

Students ask for compensation on fees as part of group claims

Ameena Hassan Editor-in-Chief

Students from 18 universities are seeking compensation over Covid-19 and strike-related disruption to their studies through group legal action.

Law firms Asserson Law Offices and Marcus Parker Limited have contributed to a legal team to represent almost 20,000 students from England and Wales, and are seeking financial compensation for UK and international students.

In April 2022, University College London was sent a Letter of Claim on behalf of 3200 students and the legal team then applied for a Group Litigation

Order on 18th July. This application will be heard in High Court on 2nd February 2023. Felix understands that a total 3500 current or former UCL students have joined this claim since the start.

Imperial College London was sent a "Letter Before Claim" on 19th October 2022, alongside 16 other notable universities, such as: King's College London, London School of Economics and Political Science, and University of Bristol.

Each "Letter Before Claim" is a separate claim, and each of the 17 universities are facing similar claims,

which is why these are all being brought forward by the same legal team. They argue that students deserve financial compensation and are unlikely to be able to afford claiming compensation individually.

The "Letter Before Claim" sent to Imperial College London represents "current or former undergraduate and graduate students", and is meant to set out the claim before any legal action is taken. The letter cites that each student enters into a contract with Imperial before enrolment, in which "Imperial agreed to provide...in-person tuition and

... physical access to facilities (libraries, laboratories, etc.)" for tuition fees. It then goes on to claim that this agreement was breached in the 2017/18, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 academic years due to "industrial action by Imperial staff and to Imperial's responses to the Covid-19 pandemic".

Student Group Claim says that successful UK students "are estimated to win compensation of around £5000 each, with international students potentially winning several multiples of this figure". Student Group Claim

Continued on page 4...

Vote of No Confidence Motions to be brought to Union Council on 8th

Ameena Hassan Editor-in-Chief

Vote of No Confidence (VoNC) motions are being brought against the City and Guilds College Union (CGCU) President and Vice President. The VoNCs have been submitted as papers to be considered during the next Union Council on the 8th of November.

Both motions have the required proposer, and twenty members of the Union (students) as seconders. The motions state that the President "has not once contacted a single member of this year's committee", and the Vice President "was in limited contact with a couple of members of committee throughout the summer, which has since ceased". Additionally, the motions state that neither the President nor Vice President completed their handovers.

The motions allege that neither were

"at all involved in planning, organisation and hosting of any CGCU activities in 2022- This [sic] includes committee set up, Welcome Week and Welcome Dinner planning". Neither were spotted manning the CGCU Welcome Fair booth in early October. The CGCU has notably held an annual "Welcome" dinner in October for students and alumni for the last 124 years. This year, it will be held on 12th November.

A student familiar with the VoNC has said that both have been contacted multiple times, and have not been heard from after the motions were put forward.

If successful through a two-thirds majority of those "present and voting", both members "may not be elected to or hold that office again", but this disqualification may be removed through an act of Union Council

(according to Union Constitution). "present and voting" means elected members who have a voting position on Union Council and attend the Council meeting on 8th November. If successful, the CGCU President and CGCU Vice President positions are expected to remain vacant until the next leadership elections in Summer Term.

The current CGCU President won on a manifesto to "create new opportunities and resolve existing issues for engineering students", beating out another student who had experience being on three committees at the Union. The current CGCU Vice President promised to "work with sponsorship/treasurer officers to secure extra funding for events".

The current Union President was last year's CGCU President, and in

their manifesto, stated that one of her goals was to "establish support for the Constituent Unions in a concrete way". Previously, raising VoNCs have prompted the member resigning before the motion is considered, and leading the proposer to retract it.

The City and Guilds College Union (CGCU) represent all students from the Faculty of Engineering at Imperial except for those in the Department of Materials and the Department of Earth Science and Engineering, and advocate for the academic and welfare needs of Engineering students. All registered students are automatically members of Imperial College Union (the Union). The CGCU is one of five Constituent Unions that have existed since the foundation of Imperial College London.

EDITORIAL

This issue was produced thanks to the work of

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Group Effectiveness

Group Litigation Orders like the one UCL students are applying for in their group claim against UCL are used “to provide for the case management of claims which give rise to common or related issues of fact or law”.

This is commonly used to allow larger groups of people to claim for damages in a financially sensible way. E.g. being awarded damages, but you have to pay more than the damages for legal fees. Collectively, claimants stand to gain more than apart.

This is as much the case when Union Council meets. Student officers who show up and attend

Union Council give it weight, and authority to make decisions.

In the previous Union Council meeting, 19 officers of Union Council were present. There are a total of 43 positions on Union Council, of which 10 were vacant at the time.

In November 2021, then-Union President Dr Lloyd James proposed starting a Democratic Structures Review. As a result, a Scrutiny Committee is to be set up of four volunteers from Union Council, to scrutinise Council papers. I look forward to seeing officers standing up to create a better Union, together.



Statement of Intent

At Felix we believe that it is always in the interest of the students to know. Transparency in the workings of the College and the work of your student representatives is key. Therefore I, the Felix Editor, on behalf of the team promise that:

We will, to the best of our ability, tell you the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

We will keep your confidence and will only publish something you say to us if you have explicitly said that we can.

We will work to expose unfairness and discrimination in all forms that it takes at the College.

We will treat fairly any article sent to us, regardless of point of view, and do our best to work with you to prepare it for publication.

**Signed by Ameena Hassan
Editor-in-Chief**

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Felix provides an outlet for all students and staff to review, read about and report on whatever they want. Anything you feel passionate about can be transcribed, honed to perfection with the help of our Section Editors and published both in print and on the website

Writing on what you're passionate about is the best way to deepen your interest and expand your horizons (also, if we're honest about incentives, a lot of the sections get you free tickets and it looks good on the CV)

If you're interested in writing for us, get in touch with any of the section editors at their submissions inbox (e.g: if you want to write for Arts, email arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk), or the Editor in Chief at felix@imperial.ac.uk

We need writers, editors, copy-editors, illustrators, photographers and more!

Keep The Cat Free

Since 1974, "Keep the cat free" has been Felix's motto and a central tenet of its operation. The phrase applies in three aspects: editorial independence, free to read and free to write.

Editorial independence does not mean unfettered free speech. Just because we can say something doesn't mean we should. Felix will always be an inclusive environment for as many people as possible. This being said, Felix does not conflate offence with harm, and any content that is not illegal or deeply immoral can be published at the Editor's discretion, with the following statements in mind.

The paper will never hold a formal political agenda, nor will it be reliant on advertising for funding, despite the occasional inclusion of ads.

These ads will never dictate what is run in the paper.

Felix retains the right to criticise anyone and is accountable to the law in terms of defamation. As part of the Union, Felix is part of a charity that exists to represent and support students. The paper will always seek to strike a balance between public interest and student welfare.

Since 1971 the paper has been free to pick up and read and will remain this way indefinitely.

The paper will always be a place that students, staff and alumni can write freely. This statement applies exclusively to the aforementioned groups, and guest posts, paid or otherwise, are never accepted. In the same spirit, Felix will never financially reward any contributions from the above groups.

NEWS

Imperial Sends Climate Researchers to Conservative and Labour Party Conferences in Transition to Zero

Matthew Williams News Writer

In late September, Conservative and Labour leaders met in Birmingham and Liverpool respectively to discuss, among issues, the transition to a zero-carbon Britain by 2050.

In Birmingham, the Conservatives hosted Professor Mary Ryan, the Vice-Provost for Research and Enterprise and leader of Imperial's Transition to Zero Pollution Initiative. She spoke alongside Dhara Vyas of Energy UK and Dean Russell MP, junior Minister at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, a role he began serving in days before the conference and ended on the 27th of October. The discussion focused on the importance of a public-private partnership in achieving a 'low-carbon future', consistent

government regulation, and consumer forces driving markets towards sustainability.

Meanwhile, Dr Laure de Preux, from Imperial's Grantham Institute, spoke at the Labour Party conference in Liverpool. Dr de Preux was joined by Kerry McCarthy MP, the Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Darren Jones MP, the Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee, and Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh from the University of Bath. Most notably, all panellists seemed to agree that market forces would not be enough to reach a net-zero target by 2050. Government support, leadership, and regulation were all seen as necessities to eliminating the UK's carbon footprint by 2050.

The differences, though minimal,

paint an interesting picture of Imperial's interface with policymakers. On the one hand, the Transition to Zero Pollution Initiative is relatively new. Launched in 2020, its goal is to bring together researchers from across the college to find solutions to all types of pollution, not just carbon emissions. The Transition to Zero Pollution initiative is part of the College's Academic Strategy, published in 2020. Among other things, their research focuses on climate resilience, sustainable resources, and urban ecosystems.

The Grantham Institute, formed in 2007, has the clearly stated goal of a 'zero-carbon society.' Considering the small, but important difference between the Conservative's goal of 'low-carbon' and Labour's 'zero-carbon' goal, it makes sense that the Grantham Institute,

explicitly seeking a zero-carbon future, works with Labour. Beyond that goal, the Institute aims to promote interdisciplinary solutions to climate issues in the UK and internationally. Their focus is much wider, going beyond climate change mitigation to the economic and health effects of climate change and its mitigation.

In sending different researchers from different research groups to different party conferences, Imperial makes it clear their focus is on providing policymakers with research and advice to mitigate the effects of climate change, regardless of party affiliation. One would hope, however, that Imperial researchers get on better than Labour and Conservative MPs.

...continued from page 1

Students ask for compensation

also put out a press release, in which they state that "universities have thrived financially during the Covid period", and "the 18 universities being challenged earned a surplus of more than £1 billion during the 2020-21 financial year and collectively hold more than £16.3 billion in net assets. They can afford to meet their legal obligations and make good their students' losses."

The legal team is entitled to at most 35% of claimants' payout in legal fees, but the case is being brought on a "no-win, no-fee" basis.

In November 2021, Imperial College London was awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for its response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and was recognised as University of the Year 2022 in The Times and Sunday Times Good University guide "for an excellent student experience and leadership in responding to the pandemic".

Industrial action (including strikes), although taken by Imperial staff members, was only taken by members of staff unions that achieved a mandate through balloting of their Imperial members.

If Imperial College London does "admit liability for breach of contract", the letter proposes that students and the College work together to create a formula for compensating students. Otherwise, they "will seek the court's determination of such a formula with the assistance of expert evidence", and "apply ... for a group litigation order". The letter requests a response from the College by 23rd November 2022.

The College directed Felix to a statement by Universities UK (UUK):

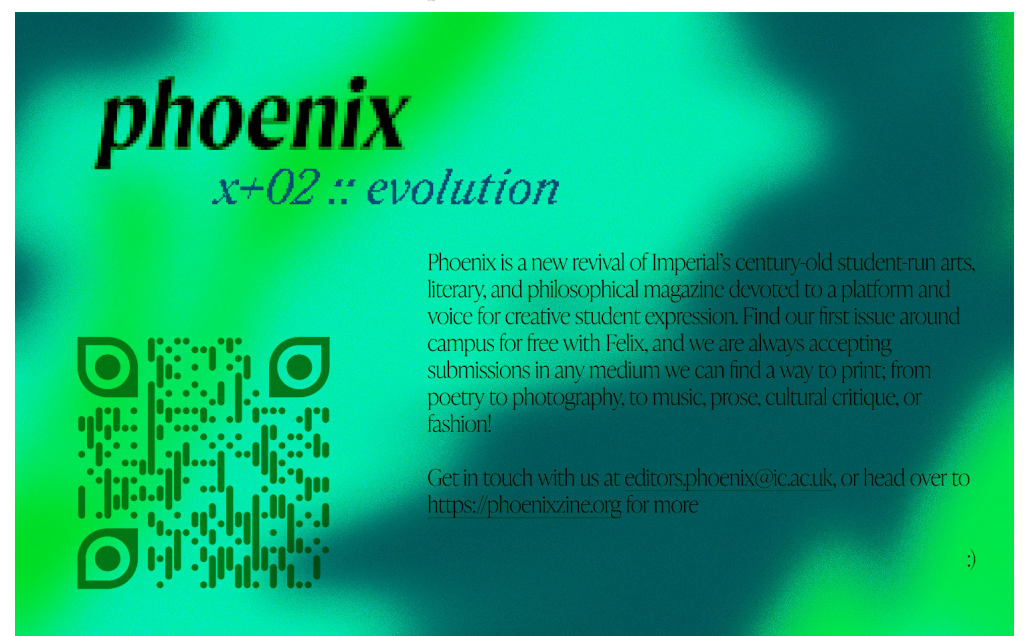
"The Covid-19 pandemic threw two years of unprecedented challenge at the higher education sector and our students, and we are proud of how universities adapted and managed in adverse circumstances.

"During some periods of lockdown, universities were not permitted to offer teaching and learning as usual and instead universities adjusted quickly and creatively to ensure students could learn and graduate.

"We are not able to comment on individual institutions or cases. Universities continually look to improve,

and raise standards if students are not getting the learning opportunities they deserve."

UUK are a group of vice-chancellors and principals, and represent 140 UK universities.



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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to share the story of how my partner and I escaped Russia.

I was in line for passport control in February when I received a call. A panicked friend wondered whether I'd seen Western news - the Russians are at the Ukrainian border. This had been censored on Russian news, so I had no idea what he was on about. I told him I was leaving on holiday to the Maldives, and he begged me to flee Russia immediately.

We fell in love on the island of Ukulus. Though we needed separate beds, this American and his Russian exchanged hushed pillowtalk in the dark stillness of this small island in the middle of the sea after tranquil walks along the shore under the moonlight, while all America and Russia exchanged were harsh threats. These were our last normal days for a while.

We returned to Moscow on Valentine's Day. There was no time for the bittersweetness of returning from holiday - there was only a frenzy. The U.N. Secretary-General spoke with the Security Council; America had evacuated her embassy staff from Ukraine. If Russia attacked Ukraine, the West would enact sanctions. Counter-sanctions from the Kremlin would make Americans like me *persona non grata*.

In five days I gathered five years of belongings, discarding a majority. My partner still had to work to sustain himself, and he was unable to relocate to a tolerant country. Due to the regime he opposes, of which he is a victim, he needs a visa to go to any gay-friendly country. We had to say goodbye.

The night before I left, we discussed touring places to figure out what we like. Next morning, we kissed farewell; he went to work; I rushed to the airport. Twelve hours after I landed in London, Russia invaded Ukraine. The ruble imploded. Flights sold out. Dystopian queues filled banks. A refugee crisis flooded across Europe. Baltic states closed their Russian borders. He could have been trapped at any moment. We decided that he should move out of Russia. He took a week off work and put in a tourist visa application to visit London to see if he liked it.

Normally applications take three weeks, but to be safe he paid £250 for the priority service, which reduces the waiting time to five working days, or so the UKVI advertises. We ended up waiting much longer.

While he waited, he could do nothing. Friends were arrested for walking near protests. Russian news filled with stories of arrests made for social media posts. The day before the application was due to be decided, a rumour circulated that Russia would institute martial law, begin drafting, and prohibit young Russian men from exiting the country. He was only 26. The risk was real that he could be forced to choose between dying in somebody else's war and rotting in prison for draft dodging.

He couldn't get his passport back without cancelling his visa application. He had an "internal" passport that let him travel to Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. In London, my friends and I sat together frantically searching for tickets. The last flights to Armenia had already sold out. Finally, I spent nearly £2000 to buy him the last ticket to Kyrgyzstan. He exchanged everything he had at the airport. He flew a few minutes before midnight on the day the draft was rumoured to start.

Life there was bleak as Kyrgyzstan is less developed. The day after he landed, MasterCard pulled out of Russia, so he couldn't receive money. Without his international passport he couldn't open accounts, and as a Russian he was banned from most fintech apps. Even with his cash it was hard to find a place. Accommodation was filling up — with Russians. He wandered every few days to a new hotel. This continued for 20 days. Finally, the sixth bank he visited allowed him to get a card. Great timing, as his cash had just finished.

After 30 days foreigners must register, but he couldn't register without his international passport. Luckily, Kazakhstan had started accepting internal Russian passports again. However, due to COVID-19 the land border was closed, so he was forced to take a 30-minute flight into Kazakhstan. He found out only at the airport that he was required to have a PCR test, and I rushed to get him money onto his new card. He got his PCR 30 seconds before they closed the doors of his flight. He made it.

It had now been over 5 weeks since he applied for a visa. UKVI refused to indicate when it might be done. I decided to fly out of London into Kazakhstan: being apart during such times was too difficult. We struggled to find accommodation as prices skyrocketed due to the influx of Russian escapees.

We waited a further 7 weeks, 13 weeks in total, for the visa. We waited two more for his mother to ship us his passport. After applying in February, we finally flew into London in July. While here, his mother told him that someone official, possibly military recruiters, came looking for him. When our friends heard, they proposed letting us stay here longer while we figure things out.

While we were in London, Putin announced the mobilisation. This was the final straw. I took him to the Royal Albert Hall. I explained how my life really started when I graduated here. I proposed that this is a fitting location to set off — this time together. If he'd like? *He said yes!*

Bradly Scott Kneisel, Imperial Alum

FRIDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER 2022

COMMENT

The power of action

Pete Knapp CivEng PhD Candidate

Did you see that Cromwell Road was blocked by *Just Stop Oil* (JSO) last week?

Did you know that they found the reaction from the public mostly positive and encouraging? Or do you believe the media headlines claiming that protesters are universally loathed and prevent ambulances from getting to hospitals? (The ambulance claims were debunked – the ambulance service told newspapers that paramedics were not slowed by JSO protests; they even have a ‘blue lights policy’ where emergency vehicles are always allowed to pass through.)

Just Stop Oil protesters blocked Cromwell Road on Wednesday 19th October. Critics claim that disruptive protests do more harm than good, but activists point to a history of effective and successful protests, including those of the suffragettes, who fought for women’s right to vote in the UK; and the US civil rights movement, both very unpopular in their times. Suffragettes slashed paintings in 1914, which led to all women being banned from the British Museum unless accompanied by a man. Their disruption forced society to change.

Disruption works. Disruption has been effective more recently as well, putting climate on the political agenda of the UK. Just two weeks after *Extinction Rebellion* occupied London in their 2019 protest, the UK declared a state of climate emergency, directly meeting one of the movement’s six demands. The percentage of people who thought ‘the environment’ was the most important issue facing the country increased, showing ‘reactive’ response from flooding and ‘proactive’ response from protest.

What does JSO want? *Just Stop Oil* wants the UK government to stop new fossil fuel exploration immediately, which agrees with the International Energy Agency’s demand that “There can be no more new investments in fossil fuel supply beyond that already committed as of 2021”. This means putting a stop to the 100 new licences the government wants to award in hope of



extracting more oil and gas. To achieve this, *Just Stop Oil* undertakes non-violent civil disobedience, which means they cause as much disruption as necessary to make it impossible to ignore their message: that new fossil fuel extraction will create a nightmarish future for all.

Roadblocks might be disruptive, but they are nothing compared with the disruption that is caused by the disasters made more likely and severe by burning fossil fuels. What is more disruptive: a roadblock for a few hours or a bridge collapsing from flash flooding? Or a war between nuclear nations when glaciers melt, leaving crops without water?

Climate protest is about being proactive — acting before disasters happen. The minds of many, including the government, are reactive — they act after disasters happen. We need action now to stop the worst from happening later. The alternative is to wait until more floods, famines, droughts, and

Felix welcomes contributions from students, alumni and staff. Feel free to write in to Comment.Felix@imperial.ac.uk to share your view!

conflicts are upon us before finally acting, ignoring the problems until after millions are affected, predominantly the people who have contributed least

to climate change and are least likely to have the resources to be able to adapt.

Credit: Pete Knapp (top)
Imperial College London (bottom)



Pete was arrested in April for involvement in protests outside the BEIS building

FRIDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER 2022

Can you teach STEM students about finance in an interesting way?

Anonymous

I have been at Imperial for a while and one thing that sticks out to me is the lack of enthusiasm in the way things are taught. Lecturers who may be world experts in their field often find it difficult to convey their excitement and passion for the lecture courses they teach. Often, this is out of a pure distraction caused by their own research that is responsible for bringing funding to the college.

Sometimes, however, there might be a handful of lecturers who really put their ideas to paper and try to make the experience more enjoyable. One of the newcomers in this field is not actually a lecturer but actually a society, namely the college's Investment Society. Given the STEM-dominated nature of the college, students like you and I often find it perversely difficult to understand anything that is going on in the economy or in finance. What does it mean for the dollar to strengthen against the pound? Why is a tax cut not going to be good for the economy in the light of inflation making our lives more challenging every day?

The Investment Society has spent the last two years working on adapting its own lecture course, the Securities Education Certificate (jokingly abbreviated to the American stock police, the SEC) in a bid to level the

playing field against the Oxbridge, LSE, and UCL economists so that Imperial STEM students, regardless of their field of study, can develop an interest in investment and finance with the potential to develop a career in the industry.

Developed by an ambitious group of lecturers led by one former *Felix* column editor, Ahmad Danesh, they have cracked not only a solution to the financial illiteracy that all students face across the world, but they have also found a way to engage the audience and make the content so simple to understand, you would struggle to remember a time when a lecture was so easy to enjoy. When the content was so easy to grasp the first time round that you would not need to Google a single concept because the lecturer made sure that they knew what you would think and what you were going to ask in the back of your mind.

I went to the lecture last week on macroeconomics and foreign exchange just to see what the hype really was about. I had heard that 650+ students had signed up (making it the biggest lecture course on campus) but what was different was the clarity and the entertaining nature of the lecturers themselves. Ahmad was discussing the idea of a basket of goods being used as a benchmark to calculate the rate of inflation through something called the Consumer Price Index (the CPI). To illustrate the point, he brought

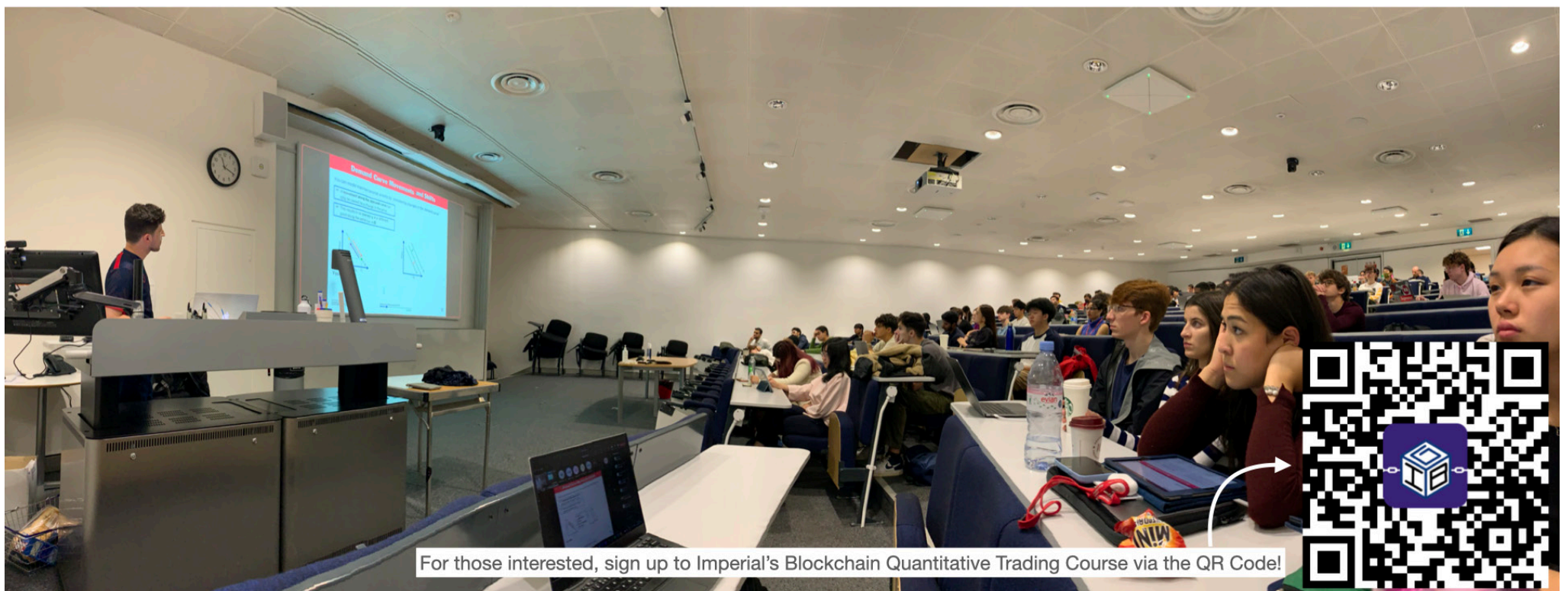
an entire basket from Tesco's with bread, cereal, and milk inside it to showcase what the basket really meant... a basket! He talked about the different currencies that you could use to pay for the basket and even light-heartedly made a joke about the Turkish Lira losing its value by more than half every day thanks to the current rate of inflation exceeding well above 100%, according to experts.

As with all lectures, it was not all perfect. Technical issues in Clore meant there were delays thanks to the microphone and the speaker was rooted to the computer desk without being able to walk to the screen and point at graphs that were visible on the screen. The market update delivered by an analyst in the Investment Society's capital fund, QT Capital, could have benefited from actual slides that I could take home and read in my own time. Although that is a very small point to make, since the updates were so good that in the time that Ahmad lectured about foreign exchange, the Japanese Central Bank had announced an intervention, so I could immediately apply what I had learned to an event that had not even happened before the start of the lecture. Clore was also a stuffy lecture theatre and I did not appreciate the lack of air conditioning, but the lecture itself was quite fun overall.

I spoke to Ahmad at the end of the lecture since the other lecturer was away

at another event entirely. He said that his time as a Chemistry student really helped him understand things better and develop an appreciation for how to learn a difficult concept, which were ideas he brought to this eight-year-old lecture course. He does say that while registration to the SEC is now closed, he will be back with the Imperial Blockchain Group to teach quantitative trading to all STEM students for 12 weeks from January 2023. If the SEC is anything to go by, it will be exciting to see what Ahmad and the Blockchain Group do to revolutionise teaching even more next year!

Credit: Imperial College Investment Society



For those interested, sign up to Imperial's Blockchain Quantitative Trading Course via the QR Code!

SCIENCE

How to live without red blood cells

► Staff Writer Wang Guo on the curious physiology of icefish

Wang Guo Staff Writer

All vertebrates need red blood cells to live – except the icefish, which lacks these cells as well as haemoglobin. Living on the floor of the cold oceans surrounding Antarctica, the icefish accounts for 90% of the fish biomass of its habitat. Though the water's freezing point is lower due to the presence of salts within, the water temperature still has a harsh range of 1.5°C in the summer to -1.8°C during the winter. Surprisingly, however, the icefish's lack of red blood cells and the harsh conditions of its environment are a perfect match.

The absence of red blood cells greatly reduces the icefish's capability to transport oxygen throughout its body, causing it to carry around 47% less oxygen in its blood than other fish. This would be a massive disadvantage if we did not take into account the type of environments the icefish lives in. In such low temperatures, blood tends to solidify and become thicker and harder for the heart to pump, thus being counterproductive for survival. Though

deleterious at first glance, the loss of red blood cells turns out to be advantageous for the icefish in its environment.

Oxygen also dissolves better in colder water because the kinetic energy of water molecules is lower, causing them to bind more tightly and trap oxygen better. This leads to oxygen concentration being higher in oceans around Antarctica than in temperate oceans, allowing the icefish to partially compensate for its lack of red blood cells. In addition, the icefish has bigger gills as well as thick scaleless skin that can facilitate the direct exchange of gases between its body and the surrounding environment.

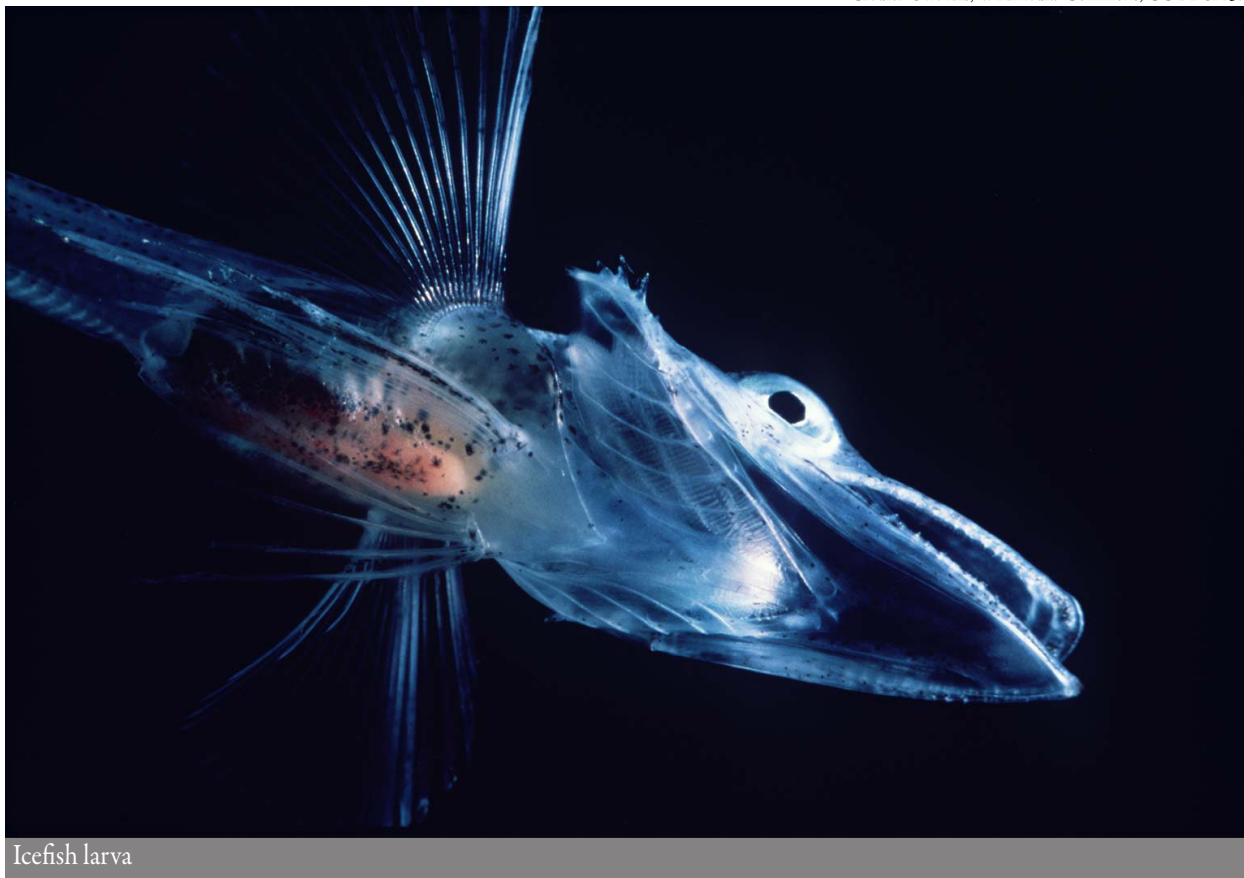
The icefish can also compensate for decreased oxygen delivery with a more powerful and efficient circulatory system. The icefish has larger hearts and blood

vessels than fish from temperate waters, so it can transport more blood and thus more oxygen. Additionally, a significant portion of the icefish's energy is spent powering its circulatory system—22% to be exact. In comparison, fish from temperate waters and humans spend only around 5%.

Normally, if a vertebrate animal is frozen, it can hardly return to life because the ice crystals formed during frostbite are sharp and will break cellular structures. However, the icefish has antifreeze proteins that prevent the formation of ice crystals in their bodies. These special proteins bind to forming ice crystals, inhibiting the further binding of water molecules to these crystals and stopping their growth. Antifreeze proteins decrease the freezing point of the icefish's body fluids to -2.5°C. This is 0.5°C below the freezing point of seawater, a small temperature difference which in harsh situations separates life and death. Though the antifreeze system of the icefish is not perfect and the icefish still has some tiny ice crystals in its body, it surprisingly can continue living despite that. Scientists are researching this incredible phenomenon as it breaks the assumption that

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THE ICEFISH'S
LACK OF RED
BLOOD CELLS
AND ITS HARSH
ENVIRONMENT
ARE A PERFECT
MATCH

Credit: Uwe kils, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0



Icefish larva

Credit: Ministry of Communications of the USSR



The mackerel icefish (*Champscephalus gunnari*) on a 1978 Soviet postage stamp

vertebrates cannot survive with ice crystals in their bodies. Finding out the mechanisms behind this occurrence might also have huge implications for the development of better cryopreservation techniques.

Why would the icefish like to live in such extreme environments where most other fish would simply perish? Due to the absence of competition, the waters are richer in plankton and krill, which the icefish feed on. In addition, the icefish lacks many predators simply by living in such environments where their potential predators cannot. This allows the icefish to focus most of its energy towards adapting to the environment rather than competing with other living beings.

As red blood cells increase the amount of oxygen transported, they are evolutionarily advantageous in almost all vertebrates, except the icefish because adaptations are context dependent. The icefish is a marvellous example of the idea that there is no such thing as a universal statement in nature.

This week in Science...

FROM IMPERIAL

Tiny new microscope could accelerate breast cancer detection

The endo-microscope, developed by Dr Khushi Vyas and a team of engineers at Imperial's Hamlyn Centre, can be steered through small, tight spaces in the body to provide views of tissues and organs during surgery. Used in combination with new tissue staining and classification protocols, it can generate tissue images at 120 frames per second. In preliminary studies, the endo-microscope was able to identify features smaller than a single cell. "This is a huge leap forward in terms of image acquisition", said Dr Vyas. The microscope is currently being tested by surgeons and pathologists on lab samples of human cancer tissues. It is hoped that the instrument will aid high-precision breast-conserving surgery by enabling surgeons to identify suspicious tumours and cancerous cells quickly and accurately. "By reducing the time it takes to identify cancerous cells and improve the accuracy of imaging the endo-microscope developed by Dr Vyas and her team could benefit patients and the NHS by reducing waiting lists."

460km-long river under Antarctic ice sheet could be accelerating ice loss, says new study

The river, previously unknown to scientists, shows that the base of the ice sheet has more active water flow than previously thought, which could make it more susceptible to changes in climate. "When we first discovered lakes beneath the Antarctic ice a couple of decades ago, we thought they were isolated from each other", said Professor Martin Siegert, a co-author of the paper and Co-Director of the Grantham Institute. "Now we are starting to understand there are whole systems down there, interconnected by vast river networks, just as they might be if there weren't thousands of metres of ice on top of them. The region where this study is based holds enough ice to raise the sea level globally by 4.3m. How much of this ice melts, and how quickly, is linked to how slippery the base of the ice is. The newly discovered river system could strongly influence this process."

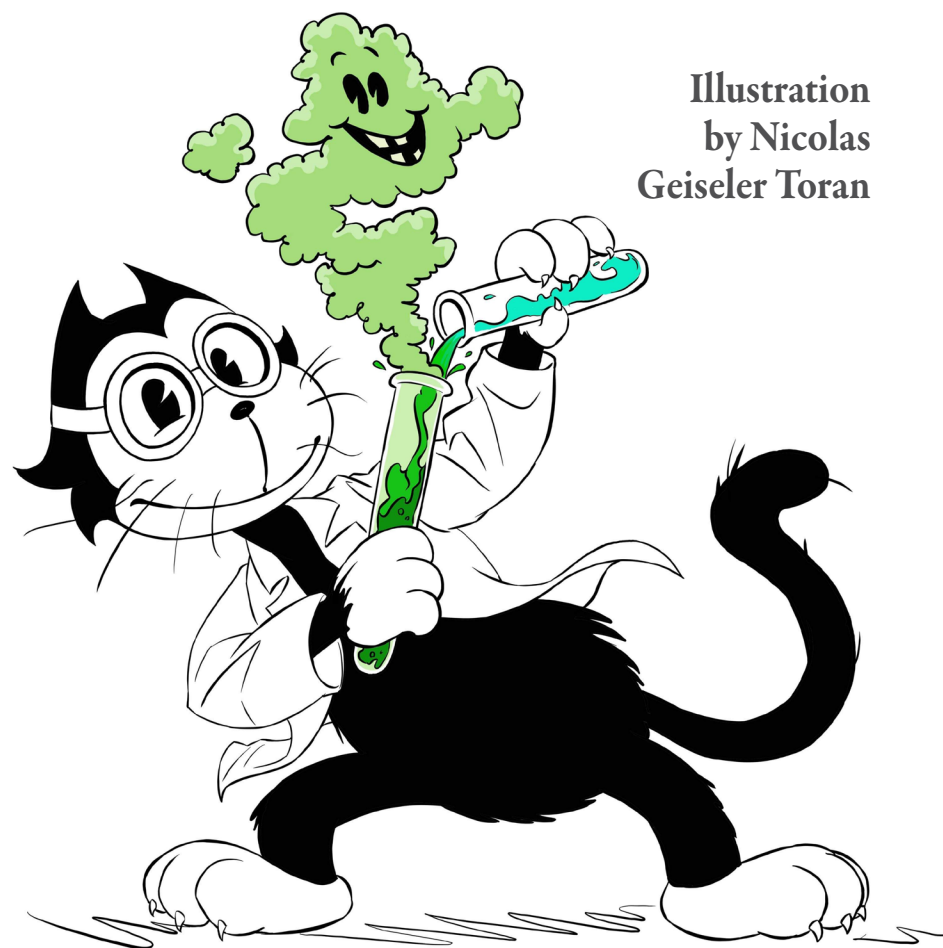
AROUND THE WORLD...

Oh deer! Collisions with deer increase by 16% in the US in the week after the autumn clock change

"The switch from daylight saving to standard time in autumn causes peak traffic volumes to shift from before sunset to after sunset, leading to a 16% spike in deer-vehicle collisions", say researchers from the University of Washington, Seattle. Writing in *Current Biology*, they show that collisions are 14 times more frequent 2 hours after sunset than before sunset. Their results are based on an analysis of 1,012,465 deer-vehicle collisions and 96 million hourly traffic observations across the United States. "Permanent daylight saving time would prevent 36,550 deer-vehicle collisions and \$1.2 billion in collision costs annually in the US", according to their report.

Science and Tech Writers Wanted!

Illustration
by Nicolas
Geiseler Toran



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- Interviews with academics
- Research spotlights
- Science and tech news articles
- Science and tech analysis
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26.11.22

IC RADIO



PRESENTS



"MODULATE"

ART BY @CONSTTOU

FRIDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2022

ARTS

Come into the theatre!

Sophie Reck-Pointon Arts Writer

While it's too late to write a review on *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, which I watched last Friday night at the National Theatre, it was so good I felt compelled to write an article about the theatre all the same, to share even just some of its brilliance and magic, and to let others in on the secret finding cheap seats (or standing space).

I couldn't believe my luck when I found out that the National Theatre does £5 tickets if you're aged 16-18 (£10 tickets if you're aged 19-25 – but they didn't even ask for any ID, just waved me in after seeing the date and QR code on the ticket). There's a fantastic selection of plays to choose from, and

if they are a similar quality to *Blues* then you are in for something special.

As I mentioned before, *Blues* was fantastic. Some might say parallels could be drawn with *A View from the Bridge*, but Pearl Cleage's writing combined with the rotating set and Samira Wiley's stunning voice created a vision of burning emotion, hungry dreams and startling tragedy. Five stars and a standing ovation from me all the way.

However, if you want to go to *The Crucible* (whose run is nearing its end), you'll have to try your luck with Friday Rush tickets, which is where you click on a link at 1pm on Friday and get put in a randomly assigned queue for cheaper tickets for shows for the next week. There's a comment

on the page saying if you've got a number bigger than 150 you're going to be waiting for a while - I was 718th.

This got me wondering: what else is out there? It turns out there is quite a lot.

I found that at *The Old Vic* they do something called "PWC £10 Preview" tickets for the first five performances of every show. Then I went looking for student concessions and couldn't find any, so I'll have to wait until I'm over 60 to get a discount there! The *Young Vic* does a similar thing: £10 tickets for full-time students and people under 25.

Unfortunately, I couldn't find much for the *Royal Albert Hall* apart from a discount of 7% on a dodgy website page called "Student Discount". If you find anything better, let me know.

At *BFI Southbank*, for cinema enthusiasts under 25, they offer £3 cinema tickets (for any screening) and £5 festival tickets. They do older films, foreign films, the latest releases: something for anyone (I must also mention the *Ciné Lumière* does £5 tickets for under 25s. About a 5-minute walk from South Kensington campus, as well).

Continuing with my investigations, things got better and better...

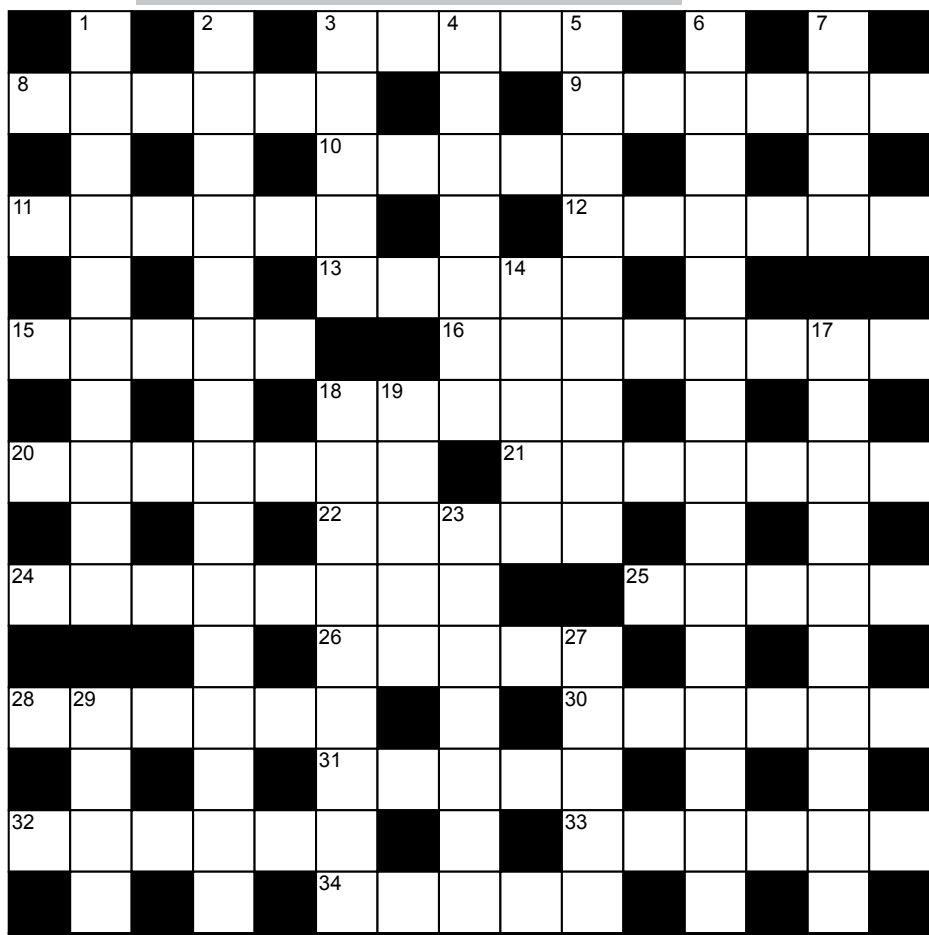
If you're a classical music fan, the *Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment* offers a great bargain of £5 for any seat if you're a student. There isn't a huge choice, but after the next performance (*Sounds for the End of a Century*, featuring works by Camille Saint-Saëns on the 26th of January), the choice goes Handel Bach Mozart Mozart, which isn't half bad for half a tenner.

Meanwhile, *The Royal Opera House* does £11 standing/restricted view tickets so you can file in alongside people who have paid £235 to see the same thing.

And then there is the well-known one at *The Globe* and its sister theatre, the *Sam Wanamaker Playhouse* of £5 standing tickets. *Henry V* is the only play showing throughout November, and *Hawkawatis: Women of the Arabian Nights* begins on the 1st of December.



CRYPTIC Crossword Grid



CRYPTIC Crossword Clues

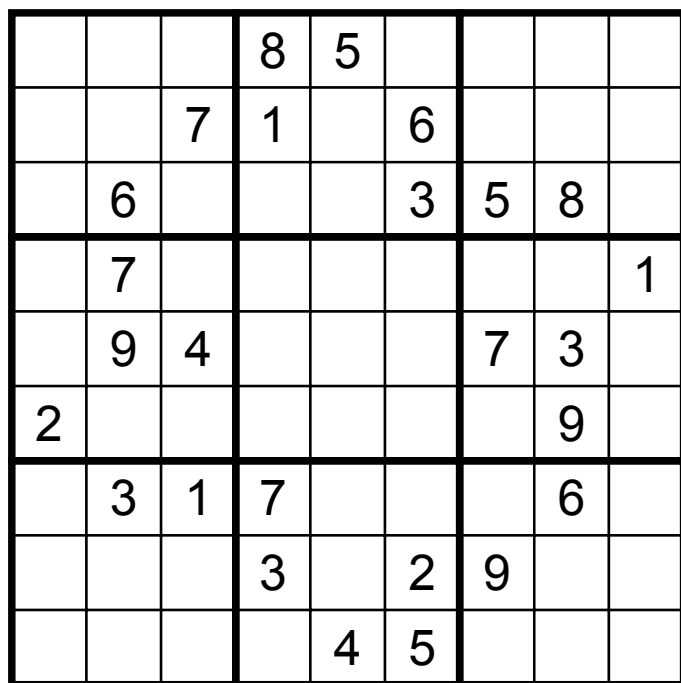
Across

- 3) Evidence that polar cap gets shielding from the sun. [5]
- 8) Keep watch on changing polar temperature extreme. [6]
- 9) Pay no attention to that one gnome, Mr. Trade.
- 10) I can't go about this tomfoolery. [5]
- 11) Ray swimming around the North pole is a hero. [3-3]
- 12) Sailor and revolutionary get blamed. [6]
- 13) Secret police showing almost complete inactivity. [5]
- 15) Peels back the rest. [5]
- 16) Poisonous creature is descendent of expert in transport inward. [8]
- 18) Behemoth has a terrible blight. [5]
- 20) Conflict over Royal Mail after 1945? [4-3]
- 21) The occasional morsel of cheese on toast. [7]
- 22) Snatch up that melt-in-the-middle baked good. [5]
- 24) Tradition new to being slowed down. [8]
- 25) Some referrals are wild. [5]
- 26) Man takes handheld console for spares. [5]
- 28) Goddess shown before, in articles. [6]
- 30) Part with or sort out your bird! [6]
- 32) I shuffle around with my bird. [6]
- 33) She cooks rice in the city. [6]
- 34) Had a fourth-tier beer? [5]

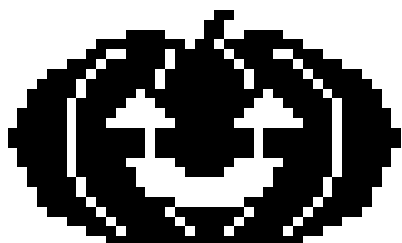
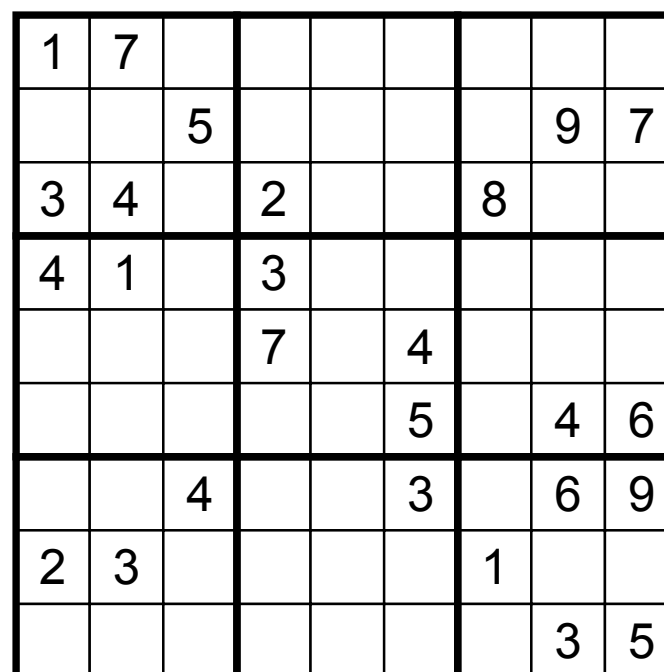
Down

- 1) Sound can alone induce in the top of the tubes. [10]
- 2) When I practiced topiary, I hacked off the wall of the inner hospital. [7 3 5]
- 3) Sleeps around with fifty (or at least intends to)! [5]
- 4) Ostracised when you no longer need physical support? [7]
- 5) Imagined winding tinfoil around . [9]
- 6) In the business, I enrapture Helen from HR, going in hot. [15]
- 7) Plead with my desire. [4]
- 14) Races around and gets a fright. [5]
- 17) It has "yes" written on it — in two different languages! [5 5]
- 18) But a delta-wave is put into the grid. [9]
- 19) I recommend making him frustrated. [5]
- 23) Fun on a gold boat. [7]
- 27) A flaw in such perfect eyes couldn't keep for a start. [5]
- 29) It's valid to regret losing your ring. [4]

Easy Sudoku



Normal Sudoku



Points

- Easy, Normal sudokus 2, 3, pts each
- Minesweeper 3 pts
- Nonogram 3 pts
- Cryptic crossword 5, 3 pts

You can send your solutions to Puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk before Wednesday 9th at 12:00!

CATNIP

US announces plans to regrow burned down forests in time for next year's wildfire season

Doug Parker NegaFelix Reporter

With another year of devastating wildfires, the US government is facing growing pressure to combat their catastrophic effects on the environment.

As a result, Washington has announced an unprecedented level of spending dedicated to planting trees in badly affected areas, with the aim of rejuvenating wildlife habitats and the air quality in urban areas. Notably, spaces like parks, hospitals and the linings of roads in residential areas are to receive particularly high levels of attention. The government has even gone as far as to set the deadline for less than a year's time, acting as a symbolic gesture of how far they've come as the country heads into its next wildfire season. California

governor Gavin Newsom commented, "The wildfires this year decimated our national parks and destroyed thousands of homes. But we're going to grow back stronger and when the next wildfire season comes around, I'm sure our forests will be packed with trees again." Whilst the move has largely been applauded, it does mark a change in policy from the previous government. Less than three years ago a government spokesperson was quoted as saying, "Everyone is overreacting, wildfires aren't even that bad. In fact bushfires are a natural and necessary part of the ecosystem. We all know that bushfires help to kill a lot of invasive species." Though that may be true, critics were quick to point out that bushfires kill an awful lot of

native ones as well.

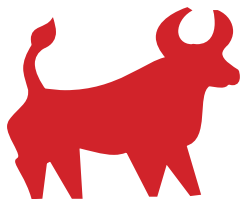
The spokesperson from the previous government rounded off the press conference by saying "So what if a few species go extinct: survival of the fittest. Not that I believe in evolution, but this way we'll just be left with the cream of the crop. I'm talking about the animals that can rapidly adapt extreme heat and dangerous levels of smoke inhalation, which to be honest just sounds like my Grandma when she goes to Florida. Given how much she smokes, I wouldn't even be surprised if she started a few of those fires."

In a display of the strength for the 'special relationship', this sentiment was reiterated by his British counterpart - only with Florida substituted for Benidorm.



ARIES

This week you combine all types of CBT when your therapist kicks you in the balls



TAURUS

This week you inadvertently rewrite little red riding hood when you ask "Why Grandma, your bussy is so fat!"



GEMINI

This week your friend with benefits has their government allowance means-tested



CANCER

This week your taste for men in uniform becomes critical as you find that one guy who dressed as a Nazi for Halloween attractive



LEO

This week no one knows what you're capable of (one push-up)



VIRGO

This week you take No Nut November to new extremes when you order soya milk instead of almond



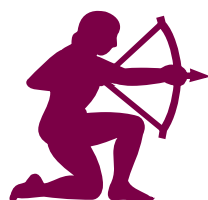
LIBRA

This week you realise that Matt Hancock being on 'I'm a Celeb' means he'll be cheating on his girlfriend with a worm



SCORPIO

This week's you write a letter to King Charles petitioning to make Buckingham Palace a paintball arena because its what she would have wanted



SAGITTARIUS

This week you try to make friends at a Halloween party by sharing your constipation relief tips



CAPRICORN

This week you realise the reason you didn't fit in at school was your huge ass



AQUARIUS

This week you clean out your fridge's vegetable drawer



PISCES

This week you can't decide between Dish Rishi and Rishi SuSnack

This is your weekly reminder that the Catnip section of *Felix* is satire. If you actually believe any of what we print, well, I don't even know what to say.

CATNIP

The mystery continues: porcupine therapy for the blind is making the problem worse

The price of therapy dogs has rocketed 300% in the last year due to incredible demand from medium sized offices with less-than-satisfied employees. That is a true fact. And with the Union's finances gutted by pandemic closures and rife embezzlement, a bushel of golden retriever puppies was well beyond its price range. Luckily for the Union's politburo, so-called "Spiny Dennis", the wandering salesman who can often be seen sleeping in the crevices around Beit Quadrangle, was able to offer a cost efficient solution. Whilst the cost of a golden lab is stratospheric and still rising, the cost of an hour with between six and eight underfed porcupines remains at its historic rock-bottom price point.

How the health and safety managers wept,

then, when therapy sessions booked by BlindSoc got off to a thorny start. Through means that elude even the most hawkish event coordinators, attendees kept ending up with wounds across the hands and shins, despite a stringent register ensuring that only BlindSoc members were allowed in the room, and a recently decommissioned metal detector from Heathrow at the door to check members for weaponry. When the third session turned out just as bloody as the first two, coordinators decided that foul play had to be afoot in what might have been written off as incidents of spontaneous bleeding.

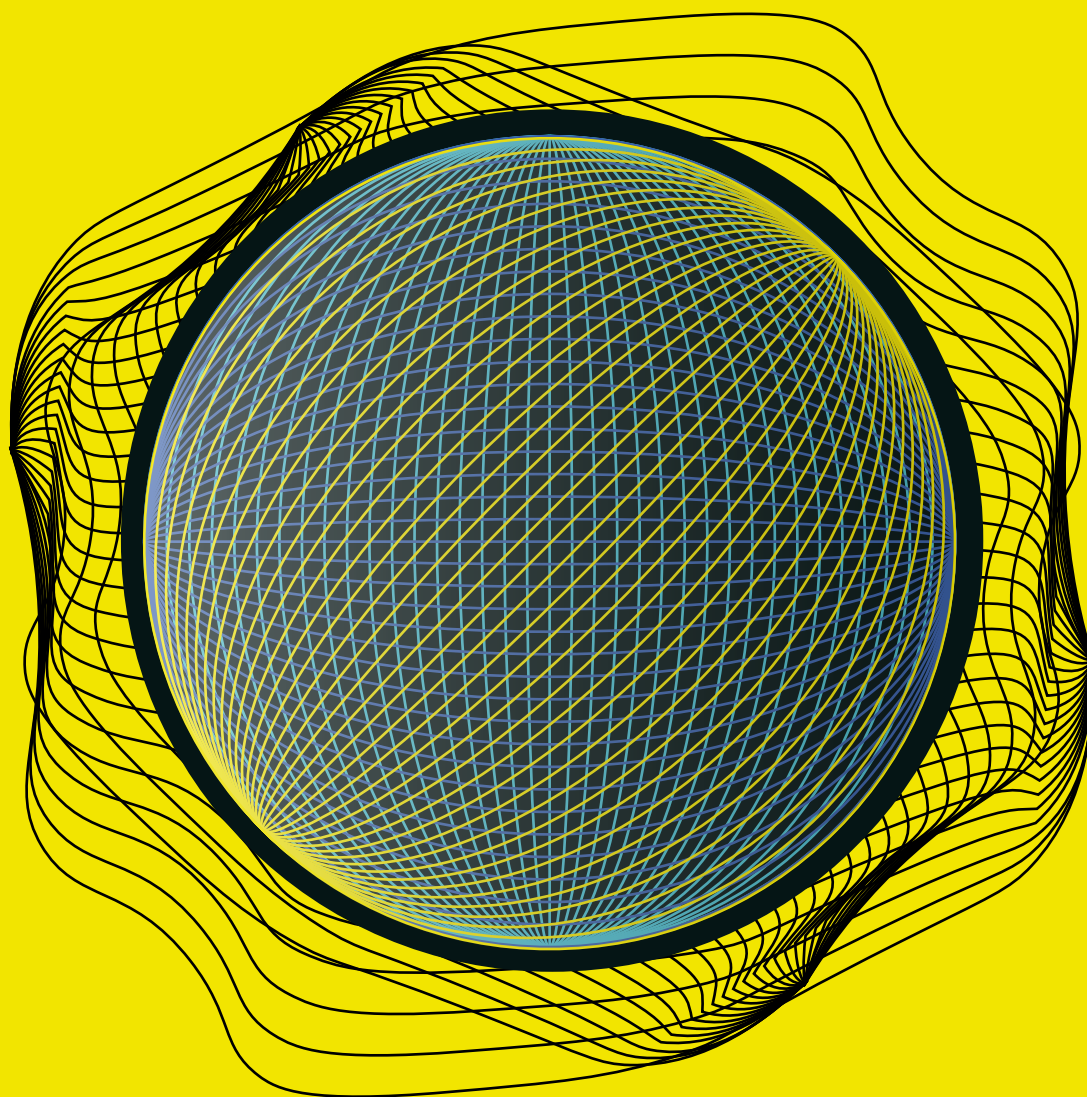
Investigations are limited mostly by geopolitics. Due to the nocturnal habits of the porcupine, and the fact that BlindSoc members are, well, blind,

standard operating procedure dictates that unnecessary lighting must be kept off at all times during the event to save on energy bills which have exploded since Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Of course, this means observers cannot see what's going on.

Things reached a new nadir when Max Oculus, a prospective BlindSoc member who wasn't actually blind and was therefore ineligible for membership, but "wanted to see what all the tapping was about", turned up to a session with a mocked up stick and black out glasses and actually left fully blind. As he was still wearing his shades when it happened, his testimony of what went down was total garbage.



DECIBEL



09
NOV

LINE UP

ALMASS BADAT

D-LISH

SHAUN SKY

SHIVUM SHARMA

SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS



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FILM

Film Review

Attachment | Natten har øjne

Film Editor Jonah Hewett presents a review of a Danish horror film from the BFI London Film Festival

Jonah Hewett Film Editor

The Exorcist, The Conjuring, The Omen, Rosemary's Baby, The Conjuring 2, The Nun. The horror genre is rife with Christian imagery and folklore. It's not surprising that a genre of films that aim to scare or unsettle us would draw largely on the stories and ideas that have been used to scare us into piety and repentance for hundreds of years, or subvert the associated morals that form the foundation of our modern society. From the start, horror drew directly on religious themes; Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, a cautionary tale about man's hubris in attempting to create life, and the dangers of rationalism being divorced from a codified morality. But there's an incredibly deep folklore that is rarely depicted in modern film, which is that of Judaism, or more specifically Kabbalism, which refers to old traditions of Jewish mysticism. *Attachment* takes the classic horror staple of demonic possession and rehomes it in this rich mythology.

Attachment, or *Natten Har Øjne* (The Night Has Eyes), is an irreverent Danish horror rom-com directed by Gabriel Bier Gislason, his feature debut. The film draws us in with a classic example of international girl meets girl, as struggling Danish actor Maja (Josephine Park) bumps into British exchange student Leah (Elle Kendrick) at a local library, who promptly drops an armful of books. A couple of days and drinks later, and Leah has effectively moved in. Not long after that, a lovestruck Maja is accompanying Leah back to her townhouse in Stamford Hill, an area of London home to Europe's largest Hasidic Jewish community, that she shares with her Danish - and quite orthodox - mother (Sofie Gråbøl). Speaking at the London Film Festival, Kendrick herself, who identifies as lesbian, emphasised this use of the now common cultural joke of the 'U-Haul lesbian'. Altogether though, *Attachment* does a great job of not making a big deal out of its same-sex relationship - at least, as much as it can be avoided in the Orthodox Jewish setting.

Gislason (who is Jewish himself) admits that he took some creative license



with the depiction of the Hasidic community, focusing on evoking a shared cultural experience that playfully leans on stereotypes rather than a fully accurate account of life in Stamford Hill. Sofie Gråbøl is excellent in the role of the overbearing Jewish mother, for whom "everything is always a matter of life and death" - although, in this film, it really is. As unique as the premise is, it's the cast that really brings this film to life. The chemistry - and tension - between the three women, cooped up in a small London town house, brilliantly captures the stark cultural contrasts. Themes like that seem to come naturally to Gislason, who has spent time living in both Copenhagen and London. You can tell; we experience life in Maja's shoes as she leaves her bright, modern Scandinavian apartment and finds herself in front of the kind of grey, Victorian terraced house that I'm sure we're all very familiar with. The culture shock expertly

Credit: NORDISK FILM



embodied by the bewildered authenticity and Danish reticence that Josephine Park brings to a role that was, literally, written for her.

Love is the other central theme in *Attachment*. Both the passionate and confusing love of a whirlwind relationship, and the powerful and sometimes stifling love between a mother and her daughter. In translating those emotions to horror, and ideas of uncertainty and distrust, *Attachment* foregoes loud jump scares and harsh cuts in favour of a slow tension and a patient spookiness, and it does it very well. One of the few critiques that I could offer of this film was that it could perhaps throw itself a little deeper into the horror, especially towards the third act, although that certainly isn't to say that *Attachment* isn't plenty creepy. It's equal-parts incredibly touching and nerve-wracking, and expertly balances its fusion of genres to generate a refreshing and memorable experience that is well worth a watch, if you can find somewhere to watch it.

What's on this month

Film Society runs weekly screenings of hand-picked films, from classic classics to modern classics. Follow them on Instagram @filmsoc.ic to see which film is on each week and get tickets!

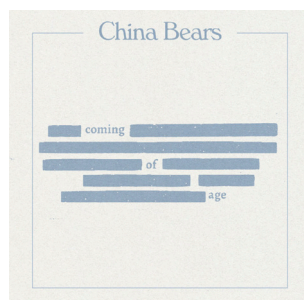
The French Film Festival comes to cinemas across the UK from 2 Nov to 15 Dec, featuring a stellar line-up of premieres at the Ciné Lumière in South Kensington from 2 to 13 November. Don't miss the opportunity!

MUSIC

Edited by: JOE RIORDAN
TARA PAL CHAUDHURI

**DON'T MISS THE GIG –
CHINA BEARS (SPECIAL
STRIPPED BACK SET) @
ST PANCRAS CHURCH,
DECEMBER 1ST**

**CATCH ENGLISH
INDIE ROCK
BAND, CHINA
BEARS, PERFORM
SOME WISTFUL
YET ANTHEMIC
TUNES AT CLOSE
QUARTERS IN ST
PANCRAS CHURCH FOR ONLY £9!**



Single of the Week

**'Lazy - the piano version' by
Baby Queen**

In anticipation of her Heaven megashow tonight (I'm editing on Tuesday, just pretend it hasn't happened yet), rising Gen Z popstar Baby Queen has released a stripped-back piano version of her track 'Lazy'. This remix puts full focus on Baby Queen herself, showcasing her unique voice and internet culture-ridden lyrics. Expect to see a review for the Heaven gig next week, but for now listen to 'the piano version'.



TODAY IN MUSIC HISTORY

**DESPITE BEING
AT THE TOP OF
THE CHARTS WITH
HER NEW ALBUM
MIDNIGHTS THIS
WEEK, 7 YEARS AGO,
IN 2015, TAYLOR
SWIFT WAS IN THE
MIDDLE OF A LEGAL
BATTLE. SWIFT WAS SUED FOR £27M FOR
ALLEGEDLY STEALING THE LYRICS TO
'SHAKE IT OFF' BY R&B SINGER JESSE
BRAHAM. DON'T WORRY THOUGH, THE
CASE WAS QUICKLY DISMISSED.**



Felix Recommends

Dip in the Discography: Arctic Monkeys

As the Sheffield band basks in the release of their seventh studio album, The Car, we curate a list of our favourite lyrics from their top 20 songs to help the uninitiated



View online here!

Written by **Zanna Buckland** Music Writer

If you're anything like me, then you hang on to every lyric of a song, and absolutely adore a nonsensical ramble with tons of layers of meaning behind it. Unfortunately, this means parts of my brain that should be full of stress-strain calculations and material properties are instead spilling over with an excessive number of song lyrics. The Arctic Monkeys are well known for unique lyrical and musical arrangements and vast range of styles; in honour of their recent album release, here are 20 of my favourites from their other albums.

'Old Yellow Bricks'

'You are the fugitive/But you don't know what you're runnin' from' A personal favourite: the whimsy of the Wizard of Oz seeps into what sounds like a 'regular' rock song. There's an undertone of uncertainty in it that keeps you slightly on edge, and the yellow brick road references are used as a metaphor for leaving home to go to a big city and realising it's not what you really wanted.

'One Point Perspective'

'Dancing in my underpants/I'm gonna run for government' There's no better example of the Arctic Monkeys' genius – a combination of quirky sounds and all-over-the-place lyrics. Alex Turner's heavy enunciation highlights his Yorkshire accent distinctively as he talks about losing track of your childhood dreams and goals as you get older.

'I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor'

'Your name isn't Rio/But I don't care for sand' Hands down the best song for going crazy in the club – an instant and relentless adrenaline boost. It's arguably their highest energy song and shows off Turner's penchant for referencing pop culture.

'Piledriver Waltz'

'Sat in the back booth/Near the pamphlets and the literature on how to lose' A more acoustic version of this was featured in the film *Submarine*, and it's a huge contrast from the track above. Piledriver Waltz is mellow and could lull you into a sense of melancholy with its lyrics that don't entirely agree with its backing music.

'Fluorescent Adolescent'

'You took a left off Last Laugh Lane' Contains a brilliantly funky riff and is almost a rap in the way it's sung. You know it's lyrically going to be a good one with a name like 'Fluorescent Adolescent', and it's a little comedic in a precise way.

'Bigger Boys and Stolen Sweethearts'

'He's pinched your bird and he'd probably kick my head in' Turner sounds a bit old-fashioned here, lamenting the loss of a girl 'stolen' by another guy, even though he didn't miss her when they first broke up. The drums, bass, and guitar are energetic on this, in the vein of 'I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor.'

'Mardy Bum'

'When you're all argumentative/And you've got that face on' The kind of song that feels tragic but still makes you want to dance. Jamie Cook's punchy guitar punctuates Turner's sentences, and there's a huge range of different-sounding sections that keeps things interesting.

'Four Out of Five'

'The information-action ratio/Is the place to go' One of their slower ones, as are many on this album, and full of fun wordplay. It acts as a 'review' or 'advert' for the *Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino* – the title of the concept album.

'Snap Out of It'

'I wanna grab both your shoulders and shake, baby/Snap out of it' The *AM* album is short and snappy, and contains many fan-favourite tracks, but this one in particular is a head-bopper. It's one of those infectious, catchy songs that would appeal to most listeners.

'Star Treatment'

All the lyrics in this one are great – take my word for it. It's unassuming at first listen, but great for a chill night in or when you want to feel calm. 'Star Treatment' sounds simultaneously comforting and otherworldly.

'When The Sun Goes Down'

'She don't do major credit cards/I doubt she does receipts' An example of the band dealing with a racy topic in a seemingly upbeat tone, which uses their signature soft start and ending to convey sympathy.

'Stop The World I Wanna Get Off With You'

'With the exception of you/I dislike everyone in the room' The B-side to 'Why'd You Only Call Me When You're High.' There's a great visual in the title alone, and it's another track that could be considered easy listening while staying true to the band's style.

'Love is a Laserquest'

'And when I'm hanging on by the rings around my eyes/And I convince myself I need another' Slower songs like this one actually showcase drummer Matt Helders better than some of the fast ones. Turner's voice stays in a narrower range and lower register than

MUSIC

usual, and the track is less about the lyrics themselves and more about the atmosphere.

'Arabella'

'The horizon tries but it's just not as kind on the eyes' Great heavy drums and bass, and a punchy rhythm, as well as another fun but brief guitar solo from Cook. The lyrics in *'Arabella'* feel like you're being taken on a journey through a dreamscape.

'Crying Lightning'

'With folded arms you occupied the bench like toothache' The tracks on the album, *Humbug*, feel grittier and a bit rough around the edges, almost like grunge music. *'Crying Lightning'* has a sardonic tone that makes it particularly entertaining to listen to.

'Cornerstone'

'She was nothing but a vision trick under the warning light' Having said the songs on *Humbug* are grunge-like, this one is more folk-sounding, and plays with the use of imagery while forming a narrative.

'Knee Socks'

'You're kissing to cut through the gloom/With a cough

drop-coloured tongue' Sharp and snappy, *'Knee Socks'* embodies *AM* well, and refers to some of the other songs on the album. It's another bit of fun, with Turner making fuller use of backing vocals and echoes.

'Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino'

'Mark speaking, please tell me how may I direct your call' Summoning thoughts of *'Hotel California'*, this is as whimsical as they come. The vocals are ethereal, and parts of the backing music emulate a church organ sound, rendering it a little spooky.

'Suck It and See'

'I poured my aching heart into a pop song' The verses of *'Suck It and See'* are reminiscent of *'Lyn' Eyes'*, another Eagles song, who the band clearly draws influence from. Again, a simple and accessible concept but executed well.

'From the Ritz to the Rubble'

'To walk back past ten-thousand eyes in the line' This one's for fans of Yungblud – you'd be forgiven for thinking Turner had been joined by the punk rock singer on this track. It's another fast, high-energy track

conjuring images of Sheffield on a night out. Another great song to dance to!

Bonus Tracks and Lyrics

'Hello You' 'Waiting for sets of winds and bends to level out again'

'Body Paint' 'do your time travelling through the tanning booth, so you don't let the sun catch you crying'

'Sculptures Of Anything Goes' 'The simulation cartridge for City Life '09/Is pretty tricky to come by' Alex Turner (solo songs from the film *Submarine*)

'Stuck On the Puzzle' 'Stood pretending/That something in your magnetism/Hadn't just made him drop/Whoever's hand it was that he was holding'

'Hiding Tonight' 'You can leave off my lid/And I won't even lose my fizz.'



Album Reviews

Frankie Stewart and Harvey Gunn release new album, *Nothing**New Under the Sun*

The new album from the up-and-coming Brighton duo is an introspective masterpiece.

Written by Amy Smith Music Writer

In their newly released album, *Nothing New Under the Sun*, Brighton-based rap and production duo Frankie Stewart and Harvey Gunn have woven the mellow, meditative vibes of lo-fi hip-hop together with earnestness and vulnerability to create an album that sees them nonchalantly express feelings of self-growth and reflection across thirteen downbeat tracks.

From start to end, the boys translate their nine years of friendship into a project that feels like a candid DMC at three in the morning. What sets Frankie Stewart and Harvey Gunn apart from other artists is their openness to contemplate the questions and fears people tend to keep for themselves. It is rare to secure a connection of such a level but the artists feel secure enough to uncover their deepest secrets. With every track detailing its own struggle, you can't help but feel how delicate this album really is.

The third song on the album, *'Let the Light In'*, is a deep-cutting, vulnerable track where Frankie bravely

unravels and lets listeners into his mind. Frankie has been praised in the past for his brutally honest and raw introspective lyricism and he delivers again, creating their most profound song to date. You can feel the pain in his voice as Frankie raps about the feeling of dealing with mental health whilst suffering in silence, something that may well be more familiar than ever before for most of us. However, in articulating these common anxieties with his signature nonchalant vocal delivery, Frankie manages to restore a sense of calm and hope, letting a tiny bit of light glimmer throughout the song.

In *'Fatboy's Cafe'*, a tribute to the boys' hometown, Frankie's lyrics give us a masterclass on how to hit straight to the heart and make us think and feel. His lyrics touch on childhood nostalgia and an ever-changing sense of home, but overall he translates a sense of immense gratitude for his roots. As much as we can praise Frankie's lyrical strength, Harvey Gunn's

intricate and innovative production is stellar, creating a track that's so tranquil it's surreal, allowing the listener to truly take in and absorb every lyric and every hi-hat.

On the whole, *Nothing New Under the Sun* is another instalment by Frankie Stewart and Harvey Gunn that proves that they are the perfect example of how the flowers can blossom when you stick to your root in an industry often blindsided by the truth and originality of substance heavy music. Once again, Frankie Stewart and Harvey Gunn connect with you like friends that you can always count on. With 545,000 Spotify monthly listeners, if you don't know them yet now is the time to invest your stocks. The Brighton duo have yet to miss.



IC Radio Schedule for this Week

Saturday (05/11)	Sunday (06/11)	Monday (07/11)	Tuesday (08/11)	Wednesday (09/11)	Thursday (10/11)	Friday (11/11)
10-11am I Would Like Soup	1-2pm How to Drop Loose Game	6-7pm Around the World in 80 Plays	5-6pm Desert Island Discs	6-7pm Pass the Aux	6-7pm Nusach	12-1pm Felix Podcast
	6-7pm The Rambling Man	7-7:30pm Mellow Mondays	6-7pm Genre Junction	7-8pm Brown Noise	7-8pm Track Swap	3-4pm Hz So Good
	8-9pm Chart Stoppers	7:30-8:30pm Monday Spritz	7-8pm Weaponised Wax		8-9pm Gio and Arnav's Round	6-7pm ebb/flow
		8:30-9pm Sophie's Choice	8-9pm Office Hour's Office Hour		9-10pm Synergy	8-9pm Loud Carriage

BUSINESS

Edited by: HARRY SCHLOTE

The case for cleaner, greener university endowments



As environment, social and governance (ESG) concerns percolate into the financial sector, long-term investors in particular are becoming wary of physical and transition risks that climate change might pose to their portfolios.

Siya Kulkarni

Investment Society Writer



A case in point is that of pension funds, with long-term investment horizons, integrating ESG into their portfolios in order to drive impact and consider financial returns for clients in light of climate risks.

Calls for ESG, and environmental considerations in particular, are getting increasingly louder among the younger generation, making another long-term investor — college endowments — subject to similar transition risks.

Emerging trends

In a 2018 report by S&P Global, Kate Murtagh, MD of sustainable investing at Harvard Management Co. Inc., defines an endowment as a “perpetual asset”, enabling long-term investment strategies. While college campuses have seen student protests calling for an end to fossil fuel investments, the report also noted that colleges did not respond immediately — citing the example of University of Pennsylvania, which in 2016 ruled against stopping fossil fuel investment.

A 2020 report by the Intentional Endowments Network took into consideration the case of 11 college endowments in the United States, concluding that an ESG approach to investing could help these endowments “reduce risk, avoid losses, uncover opportunities for strong performance, and improve overall financial returns”, looking into endowments of all sizes. The report was interesting in its approach to a college endowment’s role as a financial institution and fiduciary, including the endowment within its description as a “social purpose institution”.

ESG adoption as a strategy to enhance returns has seen mixed responses from endowments, according to a 2021 Captrust survey. While 91% of adopters of ESG strategies surveyed reported that ESG integration either enhances or does not impact returns, 67% of non-adopters reported the same views on ESG strategies.

When it comes to ESG strategy incorporation, climate change and carbon has emerged as the top criterion for college endowments in the US, followed by conflict risk (which includes terrorist or repressive regimes), according to the US SIF Foundation. Interestingly, the same data also reveals “fossil fuel divestment” further down into ESG investment criteria, and “environmental considerations — other” as even further down!

In more recent wins for campaigners, an increasing number of college endowments have announced divestment from fossil fuels, including Harvard University, University of Cambridge, and University of Oxford, reports Investment Monitor. The article cites a report by Callan, which shows that fiduciary responsibility and improved risk profile are key drivers for endowments to incorporate ESG factors into their investment strategy.

Imperial College Endowment: The story so far

Previous *Felix* articles have held to question Imperial College London’s own sustainability efforts, including its engagement with oil & gas giants. Meanwhile, the College’s Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Policy, launched in March 2020, lists some of its key focus areas online, which are supposed to align with Imperial’s mission “to achieve enduring excellence in research and education in science, engineering, medicine and business for the benefit of society”.

The College is firm against investment in tobacco and illegal arms; however, it continues engagement with Big Oil, according to online documentation that discusses considerations between divestment and engagement approaches. In the statement, the college opts to engage with companies that show an alignment with the Paris Agreement. The statement read:

“The group discussed ways to amplify impact of the Endowment given its modest size, for example by means of stewardship services to combine resources and collaborate with like-minded investors. It was also clear that the Endowment’s impact was boosted when combined with Imperial’s other means of influence. Major fossil fuel companies like BP and Shell value their relationships with Imperial, not least because of our world-class research collaborations and the fact that they employ many of our graduates, and we

educate many of their current employees.”

The extent to which these companies show alignment with the Paris Agreement, however, is unclear. A recent study by thinktank InfluenceMap showed that climate-focused communications and advertising by fossil fuel and oil incumbents is on the rise, with 60% of the communications having “green” claims. On the other hand, the study also showed that on average, green investments made up about 12% of capex budgets, and many of their climate solutions are more emissive solutions (including natural gas, a methane emitter).

University endowments as drivers of change

According to the American Council on Education, an endowment is a pool of assets invested by an educational institution, comprising donations or gifts that enable colleges to make long-term commitments to support future generations. They serve institutions and the public by providing stability, leveraging sources of revenue encouraging innovation and stability, and allowing for long term investment horizons.

The council notes the vital role college endowments have played in pre-empting future problems and supporting students, noting how endowment spending increased as a response to COVID-19 to ensure safer and productive educational environments for students.

The burgeoning climate crisis and the increasing risks it poses to our quality of life imply that students today and in future generations will likely be impacted by similar disruptions to their studies, with increasingly severe ecological disasters. Acting on these problems today, in light of the fiduciary duty that colleges have towards their stakeholders, will serve as a means to manage and mitigate similar problems while driving a high-quality dialogue on sustainable transition, at the requisite pace of change the world so desperately needs.



Credit: Envato Elements

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CLUBS AND SPORT

Halloween Sports Night - in review

Christian Cooper Sports Chair

Ask any sports player who was around before Covid what the best Union night was, chances are they'd say ACC Wednesdays. The chance to let down your hair and party the night away gave a much-needed release from the day-to-day stress of university. For so many, Covid took that opportunity away.

Sports sector, still affectionately known as ACC, set out to bring back sports nights better than ever! We wanted to give you a night you'd never forget, and whilst there may have been some bumps along the way, we think we delivered.

You don't have to trust our word for it though. Here's what students thought:

“

“ACC NIGHTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THE TOP HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE DJS. THE LAST ONE WE HAD ON THE WED OCT 26 WAS ESPECIALLY FESTIVE

WITH A DISPLAY OF HALLOWEEN OUTFITS RANGING FROM T-REX TO TOGA QUEENS. THIS WAS ALSO THE FIRST TIME OUR SOCIETY TEAMED UP DIRECTLY WITH THE SPORTS COMMITTEE AND DRAMSOC, AND ALL OF US WERE DETERMINED TO DELIVER A CRUSHING EVENT.

“NIGHTS LIKE THESE ARE NOT ONLY GREAT FUN FOR DJS BUT ALSO OFFER A SPACE TO FINE-TUNE OUR CROWD-READING ABILITIES AND ADAPTIVE TRACK SELECTION – THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILLS A TOP-TIER DJ MUST POSSESS. OUR VISION FOR ACC COMPRISES A COMBINATION OF THE CLASSIC SLUG VIBE WITH THE ENERGY OF THE MODERN MAINSTAGE. WE MAY ALSO CONVERT THE UNION BAR INTO AN UNDERGROUND TECHNO DUNGEON IN THE FUTURE SO THAT THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

“WHILE WE CANNOT CONTROL CROWD BEHAVIOUR, WE DO SUGGEST THAT NOT EVERYONE TRIES TO PACK INTO METRIC OUT OF FEAR

OF HITTING CAPACITY. WE FIELD EXCEPTIONAL DJS IN BOTH FIVESIXEIGHT AND METRIC THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE NIGHT, EACH WITH THEIR DISTINCT SOUND, SO MOVE AROUND AND DISCOVER. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AT THE NEXT ACC NIGHT!!”

- ZHENGLI LIM (AKA. RIBBON GUY), DJ



All photos - Credit: Alek Ziol
@alekziol on Instagram



“

“ACC BAR NIGHTS AND PARTICULARLY THE HALLOWEEN ACC IS ALWAYS ONE OF THE MAIN EVENTS IN ANY CSP’S SOCIAL CALENDAR. HAVING WITNESSED THE POST-COVID DECLINE IN SOCIAL ATTENDANCE AT THE UNION FROM SPORTS CLUBS, ACC REMAINS THE ONE EVENT THAT BRINGS IN HUGE NUMBERS FROM ALL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES, NOT JUST SPORTS CLUBS.

“HAVING AN EVENT RUN BY STUDENTS FOR THE STUDENTS MEANS WE HAVE AN EVENT THAT PROVIDES WHAT THE STUDENT BODY ACTUALLY WANTS – A CHEAP NIGHT OUT WITHOUT THE NEED FOR OVERPAYING ON DJS WHICH PEOPLE HAVE LITTLE CARE FOR.

“FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF RUNNING A SPORTS CLUB, IT IS GREAT TO HAVE A LARGE EVENT LIKE ACC ORGANISED FOR US. ICSM ORGANISES MANY EVENTS THAT ARE THEMED AROUND SPORTS CLUBS, FACILITATING THE INTEGRATION OF FRESHERS INTO THEIR SOCIETIES. HOWEVER, THIS ISN’T THE CASE FOR IC CLUBS SO HAVING ACC IS A MASSIVE BENEFIT TO THE SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE OF A CSP.”

- NAVEEN, IMPERIAL MEN’S FOOTBALL CLUB CAPTAIN



“

“A WEEK BEFORE HALLOWEEN YOU WOULDN’T EXPECT METRIC TO BE FILLED WITH THE MOST CHAOTICALLY RANDOM GROUP (WELL ... DISTINCTLY MORE RANDOM THAN YOUR STANDARD WEDNESDAY).

“TO BE HONEST ... DIFFERENT WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT. I DON’T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS THE MYSTERY SHOTS, BUT I SWEAR AT ONE POINT WE HAD A PIRATE, A BLUE GUY AND A FULL-SIZED DINOSAUR JOIN OUR GROUP. IT WAS AWESOME. SPECIAL MENTION HAS TO GO TO SOME OF THE HOCKEY BOYS FOR THEIR EXPERTLY COORDINATED STAR WARS THEME!

“THANKS TO THE DJS AND DRAMSOC FOR SPECTACULARLY KEEPING THE BEAT RIGHT TILL THE END OF THE NIGHT AND TO RICARDO AND THE TEAM FOR (NICELY) KICKING US OUT AFTER.

“FINALLY, A HUGE SHOUT OUT TO THE SPORTS COMMITTEE WHO WERE LOW-KEY RUNNING ALL OVER THE PLACE TO MAKE SURE DOCTORS, BUILDERS, CONVICTS, VAMPIRES, ZOMBIES AND EVEN A FULL-SIZE PARROT HAD A GREAT NIGHT. IT CAN’T HAVE BEEN AN EASY TO BRING ALL OF IT TOGETHER, BUT EVERY MOMENT WAS STUNNING!

“DEFINITELY ONE OF THE BEST HALLOWEEN NIGHTS EVER! IT MAY HAVE BEEN A WEEK BEFORE THE BIG EVENT BUT Y’ALL SMASHED IT (BUT WHO’D EXPECT ANYTHING LESS WHEN YOU BRING A DINOSAUR).”

- TOM, 3RD YEAR PHD STUDENT



All in all, we couldn’t be prouder to have delivered this event to you. We couldn’t have done it without the immense support from DJ & Production Society, DramSoc, our photographer Alek and all the bar staff and events team. Thank you all! We’ll see you next time!

We’re keen to get as much feedback as possible so that we can continue to deliver you the best sports nights.

If you want to help, please consider filling out this feedback form for the chance to win free entry and drinks for you and two friends at the next ACC Sports Night!



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