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Press Release: 3 November 2016 **THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THE END IS NIGH**

Proposition 1: Francis Boule

Francis Boule, diamond heir and TV star, exhorted us, by telling us that the “apocalypse is coming”. He said, however, that he would not talk about the elephant in the room, the person with a long and “controversial career in reality television”, Mary Berry. He told us that “strange things are afoot”. In Sheffield, a man cut off his big toe in a hardware store – and ate it in front of customers – “ladies and gentlemen, violence is a foot”. Further, he stated, Boule reminded us of the terrifying future of safe spaces, and the world where “Harambe is still dead”. “The writing is on the wall...the end is nigh” – “Keith Vaz has even run out of poppers” he said. “I don’t need to state the obvious...we are doomed”, he said, “Made in Chelsea has won a Bafta, we have gone mad”. “As if the world has not suffered enough”, he said, “skipping is now not recommended” we are falling apart he told the Union. “Civilization is collectively losing the will to live”. He finished, reminding us that Nostradamus had predicted the end of the world, and that was enough for him.

Opposition 1: Finn McRedmond

Finn McRedmond, hailing from the party central of Balham. She argued that the end was not nigh, because we already live in a simulation in this “shit world”. “The world is not going to shit, it is already going to shit”. “You’re not real, I’m not real, and your 2:1 in Land Economy has never been more useless.” She noted that the “portal to hell was opened by Ed Balls” during a particularly vigorous episode of *Strictly Come Dancing*. “I am not into Nietzsche” she said “I do not believe God is dead; he just doesn’t give a shit”. “If God cared about us, he would not have let Ben Affleck direct a Sci-Flick called *The Accountant*”, a movie that “literally no one asked for”. But, now, she argued “let us analyse 2016”. “We are living in a world where Jeremy Corbyn is leader of the Labour Party”; “if like putting a Battenberg cake in charge of NATO” – none of this would have happened, she noted “if we lived in the real world”. “Ladies and gentlemen, the end is not nigh, it is upon us already”.

Proposition 2: Joe Wells

Joe Wells began his speech by noting that “this debate is pointless, God is dead, there is nothing”. He noted he had to ask “what the word Nigh meant” – “I went to Porstmouth Uni, the best Uni in Porstmouth”. He elucidated that there are “five reasons to believe the end is nigh”. The first reason is the American election – “if Trump wins, we’re all fucked”. The second reason is the UK – “the political system is fucked” – you can vote for Labour, who are incompetent or Conservatives, “who are genuinely satanic”. “I wouldn’t vote for the Greens” he said “because I worry they would spend it drugs”. Reason number 3 “Mumford and Sons”. Reason number four was “our rejection of experts, demonstrated by me getting to speak at the Union”; he told the chamber that “in my last job, I was fired for breaking the laminator”. Finally, he said that “I want the world to end...it’s like a bad sitcom now”. I am not suicidal he emphasized “I want us all to die...2020 for a suicide pact is too long”. “Have I done my time, I feel like I made my case, thank you”.

Opposition 2: Chris Epamimondas

Chris told us to “get prepared for some great jokes”; “my speech will be 50% logical analysis, 50% random tangent, and 50% mathematical error”. Chris believed that the end was not nigh “because Trump is going to win and will start a nuclear apocalypse”, but this will be good. He noted that the Proposition “has something to live for”, but “we need to prove that there is nothing”. He brought out an odd looking

bronze statue: “that’s a bust of me at 15...and there are two of them”. “When I was 15 I was a massive cunt”. He noted, however, that the post-apocalyptic world would be a good one. Chris brought out his written imaginings about a post-apocalyptic world, with a squawking Corbyn and a Chuka Iguana. Chris notes that “radiation had transfigured him into Yoda”. Chris finished by noting to the assembled audience that if an apocalypse happened, we “would get superpowers and would no longer have Sidgwick”, enough for the audience, it seems.

Proposition 3: Jolyon Rubinstein

Jolyon opened by noting that “if you don’t believe the end is nigh by now, we’re all fucked”. “I couldn’t be bothered to write a speech because the end is nigh”. He then went on by saying, “I am now not going to be funny, because the end is nigh”. “I always find it funny that we live in a post-fact political world, as if politics ever was based on facts”. Jolyon noted that “there is an echo chamber of social media, where the liberal elite believe everything is self-evident”. We even, he said, “live in a world where this university argued about safe-spaces...arguing about whether debating with people we disagree with is a good idea”. He emphasized, however, that this was not nearly as bad as Donald Trump – where “he has borrowed to pay our salary...the end is fucking nigh when a candidate says I will accept the result so long as I win”. “The world is fucking mad”, he stated. It is literally depression, Rubinstein said, “that the Mail hates anyone with empathy, it is crazy that Gary Linacre sounds sane”. “But wait...the head of Press Standards in the Head of the Daily Mail...great”. “I’m afraid Donald Trump will win the election” he said, “and that, my friends, will be that”.

Opposition 3: Ken Cheng

Ken Cheng, professional poker player. “I have been tasked with arguing against the fact that the world is going to shit, which is hard, because it very much is”. “But there is always an upside he said, sure they have taken the wraps out of the meal deal, so I don’t buy them any more, and I am better for it.” “Theresa May, evil, but at least she doesn’t delete her emails.” He moved on to Brexit, “I am a poker player, all in American dollars, so I am doing well”. He also pointed out, “when things are going to shit, art flourishes...without WWII, we would have never gotten Call of Duty”. “I know this is very difficult”, he said, “so I do what I always do when I have a creative challenge...I Googled it”. He then read the story of Mason Schmitt, a fictional Cambridge student “I will skip Chapter 2, about UCAS”. He started at Chapter 3 – Starting at Cambridge. “Knowledge is power, and with great power comes great responsibly...so use power responsibly”. Mason found a bible “that overwhelmed him” and he looked for the secret dates in the bible. When he went for lunch, however, he got some “earth shattering news...the Sainsbury’s meal deal was fucked”...maybe the end is actually nigh. We must ask ourselves, Ken said “could that story have existed if the end was nigh? No, because I wrote it”. Go out and enjoy the world “enjoy art”.

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For footage of the event go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/cambridgeunionsoc>
Thursday, 3 November 2016