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## Toad or Twonk - electoral malpractice and vote rigging

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In a reveal-all-interview with several high-profile Cambridge Union Members, TCS writers have gained insight into the corrupt inner-workings of union politics, with Union Presidential Candidate Toad at the heart of the rot.

It is a well-publicized fact that Toad, son of supreme overlord Toope, has been an avid union hack since his days at Eton College. Those lucky enough to have been invited to Toad's weekly room parties attest that Toad's room is decorated like a conference room in 10 Downing street; stacked with portraits of The Cambridge Mafia, a designated sniffing corner, and a suitcase full of cigars perched next to the old record player. Underneath these festive jamborees, these parties are synecdoche for 'hack central', with Toad and his inner circle of union supporters pressuring union members into voting for him.

According to one aspiring union committee member, Toad would often use his position as Speakers Officer to bully new members into supporting him, threatening to 'ruin their union careers' if they acted otherwise. With sizeable institutional support within the current standing committee, Toad would also use his influence to promise quid pro quo arrangements with several union members, guaranteeing them access to his committee votes when they eventually run for one of the union's appointed positions (Debating Officer, Vice-President, Treasurer, etc) should they publicly endorse him. Crucially, both these campaign tactics run contrary to the Union's constitution, which bars candidates from a) Explicitly campaigning prior to the start of election season b) Using their current position to gain an undue advantage.

But the rot runs deeper. Several high profile individuals within the union have confirmed that Toad has gained access to the infamous 'voter rolodex' - giving him unprecedented access to multiple union members, both past and present. This voter rolodex was started by previous Lent Term 2020 President, Sonic the Hedgehog, who through his many Etonian connections, began compiling a spreadsheet of available voters. Sources confirm that in the last 3 elections, Sonic the Hedgehog's preferred candidate has always won, in no small part because of their exclusive access to the voter rolodex - with Toad representing Sonic's preferred candidate in this election. Further, one expects that this list has grown significantly, after reports emerged that Toad had recently begun dating Toadette, who served as Easter Term 2020 President. In a now widely circulated Instagram story, Toad and

Toadette were caught making out on top of Castle Mound, with a visibly heartbroken Yoshi none the wiser.

This string of evidence leads TCS to conclude that Toad represents a deep running rot in the union. Should his presidential bid be successful, one only fears the worst is yet to be. To the extent the Cambridge Union runs on the maxim "protecting free speech since 1815", it seems the current Union leadership is grossly unqualified to protect free and fair elections.