

Proposal to grant honorary life membership to Rupert Neate (Felix Editor 05-06)

Proposer:- Stephen Brown

Secunder:- Ben Harris

This council notes:-

1. That last years Felix Editor, Rupert Neate, was not awarded honorary life membership of Imperial College Union.
2. All the other sabbatical officers last year were awarded honorary life membership of Imperial College Union.
3. Felix has just won "Best Student Newspaper" in The Guardian Student Media awards. In addition Mr. Neate personally has also won "Best Student Journalist".

This Council believes:-

1. That Rupert Neate did an excellent job at the helm of Felix.
2. Rupert was a superb investigative journalist, particularly with regards to issues surrounding halls security.
3. That the decision not to award him honorary life membership was petty, vindictive and reflects poorly on ICU council.
4. The decision by ICU not to recognise his achievements is both an insult to the hard work that Rupert himself put in and also to the dedicated team of volunteer Felix sub-editors.
5. That those who refused Mr Neate the award were acting on their own personal opinions of him and were not taking into account his excellent performance as editor.
6. This decision set an alarming precedent as it compromises Felix's editorial independence if awards are seen to be linked to how "nice" you are to union officers.

This Council Resolves:-

1. To award Rupert Neate honorary life membership of Imperial College Union
2. To extend their congratulations to all those involved with Felix last year.
3. To encourage the current editor, Andy Sykes, to organise a celebratory bar night so that the Felix staff can indulge in appropriate triumphalism in light of their achievements.