with. The excellent technical use of the suit is worth the visuals, thus I would thoroughly recommend you see this piece. My favourite from the night.

Nina Sinatra Songs, directed by Twyla Tharp, was a conflicting piece for me. The choice of Frank Sinatra's music was excellent. I couldn't help but sing along. The seven couples all exhibited various ballet moves in ballroom form. Unfortunately, it felt forced. Merging ballet dancers with glorious gowns and heels to replicate a ballroom setting



Light and shadow a chaotic juxtaposition // Ty Singleton

did justice to neither ballet nor ballroom dancing. Moreover, while the clear theme of Tharp's choreography was love, I only truly felt the tenderness in one out of the seven couples. Moving as one and fully engaged with each other, their chemistry offset the discordance in dance styles. The part-

network in this piece did not flow well, despite the excellent technique of individual dancers.

You are spoilt for variety by Birmingham Royal Ballet's Mixed Bill - it is definitely worth going to appreciate different styles and movements.

Union Page



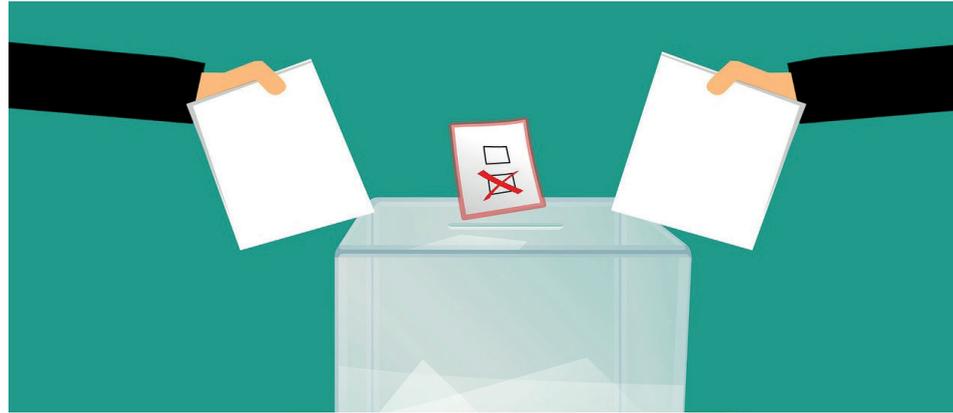
Postgraduate Wine Tasting

Explore the wonderful world of wine in our latest tasting session - this month's theme is Origins of Malbec.

Whether you have a love for wine, or want to expand your knowledge, this event is for you. Our expert tutor will take you on a truly delicious tour educating you on a selection of fine wines.

The event is exclusive to Postgraduates and will be held on Monday 18 October in the Union Bar, 17:30-19:00. Tickets are £6.50 per person, or we have a group saving option of £20.00 for 4 people.

Buy your tickets at imperialcollegeunion.org/wine-tasting



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A General Election has been scheduled for Thursday 12 December with that in mind, we are encouraging all students who are eligible to register to vote.

As a student, you are able to register to vote at both your home address and your term time address, however you can only vote in one place. Get prepared for this election and register to vote in both.

You need to make sure that your voice is heard and the best way to do this is by voting.

Register to vote at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote - it only takes a few minutes.



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Book your place at imperialcollegeunion.org/rep-induction



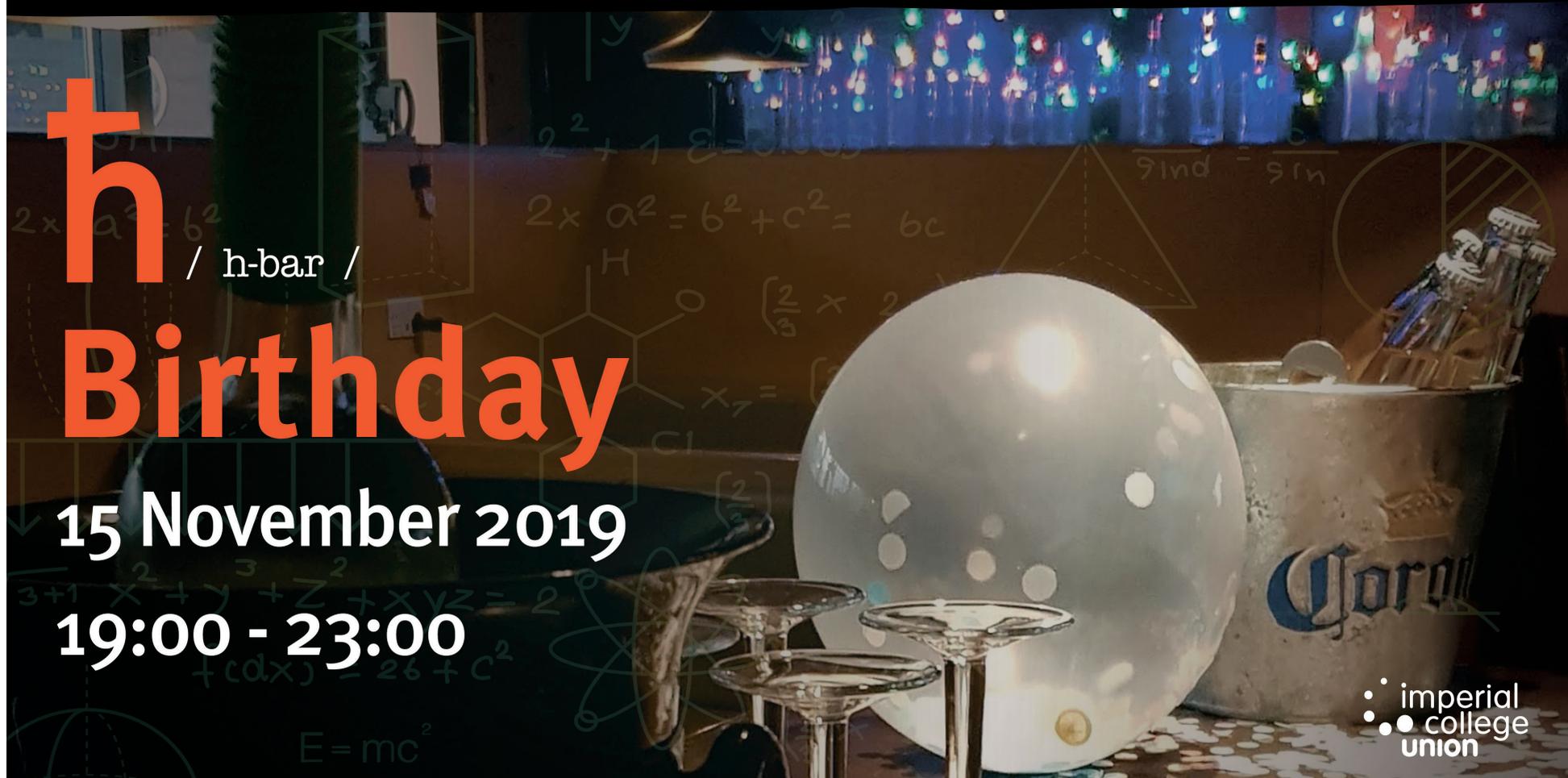
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h-bar / h-bar / Birthday

15 November 2019

19:00 - 23:00

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8 November, Friday

Thank Goodness It's Friday
Metric | 20:00 - 02:00

12 November, Tuesday

Super Quiz
FiveSixEight | 20:00-22:00

Games Night
h-bar | 19:30-23:00

13 November, Wednesday

CSP Wednesday
Beit Bars | 19:00 - 01:00

14 November, Thursday

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

15 November, Friday

Thank Goodness It's Friday
Metric | 20:00 - 02:00

h-bar Birthday
h-bar | 19:30 - 01:00

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BOOKS

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Albert Camus' *The Myth of Sisyphus*

"There is but one truly serious philosophical problem and that is suicide."

BOOKS

Jia Qi Tan

Albert Camus begins with a strong statement, "There is but one truly serious philosophical problem and that is suicide," which immediately catches my attention. My problem with philosophy has always been its irrelevance, that is, whether you think one way or the other has little effect on how the world actually plays out. The very core of metaphysics lies within abstract beliefs and logic and is essentially "beyond physics." While I see the appeal of philosophy, its inconsequentiality lingers. However, Camus takes a turn when he deems this question the most important, because of the definitive act it entails, either living for a purpose or committing suicide for not finding a reason to live.

"Absurdism"

"Absurdism" as defined by Camus is the paradox between one's urgent need for unity to make sense out of this world and the world not making sense. Centuries of religion and philosophies have placed God-given meaning as the sole purpose of existence. Taking it to the far extreme, when we live for our God-given meaning, consider if we are stripped away from that meaning, is suicide then necessary? One metaphor Camus often uses is in a world divested of meaning, a man with existentialist thoughts may feel in exile. He then gives sketches of how feelings

of absurdism may strike, at times of weariness of mechanical life, the inevitability of time, or simply the "denseness and strangeness of the world." It is during these moments that our consciousness awakes and forces us to contemplate whether life has meaning at all.

An absurd reasoning: philosophical suicide

It is notable that Camus explores the approach of other existentialist philosophies at the time in-depth, including Chestov's and Kierkegaard's leap of faith into God in hopes of explaining everything irrational as well as Jasper's and Husserl's quest after transcendence, all of which falls into the trap of reconciliation something entirely irreconcilable. Absurdism is defined by the contradictory truths of one's pursuit of meaning and the universe's utter silence on the subject matter. To apply transcendence on it, either through hope or blind faith, is to escape the paradox. Clearly, Camus is dissatisfied with all answers that attempt to deny one or the other piece of the paradox. Therefore the question of facing the absurd with consciousness remains.

"All of which falls into the trap of reconciliation something entirely irreconcilable"



Revolt, freedom, and passion

The section on absurd freedom, where Camus redefines freedom in the context of absurdity and arrives at a conclusion on how to live with absurdity, is a personal favourite of mine. His definition of freedom is essentially the photo-opposite of the traditional philosophical definition, where one has the choice to decide on the basis of values held by that particular person. Camus's version essentially disregards the values, which he claims will form preconceptions where one ought to follow. To achieve true absurd freedom, one would have to abandon those pre-existing expectations and live life as is.

This leads us into his proposed way to deal with existentialism and the conclusion at which he has arrived--revolt, freedom, and passion. To Camus, suicide is merely an acceptance of the conflict, whereas living

the absurd is revolting against the absurd. With the freedom as defined above, one must also live passionately, continue challenging the world, living in the present and living life to the fullest whilst recognising the futility of it all. As Camus puts it, "Being aware of one's life, one's revolt, one's freedom, and to the maximum, is living, and to the maximum." It is rather interesting and delightful to see how Camus moves from existentialism to a conclusion that resembles the cliches of many self-help books.

Sketches of the absurd man

It is no surprise that as a womaniser himself Camus would choose to draw examples from the seductive Don Juan. Contrary to common claims that he's after some transcending true love, Camus proposes that Don Juan simply enjoys the experience of seducing and devotes his life doing

that and only that, despite recognising its meaninglessness. One example is stage actors embodying this philosophy by living out the intensity and variety of life, unburdened by fame and endeavouring in the fleeting joy. Another example he gives is the conquerors, who acknowledge that "action is in itself useless" and is "fully aware of the grandeur." While including such sketches provides physical forms of innocent, amoral beings fully embracing the absurd, I would say that protagonists in Camus's other works like *The Plague* better represent Camus's vision of an absurd man.

The Myth of Sisyphus

The perfect embodiment of an absurd heroic figure would be Sisyphus, who is punished to roll a rock uphill only to watch it fall, and repeating that till eternity. Camus is especially interested in Sisyphus's consciousness

at the very moment that the rock rolls down before Sisyphus continues to push the rock up. It is Sisyphus's state of lucidity at the moment that sets him free from his fate. As Camus puts it, "The struggle itself towards the heights is enough to fill a man's heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy."

Final thoughts

Strictly speaking, *The Myth of Sisyphus* is not a work of philosophy but rather Camus's attempt of building a framework on how to live. In this sense, it is not peculiar that he has arrived at the conclusion that he did. Although he left many questions unanswered, his response is certainly a pragmatic answer to the continual search for meaning. I like that Camus himself fully embodies his own philosophy of the ironic blend of detachment and passionate-living, and that is perhaps the best a philosopher can do.

MUSIC

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Battles and Black Midi Live at the Boiler room

Battles and opens Black midi deliver a stunning performance at the Boiler Room's intimate venue

MUSIC

Battles



Support Artist: Black Midi
Venue: The Boiler Room
Date: 29th October 2019.
Ticket Price: Free

Alex Baldwin
Music Writer

What happens when one of math-rock's most forward-thinking bands plays a tiny venue alongside one of this year's most-hyped groups? The 'venue' for this event (basically Boiler Room's office + a bandroom) was down one of the many backalleys in Hackney. Were it not for the small light-up 'Boiler Room' sign, a lone security guard and a collection of 20-somethings waiting around drinking Red Stripe, it could have been any kind of garage or studio space. Tickets were allocated the day before through a ballot, and admission was free with the caveat that it wasn't guaranteed. As a result the line was round the block before doors even opened, many had evidently come straight from the office.

For those unfamiliar, Boiler Room is a broadcasting company that regularly showcases performances from up-and-coming DJs. Part of the fun is having said DJ play in the middle of the room, directing the focus on their music and performance, as well as the antics of those immediately behind them. As you can imagine, livestreaming parties online can often lead to people doing stupid things in front of the cameras - often deliberately. In fact

there is an entire channel on Youtube dedicated to showcasing the shenanigans from the crowd during BR broadcasts (People of Boiler Room). This show was unique in that the two main artists were live bands and not DJs, but the whole event was still livestreamed

Once Inside, the office/venue was packed; everyone immediately piled into the bandroom, wanting to be as close as possible for the performance. Thankfully, the show was BYOB, announced earlier in the day in an email titled "IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BATTLES + BLACK MIDI TONIGHT", containing only the message "It's BYOB xoxoxo".

After soundchecking in front of the full audience, Black Midi began their show with "953", the opener from their debut *Schlangenheim*, released earlier this year. The band switched between different jittery time signatures with ease, a testament to their strong chemistry and technical ability - more impressive for the fact the lead singer probably gets ID'd buying a Red Bull. One of the advantages of playing such a small space is the tight acoustics, which really showcases how well BM use a range of dynamics across their songs. At one point in the opener, explosive drums and feedback die away to reveal a twinkly guitar line played so softly you practically can hear those outside on the balcony lighting up a fag. This only lasts for a brief moment, before the drums and other guitars come crashing back in with the same intensity.

There's only a brief pause before they spin

into their next, in which the double-digit audience barely has time to offer applause. "Of *Schlangenheim*" is much the same as before, with a constantly evolving tempo and rhythm, but with a throbbing pulse of sub-bass that ricochets through the room. Without pausing, the band launches into

"Black Midi casually saunter through the stunned crowd, seemingly unaware of brains"

a 25-minute long jam of mostly unreleased material. From the way the band members exchange glances it almost seems as if they're improvising, although the music is so tight this is probably the result of countless hours of practice. Despite having a recent album and a few singles released, BM spend the majority of their short set whizzing through this new material. It's unclear where one song ends and the next begins, or if this simply one mammoth song. The different sections of this jam are diverse enough that it remains interesting, and the band even manage to carve out some big hooks, more than making up for the lack of vocals in this section. The music remains anchored by the unrelenting drumming throughout.

After a while this subsides, and gives way

to the iconic opening notes of 'bmbmbm'. The quickly-muttered vocals are noticeably different to the studio version, and the seemingly-impatient band members improvise over the otherwise sparse drums + bassline here.

During 'Ducter', the finale from their debut album, the music almost completely stops during the breakdown, and the lead singer stands softly plucking his guitar, giving the audience a "Clockwork Orange"-esque smirk as he whispers into the microphone. The bass then slowly creeps back in, followed by the drums and other drums, bringing their sound to dizzying new heights.

When they finally reach the end of their set, it is only the third time all the band has stopped together so it takes the audience more than a moment to process what they've just heard. BM then casually saunter through the stunned crowd and out of the room, seemingly unaware of how "Black Midi just melted my brain!" - to quote the instagram story that the bloke in front just posted.

Spare a thought for poor Flo Dill, the DJ taking control of the music after BM and before Battles. Not only does she have an impossibly hard act to follow, but the entire audience is concerned with going for a slash and a fag before waiting around for Battles. Which is a shame because she ends up spinning some funky tunes, finishing on an upbeat italo edit of 'The Model' by Kratwerk - a tune so funky Battles' drummer John Stainer drums along to during his soundcheck.

The crowd spends their entire set anxiously

waiting to get a good position in the bandroom for Battles' set, which isn't as easy as it sounds as we're still packed into the tiny office space. One mans shout of 'Come on England, come on!!', was met with chuckles from the sardines. Inspired by this stroke of comedic gold, another sardine starts shouting 'Hillsborough, Hillsborough!!', which was not met with chuckles, but cries of "Fuck off you nonce" and "Cunt" - the latter of which is delivered as intensely as BM's drums. Being packed amongst so many others also lead to overhearing a dreadlocked white guy telling an unimpressed girl how 'Yuh, so basically after doing DMT my life completely changed'

Eventually some audience members are let in, and Battles begin with 'Font Green Park', a single from their latest album (which also has the nonsensical title of 'Juice B Crypts'). Originally a 4-piece, Battles have lost 2 members across 4 albums and 12 years - quite the ratio! Their music relies heavily on loops, so most of their songs begin with a simple bassline which is looped and another layer is then added over the top. Through doing this the two-piece can essentially have as many sounds as they like playing over each other. Still, both band members have their work cut-out for them: John Stainer plays drums with two hands and all his heart, whilst Ian Williams plays a combination of keys, guitar and synth pad, often simultaneously.

Although I'm much closer to the band this time, I'm behind a 'wannabe member of the Boiler Room crew' who

spends most of the set recording through their cracked iPhone 5. Perhaps she was so focused on her amateur recordings to notice the professional cameraman standing directly to her right.

Unlike BM, Battles are very happy to spend the majority of their set rattling through their latest release, it was satisfying to watch them gradually construct their dense sound, layer by layer, only relying on samples for the parts of the guest vocalists. Also, unlike BM, Battles take a moment to thank the audience between songs, there's no audio in the mic so drummer Ian quickly rattles off a 'Ba dum tss!'

Highlights include lead single 'Titanium 2 Step', which begins with drums coming in hard and slow, before adding a fidgety guitar riff, synths and eventually vocals. At many points in this song and throughout their set it seems almost as if there are more band members lurking in another corner of the office, or that they might be playing to a backing track, however in a few barely noticeable moments, a loop cuts out slightly early and their drums are a fraction off the beat. This only serves to humanize their music and makes the otherwise clinical precision in which they play so much more impressive.

I was lucky enough to nab a copy of the setlist and meet the band afterwards, which made the whole experience even better. This is easily one of the best shows I've ever seen, although my ears are still ringing from Black Midi. The videos are all up on Boiler Rooms channel, watch it loud for maximum impact!

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“Thank you for the warm welcome back” - My Chemical Romance and Rage Against the Machine announce reunions!

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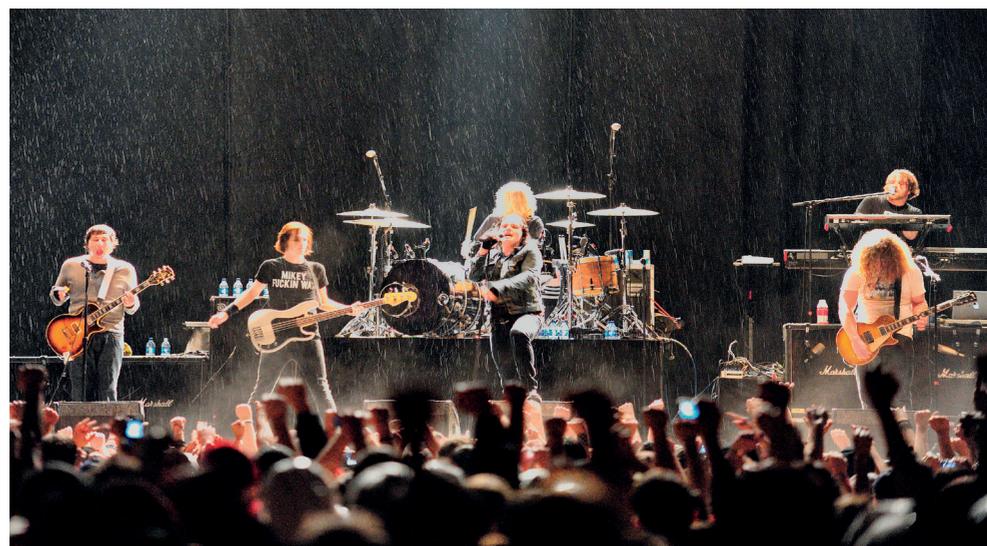
Emily Freeman

Music Editor

It's been a hefty week in music news, after the shock announcement of a reunion from emo-legends My Chemical Romance shortly followed by a similar post from the rap-metallers Rage Against the Machine. MCR fans were overwhelmed on Halloween after MCR socials posted about 'Return', their first show in six years after the group disbanded in 2013. This prompted an outpouring across social

media which mainly consisted of has-been emos stating "nothing matters now that MCR are back" while looking distraught in their finest Halloween garms. Tickets for this show sold out in minutes. The reunion was leaked by none other than Joe Jonas earlier this year, when he claimed the band had been rehearsing in a studio next to him but this was quickly denied by guitarist Frank Iero (not surprised, who wants to be associated with Joe Jonas?). The band posted on Instagram to say thanks for the "happiness we have experienced over the past two days" and that they "truly did not expect

this". Elsewhere, Rage Against the Machine also announced their reunion quietly on social media with a string of tour dates for next year including a headline slot at Coachella. In the wake of this, the politically charged rap metal band have had to disband their supergroup Prophets of Rage formed alongside members of Cypress Hill and Chuck D. All of this came after guitarist Tom Morello specifically said to not "wait around for Rage Against the Machine - form your own band and get it done". Huh. Rage memorably played a massive celebration show in Finsbury Park back in 2010 after a hard-fought



My Chemical Romance rocks Bernie Sander's Inauguration (2020) // Wikimedia

campaign to make their song "Killing in the Name" the UK Christmas number one succeeded, pushing the X-factor

winner of that year from the top spot. Turning to ICU's Rock and Metal society to find out which reunion is more exciting,

there seemed to be overwhelming support for Rage returning. Perhaps we're all looking forward to their take on Trump?

Feeling stressed? Put these chill tunes to the test!

It's getting to that time of term again, so we've gathered 5 tracks for those looking for a moment of peace

MUSIC

Miles Gulliford

Music Editor

This week I noticed many of my friends were finding themselves overwhelmed, as mid-term workload hit its peak. I also began to feel I was experiencing a degree of stress, upon returning home, after a series of late nights in the library, I put on music to relax, finding certain songs to be a great comfort. I thought I would share some of these with you, reader.

1. Mark Kavuma - Lullaby to a Fading Star. This sensuous slow burner

has all the trappings of a 60s outing, surprisingly however, it came out earlier this year on The Banger Factory - a strong record showcasing some of London's rising stars. Built around a delicate, classic jazz progression, delivered by the vibraphone's pillowish tones. Yawning, rich harmonies and subtle solos fill out this instrumental, with a Hammond organ bubbling away in the background. Lullaby to a fading star will practically lull you to sleep.

2. Grouper - Vapor Trails. Grouper is an indie artist who specialises in tracks more atmosphere than song. A monastic figure, she hid behind mountains of

equipment and ran off stage immediately after the performance's end when I caught live her last autumn. On 'Vapor trails' keyboard and guitar, obscured by miasmas of reverb build a dense sense of tranquillity, sweetened slightly by Grouper's vocal harmonies, this track will take you to the moon.

3. Bill Evans, Jim Hall - Romain. When it comes to relaxing music Bill Evans is the pianist. This laid-back outing features only piano and pristine guitar courtesy of Jim Hall. The track builds its backbone around a menacing head before delving into delightfully orchestrated solos from both Evans and Hall, a

slow, rich, and satisfying performance from a wonderful record.

4. Linda Perhacs - Chimacum rain. Linda Perhacs released one record Parallelograms in 1970, a singer songwriter collection drawing heavily from the folk tradition, before disappearing back to a quiet life. What makes her stand out are her delightful vocal harmonies. Chimacum rain is perhaps the best example of this, her half-whispered vocals delicately blossoming into a cradling chorus, over gentle acoustic arpeggios.

5. Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah - Videotape. Christian Scott is a jazz trumpeter with a unique "Whisper technique", creating



Album Covers // Wikimedia

breathily atmospheres by multi tracking his gentle trumpet tone. From his 2017 record The Emancipation Procrastination, Scott delivers a crisp, subtle take on Radiohead's track 'Videotape'. Built

around the same driving piano progression as the original, layered instead with hazy trumpet and sparse drums, 'Videotape' will let you dissolve for a moment.

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Nearer my God: Foxing's Transcendental Rock Show

MUSIC

Foxing



Support Artist: Spielbergs;
Venue: The Dome. **Date:**
17th July 2019

Jonathan Lu

Music Writer

I saw several bands live over the summer. Florence + The Machine and The National's anthemic chamber pop at BST in front of thousands in Hyde park, Black Midi drawing a respectable crowd at Earth despite having released virtually no music (I also wrote a review for their show I'm sure nobody read) and Muse playing stadium rock below a towering inflatable robot to a packed Olympic stadium.

But by far the best gig I went to was also by far the smallest, Foxing at The Dome on July 17th.

Both of the friends I had dragged along had never even heard of Foxing. Arriving slightly later than intended expecting the opening act to be already playing I was surprised to see the venue almost empty allowing us to take a spot right at the front. Unlike any other band I have ever seen there was absolutely nothing between the stage and the audience, we are so close that my friend "accidentally" unplugs

the guitar at one point.

Foxing released their debut *The Albatross* in 2014, now considered one of the best of the 2010s Midwest emo revival incorporating orchestral post-rock elements reminiscent of *The Antlers* into the classic screaming melodramatic formula of emo music. *Dealer*, released the following year was more subdued and mature leaning further into post-rock influences.

Their latest album

"Fans climb on the stage and jump into the crowd, there isn't a security guard in sight to stop them"

Nearer My God is one of the best, most forward thinking and ambitious rock albums of the decade. "This is no OK Computer" Frontman Conor Murphy said in an interview with *Uproxx*, "But for us that's what it feels like". I think the comparison is appropriate. A genre transcending modern rock album rooted in Midwest emo but combining everything from glitch pop to art rock to alternative R&B.

In a reddit AMA question asking which albums most influenced it the band responded: Frank Ocean's emotional



Foxing rocking out//Wikimedia

Alt-R&B masterpiece *Blonde*, Sufjan Stevens' chaotic electro-folk and progressive pop magnum opus *The Age Of Adz*, Radiohead's political art rock classic *Hail To The Thief* and Interpol's influential atmospheric post-punk debut *Turn On The Bright Lights*.

'Grand Paradise', the opening track of *Nearer My God* also opens the show with a drum machine loop and reserved synths slowly building until Ricky Sampson and Eric Hudson's guitars finally kick in alongside John Hellwig's art rock drumming as Murphy screams "I'm shock collared at the gates of heaven" igniting the initially subdued crowd who break into a full on mosh during the song's outro which sounds like Radiohead, Godspeed

You! Black Emperor and My Chemical Romance covering Taylor Swift's 'Style'. "Hopefully we don't fuck it up" Murphy says as Sampson plays the iconic tapped guitar riff of 'The Medic' and the crowd joins Murphy singing "She says, you always smell like cigarettes". Sampson does more tapping during the explosive guitar solo of 'Lich Prince' as Hudson plays his guitar behind his back and bassist Brett Torrence jumps around the stage. "There's no more sun and no more light shine through" the crowd echoes during the politically charged 'Slapstick' which references Trump's climate change denial. The band plays 'Rory' shrouded in darkness bar a single light illuminating Murphy singing "Why don't you love me back"

as the song builds from slow piano into powering drums and Murphy gives an emotional trumpet solo. A few fans climb on the stage and jump into the crowd, there isn't a security guard in sight to stop them.

Foxing closes the set with the title track 'Nearer My God'. In many ways it is the thematic centrepiece of not only the album but the show. Foxing knows *Nearer My God* won't be the next *OK Computer* and they'll never headline festivals or sell out stadiums like Florence or Muse but they're going to give everything they have anyways. "I'd sell my soul, to be America's pool boy the crowd centrefold" Conor shrieks, it feels like he is on the verge of crying and laughing at the same time. During the outro he jumps into the crowd who

join him singing "do you want me at all".

Foxing draw a crowd of only a few hundred compared to the tens of thousands watching Muse and Florence + The Machine. Despite this they manage to make music considerably more ambitious, rock much harder and convey far more emotion. Compared to being hundreds of feet away barely able to make out the silhouette of Matt Belamy, I much preferred watching Foxing transcend from the front row. "I feel the love in suspension and nearer my God" Conor yells, arms outstretched to a crowd similarly extending upwards inches apart, like the Michelangelo painting of God reaching to man.

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FILM

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The Souvenir: A Film about Film

FILM

THE SOUVENIR



Dir: Joanna Hogg. **Script:** Joanna Hogg. **Starring:** Honor Swinton Byrne, Tom Burke, Tilda Swinton.
119 minutes, 2019

Zuzanna Janusz
Film Writer

A film about film – Joanna Hogg takes us on a sentimental trip back to the 80s, telling a partly autobiographical story of Julie, an inexperienced filmmaker searching for a theme for her first picture and falling in love with a mysterious man.

What sounds like a coming of age story that many could relate to,

quickly turns out to be unclear and self-referential. Perhaps this explains why the film was so widely acclaimed at independent film festivals, winning the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance, but what may be relatable and touching to people from the film industry, seems rather dull to an ordinary filmgoer. The feature is essentially one two-hour-long chat: there are conversations at the table, discussions in the car, there is pillow talk and deep-meaningful-conversations at a party. However, to fully engage in these we would have to know the backstory of the main characters. Without it *The Souvenir* feels like an arbitrary collection of scenes and quotes from other films.

To be clear, the film does touch on complex issues – growing up and gaining independence

from one's family, drug addiction, being honest with oneself – but does so in a superficial manner, then wanders off to another topic without justifying characters' actions. The fact that *The Souvenir* was shot without a script, only based on a short summary of Hogg's

"The Souvenir feels like a collection of scenes and quotes from other films"

memories, explains its unstructured nature.

What mainly adds depth to the protagonist is the relationship with her mother, who seems



Our two lead characters in *The Souvenir*// A24

to hesitate between protecting Julie and giving her space for her own decisions. She was stunningly portrayed by Tilda Swinton, actual mother of Honor Swinton Byrne, who played Julie in a natural, charming way. Tom Burke also gave an interesting performance as Anthony, an enigmatic

man, who slowly unfolds to show his toxic personality.

One of the biggest strengths of the film, in my opinion, was the camerawork. The story was filmed with attention to composition, while light and shadow give it an intimate atmosphere. The choice of soundtrack,

together with blurry, grainy images definitely adds to the nostalgic feel.

There is something fascinating about how quiet and minimalistic this film is. Nevertheless, the story is too vague and personal to be truly engaging.

Your Father's Murderer: A Letter to Zachary

FILM

YOUR FATHER'S MURDERER: A LETTER TO ZACHARY



Dir: Kurt Kuenne **Script:** Kurt Kuenne
93 minutes 2008

Dominic Ede
Film Editor

Sometimes it's nice to just have a good cry at a movie, cathartic even; so with a quick Google for some of the saddest films ever made, followed by a little scrolling on Reddit, I came across this recommendation from Ubertraquer with the bold words "without a doubt

the most tragic and heart wrenching film".

This documentary follows filmmaker Kurt Kuenne as he writes a 'letter' to Zachary, detailing the life of his murdered father (Andrew Bagby), and the people he surrounded himself with. With the promise of being tragic, I was set with a box of tissues and a Hall and Oates album on standby if things became a little too much, yet I found something lacking.

I won't spoil it, but if I were to tell you the entire story of Andrew Bagby, I'm sure I might elicit a tear or two, but watching this film I couldn't quite bring myself to squeeze one out, so what stopped these tears from flowing here?

I'm not one to shy away

from crying in a film. I mean you're listening to someone who cried at the end of *Toy Story 3*, so I was expecting to be

"With the promise of being tragic, I was set with a box of tissues and a Hall and Oates album on standby"

balling my eyes out, and this is what I think might have been the problem.

While desolate in story, the execution of

this documentary felt quite different. Where Kuenne could've have easily turned this into a sob fest, playing on every emotional trigger known, he simply didn't. Instead of focusing entirely on the bad, most of this film felt like a celebration of the life of Andrew, focusing on the lives of others he touched; this is made almost over abundantly clear at the beginning as we see something being dropped into a pond with the ripples of the water spilling out. This isn't the only trope throughout the movie though - littered with record scratches and choppy editing, this feels like a very 'homely' movie, giving a much more intimate and personal feel to it. While some might argue this is

poor filmmaking, it feels very much in the 'spirit' of what this film is trying to achieve.

This is an extremely personal film, and while watching it I couldn't escape the feeling that I was intruding. This is not a film for a boy across the Atlantic to be watching slouched in bed, it simply

doesn't do it justice. This was a film made for the people that knew Andrew, and while it has many flaws, it tells an honest story about a tragic time in these peoples lives, and you can't help but admire it for that.



Kurt and Zachary// MSNBC Films

GAMES

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Blizzcon 2019: The Ultimate Redemption Arc, or Just Another Out of Season April Fools' Joke?

Activision Blizzard has a lot to make up for this year with their recent controversies. There were many big announcements but very few release dates. Let's go over everything covered this weekend.

GAMES

Freddie Ugo

Games Editor

After the failure of last year's Blizzcon with the likes of Diablo Immortal, and the recent controversy surrounding Activision Blizzard, all eyes looked to this year in anticipation of how they could redeem themselves. Oh, did they ever! Let's take a deep dive into all the major announcements from Blizzcon this weekend and what they mean for the future of these beloved franchises.

Diablo

Diablo 4 is a thing! This was the first thing they announced and I could not be more excited! It looks to be a lot darker and more gruesome than the previous games, taking place far in the future with a gory aesthetic reminiscent of Diablo 2 (satanic rituals, occult symbols, LOTS of blood). As far as we know, Diablo 4 will require an always-online connection; this is because your group of demon slayers can run into other parties in real-time. The gameplay seems quite similar to what we've seen in previous iterations. As far as the story goes, we are seeing the return of Lilith, daughter of Mephisto; however, the game is meant to be very non-linear with 5 regions you can explore in any order at your own pace. No release date yet but we will keep you posted.

Overwatch

So apparently Overwatch was due for a sequel. Overwatch 2 was announced this weekend. This full-on sequel will feature the same gameplay but with new heroes and new maps as well as a focus on co-op and PvE modes. The strange thing about this announcement is that Overwatch 1 players can still play online with owners of Overwatch 2, and in fact, all your skins and cosmetics will jump over to 2... so you won't lose anything there. This was all announced with a cinematic trailer called Zero Hour in which we saw many returning heroes fight off a robot invasion with the aid of a new

“Strangely, Overwatch 1 players can still play online with owners of Overwatch 2”

hero, Echo. Furthermore, the first Canadian hero was announced, Sojourn. Sojourn has been in Overwatch before but never as a playable character so this is very exciting to see. There is also a new talent system available in which you level up heroes; it is still unclear how that will work when cross-play between Overwatch 1 and 2 is available. Finally, Jeff Kaplan, the game's director, said he has “no idea” when the game is



Diablo IV is finally here and it looks beautiful... hopefully it will be worth the wait! // Gamepur

coming out, so, again, we will keep you posted!

World of Warcraft

World of Warcraft Shadowlands: that just *sounds* epic. This new expansion to World of Warcraft releases next year where players are taken to an alternate realm of death and decay as they must choose from several factions to fight Sylvanus after she destroys the Lich King, Bolvar. In the epic cinematic trailer, Sylvanus uses Bovar's helmet to tear open the sky and destroy the barrier between Azeroth (the main are of World of Warcraft) and the Shadowlands. As always there is a massive overhaul of the game's systems with the main aspects being: a new end game dungeon that looks like its own rogue-like experience and a new level cap of... 60? As confusing as this is, with the previous level cap being 120, it is a benefit as it will make grinding to max level *much* quicker.

The current level of maxed-out characters will be reduced to 50 so you still have 10 levels to progress through this expansion... with unique upgrades to abilities and talents every level it will be the type of progression that players can feel.

Hearthstone

Capping off the end of the year of the dragon celebration in Hearthstone, the 3rd expansion this year is Descent of Dragons. Surprise surprise, many more dragons to add to your collection! With several new mechanics and a new keyword “Invoke,” it looks like the meta is going to get shifted quite substantially. Invoke is tied to Galakrond, the progenitor of all dragonkind – a very powerful hero card that can be upgraded through 3 separate forms. He can be buffed while in your deck and any card with the invoke keyword will cause him to be buffed. Every player will receive

Galakrond upon logging in so don't worry about missing out on that fun! Descent of Dragons is looking to complete the story of the League of Explorers and co. battling the League of E.V.I.L. To everyone's surprise: there is a new mode being added! Battlegrounds is

“Descent of Dragons is looking to complete the story of the League of explorers and co. battling the league of E.V.I.L”

an auto-chess-esc game mode in the auto-battle genre which will be in beta pretty soon. Descent of Dragons does have

a release date, mark December 10th on your calendars.

Smaller News

So now with the big announcements out of the way (no Starcraft, I know, I'm sad too), let's wrap up some of the smaller, yet still exciting, announcements. Diablo Immortal, the phone version of Diablo that got everyone into a rage was playable and looks very cool. It is still in development with no release date (hey, I'm noticing a pattern here) but I don't imagine it will be much longer given that it was announced a year ago. Also announced was that Warcraft 3: Reforged is expanding its closed beta and it will be released “sometime soon”. So that was Blizzcon 2019, many huge announcements but sadly only one definitive release date. Nonetheless, there is plenty to look forward to as a Blizzard fan whether on PC, PS4, Xbox One or Switch.

GAMES

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POV: It's Tricky to Rock a Rhyme That's Right on Time

GAMES

Freddie Ugo

Games Editor

The SSX franchise is the Tony Hawk's Skateboarding of the snow (sorry Shawn White). Fast-paced, meticulous focus on gameplay, absolutely amazing soundtracks and a few failures recently with the franchise... But I am not here to tell you about all the bad with SSX, I'm here to spout about the pure brilliance that is SSX Tricky.

Over the weekend, I went home for Bonfire Night. I couldn't go home without whipping out my GameCube and playing this gem with my brother who has played it at least once a month since it came out in 2001. The

basis of SSX Tricky is a snowboarding game. You choose one of two game modes: either a race to the finish or a trick competition where you try to get the most points you can by doing the best tricks as you make your way down the slopes. The best part of SSX Tricky is, well, the tricks. You can do some

"I have completed every slope on gold and would happily do it again"

pretty inhuman things such as a double misty on a rail whilst going uphill. Equally the uber tricks (available once you

have filled up your Tricky meter) are absolutely wild, such as spinning the board around in your hand whilst flying through the air and somehow landing on two feet.

You can choose from a variety of characters and level them up individually, choosing which stats you want to improve and thus determining what each character specialises in. They each excel at different things, with Marty, the best at tricks, being my favourite. I have completed every slope on gold countless times and would happily do it again whilst jamming along to RUN D.M.C.'s "It's Tricky" and constantly being told to "bronze those thumbs". I don't know what else I could ask for in a sports game. Insanely over the top tricks, a plethora of maps, amazing music and a stupid amount of cus-



The characters in this game have a really unique aesthetic // EA

tomisation, it really does stand the test of time.

The one complaint I have is after a while pulling off complex tricks can hurt my thumbs but I guess that's just something I have to live with. If you are a fan of the Tony Hawk's Pro Skater series, I *highly* recommend

checking this out. Don't bother with the other SSX games, Tricky is the holy grail of this now dead franchise. All I can hope for now is a remake, but with EA owning the rights to it, I don't see that happening anytime soon. Other than that I hope you all have a great week and

be sure to check out Death Stranding, out on the day of this publication. I am extremely hyped for potentially another Kojima gem and I hope you are too!

POV: The Haunted Island A Frog Detective Game

GAMES

Connor Winzar

Games Editor

Browsing one of my favourite gaming news websites, Destructoid, I came across a recommendation for this game (currently sold for \$1 on Humble Bundle and £3.99 on Steam). The game in question is "Grace Bruxner presents: The Haunted Island a Frog Detective Game", and despite its long title, the game itself is quite short with a completion time of an hour. I instantly knew I was in for a good time upon discovering that the game's graphic settings had been replaced with lyrics to 'Low by Flo

Rida' – of course, being a man of culture, I chose "apple bottom jeans" as my graphics setting.

The menu screen of the game also had me chuckling as I saw on the left an anthropomorphic frog that was clearly high as a kite and on the right a sloth that looked like it was on PCP. To add further to my experience was surprisingly nice jazz piano music playing in the background. Featuring seriously thought out names like Lobster Cop, Mo "Mouse" Mouse, Fresh X (the alligator) and a load of other quirky characters, this game is not to be taken seriously in the slightest. The humour featured is very much dead-pan jokes, delivered alongside a buffet of wholesomeness, making the game

that much more adorable.

The adorableness continues with the whole entire basis of the game's mystery being "there's a sloth who is hearing a

lot of spooky ghost noises around his island" ... that's literally it. Treading on similar lines as Poirot, the low polygon frog detective must endeavour

to figure out the mystery. It is my recommendation that you get the game for 77p from the humble bundle deal, Day of the Dev, just so you can experi-

ence an hour of chill music, wholesomeness and quirky dead-pan humour.



Me and the boys high af and getting ready to smash on the dance floor // Grace Buxner

GAMES

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Poll: Memes. Love or Hate em', they Exist!

Thank you all for your submissions last week! This week's theme is focusing around memes, given the fact that someone went and submitted the answer "Yes" to every single question last week... 27 times. Send Reddit or Imgur links for the submissions!

What is your favourite easter egg?

Open submission

What is your favourite dank gaming meme?

Open Submission

What is your favourite new gaming meme?

Open submission

What is your favourite wholesome gaming meme?

Open submission

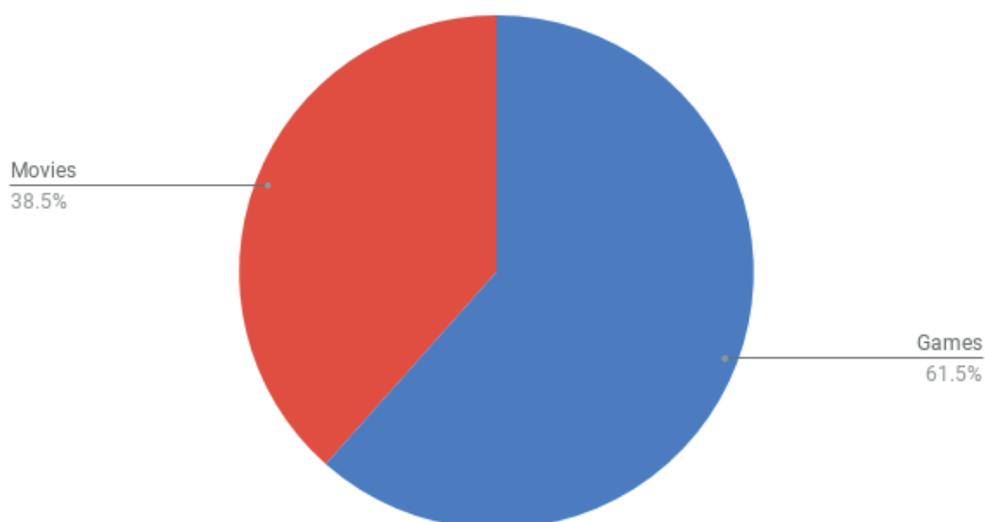


Don't talk to me or my son ever again! // Cyberpunk2077

Submit your answers into the Microsoft survey - accessible through the Felix Facebook/Twitter page or scanning the QR code. No need to download an app! You can just hold down the screen on Snapchat or use your standard camera and it will scan the code for you. We'll get back to you next week, with infographics and more questions!

Poll Results

Which do you prefer, the games or the movies?



Question 2: On a scale of 1 to 10 how much did Lego Princess Leia turn you on?

2, 10, 0, 10, 5, X, yes, she thicc, ez 9, Its over 9000, 0, 8, 0, 300

Question 3: Which famous movie franchise should be made into a Lego game next?

Scary Movie, Game of Thrones, Hobbit, 50 shades of grey, John Wick, Shrek, The Godfather, Texas chainsaw massacre, Pacific Rim, Lord of the rings, Jurassic Park, Godzilla.

Question 4: What was your first experience with LEGO?

Unanimously everyone agreed that their first experience was with the toys.

Question 5: What is your favourite lego game?

Indiana Jones, Lego Star Wars: The Complete Saga, The original ones where you can build buidlings, Fred, Lego Batman 2, Lego Star Wars, Lego Star Wars, no other acceptable answer, Star Wars I-VI, Lego Star Wars, Lego Star Wars DS, Harry Potter 1-4

INVESTMENT

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A Brief Introduction to Derivatives

INVESTMENT

Jinay Patel

ICIS
Investment Co-Editor

If you've flicked past all of the puzzles and literally every other section to get to Investments, well then I know you're probably a banker w****. All jokes asides, if any of you have read more than 3 articles on FT or spoke to a Business School student for 5 minutes, you've probably heard of a derivative, but what exactly are they?

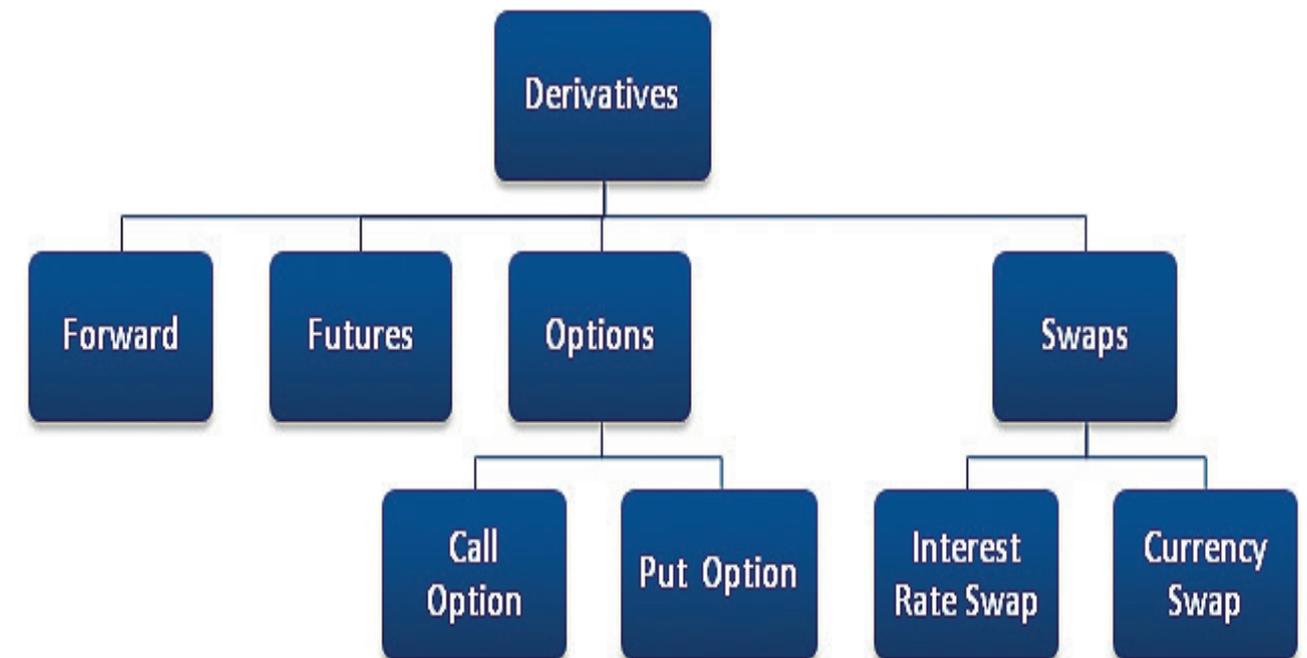
"You now probably know enough to not sound like a complete novice when asked about derivatives in an interview."

Any financial product that has their value based off some underlying asset is a derivative. More

formally, it's a contract between 2 parties that states the condition for which payments are made to each party. The main types of derivatives you'll encounter are options, swaps, futures and forwards. The figure in the article shows the common type of derivatives. I'll spare you another 500 words of financial jargon and instead explain each one as simply as I can.

Having an Option

There are two different types of options, calls and puts. Call options give the owner the right but not the obligation to buy the underlying stock at a given price on/before a particular date. A put option is the opposite, the owner has the right to sell the underlying stock at a given price on a particular date. Let's say you think that the price of Apple's stock is set to rise from \$250 over the next month. You go to your favourite broker and buy a call option for \$50 which states that you can buy 100 Apple shares at \$260 within the next 30 days. If Apple's stock goes up to \$270, then you can make \$950 ($100 \times (270 - 260) - 50$). However, let's say instead of going up, the stock price went down. In this case you wouldn't exercise the call option



This editor is surprised to learn that Derivatives encompasses all these financial products // Finideas

and you'd lose \$50 (the price of the option).

Fancy a Swap?

A swap is exactly what it sounds like. The simplest example is an interest rate swap. Let's say I own a \$1,000,000 investment that pays me 1% LIBOR each month (London Interbank offered rate) and you own a \$1,000,000 investment that pays you a fixed rate of 1.2%. The LIBOR keeps changing in the market whereas the fixed rate is well, fixed. I don't like the volatility of this LIBOR rate but you're happy with the risk as you have a chance of receiving

higher payments. So essentially, we just swap.

Forwards and Futures

A future is an agreement between parties to buy or sell an asset at a certain time in the future for a specific price. For example, if you plan to grow 1000 bushels of wheat next year, you could sell it for whatever the trading price is. You could also lock in a price now by selling a futures contract that states that you must sell 1000 bushels for a fixed price. Doing this means you eliminate the risk of a drop in wheat prices. However, if the

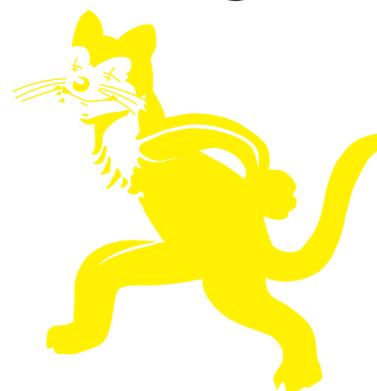
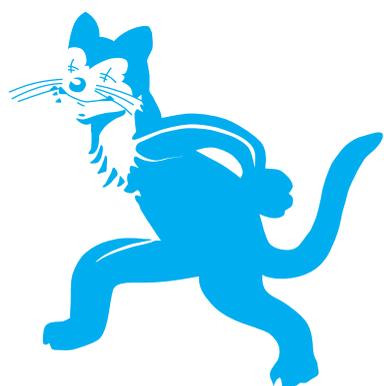
price of wheat goes up, you will lose out on the potential gains. Now imagine you're a bread manufacturer and you think the price of wheat is set to rise; you could buy a futures contract to fix the price of the wheat to control your costs. If it does rise, you'll only pay what the futures contract stated. All these trades happen via a central exchange.

A forward is quite like a future with the only difference being that forwards are not traded on an exchange but on an OTC (over the counter) market. It is therefore not regulated which means it involves some amount

of risk. It's possible that either the buyer or seller in the contract is not able to pay the amount due in which case, they don't have to pay the money back. More risk = better prices.

These are the main types of derivatives; you can however get more exotic derivatives with more complicated payoff structures, but that's for another time. You now probably know enough to not sound like a complete novice when asked about derivatives in an interview.

Felix is recruiting!



POSTGRADUATE

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5 Steps To Improve Your Emotional Intelligence

Improving your emotional IQ, through emotional awareness will benefit both your personal and professional life. Starting with understanding where you currently are and what skills you need to develop to master your emotions can help you find success in all areas of life.

POSTGRADUATE

Sara Hendricks

Graduate Felix Officer

Emotional Intelligence is the one life skill that many great leaders possess. Someone with a high emotional IQ can navigate the waters of all life situations. Emotional intelligence is the ability to manage your emotions as well as those around you. People often forget how important their emotional IQ is. Some of us, undervalue it, we focus on other things, or we figure that it's not that important. But it is! It's very important to develop and grow your emotional IQ.

The best way to grow your emotional IQ is to do so gradually. Slow deliberate changes is a great method to bring about lasting changes in your life. Focusing on areas of your emotional IQ that can be improved takes time and diligence. That's why it's important to practice emotional awareness all the time, not just when we think something is already wrong.

Here are some ways you can improve your emotional IQ.

First Ask Yourself How You Are Feeling

Being aware of our own emotions can be very similar to being aware of other people's emotions. Doing so you can avoid stressful situation by evaluating your feelings before you react. Checking your own emotional wellness is done the

same way you the check emotional wellness of others: by asking.

When other people ask you how you are doing, it can be most efficient and polite to just say "okay" or "fine" but if you literally ask yourself you may reply with something a little more informative. You don't have to carry on a whole conversation with yourself, but if you ask yourself "How are you doing?" and you respond with "Well, I've been better," it might be something to spend more time thinking about.

Second, become comfortable talking about your own feelings

So many people find it hard to talk about their feelings. But verbalizing how you're feeling is one the best ways to evaluate your emotional IQ. Consider stating how you feel with statements like "I'm not comfortable with," or "that makes me frustrated." This method of expressing your own feelings will help you focus and think more about how you feel and how you react to things, but it also will help other people to understand how you are feeling.

"Emotional intelligence is the ability to manage your emotions as well as those around you"



It's important to keep focused on the topic and try not to get distracted. When your "I's" get too close together it can become rude, but it may also distort your outlook.

Third Practice Mindfulness

The practice of mindfulness will encourage you to be aware of your thoughts and feelings, as well as how they make you feel physically. Your body can become tense, your muscles tighten, and you start breathing rapidly. Mindfulness exercises that focus on your breath and breathing are a great way to relieve stress and get you back on track.

Another key attribute of mindfulness is being aware of your current state of mind. Staying present is a great way to control your emotions. Often people find themselves

focused on everything but the present. Practicing

"It's important to practice emotional awareness all the time, not just when we think something is already wrong"

yoga, and various breathing exercises can help you over home your emotions and gain control of your feelings.

The fourth way you can manage your emotional IQ is to Meditate

Meditation can help with matters of the mind//Mindful

Many people are reluctant to get into meditation because it often has religious connotations. While the oldest forms of meditation are explicitly religious, more modern forms of meditation focus exclusively on the secular benefits of meditation. Related to but slightly different from mindfulness, mediation involves taking a part of the day, as little as a few minutes, to clear your mind.

Clearing your mind can bring its own benefits, although it is very difficult. Recognizing what thoughts or feelings make it difficult to clear your mind can help you to recognize which things in your life are giving you the most trouble.

As was the case with mindfulness, there are a lot of great resources online regarding meditation, but the best place to start may be a friendly

conversation with your primary care provider.

Finally, you can write as a method to increase your emotional intelligence.

Many people who journal find it helpful to express themselves privately. Writing can be very therapeutic. You can write daily, or when you need to express yourself. Documenting your experiences can be a tool to see areas of growth in your life. Writing can help you to express your feelings in a safe and healthy way but re-reading your own work can also help you to see your own experiences from a new perspective. This can help you to understand your feelings and can allow you to identify creative solutions to your problems.

FOOD

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My Old Dutch Monday Madness: The only way to start the week right!

FOOD

Zahra Abiola

Food Editor

I have a very important question to ask you all. Do you want a sweet or a savoury breakfast? Because at My Old Dutch, that is the most important decision you will be making that day. This place sports some of the largest crepe style pancakes I've ever seen. Their menu is just as big and is split between the two choices. They even want you all to start the week right with their Monday Madness deal, which puts most of their classic pancakes at £5.95 all day every Monday. Neither wasn't an option because firstly breakfast is essential to taking care of yourself in university and with branches in Chelsea and High Street Kensington it's not a question of if guys but which one. Now that I've helped you make that decision, we still need to get to the bottom of the first question. To achieve this, we need to have the savoury and the sweet go head to head in a heavyweight championship fight. Let's see who comes out victorious.

In this corner, we have the savoury section. If you are one of those people that finds pancakes and bacon blasphemous then avert your eyes because this place truly pushes the boundaries of what belongs on a pancake. I'm talking things like halal lamb curry to duck with hoisin sauce. They've got some that are basically pizzas with a pancake base like the Hawaiian with cheese, ham and pineapple. (I wonder how the pineapple on pizza haters

would feel about this one.) The most important part is that, crazily enough, they all seem to work. With 21 classic options, this section is great for people who want something new. Shake up your boring uni routine and get out of the rut with these stacks.

If you are feeling even more adventurous, you can discard their curated choices and build your own from scratch. They won't judge your combination choices. Now this may all sound a bit too rich for you and that is fair – it's not always best to start the day with something heavy. Well they have just the thing for people like you. Their lite menu prides itself on everything on it being less than 450 calories and it's all savoury. Sadly, these two options aren't part of Monday Madness but are great for when you find yourself passing by on other days.

Now in this corner we have the sweet section. A runt between the two in the fight with just 10

“Each item will bring a new experience and with so many to pick from, it would be hard to imagine it getting boring”

classic options. These options are rather basic compared to the classic savoury with a selection of fruits, chocolates, sugar and syrup. The few they



Buttery pancakes with syrup? Yes please // Zahra Abiola

do, they do well. The fruits are tart and sweet and the servings of ice cream generous. They just have a diversity problem but this section has some friends to tag team with in this fight. On the sidelines are the butterscotch pancakes, poffertjes and waffles. Now the butterscotch pancakes are American style so they have a smaller diameter and more thickness to them. Only one of them can come savoury as the basic egg and bacon combo so I say these belong on the sweet side. The buttermilk options all mirror those of the classic sweets so the choice between the two comes down to a matter of preference in texture.

The waffles come with ice cream or cream. Even though you only get one on the plate, it makes for a filling meal with how high they pile the toppings on this bad boy. Now we are on to the poffertjes (which I still can't pronounce). They are the most Dutch thing on the menu so they get points for their authenticity. These are quite like the American pancakes

but a lot smaller and they give you a lot more of them. The serving size of these are strange to me. For example, the fruit and ice cake option claims to serve 2-4 but one person comfortably finished them alone. At the end of the day, all of these additions to the fight aren't even part of Monday Madness. The waffles get a pass as they are less than or equal

to the Monday Madness price anyways.

It seems that this Monday Madness deal comes with a lot of terms and conditions and you're right. Many a times I've taken friends to eat here on a Monday and they managed to just not be in the mood for anything that was a part of the offer. Also, university is busy. This deal goes on all day

but there will be weeks you won't be able to make it. So I want you to be set for the rest of the week as well. That is why I can tell you that is you can get 20% taken off your bill by telling the Manager on Duty “Pancake Power” as you enter. Flashing your student card will get you 10% everyday but Monday so save this for the weekend when your buzzword doesn't work anymore. Outside of the Madness, every pancake you eat can go towards your stamp card so take all your friends with you so you can get your 10th one free.

As for my question, if you want to live on the edge of acceptability, go for the savoury. Each item will bring a new experience and with so many to pick from, it would be hard to imagine it getting boring. If you want something more comforting and familiar to give you a quick burst of energy, go for sweet. Or come next Monday to see if the grass is greener on the other side.



Take a trip to Amsterdam with these poffertjes // Zahra Abiola

FOOD

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Black Milk: The Sugar Coma you've been waiting for!

FOOD

Zahra Abiola

Food Editor

Black Milk is a café that is best known for their jaw dropping freakshakes. Now, freakshakes have been a trend that has taken the internet by storm for some time now. Originating from Australia, they can be defined as milkshakes topped with something to give it a twist. This gives a lot of leeway for people to go completely nuts. It range from something as simple as whipped cream and sprinkles, to having burgers balancing dangerously close to your drink on a stick. Now, these aren't even desserts anymore. These are whole meals and they have become an obsession of mine as I make my way through London, looking for the most imaginative combinations.

On this quest, Black Milk had to be one of my stops. I ordered their most popular one: The Salted Caramel Stack

Freak!Shake. When it was brought over, I didn't even know how to start. In front of me was a towering glass of biscoff milkshake topped with an entire two-layer slice of salted caramel cake with whipped cream and biscoff crumbs to finish it off. Just saying all of that was a mouthful. I haven't even picked up my fork yet.

Black Milk goes against the grain by presenting their shakes a bit differently. Most places have theirs come in little mason jars. It's a cute aesthetic that gives the perfect sized rim for the toppings like donuts for sure but sometimes I want to more. Black Milk use tall glasses that make theirs shakes really stand out amongst their peers. That also mean that their shakes need a bit more help standing tall. They used a wooden stick to hold the slice in place. It's useful but many people around us ended up asking for a plate to put their slice on. The magic of the freakshake disappears if you can't manage to actually eat it for fear of it

all toppling over.

I decided to power through and start from the very top.. The things I do for Felix. The salted caramel cake was moist and decadent. As salted

"Black Milk goes against the grain by presenting their shakes a bit differently"

caramel is one of my favourite flavours, I have some very strong opinions on the stuff. I always have a problem with places serving salted caramel desserts that just taste sweet. The salt should be present enough to make the caramel taste become sharper and more present. I can happily say that this cake definitely delivered in that aspect, especially when it came to the icing separating the layers. We were off to a good start.

If you still have space once the cake is gone,



Salted Caramel Stack, for those wanting an extra slice to their shake // Zahra Abiola

you can get started on the actual milkshake. The drink was smooth and creamy. It was incredibly indulgent though I wish the biscoff taste was more obvious. Biscoff and salted caramel are truly a match made in heaven – I realise that now. Name a more iconic duo, I'll wait. They also decorate the cup with extra biscoff and have chocolate around the rim if you have it in you for more.

The café is situated in the corner of the Fiorucci store in Covent Garden but with freakshakes like this, they definitely make their presence known. They've got other treats like their slightly less intense Black Milkshakes waffles of cereal cocktail bowls. Everything is halal except the lucky charms because of their marshmallows. Their staff are great to so you can have a lovely conversation while they are creating the masterpiece. You eat on the backdrop of the latest fashion in the store so make sure you don't get too messy! I made sure I stayed as far away from them as I could because I

don't trust myself. I wish they had a proper place in London or at least in an area where some stray ice cream doesn't become a very expensive mistake.

When you visit, have your camera ready. They value customers photos to the point that their entire Instagram is comprised of them. They will even reward you for the perfect shot. A repost to their story will get you 50% off your next milkshake while a repost to their page gets you one for free so you could be back for more in no time.

"Ranging from whipped cream and sprinkles to having burgers balancing dangerously close to your drink on a stick"

The sugar dream doesn't have to stop when you step out the door. If you want to take the magic home, you can buy their Kinderella Cream online. Yes, they've managed to get the taste of the Kinder Bueno cream and put it in a jar. They've also got a sticky toffee, salted caramel and biscoff sauce if that's what you are really looking for to make your own sweet creations.

There are some that are finding all of this to be way too sickly. This is a lot of sugar – I can't deny that. A sweet tooth was required to get through the mountain that was put in front of me. There is no doubt that this is excessive. Does it make sense? No. Are there better meals you could be having? Yes. But there is simply such an appeal of eating things for the spectacle of it all. And these cavities-in-a-cup truly have that wow factor to them. So, if you ever find yourself in Covent Garden, looking to put yourself through the biggest sugar high of your life, this is the best place to hit up.



An Oreo milkshake that will have you melting just like the cream // Zahra Abiola

CONSTITUENT UNION

felix@imperial.ac.uk

CGCU

Thomas Cross

CGCU President

Fatima Khan

CGCU Vice President

This week, Tom is getting serious - a man on a mission, and Fatima is her usual excellent self. We're co-writing this, so bear with us - we haven't had to write an article together since we were mere Guildsheet editors last year.

We apologise to those who felt that Tom wasn't using the column for CU stuff, and after 40 hours of Panopto over the weekend he's finally got his life together enough to focus on the corruption in the Union. Correction - he's now ill; we're hoping it's not mumps. Bloody drama queen...

We've had a busy start to term, with a load of meetings, and a huge Guilds event. Last Saturday saw us welcome some 300 engineers into the CGCU at our annual Welcome Dinner. Thank you to all who came, and the volunteers who put in so much time to make it happen. It was a great evening for all who attended - that being said, Tom struggles to remember exactly what happened in the second half. Be careful kids, drink responsibly.

Now onto the crap-tonne of meetings our committee have been busy attending, one of them being Union Council. We're going to give you a quick run-down, Guilds-style.

The first vote that wasn't mind-numbingly boring was about whether we should elect a post-graduate trustee. For those of you who don't know, the Board of Trustees is the sovereign and governing body of the Union, overseeing Council and ensuring their actions are in keeping with charitable

aims and objectives, the constitution and the law. There was much debate on whether to introduce an elected post-graduate trustee, with valid points raised on both sides. Apparently the sabbs don't think that post-grads are engaged and think they actually hate ICU. It's a well known fact that it's undergrads that shit on ICU daily - because they shit on us! Though, saying that, were starting to have more and more positive interactions with the Union staff and some sabbatical officers, who seem to be listening to us more. Let's hope that they deliver on their promises; watch this space.

Now, Council also has certain sub-boards, who, after a rather unanimous vote, have ownership of policies (things which Union enacts to ensure things run).

CSPB, or Clubs, Societies and Projects Board, which is due to be split into "Sports Hub" for sports clubs and "Societies and Projects Board" for other clubs. No one really knows how yet, though.

G&I (GIB, GID no one really cares what it's called) - the Abhijay Sood Show "and on tonight's show - the Strategy™"

ERB - Education and Representation Board (this is academic reps, you're at University to get an education, right?)

CWB - Community & Welfare Board - this is where we decide that diversity is good, but nothing gets done about it.

SSB - Service & Sustainability Board. This deals with the shops, bars (which have become wank recently) and trying to make Imperial a greener place.

It's strange to also pontificate that we, the CGCU, are a Union in our own right too. Despite what ICU say, we do stuff like run the Academic and Wellbeing Rep Network for you. We also manage

our 17 Clubs and Socs - hosting what is termed a Management Group, MG. Our first MG meeting featured a lot of talking about the fiasco that was Freshers' Fair and what we can do to help mitigate the damages.

In other news we've also met with our alumni association - the CGCA (City & Guilds College Association), their young members' division and

their charitable arm, the OCT (Old Centralians Trust). These people have a large amount of money they wish to invest in students and fund various things like undergraduate and post-graduate travel awards.

OCT and CGCA - YGD stuffs too. So if you have a big project that is FUN or abroad that you'd like some help with, email guilds.alumni@ic.ac.uk

or visit the website over at cgca.org.uk. You can also become a student member for free and meet high-flying alumni at the events that are hosted.

It's mighty strange how we now consider things like this fun, while we consider tasks like doing our degrees to be mundane and boring. All we can say is that these roles have aged us - though perhaps that's just

daily exposure to Tom's corrosive humour?

Next week you can hopefully expect little snippets from each of our committee - they're a lit bunch of people who come from a variety of courses and backgrounds!



Tom and Fatima attending a fancy CGCU event! //CGCU

CONSTITUENT UNION

felix@imperial.ac.uk

RCSU

Alex Auyang
RCSU President

Why am I writing this? Producing content for this column often feels like a chore. I mean, I like the idea of having a space for the RCSU in Felix, but I can't shake the feeling that there are fundamental issues with the constituent union section as it is.

Every other week or so, to the left of this column, we are addressed by the beloved CGCU President, Thomas Cross. He typically goes off on some tirade about the Imperial College Union (ICU), practically frothing at the mouth whilst doing so. I've made no secret of my issues with the ICU,

but his articles have the tact of a crazed homeless man shouting at you on the street. And while his articles are often fun to read, bringing about meaningful change within ICU doesn't arise from this sort of discourse. Instead, it just serves to alienate readers, giving them the impression that

“Producing content for this column often feels like a chore - why am I writing this?”

our section is a sort of dedicated “bitch column”, when in fact, most other articles in the section are

reasonably civil.

Not only is there tonal inconsistency between the columns of the different CUs, but it also exists within our own sections.

Personally, I've only written a few articles for our section. The other articles featured here have been written by members on my committee on a



Alex and Tom // Alex Auyang

range of topics related to the RCSU. As a result, there is no unifying theme, no critical element that binds these articles together. While they are all related to the RCSU, they don't appeal to a single type of student. And that's an issue, because I don't think this section can be effective without a dedicated following. Honestly, the only people I know who read the CU section are members of constituent union committees.

One solution would be to produce more consistent content. A calendar with the events that we are doing, coupled with notable news from within the faculty, followed by any drama happening in the union. This way, the content is easily digestible, tonally consistent, and still allows us to have a voice. However,

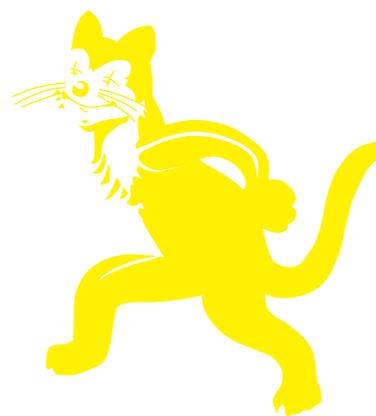
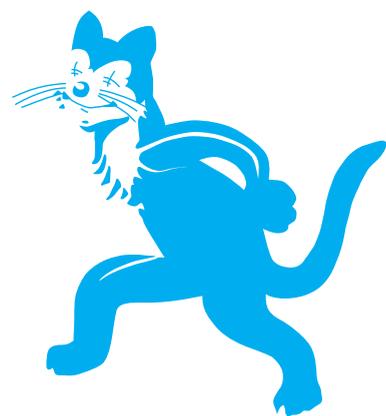
if we were to try this, the complexity of expression in the section will be significantly reduced.

I'd really like to be wrong about the effectiveness of this section. The content here, even including Tom's rants, are some of my favourite parts of Felix. I just can't tell if I believe this only because we are friends, volunteering in the same sector of the union.

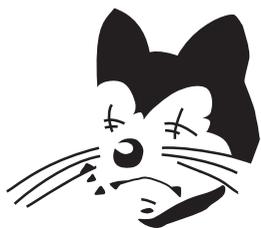
To anyone reading this article, thank you for taking the time to listen to my opinion. I'd like to know what you think about the CU section. Please email me at rcsupres@ic.ac.uk with any feedback regarding our content. Maybe some of your comments will make writing these articles every week a bit more rewarding.

Have a great week.

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



Hangman



I aM WriTiNg tO CoMPlaiN aBoUt... // Flickr

Struggling with your ‘complaining to Felix’ workload?

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

As delighted as we always are here in the NegaFelix offices to receive your feedback, opening the large amounts of vitriolic letters is digging into our biting satire writing hours. In order to speed up the reading process we have provided a template for you to use when telling us exactly what we have done wrong. Simply

circle the response most appropriate and post the letter to us at NegaFelix Offices, Your Mum's House.

Dear (Hacks/Com mies/Fascists/Western Agitators) of Felix,

I have been extremely angry at the nature of your coverage of (an issue that I shout about a lot). I have been a (loyal/casual/virgin) reader of the paper and have been incredibly disappointed at the drop in quality. I have only the (utmost/barest) respect for what you do but your article last week on (something I am overly sensitive about) was really beyond the pale.

I am of course an unwavering advocate of free speech and recognise your right as a paper to publish views that might not be palatable to the entire student body. It is in this cut and thrust of disagreement that progress is made. I particularly liked the article you wrote, criticising (the people/idea I disagree with) and thought it was a (very fair/well considered) piece of journalism. More of this please! However, I fear that this time, you have gone too far.

This subject () is a very complicated matter. In fact it is so complicated that often, people studying the subject come to the wrong conclusion. It

“An article like this may cause people to become so angry at the author that they disturb public order. It is therefore vital that it is withdrawn immediately.”

is therefore vital that we prevent discussion of this subject, to prevent people reading about it and inevitably forming an incorrect opinion. It is therefore very irresponsible of the author to write this article as they did not consider the consequences of their actions. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) says that free speech is subject to certain restrictions for “the protection of national security or of public order.” An article like this may cause people to become so angry at the author that they disturb public order. It is therefore vital that it is withdrawn immediately.

I fear, however, that only withdrawing the

article will not help the author of the article understand the full weight of their error. I would humbly like to offer a possible solution. The author should be forced to whip himself until the entire student body passes a two-thirds vote affirming that they are suitably sorry.

If you are willing to accept your error of your ways I am sure we can re-establish the relationship of trust that was so cruelly severed by your unfortunate error.

Yours very earnestly
(Embarrassed Union officials/The Trots/Snowflakes/Libtards/Boomers/The Bear living in the Hundred Acre Wood)
P.S Love the puzzles.

HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

Pressure from readers forces NegaFelix into embarrassing climb down

HANGMAN

Negafelix
Editor-in-Chief

Up roar and rioting in the streets as typographic activism conference announces that Comic Sans is the most electable font

Following a slew of complaints from anonymous intellectuals, the NegaFelix editor has reaffirmed the paper's dedication to balance and centrism

in a public statement on Tuesday. The statement made clear that NegaFelix will "continue to strive to represent all student views, no matter how wet or reactionary, through new typographical means". In practice, this will mean that the justification of all articles in the paper will change from left to centre, strengthening its commitment to balance in its aesthetic as well as its content.

The move was lauded by many, including the chair of Tory society, who commented that the change "represented a

shift about 5pt in the right direction", then adding "this isn't the end" before

"Justification of article text will change from left to centre"

laughing maniacally. It has also been praised by the Union accounting team, since the new printing methods will cost about 33% less than

before due to their lack of passion for unionising.

The initiative has been supported by new evidence on the effectiveness of cosmetic changes to public perception, with watchdogs estimating that circulation of the Felix may increase up to 69%.

Nice

The motion passed after a lengthy meeting at which a few alternatives were discussed, most notably the suggestions to print articles only in the centrefold, and to construct articles by picking alternating words from Telegraph and Guardian pieces on the same topic.

Also on the table was an annual "Purge issue" in which writers would once a year be invited to rant about minorities, and the idea to preface every article with a quotation from Mein Kampf. These options were eventually dismissed after it was decided that they weren't funny enough.

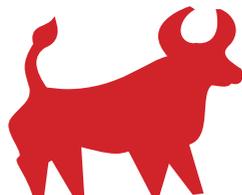
Not all responses have been positive, though. Some radical centrist groups commented that the plan didn't go far enough since "centre justification and left justification are two sides of the same coin", adding their recommendation to

print only "blank pages" so the reader can imagine whatever stories they want. On the other end of the spectrum, groups of Arabic and Hebrew speakers issued a rare joint statement condemning the "international hegemony of anti-right justification", prompting new discussions into the cultural impacts of the change. Progressive groups have also reacted negatively, with Left Forum calling the move "literal fascism". The rest of their official statement was just a list of Facebook tag groups.



ARIES

This week you accidentally attend the knock-off Imperial Collage University.



TAURUS

This week you head to the clinic to get your vibe checked.
-
Turns out you probably should have used protection



GEMINI

This week you're the Imperial College Rugby team and you're getting naked in public.
-
For once, you're not kicked out of the Union



CANCER

This week you are the puzzles editor.
-
You are very, very sorry.



LEO

This week you're Labour Soc secretary and you just want to be politics editor
-
Thankfully Order no. 227 got voted down



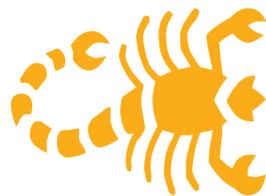
VIRGO

This week you are President of CGCU at Union Council
-
U ok hun?



LIBRA

This week you throw a hissy fit about Hangman
-
You are the reason we write satire



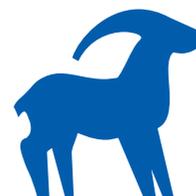
SCORPIO

на этой, неделе ссылки на месте. Пора.
-
Устранить цель



SAGITTARIUS

This week you're completely delusional
-
Fortunately you're also the leader of the Liberal Democrats.



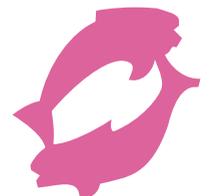
CAPRICORN

This week you're the Union bouncers.
-
You successfully break thermodynamics by implementing your one in two out policy



AQUARIUS

This week you try and get in touch with your inner self
-
Unfortunately Boots is all out of rubber gloves and vaseline



PISCES

This week your lucky number is three
-
You get a third

PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

FUCWIT

1	TNT	127
2	O1G	120
3	GodBlessHK	109
4	RIP Pat	83
5	LochyMonsters	70
12	MB	46
14	Carrie_with_masks_x7M	18

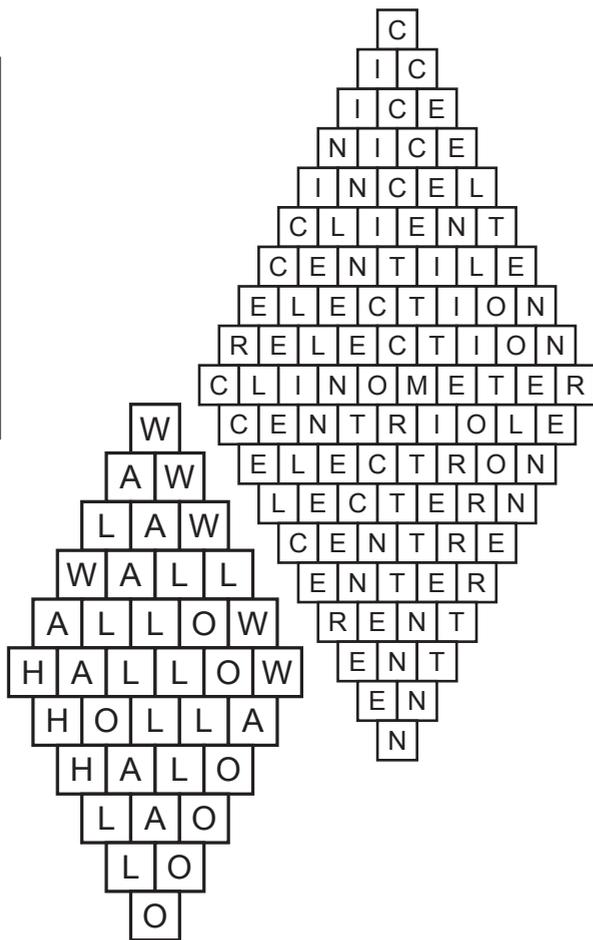
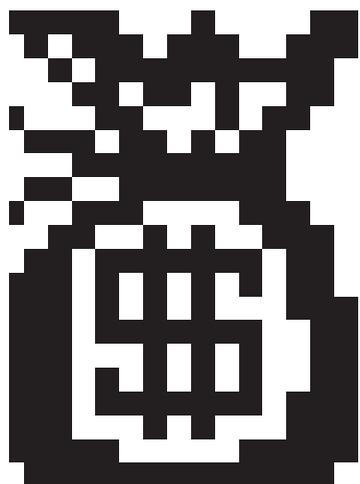
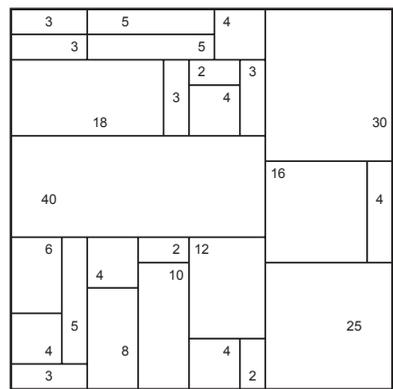
Send your solutions to fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk before Wednesday midday to take part in the leaderboard!

Points available

Crossword	6
Gogen	3
Sudoku	3
Shikaku	2
Word Pyramid	3
Nonogram	1
Minesweeper	3
Cryptogram	3

Total **24**

Last week's solutions



MINESWEEPER

The number in each square indicates the number of bombs surrounding it (left, right, up, down, and diagonal). Mark all the bombs.

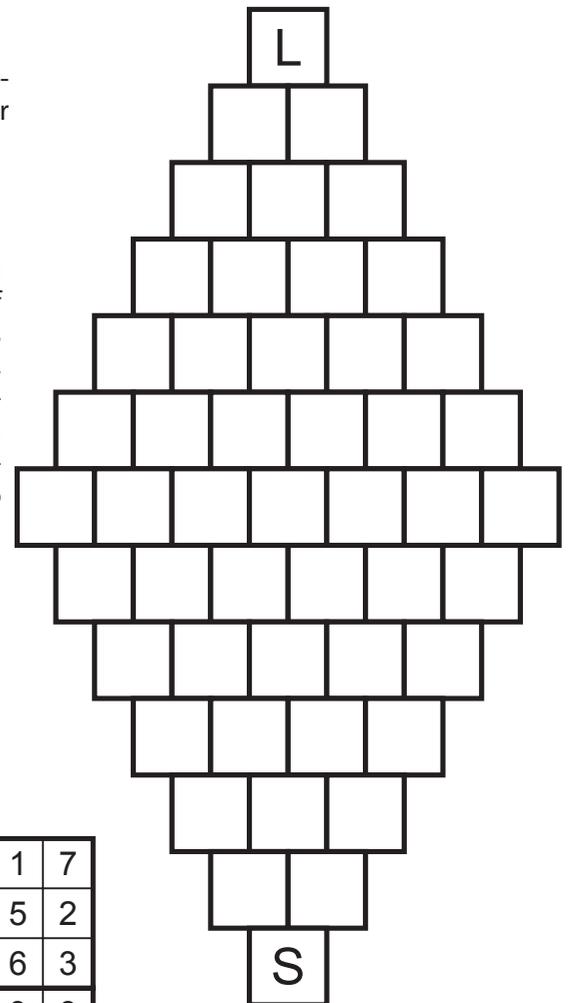
	1			1				1	1			
1		1				1	1			1		2
1				1						1	2	2
		1										2
1							1		1		1	
	2	2	2	1	1			1		1	1	1
2			1				2				2	1
			1	1	1				2		2	
1		1	1		1	1			2			1
									1		1	
1			2	1		1			2	1	1	1
	1	1			1							
	2						2		2	1		1
			2	1	1						1	

WORD PYRAMID

Each row is an anagram of the letters in the row above, adding or removing one letter.

CLUES

- Camino (New Breaking Bad movie) (2)
- A Dalek measure of time (3)
- Viscount < ? < Marquis (4)
- Youngest daughter of Triton, turned into sea foam (5)
- Occurring regularly (6)
- Down to earth (7)
- Criticize humorously (6)
- Prices per hour (5)
- Nap (4)
- 6 games (3)
- Is for Pedro (2)



W	E	I	W	F	H						
B	R	E	X	I	T	I	C	E	M	A	N
I	P	I	T	U	L						
T	W	O	S	C	H	E	D	U	L	E	
E	S	D	O								
A	F	L	U	T	T	E	R	Y	A	W	N
O	R	A	A	U	E						
T	R	E	E	J	E	W	E	L	L	E	R
F	M	E	N								
B	E	Q	U	E	A	T	H	T	A	D	
L	R	H	A	I	A						
L	I	N	G	U	A	C	A	D	E	T	S
X	E	L	K	E	E						

S	A	S	S	O	N	N					
E	P	I	L	E	P	S	Y	O	R	E	S
L	S	O	R	A	V						
M	A	C	A	R	O	N	I	H	O	A	X
S	T	N	N	D							
C	H	A	I	N	I	G	U	A	N	A	S
A	J	E	L								
S	P	A	N	I	E	L	I	C	S	M	S
O	H	J	A	A							
V	I	S	A	O	V	E	R	T	A	K	E
S	D	V	E	R	E						
I	O	W	A	A	P	P	L	A	U	D	S
N	M	P	H	S	Z	O					

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

TRAVEL

travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Small Place, Big Adventures

Join us as we take you through our favourite spots and experiences as we unfold Asia's hidden gem, Singapore...

TRAVEL

Eva Tadros

Travel Editor

As one of the world's smallest countries, Singapore has gained popularity as Asia's corporate capital, but there's so much more than business on offer when visiting this South East Asian country. Singapore is also one of the safest places you could possibly visit - so whether you're embarking on your first solo travel, or just want to roam down a dark street at 4am, you'll be absolutely fine here, and we've rounded up our favourite spots to make your visit unforgettable...

Food

If you're anything like me, the most important part of any adventure you embark on is the food, and Singapore will most definitely not disappoint. The multi-culturalism that

comes from the mix of expats and locals living in the country makes for one of the most diverse menus you'll ever come across. Singapore's Tamil society has been well-established for decades now, so if you're looking to try some authentic Tamil cuisine, a trip to Little India is all it will take. From stuffed dosai to biryani curries served on banana leaves, the range is endless and you're bound to find something to suit every palette out there.

If Chinese food is more down your alley, then fear not because Singapore has its own Chinatown and the food is TO-DIE-FOR.

Marina Bay also has some great upscale restaurants dotted around, and you get to enjoy the famous Marina Bay Sands evening lights display whilst you fine dine the night away.

Whilst not necessarily a food item, I couldn't possibly wrap up without mentioning the bubble tea in Singapore. Bubble tea



Clarke Quay, Singapore // Eva Tadros

stalls are around every corner, and the local specialty – brown sugar milk tea – is a work of art, and unlike anything you'll ever try in London!

Culture

With its prime location, the island of Singapore is home to people from all over Asia, and the multiplicity of cultures that comes with migration gives it some of the richest heritage in the world.

Singapore's founder, Sir Stamford Raffles, allocated different districts to each ethnic "enclave", and with the public transport being so efficient, each MRT journey will take you to a whole new world.

To fully immerse yourself in Malay culture, pay a visit to Kampong Glam, where the Malay

Heritage Centre awaits, as does a beautiful *pasar malam* (night market) that caters to all visitors.

If you'd like to see how the local Tamil Indian community lives, Little India is where you need to be. Walking around, the broad assortment of scents and colours will get you submerged in the culture in no time, and if you're lucky enough, try and visit during holidays such as Deepavali, when everything really comes alive.

Chinatown is also a must-visit with all the food, museums and culture at walking distance, as is the Chinese Garden, with its breath-taking views.

Shopping

Get ready to shop till you drop here because the

shopping scene in Singapore will tempt you like no other with shopping malls at every other MRT station, all interconnected through air-conditioned underground tunnels – how can this NOT be your scene?

If you're after designer labels and cutting-edge technology, sports equipment or outlet stores, Orchard Road is the place to go. If you're after crafts, antiques, and souvenirs, you might want to pay a visit to Holland Village, where you'll find a market guaranteed to steal your heart with its warmth. More of a small shops and covered markets type-of-shopper? Singapore's got you covered with Bugis, a district with over 600 shops dotted around in tiny lanes, street-side

vendors and high-end fashion stores.

The best part of shopping in Singapore? The 7% tax tourists pay on goods and services is easily reimbursed at the airport prior to your return home, so let's get spending...



Deepavali Flower Market, Singapore // Eva Tadros

SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Oliver Barbaresi and Dan Mulryan chasing down St Mary's // ICXCAC

Imperial on top of London Once Again!

ICXCAC head to the cold Mitcham fields for the second cross-country fixture of the season. Imperial does fantastically and climbs to the top of London league!

SPORTS

Henry Hart
ICXCAC Chair

Going into Mitcham, the second cross country fixture of the season, Imperial were engaged in a battle to be the top club in London with none other than St. Mary's University, Twickenham. Mary's, the University of Mo Farah and a National Lottery funded British Athletics Program, was going to be a tough opponent to squash. In the first fixture, the two titanic forces of Imperial and Mary's cancelled each-other out by going 2 - 1 and 1 - 2 in the men's and women's team races respectively.

With a strong Imperial team turning up in the cold fields of Mitcham

Common, the athletes were quietly confident of a dominant performance over the Mary's crowd. Later in the day, after the dust had settled on a ferocious battle in South London, they all eagerly awaited the team results as the brilliant individual performances became apparent; Georgia Curry led by example to take Gold in the women's race, a performance that puts her top of the overall rankings ahead of super-fresher Laura Wright, who claimed the Bronze. This was on the back of Laura winning the U20's Liddiard XC title at the weekend. The strong performances from Chloe Baker (6th) and Alix Vermeulen (8th) mean that Imperial hold places 1, 2, 4 and 6 in the overall individual women's competition.

On the men's side,

Ollie Barbaresi, keen to overturn a stinging defeat at the hands of Mary's' Tom Butler, beat his foe this time around to take the Silver medal behind Mary's' Dan Jarvis. Ollie now tops the overall men's rankings with Dan Mulryan moving into 3rd overall after finishing 4th again at Mitcham.

"Ollie now tops the overall men's rankings with Dan Mulryan moving into 3rd overall"

Dan can be forgiven for acceding to Ollie on this occasion after smashing a 29:46 10k at the weekend.

Imperial's strength in depth was on show, with Ollie Newton (8th), Niki Faulkner (9th), Joe Pomfret (11th), Tom Bayley (12th) and Misy Ormay (13th) packing strongly to outclass St. Mary's rear order. Imperial now hold 8 of the top 10 spots in the overall individual rankings on the men's side. The sheer depth in talent is staggering: for the men, Imperial's E team are currently ahead of LSE's A team, and in the women's, Imperial's D team is ahead of King's' A team.

All these brilliant performances across the spectrum meant that Imperial snatched the victory in the men's and women's competitions to take a 3 point lead in the uber-super-duper-big-dog-overall-competition: the Mike Baggs Trophy, which Imperial

look to retain for a second year running (eyyy). The pressure now builds for Imperial's men, who will be looking to match the women by improving their second place in the

"Imperial snatched the victory in the men's and women's competitions to take a 3 point lead int the Mike Baggs Trophy"

team standings so that Imperial can claim a clean sweep of women's, men's

and overall victories at the end of the season.

While the feats listed above are certainly impressive, there is doubtless more to come from Imperial's big guns. The season training plan is geared towards a peak far later in the year, when we will get the chance to show our mettle against the top teams in the country at BUCS competitions. Aside from the dedicated training and racing, cross country members can look forward to a packed program of weekly socials, bi-weekly couch-to-5k, and trips to Snowdonia, Brighton, Edinburgh, Chamonix and yet-to-be-decided locations of Winter, Summer and Easter tours. If you would like to get yourself some of this action, contact our secretary Aymeric at run@ic.ac.uk

SPORTS

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Many Medals for IC Triathlon at Relay Duathlon

SPORTS

David Ho

Imperial Triathlon

This Sunday showed an impressive performance from 24 of Imperial's multisport athletes at the Olympic Velopark, in the London Universities Relay Duathlon - the first race of the year. In teams of three they would compete against Kings and UCL, with each member completing a two-mile run, a six-mile bike and a one-mile run before passing on to the next. The gale force winds and torrential rain of the previous day had settled, and the first competitors lined up on the start line to prove themselves.

The starting horn blew and the race was underway. President David Ho started out fast, leading out the

student branch of the competition and settling into fourth place overall. But the lead was not to last with mixed-gender team captain Cedric Ormond speeding past him on the first bike lap and holding the lead all the way to the end of the leg. Hot on their heels were Catherine Spurin of the Women's first team and Leo Karlsson of the men's seconds, making his Imperial debut having transferred from UCL this year.

Cedric passed on to new recruit Leo Maisonobe, who set off at a blistering pace to record the fastest student split of the day and second fastest overall. By the end of his lap the Imperial mixed firsts were ahead of the men, and in second place in the overall competition. Alex Wilson of the men's firsts was moving up in the ranks though, overtaking to put him only just behind. Another debutante, GERAL-

dine Regnier, showed off the bike skills she gained from a summer of touring to chase after the speedy UCL team occupying the lead women's position.

Moving on to the final leg there was all to play for. Matt Ryan wasted no time closing the gap on the run, exiting the first transition neck-and-neck with first place. He gave a heroic chase on the bike, but on the day his professionally-sponsored opponent pulled away. He nonetheless emphatically secured victory in the universities category, finishing more than ten minutes ahead of the next competitors in the category (Imperial men's 2nds). Armelle Briand, competing in her first duathlon, finished off the mixed first's efforts in style. Women's firsts captain Alice Duhem battled through some lap-counting issues to win second place in the universities category behind



A triumphant IC Tri team at Velopark Duathlon // Imperial Triathlon

UCL, and third place overall.

The stream of bikes and runners thinned as the remaining competitors crossed the line, including many Imperial athletes in their first (but hopefully not last) multisport races. With zero injuries, zero rain and a fair few pieces of silverware, the winter season's first race can be called a success.

Major results summary:

Men's Universities 1st, overall 2nd: David Ho, Alex Wilson, Matt Ryan

Women's Universities 2nd, overall 3rd place: Catherine Spurin, Geraldine Regnier, Alice Duhem

Mixed Universities 2nd: Cedric Ormond, Leo Maisonobe, Armelle Briand

Men's Universities 2nd: Leo Karlsson, Ben McDonnell, Niall Woodward

ICHC: Men's 4s get underway in arduous season

SPORTS

John Hunter

Imperial Hockey Club

5

IC Mens
Hockey
4th Team

1

New
Bucks
1st Team

In their debut appearance in the Felix, ICHC Men's 4s made the brave and treacherous journey out to the 'Fortress' Harlington to play 2 year rivals, New Bucks University. After a narrow win in last season's league, tensions ran high before the match. Captain Ethan Houchen was overheard

saying 'This is going to be a tough one lads...' and with new blood to the team, chemistry was the most crucial dynamic the squad could have asked for.

The whistle blew... and the teams were off. Straight away, IC 4's felt under threat - the aggressive style of play by New Bucks threw the home team slightly off guard. After a quick reorganization of Hunter's nose, and a 2 on 1 'sweaty' with the keeper, ICHC 4's the 'DeVIants' were 1-0 down in 10 minutes.

With a chance to get panicky and flustered, the boys kept their cool and played to their strengths. With some formidable 'Tiki-Taka' around the

midfield from Philpott, Houchen and Woodburn, the team managed to thread some through balls up for the strikers to take advantage of. Soon, the lads got into their stride, coming into half time with a 2-1 lead.

Into the second half, the 'DeVIants' really started to settle into their stride. With a frankly ludicrous control and half volley from Berridge and an almost careless reverse deflection from McDermott, alongside strong plays from Singh and Robertson, the score line settled to 5-1.

To celebrate the victory, the boys yearned for a well deserved ACC night. With Hall, Xu, Lloyd and Willis' excel-



Men's 4s Team looking fierce as they get ready to duke it out // ICHC

lent costumes, the team are yet to truly encounter

the full force of their fresher intake, with good

prospects for the Men's 4s for the rest of the season.

SPORTS

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Pre-match strutting // Imperial Immortals

Imperial Immortals' first game of the season

SPORTS

Sebastiano Zane
Immortals: Publicity Sec

14	42
Imperial Immortals	Kent Falcons

Having trained hard for 5 weeks, the 30-men strong Immortals squad were up bright and early at 9 am

on Sunday for the long coach journey to the home of the Kent Falcons. The Falcons are a big rival to the team, so this was a great chance to set a strong start to the season.

The game started off strong. However, the Falcons were the first to score and go 7-0 up. Despite this, some quick scramble drills from Sebastiano "Fade = Life" Zane brought the team two touchdowns, making the score 14-14 just before the end of the half. The squad was determined to

make a strong start to the season -nothing would stop them- so much so that Punter "Who's Daniel?" Loughran made a solid gain with one of the Falcons' defensive backs hanging off him. Both sides fought hard for the rest of the half, meaning there was little separating the two with the score being 22-14 at half time.

After the break both the competition were back on as everyone was fighting to seize the final victory.

The Immortals were giving it their all, and

it seemed as though there was a chance for a comeback when Killian "Concussion King" Gymrek intercepted the ball and caused disruption to the Kent offensive drive; however, we were unable to capitalize upon this. The team kept going and Offensive Lineman Justino "Seeing is Optional" Rodrigues delivered what some would call a gut punching performance and held the Falcons at bay for a while. However, injuries and fatigue began to fall upon

the players and the loss of two thirds of the starting

Defensive Line meant that Kent began to pull ahead and amounted to the Falcons scoring several more touchdowns and a safety.

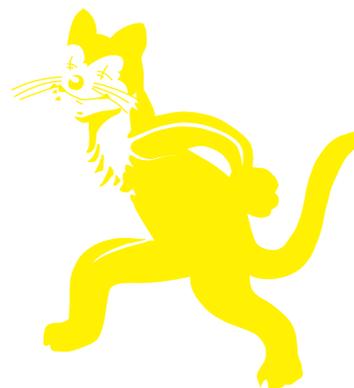
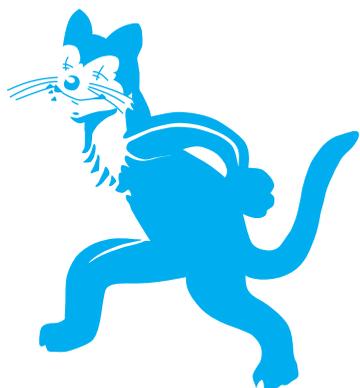
Although everyone fought hard, the team would like to congratulate the game MVPs for their strong performances. They are as follows: Rookie MVP was Ian "The Screamer" Tsang, Line MVP was Jack "No ACL's" Benham, Defence MVP was Seif "Jacob

2.0" Girgis, Offence MVP was Ben "Ints Thrown > 0" O'Brien and finally the Overall MVP was Tom "Bad Father" Smith.

The final score came to 42-14 to the Falcons. Despite the score line, the Immortals have a lot to be proud of from this first game of the season and set a very positive and hopeful tone for games to come.

The next Immortals game is against Queen Marys' Vipers on Sunday the 10th November.

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

SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

ICXCAC go to Snowdonia for their Annual Trail Pilgrimage

18 merry runners hit the Welsh peaks last weekend, braving wind and rain for a weekend of trail, pub and snoozing by the fire.

SPORTS

Aymeric Regnier
ICXCAC Secretary

Many clubs and societies have their own traditions that they cherish: for some, a varsity match that they usually win, others have a sunny picnic by the beach, some have a WILD social; for Cross-Country and Athletics, the first weekend of November holds a special place in the heart of most regulars: a weekend trip to the St Mary's Hut in Caernarfon in Snowdonia National Park.

With the trip occurring for the third year since its inauguration, the squad left London Friday afternoon, packed for whatever weather the Welsh mountains had in store for them, along with snacks and drinks for the journey.

After the inevitable stop in Asda near Birmingham, the team continued their fairly bumpy ride up North, before reaching the National Park. While the scenery is outstanding, all most members remember of that night's drive were the country lanes and motion sickness of some few unlucky members.

Having reached the hut after the first car convoy, the minibus squad got home late in the evening and enjoyed a drink with those who had arrived earlier and started the fire already, happy to find the hut nice and warm. Most went to bed quickly, excited about the adventures to come.

The next morning, all rose after a good night's sleep, fuelled on porridge, peanut butter, bananas and chorizo for the most calorie-hungry ones, and got ready to tackle on Mount Snowdon as the weather looked promising and the sun coming out every now and then.

However, the first stop of the day was neither a perilous ridge or a path in the woods, but the Cwellyn Arms: this traditional Welsh Pub in the village of Rydd Dhu serving 9 real ales 9 days a week, in order to watch the final of the RWC. After 80 minutes of cheering fuelled with tea or beer for those who like their morning pints, the group set off to forget their sorrows and burn all

“The first stop of the day was neither a perilous ridge or a path in the woods, but the Cwellyn Arms”

those breakfast calories.

The first run of the trip was the technical climb of mount Snowdon from Rydd Dhu. About 900m of elevation over roughly 7km separated these mountain goats from the summit, so all of them set off to a good pace, but the steep gradient led all of them to slow down their efforts and approach some of the segments as a hike. Upon reaching the



Squad ready to set off from the Cwellyn Arms // ICXCAC

summit, the team opted for a classic team photo, paused for everyone to have some water and some snacks, before setting off for the much more rapid and rather fun run downhill.

Rather than going down the same way they went up, they opted for the Mountain Ranger path, taking them by a couple of lakes, as the rain began to get heavier. However, no raincloud could dampen their spirits as they all took in the splendid views and made the most of a great afternoon.

Having made it down the mountain, the group then ran back the few miles from the bottom of the Ranger Path that separated from Rydd Dhu where they had left the minibus and car. Upon their arrival, rather than

heading straight home, the team decided to stay for a bit and spend an hour in the pub, with some well-earned chips and drinks by the fire.

They then returned to the hut, with a brave bunch deciding to take on Mynydd Mawr before dinner. The near - 600m extra elevation meant that when they returned, wet and tired with everyone well-rested and showered, the decision for an early and high-calorie dinner was swiftly taken. An early dinner, a wide range of games and plenty of chatting later, the team headed to bed looking forward to another great day of trail running.

In the morning, some were feeling more fresh than others after the evening's antics, but all set off with a smile

on their face, ready to climb up Mynydd Mawr, some for the second time already. With their legs tired from the previous day's demanding efforts, the shorter distance run still felt very much like a strong session. Reaching the summit, the group huddled up for a while before taking another summit picture and dashing off down the steep hills between them and the hut. With no need to take the minibus to go back to the hut, those most keen to shower went particularly quick down the hills, thoroughly enjoying all of their potential gravitational energy turning into kinetic energy, even when some stumbled and went for fairly conventional mudslides.

With everyone back, the squad showered, had

lunch, and started packing in order to leave early to head back to London early as most were keen to have a nice dinner early and get a good night's sleep.

“All set off with a smile on their face, ready to climb up Mynydd Mawr, some for the second time”

All in all, a pretty great weekend which shall happen again, with some more likely to happen this year. If you're keen on joining, email the club at run@ic.ac.uk!