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"This House is Overworked and Undersexed"

On Thursday 12 February, the Union hosted a comedy debate over the motion “This House is Overworked and Undersexed.”

The first speaker in proposition was Liam Williams. He opened by speaking of original personage—a posh schoolboy who created Liam Williams as a joke on a charity night. He questioned who was included in the term “this house” between swigs of wine from a bottle. He asserted that he actually disagreed with the motion, and sought to pre-empt the arguments his side of the house would make. He argued that that “old people need something to do,” and if they are overworked to the point of an early death it would “ameliorate the aging of the population.” Furthermore, he argued that disabled people get similarly bored, and more early deaths would alleviate the problem of disabilities. On the point of internships and unpaid labour, he questioned “Without a short stint as a slave, how will you gain the motivation to not be a slave anymore?” He urged his audience to be realistic, and encouraged trickledown economics in that the wealthy might sometimes drop some of their assets. On the topic of sex, he mentioned falling birth-rates and cited statistics that average rates of sexual intercourse were declining. He argues that such declines in sexual activity are good, saying that fear ought to override essential biological urges to procreate. He urged the audience to be grateful for what they had, before physically walking over to the other side of the debate and sitting in the same chair as the first speaker for the opposition.

Oxford alumnus Ivo Graham opened the debate for the opposition. He initially mentioned how difficult it would be to debate against a parody of himself. He asserted that “rules are there to be kept,” and called Mr. Williams a “rulebreaker.” He mentioned that Oxford students typically have more sex than do Cambridge students, according to The Tab. He then referenced the reputable nature of his own lack of sexual exploits. Graham mentioned that choosing Oxford or Cambridge means you “rot in a library,” rather than other universities where one can “drink jaeger bombs through [one’s] eyeballs.” He called sex “a series of things that could go wrong,” from pulled muscles to more serious debilitating issues. He concluded by urging the audience to take “an alternative way.”

Made in Chelsea celebrity Ollie Locke spoke next for the proposition. He began by reading an excerpt from his autobiography, “Laid in Chelsea,” which detailed his technique for getting over a past girlfriend while at a college in Cambridge. He asked members of the audience who had sex in the last day to raise their hands. Locke argued that we are born to procreate and live a fulfilling life rather than simply work behind a desk. He mentioned that sex can be exhausting, and expressed envy of the youth exhibit by his dog. He argued finally that Cambridge students should make sure they are having fun, having sex “lots,” and meeting people in Gardenias.

Georgia Bruce continued the debate for the opposition. She asserted that sex does not correlate to happiness. Next, she produced a guitar and sang a song “about the perils of having too much sex.” The song included lines such as “I’ve had so much sex that my name has become a metaphor for having loads of sex.” The tone of her song then turned to a fable about a 18th century man attempting to dance with a girl. Both complimented one another’s then contemporary, now-absurd dress, and displayed social chemistry, but concluded with the male protagonist ultimately becoming disillusioned with sex because he felt objectified and cheap.

Cambridge comedian Matilda Wnek closed the debate for the proposition. Ms. Wnek qualified her proposition of the motion by noting her own self-exceptionalism from it. She outlined three points on the relationship between work and sex in a post-industrialization economy. She asked the audience “Who are we? Where are we? And what time is it?” She argued that all work amounts to overwork, and that the world
contains enough “stuff” that no one should have to do menial jobs. Ms. Wnek also appealed to the Union’s sponsor Deloitte in hopes of attaining employment. She then outsourced her speech to a sound file played over the speaker, and enjoyed the rest of her speech as leisure time. This included drinking various beverages as well as plugging in and turning on a strobe light. A robot meanwhile entered the chamber, and began dancing with and (comically) groping Ms. Wnek. Mr. Williams physically hit at the robot as it began to have sex with the proposition speaker. All the while, the sound file continued to play in the background.

Cambridge comic, actor, and writer Adrian Gray closed the debate for the opposition. He started by saying he prepared for a debate about space exploration, not sex and work. He argued that one cannot be undersexed because that would imply there is a certain amount of sex one needs to be happy. He called the audience “not a room of players,” asserting that the Union, as well as Cambridge generally, are “nerds.” He then produced a guitar and continued his speech in the form of a song called “Worksheets, Not Wet Sheets.” Perhaps the cleverest line from the song was his desire for a “2.1, not a threesome.” His song and speech concluded by calling himself both a “nerd” and “proud.”

**Debate Result**
- Ayes: 39%
- Noes: 43%
- Abstentions: 18%

The motion failed to carry.

By Ben Atlas
Deputy Head of Press, Lent 2015