



# Felix

The Student Newspaper of Imperial College London



# EDITORIAL

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## Meet the Candidates!

### EDITORIAL

#### Charlie Titmuss

Deputy Editor

Next Wednesday, 4th March, students of Imperial College will get an opportunity to scrutinise the candidates for next year's sabbatical positions at Meet the Candidates. Meet the Candidates is an annual debate organised and hosted by ICTV, IC

Radio and Felix, and aims to allow you, the electorate an opportunity to come face to face with the people that want to represent you to the powers that be, both in the Union and the college. If you aren't sure who to vote for after painstakingly combing through manifestos then this is the event for you.

The sabbatical roles that will be taking part in the debate are the Felix Editor, the Deputy President for Education, the Deputy President

for Welfare, the Deputy President for Clubs and Societies, the Deputy President for Finance and the Union President. Candidates will be given an allotted amount of time to outline their manifestos, before being asked questions given by the Felix and IC radio team, as well as fielding queries from the audience. The event will be livestreamed over Facebook, from the Felix and Union accounts. If you can't be a part of the physical audience, tune in online to watch the sabbs

sweat.

The overall aim of this event is to give the wannabe sabbs a good old-fashioned grilling over their manifesto proposals for the year to come and their suitability for the role with a side of expert commentary from Union hacks, prominent society members and students. Come along and be a part of it all, from 15:00-18:00 in Metric. It's your democracy: hold them to account.

## Vote, Damn You, Vote!

### EDITORIAL

#### Henry Alman

Editor-in-Chief

Before reading this mini-editorial, I suggest reading the above by my trusty Deputy Editor, Charlie Titmuss, in which he talks about the Meet the Candidates event next week. Or, as I like to think of it, a gladiatorial battle of words between candidates for the sabbatical roles that can be almost barb-tongued enough to draw blood. Negafelix's famed 'Vice Provost (Bloodsports)' can almost get off to it, it's so sharp.

This editorial, I want to revisit a message I gave during my lecture shoutouts last year while running for this election. Back then, I believed fully that nobody voted here, having not seen the election turnout results. Halfway through my campaign, I was enlightened

as to the turnout numbers. Still, they can be misleading - voting for one role counts you as part of the turnout, which is fine, but means that a lot of roles don't get as many votes as one would like.

So during that campaign, I was doing lecture shoutouts, and I was less thinking how to strategically gain an advantage over my opponents and more just trying to encourage students to vote for my role, and for every role. I was earnest, impassioned, and sincere as I stood before all of you and asked you to turn up and contribute.

See, there are all sorts of problems with not voting. I won't delve too much into the democratic issues that arise when a limited segment of the population bothers to vote. Brexit is already the perfect example of that - regardless of your perspective, the idea that a quarter of the population actually voting for something and having that pass into law, either

way the vote goes, is a bit problematic. So vote, because that's the only way democracy doesn't crumble before our eyes. And democracy is broadly pretty good. Or, rather, it's not as bad as all the other ways we've found of running countries.

I want to talk more about how it affects you directly, as a student. Namely, it shapes literally everything about your student experience.

I was a student completely disconnected from the Union for most of my degree - one of those who slips through the cracks, doesn't read emails. I became interested via my involvement with *Felix*, but was still largely ignorant until I began this role in September and found that I had to learn how everything worked very quickly in order to report on campus events.

What I've seen has genuinely surprised me. Student volunteers at the Union work really hard, guys.

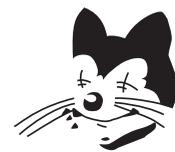
Now that's not a reason

to vote in itself. It does, however, segue nicely into my real point.

Just because you do not see what the Union does for you does not mean it does not affect you. Don't be jaded.

This year, the Union has fought hard to reduce rent for first year students. They're negotiating the block grant that directly funds every single club and society. They got the College to implement ethical investment policies. They worked on the Harlington sports grounds. They pushed the College to respect NSS results. They took over the Summer Ball and made it student-led. Academic and wellbeing reps have been there for you every step of the way, in every meeting, fighting your corner where they can.

They did a lot of stuff, that will genuinely and invariably impact you. Your degree, your finances, your hobbies. So f\*cking vote for people who'll keep doing that for you. It takes just a few seconds.



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# Felix Interviews Simone Buitendijk, VP (Education)

*Felix spoke to Simone Buitendijk, Imperial's Vice Provost (Education), about her decision to take a new role as Vice-Chancellor at the University of Leeds*

## NEWS

**Henry Alman**

*Editor-in-Chief*

**Felix: Why have you decided to take the job and move to Leeds, rather than stay at Imperial?**

SB: I got a call from a headhunter – that's often how it goes, and it's how I ended up at Imperial. It's not like I was looking at the time. And then, why say yes? It's probably because I'm at that stage in my career where I think I would really like to lead a university, to be in charge and be able to do the things that I think are really important. I can ensure I'm maximally able to influence the culture and the way people work together. This is a great opportunity; Leeds is a Russell Group university.

I'm feeling like I'm getting to that stage in my life where if I don't take that jump now, I won't have enough good years in my life to do it with full energy and conviction. You don't do these kinds of jobs for just 2-3 years, you need to do them for longer. So the timing was right, the university is great, and it's also an adventure to move out of London – I really enjoyed London, but it's also nice to get to know a whole other part of the country. A bit of serendipity!

**Felix: So it was about wanting to expand the remit over which you have input. Here at Imperial, you're VP (Education), so you have oversight of the Learning and Teach-**

**ing Strategy, and things like the curriculum review. Is there a particular other area you wanted input into, that you don't have in your role currently?**

SB: As Vice-Chancellor, you are in charge of everything, so you can also influence research, outreach, and societal impact – as well as the combination of those things, which is particularly appealing. I think for universities to be successful, there need to be strong communities, and I have ideas of how to do that. I also want all universities to be globally relevant, and not just focused on themselves. I've always been keen to think of education not as something in an individual silo, separate from research and societal impact.

I want to think about education as research-led, and not just from the perspective of having great research being brought into education, but also thinking about how we're training students to be the next generation of global citizens. Why don't we listen to them really carefully, and decide based on what they want in their education how we frame our research? I think that's what modern research-intensive universities should be doing much more. It's not just going from the 'top down' and making sure students are exposed to great teachers, but rather using students as true partners and making them influence what research and research-led teaching look like.

**Felix: Do you feel**

**like that vision was something that could not or was not happening at Imperial? Do you think that in-silo thinking is something that Imperial was not able or willing to do?**

SB: It is happening here, but I am only responsible for education at Imperial. It's hard to look at my job that broadly – that's not my job description right now. Now, I obviously want to do a great job in education, and I work very well with the Provost, ICU, Vice-Deans, Deans, and Council and so on, who share these ideas. But to actually be at the top of the university, and bringing everybody together around these kinds of themes – that's an exciting thing to do.

**Felix: What did the rest of the recruitment process look like after you were contacted by the headhunter?**

SB: It's interesting – it's an iterative process. First you speak to the headhunter, who is briefed on what the university is looking for and can answer your queries. So I quickly became aware of the fact that Leeds wants to move into this area of more community-building. They've been very focused on research in the last seven years, and they've really become much more visible, particularly around sustainably development goals. They were always very well-known for their education, but right now they feel like they need to create a bit more balance to make sure that

the innovative education remains as visible as their present amazing research is.

So they were looking for someone who had ideas about how to create an even stronger community of staff and students, which was very appealing. I then met with the Chair of their university Council, who was very proud of the university, and then informally met with some people in Leeds to just get a sense of the city and make sure I like the feel of the campus and the city itself! What I really enjoyed talking to everybody there, including students, is that they were all very proud and felt like part of a community. Every single person I spoke to had their own view of the university, but it all fit together and created a very nice picture of a place that's happening and ready for another phase. The present VC was very positive about their team and the university too, which is always a great sign.

It's in a good place – it's not like I have to pick it up from way below and build it up first, so we can really hit the ground running together.

**Felix: Imperial has perhaps struggled to develop a sense of cohesive community between different stakeholders. Why do you think that exists at Leeds and not so much at Imperial?**

SB: I'm not sure I totally agree that's the case. It's definitely changing. I understand where the question comes from and

that you're right to quite a degree, but it's changing – especially since we are much more focused now on the student experience and thinking about education across all of Imperial. We're moving away from looking at faculties and departments as completely separate units. And we need to, because the Office for Students are asking things from the entire university, so even if we hadn't figured that out ourselves we would be slowly moving in that direction.

I'm very optimistic about how Imperial will continue doing. I understand what you are saying because I don't think we are there yet, but we are moving, and that's what students are telling us too. Students are very clear that they want that sense of community, that they see themselves and their colleagues as part of an Imperial student body, not only part of a

department – although departmental identity is very important too. To be successful as a university, you need to create that sense of the academic community as a whole.

**Felix: I would argue you've been a driver of some of that change over the past few years, based on the vision that you have. Are you concerned that this change, and your projects such as the Learning and Teaching Strategy being halfway through, how do you ensure your successor continues on the right path?**

SB: I think it's very hard for them not to, as we're so far underway and it's so clear it needed to happen. There are so many people behind it and so much excitement around the things we are doing – and we're successful in areas where we do work together optimally. It's not just one bit of College that's doing things. So I find it very hard to imagine that it will stop or slow down, as there are so many people who are part of my team with those ideas.

It's never just one person – I couldn't have done this on my own. I don't want to sound overly modest, but it's not me, it's really everybody else. All I've done is open doors and enable people who wanted to do this, supporting and helping them. I don't think that's going to stop, and I don't think students would accept it if all of a sudden it did.

**Felix: The Union's block grant funding, which actually comes under your funding umbrella, will be renegotiated this year – but it will be negotiated again next year too, which is unusual. Are you at all concerned that funding for students via the Union will change once you're no longer the one allocating that?**

SB: No, not at all. I think the student reps are amazing, both those there now and the ones I've worked with in past

*Cont. on page 6*

## NEWS

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# The Summer Ball: Why Student-Led Events are the

*Felix spoke to four of the members of the Summer Ball student committee to find out how the experience is different*

## NEWS

**Henry Alman**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

The Summer Ball – the largest Union event of the year – runs every year on the penultimate week of the final term, with the date this year falling on Saturday 20th June.

The Union, with the help of various CSPs and student representatives, transforms large parts of the South Kensington campus into a mixture of a fancy ball and a carnival, featuring fairground rides, a live music act, a fireworks display, and an afterparty hosted in 568 and Metric. Each year's Ball is based around a different theme – with this year's being 'Enchanted Forest'.

This year's Ball features several distinct changes from previous years. The headline act will be live, rather than a DJ, with the announcement of the act – who is promised to be an exciting name – coming next week. Food and a prosecco reception are on offer as included in the ticket price for the first time, and the fireworks display is coming back in full glory. This has resulted in an increase in ticket prices, with Early Bird tickets for both the Ball and afterparty selling for £57.50.

The biggest change, however, is one behind-the-scenes. While most students simply attend and enjoy the festivities, months of planning from dozens of people goes into making the Ball a reality every year. Previously, the event was run as for-profit, headed by the Union's Commercial Services



Summer Ball committee members // Summer Ball Committee

directorate – who also operate the bars, shops, and online merchandise the Union sells.

However, this year the Ball is fully student-organised. Every aspect, from the budgeting to the administration to the act of setting it up is being run by a student committee, chaired by the Deputy President (Finance and Services), Fifi Henry, and comprised of key student volunteers who have worked on previous Balls. These students broadly fit into four groups: the Arts and Entertainments Management Group, who oversee a variety of societies; the Beit Bars staff; the DramSoc technical; and relevant sabbatical officers, namely the DPFS and DPCS, Thomas Fernandez-Debets.

According to these key volunteers, each of whom has been involved in Union-organised Balls in previous years, this change represents a

significant improvement in both the experience of running the Ball, and the end result for students. Felix spoke to four of them, one from each of the aforementioned groups, to get their perspectives.

Fifi Henry, the DPFS, described how the change was made – and reveals that it initially came to be after an attempt to cancel the Summer Ball entirely.

“There was a proposal put forward to the Leadership Team at the Union, saying that the Ball should be scrapped and scaled back to a Carnival event in Beit or moved externally – which would have significantly increased ticket prices and lost us any control over the event. We didn't want to scrap it, and I in particular felt it was a really valuable event. Though there had been issues in the past, people did still always come to the Ball.

“A paper for cancelling the Ball was submitted to

the Board of Trustees by the Head of Commercial Services, and I argued that I would instead

**“A paper for cancelling the Ball was submitted to the Board of Trustees, and I argued that I'd take responsibility for it with a student-led committee”**

take responsibility for the Summer Ball with a student-led committee to organise it.”

With the Summer Ball saved from cancellation,

rapid planning began. The committee was put together in quick time, with a large task ahead of them and little time to do it in.

“I then had five weeks to create a budget – itemising everything, breaking it down, and costing it all – to present at the next Board meeting. I had to turn around and quickly get the committee set up, to start working on what we wanted the Ball to look like so we could submit that. I didn't have much event experience, but the Board needed buy-in; to know I had a handle on this.”

Reactions to the Ball had often had a negative cast in prior years, with student feedback raising complaint that they did not receive enough for the cost of their ticket. Despite high attendance every single year, the student committee felt that this indicated a clear change was needed.

Joseph O'Connell

-Danes, the Arts and Entertainments Management Group Chair, said: “we were all in agreement that the last couple of years it has just felt like you paid to go to the same campus that you were on day in, day out and didn't really get much for the money. As such the focus has really been on creating an experience from the moment you set foot in the venue and so we have put considerably more emphasis (and money) on the set design for the ball. Lydia has come back with some incredible plans and all credit to her, if it looks like the plan it will be jaw dropping.”

Fifi corroborated: “For most students who have been to Balls in the past, their feedback has never been listened to, and the same thing has been put on offer every year without much development or progress. People always felt that they didn't get value-for-money out of

# NEWS

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## Way to Go

*this year than it has been previously – and what the advantages of student-led events are*

their £50. People always felt that the standard of the DJ was subpar. That's why we've changed those things."

Sam Lee, the Technical Director for DramSoc and also the Arts and Ents Treasurer, added: "I've read responses from last year, a lot of which said they didn't feel like they were getting value-for-money. There wasn't any conversation with students happening; the team in charge just decided what was happening and didn't run very much consultation. Considering we are a students' union, I found that interesting. It feels like there is a lot of distrust in the Union, and in Union events, as a result."

As a result, responding to feedback became a core part of the committee's priorities. The 'Enchanted Forest' theme was selected based on popularity and feasibility from an open submission consultation that Fifi ran earlier in the year. The feasibility played a large part in the decision, which is where DramSoc – as the technical specialists – had strong input. Equally, the committee decided to increase the set design budget by over eightfold, from £400 last year to £3000.

A core result of this shift in perspective, and the student-led approach, was the decision to run the Ball not as a commercial venture, but rather as a break-even event whose focus was to provide the best possible experience to students. This decision was taken after the budget pitch to the Union's Board of Trustees, who supported the conceptual adaptation and gave the go-ahead.

This has allowed for

the inclusion of new features, such as food and a prosecco reception, for a modest ticket price increase – which, according to the committee, would not have been possible in previous years due to the need to turn a profit.

**"It seemed insane that decisions were being made without the people who the decisions affected being in the room"**

Beyond just a change in the financial budgeting perspective, each of the four people Felix spoke to agreed that the new decision-making format resulted in a higher level of involvement and direction from themselves. All of them agreed that in previous years, students had not had any real input into the running of the event, and felt it being student-led will generate much better results by drawing on their expertise and connection to the student base. As Joe said, "it seemed insane that decisions were being made without the people who the decisions affected being in the room."

Sam Hammond, one of the Beit Bars managers, said:

"We really didn't get any input last year, which is in huge contrast to the committee this year. From the get-go, I've been involved in decision making, and it hasn't just been on bar-related

aspects – I've had my say in the theme of the ball and even voting on our chosen headliner.

"This year, student managers that have also been on the committee have been largely involved in contacting sponsors, with the help of our full time bar staff, to drum up some really great drink deals and additional bars and set-pieces.

"Equally, being involved from winter term has also allowed better preparation from a bar perspective. Mapping out the bar layouts and developing budgets will make us better equipped to deliver an efficient service on the night."

Meanwhile, Sam Lee said that it has drastically improved opportunities for creativity with the set design:

"Previously, a lot of our work in terms of lighting design happened over the Easter break and over the third term. That wasn't much liaising and consultation with us; for the most part it was 'get it done' with what we had been given.

"What makes the Summer Ball so good is that even though you're in Imperial, you can forget you're in Imperial. You can block out the fact that you were sitting in the Great Hall stressed over your exam a week before. A big part of that is set design, which we are responsible for, and the increase in budget for that this year will make a big difference. "We've got so many ideas, from a massive team from DramSoc and the Art Club, and with the budget we can really shift the opinion of the Ball and bring it up to a new level. Being involved from the get-go has upped

quality by opening the space for more people to get involved, to let their creative sides out. Considering the technical side before picking your theme also makes a huge difference; by picking a theme that we know we can deliver really well on, the result will be much more cohesive."

Of course, students taking up the work comes with a cost. The level of time commitment is high, and with the need to juggle degrees on top, it has not been easy. As Sam Lee said:

"Last term, it was once a week for two hours on a Monday to brainstorm, so it wasn't too time-intensive, but it increases when it comes to the organisation period. What we could benefit from is more staff support in that area, as it's time-consuming to email, phone people, and so on, so it's still student-run but less intensive for us."

However, staff support has not been absent in other areas. While student-led, various members of the Union team, and even the College, have contributed to publicising and organising the Ball. Fifi elaborated:

"The marketing team have been really engaged and have put out some great publicity material; also, the Operations Manager and the full-time bar staff have been engaged with us to discuss how the venue will look and how to plan ahead. The Head of Student Experience has been incredibly supportive as well, any chance he has to offer support it is always there. College has been excellent too, especially with health and safety."

In wake of the changes, there have been learning

experiences on the way – lessons that the committee hope will be taken forward to next year.

"There is still room for improvement on how and where we consult with students; there's the set of students who are engaged more as part of a CSP or the Union's structures, but that's not always your average student," Fifi said. "If we can find a way to really effectively engage with as many students as possible, we're absolutely going to do that – I would love to have more students on the committee next year too.

"I'd like there to be another position or two on the committee for a non-relevant CSP member, so that any student can get involved. I can set the groundwork for that now, and begin thinking about how you would select those students, and the next DPFS can decide how to implement it.

Lastly, if we can have a Hub for the Summer Ball Committee, with lots of information and updates, it will be easier for students to know why changes are being made, and we can answer questions directly – rather than them going to Imperial College Exposed and asking why the prices

**"We are doing it so that we can give our peers a Ball they will remember long after they've left university"**

have increased. We could also use it to put out more consultations earlier, right from Welcome Week."

However, each committee member expressed wholeheartedly that the desire to produce an excellent experience for their peers – and to prove that driving events with student input coming first is the way to go – was worth overcoming every difficulty or challenge. As Joe put it:

"We're doing it so that we can give our peers a Ball that they will hopefully remember long after they've left university. For me, a student led Ball is the way forward. This year is about proving a point, next year, who knows. I hope that this can provide a platform for the ball to now start growing and growing, with every successive committee bringing new and more ambitious ideas to the table. We're never going to have a 'May Ball' at Imperial but maybe, with the right set of students leading it, we can create something of our own that people will be proud to shout about.

"This is us creating something for our fellow students, whereas it felt in previous years like the Union taking advantage of its volunteers, not treating them with the respect and level of gratitude that they deserved, and then delivering something kind of underwhelming."

It will have to be seen whether the fruits of the committee's labours will produce a top-tier Summer Ball. However, it is undoubtedly insightful to hear their story, the trials and tribulations of organising such a large-scale event, and the benefits of bringing students to the fore of Union planning.

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Cont. from page 3

years. If anything, I think the College and Union are working more closely together, and the Union strategy is well-aligned with the College strategy. I can't see that that's going to change.

**Felix: The Leeds press release spoke about your time at Imperial, but perhaps more about your previous role at Leiden in the Netherlands. Do you think your role there was impactful in being picked?**

SB: They liked the fact that I've had two universities in my career at which I was responsible for education and student experience. Leiden is different to Imperial – it's more comprehensive,

it has humanities and social sciences as well, as Leeds does. It was both innovation I brought here and the experience I had there, where I also led on big change programmes. It was interesting that they looked at all eight years of experience as a VP (Education).

**Felix: Lastly, one of the things the Leeds press release talked about was your dedication to inclusivity and diversity. A couple of years ago, there was some controversy over some Tweets you reshared which some students considered to be transphobic, resulting in an open letter being written. How will you reassure Leeds students about this matter?**

SB: I don't think there is much I need to say. I think what I did back then, in talking to the students who were worried and issuing a statement, enabled us to come together very well and there has been no issue at all here. That worked, we are happy with where we are at currently. My conviction to inclusivity and diversity remains and is unwavering. So I don't think there will be one when I go to Leeds. I would like to leave it at that. If students there need reassurance, I'll say exactly the same as when I reassured students here.



Simone Buitendijk, VP (Education) and soon-to-be VC at Leeds // Thomas Angus

## Solidarity Rally Boost for UCU Strike

### NEWS

#### Roddy Slorach

Imperial UCU Branch  
Organiser

Trade union leaders, Labour Party MPs and others joined a well-attended rally in support of striking university workers in central London on Tuesday. The rally came on the fourth day of 14 days of strike action by members of the University and Colleges Union, who are in dispute over pensions and pay.

Mark Serwotka, general secretary of the PCS union, pledged a donation "in the thousands" to the UCU hardship fund. Jane Loftus, president of the CWU postal workers' union, said the UCU strikes are "a fight for every worker facing unfair pay, insecurity and

attacks on their pensions." Other speakers included shadow chancellor John McDonnell.

Josh Holland, a UCU rep at University College London (UCL), told the rally, "People have taken a huge hit in their pay packets. Some people earn between £12 and £17 an hour, and they don't get paid for all the hours they spend doing preparation. We need your solidarity."

Some UCU members, especially those on lower wages, worry about losing 14 days pay. Reps at the rally appealed for donations to local strike funds, and a need to counter impressions that UCU members are all highly paid academics. Many are in fact on insecure or casualised contracts and are low paid. Some say they can't afford to strike for all 14 days, so may need to get help from hardship funds.

Over the Christmas period, 15 UCU branches re-balloted and met the 50 percent turnout threshold required for legal strikes. This round of walkouts is the biggest yet, involving around 50,000 UCU members at 74 universities across Britain.

Over 3,000 people have joined the UCU since the strikes began. On the same day as Tuesday's rally, membership of Imperial UCU reached its highest ever figure.

*Our President Alice Gast is now the UK's best-paid university vice-chancellor, enjoying a total remuneration package of £554,000 (including the rental value of the apartment she occupies on campus). College management, however, refuse to make a meaningful pay offer that could end the strikes.*

*Our dispute is formally*

*about pay and pensions, but it is also about the marketisation of education. Universities see staff as overheads to be cut as they compete to make money from students, charging ever-higher tuition fees. As one picket-line slogan says, "Good teaching conditions are good learning conditions." We ask students to support the strikes and visit our picket lines. Our fight is your fight too.*



Top: Final rally at the March for Education  
Bottom: Standing room only at Tuesday's rally  
// Roddy Slorach

# POLITICS

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## Politician Profile: Priti Patel

*An overview of the Home Secretary's career and political endeavours following a rocky month under the spotlight*

### POLITICS

**Harvey Dolton**

*Politics Editor*

Early last week, it was reported that the home secretary Priti Patel had attempted to force Sir Philip Rutnam, the most senior civil servant in the home office, out of her department following disagreements between the pair. A few days later, subsequent allegations were published stating that government officials lacked confidence in Patel's abilities, with the claims suggesting that MI5 had withheld information from the politician due to concerns regarding her competence. The validity of the accusations is unclear, with numerous conservative politicians, including former conservative party leader Iain Duncan Smith, offering words of support for Patel and dismissing the allegations as baseless. An untiring advocate of British identity and autonomy, Patel was a leading figure in the leave campaign and a string of controversies have seen her gain notoriety.

Born in London in 1972, Patel has been a formal member of the Conservative Party since she was a teenager. She undertook a postgraduate degree in British Government and Politics before securing a position as an intern at the Conservative Central Office. After a three year stint in the conservative Party's press office, Patel went on to work for a personal relations



The Home secretary, Priti Patel // Wikimedia

consulting firm. Her political career began when she stood as the Conservative candidate for Witham in the 2010 elections in which she gained a majority of 15,196, a figure that increased to 19,554 in the 2015 elections. In July 2016, when Theresa May came to power, Patel was appointed International Development Secretary, which sparked concerns within her department due to her opposition to foreign aid spending. She resigned the following year after it was reported that she

**“Patel resigned the following year after it was reported that she held twelve meetings in Tel Aviv, Israel, without informing the Foreign Office.”**

held twelve meetings in Tel Aviv, Israel, without informing the Foreign Office, resulting in multiple politicians accusing her of breaching the ministerial code. Patel spent the next two years as a backbencher before being appointed her current role of home secretary by Boris Johnson in July last year.

Regarding political ideology, Patel is considered to be right of the Conservatives. A self-proclaimed Thatcherite, the politician has cited Margaret Thatcher as being her political

heroine. The home secretary found herself amid controversy over her tough stance on criminal justice when she revealed her support for capital punishment on an episode of question time following her initial election to the house of commons. She has since retracted this position but has remained intent on introducing sweeping measures to curb criminal activity, with the Home Office declaring earlier this month that 50,000 new police officers will be needed across England and Wales within three

**“She revealed her support for capital punishment on an episode of question time.”**

years. She has been an active Brexiteer since David Cameron proposed the EU referendum, previously stating that remaining in the EU's Customs Union would “hold our country back and undermine our economic and political freedoms” in an article published by Brexit-central. Earlier this month Patel announced a points-based immigration system, which will come into effect on January 1, 2021, in which a person's eligibility to immigrate to the UK would be determined by whether they can score a threshold number of points which are assigned based on skills such as education

level and the salary of a job offer. Under the system, potential migrant workers would need 70 points to be permitted to work in the UK, with an offer for a skilled job and fluency in English granting 50 points. The ultimate aim of the system is to “reduce the levels of people coming to the UK with low skills” and during a visit to Imperial last week, the home secretary stated that the new immigration system will “enable the government to take back control of our own immigration policy for the first time in decades”. There have been concerns, however, that the new system will make it difficult for businesses who rely on low paid workers, such as farms and catering companies, to recruit new staff. Patel has shown unwavering support for the change nonetheless, despite acknowledging that her own parents would have been prevented from immigrating to the UK under the system.

## COMMENT

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## Has the labour movement failed to engage young people?

*On the eve of the labour leadership elections, a consideration of the participation of young people in the labour movement.*

## COMMENT

Maeve Johnston

Comment Writer

Despite the barnstorming success of Corbyn's labour party with young people in the 2019 elections, with 56% of 18-24 year olds voting for the party, Union participation is low amongst young people - in 2018 only 4.4% of the Unionised workforce was aged 16-24. Given the leftist, red flag waving rhetoric of the party, and the close relationship and backing of trade unions, this seems counter-intuitive.

Of course not all young Labour voters are leftist ideologues. The party's manifesto for young people focussed on the climate crisis, mental health treatment and (broadly) equality and a policy focus on young people, stepping away from labour movement issues in all but a commitment to a £10 universal minimum wage. The election result was also driven by Brexit, the Labour anti-semitism crisis and the personality and draw of both Corbyn and Johnson.

The cult of the hustle, of entrepreneurship and converting hobbies and every waking minute into a source of value, has seemingly pervaded youth culture, at the expense of critical evaluation of the toll this can take both mentally and physically and how well this can play into exploitative employment practices such

as 'flexible' zero hours contracts and unpaid internships. From sites like Depop to the careers service encouraging club participation on the CV, we cannot escape labour and optimising ourselves to participate. This is also a culture of individualism - how can I make myself as employable, as unique as possible? In this environment, trade unionism, reliant on collective action and some degree of resistance (rather than capitulation) to employers cannot flourish. 'Collective action' when it does occur, in the form of Change.org petitions is merely an artifice that gives the signatories some feeling of power, as is waiting for officials elected on the promise of improving workers rights to do so.

Often union exposure can be through the most extreme of their actions - a day off school, a closed Bakerloo line or a picket in front of Blaxtton due to strike action- whilst these events have inevitably mixed consequences and reactions, they do little to contextualise the purpose and other workings of unions. The history of collective action in the UK (depending on your perspective) is rarely seen as wholly positive, with the 3 day working week and energy rationing brought on by miners strikes in the 70s having mixed (to say the least) lasting legacies in the collective British psyche. This is not to say that strike action should not occur, but that unions should engage with the public to communicate not only what collective

action has achieved in the past, but what it could do for them in the future. General secretaries should aspire to boost their profiles and advocate for the action of their unions beyond leftist media outlets where solidarity is assumed, preaching beyond the choir.

The sectors least unionised, according to a 2018 UK BEIS report, are the food and accommodation industries. Young people are disproportionately represented in this sector, and according to a recent report, it will be one of few net growth areas in terms of employment prospects. Summer or part time employees at a non-unionised workplace such as a restaurant or cafe may see little appeal in the effort of collective action, even if working conditions are poor. These jobs are often stepping stones to success, sources of spending money for Uni or time management skills on the CV. However with the job market as it is, this may not be true forever as more graduates are churned out into the workforce than jobs suitable for their skill level - in 2017 the ONS reported that nearly half of graduates were working in non-graduate roles. Those employed under zero-hours or other similarly precarious contracts may also be dissuaded from organising with the threat of job loss, or how easily they could be replaced with others in the precariat, desperate for money and experience.

Despite these precarity workers having much to gain from union mem-

bership and organisation, they do not slot well into current union structures, which serve and are represented in large scale employers and workplaces better than smaller companies or those where the workforce is largely spatially disconnected and thus less able to physically organise such as those who work from home or using their own vehicles. The work of having to recruit enough members for a union branch, and even choosing a union to join in the first place in a workplace that does not fit into the standard offerings, will be a barrier to some. This being said, the Baker's Union's Fast Food Rights Campaign made branches more flexible to enable employees from different companies and locations to join collective town centre branches, an example of a union deliberately engaging with a growing workforce that they have not historically represented.

In short, the labour movement has, on the whole, failed to engage with young people and the changing landscape of labour and the culture surrounding it, despite high youth turnout for the Labour party in 2019. Solutions to this are twofold - the established unions need to get wise to the times by engaging with the discourse surrounding labour by less partisan means, and alter structurally to enable better engagement and organisation within traditionally non-unionised workforces that dominate the employment of young people.



Unions? I just came to show off my new poster // Wikimedia

## COMMENT

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## COMMENT

Michaela Flegrova

Comment Writer

# Your department sucks, and nothing will change until we fix our rep network

often defensively insist that providing something is simply not possible, for whatever reason, while the same might be standard in other parts of College. For a lot of students, support in the form of good quality feedback, early release of timetables, access to past papers, or even just a place to buy and eat your lunch remain a distant dream.

Most differences come from the unwillingness to change, or from a simple lack of commitment. There is often an element of pride involved, with departments claiming they can't release past paper solutions or lecture notes because their subject is just so special and providing too much would ruin the degree programme forever, even when the experience of other departments shows the opposite.

Not everything is the departments' fault, of course. Sometimes it's just really difficult to advocate for student experience in an institution that is run as a business. It doesn't matter how

many Learning and Teaching Strategies we produce; if you can just about afford rent in halls, buying lunch on

**“At the top levels the College and the Union are really good at making plans but implementing them has always been a challenge”**

campus costs you half of your student loan, and the shuttle bus you were going to take between campuses is full for the third time this week, you will have few nice words to say about your “holistic student experience”. Again, your perception will be wildly different depending on which campus you are at or what room you won

in the halls lottery.

If you think the College or the Union are not aware. Every year, the College is hit with the students' frustration in the National Student Survey, a questionnaire all undergraduate students are invited to complete just before they graduate. A similar survey is taken by postgraduate students every two years.

As the Union, we produce an “NSS response” (or a postgraduate equivalent one); after reading through the hundreds of comments, we come up with a set of recommendations that we think would fix these issues, or at least mitigate them. Parity of student experience is often addressed; implementing what is possible in some departments as the standard across the whole College would fix a lot of problems. After presenting our little list of ideas to College, they usually smile and nod, approve our plan and... and that's where the efforts often end.

At the top levels, the College and the Union are really good at making

plans, but implementing them has always been a challenge. The College (or the Deputy President - Education) needs to sell those plans to the faculties and faculty reps who in turn need to convince the departments and dep reps who might end up implementing them, but also maybe not. On College's side, little effort is put into ensuring the Union recommendations are followed on departmental level – after all, those are not their plans anyway. The Union, on the other hand, strongly believes in the potential of those plans, but lacks the mechanisms to make sure change actually happens; the academic rep network in its current state is mostly dysfunctional, toothless, and isn't unified in action.

If we want to effectively fight for parity of student experience, we need to work together across departments and faculties; without a proper rep community, we remain blissfully unaware of what could be improved and are unable to share good practice. Without knowing the

people who create these plans or understanding the reasoning behind them, a rep can hardly put their whole heart in them and fight for them on departmental level. Our strategies need to be put together by the whole rep community, sharing the hard won knowledge that comes with experience, not just individuals at the top.

Better support and preparation are also desperately needed. Currently, the training for reps is provided too late and it fails to teach those that are new to the role important skills for doing our job – basics of effective negotiation, team management skills, or even simple stuff like how to chair a meeting and what to prepare for going into one. Even if I am sold on a plan, it is of no use if I don't know how to sell it further.

We have over a hundred active reps at Imperial and they're doing a good job, but unfortunately their full potential is yet to be fully unleashed. Until then, your flatmate's department will probably still be better than yours.



It was the best of meetings, it was the worst of meetings // Thomas Angus, Imperial College

# A CONVERSATION WITH...

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*This week Felix spoke to the Union President, Abhijay Sood, about too many topics to list!*



**Felix: I wanted to start by catching up with you on rent. What's happening with the Imperial Cut the Rent campaign, and with the rent renegotiations in general?**

AS: The campaign is yet to have its first meeting, which will take place at 6.15pm on Monday 2nd March, in SAF120 (in the Sir Alexander Fleming building.) Our intention is to set up a space where students can initially get involved, but from then on it will be self-organised by motivated students. We will discuss the actions that were endorsed by Union Council at the Extraordinary Meeting. Whatever we do next is down to what those who attend want us to do.

**Felix: Will the people who will run the campaign, an internal committee, be elected at this first meeting?**

AS: That depends on the structure that interested students want to have – there are different ways of running a campaign. You can have a very traditional structure, with an elected chair and committees and such, but many campaigns even at this university don't run that way – for example, Divest has no centralised leadership. We want to listen to students, not impose a method.

**Felix: Why have it be**

**purely student-led, rather than run by a Sabbatical Officer?**

AS: We didn't think it would be appropriate. We want the Union to support and facilitate action other students might want to take. We've had a productive role in the negotiations thus far, but it's not up to us to dictate what happens next without wider student involvement.

**Felix: The College has now published the prices for 2020/21. Thoughts?**

AS: We weren't happy with the outcome of the negotiations and how information was shared, and we've talked about that in Felix and on our blogs. But we did move the College in the right direction on this.

Even though in the short term it's going to be a challenge to reopen this as a topic for debate, we hope that in the long-term with the added pressure a student-led campaign can give, that we will be able to reopen this issue and discuss it in the broader context of the College's over-arching decision making. We want to limit areas where they're working against themselves and doing wrong by students.

**Felix: A few Union Council members repeatedly expressed (including in Felix) that they felt uncomfortable with the way discussions about rent were conducted in Council by yourself and Shervin, saying they felt pressured into making decisions too quickly and with too little information. What are your thoughts?**

AS: I understand where those criticisms are coming from. However, any information we received that was not explicitly confidential was shared with the Council, and we shared it in the same timeframe in which we received the information ourselves. We tried to be as proactive as possible in involving those members in the conversation.

The truth is that sometimes in a negotiation, especially a really important one, decisions have to be made in a time-compressed fashion. Sometimes you get the information or the deal at the last minute, and you have to take a decision on it. At that point, the sabbatical officers have a choice. I could, as President, say 'this is the direction we are going in, here is what we will do' – or I could say 'here is what I think we should do, but I will consult with a wider array of representatives because I believe in our democratic processes.' That's the way we tried to approach this. I've had conversations with a lot of those who expressed discomfort with some of the timelines around this, about how sometimes you just have to be decisive. But that doesn't mean you have to exclude representatives, and we worked our asses off to not exclude people – to be as inclusive and transparent as possible.

We've done lots of direct communication with students about the issue, we brought every single substantive change the College offered on the deal back to the Council, and every time we weren't sure whether we should or could share something we erred on the side of sharing more. Particularly when we were asked questions. I don't think

that under the circumstances we could have been more transparent, and I'm sorry that people felt uncomfortable with some of the timescales involved, but I also don't think it would have been possible to do anything differently. I don't have any regrets about how we dealt with that process with regards to Union Council. And it's worth noting that only a small minority of members felt that way.

**Felix: You were also a part of the Working Group set up on socially responsible investment at the College, after you submitted the paper to College Council alongside the DPFS and Ethics and Environment Officer. They've now reported back to the Council (after consultation with the Endowment Board, who control investments), who passed the policy with some minor caveats and will be announcing that on March 2nd along with a report on the working group's activities. That policy would bind the Endowment Board's investment decisions. What was that process like, and how do you feel about the result?**

AS: Overall, we got out of this process what I expected to get out of it. When I ran for this position, part of my manifesto was helping to bring an end to some of its unethical investments and getting the College to consider the ethical implications of where it invests its money. We have done that. For the first time, Imperial has a policy that factors in ethical concerns when the College invests

its money. While some of the details of the decision are not necessarily exactly what I or most students would want, they are a big step closer to that than when we started. That will be reflected in the content of the policy released on Monday. This is a real, constructive, positive shift from where the College was to where we would want it to be, and it leaves the door open to revisiting this issue and strengthening the policy in coming years depending on how firms we invest in respond, and depending on the external pressures change. From that point of view I think it's been very productive. It's been a testament to what student representatives can do, together, when they think about the incentives that other people in the room have, when they realise the ability and power they have – for example, us realising we can bring this to College Council – and following things through productively by constructively challenging people rather than by starting off with being a bit of a doormat and just accepting the status quo at face value.

While I don't necessarily agree with the views of everyone we interacted with on the panel, I think it was largely very constructive and that the sessions we had were informative and interesting. That's the sort of collaboration we need going forward, with students and staff and senior management are sitting on the same level and discussing issues on their merit.

**Felix: And what was your experience there like? Was your mind changed at any point, or were you surprised by anything? Equally, do you think that other**

**members of the panel felt challenged, or that their alignment is still the same as at the start?**

AS: I think that people are capable of change, but only so much. Fundamental differences in the positions of different actors did not necessarily change. Having said that, there are some individual things that I did not realise before. Some technical things about how fund managers operate, which is interesting no matter what you think of the ethical questions. Some of the details of how different firms and fund managers have come to different conclusions, too. Some of the fund managers had already divested from some of the fossil fuel companies, for example, either because they did not see them as viable investments, or because they had tried to engage with the companies about renewable energy investment and had pulled out when those firms' actions didn't match their words. The financial sector is already moving along this trajectory; what happened to tobacco is starting to happen to fossil fuels.

**Felix: The block grant negotiations are also ongoing – the bid from the Union to the College for funding. How's that going?**

AS: It was delayed a little because of the Managing Director stepping down, but is now in progress. Because of some of the issues the Union has faced this year we're making a one-year bid instead of the typical three, alongside a one-year strategy plan to bring different teams into alignment and to align the resources we have with the needs students have in the short-term, which I don't think we have been

# A CONVERSATION WITH...

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proactive enough about at times in the past. We're also assessing what is 'core', looking at what is essential from a legal or constitutional perspective, from a student-need or -expectation perspective, and then what are 'nice-to-haves', things that are appreciated but not crucial. We'll be making an assessment of how much money we need based on that.

*Felix will report on the block grant negotiations later this term.*

**Felix: Speaking of the Managing Director role, we have a new interim Managing Director at the Union. You work closely with that person, so what has your experience been with them thus far?**

AS: Whenever a new member of staff is brought in, there's always a bit of nervousness, especially when that new member is the most senior member of staff in the Union. Graham has completely assuaged those nerves. He's excellent. He takes the student experience seriously, he values the opinions of student volunteers and sabbatical officers, he works constructively with staff and I believe those staff respect him, and he has the right experience previously to address the challenges the Union staff have now. He knows how to start helping and start improving things. He was very effective at Westminster student union last year, and they were in a more difficult position than we are now beforehand. I have no doubt he's going to be very effective here.

It's very helpful for me. Since his predecessor left, I've been picking up a lot of the work internal to the office, and I've had to put some of those things ahead of work a Union President

would normally be doing. So it's a huge relief, being able to be focus on being a student representative first-and-foremost again.

**Felix: What kinds of things are you focusing on?**

AS: I'm working on a few projects right now, including on hbar, training for student volunteers, and our complaints process. One of the important things we have going right now is a project to improve access to study at Imperial for refugees and asylum-seekers, at the behest of a PhD student, Luciana Miu. We're collaborating with Advancement in the College on this.

**Felix: Graham has a lot of experience at the NUS, with which the Imperial student union has a long and tumultuous history! Did that factor in to your decision to bring him in?**

*For reference, Imperial has joined and left the NUS multiple times, despite having been a founding member, and currently sits outside of the NUS after the most recent student referendum on the matter in 2008.*

AS: The NUS has been a controversial organisation for some time, going in peaks and troughs. We did ask him about his experience there in the HR department, we didn't dodge the question, but we felt his experience would be helpful – his involvement with several student unions and NUS puts what we do into a broader context. We wanted to hire someone who wanted to do this job and was able to do it. That means hiring someone from the student union ecosystem, which invariably means it is likely the person you bring in will have some NUS affiliation

as most student unions are members.

Often Imperial, as a College and as a Union, will sometimes pretend it's on an island in the sky, not tethered to anything else. But being connected to other student unions, and knowing about some of the positive things they are doing – without being dragged into some of the less positive things – is not without value.

We should be doing that more. In the past we've been completely unplugged, from national trends as well as other unions. But this year, we've been involved with Wonkhe, which has allowed us to better integrate into that via their whatsapp group, webinars, one-on-one chats with their head every month, and so on. We're infinity-percent more plugged in than we were before.

**Felix: Can you talk about what Wonkhe is?**

AS: It's a sort of thinktank based around higher education policy. They do studies and research for both universities and student unions. The people who founded and run it have more of a student union background, so they understand the issues we face and they care about a good student experience at universities. They feed us information on higher education policy and news, catered to student unions, with features on new developments or speculative new trends, or new legislation. They can also be commissioned to do specific pieces of work.

**Felix: And finally, for clarity, none of this represents a shift in the Union's perspective towards the NUS?**

AS: No. We were NUS-ag-

nostic. In a different set of circumstances, without the controversies and lack of focus on the big issues, I might be advocating for us to be involved in things at the national level. There's a limit to what any student union at any university can achieve by itself; sometimes you have to push for things together as part of a larger group. But I'm not willing to pull students along into that when, right now, it might not benefit them, and I don't think there is an appetite amongst the student body to get involved. As it is, we've been starting to look at other ways of linking up with other universities. For example, we had a sabbatical officer meetup for sabbs across London last year.

**Felix: What are your thoughts on Simone Buitendijk's departure for Leeds?**

AS: We are really sad to see her go. Even where we haven't agreed with her 100%, it's clear that she has good intentions and cares deeply about the student experience – and especially the holistic student experience. She's really committed to that vision, where the different things affecting students, educational decisions and financial decisions, are brought into true alignment.

We are obviously nervous about what happens next. We hope we have a good degree of involvement in the selection of her successor – and that her successor shares those views and is as committed to seeing through some of the positive work she has started on learning and teaching, and in collaboration with the student union, academics across different departments, the Vice-Deans, and so on.

**Felix: The Union Council voted to sup-**

**port the UCU strikes at Union Council last week (see News, Felix Issue 1744.) Josef Willsher, a student, came and presented a paper mandating the Union and student representatives to actively lobby the College in support of the strikes. That passed with a massive 29-1 majority, with one abstention. How do you feel personally feel about the UCU strikes, and how do you feel about this approach that the Council has mandated you to follow?**

AS: Firstly, Union Council voted overwhelmingly to support the action. Students are going to be disrupted by this action, yes. Council voted to support the strikes because the representatives felt that although students will be disadvantaged in the short-term, in the long-term it is to the benefit of both current and future students who want to become academics that they are well compensated, that their grievances are taken seriously, and that they are engaged with meaningfully when it comes to different negotiations nationally over pensions or locally over pay.

Also, blurring into my personal view a bit, I think students felt that this is part of a general trend. Over time, having pension contributions going up a little bit, the benefits getting a little worse, pay going up less than inflation or not at all leading to an effective pay cut. The changes that were being presented to pensions in 2018 were much more fundamental, which meant it was a more clear-cut situation. My personal view is that it is less clear-cut this time. It would be more difficult to make the case for strike action over the individual

minor change this year or last year, or the year before that, and so on. But those incremental changes to how staff are valued and rewarded add up over time. In the end, staff are worse off, and so students are worse off because you can't attract good people. If that sounds familiar, that's because it is exactly what happens to students. The food prices increase just a bit above inflation every year – and the change from when you start and end your degree is huge. Or rent. It's one or two things every year – a facility being closed, some price being increased, and so on.

That one little thing might not be enough to get people to react, but if you don't start saying "no" at some point, if you don't wake up at step one or two and do something about it, then suddenly you're at step 15 and things are way worse than they once were. That's the pattern I've seen over a number of years. I don't think our predecessors effectively and constructively challenged the university – which means that the experience of someone at this university ten years ago had things a lot better, financially at least, than someone here now.

The student reps on Union Council – as they did in 2018 – strongly empathise with the UCU's position, because it is the same one we are in as students. In spite of whatever misgivings we might have about this particular dispute, and about the short-term negative impact on students, it's the responsible thing to do. To encourage a resolution, and not to take things at face value.

## ARTS

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# The Oldest Material on Earth Sitting in a Room Outside of Time

*Pause, Breathe and Lose yourself in The Habitat of Time on a sleepy Saturday afternoon.*

## ARTS



Where? Art Catalyst

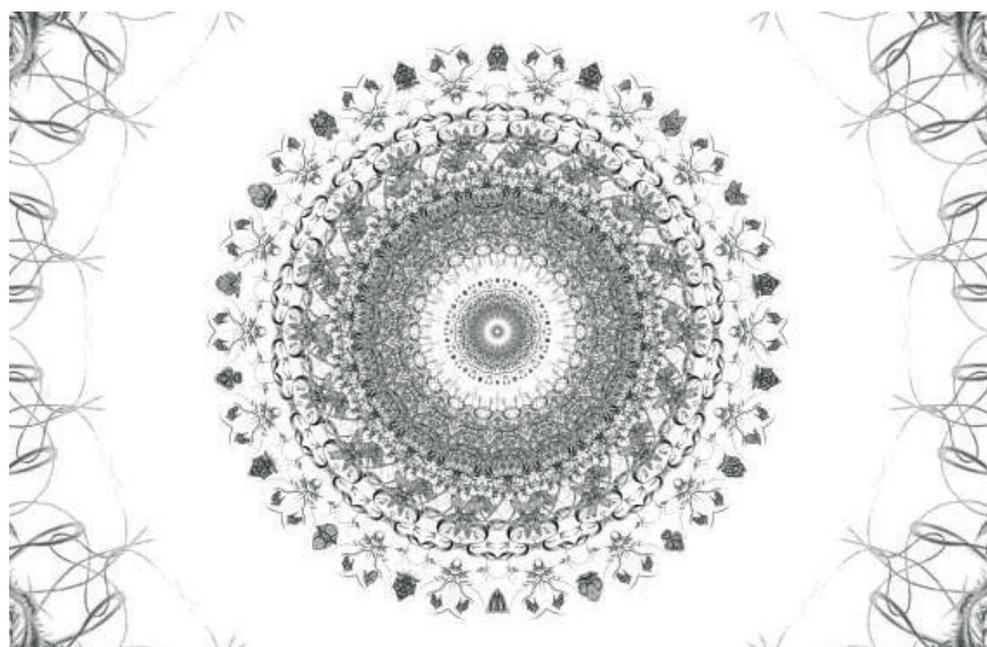
When? 20<sup>th</sup> Feb - 14<sup>th</sup> Mar

How Much? Free

Alex Moriarty

Arts Writer

Two sounds greeted me as I entered the tiny gallery, tucked away in one of central London's many quiet corners: the faint tapping of the gallery attendant's laptop keyboard and the ghostly sound of crickets chirping. Snowy tree crickets, to be exact, whose pitch and tempo changed according to their ambient temperature. This audio, part of Josh Wodak's seed in Space/sound in time, was constructed from samples of the cricket and mapped to the changes in temperature of three different Wollemi Pine samples; one in a seed-bank, one in its natural



The Pinned Moth Cannot Fly by Eva Nolan // image courtesy the artist

habitat in a distant gully, and one on its lonely journey to the International Space Station.

The Habitat of Time is an exploration of how we can present time in a modern context, where information travels great distances almost instantaneously and a transitory moment can be captured and recalled anywhere,

at any time, indefinitely. It is therefore quite fitting, that the gallery itself feels suspended in a bubble, sheltered from the bustling streets around King's Cross.

Visually, the piece that first caught my attention was Eva Nolan's *The Pinned Moth Cannot Fly*, a hypnotic animation of black-on-white concentric circular patterns, which, upon closer inspection, unravel into graphite drawings of winged insects blending and intertwining with flora. As it zooms ever further inwards, towards its centre, the intricate linework that connects the different species and kingdoms is revealed. Its namesake is a reference to taxonomy and its implications for how we perceive the divisions between life forms across scales of time. Even without this context it is still aesthetically mesmerising.

Walking around the main room of the gallery I spotted the first piece I saw on the exhibition's website, James Geurts'

compared to my existence, past and future, and yet here it was in front of me, presently.

But my favourite part of the exhibition was tucked away in a dark side room, with a singular bench at its center and bean bags strewn across the floor. On one side, Robert Andrew's *Presence in Time* evolved onscreen, with mixtures of geological materials and pigments cascading and producing wonderful contrasts of red, white and black - emergent, unpredictable patterns. James Geurts' *Ark* was projected onto the other wall; a grainy, decaying sample of film footage, left exposed to the environment in which it was captured. I sat in front of this film for a very long time, alone, watching the flickering images of foreign hillsides. In this fleeting moment, I was the only person in the world who could see those aberrated pictures. By sacrificing the precision of photorealism, it felt like they absorbed some essence of their provenance, something that was a part of them

but which cannot hope to be captured by a camera alone.

The *Habitat of Time* is an intimate exhibition whose composition makes it easy to become absorbed in its surreal, disconnect-

**"This is an intimate exhibition whose composition makes it easy to become absorbed in its surreal, disconnected atmosphere"**

ed atmosphere. Yet by the entrance, Thomson & Craighead's *Horizon* presents a menagerie of webcam footage from each of the world's 24 time zones, connecting even this small gallery to a myriad of other moments from across the globe.



The accompanying image to seed in Space/sound in time by Josh Wodak: a Wollemi Pine seed, with an overlaid sketch by Charles Darwin // image courtesy the artist and Julie Louise Bacon



Trajectories II: Prebiotica by James Geurts // image courtesy the artist

# ARTS

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## Arturo Ui: How to Become a Vegetable Dictator

### ARTS



**Where?** Art Catalyst  
**When?** 20<sup>th</sup> Feb - 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb  
**How Much?** Free

#### Maria Portela

Arts Writer

Imperial's very own Drama Society put together, in less than 5 weeks, an epic play that combines strong allegorical imagery with subtle satire and a pinch of cauliflower. The magic happened thanks to the effort of 15 cast members together with a 12-strong technical team.

The plot follows the story of Arturo Ui, a gangster who gradually takes control of Chicago's vegetable industry using a mixture of corruption,

**"strong allegorical imagery with subtle satire and a pinch of cauliflower"**

manipulation and assassination. Every step of his journey mirrors that of Adolf Hitler, from the

economic crash to the scapegoating of Jews and foreigners, to his "democratic" election and reign of tyranny. The most important historical moments of his rise are faithfully portrayed. The play manages to walk a very narrow line all the way through - the audience laughs at the jokes while hurting at their horrible allegorical implications.

Alfred Engedal, who portrays the title character, is the absolute star of the show. His passionate monologues, alternating quickly between viperine charm and spitting rage, made such a faithful

impression of his Nazi alter ego that I often found myself physically repulsed. Other performances worth noting were those of Dorien Lijnzaad, a calculating assassin, Kacper Neumann, who

**"an ambitious amateur staging to a very high standard"**

somehow managed to wear a tower of hats almost a third of his

height, and Yuyu Lee, who brought energy to the stage at every opportunity. A big shout out to the technical team for an unexpected fire and very dynamic sets.

There were some flaws, however. I didn't like the constant signposting of the parallels between allegory and history. The lines, sets and costumes were all well-built enough to allow a smart audience to draw those parallels without the need to spell them out. The sound and light design had great moments, yet at times left me wanting more. Smoother transitions and a more regular, yet always

subtle, presence would have elevated the show. I know I am asking for professional quality here, but it is something to refine. In terms of acting, the biggest problem was with volume and clarity of speech, and I couldn't help noticing some ill-managed forgotten lines.

All things considered, The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui has confirmed once more the thesis that surprised me the most about this university: that its incredibly smart engineers and scientists are also capable of ambitious amateur artistic pursuits to a very high standard.

## When It Breaks It Burns

*A tantric, thrilling experience created by teenage minds*

### ARTS



**Where?** Battersea Arts Centre  
**When?** 19<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> Feb  
**How Much?** £12.50 for under-25s

#### Laura Casas

Arts Writer

In 2015, reacting to immense cuts in government funding for education, many students occupied high schools across the country in large-scale protests. During this performance, 15 of these students showed how they lived through such an intense experience and the change it caused in their lives. The first part of the show was a reproduction of how the occupation took place while during the second part they showed us how

they bonded between then and how the experience changed them.

Instead of an auditorium, the audience sat on a group of chairs in the middle of a large room. The dancers were right among us, sitting on the chairs, running and dancing around us, talking and screaming on top of each other. Although it was hard to understand everything that was said during this first part, the chaos created in the room managed to convey the emotions they felt. The interactivity of the performance intensified the energy in the room, eliciting anxiety and thrills in the viewers that made it seem as if we were taking part in the school occupations ourselves.

In the second part, the chairs were put aside, leaving a wide space for performers and audience members to dance

together and creating a strong collective feeling between the participants. This sense of unity was enhanced by colourful words embroidered on a massive banner: solidarity, strength, support... In contrast to these empowering, strident moments, the show was full of kindness and warmth.

The most compelling part came when the audience was divided into small groups, with three performers in each group. These performers spoke about their personal experiences and reflected on how this episode in their lives had changed them for the better. Contrasting their current selves with pictures of them from before to the occupation, they showed how the protests had made them stronger and braver, and more able to be their true selves, both externally and internally. A common



A celebration of solidarity, courage and unity // JMA photography

change in all of them was their hair. They had all dyed theirs in bright colours, representing their newfound bond, and also their newfound courage in going out with their natural afro hair.

While the originality and interactivity of the show managed to create a strong connection between everyone in the room, it was also diffi-

cult to follow the events entirely. Even though the freedom and authentic depiction of the performance set it apart from other plays, a slightly less chaotic structure would have improved the audience's understanding.

The show ended on the street, with the audience and performers united, shouting and protesting like they had done years

before. Together, we remembered the essential points of that night such as loving ourselves and being brave. This unexpected ending left us hyped and emotional. Unquestionably, a great performance for recalling the importance of fighting for what we want, and a novel experience of theatre from a completely different perspective.

## ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Upstart Crow, Outstanding Codpiece

## ARTS



Where? Gielgud Theatre

When? Until 5<sup>th</sup> April

How Much? From £24

Charlie Titmuss

Arts Writer

Upstart Crow is the theatre adaptation of the eponymous BBC television programme. It follows the fictionalised life of William Shakespeare, the famous playwright who was once mocked as an “upstart crow” by his contemporary critic Robert Greene. The play takes up where series 3 of the television show left off, telling the story of how Shakespeare wrote Othello with the help of his faithful household. In

true panto style, the plot is driven by the threat of the ever-present intervention by the Puritan “Puretitties” and the loss of royal favour, with the show also featuring a dancing bear, two African royals and a set of magnificent codpieces.

The stage adaptation stays true to its original

**“Never have I so rapidly lost all respect for an individual as when I watched him uncomfortably dance ‘the Shoot’”**

roots, drawing on Shakespeare’s own work from Romeo and Juliet to Othello. It is just as bawdy as the original - audiences are warned to expect some real groaners. Given the speed with which each quip is delivered, it sometimes felt as though the punch lines didn’t have quite enough time to settle. However, a more than generous audience, myself included, enjoyed them immensely.

David Mitchell reprised his role from the TV series as the bard, holding the fort down with a solid performance as a man that borrows more than he creates, particularly from his well-versed daughters. While I appreciated some of the updates that the show received for the West End, particularly the woke African royals who delivered historically



All that’s missing is Yorick // Johan Persson

accurate monologues, I do believe that some were completely unnecessary. They say, never meet your heroes: I prefer to never have witnessed David Mitchell performing Fortnite dances. Never have I so rapidly lost all respect for an individual as I did when I watched him uncomfortably dance

“the Shoot.” Mark Heap also featured prominently as “Puretitty.” Although I mostly recognise him as Jim the neighbour from Friday Night Dinner, he was clearly born to play a self-flagellating Puritan. He managed to capture the panto-villain vibe very well - and I have never before seen a man so well

suiting to a codpiece.

For anyone expecting intelligent, thought-provoking humour, then this is probably not the place to find it. However, if you’re looking for somewhere where you can spend a couple of hours in unthinking amusement, then this is the play for you.

## Drawing Cities: Art by Stephen Wiltshire

## ARTS

Timon Schenk

Arts Writer

Most of us may have heard the story about an artist, flying in a helicopter above gigantic cities such as New York or Shanghai, who then draws the entire landscape he has seen with ridiculous detail on paper once back on solid ground. What most of us don’t know is the name of this artist and that he is living in London.

Stephen Wiltshire is this draftsman’s name and his art is astonishing. Focusing on drawing entire cities, impressive buildings down to the fancy cars and London buses, his drawings are

snapshots from memory, what he sees in his mind’s eye.

Born in 1974 in London, Wiltshire spent his childhood in Little Venice. From very early in his life he expressed an interest in sketching animals and cars. This allowed him to communicate with his surroundings through his drawings, something he struggled to do verbally due to his diagnosis of autism. When he was seven years old, he became interested in drawing landmark buildings of London after being shown a book with pictures of devastation caused by earthquakes. Wiltshire studied Arts at the City and Guild of London Arts School, from which he graduated in 1998. Carrying on with

his passion, he had great success with his true-to-scale, out-of-memory drawings. He went on to publish several books throughout his life and travelled all around the world seeking inspiration for his work.

Wiltshire’s fame skyrocketed after producing a detailed drawing of four square miles of London out of his memory, based on a single helicopter ride above the city. Travelling around the world, he visited many different places, drawing them right there, or later from memory alone. Although he has travelled all around the world seeking for inspiration, New York and London are to him the most interesting cities. Stephen’s work is appreciated all around the world,

due to its uniqueness and attention to detail.

I was lucky to attend one of his public events in an Apple store in London, where Wiltshire gave us an insight into his work and passion. It was a fascinating experience to see him at work first-hand, creating complex drawings with surprising serenity.

Wiltshire wants to inspire people, so when he was asked what he recommends stressed people should do, he simply answered: “just pick up a pencil and start to draw”. He believes this offers a relief to a busy work life and that one’s own inspiration and happiness will benefit from it.

You can visit his art gallery in 22 Palace Court, Notting Hill London,



Aerial view of Tower Bridge and River Thames, London

// Stephen Wiltshire

which is only a twenty five minute walk through Hyde Park. Besides gazing in amazement at his drawings, you can even buy some of the originals (which are priced from £2,000 - £200,000).

If that’s a bit outside your budget, prints or postcards are also available. I recommend everybody to pay it a visit and guarantee it will be an exceptional experience!

# MUSIC

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## Starset - Other Worlds Than These

### MUSIC

#### Starset



**Venue:** O2 Shepherds Bush Empire. **Support Act:** Sick Joy. **Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020. **Ticket Price:** £22.

#### Matthew Ryan

Music Writer

Electronic Hard-Rock band, Starset, blast off back to the UK on their headline tour for album number three, *Divisions*, and the results are stellar.

Starset once again blew crowds away, transporting audiences to another world as heavy-metal riffs were combined with classical strings and modern synthesisers.

Fans new and old were

treated to 18 tracks, eight from the new album *Divisions*, four from fan favourite *Vessels*, four from debut *Transmissions* as well as covers of 'Kashmir' by Led Zeppelin and ACDC's 'Thunderstruck'.

The set opened with the first single from *Divisions*, 'MANIFEST', a starkly juxtaposing track with light, pop-like verses combined with jarring choruses that make Bring Me The Horizon look like a Lo-Fi pop band. This was followed immediately by US chart-topping single, 'Monster', complete with full string intro and choruses performed by the band's resident violinist and cellist, standing on pedestals towering over the crowd. All the performers were shrouded in wispy, tattered-looking costumes that thrashed

about amongst the countless beams of light as they played. This was spot on for the rebels theme with the "Demonstrations" as the band are calling performances for the album *Divisions*, all about rebellion against a dystopian society.

This much more terrestrial theme continued through the first half of the performance, which was brought to a close by the hair raising 'Trials'. Singer and Guitarists held flags high as chants of "These Trials make us who we are, we're motivated by the scars that we're made of, we take our places in the dark and turn our hearts to the stars!" echoed around the 2000 person venue.

As the band disappeared backstage, and the crowd took a moment to catch their breaths,

the audience was treated to yet another narrative video played on the stage backdrop, further elaborating on the dystopian future in which the band were playing from. This was underwritten by the ominous countdown to "Demonstration Reboot".

As the timer hit zero and lights went down, human figures drifted onto stage lit only by specks of light from their chest plates and the blue glow from the space-suit visors. This throwback to the iconic outfits worn for their first two albums was a sure sign that things were about to reach another level, or specifically, another world.

The set opened up with the screaming 'Carnivore', strings in harmony with headbanging guitars followed by heavy-metal favourite 'Bringing it

Down'. After these tracks, it's hard to imagine anyone on the ground floor hadn't broken into a sweat as mosh pits formed and the band flew around the stage. Frontman Dustin Bates has obviously spent time working on his growls as the breakdowns hit and his voice filled the room with a power that's normally reserved only for the strongest of metal vocalists.

A break provided by lighter track, 'Telescope', was followed up by experimental track, 'Other Worlds Than These', with heavily electronic vox intro and pounding bass, calling out to those content living their lives inside locked minds. Lyrics "Pull the wool out from your eyes/ It won't shade your frail belief/ In the end we cannot hide/ There are other worlds

than these" resounding with those often associated with fringe music like this.

Starset closed their double set with the only song they could, 'My Demons'. A song that on youtube views has surpassed Muse's 'Uprising'; possibly the track which most embodies the energy that Starset bring to all aspects of their music, be that the spectacle of their live performances or the intricacies of their overarching narrative. Or perhaps the unique musical combination of electronic, hard rock and classical strings in a strange summary of humanity as an ever growing, ever reaching species that strives to live life above just an existence and aspires to one day soar among the stars.

## Felix Recommends...

### MUSIC

#### Seven Wonders



**Artist:** Various Artists; **Label:** Plug Seven Records; **Top Tracks:** Dempsey Roll, Womans Choir, Sweet Water; **For Fans Of:** Thundercat, The Internet, Moses Boyd; 72 mins

#### Miles Gulliford

Music Editor

Seven wonders is a compilation of psychedelic soul tunes from Australia's underground scene. Recorded direct to tape in a series of live sessions in the heart of Melbourne, it is an awe inspiring listen and fantastic showcase of Australia's rising talents.

Whether drawing on

60s psych-pop, 70s afro-jazz or 00s neo-soul, the tracks on *Seven Wonders* maintain a distinctively modern approach, emphasising rhythm above all else. The resultant kaleidoscopic grooves are immensely pleasurable, the Aussie musicians proving beyond a shred of doubt that they are on par with the tidal wave of talent bursting from London's jazz/soul scene, whose influences they share.

A selection of tracks here feature vocalists, whose honey-drenched melodies and compelling lyrics add a degree of depth and approachability to what are often harmonically complex tracks.

'Work' features rapper Ijale, who delivers a strong performance. One might fault him for "borrowing" from Ken-

drick Lamar the way Christopher Columbus "borrowed" from native Americans. However, the heist was well executed enough to get a pass.

The compilation's Instrumental cuts vary from verdant sonic landscapes like 'Womans Choir' by GODTET, which comes on like an outtake from *Pet Sounds*, to grittier tracks with more rock influences. A personal highlight and example of the latter is 'Dempsey roll' by Superfeather. Built around an almost aggressively oversaturated drum loop, twin guitars weave intricate patterns out of African guitar lines, all the while descending into the realms of atonality. The result is a listen as fascinating as it is challenging.

I am hard pushed

to name a compilation more diverse and simultaneously coherent. *Seven Wonders* is fun, mind altering, and has redefined the meaning of a compilation record for me.

### MUSIC

#### Royaume Du Sauvage



**Artist:** Observe Since 98; **Label:** Lorreta Records; **Top Tracks:** No Shame, Money In The Bag; **For Fans Of:** Wu Tang Clan, Wiki, Westside Gunn; 42 mins

Observe Since 98 retired from rap's underground scene in 2002, only to make a return in 2016, with a trio of mixtapes he has dubbed "The savage

trilogy". Released on his own label Loretta, *Royaume Du Sauvage* is the final outing, and the most impressive.

With it's sinister cover, transforming an oil painting of a hierophant into a masked gangster, vocal snippets on topics from alchemy to LSD, and profoundly esoteric sample choices, the record maintains an otherworldly atmosphere throughout. This consistency is all the more impressive given *Royaume du Sauvage*'s guest list with 20 rappers appearing for a verse over the span of just 10 tracks. Their flows, while never monotonous per se, draw heavily from New York's underground in both style and content, blending diametric images of criminal and lavish lifestyles with lines like "Designer death/

They Rocking neck ties from Columbia" over Observe's swaggering beats.

Polysyllabic rhymes are another staple of the style, making each verse aesthetically pleasurable even when imagery verges on generic. Unorthodox verses on 'No Shame' features this wordplay in spades, dense and witty rhymes like "Every track I'm cannibalising, it's Hannibal rising/There ain't another man in my vision, I scan the horizon" decorate the track.

Observe's gripping production shines through beneath impressive verses on *Royaume du Sauvage*, making it a must listen for underground rap fans.

## MUSIC

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## After The Long Delay - The Slow Rush

*"Has it really been that long" were the first words Kevin Parker spoke on Patience, the first single released in the lead up to The Slow Rush, Tame Impala's first album in almost five years. The wait is over now, the cat is out of the bag. It's time for Felix to give its seminal take. Fasten your seatbelts, girls and boys.*

## MUSIC

## The Slow Rush



**Artist:** Tame Impala **Label:** Modular Records **For Fans Of:** Pond, MGMT, Unknown Mortal Orchestra, Ariel Pink. *57 mins*

## Martin Flerin

Music Editor

## Dario Mongiardi

Music Writer

**T**ime. One of the most baffling and psychedelic concepts and one that every single one of us must deal with. Musings on the theme have occupied so many artists. It comes as a logical conclusion to a fact that we all have to deal with: we're all slowly running out of time. How much of it we have, and what the possibilities held by this limited and unquantifiable reserve are, no one knows.

So much stress is caused by the impression that time is closing in on

us. Maybe you didn't have a productive day at work, maybe making dinner took longer than it should have and now you can't go to the gym or your kids are screaming, or your stove is on fire... We each face our own time-dimension difficulties. Kevin Parker, the Tame Impala frontman and de-facto one-man band, kicks off *The Slow Rush* with a number that contemplates the value of routine in a relationship in the context of passing time. 'One More Year' opens with a questionable heavily-gated deep male chorus, which carries through to the end of the song, and introduces a main theme of the album – doubt.

If we take Kevin's personal story arc, it can be retold in plain terms as the coming of age of a confused introvert figuring out how to fit in in the world. As he has become more successful, cementing his name in rock history, his outlook has changed somewhat. Trying to shed light on his new life throughout



**I don't like sand. It's coarse, and rough, and irritating, and it gets everywhere! - Kevin Skywalker, 2020 // Modular Records**

the LP, he manages to toe the line between ironic self-awareness and soppi-ness successfully for the most part, while failing spectacularly in places. It just so happens that through the passage of time, with more and more things seemingly falling into place, the things he

is doubting have become more banal. But have they really? If past actions are irreversible, and we have an ever-growing backlog of these, do doubts become less pertinent or do they just accumulate?

An important breaking point in the album comes with the lead single, and in our opinion one of the highlights of the album, 'Borderline'. By looking at the cover art we constantly encounter surrealist scenes of rooms filled with sand. Doors lead us to the outside – more sand, open sky. Other doors lead us inside – more doors, more sand. It is an obvious allusion to surrealist art, where doors and windows had an important role as a symbol of the break of continuity between space and time – often also a break with reality. "Then I saw the time // Watched it speedin' by like a train". This particular line from

'Borderline' concretely ties the focus back to the theme of time, and the hourglass-esque landscape of the artwork. We now know that the borderline Kevin has found himself on is one of different timelines, different levels of existence. On a musical level, the song is one of the better examples of Kevin's newfound love for bongos, featuring a punchier bass than the single version, and vocal effects which complement the self-doubting questioning in the bridge and outro.

The turning point in the album's story almost feels like an epiphany, and is emphasised by the follow-up, the dryly-titled 'Posthumous Forgiveness'. The gist of the song is that Kevin has no means to confront his late father (who passed away during the recording of Tame Impala's first album

Innerspeaker) for the lies he told him growing up. A child of divorce, his parents' splitting must have been a profound influence on his outlook on love, subsequently shaping the lens through which we as an audience peer into his life. The first four minutes are dark, brooding, and stretched to the breaking point, whereupon the saw lead nosesdives into the bongos, and an airy melody lifts the mood – similarly to 'Sun's Coming Up' from *Lonerism*. Kevin stops being accusatory and instead feels sadness for not being able to tell his father about all the amazing things that have happened to him. A change of perspective; the end of doubt?

The section following could be called "Kevin Parker's self-help medley".



**Please remove sand from property or deposit deduction will ensue! // Modular Records**

# MUSIC

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‘Breathe Deeper’ – If you want to grow as a person, push your own limits. You can only learn through discomfort! ‘Tomorrow’s Dust’ – don’t dwell on the past, you’ll be at your most fabulous living carefree. “Sympathy for the fauna // Fragile life in the sauna,” is Kevin’s take on global warming. Make of that what you will.

Parker then finally realises that life really isn’t all that bad on ‘On Track’. Melancholic piano riffs cut through high-pitched church organs and auxiliary synths. Sometimes the simplest songs are the most beautiful. Channelling his inner piano man, Kevin still manages to make a track with quintessential Tame Impala elements, making this a smoother transition to piano music than Alex Turner’s, if somewhat less exciting.

‘Lost in Yesterday’ is an unapologetic pop track, with the Aussie frontman again taking to dwelling

on his emotional baggage, and finding solace in the knowledge that all experiences, regardless of how they were perceived at the time, can end up making you a better person. This then catapults the album into his own brand of lounge disco, on ‘Is It True’, where he portrays the uncertainty of fresh love, perhaps making this the sister song to ‘Instant Destiny’.

‘It Might Be Time’ combines piano riffs with uncomfortable intervals of the lead synth to make Kevin’s realisation that he’s now old especially sobering. The vocals drop in and resemble the voices in your head telling you to smell the coffee, the same ones we often try to block out.

This sets up the perfect finale but not without a sly Aussie twist. Kevin treats us to a two-minute house beat opened by a random podcast sample, showing us his full measure of self-aware mockery. “You know how you make



I like to go down to the market on Saturdays and just buy random old stuff that I don’t really need // Modular Records

the bass better? Crank the bass up,” seems out of place at first. “You know to make the kick drum better? Crank the bass up! It’s like, no, not really...” I’m sure there’s a poignant thought about not trying to fix your life by overloading one

solution somewhere in there.

‘One More Hour’ takes to the brink of the hour mark for the album. There are obvious shades of Supertramp, just as there have been shades of the 80s throughout the record. It is rock operetta in a

single track, with crashing rides and powerful snares, all to the backdrop of a flanger out of control. Evening out the album stylistically and preventing anyone from saying that Tame Impala don’t do rock anymore, it is a song that doesn’t really provide

answers, and peters out with a chorus giving guidance on how to go on. How to find love. How to find life. “All your voices said you wouldn’t last a minute, babe // One more hour and you know your life is one to share”.

The  
**Leadership  
Elections**  
2020

#icuElections

## ELECTIONS LIVE DEBATE

15:00, Wednesday 4 March  
Metric, Beit Quad, South Kensington Campus

Submit your questions here:  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/electionsdebate](https://imperialcollegeunion.org/electionsdebate)

Facebook livestream @imperialcollegeunion



# FILM

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## American Factory (2019)

### FILM AMERICAN FACTORY



**Dir:** Steven Bognar, Julia Reichert.  
*110 minutes*

**Jasmin Daley**  
*Film Writer*

I can't remember exactly when I first heard about *American Factory*. It was either on my Facebook feed or on the 6 o'clock news where I saw a clip with Chinese employees having a meeting about how to best interact with their American colleagues. In this clip phrases such as "American children are showered with praise, so everyone who grows up in the US is overconfident," and "Americans love being flattered to death" are bashed around. This clip, alongside a recent

Academy Award win and having the Obamas as producers, made this, for me, a must see. Directors Julia Reichert and Steven Bognar start the story with the closing of General Motors on the outskirts of Dayton, Ohio, one of the many repercussions of the 2007 financial crisis. Fast-forward six years and Cao Dewang, billionaire founder of Fuyao, a Chinese automobile glass company, has bought the factory, bringing jobs, joy and enthusiasm to the area once more. Workers are brought in from factories in China to help show the Americans their way, in the hope that eventually everything will be passed over to the Americans when ready. After a suitably lengthed honeymoon phase, relations between the two cultures begin to splinter as both parties realise that things aren't like what they're used to at their previous factories.



Fuyao employees perform a musical tribute to windshields in one scene in the documentary // Netflix

Often we find clever editing and consumer demand can alter the truth telling aspects of news

**"This documentary is overwhelmingly organic, with a 'pure' filmmaking style"**

stories and documentaries. In comparison, this documentary is overwhelmingly organic, showing a messy spectrum of thoughts and feelings from a blended array of people all the way from management to a broken glass sweeper. One of the most remarkable things about this documentary is the shocking 'I could possibly lose my job by saying this' honesty of everyone, showing the effects of a production crew taking their time to create an atmosphere of comfort. Reichert and Bognar admit to going into making this story without

an angle in the Netflix special *American Factory: A Conversation with the Obamas*. The downside to such 'pure' filmmaking reveals itself in the finale as we, the audience, look for a conclusion and an idea of the future for the factory. We almost get some semblance of a coherent ending, with staff reflecting on their new lives in the factory, before, out of nowhere, we swerve to reflect on more recent events that have nothing to do with the previous two hours.

For me, this documentary manages to encapsulate America pre-Trump. Things are not perfect, however every struggle that people have in this documentary is not politicalised to the extent that it is today. This film simply explores the interaction of people with conflicting goals and pressures. Managers and workers alike from China aim to create a respect and love for their home country in this small Ohio town. They also have the pressure of teaching inexperienced employees to get to a level of production matching factories

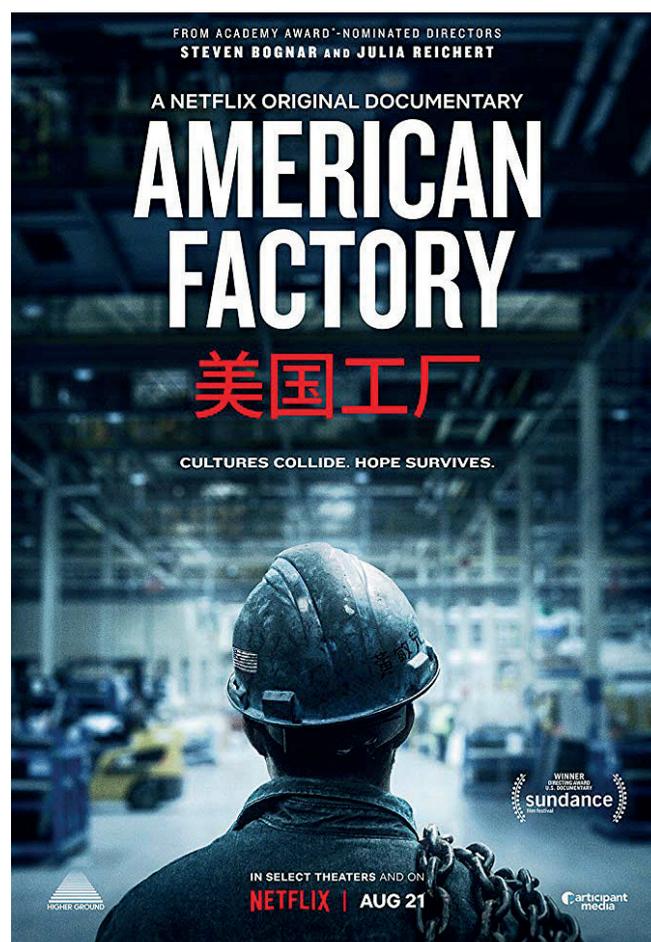
that have existed for over thirty years, all while living hours and hours away from their families. On the side of the Americans is the reality and adjustment of never being able to live with the same disposable income they had in their previous jobs with General Motors, alongside a shocking drop in working conditions. Naturally it is the clashes that acquire the most shock value and discussion, but it's the moments where the cultures try to understand each other which are the real jewels.

One storyline follows a former employee of General Motors. A horse loving, gun collector from the midwest who when

**"I recommend this film for anyone in an environment where the blending of cultures is inevitable"**

employed by Fuyao, embraces the Chinese culture alongside sharing his own, leading to him calling his diverse co-workers 'his best friends'. When this staff member eventually loses his job, he is not angry, but grateful, claiming to 'have learned so much from his friends' proving that he got so much more from the experience than just employment.

I would recommend this film for anyone looking to have a realistic view on the different working class conditions and pressures across the world. I would also recommend this for anyone living and working in a place where the blending of cultures is inevitable, which, fun fact, is Imperial. In the end, the cinematography and editing is wisely selected and natural feeling. Despite a confusing ending, the point of *American Factory* is not for everyone to live happily ever after, nor is it for everyone to have their lives ruined by this factory, it is just to portray a raw and honest story of people with lives different from our own.



American Factory, a Netflix production // Netflix

# TELEVISION

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The "pods" from Love Is Blind // Netflix

## Binge of the Week: *Love Is Blind*

*Love at first sight is overrated - try love at no sight*

### TELEVISION

Season 1



**Creator:** Chris Coelen, Sam Dean, Ally Simpson, Eric Detwiler. **Presenter:** Nick Lachey, Vanessa Lachey

**Ozibil Ege Dumenci**  
TV Editor

Oh boy. What were the Netflix executives on when green-lighting the mess that is this show? Following the worldwide success of *The Circle* (think *Big Brother* meets *Catfish*) - the UK version airs on Channel 4 whereas the US/international version of broadcast on Netflix - comes a brand new relationship-focused reality show, clearly a strategic attempt from the streaming giant to step into the unscripted show market.

Calling 'Love is Blind' batshit crazy would be an

understatement. The show combines the ever-so-popular 'blind dating' format with a sprinkle of 'The Bachelor' franchise, dumping a group of men and a group of women in separate houses, asking them to find the love of their lives by chatting to each other from their own little 'pods', and not being able to see each other until they are engaged. As if that's not absurd enough, they only have about a week to decide who they want to marry and about a month to actually walk down the aisle.

Over the first couple of episodes, relationships are formed, proposals are made; a fuckboy needs to choose between the three women he's promised to marry, and hearts are broken. Some contestants get next to no airtime (they must be exceptionally boring), and by the end of the third episode, they are completely out of the show, which now focuses

on five newly betrothed couples and how their relationships develop or fall apart, in the real world.

Perhaps the most ludi-

**"only about a week to decide who they want to marry and about a month to actually walk down the aisle"**

crous part of the show is watching people who've never seen each other talk about wanting to have kids together one minute, to the same people considering marrying different people within the next.

One of the main issues with the show is that it is extremely heteronorma-

tive. Granted, given the premise of the show, it is difficult to create an environment where gay and straight relationships can co-exist without complete segregation. However, the show doesn't even attempt to overcome this problem. Instead, the only LGBT representation is a bisexual man who gets dumped by his 'fiancée' for 'not being honest' upon revealing his sexuality on a couples retreat in Mexico following their engagement.

From the get-go, not only are the 'pod' conversations hilariously faux-deep, but so are the running commentary provided by the contestants. The producers of the show must really want the audience to remember the exact premise of the show, hence the contestants keep repeating things like 'I never thought I'd be engaged to someone ten years younger than me' or 'as a black woman, I've

never dated a white man, but I've fallen in love with who he is inside and that's all that matters'. All the damn time. Frankly, the show's insistence to treat the audience as complete idiots, having the need to re-explain the premise a million times is perhaps what makes the show insufferable at times.

Additionally, despite making a point that appearances don't matter, it sure does feel awfully convenient that almost every single person cast in the show is objectively good looking. Watching hot people complain that people only want to date them for their looks is a problem that most of us can't relate to. Therefore, the show comes a mile short of proving their hypothesis that love is indeed blind, as none of the contestants need to choose whether to stay with their fiancé(e) based on their looks. And there sure is way too much

running commentary on how worried they are about how their blind date would look and later on how they think their future spouses are for a show that aims to take the looks out of the equation.

I've let out many a shocked scream during my binge of 'Love Is Blind'. The premise is completely ridiculous, and while the execution is spotty at best, it is wildly entertaining. The show makes some attempts to dig deeper into some profound territory but never quite makes it there. However, the overall lack of depth makes 'Love Is Blind' an easy watch to roll your eyes to many times per episode. Now all that's left to see is whether the contestants' fifteen minutes of fame outlasts their relationships.

# GAMES

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## Dreams. The Ultimate Video Game Creation Tool in the Palm of Our Hands

### GAMES

#### Dreams



**Studio:** Media Molecule.

**Genre:** Game Creation.

**Platforms:** PS4

**Freddie Ugo**

*Games Editor*

Oh boy. How do I even start describing *Dreams*? *Dreams* is something truly unique and ever growing. It is a video game creation tool, but also a hub of endless games that one can try themselves. It has a campaign if you want to get stuck into gameplay – but equally you can watch music videos, or the start of movies recreated by fans at the click of a button. *Dreams* is the ultimate creative outlet for gamers, whether well versed in the realm of creation or not.

When you first open up the game, you are greeted by a narrator who guides you through some basic mechanics of the game – including the use of Impy the imp (effectively the cursor for the player to control when playing or creating games). After this relatively short introduction to the world of *Dreams* (optional) motion controls, you are given the choice: Play or Create. This is the crux of what *Dreams* is about: you can create games for others around the world, play games made by others, or a little bit of both.

While released on Friday 14th of February, *Dreams* has been in early access for quite some time, with plenty of passionate, budding game developers

getting their teeth into everything the game has to offer. This was a great idea for *Dreams* developer Media Molecule to have, as it meant that when everyone jumped into the game 2 weeks ago, there was already a vast array of content to enjoy.

I began by choosing to play, so that I could get some inspiration. It is recommended that you play a movie length campaign created by Media Molecule called ‘Art’s Dream’. Art’s Dream is created within *Dreams* and highlights the plethora of things that can be done within the game. Shifting between 3 main perspectives, I got to experience a point and click adventure, a multiplayer beat ‘em up and a puzzle platformer. Interlaced with the occasional music

**“when surfing the dreamverse, it is hard to know just where to start”**

video and cinematic cutscene, this 3-hour campaign felt vibrant, artistic and extremely varied. Throughout the campaign, I picked up various bubbles containing objects which can be used to create my own game – something that I will cover later.

When surfing the dreamverse, it is hard to know just where to start. There are so many options to choose from – but luckily there is a great filter system that can filter by genre, accolade or tags (e.g. single player, music,



The logo explains just as much as I could do accurately in one page... not much! // *Playstation Lifestyle*

e.t.c.). There is also an option to shuffle games and play random ones in succession for as long as you like. As there is an ever-increasing number of games that vary so widely in scope, I could never hope to cover them all in this article (or any for that matter). Instead, I will highlight some of my favourites. First was a game created as part of a wild-west themed creation event, where dreamers had a limited time to create a game based on the wild west. This game had a relatively simple premise. You sit at a piano trying to press certain buttons in time with the music. This became more difficult as time went on, and if you messed up you would be targeted by a bandit. You have to dodge left or right to avoid gun fire, all-the-while remaining in time with the music. This beautifully simple gameplay mixed with the nail-biting anxiety of being shot made for over an hour of fun.

On the complete other end of the spectrum, I then

stumbled across someone who had effectively recreated parts of *Fallout 4*. He said it took him 9 months to design the textures, PipBoy HUD, shooting, animations and opening sequence (as well as a quest chain and various enemies). I was blown away by how closely it resembled *Fallout 4*, and with promise of future updates I promptly added it to my follow list. One great aspect of *Dreams* is the ability to follow both creators and their specific creations, so that you can see whether a game is being updated, or whether the creator has moved onto creating something new entirely.

Next, I stumbled across one creation that truly showed just how varied *Dreams* could be. Someone had taken the time to recreate the first 7 minutes or so of *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*; the level of accuracy was astonishing. It blows my mind how a random person has the ability to develop a movie within the confines of the creation tools of a video game – it

really puts *Mario Maker* to shame huh.

The creation mode of *Dreams* is what makes it so unique. The possibilities really are endless – I didn’t actually know where to start. Despite the seemingly daunting task, Media Molecule have developed a system that makes getting into creation very straightforward; it may seem cliché but truly anyone can create something in *Dreams*. I started by using backgrounds and objects that were premade in the game – rocks, bushes, water... although you can make your own creations if you so choose. I slowly started building up a 3D platformer where you rise up in a spiral, fighting enemies as you go. I then decided to add some more challenging platforming. *Dreams* has an amazing tool which allows you to move an object in real time, then put it on a loop to create a crude form of animation, rather than having to control something frame by frame. With all of this done, and a button at the end to

complete the level, I had created my first game – in under 30 minutes!

I have spent almost 2 weeks in *Dreams* and still feel as though I have barely scratched the surface, but as I play more and create more a slowly feel myself become more and more engrossed into

**“someone had taken the time to recreate the first 7 minutes or so of *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*”**

the ever growing landscape of *Dreams* – whilst simultaneously having an immense appreciation for everyone involved in the growth of my favourite medium: video games.

# GAMES

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## Sonic the Hedgehog: Movie Review

*Does nostalgia win out over crude humour and cliché moments?*

### GAMES

#### Sonic the Hedgehog



**Director:** Jeff Fowler.  
**Genre:** Fantasy/Sci-fi

#### Freddie Ugo

*Games Editor*

I never thought that I would see the day that I could witness Sonic the Hedgehog flossing on the big screen... twice. Sonic the Hedgehog was an unexpected announcement a couple years ago when it was first revealed; after much controversy and a complete redesign we can finally sit down and absorb 1 hour and 40 minutes of Paramount produced, Sega filled goodness.

Watching this in half term may have been a mistake as I was surrounded by screaming children and grumpy mothers who had no idea who the blue furball on the screen was, but hey, that's just part of the fun of going to the cinema!

The story begins with the eponymous Sonic fleeing from enemies in his home world, jumping through a ring portal to escape danger. He ends up in a small village called Green Hills (named after the first Sonic world 'Green Hill Zone'). Sonic must remain hidden but one day produces so much energy that he becomes a two-legged, blue EMP that naturally garners attention from the government. From this point on Sonic must flee from the charismatic and maniacal Dr. Robotnik (played by Jim Carrey) with the help of Tom 'Doughnut Lord' Wachowsky (played by

James Marsden), all the while trying to find his rings to let him escape through another portal.

The rest of the movie plays out like a typical game of cat and mouse (or eggman and hedgehog?)

Sonic won't be

**"clichés that present themselves throughout the story"**

winning any awards for story, but this spin on the fastest hedgehog in the word makes for a nice departure from the video games. Some may find the unfaithfulness to source material annoying, with a lot of what Sonic can do being highly exaggerated or completely made up... but come on guys - it's Sonic.

One complaint I do have about the movie is the clichés that present themselves throughout the story; only so many times can I hear the phrase 'my FRIEND' uttered before I begin to cringe. Another issue is the occasional overreliance on potty humour. I have nothing against it, but when it is poorly timed it can just feel entirely pointless and unnecessary.

However, I must give credit where credit is due; the conversations between Sonic and Tom did get me laughing, with snappy one-liners a growing connection between the two creating some really charming interactions that made the stakes at the end of the movie feel more real.

Another place that Sonic the Hedgehog shines

has to be in its music. The soundtrack was one area that remained faithful to the games, with remixes of Green Hill Zone (among others) creating a tonal consistency within a nostalgia driven melody. Nostalgia is one thing that Paramount and Sega really did right here. From Sonic constantly referring to Robotnik as 'Eggman', to Sonics idle animation in the original game being shown off in style as he is shot in slow motion from all directions, I constantly felt my childhood flow back to me. My favourite moment had to be when a child gave Sonic some new shoes to replace his old worn out ones: red trainers reminiscent of the classic Sonic shoes he wears in the game.

**"surprisingly brilliant; slow-mo shots and big set pieces were excellently executed"**

The action scenes as well were surprisingly brilliant; slow-mo shots and big set pieces were excellently executed, far better than any video game movie deserves to be. Whether you think the redesign was always intended or not, you have got to give it up to the animation team for producing such high-quality CGI throughout the film.

The immediate comparison for this movie has to be last years Detective Pikachu. While Sonic looks to speed past Pikachu in the box office,



"Sonic the Hedgehog" movie poster // Wikipedia

I think they are pretty equal endeavours.

Whether you enjoy one over the other will really depend on where your loyalty lies as a fan. Either way though, it is great to see the world of video game movies growing given the typical low quality that has plagued similar attempts in the past. With a post credit scene setting up a potential sequel, I am looking

forward to what more could come from Sega in the future!

Overall, Sonic the Hedgehog was a great nostalgia trip for me and a great introduction to the titular character for younger audiences. It both serves as a respectful adaptation of the character, whilst equally standing on its own right as a mild action movie. I would have liked to see less crude

humour and less cliché moments – however, given that the movie is likely looking to appeal to a wide audience of mainly children, I can forgive its shortcomings. All in all, I had a good time watching this; It is nothing to write home about, but it makes me look forward to the world of video game movies and that in itself is a wonderful thing. 3.5/5!

# BOOKS

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## Notes to a fresher: What would you say to a fresher?

Here are some more answers from Creative Writing students - Freshers, you've been warned



The work and the deadlines will pile up, and the stress will seem almost unbearable at times. But Fresher I want you to know that I will feel your pressure too. I will creak under the weight we both feel, but my back will remain strong to support you even as you try to break yours. It will be tough Fresher, but I shall remain soft for you.

I don't ask for your appreciation, I just hope that you will warm to me as I am certain to warm to you.

Chair xoxo.

-Anon  
4<sup>th</sup> Year Electrical Engineering

To EIE first year,

Our removal from this space arrives, leaving you with gaps and your own stark limits. We seek your improvement, and offer advice from our experience of your previous versions:

- Those of us remaining shall fall short of your inexplicable expectations - so attempt patience, as you have tried everything else.
- If you do not succeed, trying again must involve a significant change, not simply frowning first.
- Halt your procedure immediately when late, not after your misconception of a minute.

Congratulations! You evidently cannot learn these yourself, so resume improved,

Lab 3 Computers (Departing)

-Harriet Humby  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year Electronic and Information Engineering

Hey you!

Get to Bessemer. It's a big glass building with a vile pink entrance. Have you got it? Good.

Hi, I'm the mannequin on the fourth floor. At least I think it's the fourth floor, never been out of this room. Don't even really know why I'm here but I'm pretty sure I'm being held against my will. They've taken my arms and my legs, most of my organs and half my face. Who knows what's next? You out there, you have everything before you and I hope most of your body parts to help you along the way. Maybe you'll help someone hold a pen and write again.

Or help them walk and run again. You'll tinker in your lab and moan and sigh but eventually, maybe, you'll grow a heart for them. Maybe, now that I've gifted you all this heartfelt crap, you'll find it in your heart to save me from death, destruction or worse, first year labs.

Lots of love,  
Xoxoxoxoxoxoxox Manny the Mannequin

-Anon  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year Bioengineering

You turn me over and over, your fingers sliding over my smooth surface. Imperial College London, right next to your face; the face of who you were. You scoff at the warnings not to lose me. You smirk at the tales of your predecessors, forced to trek to security, barefoot through the night.

You would never be so foolish.

We'll grow accustomed to the habitual pocket pat whenever we leave your room. But the day will come, the quiet click of the lock will sound, a deafening reminder of the forgotten routine. An untethered symphony of profanity will erupt, and in that one eternal instant you will realise; you are so foolish.

-Leo C.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year Mechanical Engineering



# Building Your Own Computer, Part 1

Join the Editor-in-Chief in a weekly mini-series through his first build and what pitfalls to look out for ...

## TECH

**Henry Alman**  
Editor-in-Chief

**B**uilding my own PC has been in the back of my mind for a while now, but it was always rather daunting. I think a few people reading this – being far more tech-savvy than myself, I am sure – might find that a little amusing, but I also think a lot of people feel the same way. It's a relatively complex thing, filled with reams of jargon, compatibility issues, and of course the perceived risk of making a mistake and frying your new expensive hardware.

I think that penultimate word – ‘expensive’ – is part of what scares people away, rather than the complexity. It's the same reason I've never really learned to cook a steak properly. It's not that it's enormously complicated, but that the financial cost of failure is high if I burn it to hell. I'd rather take the risk of ruining something cheap, and learning to cook that.

However, as I'm learning, if you're careful and systematic about the way you approach your build, it's not that bad – and you can save yourself more than a couple of quid if you buy parts yourself, rather than getting something customised online or, God forbid, buying a premade.

Now there are a couple of caveats here. You won't have technical support should something go wrong, for example, and your warranty coverage is somewhat more limited, as it will only address failures of individual components. For uni-

**“If you're careful and systematic about the way you approach your build, it's not that bad”**

work, the fear of having a catastrophic meltdown right before a deadline is enough for most of us to want that reliable support.

But, if you're looking to build a gaming or editing rig for your own hobbies, this might be the way to go. One noticeable benefit for a hobbyist is that you can swap out or upgrade parts freely without worrying about voiding the warranty for anything else in your system, which is usually not the case if you buy a prebuilt.

Before I dive into the components breakdown next week, there's a few more things to discuss.

Firstly, the dilemma of buying used vs. new parts. There is a thriving online market for second-hand computer

components, from ebay to Facebook marketplace to Gumtree. While you can find some great deals, there is an obvious risk: you have no guarantee the items will work, or whether they are on their last legs.

For this reason, there are a few parts to only ever buy new, and they're those that (should they get a bit wobbly) are more likely to damage your system as a whole. Namely, the power supply and motherboard. I'd also advise getting your data storage new, especially if it is a mechanical harddrive, as often a good deal on used drives implies they've been thrashed pretty hard in some server setup. Lastly, if you're going to buy used parts, make sure you have an opportunity to test them – ask the seller if they can set it up for you so you can run some benchmarks. Failing that, go to ebay, where they have a 30-day money-back guarantee on items that don't match their description.

Now there's a good word – ‘benchmarks’. Best explain that, too.

Benchmarking is the practice of using software suites to test the performance of your system, or of individual components. They're often the best way, realistically, to tell what components are ‘good’ in terms of performance and which are not. Online databases of benchmarks can be used to compare and

contrast components and systems.

Which benchmarks you use will depend on both what you want to test, and what your system is designed for. Some popular examples for gaming benchmarks include the 3DMark suite, which conducts test on the graphical performance and physics calculations of your computer, or Cinebench, which is a CPU-oriented test that examines how quickly your computer can render a hyper-realistic image. Another is Prime95, which is designed essentially to test the stability of your system and the effectiveness of your cooling by performing a ‘torture test’ on your CPU – in other words, putting it under full load and seeing how high it can crank up your temperatures.

Temperatures, voltages, and so on of your components can be monitored using free software like HWINFO64. If it's not clear – high temperatures are bad, as they can damage components or, failing that, cause your system to throttle the performance of your components so as to avoid damage.

Another type of benchmark are ‘real-life’ ones. For gaming especially, there is an abundance of YouTube videos and online articles that directly test the frames-per-second in various games of different components and systems.

Lastly, I want to discuss budget vs. performance. This is always hard to weigh-up – is adding £20 to your budget to get that slightly better processor worth it?

The best way to look at it, I think, is in terms of:

- What you need from your system. Build to the minimum that you need, or rather the minimum you are likely to need in the next couple of years. Don't spend on performance you won't actually utilise – if you're a gamer but all you play is graphically-unintensive titles like League of Legends, don't buy a £500 graphics card. Equally, don't skimp out on spending an extra £50 if it means your computer actually does what you need it to – or, alternately, if it would mean saving £300 on an upgrade a year later. This

**“There's an obvious risk: you have no guarantee the items will work, or whether they are on their last legs.”**

often ties into compatibility – buying a slightly newer component that is likely to be compatible with next year's releases, rather than an old one that can deal with today's

hardware and software but has no longevity, is smart and saves you a lot in the long run.

- How much you have to spend, and how flexible you are in that. If you have a hard limit, you might have to make hard choices, and focus on optimisation of price vs. performance. You can even phrase it as a ratio – take a benchmark that reflects your usage, for example the frames-per-second in your favourite game, and divide that by the price of a component to get maximal efficiency above some minimum performance threshold (e.g. 40 frames per second in most single-player games, 60 for competitive ones.)

- Spend on components that last. Look for good warranties on items you're buying new. A good power supply, for example, can last you the better part of a decade, and can be switched between systems when upgrading very easily. The TX650M I just bought has a seven-year warranty. By contrast, other components, such as processors or graphics cards, are ridiculously outdated seven years down the line – for reference, a graphics card from seven years ago can just about run modern-ish games at 15-20fps on lowest settings at 720p, and that's it.

I'll be back next week to start breaking down what individual components you'll need, and how to best assess the performance and compatibility of each one!

**Interested in writing and / or editing for the TECH section?  
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**UDON**  
**ARSITY**  
**20**

6TH  
OF  
MARCH



SCAN ME



#Upthe2s  
IC vs ICSM  
(2s) @ 7pm

VAR  
Friday  
ETH



Get your balls out

RSITY  
/ 28/02  
HOS

Headline:  
IC vs ICSSM  
(1s) @ 8:30



- its WP VARSITY

# SCIENCE

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## Artificial Intelligence: The First Step to Tackling Antibiotic Resistance?

*Artificial it may be, but the benefits of AI are definitely real, as researchers from MIT have identified a powerful new antibiotic using machine learning*

### SCIENCE

**Julia Dabrowska**

*Science Editor*

Artificial intelligence (AI) is widely used in a multitude of technological, scientific and business applications, including automation, natural language processing and data analytics to list a few. However, while it is currently being used for the analysis of relationships between prevention, diagnosis or treatment techniques and patient outcomes, the potential of AI in medicine has an expanse of directions in which it can further develop.

Only last week, researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) revealed they had harnessed the powers of machine learning to identify a promising new antibiotic compound that can kill many of the world's most problematic disease-causing bacteria. Importantly, tested in the

laboratory and in two different mouse models, the new compound also worked against those resistant to all currently known antibiotics.

The computer model used in their research, published in *Cell*, can screen more than 100 million chemical compounds in just a few days, and was designed to identify potential candidates for antibiotics that would kill bacteria using different mechanisms than those of existing drugs.

"We wanted to develop a platform that would allow us to harness the power of artificial intelligence to usher in a new age of antibiotic drug discovery," says James Collins, the Termeer Professor of Medical Engineering and Science in MIT's Institute for Medical Engineering and Science and Department of Biological Engineering.

Over the past few decades, development of new antibiotics has stagnated, with most new treatments being simply

**"[...] increasing numbers of pathogenic bacterial strains develop resistance to not only one, but even all, antibiotics"**

altered variants of existing drugs. Moreover, the development of new antibiotics is extremely costly and time consuming, so the rising capabilities of AI could significantly improve drug discovery. The importance of this is even greater in the emerging era of antibiotic resistance, as increasing numbers of pathogenic bacterial strains develop resistance to not only one, but multiple, and in some cases even all, antibiotics.

The concept of using AI for this is not new – due to insufficient accuracy,

earlier AI methods were not appropriate for use for in silico drug discovery. In this study, the researchers focused on targeting *E. coli*, training the model on around 2,500 molecules, including around 1,700 FDA-approved drugs with diverse structure and function, and tested it on a library of over 6000 compounds. The molecule chosen for its strong antibacterial activity, novel structure and low toxicity was named halicin, and was shown to be effective against virtually every species tested (including commonly resistant *C. difficile*, and *M. tuberculosis*), bar one lung pathogen, in laboratory tests. It was also successful in mice infected with *A. baumannii*, a bacterial strain resistant to all known antibiotics.

The mechanism by which halicin is thought to kill bacteria is through disruption of the electrochemical gradient across the cell membrane, inhibiting adenosine triphosphate (ATP) production, the molecule responsible



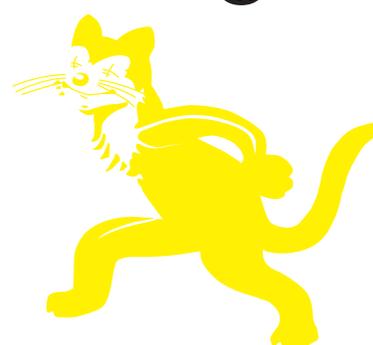
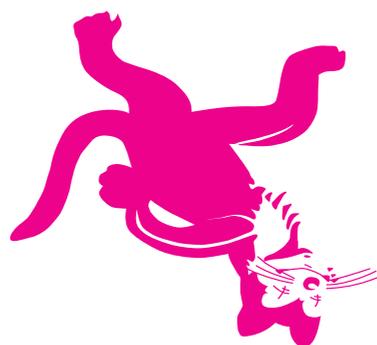
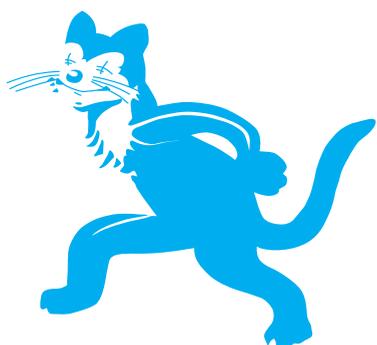
Bacterial cultures on a Petri dish // *Medical News Today*

for providing vital energy in cells, thus inducing cell death. This is difficult to develop resistance to as it would require multiple mutations to combat, and likely need sustained evolutionary change, thus highlighting an area for further exploration.

In the future, the team want to examine halicin further, with hopes of collaborating with a pharmaceutical company for potential use in humans. The team also identified eight other promising antibacterial candidates using this AI model, which will be tested further in the

future, as well as developing other functionalities of the model, such as more precise targeting of pathogenic, but not beneficial, bacteria in the patients. It is also hoped that it will be able to design new drugs, based on what it has learned about the common chemical structures within drugs and the effects they have. Ultimately, it is clear that AI has come a long way from playing checkers and chess to combatting antibacterial resistance – and we're one step closer to finally catching up.

## *Felix is recruiting!*



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# SUSTAINABILITY

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## How *Dare* I?

*The true threats of climate change: democracy and capitalism*

### SUSTAINABILITY

**Alberto Begue**

*Sustainability Writer*

The BBC has recently announced a documentary series that will follow Greta Thunberg's 'international crusade' against climate change, pointing out the 'consequences of inaction'. This new series will certainly alleviate the pain of the people rotting in prison for defaulting on their TV licence, since they will be spared the lectures of this terrible partnership.

The TIME's Person of the Year 2019 has indeed been frightening the whole world since 2018, when aged only 15 – and full of conviction! – she gave a speech before the Swedish Parliament. In a contemporary fashion, she quickly gained attention, and almost immediately became the ultimate icon for climate activism.

I share with Greta Thunberg, as with most citizens of the developed world, a love of nature, animals, trees, wind, rain, sun and sea; forests, dogs, flowers, dolphins, and elephants. I even like rats, unlike most people. But more important in my heart than any of these are humans (as they should be in everybody's). Not the wealthy, but the destitute. I would therefore like to explain how I do dare to steal Greta's dreams.

First, I must insist on what I deem ecologism to be really about. It has now become a widely-held belief that our society is destroying the planet, that species are endangered due to human activities, and that, if we stay inactive, the planet will soon be an ocean

of plastic, and the sky a huge cloud of smoke and pollution. Therefore, the only reasonable solution to this terrible apocalypse is supposedly economic degrowth. Indeed, growth means frantic consumption, which implies frantic production, which requires an enormous amount of energy. Producing energy involves pollution, at least until the appearance of a major technological breakthrough. Therefore, buying fewer products, travelling less, walking instead of driving, or indeed damaging the aviation sector could perhaps save the planet. Or so ecologists like Greta Thunberg would have us believe. I acknowledge

**“degrowth would also take away: teachers, hospitals, doctors and even freedom (e.g. of travel)”**

that their rationale is sound: degrowth would require less energy and thus produce less pollution. Yet they tend to omit what degrowth would also take away: teachers, hospitals, doctors, even freedom (e.g. of travel). As a matter of fact, growth is a sign of how hopeful we are of what to expect in the future. It is therefore absolutely understandable that those catastrophists are advocates of degrowth.

However, the political class is still filled with members of this evil old world who brought peace,



Is Greta Thunberg's vision compatible with keeping the standard of living? // Wikimedia

better living conditions and comfort to society. Who could argue this is not a result of economic growth – whose closest synonym is technological progress?

Because of ideologists frightening everybody, especially the youth, politicians nowadays all want to save the planet (yes, very importantly in green font). This has become an irrefutable hypothesis: the planet is in danger and our number one priority is to save it. For instance, it even became a central argument of PM Boris Johnson's campaign. "Get Brexit done" in order to fight climate change. To achieve this goal, politicians purport to be ready for everything but degrowth. It would obviously bring discord and poverty, and nobody wants to be responsible for it. That's why there are more and more what we could call green laws, all around the world (my own country, France, is a good example, but the UK is another), such as laws to force a decrease in the consumption of plastic,

taxes on car owners, etc., whose only purpose is to please sanctimonious voters. But does it please the ecologist preachers? No, of course not – they see it as pure hypocrisy, and I agree with that view.

Indeed, should our goal be to save the planet without considering human interests, then obviously we would need degrowth. I could take this point even further: we would need mass suicide, as all human life pollutes.

Luckily, ecologists have been proven wrong several times before. One of the first, Paul Ehrlich, wrote in *The Population Bomb* (1968) that the demographic boom would create famine, epidemic, and war. According to him, the only solution was to initiate a huge campaign of sterilisation in some parts of the globe. A few years later, in 1972, the Club of Rome published a report announcing devastating shortages due to frantic growth. While these hard-working intellectuals were playing Nostradamus, engineers, businessmen, doctors,

scientists and politicians united their efforts to develop agriculture, as well as to find ways to prevent epidemics, and so on. Thanks to them, none of these predictions of apocalypse turned out to be right. Now, Greta

**“capitalism and democracy have proved to be the best framework for freedom to thrive”**

Thunberg is obviously the heir of those who wanted to sterilise the populations they judged to be growing too fast...

Therefore, advocates of degrowth leave us no choice but to insist on that obvious truth: capitalism and democracy have proved to be the best framework for freedom to thrive and for living conditions to improve. Let us

consider an example that concerns us all in London: the river Thames. It is at its most biodiverse for centuries! That is certainly not the result of economic degrowth forcing people to work less, earn less, consume less and have fewer children. It is indeed a direct consequence of the opposite. To clean the river Thames, solutions have indeed been found within the capitalist framework, while democracy has ensured the freedom of all citizens. Why is that? Because, unlike what Greta would have us believe, the protection of the environment and avoiding wasting resources does not only please the nature-loving-citizens, it is also in the companies' interests.

So, yes, dear Greta, I will steal your dreams if they are dreams of poverty, misery and illnesses in dark green forests and choose instead hospitals, comfortable housing, and freedom in increasingly developed countries, all around the world.

# INVESTMENT

icu.investmentsociety@imperial.ac.uk

## UK-EU Trade Deal

### INVESTMENT

**Jinay Patel**

ICIS

Investment Co-Editor

**Y**ou hear the term trade deal a lot. Especially with regards to the UK and EU's trade deal now that we've finally pissed off from the EU. Or perhaps you've heard about the trade war between the USA and China. But what is it?

In simple terms, it's just an agreement between two folks that states the rules under which they export their goods and services. There are lots of trade deals I could write about, but my editor gives me limited space so let's stick to just one: the UK-EU trade deal. We're no longer bound by EU rules on how we trade with other European countries or any country for that matter. We're free

to create our own rules and deals. Ideally, there would be a new deal with the EU which is beneficial to both parties. That's what is what all this fuss is about. We'll need to have this deal in place by the end of the transition period on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The UK is seeking to create a free trade agreement (FTA) which aims to encourage trade between

**“recently there's been talks of a Canada style trade deal[...] This seems like a reasonable deal for the UK and EU to set up, right?”**

countries by removing tariffs and not putting caps on the amount that can be traded. However, some tariffs and quotas are usually needed to stop too many cheap exports damaging a country's manufacturers. Even if the UK and EU managed to create an FTA, there'd still be border checks as it's not frictionless trade. This means countries can still make their own rules on safety regulations and standards. Currently this doesn't happen as we're all under the same economic zone: the single market and customs union. This single set of rules also guarantees the free movement of services, people and capital.

After leaving the EU, the UK would then have the power to create its own set of rules and no longer follow those set by Brussels. The price to pay for this is having a few extra border checks. The UK would like to

set up an agreement that benefits both us and the EU to stop trade barriers coming into effect at the end of the year. The EU, however, wants to make an example out of us so that none of the other wealthy countries see that we're actually doing fine without the EU and also decide to leave.

The UK doesn't want to impose tariffs or quotas. In fact, under a hard Brexit, where no trade agreement is set up and the default agreement is that of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the UK has already stated that the majority of imports will remain tariff free. The UK could potentially have zero tariffs on exports to the EU however they require that we do not sell any of our products at competitively low prices.

Recently there's been talks of a Canada style trade deal. Canada has an FTA with the EU known as the Comprehensive

Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) which means most imported goods aren't taxed. There are only a few quotas on certain things such as food and a few customs checks. Canada also does not have to pay into the EU's budget and so the drawback of this deal is the lack of freedom of movement for people and capital. This seems like a reasonable deal for the UK and EU to set up, right? Well, the EU did offer this deal back in 2017 but has since reneged.

Boris Johnson remains adamant that there is no need to accept an FTA if the conditions were to agree to the EU rules of competition, subsidies, social protection and the environment. Johnson also stressed that if they were not able to agree on the Canada style agreement then trade would be based off the WTO rules. This means that if we choose to not put tariffs on

**“the UK doesn't want to impose tariffs or quotas...the majority of imports will remain tariff free”**

goods from the EU, then the same applies for goods from every WTO member. There will be no deals and a strong likelihood of high tariffs on exports.

So, it seems that if the UK and EU cannot agree on some form of the EU-Canada deal, then we're heading towards a hard no deal Brexit where the above rules will apply. An unfavourable outcome for everyone.

The  
**Leadership  
Elections**  
2020

#icuElections

## ELECTIONS LIVE DEBATE

**15:00, Wednesday 4 March**  
Metric, Beit Quad, South Kensington Campus

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# INVESTMENT

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## Novel Coronavirus, Old Market Reactions?

### INVESTMENT

**Pavan Gill Singh**

ICIS

Investment Co-Editor

It has brought out the best and worst in society, from compassion to hate speech and widespread panic. The societal outcomes of the virus created economic uncertainties and losses in the markets. Let us start by getting an understanding of the virus, followed by exploring its economic impacts.

### Background

The novel coronavirus is part of the family of Coronaviruses (CoV). This family includes diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV)

**“the societal outcomes of the virus created economic uncertainties and losses in the markets”**

and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). Like its family members, it is transmitted from animals (zoonotic in origin) to human beings.

This virus was reported in December 2019. Its origins were traced to Wuhan, the capital of Central China’s Hubei province. Since then, the virus has spread to 33 countries and has resulted in 80,239 confirmed cases and 2700 deaths (as of 25/2/2020).

For comparisons, we



COVID-19 is the newest threat to market gains as news of cases emerging in countries outside of Asia rattle nerves // matthewafflecat, Pixabay

will be looking at SARS in 2002 because of the similarities it shares with the novel coronavirus. SARS was discovered in Guangdong province in southern China. It has spread to 26 countries and has resulted in 774 confirmed deaths. During this time, the US invaded Iraq, which would have influenced the markets as well. Hence making it difficult to decouple the two events and the combined impacted it had on the markets. So does this mean that we should not use SARS as an indicator?

### Impacts of such diseases on markets

Though it was mentioned earlier that SARS could not be easily decoupled from the Iraq invasion, it does not suggest that we should ignore it. An article by the Financial Times titled “Investors look to history for clues on the market impact of coronavirus” briefly discusses the general impact of the viral epidemic on the stock market, which showed that during SARS, the MSCI world index was

**“[...] resulting in a dip that present fund managers with opportunities to buy in”**

down by more than five per cent during that period before recovering.

### What can we then say about the impacts?

Since 2003, China’s share in the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has risen to 18.69%. As GDP is an indicator of the value of economic activity, this may suggest the impact the virus has on China will have a greater influence on the global markets compared to SARS.

We have already witnessed the fall on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February where the Dow, S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite Index each dropped by more than 3% each.

A report from JP Morgan Research titled

“What Is the Global Impact From the Coronavirus Outbreak?” mentioned that Asian airline share prices took a hit during 2003 but rebounded as soon as there was greater confidence in tourism and goes further to mention that global air traffic could be flat in 2020 rather than seeing a growth. Additionally, cruise lines around the world would see a decline in revenue. A post by MSCI titled “The coronavirus epidemic: Implications for markets” also highlights similar sentiments and shows an increase in revenue for China’s healthcare sector and compares how certain sectors in China

**“there is no telling how long the outbreak would last and its impact to the stock market”**

performed during the SARs outbreak as well as their performance amidst this current outbreak. Most notably, the retail sector has seen a decline and Chinese consumers, according to the Financial Times, accounted for 40 per cent of the €281bn spent on luxury goods in 2019. Some luxury brands with supply chains reliant on China would see further impacts on its revenue, resulting in a dip that present fund managers with opportunities to buy in.

It is worth mentioning that SARS was contained within 4 months and it is highly unlikely that the novel coronavirus would be contained within the same duration after reports of outbreaks in the Middle East and Europe.

There is no telling how long the outbreak will last and its impact on the stock market. For some investors, this might be a time to sell and cut their losses while this might be an opportunity for others to invest.

Nonetheless, this is a good example of how real-world scenarios impact the global markets and it

also gives us a glimpse into the investment psychology of fund managers.

*The Imperial College Investment Society (ICIS) hosts interactive weekly investment meetings where our members have the chance to present investment pitches, ask questions and vote on buy/sell decisions.*

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*Our society’s previous articles in Felix can be found at felixonline.co.uk To find out more about our upcoming events, getting involved in our society and any other queries, you can contact us at:*

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# FOOD

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Spinach and Agushi: Dishing out Massive Warm Hugs in the Form of Ghanaian Stews

### FOOD

**Ellie Fung**  
Food Editor

I had the brilliant idea of suggesting a little day trip to Portobello Road Market on the weekend of storm Dennis. Low grey storm clouds hung over normally picturesque Notting Hill that morning, a dreary backdrop to the pastel pallor of characteristic petite houses. Having lived in London for half a year now, gloomy mornings are something I've become accustomed to, but none of them were as tenacious in warning about an imminent downpour.

Icy wind slipped through the tiniest gaps of our coats as we made our way to Portobello Road, steadily diminishing my naive optimism for the clouds to part and for the tiniest sliver of sunlight to make its way through. By the time we approached the stretch of tented stalls bearing colourful fresh produce and whimsical antique trinkets, my face and fingers were numb, simply yearning to wrap around something, anything, warm.

From a distance, we saw billows of steam emerging from a bright orange tent. Naturally, our shivering selves gravitated towards it, a promise of warmth and cosiness. Soon enough, we were staring at an impressive spread of massive pots, each proudly bearing a mouth-watering, hearty-looking stew. There was one with chunks of meat bathed in a rich orange sauce that exuded a delicious peanutty aroma, and another filled with an abundance of bright green spinach immersed

in a fragrant amber stew. It was truly a sight (and scent) to behold.

As if the steaming pans of tantalising stews weren't enough, the man in the tent called out humorous greetings, drawing curious passers-by, including us, closer. The easy-going vendor introduced us to the array of Ghanaian stews before us, each sounding more delicious than the last. We knew we just had to get something as we watched him dole out heaping ladles of hot stew into rice-filled boxes.

What I love is how flexible the menu is. You can get a jollof box with one stew and jollof rice for £6-7 or get a combination box with two stews and rice for £1 extra. There are 6 stews to select from on the permanent menu, including vegan, chicken, beef, and fish options, as well as weekly specials to keep things fresh. If you're indecisive (or just

**“It was a much-needed care package of warmth and colour on that bleak day”**

plain ravenous), you can even go for all the stews. We opted for a fully vegan combination box with the signature spinach and agushi and black-eyed bean stews, upgrading it to a large box for another £1 as we were sharing.

That's not all, of course. As we were ordering, something else caught my eye: plantains bubbling away to fried perfection in a vat of hot

oil. I just couldn't resist and added them to our order. As an accompaniment to the combination box, it costs an additional £1.50, racking the total up to £9.50 between the two of us. If it were just me, however, a regular-sized box would be more than suffice as the portions are quite generous, making this a wallet-friendly lunch option.

The box we received was glorious to both the eyes and nose: a bed of steaming, spiced rice bound by two fragrant, orange stews with golden coins of plantain and chopped green onions generously scattered on top. It was definitely a much-needed care package of warmth and colour on that bleak, chilly day. My spirits were lifted from the first bite, and I'm not even exaggerating. Just ask my companion; he can confirm the sustained expression of delight on my face as we ate.

For those in the unknown, agushi (or egusi as it's more commonly known) is the seed of squash, melon or gourd, acting as a common ingredient in West African cuisine and is rich in proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals. In its ground form, it is a popular ingredient in stews across West Africa, and here at Spinach and Agushi, we sampled a Ghanaian variation. Despite the layer of bright red chilli oil on top, the namesake stew was not greasy whatsoever and carried only a mild spice. It was deliciously fragrant and brimming with warm spices, with the agushi adding substance and creaminess to the tender spinach leaves without weighing you down. I would even go so far as to say that even



**A delightful marriage of warm, spiced flavours in a little takeaway box // Ellie Fung**

avid spinach-haters would enjoy this stew – the leafy taste is masked by the how flavourful it is.

The black-eyed bean stew had a completely different flavour profile, but was also packed full of flavour despite being a bit more watery. The beans themselves were cooked nicely, soft and starchy but not overly mushy, adding nuttiness and heartiness to the overall dish. Let's just say there's a (very good) reason why beans and rice are eaten together in so many cuisines. Now, I don't know quite enough about jollof rice to make a comment about Spinach and Agushi's version (you'd have to go back to last week's issue for that), but it paired beautifully with the stews, soaking up every last bit of flavour. Together, the stews and rice simply nourish and warm you from the inside out.

One more thing: please don't skip on the fried plantains. As they had

just been freshly pulled from the frying oil, they were piping hot, just the way I like them. The mild sweetness of the plantains offers a tasty contrast to the hearty stews and savoury rice, providing an extra dimension in terms of aesthetics, texture and taste to the whole box. To me, they are simply a must-have accompaniment and completely worth the supplementary £1.50. We polished off the whole box, without letting even a single grain of rice

**“Together, the hearty stews and jollof rice simply nourishes and warms you from the inside out”**

go to waste, and before it had a chance to get cold, a pretty astounding feat on that freezing street if I do say so myself. We were full, not in a heavy, uncomfortably stuffed kind of way, but in a content, energised way.

I'll be honest: this is the first time I had actual West African food, so I don't have much experience on that front, but this has certainly given me a more than positive impression on the cuisine. It has made me so much more keen to try out more regional dishes, and any food capable of doing that is amazing in my book. I would gladly visit weekly if I had the chance. Spinach and Agushi has other stands in Exmouth (Mondays to Fridays) and Broadway (Saturdays only) Markets, as well as providing delivery service, but can they set up a stall at the Tuesday farmer's market already?



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# THROWBACK

felix@imperial.ac.uk

This week, we felt our childhoods being ruined by various things - so we searched the archives for another moment when the nation's sense of young innocence were ruined. Felix interviews Geoffrey Hayes, host of the famous Rainbow TV show aimed at kids, after it went through its own demise. Enjooyyyy!

## Feature

22 January 1993

Felix 954

# Searching for the pot of gold

Alex Bell looks at the demise of one of Britain's longest running children's TV programmes, *Rainbow*.

'A piece on *Rainbow*?! That band with the funny hair from the 70's?'  
'Erm, no... the children's program.'

I'm even more bemused now. Apparently unbeknown to me those nasty people at Carlton, who won Thames Television's franchise, intend to let Zippy and George drift off to puppet valhalla and Bungle end up on somebody's hearth. But, students at Heathrop College, London have leapt to *Rainbow*'s defence and have launched 'The Save *Rainbow* Campaign' in order to attract someone to buy the longest running children's program in history, and restore it to mainstream TV. At present, if a buyer is not found, the nation's under fives will have to ask mummy and daddy for a satellite dish so they can watch 20 year old repeats on UK Gold at six in the morning.

I put it upon myself to find out what the hell all the fuss was about. Basically, when Carlton secured the ITV franchise from Thames they were free to pick and choose which programs they wanted to buy and those which they deemed unsuitable, ie. that weren't good money spinners, to be left out in the cold.

In trying to get an official comment, I got as far as a rather bitter sounding lady at Thames who told me that 'everybody here's been made redundant because of Carlton'. Carlton seemed to think Thames were responsible and the buck was passed on again. The plot thickens perhaps? Has *Rainbow* met its end as a result of the discovery of disturbing and intimate details regarding the private lives of the shows stars? Has Zippy been zipping up George 'Frank Bough' style?

In your wildest dreams, readers, or perhaps not, I suppose.

I spoke to Paul Shuttleworth who alerted the masses to the plight of the longest running children's program in history with his piece in *The Daily Sport*.

Q: Paul, how did it all start?

A: Well it was back in November at



Heathrop when somebody decided to pass a motion to change the names of common rooms 1, 2 and 3 to the Bungle, Zippy and George common rooms. This was once we'd gotten wind of *Rainbow*'s dilemma, but before it had actually ended.

Q: Why is *Rainbow* in this situation?

A: When Thames lost its franchise to Carlton it was no longer able to show *Rainbow*. Although they do still want to show it they can't until somebody else buys it.

Q: And Carlton didn't?

A: Yeah, except come the Autumn then what can happen is they can go straight to the ITV network controller and he can buy the programme so the campaign is now trying to make sure he does.

Q: Is it possible that they might decide to replace *Rainbow* with a more up to date format just as the BBC did by replacing *Play School* with *Play Bus*?

A: Well, *Rainbow* has been around for almost twenty years now but it's still a classic.

Q: Was there a big party at the end of the last series?

A: No there was no party. I mean that's it. Thames kept it very quiet, in fact the only reason it got into the press was that 'The Save *Rainbow* Campaign' took it upon themselves to tell them. Thames didn't want to mention it at all.

Q: Is Jacquie Doyle-Price, the leader of 'The Save *Rainbow* Campaign', a mother herself?

A: No, she's a twenty two year old student. Most of the people involved in the campaign are in our generation.

Q: So it's more to do with saving a classic programme, than for the sake of the children, the majority of whose parents cannot afford to send them to nursery school. Who would be deprived of it?

A: Yeah, it's classic...also the way

*Rainbow* ended just pointed to the fact that people don't care about children's programmes in this country. You know all the heavy papers have loads of stuff about current affairs and news and stuff but nobody cares about children's telly. There's a danger of any quality that's left in children's television diminishing as ITV becomes more commercialised.

Q: Will the *Rainbow* team be making any extra public appearances to help promote the cause?

A: Well they have been gutted and they need time to compose themselves, but they've been getting rip roaring receptions at the *Bristol Hippodrome* where they're starring in *Jack and the Beanstalk* and Geoffrey can't leave the theatre without being mobbed by hundreds of fans.

Q: As you see it now, what do you think the programme's chances are?

# THROWBACK

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Feature

Felix 954

22 January 1993

A: Well I think they're very good. There's a record being released on February 8th by *Eurobop* which is a rave version of the Rainbow theme and it will be called *Raynboe*. 'The Save Rainbow Campaign' is hoping people will go out and buy it as a mark of respect.'

I look forward to hearing it, though with trepidation. I had no idea that *Sesame's treat* or *Trip to Trumpton* where tributes. More

someone after an easy buck or two, I thought.

Anyway despite all this there are people on the 'other side' who have been cruelly mocking the stars of this 'classic program': 'Do you have any qualifications Mr Bear? Well, no... but I can read stories... and I can cut out shapes...'

Shame on Steve Wright. He's probably got a chip on his shoulder because Rainbow attracted nearly 7

million viewers, when it was in the '4 o'clock slot', who obviously rated it higher than his afternoon show for social, intellectual and informative broadcasting. Well you can see their point can't you?

It was the *Daily Mirror*, that bastion of all things British, that originally stood up for the doomed program just before Christmas with the message 'Rise up, mums!', but I must confess I hold Bod most

closely to my heart when it comes to the burning issue of Children's TV. So why didn't that create such a furore when it ended? Perhaps it did, but a national campaign to save it was steam-rolled by the bigwigs at the Beeb at the time. If anyone remembers I'd love to know. Whatever happened to aunt Flo and the frog with the really thin legs? Or for that matter Bagpuss?

## And talks to Geoffery Hayes about the end of an era.

To delve deeper into the Rainbow legend, I spoke to Geoffrey Hayes, known simply as Geoffrey to millions of children, who has hosted Rainbow, since it began in August 1973. Speaking from the Hippodrome in Bristol where he is in pantomime with the affable trio, I attempted to find out why the public response has been so strong.

Q: What do you think has made Rainbow last for so long?  
A: Well, I think the children liked it because it was a bit different. The show touched on social issues and social manners etc...in a teaching way but fun, which is not really done very much in other programmes. You had the regular characters who were always up to something that particular day. We became part of a family in a way.

Q: Has there been swell in the attendance at shows since the news about Rainbow?

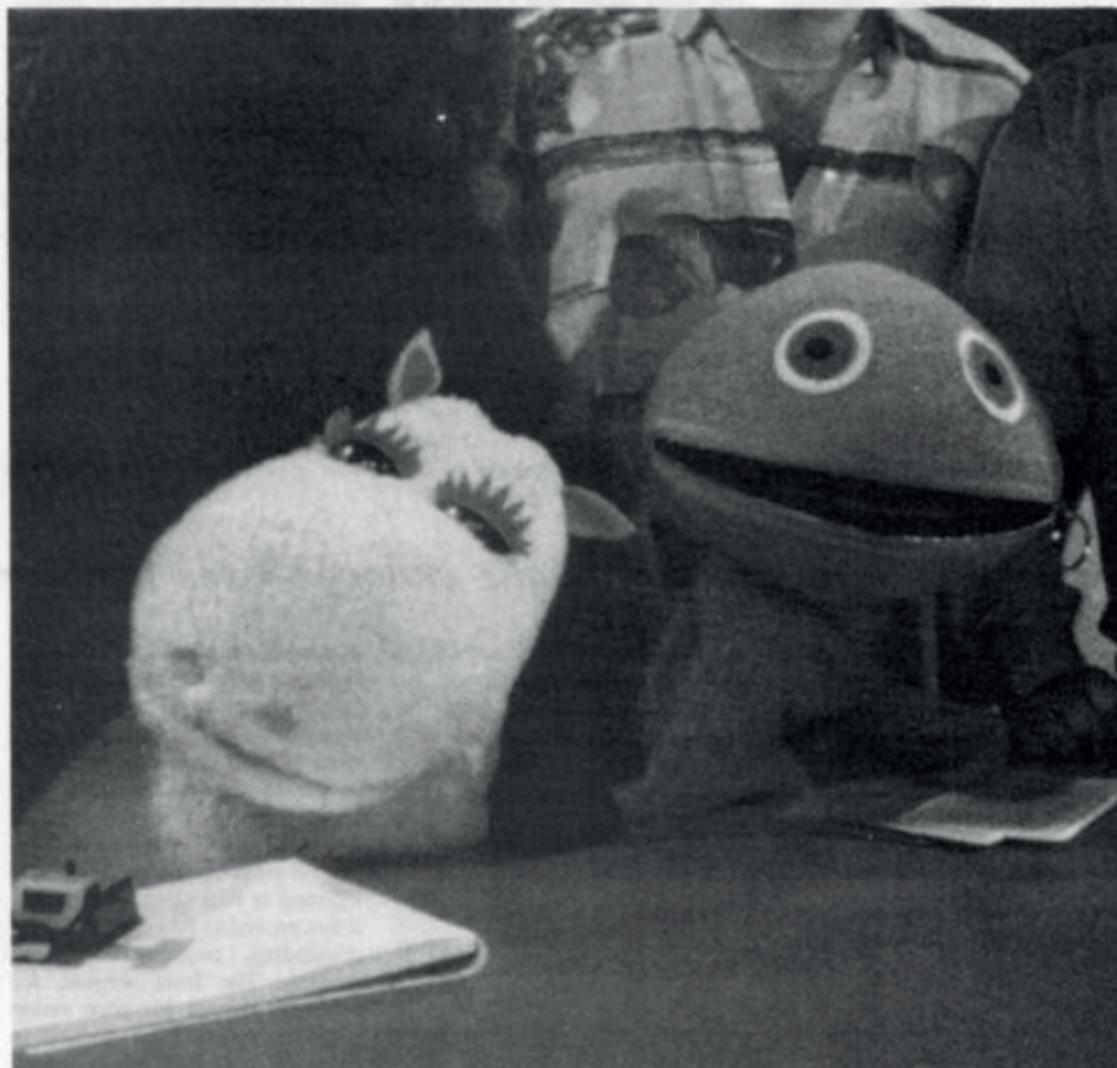
A: Well I don't know really, people tend to book well in advance...but it does seem to have stirred interest around here. Someone has been organising a petition which everyone's been signing when they come to do the show.

Q: How are the others, (Zippy and co), taking to the idea that when the pantomime finishes at the end of the month there might be no Rainbow to go back to?

A: Well they're not very happy about it really...They're all a bit bewildered by it all.

Q: How do you see Rainbow's chances now?

A: Well, I haven't got any inside information...nobody tells me anything; but I'm a bit more optimistic now it's all sunk in. We're all just going along with Thames. I think Children's TV just has a bad relationship within broadcasting. You see Thames has managed to sell all their big numbers because they make money. With 'This is Your Life' and 'The Bill' they can get a lot of money for



bring in a lot of money.

Q: Have you got any alternative arrangements for the future should the campaign fail?

A: Well hopefully the plan is to get back on the road as a stage show although nothing definite has been fixed up yet. Whatever comes along really...or we might just split up and do different things...maybe go for straight acting jobs...I don't know.'

It would seem quite a transition from potato printing to the cut and thrust of drama. Perhaps Eldorado

the advertising space, which just isn't the case with children's programmes.

Q: Do you think it's a case of the TV bosses not caring about Children's TV?

A: Well, I don't think they do care as much...it's an accountants world...it's money that talks these days. It's probably a generalisation and I'm sure there are people in the business who are committed, but there are others who'd happily see them replaced by game shows which cost very little to make but

would make a suitable stepping stone for Bungle? No? Well if you feel that Rainbow's demise would be another nail in the coffin for quality television then come to the Felix office to find out how to get in touch with Jacquie Doyle-Price and Co. There must be somebody out there who would like to be remembered at this World famous seat of learning for something. Why not for establishing 'Rainbow Soc.'? Sisters of Zippy, Brothers of Bungle, The Save Rainbow Campaign implores you!!

## Nominations closing.

[imperialcollegeunion.org/elections](https://imperialcollegeunion.org/elections)

### Last chance to stand

Nominations close **today, noon Friday 28 February**. If you've been thinking about running for a position and you're reading this before the deadline, submit your nomination before the close of nominations.

There are plenty of positions available to you, regardless of your year, campus or experience. Why not stand for an Officer Trustee position, such as Deputy President (Clubs & Societies). Or consider a Liberation & Community Officer role, such as Disabilities Officer, Interfaith Officer, LGBT+ Officer or Mental

Health Officer. You could work to improve the experiences of these under-represented groups of students and causes.

There are almost 800 positions available, from Clubs, Societies & Project and Constituent Union committee members, to Academic & Wellbeing Departmental Representatives. Submit your nomination at [imperialcollegeunion.org/elections](https://imperialcollegeunion.org/elections) before the deadline.



### Spring Carnival tickets are on sale now!

Propaganda are taking over Metric for Spring Carnival 2020! Early Bird tickets have been released for only £3.00, and prices will increase when they sell out. As voted by you, our Spring Carnival theme is 2000s, so expect massive throwback hits and dance like its 2006.

Prep your matching velvet tracksuit, frost those tips, and whip out your Motorola Razr because we'll be giving away prizes on the night for best dressed. As well as a huge set from Propaganda, you can also enjoy giveaways, DJ's in FiveSixEight, drinks deals, themed cocktails, and more! This is a night you do not want to miss.

Get your tickets now at [imperialcollegeunion.org/springcarnival20](https://imperialcollegeunion.org/springcarnival20)

### ELECTIONS LIVE DEBATE

15:00, Wednesday 4 March  
Metric, Beit Quad, South Kensington Campus

Submit your questions here:  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/electionsdebate](https://imperialcollegeunion.org/electionsdebate)

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### Meet the candidates

Join us at the Elections Live Debate and meet the candidates standing in The Leadership Elections 2020. You will have the chance to ask questions of the Officer Trustee candidates and other main positions, as well as find out more about how the candidates plan to tackle issues concerning the student body.

Come along and ask your questions to the candidates, otherwise if you are unable to make it, you can catch the livestream of the debate on our Facebook channel: @imperialcollegeunion and ask your questions live on the day.

See you at **Metric, Beit Quad, South Kensington Campus on Wednesday 4 March, 15:00-18:00.**

# Your Union Events

Friday 28 February



## Varsity After Party

29 February 2020  
Metric & Reynolds

imperial  
college  
union

**28** February, Friday

**Arts Night Two**  
Beit Bars | 17:00 - 02:00

**3** March, Tuesday

**Super Quiz**  
FiveSixEight | 20:00-22:00

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

**4** March, Wednesday

**CSP Wednesday**  
Metric | 19:00-01:00

**5** March, Thursday

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

**6** March, Friday

**Thank Goodness it's Friday**  
Metric | 21:00 - 02:00

**Karaoke**  
h-bar | 19:30 - 23:00

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# CONSTITUENT UNION

felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Why do we have Constituent Unions?

RCSU

**Calum Drysdale**
*Comment Editor*

*RCSU member and Comment Editor Calum Drysdale considers the place of CUs in the modern day and what they could do to stay relevant.*

Here at Imperial we are quite unusual in having Constituent Unions (CUs). Relics of the old institutions that were mashed together to make Imperial they are the joining scars that are all that remains of the old Royal School

of Mines, The City and Guilds College, the Royal College of Science and St Mary's Medical School. Some might say that us students are overburdened with unions. With the one we have, why would we need any more? Would resources not be better spent centralised supervised by full time staff as opposed to underqualified student volunteers. I would strongly argue, however, that it is these parts of our history that are important to preserve. In fact it is the experience that I have with the larger Union that makes me so convinced of the importance of the CUs. While Union staff have the benefit of being full time and sometimes experience in the role that they take on, they lack

an understanding of the unique circumstances and challenges of studying in London that students grasp implicitly. The advantage of having currently studying students in these roles and able to implement policy can't, therefore, be overstated.

I fear, however, that in recent years the star of the Constituent Unions has been wanning. Students now are more likely than ever to affiliate themselves to their department and departmental society rather than their union and friends of mine that are involved in the CUs talk about the first challenge of organising events being telling students what they are.

I think the remedy for this is boldness on

the part of the students involved in the running of the CUs. The long and terminal decline will not cease unless drastic action is taken to halt it. To find examples of what to do we must look to the

**"I fear that in recent years the star of the Constituent Unions has been wanning"**

RSM that has been more successful than any other CU in fostering a sense of community. Sports teams

that offer a more relaxed and enjoyable sense of camaraderie than the more serious university level sports teams have been successful, both in informing students what the RSM is and binding together those under its mantle.

This should be the first act on the part of the other CUs. Not only are there other teams with whom to naturally compete but training could be done together and experience pooled in order to keep costs low. An annual competition between the CU teams would be sure to draw a crowd and be a good source of revenue for CUs that have found themselves struggling to define their purpose as attention fades.

The second act of the CU committees should be to bring onboard departmental societies. Rather than competing for student attention student volunteers should swallow their pride and remember that everyone got involved in order to improve student experience, not to fight over trivial matters. The CUs should be sources of community at a university that threatens to fragment into a multi-campus conglomerate but it will take insight and hard work on the part of the various committees to bring this about.

The  
**Leadership  
Elections**  
2020

#icuelections

## ELECTIONS LIVE DEBATE

15:00, Wednesday 4 March  
Metric, Beit Quad, South Kensington Campus

Submit your questions here:  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/electionsdebate](https://imperialcollegeunion.org/electionsdebate)

Facebook livestream @imperialcollegeunion





## Whose responsibility is our wellbeing?

RCSU

**Peter Hull**

*Vice-President (Welfare)*

Last week the Wellbeing Team of the RCSU, led by me and Mareya Saba (Wellbeing Activities Coordinator), ran a week-long campaign in support of focusing on yourself and your wellbeing: RCS You. The campaign's five themes aimed to bring a different emphasis to each day: Community, Mindfulness, Art, Environment, and Animals. We took part in relaxing activities, got together as a community of scientists, and emphasised healthy attitudes surrounding mental wellbeing.

The week was a huge success, with the finale

consisting in the Dog Therapy session on Friday proving to be in extremely high demand with all 160 slots getting filled within 2 hours. After hearing year representatives' feedback about wanting a dog petting session in every student-staff committee (SSC) meeting for the past two years, the bureaucratic nightmare we had to go through to organise it was honestly worth it.

The dogs put smiles on a lot of students faces, but what problems did the campaign address or even try to solve? Last month, in a College-organised working group on Embedding Wellbeing into the Curriculum, the state of mental wellbeing of Imperial students was described as "fragile". The reasons given for this included that students come to Imperial having

based their identity around their intelligence just to have that ripped out under them, and for many the academic pressure can be too much to handle. Furthermore, the changing demographic of more socio-economically disadvantaged students participating in university means that there are a higher proportion of students negatively impacted by financial stress, which has been linked to poor student mental health.

A study ran by the Education Policy Institute in 2018 clearly showed that mental health issues are becoming more prevalent in the university-student population; the proportion of 16- to 24-year-olds experiencing a common mental disorder increased by 25% between 1993 and 2014, the demand in counselling services at

universities increased by over 25% between 2006 and 2015, and the student suicide rate increased by 52% between 2000 and 2016.

These issues are the obvious motivation behind running a faculty-wide Welfare Week such as RCS You, but it's clear that these events are not nearly enough. Firstly, sessions such as Pet Therapy are only psychologically effective with regular interaction, instead of as a one-off session.

Secondly, students in a particularly bad place are far less likely to put themselves out there and get involved in the kinds of activities that we offered. Finally, the campaign does nothing for addressing the structural issues such as drained counselling services, unsupportive

personal tutors, and systematic academic pressure.

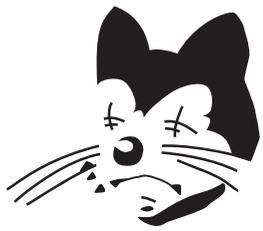
However, as student volunteers, our goal should be to pressure the faculty on all sides to take responsibility for student welfare. Running light-hearted campaigns with relaxing activities such as yoga and colouring comes under this, as it brings mindfulness and the concept of wellbeing to the forefront of the conversation; simply providing a short-term escape from studies is worth it, even if the positive outcomes for wellbeing are also short-term. But it isn't enough, and it can't just be down to us as volunteers. During the remainder of the year we will work tirelessly to represent those who couldn't participate and those who aren't aware of the issues

affecting them. Whether that's us as representatives supporting new initiatives such as Embedding Wellbeing into the Curriculum, building new roles that address socio-economic issues such as the Working-Class Officer, or simply being at every SSC telling staff just how ineffective personal tutors are at signposting or safeguarding students in need. There's so much more that we can do, and should do, for student welfare.

We should take responsibility for our collective wellbeing. Despite developing a healthy mindset regarding wellbeing being a personal and individual journey, it is still our duty to support each other as students, staff and representatives.



Therapy Dogs Nationwide, dog petting session, pet therapy // RCSU



# Hangman



Party themes for a university please help!!!!



thoughtcatalog.com › january-nelson › 2018/07 › college-party-themes ▼

## 50 Epic College Party Themes For Your Next Rager | Thought ...

2 Jul 2018 - 50 Epic **College Party Themes** For Your Next Rager. Blacklight — Swap out your regular lightbulbs for black lights and then draw on everyone's clothing with highlighters. Tight And Bright — Guests can only show up wearing something super bright and skintight. Ugly Sweater — Order everyone to find the most obnoxious ...

www.thoughtco.com › ... › College Life › Outside The Classroom ▼

## College Party Themes and Ideas - ThoughtCo

30 Jun 2019 - Find more than 20 **college party themes** that can work (if not rock) on any **college campus**. ... Fortunately, they can also **help** make your party one to remember. Keep an eye out for ... "Please Don't Feed the Animals" signs?

www.seventeen.com › life › college-party-themes ▼

Wow. Enchanted Forest sure does pop up here quite a lot //Google

## Disappointed by the summer ball theme? Here are some of the plans REJECTED by the fun hating organisers

### HANGMAN

**Negafelix**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

#### 1. American High School

Ever wanted to be a jock? How about a cheerleader? How about a drama nerd?

Too bad because you're just a regular nerd and will be forever now that the chance to play out your fantasies has been torn away by the cyber morons up at the Union. First they run out of money, and then they run out of fun.

#### 2. 90's Themed

Here's an idea that got tragically kicked to the

curb. Just imagine, you and your home skillet crunking down to some fly beats. "Not!" said scrubs in the Union "We prefer getting down and jiggy to ambient forest noises."

#### 3. Under the Sea

Imagined as an exotic night underwater, surrounded by fish and the mysteries of the deep, this one actually made it quite far along the decision making process but everyone chickened out when the cost of getting rid of all the water afterwards came up. Apparently Thames Water 'cOmpLAINEd'.

#### 4. Tarts and

#### Vicars

It was decided that it wouldn't be politically correct at an international university like Imperial with such a large and important public profile. The risk of showing any sort of affiliation with the Church was just too high.

#### 5. Pirates

Avast me hearties. Come and spend the evening sailing the high seas with me and me crew. Always looking to make the night truly special the organisers went through Mogadishu based casting agencies and even tried off-shore companies. Auditions went badly and the whole scheme was

quietly dropped. Try as they might the prospective pirates could never get the "Arhhhs" to sound quite right.

#### 6. Black and White

A chance to enjoy all things black and white. Come dressed in black and white! Play chess, checkers, and dominos! Debate the racial ancestry of the ancient Egyptians! Actually maybe it was a good idea that this one was dropped.

#### 7. Toga party

All you need for this one is a bedsheet. And the thermal insulation of a blue whale. You and your Spiderman sheets that you

are 'only using because the other ones are in the wash' are safe for now.

#### 8. 007 Bond party

Rehabilitated at last by the most recent film, the idea of a guilt free Bond themed evening seemed like a real possibility. No company was willing to take on the contract however. All they would say was that Kinky Club had emailed them last year and there had been a terrible mix up.

#### 9. Neon rave

Always a favourite, the organisers said that it wasn't appropriate to be endorsing the kind of risk

taking behaviours that are associated. Bunch of losers I say but we don't need them. Come to the Blackett basement, eat some drugs and have a wild one with me on the 18th March. 11pm. Be there or be square.

#### 10. Casio

Roulette, cocktails and a tragic addiction tearing families apart, casinos are full of high class living and are a fun night out for all. Not for the Union however.

Fast approaching deadlines and a dyslexic note taker led to two thousand pounds being wasted on calculators and other electronic goods before the error was spotted.

# HANGMAN

negafelix@imperial.ac.uk

## NEWSFLASH: Coronavirus kills the elderly while leaving students unharmed

### HANGMAN

Negafelix  
Editor-in-Chief

Students reacted with horror and delight to the news that anyone under the age of 40 has virtually no chance of dying from corona virus.

Epidemiologists have declared that probability of fatality increases with age with babies being completely invulnerable and the aged as vulnerable as a shortsighted lollypop lady in front of a CEO late for a meeting. This has of

course, been of great relief to the student body, which has demobilised millions of T-cells and decreased its temperature back to normal levels.

This news caused a variety of responses with Feb Senton, first year DesEng student and noted anorak enthusiast responding "This is dreadful news. I usually depend on mitigating circumstances to scrape through the year. Coronavirus was going to be my panacea."

The College staff have been less composed about the news, with official guidelines stating that anyone with a runny nose

had better 'stay the fuck away.'

While it has been difficult for sources on the inside of the sealed Blue Cube to smuggle out information, the atmosphere is said to be tense. Senior professors are said to be limiting physical contact to only what is strictly necessary, Vice-Provosts are alleged to have barricaded themselves into their offices and the 400 hundred year old blood-sucker Alice Ghast has retreated to her eldritch sewer lair.

ChristianSoc has endorsed the emerging pandemic calling it a

"short-cut to salvation". Members of the group have been seen at ACC handing out blankets and cough diffusers to bring

**"A geriatric genocide is predicted as infection rates rise"**

about the second coming a little faster, with the first coming of course waiting until marriage.

As predictions of a geriatric genocide predominate the newspapers, Negafelix has capitalised on the forthcoming by opening a new estate agency that aims to pair first-time student renters with recently vacated properties that smell slightly of wee. This is expected to be the only way for students from less advantaged backgrounds to attend university. Negafelix is excited to invest the dividends from this enterprise in Bonds. So far we've only been able to afford Roger Moore, but we're looking to acquire Timothy Dalton

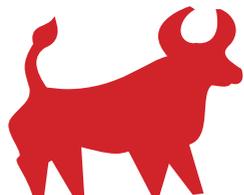
as soon as anyone can tell us where he is.

In light of the new class divide between those that do and do-not have grandparents, the Union has created the position of Hasn't Got The Inheritance Yet Liberation Officer to counteract the harmful divide that threatens to tear apart student cohesion. Conservative Society Representative My MarWan AndDied was surprised at the need for such an officer as he assumed that everyone at this university was getting an inheritance. Otherwise, "how on earth are they here?"



**ARIES**

This week your life flashes before your eyes as you cross Exhibition road.  
-  
Who said revision doesn't work?



**TAURUS**

This week you run out of clean turtlenecks to wear into uni.  
-  
You have to wash the blood off your freshly caught ones.



**GEMINI**

This week you mess up your circadian rhythm with your cicada rythm  
-  
The amount of time you spend screaming at potential mating partners



**CANCER**

This week you find out that College has been using an outrageous, points-based system to decide who gets first class degrees



**LEO**

This week you get bitten by your therapy dog  
-  
It reminds you of your step-dad



**VIRGO**

This week your newspaper is dominated by coronavirus  
-  
That was how you picked it up



**LIBRA**

This week you study biology  
-  
The job prospects are low but the fun is high



**SCORPIO**

This week your Google alert for 'How to say "I went to the market and bought some bread and some fruit and my family has two dogs" in Spanish and you can finally finish your Horizons coursework



**SAGITTARIUS**

This week you're living the dream.  
The one where you accidentally wear pjamas to uni and your best friend is somehow a human-sized gecko



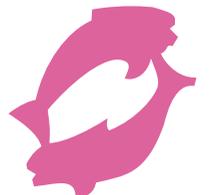
**CAPRICORN**

This week you wear your trousers both legs at the same time and feel significantly superior to all other humans



**AQUARIUS**

This week you wish there was some way to support your lecturers and thank them for all that they have done for you  
-  
Oh well

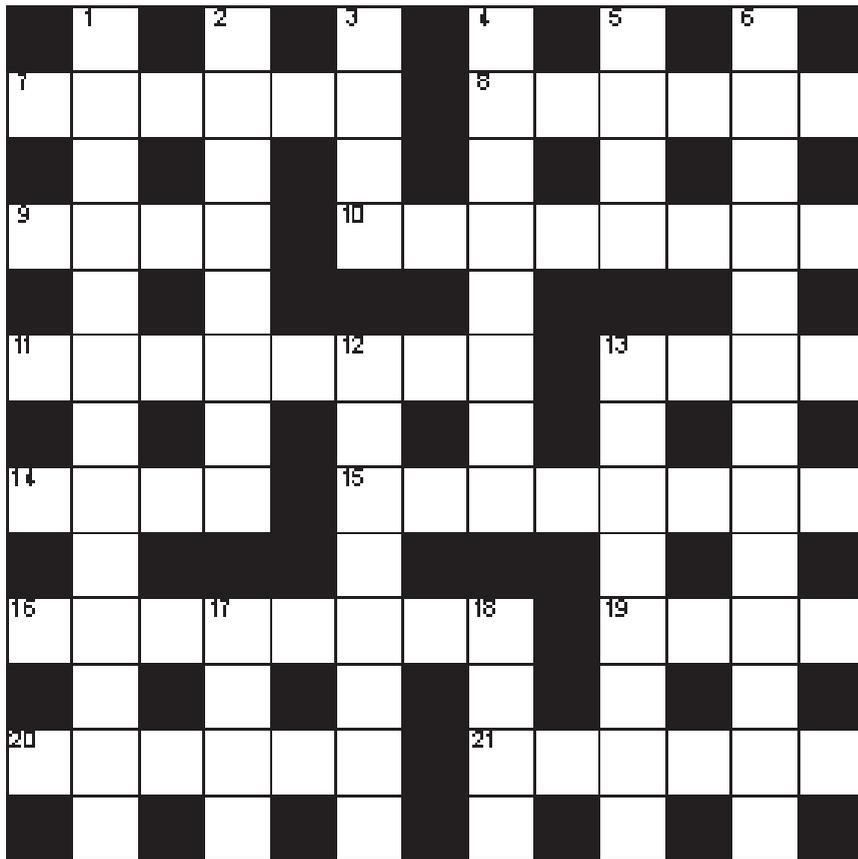


**PISCES**

This week your student loan comes in.  
Money can't buy you happiness but it can buy you 4000 people all RONing your mate who is running for Golsoc Social sec

# PUZZLES

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk



**Across**

- 7. Goddess often represented by an owl (6)
- 8. Army subdivision (6)
- 9. Roughly 4800 square yards (4)
- 10. Post-shower attire (8)
- 11. Italian almond alcohol (8)
- 13. Old film support (4)
- 14. Roughly 2.5 centimetres (4)
- 15. Not professionals (8)
- 16. Pool sanitizer (8)
- 19. Remove from office (4)
- 20. African antelope (6)
- 21. Like a mouse having gone for the cheese (6)

**Down**

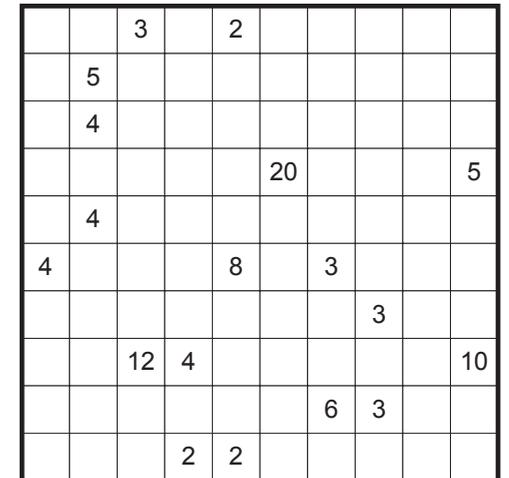
- 1. UK chant during summer 2018 (3,6,4)
- 2. Look into (8)
- 3. Moussaka ingredient (4)
- 4. Large amount of something (8)
- 5. Gel in Petri dish (4)
- 6. Betray (6,7)
- 12. Wives to Russian leaders (8)
- 13. Art of persuasion through well crafted texts (8)
- 17. October birthstone (4)
- 18. Napoleon's first exile (4)

**FUCWIT**

1	Lochy Monsters	105
2	DQ	102
2	StandWithHK_Fight4Freedom	102
4	RIP Pat	101.5
5	F***URhys	101
7	Front Row Squad	46

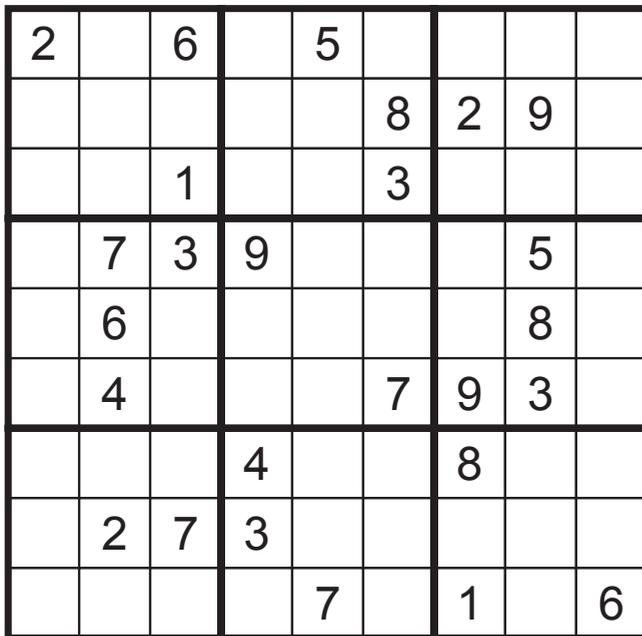
**SHIKAKU**

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



**SUDOKU**

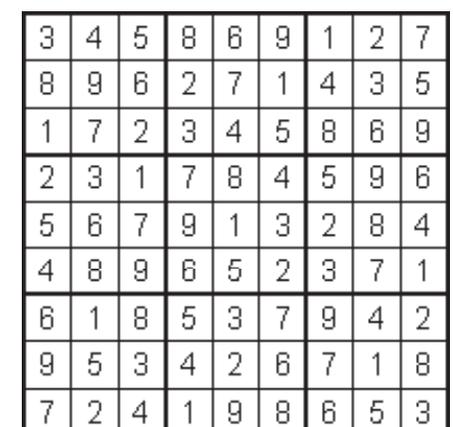
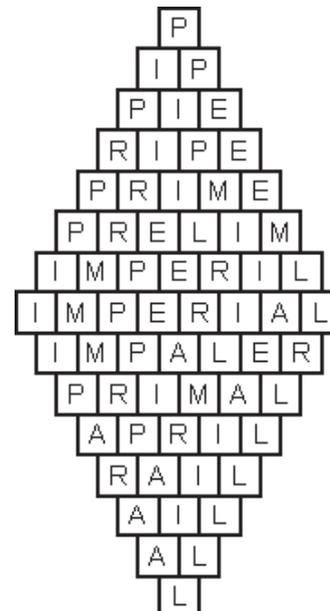
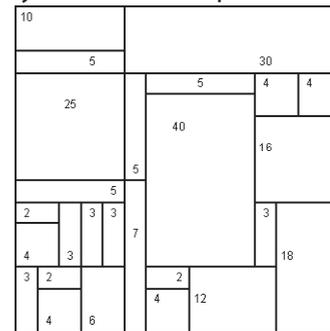
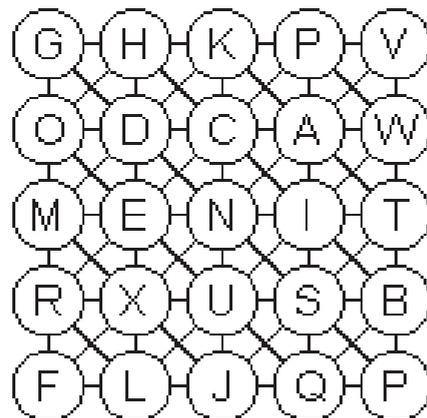
Fill all the boxes with a number between 1 and 9. A number can only appear once in a row/column, and only once in each sub-box.



**Points available**

Crossword	3
Shikaku	1
Sudoku	3
Nonogram	2
Word Pyramid	2
Mastermind	2
Slitherlink	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>

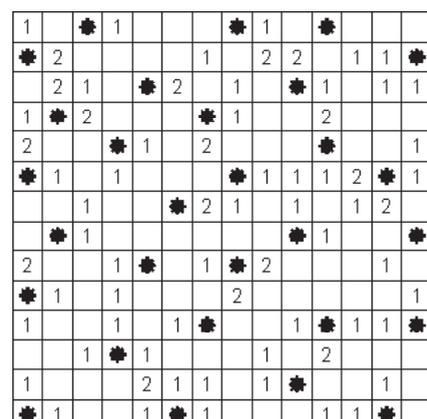
Send your solutions to [fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk) before Wednesday noon to take part in the leaderboard!



Hi Puzzlers,

This double spread smells of pure procrastination put perceptively. As promised, the Easter Egg Hunt explanation:

Well, we're hoping to have an Easter Egg Hunt in the paper for the last issue of term, and we wanted a few decorated eggs to hide in the paper. Wow. That was not a long a story as I had thought. Submissions for designed Easter eggs will be open until Wednesday noon (4<sup>th</sup> March). Special thanks to Crossword Express and Duncan White in this issue.





# SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Bottle Match: Tennis

### SPORTS

#### James Wood

RSM Tennis Member

0	12
Tennis RSM	Tennis CSM
V	

After an early start, the RSM tennis team arrived in a very windy Falmouth, eager to put right the loss of the previous year. Backed by the raucous support of the hockey and badminton teams, the matches began with Beth, Teigan, Ian and James entering the singles courts. Beth and Teigan (who had both not played a match before) put in some great performances and had some tight games but in the end, lost their

matches. Ian and James were both encouraged by the RSM-dominated crowd and made good starts but, in the end, lost their matches 6-1, 6-1 and 6-2, 6-3 respectively.

Despite the crowd heading to the hockey, the intensity on the courts was still high as Jasmine put in a player of the match performance before unfortunately losing 6-1, 6-2 and Cas played a great match before losing 6-1, 6-3. Toby and James Hamer also played well against much more experienced opposition, losing 6-1, 6-1 and 6-2, 6-2 respectively.

Our doubles specialists Sam, Olivia and Ananya played some great points in worsening conditions but again, all the doubles matches were lost to CSM's team (made up of only one actual 'miner'). Despite a 12-0 loss, the inexperienced team did

brilliantly well in tricky conditions and can hold their heads high.



Smiling faces, walking away with experience // RSM Tennis Team

## Bottle Match: Squash

### SPORTS

#### Chami Gomez

RSM Squash Member

0	3
Squash RSM	Squash CSM
V	

Before the RSM Squash team headed down to Cornwall for the Bottle Match, some emergency training sessions were held in ethos as it became apparent that 2/3rds of the team had never picked up a squash racquet in their life. After some coaching in the tactics and niches of squash from the bottle veteran Meddings we headed down to CSM, albeit with

one racquet between all of us. However, as soon as the first game began, it became apparent just how far out of our depth we were when our opponents took pity and began to cheer for us rather than their own. Alfie put in a

**“It became apparent just how far out of our depth we were when our opponents took pity and began to cheer for us”**

valiant effort in the second

match, speared on by some lovely support from the Men's hockey team, and our top seed Alex was just short of registering enough total points to win a game, far more than Alfie or I achieved. Soon the slaughter was over, the games were gone 6-0 and the matches 3-0. Full credit to the CSM team and RSM Squash look forward to welcoming them back to London next year.

## Bottle Match: Football

### SPORTS

#### Daroon Ramadani

RSM Football 1st Team  
Captain

0	2
Football RSM	Football CSM
V	

Kicking off the second day of Bottle 2020 was the football. The stage was set beneath the ominous clouds and the crashing winds atop a great hill, and what a stage it was: a pitch so boggy even a pig would rebuke it! Dare to stand in one place for too long would mean sinking to your ankles in mush. Good thing the boys were

full of running and fight then, buoyed by the RSM supporter massive. Never once resting on their laurels and constantly hounding their opposition throughout the first half, the CSM were restricted to hardly a whiff of goal. Chances came for the RSM however, with searching balls in behind for strikers Campbell and Hedley, the latter fashioning out a great shot inside the box matched only by the save of the CSM goalkeeper. Creative force in the middle, Fred Masure, had a fantastic 30-yard scorcher whistle just over the crossbar before the close of the first 45. Unfortunately, the half time whistle came too early for the boys. With winds turning and picking up to gale force speeds, the momentum swung

to CSM in the second half. Despite the RSM maintaining their spirited performance from the first half, the opposition forwards managed to produce two goals worthy of winning the great battle: their second in particular being a screamer from 25 yards out that must simply be applauded. Nevertheless, “win or lose... on the booze” became the mantra of the day, and with their heads held high the boys in black and white went out into the night with the belief the Bottle will be regained once more next year.

# SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Bottle Match: Lacrosse

### SPORTS

**Chris Carter**  
RSM Lacrosse Chair

3	28
Lacrosse RSM	Lacrosse CSM
V	

**B**ottle Match 2020 has come and gone, and it brought about a drastically different result than past years. Our 100% win streak was finally broken, with an (admittedly demoralising) 28-3 loss. Our team put in a great effort, despite having the odds stacked against us; a pitch that would have worked as a demonstration of soil liquefaction, two players stuck at the football match after CSM altered the

timetable the day before, a ball-to-face injury in the first quarter (shoutout to Niamh!) removing all

**“It was always going to be an uphill battle, and our enthusiasm and our best efforts just weren’t enough”**

options to sub off and a relatively inexperienced team. It was always going to be an uphill battle, and our enthusiasm and our best efforts just weren’t enough. A huge well done to Stephen Kwong on his



A rare defeat // RSM Lacrosse Team

hattrick, to man of the match Anthony Onwuli for taking every single draw, to Annie Mao for her unparalleled dedication to

screaming “GOT BALL!” at every opportunity and to Alfie Baines for a fantastic effort despite his inappropriate choice

of footwear and the fact that this was his first ever game. I’m sure we’ll be back stronger next year, and make sure this is the

first and only time CSM triumphs over the RSM in Bottle Match Lacrosse.

## Bottle Match: Badminton

### SPORTS

**Adam Cliff**  
RSM Badminton Team Captain

5	4
Badminton RSM	Badminton CSM
V	

**R**SM badminton have struggled in recent years to reclaim the egg cup. The only let up being when the CSM team put forward their lacrosse team to play against us three years ago. With this in mind, we have undergone rigorous training to be able to stamp our force on them as RSM’s biggest club. 10 minutes in, Parise and James (1st

pair) already won the first match with big scores: 21-8 and 21-9, lifting up the team spirit. Louise and

**“we have undergone rigorous training to be able to stamp our force on them as RSM’s biggest club”**

Adam(C) shortly gave us the second win by running the CSM President around. However, the second round wasn’t as easy. After a few tough matches with both sides providing some great

shots and slick play, it came down to the final round of games at 3-3. With the determination to win and not to do the yard, Annie and Ben as well as the first pair pulled out some great net shots and smashes which led to 2 massive wins and gave the overall score of 5-4. Ben was so happy that he went on the break his best racket celebrating. Since then I have personally had phone calls from Alice Gast congratulate me as well as Boris Johnson and Sadiq Khan. Please join RSM badminton.

**“please join RSM badminton”**



A winning team // RSM Badminton Team

# SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Bottle Match: Men's Hockey

### SPORTS

**Eddy Compton**

*RSM Hockey President*

2	1
Men's Hockey RSM	Men's Hockey CSM

After some difficult competition earlier on the hockey pitch, it was up to the boys to put CSM in their place. Despite the terrible conditions, we started well going 1-0 up through a carefully placed flick from Nick Yiakoumi at a penalty corner. Solid defence at a number of CSM penalty corners, and good

possession meant the lead stayed at 1-0 going into the second half. Right from push back RSM put the pressure back on CSM. Matt Kavanagh working hard to win us a penalty stroke, calmly converted by Nik again to double our lead. Again, the RSM defence was solid for majority of the second half. CSM pulled one goal back close to the end, but it was not enough for them to stop the Sharpley coming home. A huge performance from all the boys involved saw RSM secure a 2-1 victory! Big shout out to Lekan for winning man of the match (voted by CSM). It's all about the hockey!



Solid defence from solid hunks // RSM Hockey Team

## Bottle Match: Netball

### SPORTS

**Nicola Maxwell**

*RSM Netball Social Secretary*

2	109
Netball RSM	Netball CSM

Well here we are. After a shocking defeat of 88-2 last year we thought it wouldn't get any worse. We thought it couldn't be done. But we did it.

After a rocky start with half of our members not being allowed to play and having to draft in spectators to make up a team (shoutout to player of the match Parise Lockwood who was a) hungover, b) not meant to be playing and c) playing in defense, a position she'd never

played before), the match was no sooner underway

**“the match was no sooner underway than we were getting absolutely dicked”**

than we were getting absolutely dicked. Despite our best efforts we were no match for these beefy girls and even the scoreboard couldn't keep up with what might be the worst score difference netball has ever seen (109-2).

Our girls heroically pushed on – contact lenses were lost, bodies were flying all over the court and there was nearly a full-on scrap for the ball,

but nothing would stop our valiant miners from giving their absolute all. The effort and determination of our girls was amazing, and I couldn't be prouder of every single one of them, especially for

**“we were no match for these beefy girls and even the scoreboard couldn't keep up with what might be the worst score difference netball has ever seen (109-2)”**



Didn't beat CSM, but beat the scoring records // RSM Netball Team

a team that had never even played together before.

All in all, not the best game of netball we've ever seen, but on the

bright side at least we don't care more about winning Bottle than we do about going to a decent uni.

# SPORTS

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Bottle Match: Women's Hockey

### SPORTS

**Elin Jones**

*RSM Hockey member*

0	21
Women's Hockey RSM	Women's Hockey CSM

**W**ell that was a weekend and a half! The RSM women's hockey team set off to Cornwall on Friday morning to face the CSM women in what was deemed to be an exhilarating game.

From the first whistle, every member of the RSM

team played their hearts out, leaving nothing on the pitch. It was a fast and physical match, with the RSM being attacked from every angle. The RSM ladies were able to defend the CSM to the best of their ability, but the pressure was relentless with multiple short corners being awarded to the CSM. In goal, Antoinette did a brilliant job at keeping out several close and difficult shots at goal. The RSM managed to catch a couple of brakes towards goal, with Nadia and Neha working well together to keep the CSM at bay.

Despite the RSMs best efforts, the CSM won the match 21-0, but the score

**"best of their ability, but the pressure was relentless"**

line is far from being a fair reflection of the effort that every RSM lady put into the match. Despite the multiple bruises and injuries, the celebrations continued throughout the weekend on Friday evening and throughout Saturday. Many thanks to all the players and supporters that kept the RSM ladies powering through the match. Hockey love!



Gloomy weather but unglomy hearts// RSM Hockey Team

The  
**Leadership  
Elections**  
2020

#icuElections

# ELECTIONS LIVE DEBATE

**15:00, Wednesday 4 March**  
Metric, Beit Quad, South Kensington Campus

Submit your questions here:  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/electionsdebate](https://imperialcollegeunion.org/electionsdebate)

 Facebook livestream @imperialcollegeunion



# BOTTLE MATCH

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## The Bottle returns to Camborne

*In this year's installment of one of the world's oldest varsity matches, RSM rugby come back defeated after a close and hotly-contested match that ends in CSM's favour.*

### SPORTS

**Simon Thornton**  
RSM 1st XV Captain

As they headed to the pitch, the wet, windy conditions and swampy Cornish ground were not in favour of the visiting team, who prefer to play a fast-paced, expansive game.

However, the crowd did not disappoint; with the usual RSM vs CSM rivalry resonating between the fans and the players.

Both teams started well, with strong carries from CSM's big boys being matched by big hits from the likes of Animesh

Misra, Jasper Mowatt and Oliver Adams. CSM often lacked creativity in attack, relying on kicking and RSM mistakes to obtain useful field positions. Following a few phases from the RSM forwards, man of the match Elliot Quigley saw the opportunity to send the ball wide, and an excellent backs move was completed with a try for Oliver Duffy, converted by Amin Omarouyache, for the first 7 points of the match.

From here, a series of mistakes and penalties conceded by the visitors gave CSM an easy way back into the game. They relied heavily on their dominant scrum, and dictated play well, which despite the best efforts

of RSMs defence, led to them scoring a pick-and-go to go into half-time

**"a series of mistakes and penalties conceded by RSM gave CSM an easy way back into the game"**

drawing 7-7.

At this point we knew it was going to be a tough second half. Their scrum was dominant but out wide we had the beating

of them. We didn't take advantage of the wind behind us in the first half as well as we'd have liked but were still confident that this game is ours for the taking.

In a scrappy second period, it was CSM who scored the first (and only) points of the half. They converted a penalty to make the score 10-7 in favour of the home side. The final whistle went in what had been a physical, competitive and largely enjoyable game of rugby. We look forward to welcoming CSM to London next year when hopefully the result will be different.

Unfortunately, this meant RSM could not retain the Bottle and get that elusive away win,

but I trust CSM will look after the Bottle for us until it is inevitably returned home next year. Thanks to all the volunteers who made Bottle Match such a success once again, thanks to our sponsors (IMR resources and BP) without whom this event wouldn't have been possible, and thanks to the supporters for being so vocal. It was truly a day to remember, supplemented by a splendid evening throughout which multiple shandies were consumed, but the less said here the better. Port, songs, 17, dads, lips, 51, haircuts, Minnie, climbing and toys are just a few things that come to mind, but I'll leave all that to your imagination.



CSM were a tad bit too cunning this time around // RSM Rugby Team

### Bottle Match Final Scores

7	Rugby RSM	v	10	Rugby CSM
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2	Netball RSM	v	109	Netball CSM
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0	Football RSM	v	2	Football CSM
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0	Women's Hockey RSM	v	21	Women's Hockey CSM
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2	Men's Hockey RSM	v	1	Men's Hockey CSM
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3	Lacrosse RSM	v	28	Lacrosse CSM
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5	Badminton RSM	v	4	Badminton CSM
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0	Tennis RSM	v	12	Tennis CSM
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0	Squash RSM	v	3	Squash CSM
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