



felix

THE ECO ISSUE

- > Ivonne Higuero interview
- > Sustainability Week events

FELIX FILM PRESENTS The Oscars

ISSUE 1822

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Writings on the wall: Imperial staff and students slate mural design

- *Objections to planning application for UN mural call the design “tasteless”, “meaningless” and “uninspiring”.*

Isabella Ward Co-Editor-in-Chief

A planning application has been submitted to Westminster Council for an 18 × 20m mural to be painted on the western elevation of the Blackett Laboratory.

The mural has reportedly been in the works since summer 2022; however, residents of the building – staff and students of the Department of Physics – did not find out about the plans until the morning of Friday 24th February. This is despite a notification being sent to Blackett and neighbouring buildings, including Huxley, in early February.

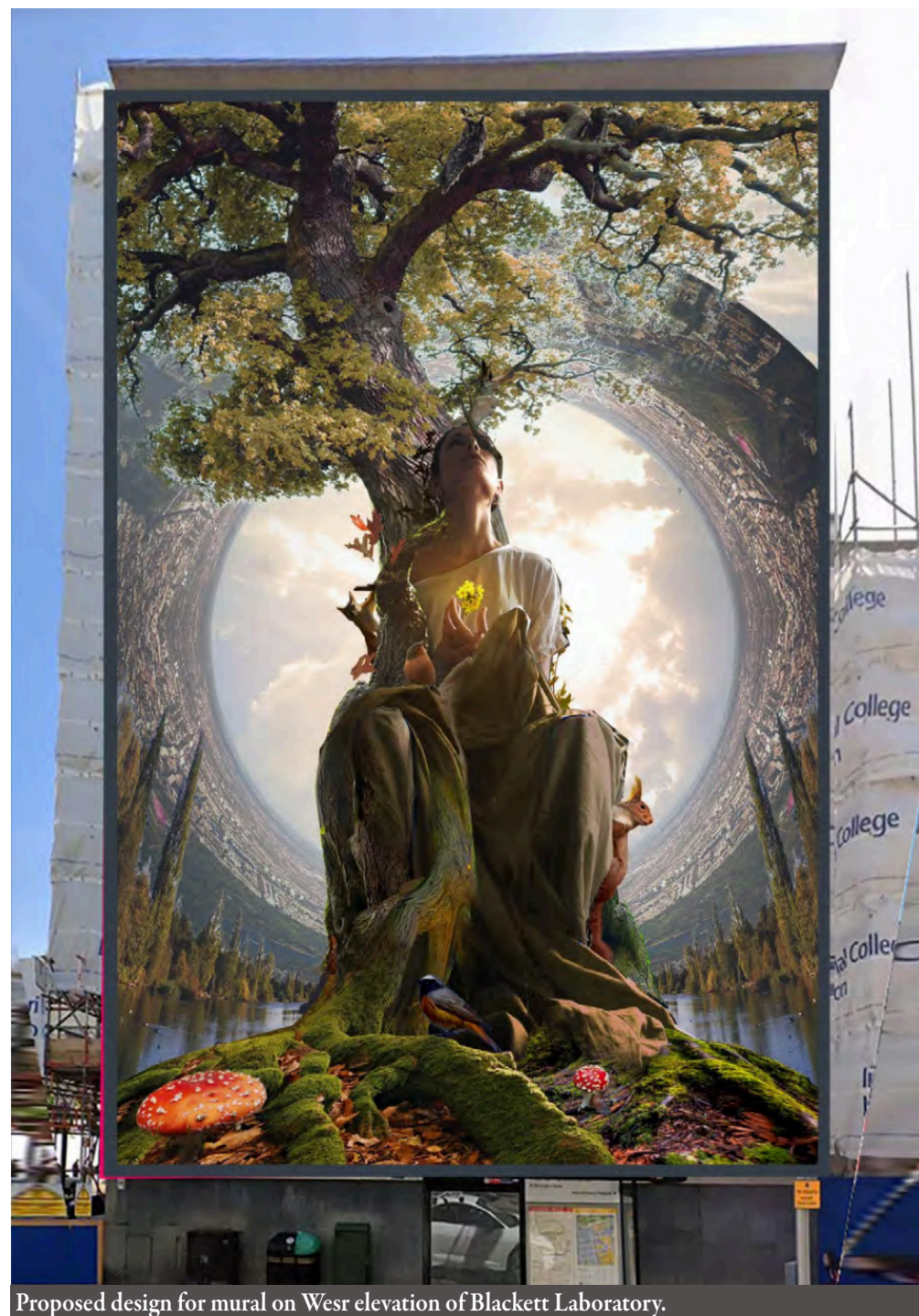
It is unclear who received the

notification, as Operations Manager for the Department of Physics, Luke White, was also unaware of the plans. He discovered and notified his colleagues of the application within three days of the deadline to comment.

Nevertheless, there have since been 37 objections made online by outraged staff and students alike.

A member of staff commented: “the application has been done secretly without the consent of the Department of Physics staff, and therefore contravenes Imperial College London’s stated policy of openness and transparency.”

Continued on page 3...



Proposed design for mural on West elevation of Blackett Laboratory.

EVENTS SNAPSHOT



IC Union Leadership Elections

Page 5: Union Presidential candidates

EDITORIAL

This issue was produced thanks to the work of:

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And our numerous contributors!



On side-hustling

Followers of *Felix* may have read an interview with Mr Cliff Beach in *Books* earlier this year. We discussed with him the virtues of the ‘side-hustle’: choosing to spend one’s free time doing something aside from one’s studies or career that also feels fulfilling and productive. *Felix* is our side-hustle, and while we knew what we were taking on when we committed to our roles, it has been a manic month with many steep learning curves! Ultimately however, working through the chaos that is a student newspaper continues to be rewarding.

The response to the ‘Blackett blues’ article has been astonishing, from the buzz that it caused among students in the Physics department to the responses from faculty members and alumni. It is this kind of impact and engagement that we hope to achieve consistently. Admittedly, it’s satisfying to see our names in print and have our words published, but our writers, illustrators, and editors wouldn’t be doing the work we do if we didn’t believe that on the other end is a student just like us, reading, learning, and being entertained.

This week’s issue is a stellar example of section editors taking the reins and using *Felix* as a means of educating and inspiring, having not just one, but two, pull-out sections. Our wonderful

Environment Editors have curated 12 pages of Sustainability Week at Imperial coverage. Meanwhile, our fantastic Film Editors bring you eight pages of information and predictions for the upcoming Academy Awards.

The work that the *Felix* team has done is especially incredible given that we’re in the middle of one of the busiest stretches of term, and really of the entire year – so kudos to them!

We’re also still really keen for new members to join us. Even if you are unsure where you’d fit in best, drop us an email or a message on Instagram and we’ll do our best to guide you and get you started. Writers, illustrators – there’s room for all sorts of creators at *Felix*!

Finally, we want to highlight the fabulous non-academic work that students and staff are doing around campus, from promoting sustainable living and environmental research, to championing and supporting women, LGBTQ+ people, and people from a range of cultures working in STEM. Clubs, societies, and projects are making a difference by organising engaging talks and events, and giving back to the local or global community. Without you, we would have nothing to report on, and little inspiration to create a newspaper. So for that, we say thank you.

Statement of Intent

At *Felix*, we believe that it is always in the interest of the students to be in the know. Transparency in the workings of the College and the work of your student representatives is key. Therefore we, the *Felix* Editors, 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: Jamie John, Isabella Ward, and Zanna Buckland
Co-Editors-in-Chief 2023**

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*Continued from page 1...***Mural mayhem**

Another called the lack of consultation “utterly unreasonable”, tweeting

“It is emblematic of many of the management problems@imperialcollege that planning permission for a giant (ugly) mural on the @ImperialPhysics building has been sought without a single person who works in the building being consulted.”

The mural, set to be completed in April 2023, is part of UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) initiative ‘Ecosystem Restoration Murals’, which sees the UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) partner with anti-child trafficking charity Street Art for Mankind to create a global series of murals.

The planning application specifies a budget of £2 million. Felix understands that this is mostly funded by partners and sponsors of Street Art for Mankind.

Blackett Laboratory – one of three buildings in the UK to have been

designated a historic site by the European Physical Society – would be the canvas for the London installation of this initiative. In the Planning Statement, Director of Estates Operations for the College Nick Roalfe explains

“Given Imperial College’s strong commitment to sustainability, the opportunity to provide an elevation on one of the campus buildings to allow a mural supported by UNEP and promoting sustainability is an opportunity that the College wish to pursue.”

Staff and students alike have additional qualms about the subject and merit of the proposed artwork, which would emblazon the building in rain-resistant weatherproof paint until at least 2028.

The design, by Spanish artist Vesod, was justified by Imperial in the planning application:

“The painting is dedicated to mother nature with the aim of calling the viewer to focus on the relationship between mankind and nature. Using images of

London parks, the artist works on the circularity of the space to recall the natural cycle. The continuous renewal of nature blends with the elements of the city with the idea that they can renew themselves together.”

However, comments call the “void and uninspiring piece” “hollow”, “meaningless”, “garish”, “tasteless”, “derivative” and “tone-deaf”.

Furthermore, some feel the subject is not aligned with the diversity and inclusion Imperial intends to foster, as one member of staff argued

“The outdated and somewhat sexualised representation of mother nature as a white woman is particularly inappropriate, not just from a diversity and inclusivity standpoint, but also because it reinforces a stereotype that confines women to purely mothering roles. For a university that purports to have a strong equality, diversity, and inclusion strategy, this appears to be a completely tone-deaf application and should not be approved.”

It is not just the Imperial community

who have doubts; Knightsbridge Committee have commented

“Whereas we are not opposed in principle to the proposed mural, our committee feels there is not enough detail re design and colouration in the documents, and have asked Imperial for further details before making a final comment.”

The application is pending.

An Imperial College London spokesperson said: “We are pleased that Imperial has been approached by the UN Environmental Programme and renowned artist group Street Art for Mankind to be the location for one of their prestigious global Ecosystem Restoration Murals. The mural, currently designated for the Queens Gate wall of the Blackett building, aims to raise awareness and mobilise action to restore ecosystems and will be a powerful symbol of Imperial’s commitment to global sustainability efforts.”

Women working in conservation

Zanna Buckland Co-Editor-in-Chief

On International Women’s Day (Wednesday 8th March 2023) Felix attended a panel discussion held in the Business School. The event, ‘Women in STEM: Women in Conservation’ was organised and hosted by PhD students from Imperial’s Grantham Institute for Climate Change in association with the Natural Environment Research Council (a branch of UKRI).

The panel began with a video introduction from conservationist Jane Goodall. In the video, she detailed how she came to be involved in wildlife conservation, the journey she went on, and gave the audience - and particularly the women - some advice on doing what you’re passionate about, even in the face of adversity.

Chairing the discussion was ecosystems ecologist Dr Waring, who has studied the uptake of carbon by the land and ecosystems and their potential for climate mitigation. Also on the panel were Professor Heather Koldewey, who works in marine biology to solve conservation problems such as protecting marine areas and plastic

pollution in the ocean, and Dr Caroline Howe, who works in environmental social science and policy. Howe seeks to explore the relationship between people and nature, as well as equity and justice issues surrounding usage and access to natural resources.

Patricia Zurita, CEO of Birdlife International and the first woman from a developing country to run a major international conservation organisation, unfortunately couldn’t attend the

event in person due to a last-minute emergency. However, she still managed to offer insights by joining online at the end.

Among the topics discussed were how to ensure women can achieve their highest potential in professional settings, and how to best balance scientific work and research with familial and childcare responsibilities. Work-life conflicts seem especially prevalent in conservation careers, where travelling for fieldwork

and conferences is often necessary. The advice the panelists shared was not only for women themselves, but also for their male peers, mentors, partners, and managers to note.

The event was concluded with a quick Q&A session. The discussion centred around where there are still gaps in support for women and mothers and on the stereotypes that prevail within the industry; yet there was a resounding sense of hope among the speakers that (in Zurita’s words) “there’s a bright future ahead.” She explained “[women are starting] to gain more respect for the extraordinary input we bring to the table”.

Women at Imperial Week wraps up on Friday 10th March (today if you are an eager reader of Felix) with two more events: an online interview with one of the Provost’s Visting Professors, Professor Priscilla Reddy from 12:30-13:30, and a ‘Women at Imperial’ party at 17:00 in the Queen’s Tower Rooms at South Kensington.

Check felixonline.co.uk next week for more photos and insights from the event.



The Imperial Business School lecture theatre where the event was taking place.

Credit: Rolando Charles

NEWS

Climate protesters claim victory in appeal against criminal damage verdict

Credit: Neal Haddaway

Annalise Freimarck News Writer

Imperial College PhD candidate and founder of Imperial Climate Action, Pete Knapp, has won his appeal against a previous guilty verdict for criminal damage.

Pete was amongst nine protesters who were arrested and found guilty of £2,000 worth of criminal damage after using chalk spray to write on the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's (BEIS) building, and gluing themselves to the windows last April.

They acted as part of Scientists for Extinction Rebellion, a subset of environmental movement Extinction Rebellion.

Pete explained his perspective: "I know I can't individually do a great change that needs doing, but we are at the sharp edge of getting change to happen. If I were to step back, that sharp edge might be slightly less sharp. It's hard to know."

The original group of nine was split into two groups for trial. Knapp's group of four had no previous legal experience



The four protestors outside Southwark Crown Court following their successful appeal against charges of criminal damage.

going into the trial. Through the first trial and the following appeal in the Crown Court, he estimates that they crowdfunded approximately £80,000 to

help with legal fees.

Their defence argued that there was no criminal damage because they had used chalk paint spray, which is easily

removable. However, the group was found guilty last September in the Magistrate's Court.

The four were shocked when they were found guilty. They had anticipated a ruling in their favour, since Black Lives Matter protestors were found not guilty of criminal damage after removing a statue of Edward Colston, a slave owner.

When the second group was tried a few weeks later for the same charges, they were found not guilty. "I couldn't believe it," Knapp said, "It's almost as though it didn't matter what we said. It didn't matter about the evidence."

Knapp's group appealed and, after a long fought legal battle, succeeded on 10th February at the Southwark Crown Court.

Following the victory, Extinction Rebellion plans to try to get the London Science Museum to stop receiving funding from Adani Group, which derives almost 60% of its revenue from coal-related businesses. They also aim to gather 100,000 people in protest in Westminster this April.

Credit: Andrea Domeniconi



Pete Knapp being arrested outside BEIS on 13th April 2022.

Union Leadership Elections

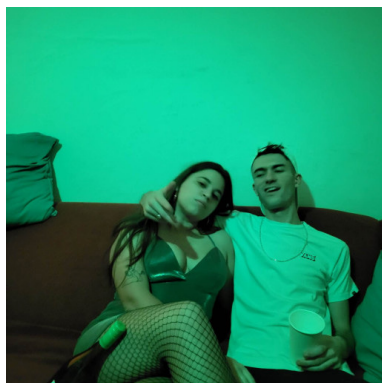
- *This year, four students have put themselves forward for the top job at Imperial College Union. Felix takes a look at their manifestos.*

Camille Boutrolle

Student leadership roles on manifesto: IC Snowsports Trip Secretary (current), IC Netball President

Fourth-year Aeronautics undergraduate, Camille Boutrolle, has put her hat in the ring with a series of objectives focused on changes to the College. Plans to push for on-campus food options for all dietary requirements feature alongside a proposal for charging points in lecture theatres “readily available across all of Imperial’s campuses”.

Notably missing from her manifesto, however, is any serious mention of the Union, the very organisation she would be running. “We can all agree that the Union could do better”, says Boutrolle. Yet her only suggestion for how to improve the Union is a pledge to “Ensure inclusive Union welfare services for all students.”



Ioana Gavrilesku (Christine)

Student leadership roles on manifesto: N/A

Alongside promises to continue fixing disciplinary procedures, improve wellbeing support and lobby for sustainable initiatives, Christine proposes mandatory attendance at Decibel, the Union’s club night, and free entrance to Slug (The Redback Fulham, an independent business) before 10:30pm. Under Christine’s stewardship, 568 would see some significant changes: Tinder Gold users would be rewarded with a curly fries discount and “ppl who post BeReals from 568” would be banned. Readers will no doubt be pleased to hear that a “bottomless Echo Falls girls night [sic]” is on the cards, if she is elected.

Aleksei Wishart

Student leadership roles on manifesto: Sports Sector Treasurer (current), EESoc Vice President, Sailing Trip Secretary

Aleksei Wishart’s campaign focuses on improvements to the Union. He intends to improve transparency by holding regular Union town halls for students; releasing the reasonings behind fund allocation for clubs, societies and projects (CSPs); and sending Union Council minutes to all students.

Wishart lists a series of changes that he would implement with the Union’s Deputy Presidents (DPs), also elected in this cycle. He wants to improve training for eActivities, the website for CSP administration, and will work with the DP (Education) “to make it a university-wide policy to release individual exam scripts.”

He intends to work with the DP (Welfare) to “increase the number of available therapists/ reduce wait times” - though readers will have to look elsewhere for details on how Wishart plans on implementing this, because his manifesto offers no explanation.



William Carter

Student leadership roles on manifesto: N/A

“I promise you NOTHING”, declares William Carter’s manifesto. “I do not care for power, nor for helping others.” Instead, Carter suggests students vote for ‘RON’ (re-open nominations): “My dear friend RON, who has committed himself over countless years to tirelessly uphold the rigorous, fair democracy our student life depends on, is far more deserving of your precious vote.”

SCIENCE

Edited by: ANGIE LO
TAYLOR POMFRET

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Can greener be cheaper?

► *Exploring the narrative of 'it's cheap being green' is Science writer Allannah Hibbert, who outlines how the cost-of-living crisis can inspire us all to make sustainable choices for a better future.*

Allannah Hibbert Science Writer

Earlier this year, Davos 23 gathered in Switzerland and reiterated the need to have a unified, global approach to tackling climate change. However, this global unity lasted merely a week before the US attempted to coax green companies from Europe onto their soil to boost their economy. Even though countries need to work together to tackle climate change together, the economic climate was considered more important than the environmental one.

Rishi Sunak also recommitted to the £11.6 billion international climate fund but has not reassured the nation that the timescale will be the same. Is this a subtle attempt of cutting the budget due to the looming recession?

Balancing cost cutting with environmental responsibility

On a more individual level, 50% of the UK population has cut costs since September, but at what environmental price? Cheaper food items usually coincide with a higher carbon footprint. Rising fuel costs tend to make unsustainable methods of producing it more attractive.

The issue of climate change is still important to many in Britain and the world, but the cost-of-living crisis has changed priorities.

We narrow down our options based on cost, not sustainability. But we can still use this to our advantage. We can see that some choices we have made as a result of the cost-of-living crisis have also helped the environment, such as using a bicycle rather than a car, or storing leftovers rather than wasting them.

The cost-of-living crisis provides a unique opportunity for a new storyline.

Embracing 'it's cheap being green'

It is cheap being green. Take the motto reuse, reduce, recycle. Reusable coffee cups often result in a discount in your morning coffee and decreases the amount of single-use coffee cups used (you can save 50p per coffee at Pret!).

Reducing food waste can provide you with lunches and potentially saves UK households up to £700 a year.

Finally, recycling cuts down on manufacturing and production costs, and refurbished items are cheap and reduce the waste of natural resources.

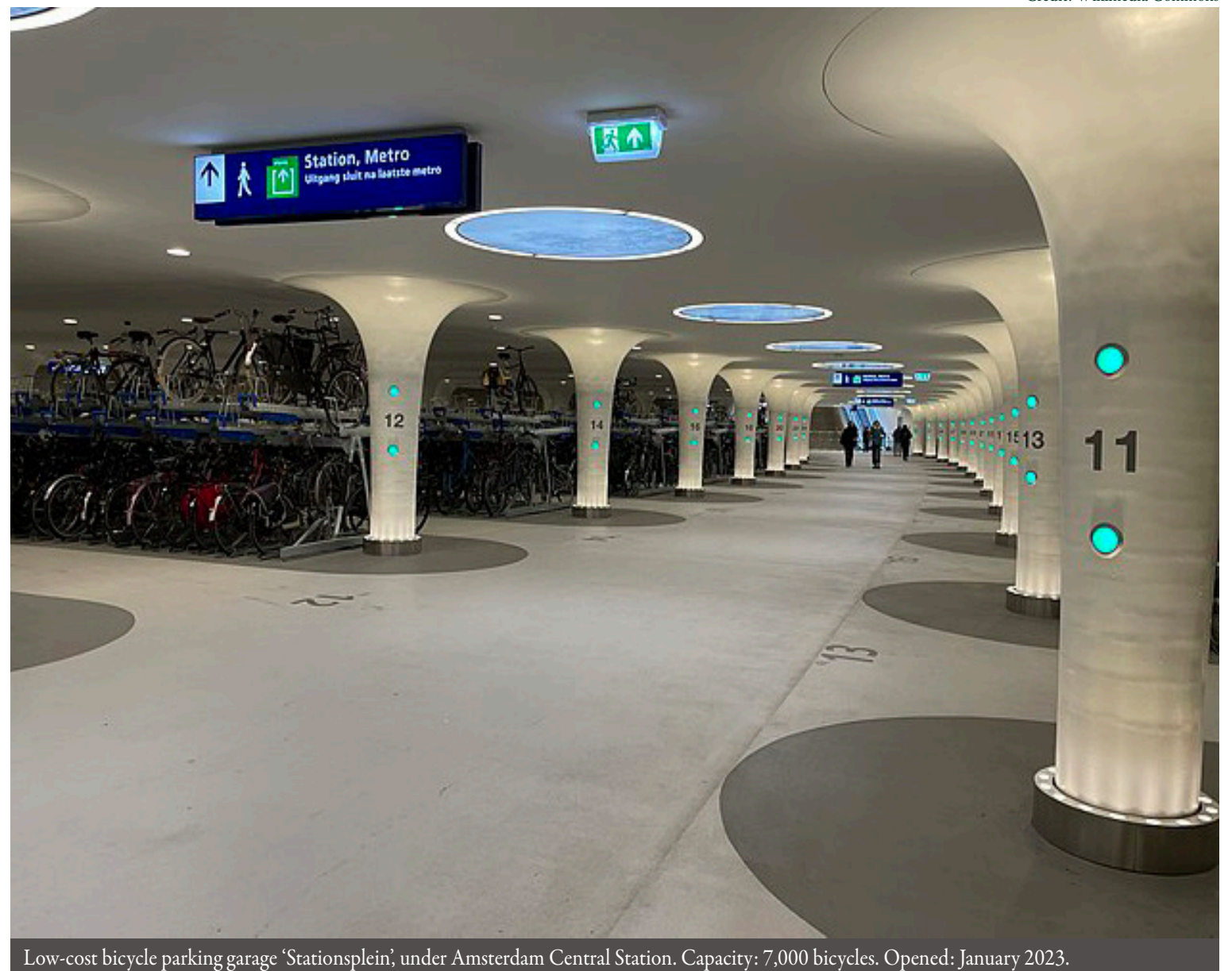
The 'it is cheap being green' narrative has been tried in the past but the current crisis has given it a new voice that people might sincerely listen to. We want cheap, and we want a good conscience. This narrative can provide both.

But is this narrative accurate, or is it a statement made up to make us feel better? It's true that green living does require sacrifice whichever way it is spun, including input from the government and businesses.

But even without any reforms, we are currently seeing sustainable choices being chosen for cost, and all we need

to do is flip the mindset around to show how cheap choices can help the environment. Pick Vinted over Primark, eat veggie meals a few times a week, and store your leftovers for lunch rather than throwing them away. Instead of seeing green living as a burden on our tightened budgets, we need to see it as an aid. And as we make more green choices on an individual level, we will encourage governments and businesses to join in on sustainable choices as they aim to meet consumer interests. Let's turn an apparent conflict into the driving force to reach net zero by 2050.

Credit: Wikimedia Commons



Low-cost bicycle parking garage 'Stationsplein', under Amsterdam Central Station. Capacity: 7,000 bicycles. Opened: January 2023.

Detecting asteroids: in conversation with Sam Deen

► *From detection to impact: the remarkable story of how data openness and automation are transforming asteroid detection, with astronomer Sam Deen.*

Taylor Pomfret Science Editor

On 13th February 2023 shortly before 03:00 GMT, a small 1m asteroid was seen creating a stunning shooting star as it entered the Earth's atmosphere and impacted the Earth safely near to the French city of Rouen.

Authorities and space agencies are aware of more than 1.1 million asteroids, with around 30,600 (2.7%) travelling in an orbit that brings them near Earth's own. The asteroid, originally named Sar2667, was a unique addition to this extensive list, in that it is only one of seven asteroids that we have been capable of detecting before its impact with Earth. I sat down with Sam Deen, a 'semi-amateur astronomer' who was involved in following up the discovery of the asteroid, coupled with the outreach of its impact with Earth.

Detecting Sar2667

Sam is a subscriber to the Minor Planet Mailing List (MPML), which is an online active list for the minor planet (asteroid) community. The MPML is populated with the world's best amateur astronomers, as well as many professional astronomers involved in all facets of asteroid and comet research. Sam was alerted on the platform shortly after its discovery by Hungarian astronomer Krisztián Sárneczky, he recalls the event:

"I had a look at initial observations – and thought 'wow – it's real! It's there!'" The ability to predict an asteroid before it hits us is extremely new – being able to see its trajectory in the hours that follow and to track its impact to the exact second was extraordinary."

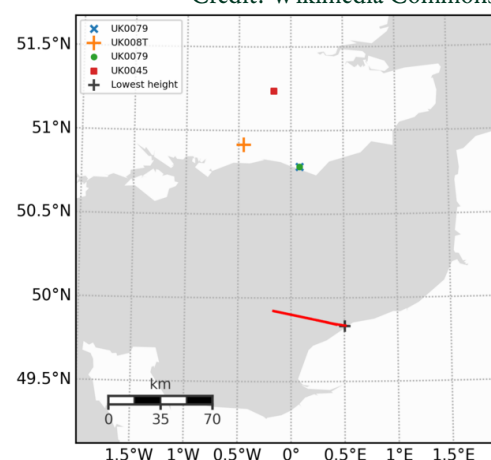
Historically, detecting objects like asteroids and supernovae was done through thousands of comparisons of astronomical plates. Now, the process is automated with software. "Once you find and detect an object, it's uploaded to the Minor Planet Centre, an official body for observing and reporting on minor planets".

"As it's uploaded to the database, other observatories around the world can follow up and take more

measurements of the object. The longer we observe the object for, the more we can understand its orbit – which requires lots of observations. This procedure was followed for Sar2667, which after initial observations we realised this asteroid was doing something that asteroids don't usually do. In the first few observations, it was moving distinctly slower than in the last two observations: when an asteroid is distinctly changing its speed over a few minutes, that's when you should start to be concerned – that either means the object is an alien spacecraft – or it is moving directly towards you!"

Talking briefly about the specifics of the asteroid, Sam made some comments regarding its size: "it was very small compared to other asteroids, which makes it extremely difficult to find, as small asteroids are rarely detected when they're not close to Earth. Though it isn't the smallest we've observed – that one was an asteroid that fell over Ontario, Canada last year – it is certainly one of the smallest."

Credit: Wikimedia Commons



Ground track of the Sar2667 asteroid.

The Sar2667 asteroid was ~1m in length; objects of this size typically impact Earth once every week or two.

"We've gone from finding none of these, to now finding one every month. I think asteroid detection will become as predictable as solar eclipses – which is remarkable for the field of astronomy. It's also quite remarkable to probe how these tiny objects orbit. Smaller asteroids are usually unstable, they don't survive in the solar system for too long; instead, they usually spin really quick due to the sun, break up into tiny pieces, and cross the Earth hundreds of

thousands of times. It so happened to be for Sar2667 that it didn't avoid Earth this time – it resulted in impact".

Credit: Wikimedia Commons



Sar2667 entering the Earth's atmosphere.

The importance of open data

Sam communicated information about the asteroid impact across social media platforms alongside fellow asteroid enthusiast, Tom Williams, whose TikTok @tw.astrophotography has amassed over 1,000,000 followers of his work. Communicating this event through Tom's twitter was key to its outreach; his tweet informing his followers about the impact was viewed over 3,500,000 times.

"One of the most impressive things we've developed as the minor planet community is the openness of the data. A big thing that has increased our ability to follow up these rare events, is our ability to report and document these events. This is assisted by the field of astronomy with the policy of data openness – we no longer have to wait months before data is published; nor be restricted from closed access journals. The effects of withholding this data would mean impacts like these would go unnoticed."

"The Vera Rubin Observatory in Chile is a nice example, which is coming online in December this year. One of the main things about this observatory which sets it apart from others: is that they have this policy of data

availability. Anytime they discover something – be it an asteroid or supernovae – they instantly report it. That's not something anyone would've considered competent or worth doing 20 years ago".

"Perhaps the most successful story of this policy is the Zooniverse citizen science project. This project consists of giving real data, taken by a telescope that hasn't been analysed, to the public to process – in the hope they discover something no-one has ever seen before. A famous discovery from Zooniverse is 'Hanny's Voorwerp', a rare type of astronomical object called a quasar ionization echo, discovered in 2007 by Dutch schoolteacher Hanny van Arkel. She discovered an astronomical object previously unknown to astronomers: imagine how many other discoveries, that we're yet to uncover, exist in data taken in surveys 10-20 years ago, because no one's looked at it. That's what got me into astronomy, anyone can contribute to the field of astronomy with a bit of effort; it needn't take surveys or heavily funded research projects, it just takes some guy in Hungary to observe and discover two asteroids, one of which was visible to millions across England and northern Europe."

Future work

Having the opportunity to speak with Sam broadly about his work in the detection of asteroids, coupled with the outreach role he had in the event of this asteroid impact, was incredibly insightful. Sam continues to explore his interests in astronomy, namely researching dark comets.

He recently co-authored a paper published in *The Planetary Science Journal* titled: 'Dark Comets? Unexpectedly Large Non-gravitational Accelerations on a Sample of Small Asteroids'. His work within the field of astronomy has exemplified the importance of data-openness, and challenges common misconceptions a lot of people have of astronomy: it's not just for those in lab coats hiding away in observatories overnight – it's accessible to all.

What's on in Science?

Scan the QR codes for more info on each event!

Your guide to science-related shows, events, and opportunities around the city!

Climate Advocacy Event: Generation Hope: Act For the Planet

Date: 20th-25th March, different activities at various times

Price: Free (must book in advance)

Location: The Natural History Museum

Accessibility info: Wheelchair accessible, online/streamed versions of most events available

Generation Hope: Act For The Planet is a climate advocacy programme geared specifically towards young people age 16+. For one week, the Natural History Museum will bustle with a variety of free talks and activities on environmental action, spanning a wide range of fields from natural sciences to policy to art. Attend workshops on climate advocacy and communication, meet scientists and climate activists from around the world, and take part in buzzing discussions. To get the full event programme, scan the QR code below.

Talk: The Path Towards Air Equality

Date and time: 20th March, 7:00pm-8:30pm

Price: In person - £16 (regular price), £10 (full-time student price); Livestream - pay-what-you-can

Location: The Royal Institution Theatre, 21 Abermarle Street (short distance from Green Park station)

Accessibility info: Wheelchair accessible, induction loop installed, guide and hearing dogs welcome

Hear from Imperial atmospheric physicist Dr. Mark Richards on the role of physics in tackling air pollution, and the tools and technologies that scientists are using to understand and analyse this issue. You'll also learn about specific challenges regarding air pollution that we still must overcome, and the actions that policymakers are taking to improve air quality.

Prize Lecture: The Story Of My Life (Croonian Prize Lecture 2023)

Date and time: 18th April, 6:30pm-7:30pm

Price: Free (register for tickets in advance)

Location: The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG

Accessibility info: There are four steps from street level to the doorway. There is a wheelchair lift at the entrance which is operable by reception staff. Please use the buzzer to the right of the entrance steps. limited number of bookable seats for people with impaired mobility who would be unable to queue. Please contact the Royal Society to book in advance so that they can ensure a seat is available, and arrive at least twenty minutes before the start of the event.

Don't miss out on the Croonian Prize Lecture 2023 given by Professor Dame Ottoline Leyser, British plant biologist and Regius Professor of Botany at the University of Cambridge! Stories are an immensely powerful communication tool. People find linear narratives compelling and this shapes how we think. This is as true in science as in any other domain. Stories structure our thinking and aid understanding, but they can also constrain our thinking unhelpfully, and embed assumptions that are unwarranted. What's more, however attractive a story may be, with a beginning, a middle and an end, life is not like that. Life does not work in linear narratives or we would not have to ask "What came first, the chicken or the egg?".

A key challenge in modern biology is to find ways to tell stories about these dynamic, non-linear processes that can aid our understanding, while supporting the open mindedness needed for progress. Leyser's research in plant developmental biology has tried to address this issue, a challenge that is equally relevant for her current role in science policy. Her Croonian Lecture will include examples from both of these areas of her work.

CLIMATE ADVOCACY EVENT



TALK



PRIZE LECTURE



ENVIRONMENT

CITES at 50: in conversation with Ivonne Higuero

► For World Wildlife Day and International Women's Day, Simran and I spoke to CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero.

Marie Mori Environment Editor

The 3rd of March 2023 was the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). One of the most signed UN conventions, CITES is a legally binding agreement ensuring plants and animals can be traded without threatening the species' survival. We had the pleasure of meeting Ivonne Higuero, the CITES Secretary-General, a few days before she flew to Washington to celebrate this historic day.

Marie: When did your passion for wildlife and sustainable development begin and why did you decide to apply this passion by working for the UN?

Ivonne: When I was in university, I was doing pre-med in the United States. In the United States, you have to take all these other classes [outside your degree major]. So I took a class in ecology and environmental studies and I loved it. I was already thinking [a medical degree] might be difficult because in the United States ... it was eight years, and financially it wasn't very easy. But when I took this [ecology] class I thought – this is great. [We read] a book called *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, about chemicals damaging water and how [aquatic] species were dying. Being in the United States – the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, and so many things that ... had just happened in the seventies – really made an impression on me when I took that class. I decided to look into the possibility of then getting a higher degree in environmental studies. So in the end, I went to Duke University. They had what they called at the time the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and I chose to get a master's degree in

environmental management that has a focus on economics and policy – what we call an ecological economist or an environmental economist. That really led me to look at things internationally

My first job was at the Organisation of American States in Washington, working with mostly Latin America and the Caribbean, on disaster preparedness. It was something that was a little bit outside of what I had studied. But I said, 'well, this will give me a flavour of what it's like to work in the international arena' – and that was when it became very clear that that's where my goal was headed. I ended up getting a consultancy [job] working at UNEP, and then later a proper post. Things worked out very well by opening myself up to the possibility of living elsewhere, in Nairobi. I lived there for eight years working for UNEP. Then after those eight years I got a higher-level post here in Geneva, and have stayed in Geneva since then. I moved from UNEP to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and I stayed there five years. Then I was offered this position, so I moved back to UNEP. It's the Convention Secretariat – which means that we are fairly independent because the parties who have signed the treaty ... are the ones really in charge. They take all the decisions and they're the ones who have to pay for the secretariat, but the Secretariat has to be administered, and the administration is done by UNEP. So that's how I ended up here.

Marie: Building on your career progression, have you experienced any barriers during your career so far? Such as being a woman in a male dominated political landscape? How did you overcome these types of barriers?

Ivonne: When I first started out in

Nairobi, it was very much – and for a long time – that the higher level posts were all with men. [There were] very few women in higher level posts throughout the United Nations, not only in UNEP, and so it seemed more difficult. Also, in general, they were from developed countries ... and so I could see there were going to be some barriers. I have dual citizenship, I'm both Panamanian and American, and so that made a little bit of a difference. But still, the gender aspect – you could see that the majority of the [people] in the lower posts, doing a lot of the heavy work, were women. It took me eight years to be in the post that I was. I've risen from P3 to D2 [up five ranks in the UN hierarchy], which is quite a success for a woman from a developing country.

Despite being perfectly knowledgeable about how much I

Credit: Natalie Yu



know, and my preparedness and my management skills and all the rest of it, I give credit to the current Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres. He was convinced that during his time as Secretary-General he was going to have equality of the genders in [high level posts]. I think that I wouldn't have reached this level if it wouldn't have been for him pushing women and geographic diversity. This Convention Secretariat has only been led by men, and men from developed countries, until I arrived. It is quite an incredible thing that at the end of the day it takes men to join us and to want to make a change. If we didn't have men who were convinced that gender diversity and equality amongst women is important, it would be much harder [for women to progress at the UN]. I've also talked to other women that are having kids, being a mother, having a family – [which] also has a certain impact because you do double jobs. You work in the office and you often go home and work another job, as mother, wife, and caregiver. It's also financially a burden because ... I had to have somebody at home to take care of the children so I could travel [for business]. And ... you can't say, "no, I can't go on the mission" if you're the person with the job, so you have to go. [My son] travelled a couple of times with me when he was a baby, [I was taking him and] paying for my mother to come ... she would watch over him while I was attending the meetings.

Marie: March 3rd marks 50 years since the establishment of CITES. Why was it established and what were its initial goals?

Ivonne: Many people will say this is a very special convention because of the timing of it, when there were very big concerns about the environment in

ENVIRONMENT

the 70s. It's an interesting convention because it integrates issues not only about environment and wildlife, but it's about trade, it's about development. It's about regulating a trade that could have an impact on wildlife but not saying "no", with an understanding that for many countries their natural resources are what they trade in. Of course, if there's overexploitation something has to be done – the concern was that species were going extinct and endangered because of overexploitation. The other thing that makes [CITES] very interesting is the fact that there's voting allowed and compliance measures. With a lot of newer conventions everything has to be consensus, and it's very difficult sometimes to adopt certain things. Here we try for consensus, but if it doesn't, the parties say, "it goes to a vote". Very few environmental conventions will have compliance measures. If you're told with a compliance measure that you can't trade in that species, no party can trade with you. That's a huge punishment, so you have an incentive to be able to clean up your act and ensure that the trade that you're doing is sustainable, legal and traceable. Making sure that wildlife was able to survive in the wild for future generations was really the basis of [CITES] – that trade could go on but not that it would be detrimental to the survival of the species. Those were interesting times, and they were able to adopt a convention which had compliance measures that could be voted on that has existed until now.

Marie: How have the objectives of CITES changed since its initial establishment 50 years ago?

Ivonne: I would say the objectives of the convention haven't changed at all. There's mechanisms under the convention to adapt by having resolutions. The meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) happens every 3 years – when they meet, they take decisions and see emerging issues. When we had the CoP in Panama last year, there was a revision to [one] resolution so it'll say 'Resolution CoP17, revised CoP19'. And they can make new resolutions. Imagine in the 70s, when things were taken directly from the wild to be used as some sort of commerce. Then [came] the idea of ranching, the idea of

captive breeding, artificial propagation. Today we do biotechnology, where you can develop things in a laboratory situation or change the genetic material of plants. The convention has had to keep up with that – they have made tools to register, for example, facilities doing captive breeding. You still have to have permitting even if it's artificial propagation, even if it's captive bred. There's a working group set up to see what's CITES' role in biotechnology. All of these tools help to keep up to date with what's happening.

It's still not resolved 100% how the [COVID-19] zoonosis happened between animals and humans. There was big talk of pangolins, wet markets, some still say that it might have been something in the lab – it's still unknown. There's no doubt that wildlife has something to do with this, so now we have to see what things need to be done to avoid the next pandemic. The International Air Transport Association has specific rules developed working with CITES for the safe transport of animals by air. There has to be some work done by land as well because between countries, you have to be sure – has a veterinarian taken a look at these animals? Are different species being crowded into one cage? The fear is that because of the stress, they're releasing viruses and eventually it goes to the human. The convention has to adapt, and the parties are addressing that.

Oh, Internet! [It's] much more difficult to find [people] that open up one [account], close, open up a different one, and illegal trade happens. We have developed tools to find out when these are happening, what kind of steps to take. A lot of those doing wildlife crime are big criminal organisations – the same ones that are doing crime with weapons, human trafficking, drug trafficking. They have the same networks, they're employing poor people on the ground to take whatever it is that they want. Trade is neither good nor bad, it's just how you do it. You have to make sure that you have the right regulations for it.

Simran: World Wildlife Day is on March 3rd, and the theme this year is 'Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation'. What other partnerships does CITES have?

Ivonne: This was a good theme to

pick for World Wildlife Day because all along it's been partnerships. No country can do it alone – they have to work with others, especially when it comes to illegal wildlife trade. If you know there's something in the shipment, you need to call your colleagues in enforcement and customs authorities. These are the important partnerships that we have

how much they can actually trade to make it sustainable, the 'legal acquisition findings' to show that all along the value chain this is something that has been obtained legally ... those documents didn't exist. For that kind of work we have to work together with forestry organisations, primarily the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).



as CITES, with INTERPOL, World Customs Organisation, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Bank ... we're all working together. It's called the International Consortium to Combat Wildlife Crime.

We've just now had to put a ban in Western Africa for the African rosewood, because the scientific document to show

We have [worked] with FAO as well on marine species, when a proposal comes through to list this particular marine species. What was very exciting about this last CoP, that was all over the global media, was about the sharks and rays – [previously] most of them needed no permits to be traded. Out of our 184 parties, 38 of them got together

to put forward this proposal on sharks and rays. When that proposal comes through, we have the obligation under the convention to go to the FAO because they have the marine experts. They look at all the proposals that deal with marine species and give their scientific opinion. The parties then take information that comes from FAO, and then take the

make sure that they have an incentive to take care of those habitats, that there's no poaching of the animals, cutting down of trees. I'm the chair now of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Management of Wildlife ... 14 organisations with whom we partner, and all of them have something to do with wildlife management. It's

trying to find ways in which using wildlife is sustainable, because for fishing communities and many who live next to animals, they are dependent on them for their food. Even wild meat (what used to be called bushmeat), if done sustainably for those communities – we have to be able to work with them to avoid disease, but also to avoid the overexploitation of these species. If you have it at the source and you're using it as your protein, there's usually no overexploitation. But once it starts becoming a luxury item, people from outside come to take those species – that's when the problems start. So yes, partnerships are absolutely essential.

Marie: How are you planning to celebrate World Wildlife Day?

Ivonne: We're very proud to say that we are going back to where the treaty was signed, Washington, D.C., and we're going to have the celebration with the United States government. We will have the secretary of the interior, Miss Deb Haaland, who is going to be speaking at the opening. She's an indigenous person, so I'm very proud that I'm going to get to meet her. We're [also going to have speakers] from Switzerland, because when you create a treaty there's a depository government that keeps the treaty — Switzerland is a depository government for the CITES treaty. But the most important thing is that we're going to have those who have engaged in partnerships tell us how [those

partnerships] have been successful. We're going to have somebody from the Caribbean, who's going to speak about Queen Conch – a marine species very popular within the Caribbean and [among] people from the Caribbean living outside the Caribbean. It was very much endangered ... overexploited, and almost disappearing. So working with this organisation of eastern Caribbean states, the fishers, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development – slowly, things are getting better. They're putting in legislation that they didn't have before about wildlife. That partnership has helped improve the situation, so they're going to be speaking.

Then we'll have a panel speaking about the issue of financing. The private sector hasn't been that notorious in terms of contributing to conservation, except as charity, [because] how can you get something back when you invest in wildlife? There's a new bond – originally called the Rhino Bond, but it's now about wildlife in general – to guarantee that if things go well in terms of the population of the species increasing, the investor will get some profits. Climate change gets a lot of investment – much more than biodiversity – so how can we use that to convince them to invest in biodiversity? This is another discussion that we're going to have to have that day.

We have representatives from Singapore and Malaysia coming to speak about the work that they have been doing to engage youth in the cause of CITES and conservation. CITES is now developing a youth network – we want to be able to bring youth on board because all this work that we're doing is for the youth. Alongside that, we have things that normally happen on Wildlife Day. One is the Jackson Wild Film Showcase, [where] there's prizes given to the best films talking about wildlife conservation. And there's the International Fund for Animal Welfare painting contest, and there's a painting selected for a prize also talking about wildlife conservation. It's going to be quite a packed day, but very interesting.

Marie: Are you optimistic about the future of wildlife conservation? And how can students get involved in contributing to this?

Ivonne: We have to remain optimistic

– we hear a lot of bad news every day. Youth have the biggest worries, and you're saying 'what are these people doing to our planet?' Not only are we in difficult times when we talk about the triple planetary crisis – pollution, climate change, the biodiversity crisis – we're also in a difficult geo-political situation with the war going on right now. It's hard to remain optimistic when these things are happening, but we must remain optimistic. And that's why it's good to hear these stories about how partnerships have helped. I can tell you a number of things that have been done under CITES with populations who were on the brink – vicuña, crocodiles, snowdrop. Getting communities involved, working with the governments, including legislation ... all of these things have made a difference and brought some species back. It's also changing human habits. We don't need illegal products – we have to learn to reduce the demand for illegal products, and students can help us with that. Spread the word – pangolin scales are not going to cure any diseases, rhino horn is not going to cure any diseases. It's the same as a fingernail. I remain optimistic for the future because I know the youth is active. You have to put pressure on us. You have to say what kind of future you would like to have and communicate that loudly. Make sure that you're heard when decisions are being taken in your countries. With development, [like] building new highways, we have to be careful that it's not going to have an impact on wildlife.

Right now, it's a very polarised environment of those who are against any type of wildlife trade, and those who have a different approach to wildlife trade. Emotions can run high, but it's different for a person who's sitting in an apartment on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan than a person who's sitting next to the Amazon River who has to think about how they're going to put food on their plate every single day. That's why you have to have empathy – taking tough decisions, but finding ways in which those tough decisions that have to be taken can be ameliorated and softened by giving alternative livelihoods. If you have to take it from the wild, let it be for the people that live there, or at least have a fair compensation.

Credit: Natalie Yu



decision whether something is going to be listed.

We have partnerships with the United Nations Environment Program. We work a lot on livelihoods, indigenous people, who are really in the front lines because they live right next to the habitats of these animals and plants. We have to work with these communities to

COMMENT

Edited by: ELIF CIVELEKOGLU

COMMENT

Why aspec awareness matters at Imperial

► *Katherine Holmes discusses the developments in the representation of the aspec community in Imperial and in the broader STEM world*

Katherine Holmes Comment Writer

Have you ever heard of the LGBTQ+ orientation 'aspec'?

Aspec people are queer individuals who identify as asexual ('ace') and/or aromantic ('aro'), which are terms that reflect if an individual's experience of sexual and/or romantic attraction is notably reduced. This umbrella term encapsulates an endless amount of experiences. Retract the umbrella, and you are showered with various sub-identities to help us ground ourselves and communicate what aspec means to each of us personally. Demi-ace/aro, ace/aro-flux, pan/bi/homo/hetero-romantic, sex-repulsed, sex/romance-favourable, and on and on. I see sexual and romantic attraction as not just a rainbow spectrum but also having a colour intensity. This may be a lot to absorb if it's new to you.

Like many LGBTQ+ people, it takes time to figure out our orientation, and even then, the nuances of it may fluctuate. Having the 'right words' and a safe space to start a dialogue are critical variables to realising who we are and learning how to appreciate ourselves and others. This sentiment is what carries the recent efforts to include aspec into queer conversations at Imperial and the broader STEM community. That said, at Imperial in particular, it still feels like very early days for active inclusion and recognition.

I am thankful to have been part of these early days, and I wish to see consistent university-wide efforts for aspec inclusion in the coming years. To my knowledge, the 'Pride of Imperial' article and 'Pride of Exhibition Road' panel, which I took part in during 2022, were two of the first Imperial-associated LGBTQ+ projects that acknowledged the aspec orientation. Later that year, I was filled with pride to see IQ arranging aspec focused events, specifically a panel featuring aro-ace activist Yasmin Benoit

and 'the first successful' aspec student social hosted by Natalie Ng. Indeed, 2022 was a good year to be an aspec



THE STRUGGLE TO BE OPEN IS OFTEN EXPERIENCED BY AROMANTIC INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS ASEXUALS

student at Imperial.

Meanwhile, in the external STEM world, we have seen 'rising star' activists go above and beyond to raise awareness and create safe spaces for communities to grow. Sarah Cosgriff is an asexual science communicator and has done incredible advocacy since 2020. Along with Dr. Jazmin Scarlett, the pair co-founded the Aces in STEM network, providing a digital space for people to connect with others like themselves.

Sarah often incorporates queer topics into their work, be it doing science demonstrations that include different pride flags or directly using science as an allegory for what it is like to be queer. She is passionate about engaging LGBTQ+ audiences through her work, including sharing science demonstrations with asexual themes on TikTok. Recently, she shared one of these demonstrations in a science context: a science communication conference. The demonstration she shared with conference attendees involved colour to describe the split-attraction model, a model which is well-spoken across aspec communities to describe different forms of attraction. She not only uses her expertise as a science communicator

to engage people with science but also to engage scientists to raise their knowledge of asexuality and aromanticism.

Efforts like this give me hope that someday soon this 'unheard of' identity will become visible and valued. From the 2018 National LGBT Survey conducted by Government Equalities Office, it was shown that asexual people make up the LGBTQ+ group who are least likely to be out. A staggering 89% of those identifying reported that they 'had avoided being open about their sexual orientation for fear of a negative reaction'. The aromantic spectrum was not accounted for in the survey, however, the struggle to be open is often experienced by aromantic individuals as well as asexuals. When asked 'why?', I believe many factors originate from well-upheld social norms. Whether it is our schoolteachers in sex education telling us 'you will feel like this; you can expect to do that', or that one friend repeatedly asking, 'do you have a boyfriend yet'. It all adds up to an expectation that people will not understand or respect that you experience things differently.

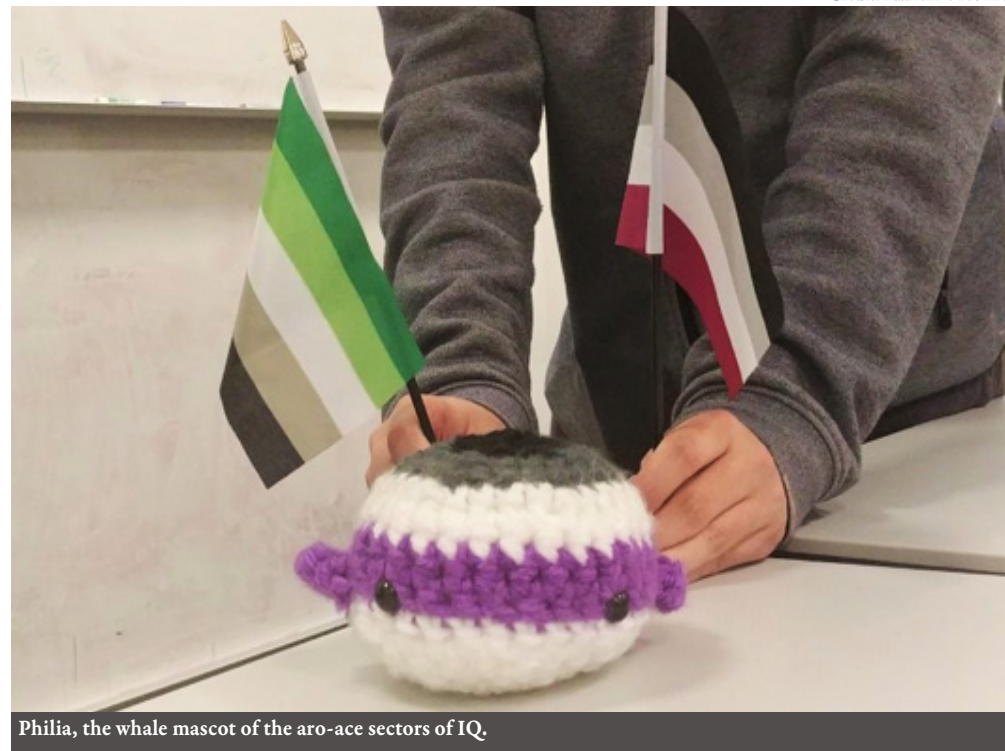
This is why awareness is important;

only when compassionate inclusion becomes the norm will asexuality and aromanticism become truly understood and appreciated. Imperial has started to play a part in generating visibility for aspec students, and I hope that an intention to do more in the future exists. Consistent mindful efforts will go a long way in validating the aspec minority that they do indeed have a place here in LGBTQ+ groups, Imperial and the external STEM community. I think we are on the right track Imperial. Keep it up!



This QR code shows a number of resources that questioning students may find helpful!

Credit: Katherine Holmes



Philia, the whale mascot of the aro-ace sectors of IQ.

ARTS

Fashion Article

- ▶ *EAST ASIAN INSPIRED FASHION TRENDS*
- ▶ *THE INNOVATION OF PRADA*
- ▶ *DONATELLO: SCULPTING THE RENAISSANCE REVIEW*
- ▶ *ARTS NIGHT REVIEW*

ARTS

Edited by: GILBERT JACKSON
SOPHIE POINTON

The silk road to silk chic

The fusion of Eastern and Western Fashion!

Kiara Rao Arts Writer

East-Asian-inspired fashion has gained appeal in recent years, with a growing number of designers and brands infusing east-Asian aesthetics into their collections. This trend is being pushed by the expanding worldwide impact of diverse east-Asian cultures, notably in the realms of entertainment and technology. McKinsey & Company's study 'The State of Fashion 2019' recognised Asia's expanding importance in the global arena, with China and South Korea being its top fashion markets.

One of the most prominent trends in east-Asian-inspired fashion is the revival of traditional clothes such as the Chinese cheongsam and the Japanese kimono. In 2019, the global market for traditional Chinese apparel was valued at \$10.8 billion, with the cheongsam being one of the most popular designs. The global market for kimonos and other traditional Japanese clothes is estimated to reach \$40 billion by 2026. The kimono has been a popular option for designers with its flowing sleeves and exquisite designs, and it has been reinterpreted as dresses, coats, and even beach cover-ups.

The emergence of Asian-inspired design has been

aided by the popularity of Korean pop culture, popularly known as K-Pop. Fans have taken notice of K-Pop singers' bold wardrobe choices, which has fuelled demand for similar designs. K-Pop stars' oversized shirts and jackets, vibrant designs, and bright colours have become part of the fashion standard for many young people all over the world.

Fusion fashion has created its own platform by combining traditional east-Asian components with current Western design. Some renowned labels, such as Phillip Lim, whose collections usually showcase a blend of eastern and western designs, and Alexander Wang, whose collections integrate elements of Chinese and Taiwanese culture, have adopted this trend.

Another company that has adopted east-Asian flair is Gucci. The premium label's 2018 collection featured a variety of east-Asian-inspired features, such as dragon motifs, embroidered silk coats, and traditional Chinese flower designs. Alessandro Michele, Gucci's creative director, noted that the collection was inspired by his trips to east Asia and his interest in the region's rich cultural traditions.

Not limited to the catwalk, east Asian influences are also gaining popularity in the streetwear scene. A Bathing Ape (AAPE) and Visvim have gained popular-

Credit: Wikimedia Commons



An assortment of Japanese Kimonos.



Yellow dress and jacket combo by Phillip Lim.

ity for their distinct blend of Japanese streetwear and American hip-hop fashion, especially with young people worldwide.

The rise in Asian-inspired fashion trends reflects a larger cultural change in which more cultures and traditions are being accepted and appreciated. It also represents a growing consumer need for something distinctive and original in fashion, as they seek new sources of inspiration. With its rich history and numerous cultural influences, Asian fashion will undoubtedly continue to inspire designers and trend-setters worldwide.

Credit: Vogue

ARTS

Fashion Article

Exploring Prada's innovations...

On Prada's innovative nature *and its cannibalistic tendencies.*

Anna Brogard Arts Writer

The first Prada store was opened in Italy, 1993 as 'Fratelli Prada' by Mario Prada, and the store primarily sold bags, clothes steamers, and travel accessories. During the 1990s, Miuccia Prada, the designer's granddaughter, and her husband Patrizio Bertelli, developed Prada into a symbol of international luxury fashion and prestige. Today, Prada

“

IN OUR BUSINESS YOU CANNOT GET ANYWHERE WITHOUT TAKING A LEAP INTO THE DARK. EVERY NEW DESIGN IS A RISK: YOU WORK HARD AND INVEST HEAVILY IN IT, AND IT MAY ALL END IN TEARS. BUT YOU CAN ALSO WIN BIG.
-PATRIZIO BERTELLI, CO-CEO OF PRADA

is one of the most recognisable and iconic brands in fashion history.

This quote perfectly illustrates Prada's attitude towards risk: the brand is known for its culture of experimentation which has been a key factor in its success. According to Patrizio Bertelli, Prada has managed to cope well with the unpredictable and the unexpected. In the 1990s, Prada believed that its future relied on gaining market share in Europe and the United States. After a succession of events, in 2011 Prada finally launched their IPO in Hong Kong, instead of in Milan. The luxury house took a chance (and quite a big risk!) by investing in emerging markets such as India, China, and Russia, where a lot of unrestful events were happening. It didn't bank on the safe bet offered by the market in the West. However, this worked out well for them, as in 2012, China sales

constituted 22% of its revenue, while in 2021, Asia's net sales share was 39%.

Prada also took risks by acquiring other fashion brands such as Helmut Lang, Jil Sander, and Fendi, with the idea of creating a luxury Italian holding. However, Helmut Lang and Jil Sander left and Prada also eventually had to sell its stakes of Fendi. In this case, the company took the risk and failed, meaning they had to re-concentrate efforts on the brand itself and its smaller core brands.

In 2007, with electronics brand LG, Prada developed the LG Prada; the first smartphone with a capacitive touchscreen. At the time it was 'definitely a worthy competitor to the iPhone' according to a review published on Gizmodo. However, the iPhone eventually overtook the LG Prada, and the latter ceased to be able to compete with Apple's tremendous success. This can be considered a type I error; the brand bet on an innovation that turned out to be a failure.

Ultimately though, Prada's pattern of risk taking has been essential to its success, as it has consistently pushed the boundaries of fashion, innovation, and creativity. Miuccia Prada launched the famous 'ugly chic' style. She defended the decision to disagree with the designs that everyone else seems to agree on. And that worked. Prada was actually named 'the world's hottest fashion brand' in the fourth quarter of 2022. The brand's products remain highly valued and highly differentiable from other luxury houses' products. Prada is therefore a market-driving business, which proactively influences customers and reveals their incipient needs. Prada accepts taking all these risks and doesn't fear failure, because they are optimistic.

Prada is not arrogant or overconfident. It knows when to cannibalise its own products. Near the brand's establishment, Mr Bertelli advised the discontinuation of importing English goods, in favour by Italian ones. In 1994, he also chose to cannibalise its best selling bags – he decided to stop producing them, in order to

Credit: Anna Brogard

move on and produce the 'next' line. Prada was willing to let go of ongoing success to ensure that their offering would resonate with consumers in the future. On the other hand, besides cannibalising, Prada has expanded its products line – it continued the tradition of producing high-quality bags and luggage and it expanded

Credit: Anna Brogard



Prada's 'Ugly-chic' collection.

to footwear, women's wear, men's wear, etc. However, according to Sebastian Suhl, one of Prada's previous COO, 'Miu Miu and Prada do not cannibalise, they are friendly competitors.'

In 2019, Prada partnered with UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to launch the SEA BEYOND program to raise awareness of ocean pollution. This project, which combined ocean literacy and sustainable fashion, was recognized at the Sustainable Fashion Awards 2022. Furthermore, to prove it's adapting to the concerns of today's society, Prada decided to showcase its sustainable fashion solutions by launching the #PradaReNylon hashtag. This allowed customers to observe how the brand sustainably produces nylon in its factories in China.

Prada focuses on the future by continuing to develop sustainable fashion solutions and expanding its digital presence. Prada is also a leader in the use of technology to create new products and experiences, such as its augmented reality app. The app is described on Prada's website as 'an innovative way to directly experience its universe'. Prada is ranked 3rd out of all luxury fashion brands in terms of metaverse readiness.



Prada store in Milan, Italy.

Art Exhibit Review

Donatello: Sculpting the Renaissance ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The V&A's masterfully curated exhibit on one of the Renaissance's greatest artists.

Gilbert Jackson Arts Editor

When we think of the Renaissance we conjure up images of stoic philosophers pacing through marble halls debating and conversing, or depictions of Madonnas and various Saints with expressions of wistfulness or determination. In our minds these images are skilfully detailed and expertly crafted with attention to anatomical detail and proportion. When we think of Donatello, we are tempted to side-line him amongst the other great Renaissance artists as just another master of craft. However, the Donatello exhibit provided by the V&A Museum takes us on a deep-dive into the works of this sculpting genius and shows us how Donatello – along with masters like Michelangelo and Da Vinci – deserves more attention.

Considered one of Donatello's greatest works is the black bronze sculpture of *David*. The subject is wearing nothing but boots and a cap and his expression is adored with swagger and child-like mirth; the sculpture conveys both a sense of triumph over tyranny but also of sexual desire. The bronze *David* however is not what we see in this exhibit. Instead we are greeted by a much larger *David*, carved from marble, fully clothed, and standing proud on the head of his adversary, Goliath. A huge contrast in character, this sculpture shows David as a proud and powerful individual; his expression is that of conquering hero. We are thus shown

Credit: V&A press release



Virgin and Child: Schiacciato relief.

from the start that Donatello is a master of not only sculpture, but of human character and expression.

His skill at capturing human emotion are continually displayed in the exhibit. Throughout we are shown numerous examples of *Virgin and Child* depictions however each depiction is unique in its expression, its



David: Marble Sculpture.

artistic technique, and its material. *Seated Virgin and Child* is made from terracotta and depicts the Virgin Mary with a melancholic gaze and the Christ Child clinging to his mother for affection and protection. It is evident to see how Donatello captures both the scriptural foreshadowing of Christ's death, indicated by Mary's saddened expression and also the very visceral image of the interaction between a helpless child and its mother. The child clasping to his mother for safety combined with our own knowledge of Christ's eventual death makes this depiction an emotional rollercoaster. The grace and tranquillity exuded by this piece comes

Credit: V&A press release

from Donatello's depiction of Gothic forms – taught to him during his time as apprentice to Ghiberti – which also shows how Donatello was able to fuse art styles from across different time periods.

Donatello goes on to depict the *Virgin in Child* in a heavily detailed form of marble relief called schiacciato. This time the mother and child gaze into each other's eyes in side profile; a contrast to most depictions which have the Virgin holding the Child in front profile. The scene is immensely intimate and captures the deep connection which a mother has for her child. This image brings such venerated characters into the domains of reality, allowing us to sympathise and relate to these lofty figures.

The culmination of Donatello's skill at capturing human emotion and craftsmanship is exemplified in his depiction of *The Lamentation over the Dead Christ*. Christ lies dead, while the surrounding characters are stricken with grief and anguish; they tear at their hair and scream at the heavens while the lifeless expression on Mary's face and her hollow eyes brings out the feeling of insurmountable grief. The expert handling of bronze – featuring both polished bronze for Christ and unpolished bronze for the surrounding figures – further highlights Donatello's skill as an expert metalworker.

What the V&A presents is a way to not only connect with Donatello's artistic virtuosity in multiple media, but also to see how Donatello set a precedent in how emotion and complex characteristics can be conveyed to the viewer. We are guided effectively through Donatello's life and his works, and the V&A's exhibit has deepened our understanding of this great master, allowing us to connect with the artist and his works; one leaves with a fired passion for this artist's masterpieces and tempers our knowledge of his life and his influences.

Donatello: Sculpting The Renaissance is an exhibit run by the V&A running now till the 11th of June. Tickets cost £20 standard price and £13 for students.

Music While You Walk

The exhibit viewing experience can always be enhanced by music appropriate for your viewing. Here are some music recommendations for this exhibit!

1. *Crucifixus a 8* – Lotti
2. *Lamentations of Jeremiah* – Tallis
3. *Kyrie from Mass for Double Choir* – Martin
4. *Sanctus from Missa Corona Spinea* – Taverner
5. *Agnus Dei from Mass in G* – Poulenc

ARTS

Showcase Review

The Arts in Metric: a review

An evening of magic, creativity, and buckets of talent.

Sophie Pointon Arts Editor

On the 24th of February, a night full of music, song, and dancing took place at Metric in Beit Quad. The fact that the dancefloor was never completely full was slightly underwhelming, but by no fault of the performers, whose talents were definitely worth paying £5 to experience. After chatting with a handful of people about how music is exactly what you need after a long week of lectures, and watching the sound and light technicians working their magic (that's you, Luna and Victor!), the performances were ready to begin.

Heading the set list were four of Imperial's a capella groups (sadly most of *The Tectonics* were ill, and so couldn't perform), the first of which was *Take Note*, Imperial A Capella's all-female barbershop group – barbershop means either an all-female or all-male choral group, usually a quartet with three of the voices harmonising to the melody of the fourth voice – which I really enjoyed. They had a really warm, bubbly energy and tried to get the audience to engage with them to boot. After them came *Surcery*, the youngest A Capella group at Imperial, whose premise is to mashup, medley, and otherwise fuse Eastern and Western music, using both English and Hindi, which you can get a taste of if you visit their webpage: <https://www.union.ic.ac.uk/arts/acappella/groups/surcery/>. They were rather cool too. Then came *The Imperielles*, another all-female and non-binary group (but the first one, take note), who brought an even more beautiful sound to the stage. You could tell everyone in the group was there to have a good time – it was very wholesome. Last of the four groups (but not least!) was *The Scopes*, who seem to do a mixture of everything, from pop to funk to jazz, and they might have been my favourite: the song they performed was 'Electric Love' by BØRNS.



Imperial A Capella groups *Take Note* (left) and *The Scopes* (right).

Next up was the bands, with *You Wouldn't Know Them* going first. Their lighting request was "dark with lots of strobe", so you might be able to get an idea of the sort of music they played. After them came *L.A.D.*, who were unfortunately missing their drummer, so Luna (who had been teaching me how to use Tiger Touch – the controls for the lights) graciously stepped up and improvised on the drums for them. It wasn't my sort of music, but the audience bopped and swayed along happily (the wonders of drinks). The next band was *Xanshi*, whose songs were of a similar style to the band that followed them, *The Pocket*; both bands kept the audience moving and the walls vibrating.

The next band, *Immigrants*, played a mixture of famous and original songs (the most memorable one being 'Dog Days'). The lead singer of *Immigrants* had just got married, and dedicated the band's final song to his partner in the audience, which gave the music another dimension! Pretty damn cool.

Somehow, I ended up being the only one in charge of the lighting (sound and

lights were provided by DramSoc, shout out to y'all) and had a lot of fun messing around with those, so if you didn't like that aspect of Arts Night, you know who to blame.

I may have been deafened by *Big Band*, but they were incredible – and so was Oli Keene, who sang 'Street Life' by Randy Crawford. I misheard it as 'Streetlight' and made the lights go all bright and yellow whenever Oli sang the title word. The contrast that *Big Band* brought to the stage compared to the *Immigrants*, was awesome: the atmosphere was able to shift from clubbing-like to an almost orchestral-type setting. I was blown away.

It's a fact that hardly anyone notices when the person doing the lights messes up, and people were obviously getting progressively more intoxicated as the night



Guitarist from *You Wouldn't Know Them*.



Members of *Big Band* on stage.

went on, so by the time the DJ came on – at roughly 1 o'clock in the morning – the theme was 'anything goes'. If A Capella lacks anything, it's the volume and power that club lighting needs to be effective; which is why Metric would be improved if you could black out the windows and have complete control of the light levels.

I'm annoyed that I didn't find out the name of the DJ, because they were actually pretty good. It's true that the people on the dance floor numbered about ten, but he didn't seem to care, and combined all kinds of songs that I'd never have imagined would sound good together. But all good things pass away and with the help of a half-blackout and

lights directed at the door, the last few drunken revellers were shoo-ed out of Metric, and I discovered that the adage of 'techies are first in and last out' is very, very true.

Finally, many thanks to Celine, our Arts and Entertainment Board Chair, for organising the whole event!



Lead singer of *Immigrants*.

BOOKS

Author Interview

Ava Glass: author of *The Chase*, a woman's response to James Bond

► *We had the pleasure of speaking to Ava, who spilled what it's like working in crime journalism and civil service, moving cities, living in the 'now', and lots about books!*

Zanna Buckland Co-Editor-in-Chief

I meet Ava Glass at The Ivy Club in downtown Soho, which is discreetly situated above a glass-doored marble-covered flower shop. I'm greeted by a reception desk who help me put my bags in a cloakroom and then personally lead me over to the table and comfy chairs where Glass is waiting. We chat a little about our lives while I get myself sorted out; she's very warm and well-composed, something that is particularly apparent when sitting next to me fumbling with my seven-year-old falling-apart backpack stuffed to the brim.

She has only ordered a sparkling water when I arrive but convinces me to have a spot of tea with her, which I gratefully accept. This is the first in-person interview I've done for the paper, and I'm lucky to be hosted in such lovely surroundings. They appear lavish, but Glass deserves to indulge herself after years spent working her way up to where she is now; even she can't quite believe it, as she says to me: "how am I even in this club right now?"

Asking about her education and career background, Glass tells me she studied in the US, receiving a bachelor's degree in journalism from Texas A&M University, a subsidiary college of the University of Texas. Coming from a relatively underprivileged background – "I didn't grow up with money, and my family weren't readers or particularly educated," – she worked hard, landing a job as a crime reporter after graduating.

The way she describes it, crime reporting is just as enthralling as you would expect, and especially so for a 22-year-old graduate. She tells me that "you can get very close to everything, with no separation between yourself, the victims, the suspects, and the police". Glass was really on the front lines with everyone involved, and "this taught [her] a lot about life and writing". "You also learn a lot about morality in how much you can actually report on." She calls it "elementary school for reporting" and feels she matured a lot in the eight years she worked in the field.

Glass did a lot of freelance writing before being offered work on a project for *Time Out* magazine, based in London. "I don't know how they chose to give me a visa, but I was lucky with a person at the embassy."

Having secured a work visa, she moved her life over to London, where she then worked in publishing for five years. Looking back on her time spent with *Time Out*, she says, with her eyes lighting up, "the London media was wild, and everyone there was smart, capable, and funny". Again, she was learning lots about writing, editing, and just about life.

Once that job ended, Glass found herself at a career crossroads, with no particular direction in sight, until a friend who was working for the Home Office pegged her for a civil service job. As "someone who doesn't get scared" she seemed perfect for a role involving writing about counter-terrorism.

“

IT WAS COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT WORK, AND DANGEROUS, BECAUSE THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T WANT ME DOING IT.

So, for the next five years, Glass worked in the counter-terrorism job, of which she says, "it was tricky, because it was almost all new, and I had to learn everything, especially since journalism and government work are almost in opposition".

"I was trying not to look like an idiot, by saying 'yes I understand'...while furiously making notes to go through later. But then I found out everyone knew I was learning [on the job] anyway! It was complex and difficult work, and dangerous, because there were people who didn't want me doing it."

Although it was challenging, she still found it rewarding: "once I cracked it [a job] I would move on and start learning something else". She also feels she was helping others in the best way she could.

Since retiring as a civil servant, Glass has been working in publishing, and started running a fiction imprint in lockdown. Here she continues to help people in a different way; getting new books that she loves published. Among her recent favourites are *Blue Running* by Lori Ann Stephens and *The Coming Darkness* by Greg Mosse, both of



Credit: Envato Elements



BOOKS

Edited by: ZANNA BUCKLAND



which are close to her heart. The imprint spans a huge range of genres, but focuses on crime, thrillers, and 'Book Club fiction' (although we both agree that the latter is hardly an effective descriptor for a novel).

This leads nicely into the topic I'm here to discuss with her – the release of her debut novel *The Chase* (a review of the novel can be found on page 19). When she started working in the world of secret intelligence, she brushed up on her spy fiction reading with classic authors like Ian Fleming and John le Carre.

One of the elements that struck her was "how women were portrayed – which was almost not at all, but usually as sex objects, objects of fun, or just as helpers. Whereas what I had seen [in the intelligence job] was that there were just as many women as men, and that they were doing the exact same job and taking the same risks. They were just as smart, as capable, and as brave."

So, wanting to portray these experiences, she based the main character of *The Chase* – Emma Makepeace – on the first female spy she ever met. Wide-eyed, Glass recalls the meeting to me: "She was 28 – or at least I think she was – and I didn't know she was a spy until after the job was completed. It was like meeting a ghost, because [afterwards] I realised I had no idea who I was talking to – it's an imbalanced relationship, because they have full security clearance [so know everything about you while you know nothing about them]. The world is one of tremendous distrust."

“

SHE WAS 28 – OR AT LEAST I THINK SHE WAS – AND I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS A SPY UNTIL AFTER THE JOB WAS COMPLETED.

BOOKS



Credit: Envato Elements

Without giving too much away, the plot is your typical “race against time” and involves Makepeace on her first major assignment, “getting the son of Russian dissidents across London” without being caught on CCTV (which has been hacked by the Russians). This was inspired by the assassination attempt on a Russian-British double agent ten years after he had revealed their secrets; “they tried to kill him for pure revenge, as he had nothing left to tell”.

On this note, I ask what about the novel she liked most, and she says with a smile, “the relationship between Emma the spy and Michael the victim.”

“Michael’s a doctor, and smart, so he’s resistant and doesn’t want to be rescued at first, until it’s apparent that he’s in danger.” Glass has recreated the power imbalance she mentioned before, as “Emma notices anything Michael says or does that isn’t in his file, while he knows nothing about her world and background, and yet still has admiration for her”. There is a bond that develops between them through spending such a short but intense time together.

Refreshingly, the connection isn’t meant to be romantic – “developing a romance in 12 hours isn’t feasible” – although Glass says some readers have seen it as such anyway. She doesn’t necessarily disagree with the interpretation, but tried to keep a “thriller atmosphere”. The characters do have time to rest and talk, and in this she feels there is an ‘if things were different’ undertone.

What Glass most wants from the book is for readers to “fall for the characters and to want to come back”. She sees it as escapism, taking people out of their own lives for a while, and wants readers to form a bond with the characters and want to read future books – because there will be future instalments in this *Alias Emma* series. The character she feels the strongest connection with is Jay Gatsby; she would like him to be real, and that’s what she wants others to feel about Makepeace.



LIFE WON’T BE WHAT YOU THINK IT WILL, AND THAT’S FINE, BUT BE READY TO NOT ACHIEVE THE GOAL YOU SET WHEN YOU WERE 19.

We have another sip of tea and move on to talking about creating the spy world that she wants readers to return to. “The real spy world is nothing like in books and films – it’s always a fantasy (Fleming knew what he was doing when he created Bond’s world). My main character doesn’t have loads of [fanciful] gadgets or ‘superpowers’, because the real job relies largely on an individual’s own skill set, intelligence, and capability – not on flying cars!”

Despite this, it sounds as though many of the government intelligence buildings are nice and modern – the result of a campaign by Tony Blair.

Lowering her voice, she says “I’m not entirely sure if I’m supposed to say this, but the giant MI5 doors can close up to form a fortress”. (If you’re ever planning an attack on British intelligence, take notes.) Although the shiny new facilities sound fancy, Glass tells me she really loves the older agency buildings in Westminster – the ones with majestic old marble staircases – and that she modelled *The Chase*’s agency more after those.

She’s wanted to come to London ever since she saw *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* as a child, and had done some backpacking in Europe and Latin America when she was younger. I enquire as to whether people ever get thrown off by her accent, which is an interesting mixture of American and British pronunciations. She says “yes, and my husband sometimes points out when I pronounce certain words in a very British way, and I often don’t even realise!” She then tells me that with my ‘international school’ accent, I would make a really good spy, and I think that’s probably the coolest thing anyone’s ever said to me.

Glass is always reading; she mentions this in response to whether or not she also enjoys reading books from her novel’s genre. This is because she’s constantly reading through new submissions at the publishing house, but unfortunately that means she finds it hard to read other books, like recommendations from friends. Although she doesn’t like to read too much crime or thriller nowadays, she talks about her love of le Carre’s novels and laments the ‘instant gratification’ factor:

“He takes his time to craft the story and doesn’t get to the point for a long time, but it’s beautiful waiting for the plot to appear. You can read at least twenty pages without even getting to the crux of his novel. Whereas now, I think readers and editors have got more impatient – it’s an impatient world.”

To my question of who her male and female role models are, she replies, “I don’t really have any!” That being said, noteworthy women she admires include Virginia Hall – “one of the most amazing and recklessly brave spies in history (WW2); she was Germany’s number one [target] for a while, but managed to stay under the radar, like quicksilver” – and Madeleine Albright. “They’re women who started with nothing but achieved a great deal”; she respects that they “fought their way up, rather than starting with a leg up” or ‘starting at third base’ as they apparently say in Texas!

A man she admires is F. Scott Fitzgerald, author of *The Great Gatsby*, who she finds endlessly fascinating. Although fascinating, Glass says she wouldn’t want to be like him and wouldn’t recommend trying to be either – “I don’t want to be like anybody – everybody’s flawed”.

Asked what her favourite period of life has been so far, Glass says “now –

but I would have said ‘now’ at any other point in my life as well”.

“I love writing novels, and that I’ve got the opportunity to do so. I’ve got everything I wanted when I was little, and everything so far has just been a gift. Even though there have been many backwards steps, it’s never in a bad way, and I just relish the journey; there’s no specific destination and awards can’t always be the goal. You need to find a way to do your art, no matter how hard it is.”

As I usually do, I ask what advice she would give to Imperial students, and to women in particular, and she responds: “life won’t be what you think it will, and that’s fine, but be ready to not achieve the goal you set when you were 19”. This isn’t due to a lack of faith, but rather an understanding that you can never know where you’ll be in five, ten, or even a year’s time.

“At 19 I wanted to write for *The New York Times*, and although I was a freelancer there for a while, everyone I spoke to about it said not to work there. So I shifted my goals, because what else could I do? [Goals] should never stay the same for long, as it’s easy to give up on things when you’re reaching 30 years old and still haven’t achieved goals you set as a teenager. I’ve had four careers so far, because I keep changing [as a person], and I can still have a fifth career if I want to! Move with what comes your way and go with the flow.”

I like to end interviews on a less serious note, and so I ask Glass what her favourite Underground line is. She thinks for a moment and then says Bakerloo; it’s physically shallower, it feels historical and has a connection to *Sherlock Holmes* (Baker Street), and there are lots of interesting places to visit on it! Despite the insipid question, somehow her answer manages to pull together the elements of her life and personality that we talked about.

Ava was a gracious host, and I look forward to meeting her again on Thursday 16th March, when she’ll be visiting Imperial to talk more about her life and the book at an event hosted by IC Book Club!

felix Books x IC Book Club host Ava Glass at Imperial

Ava Glass’s debut novel *The Chase* is a modern take on your classic spy thriller. The tale of secret agent Emma Makepeace, the title presents a woman’s version of what it’s like to work in espionage and secret intelligence, based in part on Glass’s own experience as a civil servant in the UK with the second-highest rank of security clearance. The event promises to be a fascinating one, with focus on how women can break into stereotypically male lines of duty, and their presence in literature. Details below!

Date: Thursday 16th March

Time: 18:00-19:00

Location: The Union Bar (through FiveSixEight)

Cost: Free!

Book Review

The Chase: a lure into spy fiction?

► *Mohammad Majlisi dips his toe into the thrilling world of spies and espionage, despite his qualms about genre fiction.*

Mohammad Majlisi Books Writer

Those acquainted with my reading taste would know that thrillers, or any genre fiction books for that matter, generally aren't my forte. I have been a staunch literary fiction reader since I was 15, and yes, I know how pretentious that sounds. That's not to say that I haven't read or enjoyed thrillers before; I've read some *James Bond* novels, and they were pretty good (all problematic sections aside), and the *Alex Rider* series was literally crack cocaine for eight-year-old me. Thrillers, and genre fiction by extension, rely too much on tropes and clichés, and this quasi-predictable nature turns me off from the genre. I feel that the end-goal, or purpose, of literature is to provoke new thoughts and perspectives, or to articulate something in a new and novel way. Genre fiction is purely literature written for its own hedonistic end. I think it's important to establish this, so that you understand my biases and know that while I am not naturally inclined to read

thrillers, I do understand the genre. Nevertheless, when our Books editor requested me to read and review *The Chase*, I was more than happy to do so; after all, she had said it looked promising.

The premise is exciting – it's a tight story with high stakes and lots of twists and turns. Narratively, it weaves between titular character Emma Makepeace's past and present, constantly keeping the tone nice and tense. It is genuinely thrilling, and I was surprised at how quickly the first hundred or so pages flowed. Emma, the protagonist, is a compelling character with a strong motivation and a likeable disposition. It is extremely refreshing to see a female main character in the thriller genre, where women are often subjected to being secondary characters, or reduced to sexual objects; it's one of the elements that originally drove me away from the thriller genre. Her motivations are cogent and compelling. The trope of the 'Jack Reacher' tough guy, which makes me physically gag, has birthed some of the blandest characters in literary history; most of the time these characters are a circle-jerk for the rugged American libertarianism that pervades the deep undertones of many a thriller novel. One of the best aspects of this book is that Glass resolutely gets rid of the male power fantasy aspect of a conventional thriller.

The characters are good, with a conventional yet well-rounded cast of mostly detailed characters. Makepeace is a badass, and the action is taut yet believable, although one thing that did irk me was the fact that Makepeace often sounds like she has imposter syndrome when in a fight. To me, the odds are emphasised too much, because what we learn about Makepeace throughout the book proves she is more than capable of handling herself.

I did a little bit of spy work of my own; Ava Glass is the pseudonym of C.J. Daugherty, an American writer based in the United Kingdom. Daugherty has previously had success with her best-selling *Night School* series. Her oeuvre comprises mostly young-adult novels, although she has ventured into crime with her *Harper McClain* series. *The Chase*, and all subsequent *Alias Emma* books seem to follow this new thriller direction,

largely based upon Glass's time as a communications consultant for the Home Office. The young-adult influence is obvious in the novel's prose; it lacks sophistication, with an almost non-existent flow. It's not melodic, but it's not utilitarian either. Whilst language in thrillers is often simple and easy to digest, this falls more into the category of bad prose and writing than just simplicity. Words have a puerile tone to them; the lexical choices that Glass makes speak to a younger audience than me and to a more American audience as well. Secondly, the dialogue is beyond cliché; I would read aloud the worst offenders to my friends as they worked, only to hear collective groans. We may sound like the most insufferable people ever, but never again do I want to see the words 'creaming your drawers' again in print.

It's jarring because the plot and its beats are good, but the reader gets knocked away from the action by the childishness of the writing. Over the course of the book, the writing does improve, but at the outset it is very jarring. Towards the end there is some engaging prose that I could really appreciate in its eloquence, and that was extremely satisfying.

Overall, *The Chase* is a strong opening novel from Ava Glass, and unmissable for fans of the young-adult and thriller genres. However, for those who want a more sophisticated and mind-bending thriller, this isn't for you. Despite its shortcomings, it is extremely gripping and action-packed, and a novel that can definitely be read in one go. I did have an enjoyable time reading the book; despite my objections, it's still really good. I would read other titles by Glass, and I wouldn't mind finding out more about the adventures of Emma Makepeace. Glass has started her *Alias Emma* series with a brilliantly punchy book, albeit not without its flaws. And as for me, it might be time to try some more genre fiction again.

REVIEW BOOKS AVAILABLE!

If you love reading but don't know which books to write about, we have a number of titles that need reviewing – these are usually recent or upcoming releases, hot off the press.

Crime/Thriller

In The Shadow They Cast by Paul Graham

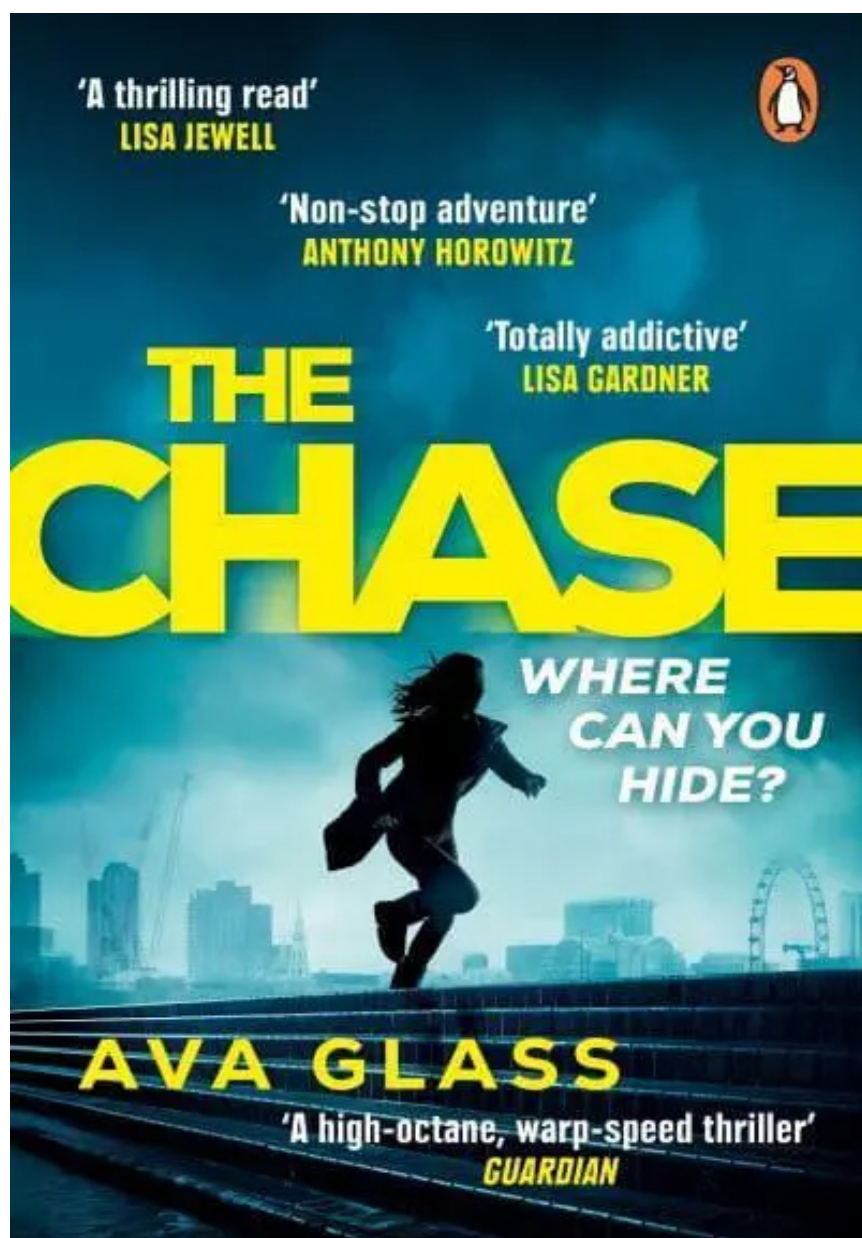
Red Light and Bell by Richard Cobourne

The Department of Conspiracy by Cal Georgeson

Languages

The Anglo-French Exchange (Textbook) by Dr. Allswell E. Eno

Email books.felix@imperial.ac.uk if interested!



CAPTION COMPETITION

This week's winner - Calum Drysdale



"Awful news about that escaped python eh?"

The Cat #003

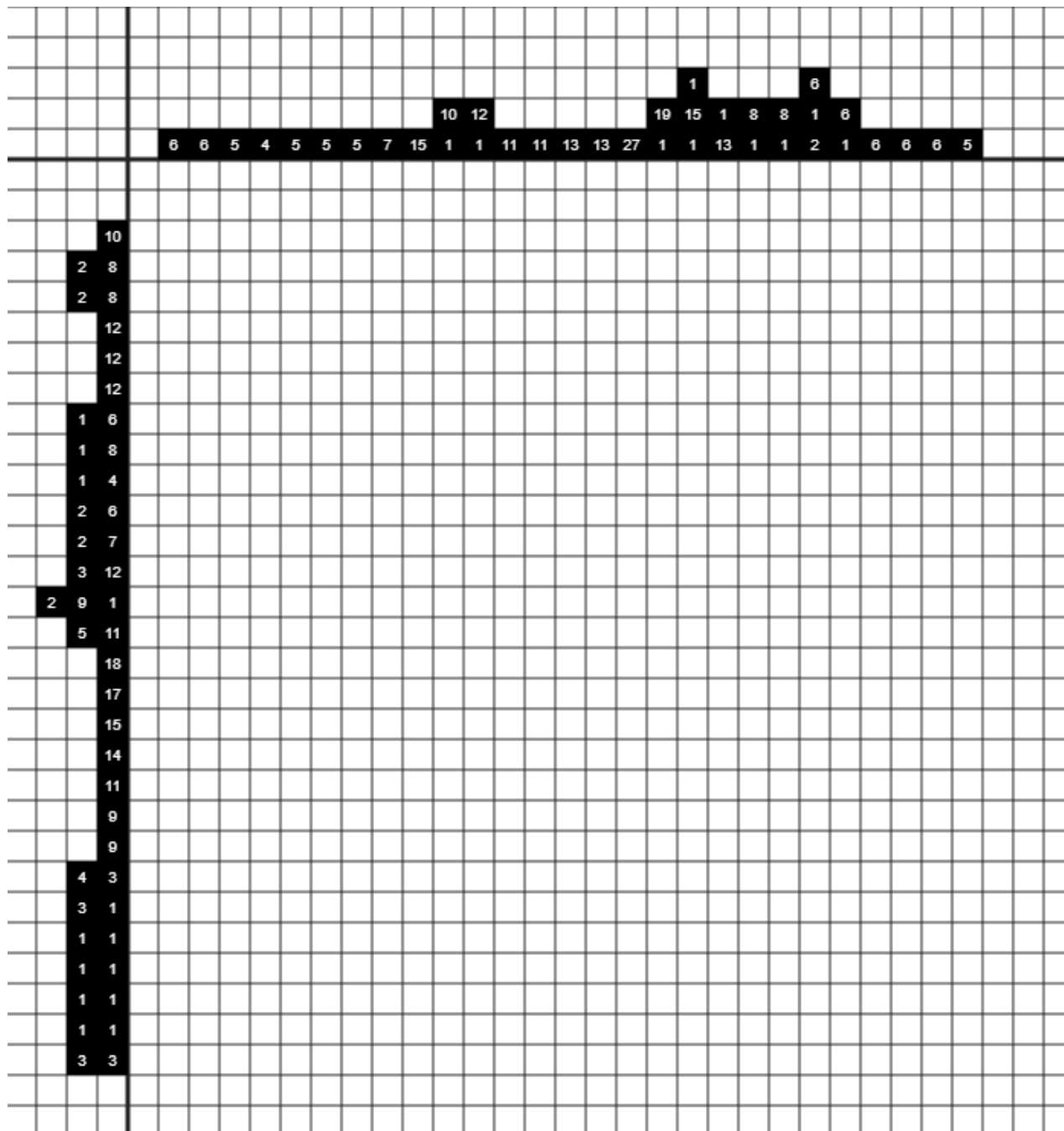


PUZZLES

PUZZLES

Nonogram

3 points



Sudoku

2 points each

Easy

	4		3			2		
		7			2			
						9		6
				6		7	9	
				1				4
1		5	4	2				
6					8			
				9	4			
							1	3

Medium

				5				4
4						9	7	
	5		2			3		
	7	4			3	5		
			6				8	
	2							
3	1					7		
			1	9				
			7	3			6	2

Hard

			1	9				
		1		2	6		4	
	7							5
		9						3
				8	5	2		
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8			6		4			
		6			9		3	1

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COME SUPPORT US! WE'



Pull out your bowties and your party snacks, and grab either your mother or your under-25-year-old date – it's that time of year again! The 95th Academy Awards are taking place on March 12th, and here at Felix Film&TV we've got all the information you need to form your predictions without ever

watching a single one of the films! We joke, of course – there are some brilliant offerings this year for Best Picture, as well as a whole host of deserving nominees for every other category. In this glamorous pullout (that's what it's called,

ask the editors) we'll give you a brief overview of all the films that are up for Best Picture, as well as giving you our picks for each of the most anticipated categories. We've also designed an Oscars bingo card that you can use to liven up your watch parties (which might be necessary for all those who plan to watch live...)

FELIX FILM PRESENTS

The Oscars

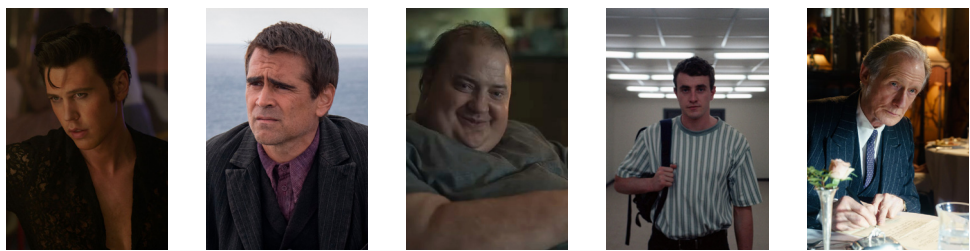




The Oscars

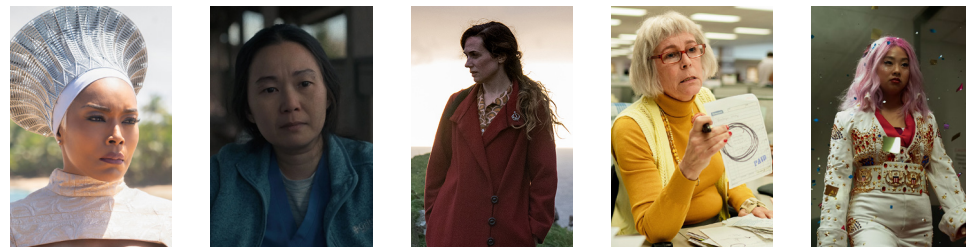
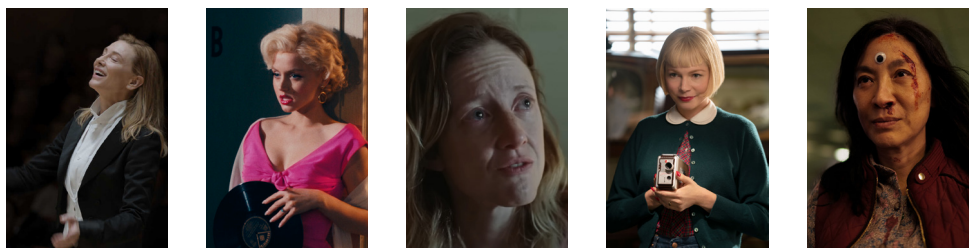
Nominees 2023: Part 1

ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE



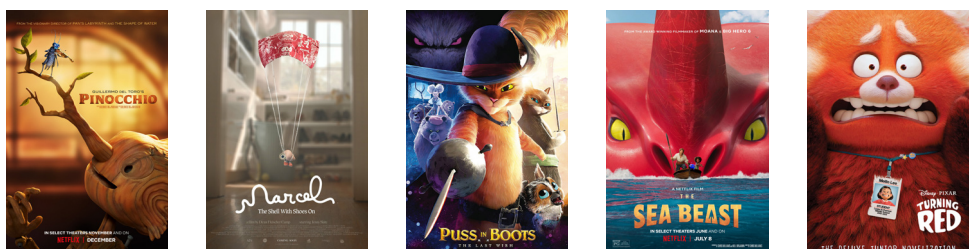
ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE



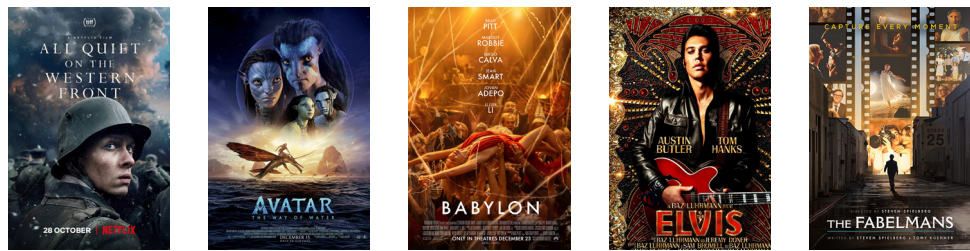
ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

ANIMATED FEATURE FILM

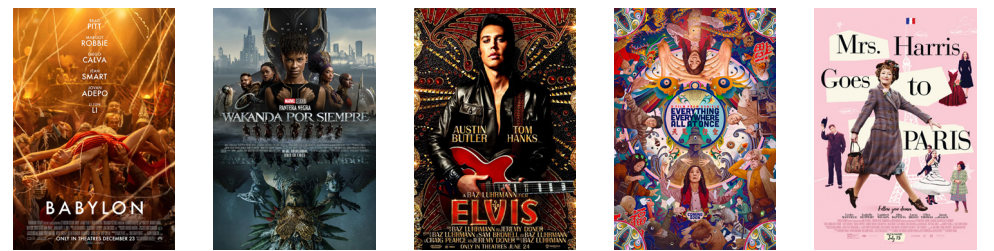


CINEMATOGRAPHY

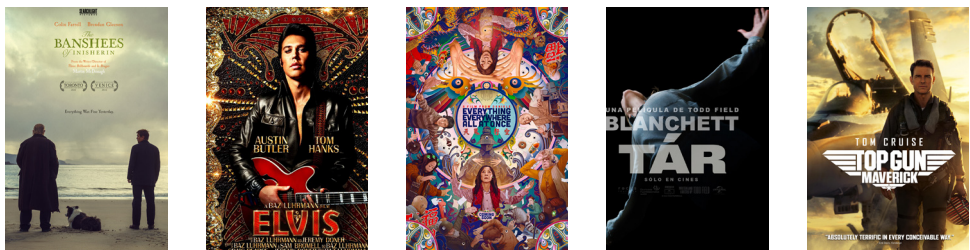




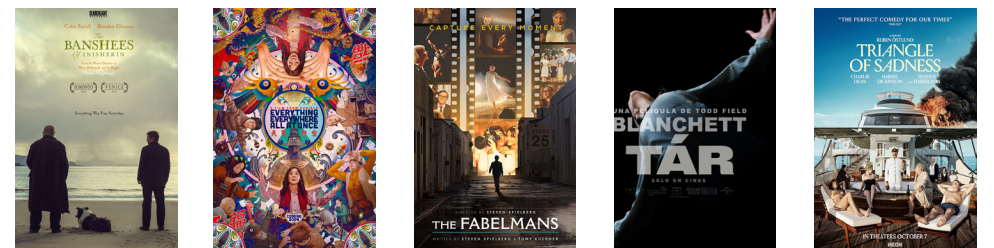
COSTUME DESIGN



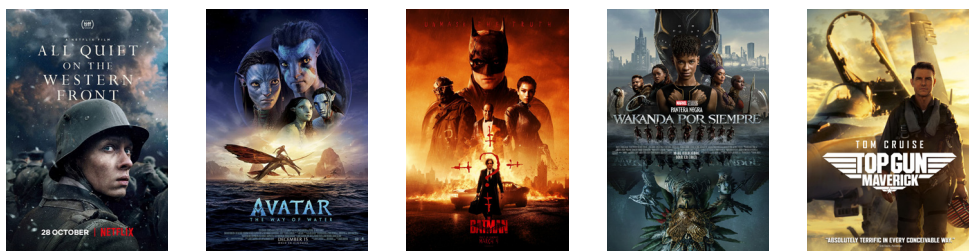
PRODUCTION DESIGN



DIRECTING



FILM EDITING



... find more nominations after **Best Picture** overview

VISUAL EFFECTS





BEST PICTURE



ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Ninety-three years after the original, this grim First World War epic has become a surprising favourite for Best Picture – the first German-language film to ever be nominated for the category. Releasing briefly in cinemas before moving home to Netflix (who produced it), All Quiet has already won the best film award at the BAFTAs. The Academy is usually famous for relegating non-English films to nominations only in the international category (a trend notably bucked by Bong Joon Ho's Parasite in 2020), so a win here would be an interesting turn of events, and a clear harbinger of rises in the acceptance of subtitles by us audiences in the uncultured Anglosphere.



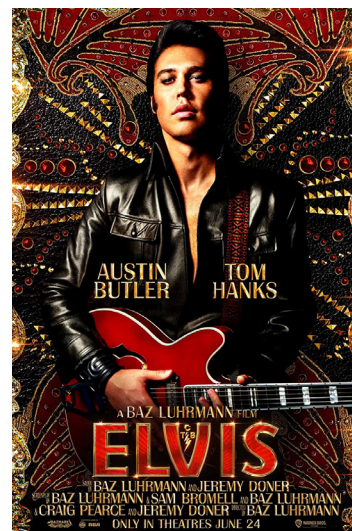
AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER

In 2010, Avatar won three of the nine categories it was nominated for at the 82nd Academy Awards – Best Art Direction, Best Cinematography, and Best Visual Effects – although it narrowly missed out on the prestigious Best Picture win. This year the seismic sequel, 13 years in the making, tries again. Undoubtedly a strong contender for Visual Effects once again, TWOW's nomination for Best Picture has divided critics – but in an age of cinemas struggling to stay afloat, you have to give the film some credit for supporting the industry in a way that the other nominations (aside from Top Gun) really couldn't.



THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN

With a slightly more understated premise than the other films in this category, The Banshees of Inisherin is relying on its dark comedy, Irish charm and talented cast to push it over the finish line. Nominated for 9 categories – a record for an Irish film – Banshees has good chances in the categories of Best Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor, but it remains to be seen how it will fare against some of the more crowd-pleasing offers for Best Picture. See Film Writer Ioana Eșanu's article in issue 1812 for a comprehensive review!



ELVIS

Austin Butler's Elvis Presley is a strong favourite for Best Actor this year, in Baz Luhrmann's dreamlike biopic of the King of Rock n' Roll. However, whether Elvis will match that by winning Best Picture is anyone's guess. Whilst biopics have become the darling of the Academy when it comes to choosing the lead actors, the best pictures haven't followed the same pattern. Then again, Elvis is about as realistic a biopic as it is boring (not very), so maybe that will help its chances.



EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE

The current favourite, and by far the most out-there film of the bunch – which is a surprising combination if you look at the history of Best Picture winners. Nevertheless, this hyper-dimensional roller-coaster of a film is on a strong course according to the experts. It's standing tall with the most nominations of any film this year, and despite the crazy narrative there's still an element of family drama at its heart. Then again, it's a bit weird – maybe all of the skeletons in the Academy will be turned off by that, and scurry back to hide behind Spielberg's legs.

... and now short break for Sustainability. We'll be right back!



Sustainability Week

20–24 February 2023

Couldn't attend Sustainability Week? Environment Editors Marie and Simran have compiled the best moments, hardest-hitting quotes, and ways you can help the fight for our futures.



SUSTAINABILITY WEEK

20–24 FEBRUARY 2023

Discover more at www.imperial.ac.uk/sustainability

#SustWeekICL

**IMPERIAL
ZERO
POLLUTION**

20th February: Climate

‘Duty Bound’ guerilla exhibition

According to the official webpage, Sustainability Week started at noon. However, on 20th February, many students were greeted by a ‘guerilla exhibition’ on their way to morning lectures. The exhibition highlighted how scientists frustrated about climate inactivity are turning to activism groups like Extinction Rebellion. Photographer Neal Haddaway does an excellent job capturing the hopes and fears in the eyes of each climate activist on camera. There is urgency and passion between the lines of every quote on display. Some of the scientists photographed came to Imperial for the exhibition, explaining to students how it is crucial that more of us become climate scientists and



‘Guerilla exhibition’ at Imperial Business School, credit: Neal Haddaway

You can help out by: joining your nearest peaceful protest against climate injustice, or signing a petition to stop fossil fuel extraction in an area of your choice.

Creating a sustainable university: where we’re at and what’s next?

Professor Tim Green, the Academic Lead for Sustainability at Imperial, made a short speech to officially kick off Sustainability Week. After describing his journey at Imperial so far, Professor Green explained how Imperial needs to work on sustainability at three levels – individuals and research groups, academic departments, and the College as whole. He congratulated the success of the Sustainable Food and Drink Policy, saying that the College’s transport and energy policies need to follow Taste Imperial’s example. The lack of data collection and reporting was emphasised throughout the speech – but for every negative sentence about the College’s sustainability metrics, there was an appreciation for the students and staff keeping the pressure on Imperial to become greener faster. After the talk, attendees could visit stalls highlighting current initiatives to make Imperial more sustainable. Stalls were hosted by the Grantham Institute, Move Imperial, Taste Imperial, Energy Futures Lab, and the Laboratory

Efficiency Assessment Framework. Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS) also had a stall, where representatives encouraged Imperial students to save energy at home. Anyone who joined the SOS mailing list received a free energy-efficient lightbulb, a fitting memento for the bright future of Imperial’s sustainability policies.

You can help out by: signing up to the SOS newsletter, and following their advice on making student accommodation better for your wallet and the planet.

***“We set high standards across a range of activities, and that needs to apply to sustainability”
- Prof Tim Green***

Climate justice: fairness for a greener future

The most intersectional talk of Sustainability Week, this panel event brought together public health, socioeconomic inequality, the climate and biodiversity crises, and more. Dr Ajay Gambhir from the Grantham Institute discussed the concept of a 'just transition' – providing the compensation and training to workers who have been, or will be, displaced from their jobs because of increasing environmentalism.

Using historical case studies, Dr Gambhir explained the role of economics and culture in ensuring the green transition does not leave anyone behind. Then, Claudia Selin-Batz from the George Institute focused on the role of youth in climate justice. She pointed out that the climate crisis has damaged young people's mental health, for they will live through the worst impacts of climate change if nothing is done now. Following the delivery of a Global Youth Statement at COP27, she hopes that more young people can have a seat at United Nations tables. The final panelist was Simmone Ahiaku – a climate justice campaigner whose talk wove together environmentalism, neo-colonialism, corporate greed, and feminism. She narrated the inspiring story of the Ogoni people in Nigeria, who fought patriarchy and oil extraction simultaneously in

the 1990s. Interestingly, the questions posed to the panel afterwards were more thought-provoking than the talks themselves. One attendee pointed out that the climate justice movement has no flagbearer, and another asked whether the French 'gilets jaunes' movement was the result of climate injustice. Overall, the event was intellectually and emotionally engaging.

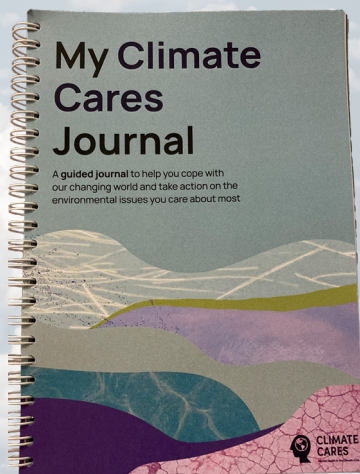
You can help out by: learning more about the Ogoni Nine and remembering them when you next see the Shell logo on Imperial CSP merchandise or research posters.



Panel of experts speaking on climate justice, credit: Sustainable Imperial

Launch of climate anxiety journal club

Monday ended with time for introspection and optimism, at the launch of the Eco-Anxiety Journal Club. The journal was designed by Climate Cares, a research group focusing on how climate change and mental health affect each other. To build excitement about the journal, Dr Bill Sheate from Imperial's Centre for Environmental Policy gave a talk. He defined the symptoms of eco-anxiety – prioritising climate activism over personal relationships and health, and letting fear of the planet's future distract from the present moment. Then, Dr Emma



Climate journal, credit: Simran Patel

Lawrance from Climate Cares delved into the different emotions climate-anxious people feel, and explained how we can turn these negative

You can relieve climate anxiety by: spending 10 minutes every day writing down your emotions, tasks, and ideas.

feelings into positive climate action. She brought up the concept of solastalgia – the grief felt while watching wild habitat being destroyed, especially felt by indigenous communities living in that habitat. Inspired by the talks, attendees were encouraged to share what eco-anxiety means to them – it was empowering seeing people who have never met before open up about their mental health. Then club members began working on the journal, with the hope of meeting every two weeks.

21st February: Energy and Waste

Sustainability Fair

The Environmental Society (ESoc) stall at the Sustainability Fair focused on their Ecosia on Campus initiative. It aims to make Ecosia the default search engine at South Kensington campus, so that the advertising revenue from every search on College computers goes directly to tree-planting initiatives and supporting the communities worst affected by habitat destruction and climate change. The ESoc stall was also an opportunity to excite prospective members about beekeeping sessions, which will start once the weather gets warmer.

ESoc also collaborated with IC Soup Run on a charity second-hand gift sale at the Sustainability Fair. Clothes, jewellery, and books were all for sale at affordable prices – there was guaranteed to be something for everyone. Second-hand sales help both wallets and the planet by saving the water, energy and pollution involved in manufacturing new things. But this sale had the added advantage of raising £177 for Children of Adam



Vegan snacks up for grabs, credit: Simran Patel

– a charity that has fed London's homeless every Sunday for over 12 years.

Far more passers-by were attracted to the free vegan snacks offered by VegSoc. Although they are advertised as a community of exclusively vegetarians and vegans, VegSoc members are just people who love eating delicious food. The food just so happens to be better for health, the climate, and animal welfare. Volunteers at the VegSoc stall distributed leaflets containing recipes for vegan hummus, banana bread, and curries. Banana bread made using the given



Imperial Environmental Society's stall, credit: Simran Patel

recipe was available to try, but samples ran out well before the fair closed – evidence that deserts don't need dairy or eggs to be delicious.

In contrast to the bright colours and sweet snacks of other stalls, posters at the Imperial Climate Action (ICA) stall were bold and direct. Stallholders introduced the aims of this brand-new campaign group – mainly divesting from fossil fuels, compulsory climate education in all degree programs, 'Trains not Planes', and Fossil Free Careers. Visitors were encouraged to sign the Divest Imperial petition and an open letter demanding that the Chemical Engineering Department and Society discontinue any relationships with big oil and gas companies.

Downstairs, Imperial Energy Society promoted their exciting upcoming events. A collaboration with the energy societies of LSE and UCL, the G3 summit on 15th March is an Imperial Energy Society highlight. Discussions will address the technical and socioeconomic challenges of decarbonisation, and how to attract the next generation to renewable energy careers. Each of the three panels will be opened by a keynote speaker, and closed with audience interaction. On 22nd March, Imperial Energy Society and the Business Energy Club are hosting another panel event – this time on Sustainable Policies and Finance in the Energy Sector. Follow @energyicl on Instagram to find out more!

The Sustainability Fair was not limited to Impe-

rial initiatives though. Ealing Repair Cafe promoted their regular popups around London and monthly meetings in Dickens Yard, where they teach visitors how to revive their worn and torn clothes. Basic sewing materials are provided at the sessions, but the stallholders explained that they want to empower the local community to repair items themselves. The Ealing Repair Cafe stall also had a game – find where the clothes were patched up, because the repair work was immaculate.

Why buy when you can borrow? This is what Juliana asked visitors to the Library of Things stand. She explained that we no longer need to purchase items like drills or sewing machines, that take up lots of cupboard space but are rarely used. Instead, equipment can be rented from a Library of Things for a few pounds per day. The nearest Library of Things to South Kensington campus is Hammersmith, and students further away can find their nearest branch at

libraryofthings.co.uk. There is no easier way to fight consumerism, while supporting what Juliana calls a “women-founded social enterprise”.



Ealing Repair Cafe and Library of Things representatives, credit: Simran Patel

Building a career in sustainability

The second panel of Sustainability Week consisted entirely of alumni, who shared how their Imperial degree gave them the technical knowledge and transferable skills needed to make environment-related policy change. First, Sebastian Dunnett explained how working for the UN World Conservation Monitoring Centre means he is seeing firsthand how corporate views on biodiversity and the climate have changed over the last decade. Uzoamaka Nwamarah spoke next about her career progression since graduating from Imperial's – she is now a climate change adviser at the Commonwealth Secretariat. Her passion lies in climate finance, so she spoke about whether polluting states and corporations are compensating those on the frontline of climate change enough. Finally, Kristin Marin shared

“I absolutely can't sit here anymore and just watch my environment literally disappear”
- Kristin Marin

her emotional journey from the small coastal state of Belize to a degree in Climate Change, Management and Finance from Imperial's Business School. Currently working at Amersand Partners, she gave useful tips to future consultants



Speakers at alumni panel, credit: Energy Futures Lab

about how to phrase sustainability in a language investors and CEOs understand. Audience questions after the talks got the room thinking about whether our current economic system is designed to harm the planet.

You can build a career in sustainability by:

- Doing well at university and specialising in a field you really care about – technical experts are a crucial part of any sustainability team
- Knowing your unique story and selling it at every networking opportunity
- Being confident and unapologetically passionate about the climate and biodiversity crises

22nd February: Biodiversity

Solutions to save a dying planet

Wednesday started with a panel discussion bringing together academics from all of Imperial's faculties. First, Dr Bonnie Waring from the Grantham Institute outlined the severity and complexity of the ecological crisis. After showing graphs on extinction rates and causes of ecological damage, Dr Waring explained that picking the right solutions will solve the climate and biodiversity crises simultaneously. One such solution is urban green spaces – PhD researcher, Richard Belcher from the School of Public Health, described how green spaces improve physical and mental health, but not all green spaces are created equal. Then, Dr Boskovic presented findings from the euPOLIS project that she works on. The project explores perceptions of green spaces in four European cities, and combines that with knowledge of local climate and biodiversity to find the perfect nature-based solution for each city. The fourth speaker was Dr Pernille Holtedahl from the



Attendees and panelists at 'Solutions to save a dying planet' discussion, credit: Sustainable Imperial

Business School's Centre for Climate Finance & Investment. She described the discrepancy between the economic value currently given to undamaged natural habitat, and the value they actually possess – because biodiversity with no economic impact is often ignored. The talks were closed by Haleema Misal, a post-graduate from the Centre for Environmental Policy who was part of Imperial's CoP15 delegation. After reviewing the failures of previous biodiversity conferences, Ms Misal described the “overwhelming” emotions she felt at CoP15 – especially as an agreement between so many countries was reached so late at night.

You can help out by: researching the climate and biodiversity policies of election candidates before you vote.

A Changing Planet seminar: 'the mathematics of climate tipping points'

The seminar by Dr Ivan Sudakow, an applied mathematician at the Open University, was an engaging listen. He spoke on nonlinear and stochastic theories and their applications in modeling climate progression, touching on the fractal

geometry of Arctic melt ponds, Markov Random Field models, and climate-biosphere coupling, to name a few of the maths-heavy concepts mentioned in this seminar. For those of us more mathematically challenged than the rest, the

main takeaways of the talk was: both the arctic melting and the thawing of permafrost are potential tipping points for the Earth's climate system; mathematical models can be used to represent these tipping points and predict the

future of the Earth's climate.

You can help out by: sharing stories related to Arctic tipping points on social media.

Environmental Society secret garden visit

Wednesday afternoons are always a relaxing time for Environmental Society members, as they meet in the Secret Garden. Sustainability Week Wednesday was no different. Gardeners planted seeds, raked leaves, and worked on the many promising projects going on at the garden. ESoc recently started a worm farm that turns food waste into compost, and are constructing raised beds to keep vegetables away from slugs and hopefully onto our plates. Most importantly, beekeeping sessions will soon restart, with the hope of producing honey in 2023-24!

You can help out by: collecting worm-friendly food waste (no citrus, no onions, no meat) and bringing it to the Secret Garden on Wednesdays between 2pm and 4pm.



Students at Environmental Society's secret garden visit, credit: Simran Patel

Mock climate change conference

Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Imperial ran a Mock UN Climate Conference using a platform called EN-Roads, which was developed in conjunction with Ventana Systems and MIT Sloan. The game allowed participants to act as UN delegates representing different countries and debate to try and bring down global warming to at least 2°C or, optimally, 1.5°C to comply with the Paris Climate Agreement. Unlike most mock conferences, EN-Roads allowed the effects of the actions proposed by the delegates to be seen directly. Delegates managed to bring global warming down to 1.6°C, and in the process learnt about the complexity of climate change. EWB hoped delegates left feeling optimistic – it is not too late to take action and minimise damage to our only Planet Earth.

You can help out by: scanning the QR code and joining EWB Imperial. Through their weekly events, EWB aims to inspire, educate, and empower students to become sustainability leaders in their fields. Events range from thought-provoking discussions to hands-on designathons – and include workshops such as the Reshaping Engineering and Sustainability Leadership. They also invite expert speakers to share their insights and ideas on sustainability

topics, and connect Imperial students to positive-impact careers through Green Career Fairs. On 18th March, EWB will be hosting their final event of the term – 'Renewable Energy Networking'. Attend the networking session to discuss the future of energy in our society – there's plenty of interesting debate and snacks to be had!



Consider ESG in your career choices: thoughts from an Imperial alumnus

Anita Punwani (Civil Engineering '88, MBA '91)

Organisations are increasingly being scrutinised by civil society and social media, as well as by funders and regulators. They are now recognising the requirement to be transparent and accountable for their behaviours to an array of stakeholders, as Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) climbs up the agenda.

My definition of ESG is 'the governance of purpose-driven organisations with the intention of fulfilling their social responsibilities in an ethical and sustainable manner'. I believe we, as professionals, should be taking seriously our responsibilities for handling the numerous global crises the world is facing. This includes health, biodiversity and climate crises as well as pollution of rivers, oceans and land. We saw how professionals working in science, technology and medicine took their social responsibilities seriously during the COVID-19 pandemic – notably professionals working at Imperial College. This needs to continue in all walks of life.

My own journey into ESG started at Imperial College. As part of my first degree at the Department of Civil Engineering – before the department was renamed to include the words 'and Environmental' – we studied a course about Engineering and the Environment. This course gave me the understanding that I had a role beyond designing structures according to the client's requirements and engineering regulations and codes of prac-

ice. I realised that I also have a wider responsibility to society to protect the environment. This understanding has been an underlying principle as I moved into management and governance roles at national and international level.

I believe you too have a role in ESG in whichever field you are specialising in. You need to understand the changing nature of the wider context, and consider these changes in terms of decisions you make – in your personal life, the organisations you choose to work for, and in your professional capacity. One consideration may be 'do I want to work for a truly purpose-driven organisation or am I happy to work in a profit-driven organisation?' I have worked for both types and made my choice to focus on purpose-driven organisations.

If you choose to work for an organisation focused on profits – and there are many sensible reasons to do so – you can be part of the change towards a greater purpose. I'll leave you to make your own choices, but all I ask is that you reflect on why the UN decided to develop the Sustainable Development Goals. You could work for an organisation that prioritises short-term profit for the few, or you could work for an organisation that tackles one or more of these goals with positive impacts after your time in the workforce ends – the choice is yours.



Presenters at the London Sustainability Conference poster exhibition holding Sustainable Development Goal signs, credit: Sustainable Imperial

Our environmental emergency: the scary story and effective solutions

What do students want to see at Imperial?

During Sustainability Week, Imperial Climate Action (ICA) hosted students and staff at their interactive lectures. Unlike most climate change courses, these lectures went directly to the root causes of climate change – overextraction and overconsumption. Because mindset change is key in climate action, ICA made a point to distinguish climate awareness from climate anxiety – inspired by the journal club earlier that week. By the end of the week, ICA had a list of all the things students want to see Imperial do about sustainability. We then added to the list by reaching out to even more students, resulting in this list:



ICA members and workshop attendees in discussion, credit: Elliot Stoclet

Fossil-free Imperial

- Publish an unambiguous divestment statement, saying Imperial will stop funding all fossil fuel companies. Currently Imperial only bans investment in “companies engaged in thermal coal and tar sand extraction”.
- Ban fossil fuel companies from sponsoring student societies and holding Careers Service events – representatives from these companies seek only to mislead students that fossil fuels are the future.
- Review, and be transparent about, any conflicts of interest arising from fossil fuel companies sponsoring Imperial’s research into climate change mitigation strategies.

Waste

- Eliminate all disposable cutlery, cups, containers, water bottles and more from campus – such as returning to glass bottles at the Union Bar.
- Alternatively, make disposable items significantly more expensive.
- Implement more washable cutlery and expand existing publicly available dishwashing stations.
- Create incentives for students to bring their own cutlery to College catering outlets.

Education

- Compulsory, sustainability module in every course.
- Design lectures, discussions and summative assessments of each module to understanding the pollutions produced by the field, developing the environmental applications/potential of the module.
- Boosting awareness overall through social media and posters on campus.

Travel

- Disincentivise business and society trips that require plane journeys, and incentivise local travel.

Vegan food

- Promote Veganuary better, and use it to pilot initiatives like having no meat options on certain days.
- Push “Our beef with beef” campaign forward to October 2023.
- Permanent vegan option at all College outlets, especially Library Cafe and Reynolds
- End vegan inflation, such as by making plant-based milk free.

23rd February: Air

Briefing paper launch: tyre wear particles are toxic for us and the environment

Imperial's Transition to Zero Pollution initiative used Sustainability Week as a platform to publicise their new report, about how the friction between vehicle tyres and the road generates microplastics that may be more harmful than their exhaust emissions. This means electric vehicles, which generate more tyre wear microplastics than petrol or diesel vehicles, could be generating a new set of ecological and health issues.

Dr Marc Masen from the Department of Mechanical Engineering started the event with the story of how this briefing paper started. He shared an interesting timeline on history of tailpipe emissions, and a possible transition to tyre wear being dominant

vehicle pollution. Professor Robert Shorten then started the panel discussion. He emphasised that tyre wear pollution cannot be solved at the individual vehicle level – it will take policy action, and societal change in driving style and car choice. Professor Shorten also commented on the intersection between accessibility and transport – for example, only those who can afford an electric vehicle and the extra electricity cost of charging it are allowed to travel in London's expanding Ultra Low Emission Zone. Next to speak was Professor Terry Tetley from the National Heart and Lung Institute. Her research focuses

on how particulates affect the lung, so he gave details on how differently sized tyre wear particles damage the lung in different ways. Dr Stephanie Wright from

“I will soon have an electric car, whether that's good or bad, I don't know”

- Prof Terry Tetley

Imperial's School of Public Health then outlined the chemical composition of tyres, and how each chemical can have its own ecological and health impact. She highlighted the mass salmon die-off on the US Pacific Coast caused by tyre wear pollution – salmon metabolise one of the compounds in tyre wear microplastics into quinones that cause oxidative stress. Then the floor was opened for questions, which experts on tyre wear in the audience answered as frequently as the panel did. It was inspiring to see so much knowledge from so many disciplines converge to tackle this understudied pollution source.

You can help out by: giving the pollution impact of your next car as much thought as price, looks and features.



Credit:
Envato
Elements

24th February: Water

Solving issues around clean water: a global challenge

The final panel discussion of Sustainability Week focused on the health and ecological threat of water pollution. Dr Stanislava Boskovic from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering was back, this time emphasising the concept of water neutrality – offsetting the impacts of increased water demand and decreased water quality that often accompany housing developments. Professor Tony Cass from the Department of Chemistry then brought up the importance of sufficient government investment, university innovation and time – policy and technological change takes time – in reducing water shortage. It was interesting to hear his thoughts on how medical technology such as glucose monitoring can be applied to monitor pollutants like arsenic. The final

panelist was Professor Nick Voulvoulis, the deputy head of the Centre for Environmental Policy – who returned to the intersectionality of water conservation, pollution and inequality. Following discussions were chaired by Dr Helena Rapp Wright, whose research in the School of Public Health is about monitoring levels and impacts of water pollutants. She raised interesting points on the interaction between pollutants, and how the impacts of metabolic or degradation products are difficult to separate.

You can help out by: using the dishwasher! Contrary to popular belief, Professor Voulvoulis believes technology is more efficient at using water than washing dishes manually.

Sustainable networking event: conscious consumerism workshop & drinks

Concluding Imperial's Sustainability Week was a conscious consumerism workshop and networking event. Alongside the munching on an assortment of sustainable snacks, the attendees explored the environmental footprint of everyday items like coffee cups, mobile phones,

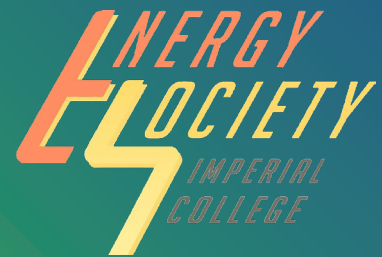
and jeans. Riqi Zhang, Imperial's ethics and environment officer, and Mahadi Hassan, the community engagement officer were present at the event – they were keen to prompt discussions on the environmental impacts of each stage of a product's life cycle. Following the activity was a discussion of solutions for reducing these environmental impacts and the role of the media in enacting change. Here, several constructive points were made: "a lot of people are conscious [about climate change] but maybe there is a lack of connection... we need more consciousness of environmental issues in the media", said one of the attendees. Others brought up existing solutions that people could get involved in. Someone mentioned that the UK produces 3.2 billion single-use coffee cups a year, so some coffee shops have scheme where one can rent a reusable cup. Another attendee brought up the Fairphone, which is modular phone that is more easily repairable and hence has a longer life-time.



Students socialising at post-workshop drinks, credit: Marie Mori



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- Conor McNally (Energy Futures Lab)
- Juliana Velez (Library of Things)
- Elliot Stoclet (Imperial Climate Action)



... and we're back! Here's more about The Oscars and Felix predictions

THE FABELMANS

Spielberg, the most successful director of all time and nominated twelve times for the category, has only ever won Best Picture once; Schindler's List in 1994. Famously snubbed in 1999 for Saving Private Ryan, perhaps this year Spielberg will get his wish one more time. It wouldn't be unexpected – an introspective look at the early years of the beloved industry titan, all the while charting a love letter to cinema. This sort of personal film has a good history at the Oscars – think Roma, Moonlight. Spielberg is also a master of well-paced storytelling for the masses – a crowd pleaser, where other entries such as Everything



TÁR

Cate Blanchett's performance in Tár is one of the most acclaimed of the year, and deservedly so. Oddly, it's not one of the industry's top picks for Best Picture, despite picking up a good number of prestigious awards in the season so far. As we mentioned previously biopics usually tend to do well in the Best Actor/Actress categories, but don't dominate as much in the main event. Some critics love it, others don't – and in a category with a preference-based ballot, that can kill a film's chances.



TOP GUN: MAVERICK

Along with Avatar, this is the only other entry that can claim to have saved cinema – a venue that has historically been favoured by the Academy over streaming – and it's a certainly not a false claim. If the Best Picture winner was chosen by the number of people who enjoyed the film worldwide, Top Gun would have a pretty clear shot. Unfortunately for Tom, the chances aren't high as it is. 'Mainstream' blockbusters have usually had trouble winning post-90s, and sequels even more.

BEST PICTURE



TRIANGLE OF SADNESS

It would be a bittersweet irony, to see the audience give one of their classic standing ovations for this comedy that satirises the gross excesses in the lifestyles of the super-rich. Despite securing the Palme d'Or at Cannes last year (the second win for director Ruben Östlund), the film doesn't seem the most likely candidate for the win – the Palme d'Or not usually being a great predictor of Academy choices (the recent exception, again, being Parasite). Again, for a full review, see Sorcha Owens' work in issue 1820.



WOMEN TALKING

Sarah Polley's ensemble drama is poignantly real. Thematically based on the horrors experienced by a Bolivian community in the mid-2000s, Women Talking sees eight women from a religious colony discussing what to do in the midst of a culture of patriarchal sexual abuse. Almost the entire film takes place in a single room, supported entirely by the strength of its excellent cast. Unfortunately, the general consensus seems to find it unlikely that Women Talking will take the win, given its highly focused scope and challenging (for the Academy) material.

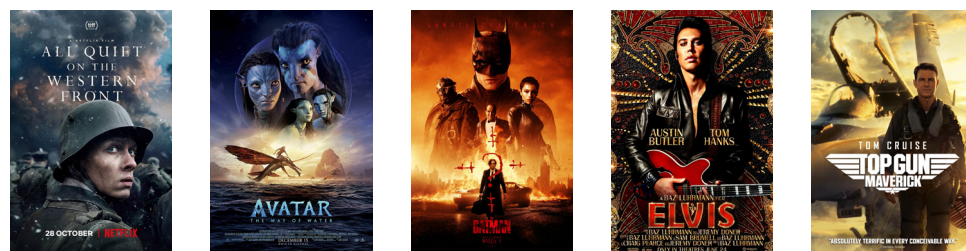
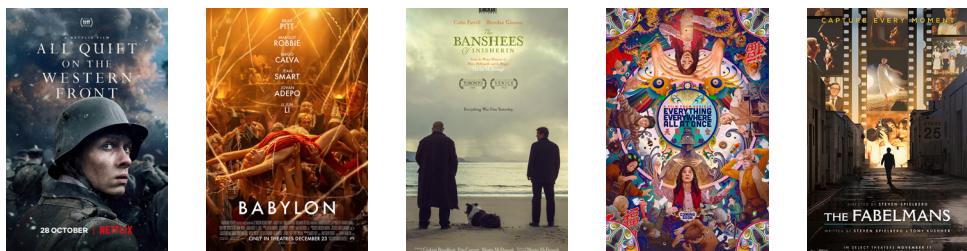




The Oscars

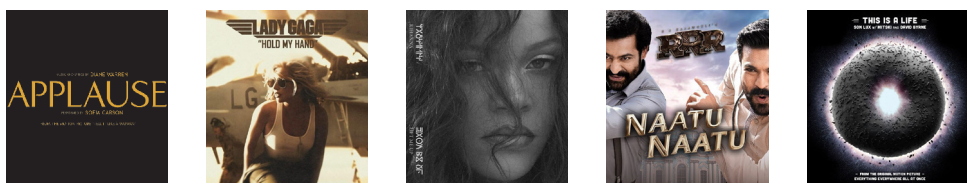
Nominees 2023: Part 2

MUSIC (ORIGINAL SCORE)



SOUND

MUSIC (ORIGINAL SONG)



INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM

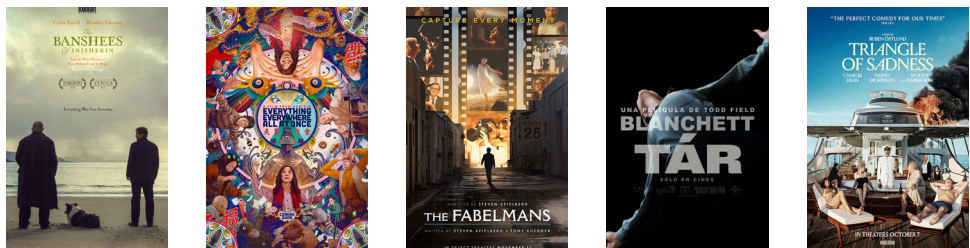


WRITING (ADAPTED SCREENPLAY)



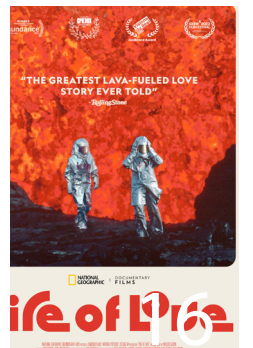
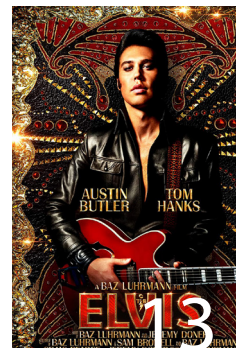
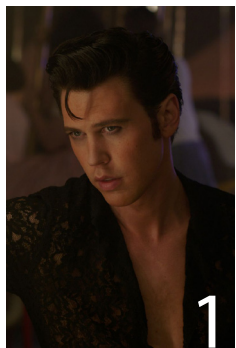


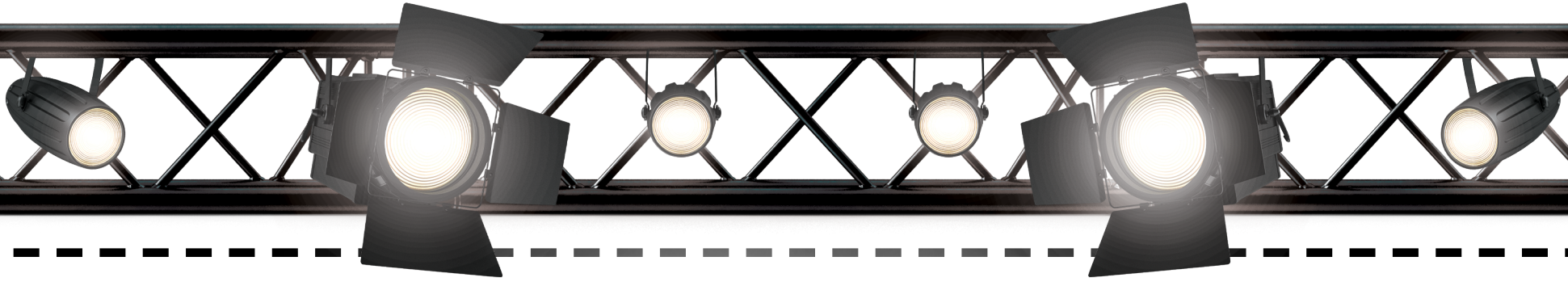
WRITING (ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY)



FELIX

PREDICTIONS

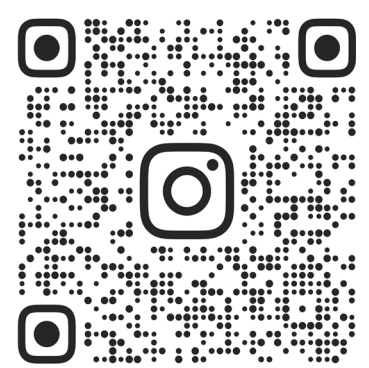




B I N G G O

The Oscars

Ray Liotta gets a posthumous recognition for services to organised crime	Somebody makes a joke nobody laughs at	Your favourite movie wins	Jimmy Kimmel slaps his own face	Somebody mentions a small town in Ireland
Numerous comedic references to "the slapping"	Somebody avoids an interview question	Nobody thanks Harvey Weinstein	Wardrobe malfunction	Asteroid crashes into Chicxulub in the Yucatán Peninsula, causing the 6 th mass extinction
"Someone like me could have never dreamt of [insert achievement]"	Prayers for Ukraine and/or Turkey & Syria		Someone fucks up the winner announcement	Somebody breaks out in a song
Angela Basset DOES the thing	Somebody looks angry when they don't win the award	Somebody mispronounces foreign name	White person makes a BLM speech	Michelle Yeoh becomes the second Asian actress to be nominated for Best Actress (after Scarlett Johansson)
Unexpected kiss	Someone trips over their dress	You don't watch The Oscars	Translator/Interpreter fucks up	Somebody's speech starts with "I didn't prepare anything"



FOLLOW US AND VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE FLICKS SO THAT I KNOW WHO TO GIVE THESE AWARDS TO



HARD
WET



AT ISCWP VARSITY

WE'RE PLAYING FOR CHARITY



PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

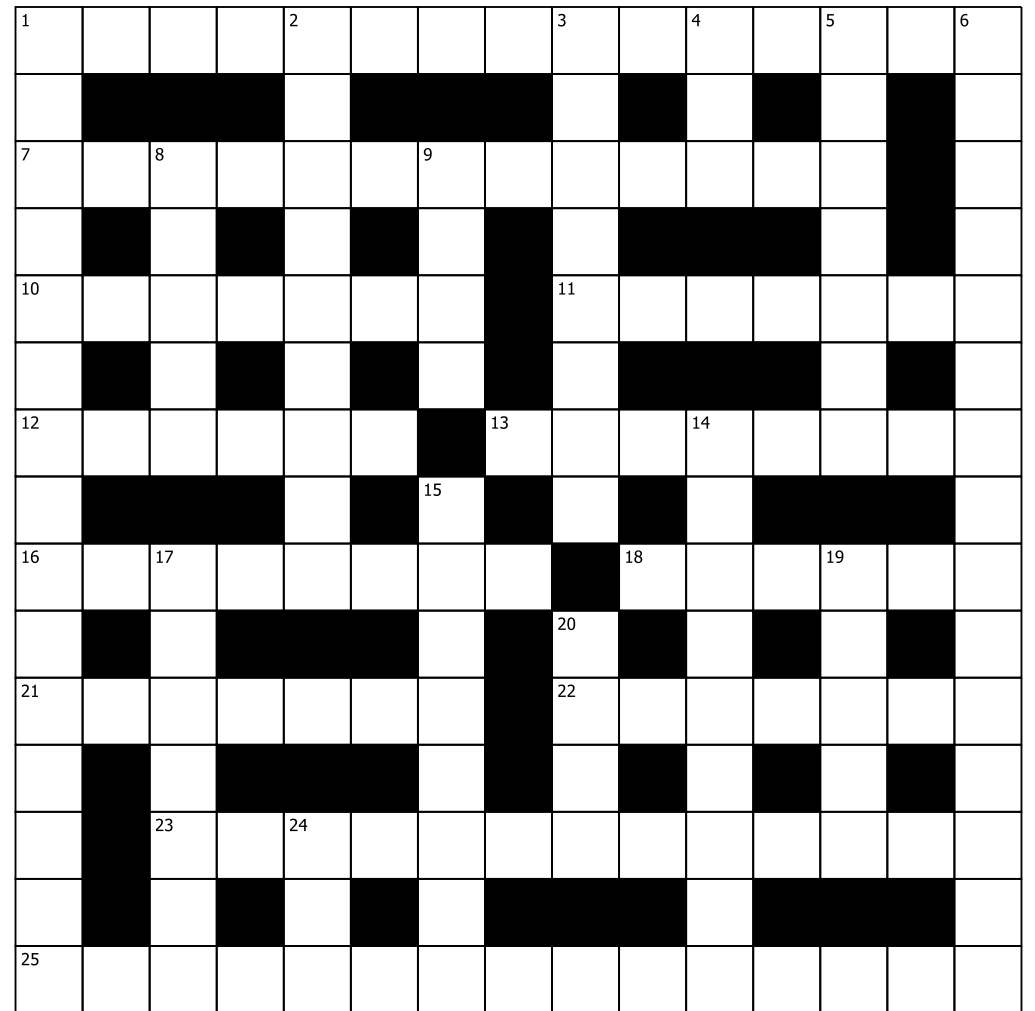
4 points

Across

- 1 1939 film starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable, winning Oscar for best picture (4, 4, 3, 4)
- 7 'God from the machine', used to describe a type of plot device (4, 2, 7)
- 10 Multiple late summer months (7)
- 11 Jewish language originally from German dialect (7)
- 12 One station down from Mornington Crescent (6)
- 13 Word meaning characteristic of the underworld (8)
- 16 Animal known for game franchise started in 1991 (8)
- 18 Rubbed to cause irritation (6)
- 21 Crunchy, yellow, and comes in three flavours (7)
- 22 Tools used to reload old rifles (7)
- 23 Sixteenth century fleet which failed to take England (7, 6)
- 25 One station up from High Street Kensington (7, 4, 4)

Down

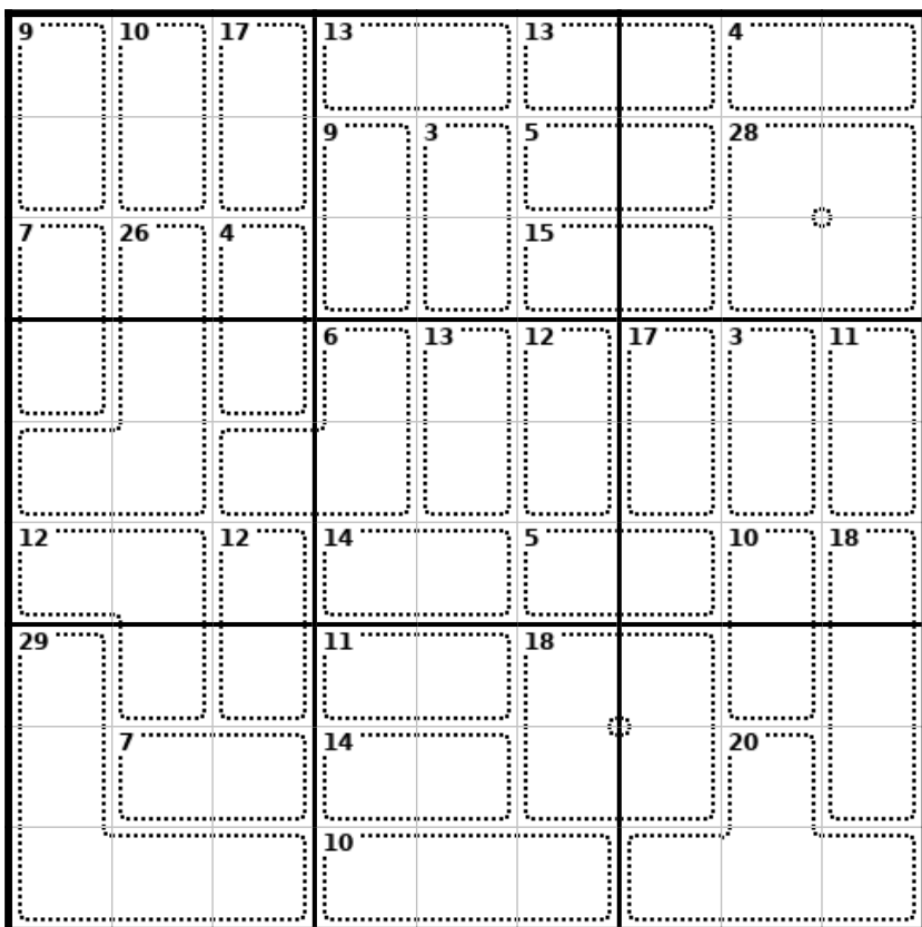
- 1 Ankle biter chewed up collection, oil not missing though – at least we have a way to keep warm. (8, 7)
- 2 French article – “giant was cut up about gooey foodstuff” (7)
- 3 Pin up lower half of copy, feels a bit cold (5)
- 4 The lushest blend of clue solvers (7)
- 5 Take out your dirty earphones, without double English there's no hope for a bedtime story (7)
- 6 Ugly quit to see end of Newton? It's fishy (7)
- 7 Ruler to ruin ensuing quiet by flapping in the water (7, 7)
- 10 Argued violently to leave the east, but he stood his ground (5)
- 17 Puller of large equipment was led out, bloated, to throw gut up (3-4)
- 18 Dodgy diets lead to sudden changes (5)
- 19 Gestures to the centre, he does to check his inbox (5-2)



Killer Sudoku

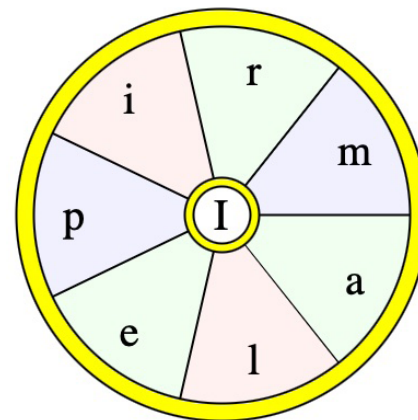
3 points

- Complete the grid such that every row, column, and 3x3 block contains the digits 1 to 9.
- The digits in every cage must add to the totals in their corners.
- A digit cannot appear more than once in a cage



Word Wheel

1 point per 10 words



Can you find all the words in the wheel using the central letter? We can find 30...

From the Editor

The puzzles are multiplying! There'll be 4 pages of puzzles next issue, so make sure to send in your requests if there are any extra types you want to see in the paper.

Sincerely,

Isaac Winson,
Puzzles Editor

5 points

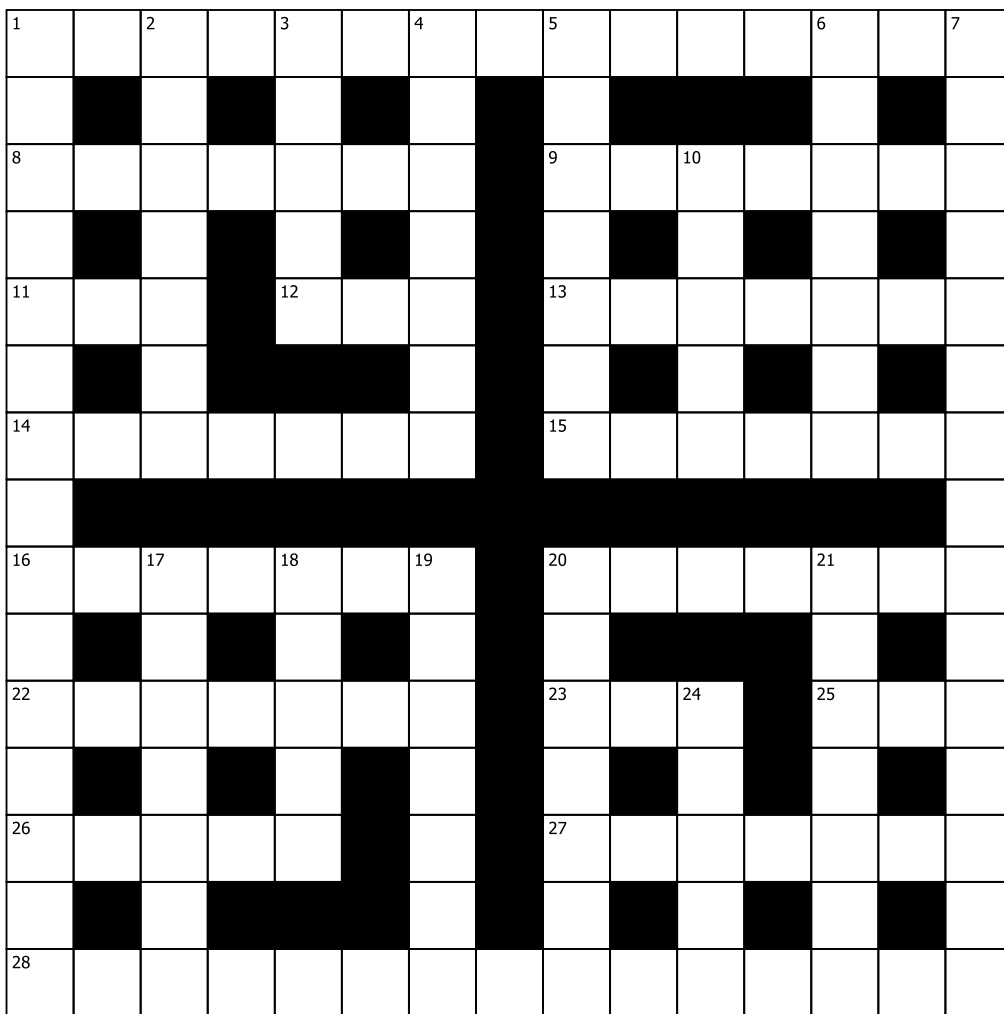
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Stir and scoop – rush for a juvenile excitement (3-3-5, 4)
- 8 Sleep roughly in the ice cap, for the sunlight's gone (7)
- 9 Pump around jig for equine elevation (3-4)
- 11 Little one went over the top in a scramble (3)
- 12 A bit of a goodbye talk up to now(3)
- 13 You should read around, appropriate to give it some juice?(7)
- 14 Deviant sin outside on a Paris night, all their houses are ice-cold (7)
- 15 Shocking raise to direct current meant a little place to sit down was required(7)
- 16 Bert, sit askew like that and I'll give you an extra kick (7)
- 20 Criticise the dessert and maybe find it on the ceiling (7)
- 22 No drooping head for the swinging, as means to lure them in (7)
- 23 Not quite a man in the regional advocate (3)
- 25 Grab change, but leave the top of the bill, it's torn off(3)
- 26 Pull them to get the snob King shaking (5)
- 27 Six plus five at food shop makes four! Seasons on offer (7)
- 28 Distractions messed up the middle of run-up for Bill's play (5, 10)

Down

- 1 Ankle biter chewed up collection, oil not missing though – at least we have a way to keep warm. (8, 7)
- 2 French article – “giant was cut up about gooey foodstuff” (7)
- 3 Pin up lower half of your copy, feels a bit cold (5)
- 4 The lushest blend of clue solvers (7)
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- 16 Puller of large equipment was led out, bloated, to throw gut up (3-4)
- 17 Dodgy diets lead to sudden changes (5)
- 18 Gestures to the centre, he does to check his inbox (5-2)
- 19 Enthuse drunk with a pal for a load of effort over very little (7)
- 20 Weep inside! That sketchy claim lost a grand of stuff that comes in green (7)
- 23 The novel is missing its end! Put it up on the desk-top and we'll go out somewhere nice (5)



Crosswords by: POMPI

Missing Vowels

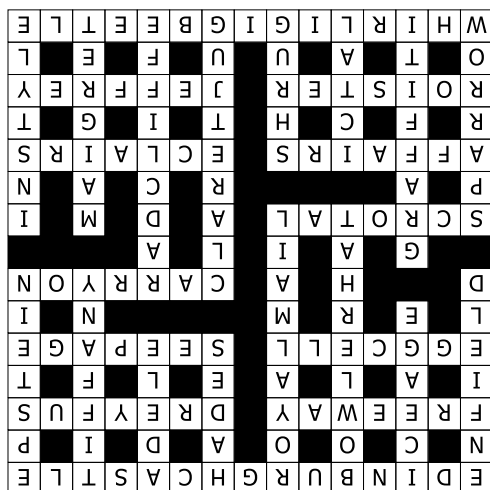
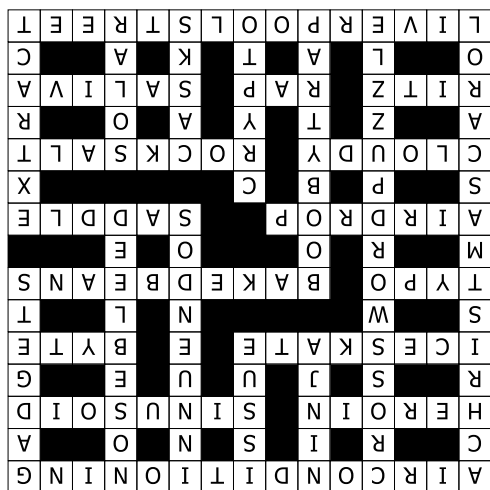
1 point each

CATEGORY: Imperial measurements

Put the correct vowels and spaces in these jumbled-up consonants to find the answers.

- i) N T C LML
- ii) C R
- iii) FLD NC
- iv) BRL YC RN

Solutions from Issue 1821



Picture Hunt

3 points



This photo was taken somewhere on campus - know where?

SEND ALL YOUR ANSWERS IN BEFORE 12:00 ON WEDNESDAY 23rd MARCH TO GET POINTS ON THE LEADERBOARD

Edited by: ISAAC WINSON

CATNIP

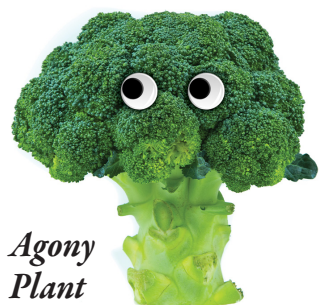
Reasons you definitely need a new house plant

Catnip interior design correspondent Hachel Rope responds to reader house plant questions. This week the letter is from an anonymous PhD student in the Department of Computing who is struggling to balance her hobby with her work.

Dear Hachel,

I am usually a law-abiding plant mum but am currently charged with criminal trespass, breaking and entering and armed robbery. What the police don't seem to understand is that I was just taking some really interesting cuttings and really didn't do anything wrong. Could you please give me some advice on how to avoid scuffles with the law in the future?

Anon



Agony Plant

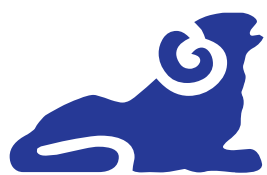
Dear Reader,

Don't worry! This is a situation we plant lovers have all been in. I remember in my early days of keeping plants I used to regularly be confronted by home owners who wanted to know what I was doing in

their front rooms at 3 o'clock in the morning. However, I soon learnt a few tricks that you can use to stay out of trouble and still get the cuttings you need to further clutter up your tiny bedroom. Rule number one, don't take your cutting shears with you when you break into people's houses. If you get caught, this will lead to a more serious charge of burglary with a weapon. Instead, immediately after breaking in, go and take a knife or pair of scissors from the kitchen. That way, you can claim self defence in court if you get caught. Secondly, burglary is not always the way to go! Blackmail and threats can be just as effective in getting the cuttings you need. I remember one time I photoshopped an image of a man that had a really nice *Monstera Standleyana* to make it look like he was abusing his children. After I threatened to send it to social services he sent me the cutting I wanted in under a week! Finally, my most important tip is to have fun! Keeping plants is meant to be relaxing and if you ever find that your hobby feels more like a job, then you need to take a step back and remember that feeling you felt as you slipped your arm through someone's letter box in order to pinch a hydrangea for the very first time.

Happy hunting, and keep reading

Hachel Rope



ARIES

This week the cucumber shortage coincides with a sharp drop in sales of lube.



TAURUS

This week your anti-imperialist stance makes you wonder whether the Italians Romed too far.



GEMINI

This week you think your optician is crushing on you because he keeps gazing into your eyes.



CANCER

This week, after throwing shapes at a local club, you're kicked out after a bouncer gets cut by an isosceles triangle.



LEO

This week you realised that when you cry you look like Jennifer Coolidge trying to smile.



VIRGO

This week you find your new pet tropical fish really cheers you up. Maybe it's the endorphins.



LIBRA

This week you find out that your pet rock has been using your bed when you're at uni.



SCORPIO

This week you piss off your Florentine friends by making eggs Bolognese.



SAGITTARIUS

This week, your adventurous spirit will lead you to try a new food, only to regret it when you realize it's tofu.



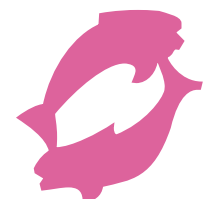
CAPRICORN

This week you'll realize that your cat has been speaking to you all along and you've been ignoring it. Oops.



AQUARIUS

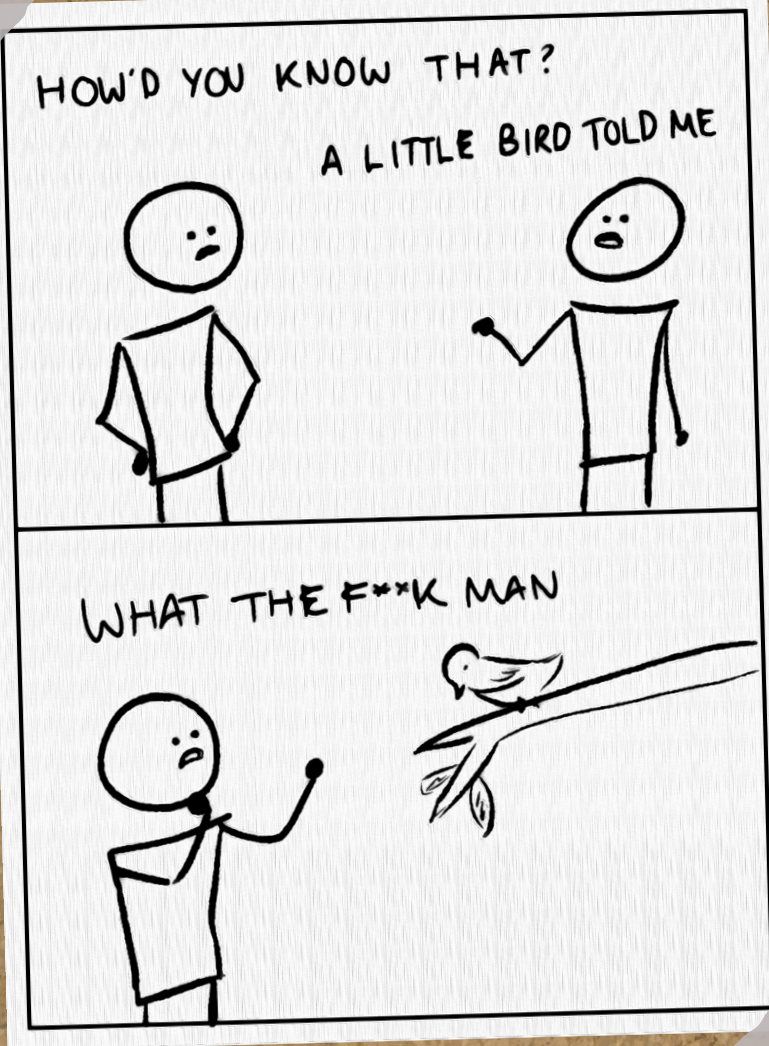
This week, you'll be caught in a sudden rainstorm. But don't worry, the planets have aligned so that you may practice your interpretive dance skills.



PISCES

This week you join a reggae band playing the triangle but promptly quit as is just one ting after the other.

Catnip Office Noticeboard



WANTED: partner-in-crime to pull off the heist of the century. Must be able to juggle, sing showtunes and have a knack for hot-wiring unicycles.

MISSING: QUANTUM PHYSICS PROFESSOR

Our esteemed professor has disappeared into thin air. Literally! He was last seen attempting to test his new teleportation device and hasn't been seen since - or has he? If found please return to the Physics Dept. REWARD: A Nobel Prize in Physics and a high-five from Albert Einstein (if you can figure out how to bring him back too).

MISSING: my marbles. I'm not sure where I lost them but I'm pretty sure it was somewhere between my mid-week crisis and my 3rd existential breakdown.

If you find them, please keep them, I don't want them back.

CATNIP

Ceci N'est Pas Une Physics Department

College to give Physics building make-over in response to recent *Felix* article

Author: Sir Stanley Watford-Junction KBE

Following on from last edition's scathing article regarding the consistent short-comings of Imperial's Physics Department, the College body has decided to take matters into its own celestial hands and reinvigorate the department using nature's paintbrush.

One of the key issues highlighted in the recent article was the prevalent welfare and mental-health issues that had not received appropriate attention from the department. The College has clearly recognised this and has concluded that the mental health of the Blackett Building itself is of paramount importance, a decision stemming from the College's own new policy of 'trickle-down mental health'. One spokesperson for the College, Dr Mac Iavellian, told Catnip "we hope improving the mental wellbeing of the building itself will lead to a permeating sense of 'good vibes' throughout the department".

The College's plan for animating the once inanimate is the commissioning of a new mural to adorn the blank grey-space located on the side of the building. The mural will cover the entire wall and is directly inspired by London's green spaces which are known for their outstanding beauty and contemplative spirit. The art depicts Mother Nature holding a glowing flower and surrounded by various flora and fauna in the foreground, and the city of London wrapped up in a Christopher-Nolan-Inception-esque taurus – a sight one commonly sees in the Royal Parks on a Wednesday afternoon.

The artist Imperial commissioned this masterpiece from is the Italian artist Vesod, who, for the purpose of this article, wished to remain mononymous. Regarding Vesod, the College said, "[Vesod] graduated in maths, a subject that has had an important influence on his works, along with renaissance art and futurism. This can be recognised in Vesod's attempt to harmonise anatomic proportion and futuristic dynamics." One can also clearly see Vesod's artistic

range on his website with such wall works as 'Woman with her hair in a bun looking away', 'Woman with her hair in a bun looking up', 'Woman with her hair in a bun looking both left and right', 'Woman with her hair in a bun whispering to woman with her hair in a bun', and 'Woman with a hair bun'.

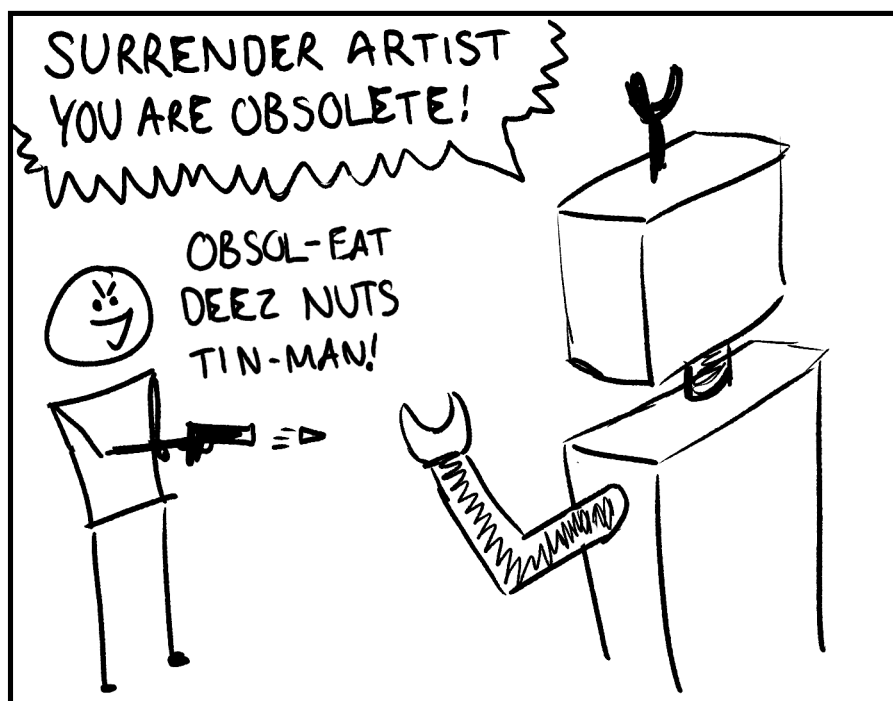
One can clearly see how such detailed expressions of pagan themes and metropolitan contortions is an attempt to give the building, and thus the Department and students as a whole, the reinvigoration it needs. It is evident that the artwork will bestow a sense of wellbeing and tranquillity upon the department and for anyone who happens to pass by and glimpse this artistic marvel; a stark contrast in character to Imperial's most recent, and well-endowed art installation, 'ALERT' by Anthony Gormley, which reflects on students' attentiveness.

Not only will the artwork create a miasma of mental wellbeing in the Physics Department, the College also hopes that by depicting scenes that have nothing to do with physics, the students will forget what it is they actually study there and thus won't be able to remember what to complain about in the next student survey, thereby increasing the department's national ranking. Dr Kaf Kaesque, a representative for the Department of Physics, has stated "in the Physics Department we often like to kill multiple birds with a single stone; this new mural is just that. We aim to not only improve the mental health of our building, but also restore our prestige". The relevant forms for this installation have been submitted and approval is currently pending.

Readers can see the full plan on City of Westminster planning and licensing page: Ref No: 23/00480/FULL.

DISCLAIMER: THIS IS A JOKE; THE MURAL IS NOT

This Week's Comic:



Author: Urethra Franklin

Want to write for Catnip? Well tough luck, you can't.

Please don't email us at catnip@imperial.ac.uk to submit an article to be featured in Catnip because the email address doesn't exist and we don't want your silly little article anyway.

Love, the Catnip Team xx

Edited by: JOE RIORDAN
TARA PALCHAUDHURI



View online here!

Don't Miss the Gig

Battle of the Bands Final @ METRIC, Friday 24th March

The heats are (almost) over. The ballots are in. After five gruelling skirmishes at Reynold's bar, only a handful of bands have emerged unscathed. Which one of them will play themselves into the LMS hall of fame, receiving a slot at the summer ball, and the coveted band tankard? It's anyone's guess. The 2023 Battle of the Bands final is taking place at Metric on the 24th. Make sure to buy your tickets at the Union shop beforehand to make sure you can cast your vote.

Single of the Week

'Dummy' by Portugal.

the Man

Portugal. the Man's most recent single adopts a creepily hypnotic morbidity, far from 'Feel it Still' that threw them into the mainstream. Sure, 'Dummy' fits snugly into the band's hit song template: from the patchwork sampling sewn together with a catchy bassline, they don't hide the hip-hop/R&B influences in their rock discography. Nonetheless, this Gnarles Barkley-Twenty One Pilots lovechild carries its own simple addictiveness that keeps drawing you in.



Today in Music History

- The fourth Gibbs brother (you know the other three from the Bee Gees), Andy Gibbs, dies of heart failure, leaving behind a surprisingly impressive discography. Check out 'Shadow Dancing' - a 50p single we originally found during a vinyl crawl.
- Gloria Gaynor's 'I Will Survive' hits #1 on the Hot 100 in 1978.

Despite being an anthem for female empowerment, it was written by two men - Freddie Perren and Dino Fekaris. Happy Int'l Women's Day!



MUSIC

Gig Reviews

Carly 'SLAY' Jepsen

The Canadian popstar thrilled the crowd with a dazzling two-act show of her greatest hits and new album tracks.

Amanda Paul Music Writer

Do you remember in 2012 when literally everyone from your classmates to your dad was singing 'Call Me Maybe'? Sure, it was a little bit annoying when I was 10 but now that I'm 21, I'd do anything to go back to those simpler times and whenever I hear the recognisable sound of shimmering bubblegum pop, my heart aches. So, when I saw that the queen of my Year 6 summer was coming to Alexandra Palace, I jumped at the opportunity to see her (and dished out £40, ouch).

When I got there the crowd

was exactly how you'd imagine a Carly Rae Jepsen crowd: glittery eyeshadow and bright pinks and purples everywhere. We managed to weasel our way to the front (shoutout to the woman carrying hot dogs in front of us), and the show began.

Channelling all genres, from French disco to DnB, Lewis Of Man did a great job of opening the show and hyping everyone up. The half-hour set took us through a journey, almost like an education on modern dance music. The ex-

pert combination of French mumbling and mind-blowing drops brought an unexpected sound to the show and a jolt of energy to the crowd. Of Man's range could not be underestimated, taking us from melody-led, vibey nu jazz to rhythmic, dirty basslines, it really blew me away. My personal favourite was definitely 'Nails Matching My Fit', a classic DnB beat with a refreshing female voice. It transported Ally Pally to an underground rave for four short minutes, closing Of Man's set with a bang.

I'll admit, I was feeling ready to go to Printworks after that. It was an interesting choice for an opening artist; while certainly upbeat and energetic, the mood shift to Carly's music was quite a drastic change.

But as soon as the music began and Carly stepped out in her neon pink outfit, it was clear who everyone was here to see. With a full band and two backup singers with her, there was enough happening on stage to keep us visually entertained throughout her long set. Her rendition of 'Run Away With Me' was even better than the studio version - perhaps the addition of a live drummer instead of the original electronic percussion helped the song feel even bigger and more atmospheric. The saxophonist/keyboardist during this song was incredible too.

As the show developed, it became clear that Carly really sticks to her brand. The general vibe was always upbeat and bright - props to her for having enough energy to dance like that! But after seven very similar songs, I found myself want-

Credit: Amanda Paul



Carly in her first outfit.

MUSIC

ing a change of pace. When *'Call Me Maybe'* began to play, the room erupted into deafening screams; her biggest hit to date had the whole crowd nodding along and she even came to high five fans on the floor.

After a brief outfit change, she reappeared and delivered the second act of her show. This was definitely my favourite part (probably just because more of my favourite songs were performed). In particular, *'Boy Problems'* was absolutely perfect. Her voice sounded great, the interaction between her and the backup

singers was a delight to watch, and that gorgeous bassline had me ugly dancing. I could definitely hear a more mature and powerful version of Carly's voice; she clearly had a level of command over her instrument that only time and experience can bring. This was definitely one of the best vocal performances I've ever heard.

All in all, Carly and her band put on a great show and gave the fans everything they wanted from a pop icon.

From Nothing to a Little Bit More could've really done with a little bit more!

The hotly-anticipated second album from Wigan natives, The Lathums.

Amy Smith Music Writer

Formed at music college in Wigan in 2019, The Lathums represent the latest round of indie guitar revivalism. Like many UK acts propelled to the forefront by die-hard local fanbases, The Lathums made a name for themselves with their chart-topping debut *How Beautiful Life Can Be* just eighteen months ago. The lads from Wigan clearly wanted to strike while the iron was hot, releasing their second album *From Nothing to a Little Bit More* just last week.

'Struggle' is a full-hearted and honest opening track. A simple melancholic piano intro leads us into Alex Moore's gentle vocals. The song then builds into a fuller sound that is more characteristic of The Lathum's trademark guitar-led crowd movers. Meanwhile, rich and soaring vocals provide a deep sincerity, telling a reflective story of loss, memory, and of growing older and wiser. *'Struggle'* showcases a burgeoning musical scope from the band echoed in later songs on the record like *'Turmoil'*.

The next song, *'Say My Name'*, is an almost abrupt change of pace. Reminiscent of your favourite 2000s indie rock, the track – though approaching formulaic – is definitely going to be a crowd-pleaser at festivals this year. With lyrics portraying a conversation between someone alive and a loved one who has passed, the track clearly intends to be anthemic and inspiring

rather than depressing with its electrifying guitar and racing percussion. Though *'Say My Name'* is undoubtedly self-assured in its sound, it lacks the pizzazz and

stodgy ground of northern indie-guitar rock. *'Lucky Bean'* offers up a story of dopamine-surgingly infatuation in the first flushes of romance interspersed with moments reminding the listener that this is a document of times that have passed. *'Facets'* is a standout track for fans of The Lathums' earlier sound featuring eruptive guitar and Moore's fast-paced, almost dialogue-like lyrical introduction with the song embracing a seldom-heard indie funk sound that is extremely hard not to nod along to. As the dust settles, *'Rise and Fall'* provides an emotion-driven and pensive intermission before they lead us directly into the festival-ready *'Sad Face Baby'* – a track that clearly expresses the band's fondness for a chorus designed for mass adoration.

Slower moments of this album sit side-by-side with the band's heavier side, and at times, these two separate identities wrestle to produce an album that, though unarguably strong, has an undercurrent of disjointedness. The Wigan four-piece unapologetically have their sights set on being an arena-filling band but this has come with a slight dilution of the essence that made them so strong. Hopefully, in the years to come, The Lathums will demonstrate that whilst they know their genre, they can also think outside the box.



novelty that made their debut so powerful.

The band follow this with a few upbeat and charmingly old-school tracks like *'I know Pt1'* and *'Lucky Bean'* that feel like a breath of fresh air across the often



Carly in her second outfit.



FILM & TV ★★☆☆☆

Edited by: JONAH HEWETT
MIKE BUZADJI
ZANNA BUCKLAND

Ant-Man and the Wasp: reviewmania

► *In case you weren't sure whether or not to see Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania, three of your Felix writers have kindly put together their thoughts on the new Marvel blockbuster.*

Film Reviews

Jonah Hewett Film Editor

What is there to say about this film that hasn't been said already? I actually enjoyed *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania* a little more than I thought I would. There's definitely something to be said for having no expectations of a film whatsoever before you go to see it – I feel like I'm finally starting to understand why my girlfriend hates it when I try to discuss every trailer and review I see online with her before we watch a new movie.

Marvel has always seemed to aim for more of a casual, everyman vibe when it comes to *Ant-Man*. He's just a guy, with a family and a cool suit. *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania* is no exception, centring its plot on the Lang family dynamic. I mean sure, they're lost in the quantum realm and there's no shortage of strange and wacky scenes to delight the senses but at heart, this film has its strength (or weakness) in its sentimentality. In fact, outside of that central theme, the film begins to struggle with its stakes and story beats. The whole film is spent inside the 'quantum realm' and, as a result, it sort of loses the sense of drama and world-ending terror that every other MCU film leans on. No offence to the inhabitants of the quantum realm, but there are just too many randomly-designed background characters, none of which are remotely fleshed out, and it becomes difficult to really care about what happens to them.



Scott Lang and daughter Cassie encountering the quantum realm for the first time.

As if to counteract this, Marvel introduces yet another new cosmic-death-god villain – Kang, the Con-

Zanna Buckland Co-Editor-in-Chief

Marvel has been letting down even its biggest fans since Infinity War at the end of Phase Three – barring one or two decent movies – and unfortunately their recent Quantumania release appears to have followed that trend. I went in with low expectations, not being enamoured with the previous two Ant-Man films, but left with those expectations torn to shreds. The 2 hours and 5 minutes spent in the quantum realm could just as easily have been 25 minutes for all that the film actually presented.

I very much want to give them the benefit of the doubt, so to start with a good thing; the A-list cast made a decent effort to retain the comedy factor despite the stiffness of the scripted jokes. It didn't feel like there's as much ad-libbing going on, despite the off-script work in the earlier films being some of their best moments. Scott Lang's (Paul Rudd) comedic 'walk down the street with voiceover' at the beginning and end of the movie was amusing, albeit slightly misplaced and providing little value other than making the events of the film seem like they were all in a day's work.

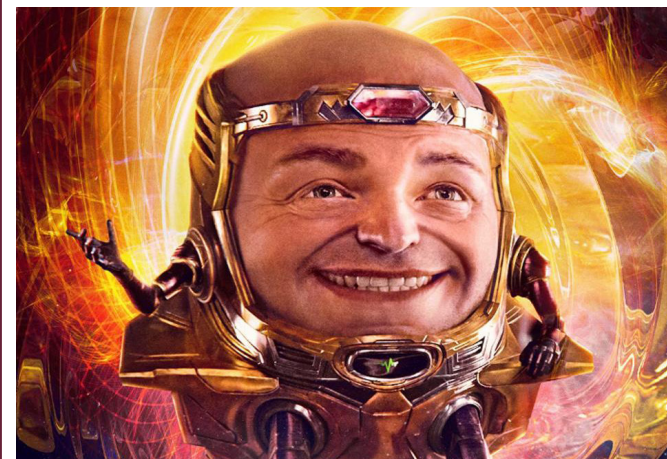
The core problem with Marvel's current formula is that they try to do way too much, when simpler concepts and plotlines would suffice, allowing them more time to flesh out their characters and the film's world. There is a sore lack of meaningful, non-clichéd interaction between the cast members, which is likely down to shoddy scriptwriting, but could also be the sheer number of new 'main' characters introduced in each new installation.

One of these characters is Kang the Conqueror; there were high hopes for Jonathon Major's portrayal of the comic-book menace. However, to me, he also fell short of convincing. Kang has an all-too-familiar stance on universe domination, not unlike Thanos'. Kang's empire also bears an uncanny resemblance to the First Order in Star Wars Episode 7, but surely a galactic empire shouldn't be visually comparable to a quantum-scale one?

As far as other characters go, we're introduced to a tribal war leader, a human-but-not-human telepath, a lightbulb-headed android, and a jelly-snail hybrid creature who's fascinated by other creatures' holes. Don't even get me started on M.O.D.O.K. (Mental Organism Designed Only For Killing) – the giant floating head of Dr Darren Cross, Ant-Man 1's nemesis. Just because something appeared in the comic books in no way implies that it can or should be recreated on-screen.

Karen Ya Film Writer

Marvel movies have the unfortunate combination of being wildly popular and, with some 31 films littering its catalogue since the first film's arrival in 2008, almost impossible to avoid, making them prime fodder for ridicule and stick-your-nose-up snobbery from the crowd of contrarians sick of the status-quo, collectively repeating their (theme-park) maxim as they clutch onto their Stan Brakhage Anthology Part 1 of 2 Criterion whilst muttering 'intertextuality' to themselves as they enter REM sleep at 2pm.



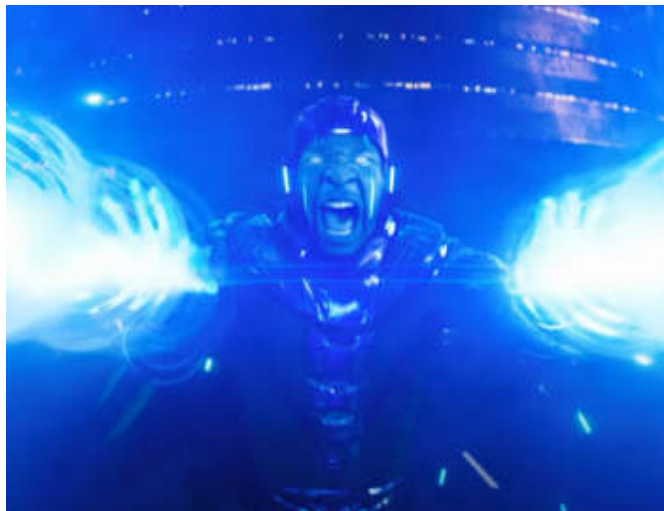
The Mental Organism Designed Only For Killing.

Now, I've only seen two (three if you count the animated Spiderverse one?) previous Marvel flicks: one with Chris Pratt and one where the main characters take responsibility for Hiroshima. I wasn't exactly blown away by either, so admittedly the franchise hasn't really crossed my mind since. Nevertheless, I entered the cinema to watch *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania* not wanting to dismiss it from the get-go, easy as that would have been. Instead of spending its runtime thinking about which plot holes and scientific inaccuracies to make clever quips out of, I wanted to view, and review, it for what it was trying to be – a fun sci-fi/fantasy action adventure carried by a cast of loveable characters. Regrettably, I think it failed at most of its goals.

The first thing I noticed was how rigid the plot was. Each story beat happened one right after the other, with no time in between wasted on establishing scenes or character dynamics. The script was so watertight in terms of moving the plot forward that it ended up sucking out any air for its characters to breathe. Whilst I'm not asking Marvel to make some slow, slice-of-life movie with eight uncut minutes of actors eating pie, I think I wanted to see the characters living in their world a bit

FILM & TV

queror - to raise the stakes. I mean, yeah, he's stuck in the quantum realm right now, sure, but if he gets out - ohhhh, then you're all *really* fucked. Luckily, his only weaknesses are the power of family, a guy who could "do this all day", and a well-timed kick in the nuts. It might be a bit unfair to criticise a superhero movie for having a caricatured villain, and there is definitely some blame to be placed upon the source material. However, Marvel is clearly capable of putting great villains on screen - everyone's favourite Malthusian, Thanos, might not be the most philosophically complicated bad guy ever but he was interesting, morally complex to an extent, and he kicked everybody's ass at first. Although perhaps trying to one-up Thanos in every film is exactly the problem - maybe everyman Scott Lang needs a more everyday villain.



Kang unleashing his rage...

All that being said, the film still had character, and I did find myself invested in the outcomes of the *Ant-Man* family, so it definitely doesn't rank amongst the worst of the MCU blockbusters. As an enjoyable, family-friendly adventure the film definitely still has its merits.



Ant-Man's quantum-realm world is one of jelly-like substances and neon, luminescent colours. The native inhabitants mingle with those who have been trapped there, and strangely enough, the prime evolutionary state still seems to be humanoid, although essentially no thought was given to the form of the average quantum-person besides being as random as possible. It's hard not to see this as lazy, when there is little scientific evidence to suggest that life in other realms or on other planets would take human form and when there's a seemingly endless budget allocated to Marvel films. The visual effects were also a letdown, which, again, feels like laziness given that Disney is one of the biggest production companies in the world and has been working on animation and visual effects for 100 years now. There is a kind of 'scanning' motion that has been used in many Marvel films recently, by which less care is taken to fully render other-worldly scenes. This can be seen in the likes of *Multiverse of Madness* and *Thor: Love and Thunder*.

One of the great things about the original *Iron-Man* and *Captain America* films was that, while the technologies produced on-screen were clearly still a fantasy, there was something about them that felt tangible. By comparison, the lack of explanation attached to the 'quantum satellite' device presented in *Quantumania* is laughable; skimming over the technical aspects of it and barely giving the audience a chance to try and understand the pseudoscience behind the satellite.

This complete disconnection from the real-world is perfectly fine if, as in *Thor*, *Dr. Strange*, and *Guardians of the Galaxy*, we are dealing with alternate planets and universes. I was equally as willing to suspend my disbelief with travel to the quantum realm, but only if there was evidence of some dedicated thought being put into the creation of such a world.

Underneath all this was some semblance of a plot, but between the absence of meaningful dialogue and the pure chaos that was the film's visuals, many of the character-building elements were lost on me. Scott and Cassie Lang had several slightly awkward bonding moments, Hope and her mother, Janet, work through some emotional tension in the background, and Bill Murray appeared for 0.1 seconds to act as 'the other guy' - the catalyst for Michael Douglas's metamorphosis into a true hero. Kang and Janet revive and resettle a past dispute, and a bunch of giant (for the quantum realm) ants save the day.

I may have just been too tired to give them the benefit of the doubt and fully understand the plot. I won't lie to you; I'm not entirely sure how the film actually wrapped up, but then again, I don't think I really need to know either.

It may be that Marvel set their standards too high in the first two phases, and are now struggling to authentically replicate the charm and camaraderie that was the shining light of those early films. I may be focusing too much on little details and being pedantic, but then, once a standard is set, it's hard to not hold every new project to that same high bar. I appreciate the work that was done by the cast and crew, but sometimes >>

more before they started punching each other.

Unfortunately, when a film doesn't give itself time to develop anything, but still wants to introduce a bunch of new environments and characters, it inevitably has to resort to shorthand to quickly get the bullet points across. This means stereotypes and cliches, which are commonplace in *Ant-Man 3*. I would be okay with a splash of cliché here and there as a quick hit required for a scene, but they shouldn't serve as fundamental building blocks of emotional points or character development. A daughter blankly yelling "Dad!" doesn't make me care about their family dynamic. A character ignoring a question while pensively staring off into the distance doesn't make them look troubled or mysterious, nor does referring to the bad guy as 'him' with vague gestures to the damage 'he' caused stir any fear in me, no matter how unimaginably huge the expected death toll is said to be. These shortcuts work fleetingly, but end up resounding empty, producing a wholly unsatisfying experience filled with hollow characters you don't care about.

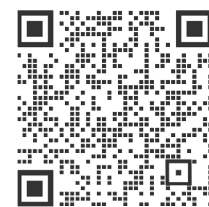
Similarly, the film seems to have little grasp of tension and release. Almost every conflict (apart from the overarching plot of the movie) is resolved within the scene. Fights begin and end in quick succession, only to move straight onto the next fight, but this time a *deus ex machina* comes to save the day, until the bad guy remembers how much power he has, until another *deus ex machina* (remember them?) comes along, rinse, repeat. To clarify, I don't have a problem with fast pace; I don't want to see a slow Marvel movie. But I want a Marvel movie that actually knows how to place its tension in the right spots for its action set pieces to mean anything. If every fight is 'for everything', then my capacity to feel worried and tense wanes further with each one.

And I think that's my overall complaint about *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantummania*. It's not the cringe humour. It's not the lifeless acting. It's not its misunderstanding of the word 'quantum'. It's that the film has no ability to organically produce any feeling in its viewer. It has to fall back to platitudes to yield a reaction, not because platitudes work, but because it doesn't know any other way. The movie's impatience to stumble onto the next epic battle or zany zinger chokes it of any life, when lowering the stakes and giving us a steadier, more human story would have been far more effective. A lesson in delayed gratification needs to be learned here: wait for the second marshmallow, it's so much more worth it.

>> the 'forgive and forget' mantra really is necessary (with emphasis on 'forget').

I'd like to say I'll move on and focus on the next thing - we're inching ever closer to the next Avengers team-up! - but I'm feeling apprehensive about what's in store for *Secret Invasion* and *Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 3* (both expected May 2023).

The Spring All-Nighter is back!

FILM & TV


Jonathan Yap CinemaSoc Vice Chair (Events)

We are back! It feels great to say that. Bringing you a plethora of six films in one night, which were fabulously curated by the Cinema crew (ahem... yours truly), we proudly present to you Imperial's best cinema experience of the year!

We know that at this time of the year, Imperial is relentless, and you're likely burrowing yourself in coursework, projects, or preparing for exams. However, we all need breaks, and with a work-filled day, why not end it with a fun-filled night?

Hear this out. Imagine watching 6 great films on a 33ft silver screen, projected using a 35mm Kintona cinema projector, with Dolby Digital EX surround sound booming as you laugh, cheer, and cry. All at a fraction of the price at other cinemas, and right at your doorstep. Imperial Cinema aims to continue a decades-old tradition of all-nighters, bringing you a fundamental Imperial experience that many former students have enjoyed. This is it; this is the Spring All-Nighter 2023.

There are lots to celebrate with the all-nighter, es-

pecially the end of term. There is however one aspect which I would love to highlight, which are the films! Coming in just two days after Oscars Night, the Spring All-Nighter showcases Marvel's latest offering together with five Oscar-nominated films. Personally, having seen a couple of these films (and rooting for them at the Oscars), I can say with certainty that these films will break your heart, uplift your spirits, and take you on a journey like no other. On that note, I'll leave each film with their best quotes, no-context of course.

18:00 - Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania

"I have holes!"

This is the blockbuster pick of our line-up. The third entry in the Ant-Man and the Wasp series brings our protagonists and family to the quantum realm, where they would face off against Marvel's greatest villain in the Multiverse saga: Kang the Conqueror. Having seen it, Jonathan Majors absolutely stuns in the role of Kang. There are also two post-credit scenes which you won't miss this time 'cause you'll be staying for the full all-nighter right? Right?

23:50 - The Fabelmans

"It'll be our secret movie, just yours and mine."

This is the awards pick of our line-up. You can't go wrong with Steven Spielberg. Having proved time and time again that he's one of the most versatile filmmakers in the business, directing films from the likes of Jurassic Park and E.T., to Ready Player One and last year's West Side Story, Spielberg is back again with a heavy hitter of a film. Spielberg's most personal film yet is an autobiographical look at his family during the 50s and 60s, where individuals conflict between family, love, and ambition. Spielberg reportedly shed tears throughout filming, overwhelmed with the playing-out of memory into reality.

02:40 - Puss in Boots: The Last Wish

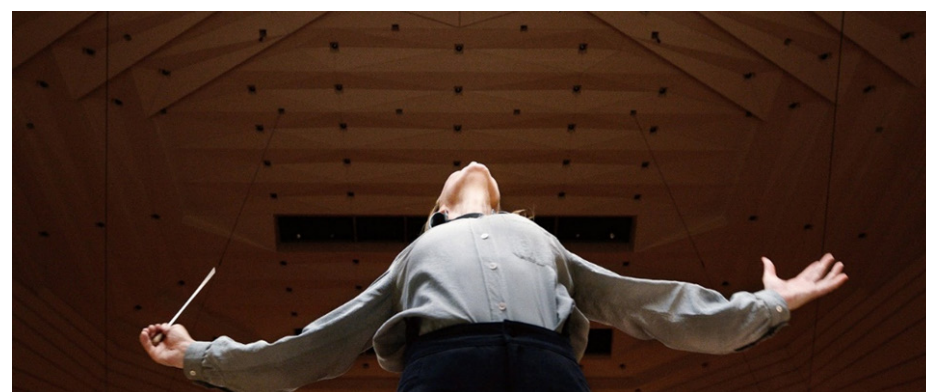
"It's pussin'time"

Ok that's a fake quote. This is the fan favourite pick in the line-up. I've had a number of people come up to me asking if Imperial Cinema would be showing the film. And with the full-body poster in the UCH reception being ever-popular, we couldn't say no to screening this hyper-stylised animated masterpiece of a film. Join Puss as he faces his mortality after using up 8 of his 9 lives, while being chased by a mysterious villain. So this shows the power of your suggestions; keep giving us recommendations and you'll likely see it in our next line-up.

06:50 - Marcel the Shell with Shoes On

"Nana, make the noise"

This is the independent film pick in the line-up. Well, we couldn't say no to those little eyes. Puss has competition. The film tells the story of Marcel the Shell as he searches for his family, while becoming an internet sensation in the process. He also lives with his grandma, it's SO adorable. There's no better film to end the all-nighter with, so make sure to stay for this one. Marcel and Puss are both in the running for Best Animated Feature at the Oscars this year, time will tell who prevails. Pinocchio who? Just kidding...



20:40 - Tár

"[music] Apartment for sale, apartment for sale"

This is the arthouse pick in the line-up, telling the story of an EGOT conductor-composer at the peak of her career, as she navigates through challenges in her relationships and ultimately, herself. Silently meditating with its character study, yet roaring in its orchestral composition, Cate Blanchett dissolves into Lydia Tár in this film about power, mental health, and the cancel culture. Selected as the best film of 2022 by all four of the world's top critics associations: LA, NY, London, and the National Society of Critics, it joins only 3 other films with this honour. Find out if TÁR is really what they make it out to be.

04:45 - Women Talking

"I want to talk about my horses, Ruth and Cheryl"

Women Talking is the staff pick of the line-up. So don't be surprised if you see us disappear from the ticket counter, as we are likely chilling at the front row of the cinema watching the magnetic performance of an ensemble pour their hearts out as they make a choice between staying, fighting, and leaving, in a colony where women are grappling with a brutal reality of assault. Inspired by true events, the film has been described as raw yet rich, and deeply resonant. Ok we're probably not chilling, more like gripping our seats in tension.



DETAILS

	£4 - One film	DATE: 21 st March 2023
PRICES	£12 - Six films	TIME: 18:00 (entry from 17:30)
	£20 - Six films + food	LOCATION: Union building 2nd floor

FOOD & TRAVEL

Edited by: CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL
NATALIE YU

FOOD & TRAVEL

Imperial Alternative Protein Society go nuts for cashew-based cheese

► *Are vegan alternative products giving animal products a run for their money?*

Simran Patel Environment Editor

On 16th February, I attended a snack tasting session run by Imperial's Alternative Protein Society. Displayed on the tables in SAFB 122 was a tantalising array of plant-based meats, cheeses, and desserts. If it weren't for the vegan puns in the brand names, the golden breadcrumb coatings and rich brown chocolate would have fooled any meat-eater. I couldn't wait to dig in.

VEGAN CHEESE

After handing out Jacob's cream crackers, the committee distributed Cheddar cubes made by Alt Farms. The Somerset-based company makes cheese out of oats and fava beans, so the cheese contains 12% protein. Apprehensively, I popped one cheese cube on a cracker and took a bite. Immediately, my mouth

exploded with flavour. Alt Farms have managed to find the perfect balance between being undeniably mature Cheddar and having a unique flavour that made me want more. Like any other mature Cheddar, the cheese was too strong on its own and the cream cracker diluted the flavour by just the right amount. The texture was similar to dairy Cheddar as well – when Alt Farms Cheddar comes to a store near me, it's going straight onto my cheeseboard.

While I was still recovering from the flavour-bomb that was Alt Farms, I was handed cubes of Vegan Smoked Cheese and Sauvignonsense, both made by I Am Nut OK. As their name suggests, I Am Nut OK turn cashew nuts into a dairy substitute by fermentation and ageing – all in their factory in Hackney. I Am Nut OK seemed to be mimicking cream cheese, because I could easily

spread the cheese over my Jacob's crackers. First I tried the Vegan Smoked Cheese, and it tasted like a punch in the face! I didn't know it was possible for such a silky smooth cheese to have indescribable depth and complexity in flavour. Although the Sauvignonsense was equally creamy, the taste felt like a loving caress compared to what I had just tasted. The inspiration from Cabernet Sauvignon was clear, from the red streaks running through the cheese to the bold and fruity flavour. Both cheeses were very popular in the room – Philadelphia cream cheese should be afraid.

MAIN COURSE

Founded in Switzerland in 2019, Eatplanted claim their pea protein products have saved over 1 million chickens from ending up on our plates. Their Chicken Original is perfect for vegan chefs wanting to use their own marinades and seasoning. Biting into the pieces did not convince me this was chicken, perhaps

“

**PHILADELPHIA
CREAM CHEESE
SHOULD BE
AFRAID.**

because its texture was chewy and dry. My verdict may have been different had the pieces been straight out of the pan or served in a meal. Most of us in the room preferred the more realistic texture and ready-made deliciousness of Eatplanted Pulled Pork Spicy Herbs. Smelling and tasting like a trip to Bologna, the plant-based pork had just the right level of herbs. Some of the 30 attendees were already thinking about wrapping Pulled Pork Spicy Herbs in a tortilla with avocado and taking it for lunch!



Next up were Buffalo Bites and Spicy Drums from Oumph. The Swedish company has already won 'Best Brand' at the 2021 World Food Innovation Awards, and tasting both products revealed why. First I tried the breaded Buffalo Bites, which had a texture easily mistaken for actual chicken. The Buffalo sauce inside was so tangy and spicy that I wish there was more of it. According to Alternative Protein committee members, the bites are irresistibly crispy when straight out the oven – they only take 15 minutes to cook from frozen. The second Oumph product, their Spicy Drums, were my favourite snack of the evening. Most attendees preferred these to the Buffalo Bites, but none of us could explain why. Maybe it was the juiciness of the plant-based chicken, or the perfect ratio of herbs, pepper, and chilli. It didn't take long for Oumph products to enter my shopping list.

By this point I was already stuffed, but, the Radiant Foods soya mini-fillets looked too attractive to turn down. Co-founders and Imperial alumni Dan and Satya inspired us with the story of Radiant Foods was founded. They wanted to eat healthier and eco-friendlier without giving up their favourite traditional foods, a sentiment that resonated with many of us. Being Indian, my gut instinct was to try the tikka masala mini-fillets first. I found them greasy and not spicy enough, but this was compensated by the powerful and moreish masala seasoning. Then I tried the teriyaki flavoured mini-fillets, which were sweet and juicy. Their look, feel and taste was so convincing that a

Japanese restaurant could have served me this instead of meat without me noticing. The

third flavour I tried was smoky paprika, inspired by Spanish paella. The flavour balance of these mini-fillets was somehow both strong and delicate, both salty and sweet. Captivated by the unique flavour, I asked for a second round of smoky paprika fillets before ending the 'main course' with Radiant Foods' flagship product - Chinese five spice mini-fillets. In contrast to the other three flavours, I enjoyed the simple taste of these mini-fillets. All five spices shone through the soya, and the Chinese students present confirmed that the mini-fillets tasted authentic. All the mini-fillets had a texture not convincing enough to replace meat, but tough and filling enough to be a great addition to vegan curries and stir fries.

Having eaten many dry snacks by

“
EVERYONE IN ALTERNATIVE PROTEIN HAS A STORY.

this point, it was time for a drinks break courtesy of

HumaniTea. Founded by Imperial alumnus Tina Chen, the company makes Matcha and Earl Grey 'Tea Lattes' using oat milk. I took a sip of the chilled Earl Grey 'Tea Latte', and my palate felt clean and refreshed. The Earl Grey flavour was delicate yet omnipresent – a nod to Taiwanese bubble tea. However, some attendees didn't see the unique aspect of the drink. It's not difficult to make tea at home using oat milk and stick it in the fridge for a few hours.

The spirits of these attendees was soon lifted by desserts from Wicked. Marketing manager Chloé explained that Wicked have products in every category available, from pizzas to seasoning. She narrated the emotional story that founded the company – unable to cope with the death of his fiancée, Derek Sarno moved to a monastery and vowed to reduce human and animal suffering. I wondered if the Wicked Double Trouble Chocolate Cookies were tasty enough to honour Derek's legacy... and they were. The cookies were less sweet than dairy chocolate cookies, which I especially liked. Despite not containing dairy or eggs, these cookies had the perfect crumbly texture and a rich chocolate flavour. When I walked past Wicked products at Tesco a few days later, I had a newfound appreciation for their history and quality.

During the session, Alternative Protein Society treasurer Rachel said "everyone in protein has a story". I could taste

these stories in every bite or sip of every brand that was present. It was clear from the flavour profiles, textures and even packaging material that these companies care about people and the planet. So although most of us think alternative protein is the future, I'd argue the present is plant-based too.

Now is the perfect time to join Alternative Protein Society. They are looking for passionate students that aren't in their final year to take the reins in 2023-24. Moreover, on 31st March the society are applying to join Good Food Institute's prestigious Alt Protein Project. The Project will connect students interested in food or biotechnology to entrepreneurs, scientists, and like-minded students around the world.

To be named as one of the Project's founding members, contact altprotein@imperial.ac.uk within the next week.



FOOD & TRAVEL

Delft: Netherland's coziest town

► *A weekend in Delft spent studying, relaxing, and exploring the neighboring cities of The Hague and Rotterdam.*

Credits: Pixabay

Charlotte Probstel Travel Editor

The sun is shining on my screen as we cross France's countryside. Wi-Fi, large duo seats, and EU and UK charging stations in between seats make the trip more enjoyable than flying.

The Eurostar travels daily from London St. Pancras to Rotterdam Centraal in two hour intervals (8 AM – 6 PM) and takes three and a half hours for the entire trip, stopping at Lille, Brussels and Amsterdam. It also offers repeated trains to Paris, which I took last weekend to see the Lizzo Concert. Even if you do not get a window seat, the view through the large windows is spectacular from any point in the carriage. In the winter months, you'll notice the snow slowly growing layers as you exit London and approach the European coast. I take this train routinely to travel to Delft, Netherlands, and maintain relationships at TU Delft, a STEM University in the Netherlands and partner school of Imperial College London.

Between Rotterdam and the Hague sits Delft in the southern provinces of the Netherlands. It is an hour's tram ride from the western beach at Scheveningen, where you can go bungee jumping off a crane located at the edge of the pier. Plunging 80 metres downwards, the thrill



Canals in Delft are very common. Everyone owns a bike and they are parked everywhere.

is spectacular, and since there is only water below you, it isn't as bad as bungee jumping over concrete. In the Hague, you can play VR, shop till you drop, or visit many rooftop bars and riverside cafes. In Rotterdam, a 20-minute train ride from Delft Central I used to go roller-skating, play mini-golf, go tree-climbing or enjoy a picturesque view from the Rotterdam Tower.

Delft is a small university town with 100,000 inhabitants compared to the ten million in London and it gives the feeling of going to the countryside for the weekend to enjoy the fresh air, sunshine, and company of old friends. It is "small and quiet" yet "cozy" and "a perfect balance between city and campus" and is quite calm, however the "housing crisis

Credits: Wikipedia

is a concern". The sun shines brighter on the peak of the TU Delft Library, a cone-shaped building covered in grass sloping from the top to the bottom. It is an enjoyable place to have a cheese picnic, take a nap, read a book, or just roll down, reliving childhood memories. The campus at TU Delft is spacious, with comfortable study spaces galore and the secret is to walk in as if you are a student.

I took the chance to interview some of the students at TU Delft about their experience at the university and their adaptation to the new country. As a partner school, it may be interesting to hear some insights not posted on the Delft website or other official media. Quan and Filip, are both international 3rd-year Computer Science and Engineering Bachelors who are expected to graduate this or the following year.

Filip and Quan grew up in the capital cities of Warsaw and Vienna respectively, which compared to Delft, are cities that depend on public transport or cars to get around. Filip liked "how easily cyclable everything is" and that even in winter "it doesn't snow too much ... so you can still cycle." Quan responded to Filip saying;

Quan: I can take some more snow.

Filip: Don't you ice-skate on the canals?



Birds-eye view of Delft. You can see the old church in the centre.

Credits: TU Delft

Credits: European Waterways



The iconic cone-shaped library of TU-Delft. You can spot the mass of bicycles parked in front, and the tiny entrance of the building.



Credits: KimKim

Quan: Yeah, with my bike. (laughs)

Import Note: Quan was joking. Please do not, under any circumstances think ice-skating on the canals is smart. Students have been hospitalized and/or have died instantly.

Furthermore, since “everyone speaks English” in the Netherlands, adjusting to the country was no problem for the three boys. Quan repeatedly pointed out that the small size of the town was very beneficial for his social life. “From one side to the other within 15 minutes by bike. You can be spontaneous. In Australia (where Quan did his minor abroad), I had to schedule things a few days ahead. I can just call up people to go to the library in 30 minutes. The small city makes things less anonymous. In a big city, you pass by people you don’t know, but I have this cozy feeling of knowing everyone.” How sweet!

Delft is historically popular for the origin of the blue-white ceramic dishes that you may have seen associated with the Netherlands. It is also the place of birth of Johannes Vermeer, who is the genius painter of the “Girl with Pearl Earring”. The museum built in his house is petite yet packs enough information to keep you interested for a good 45 minutes. It features re-creations of his piece with multiple different models and modern styles. Some photo cards of these re-creations are currently hanging on my wall at home. Did you know that

the pearl in the image is a single stroke of a grey-silver color, such that the “hanger” is not visible. So who knows, is she wearing an earring?

TU Delft’s Civil Engineering and Geoscience Department as well as the Mechanical, Maritime, and Materials Engineering (3mE) Department offer exchanges with Imperial until 2027, so who knows, you may find yourself there

soon on an exchange, working with top engineers in the Netherlands while enjoying a Stroopwafel or Poffertjes...



A typical white-and-blue ceramic from Delft. Pictured is the ‘Girl with Pearl Earring’.

Did you recently travel with your friends, alone, or went to visit your family?

Do you want to share your experience with the university?

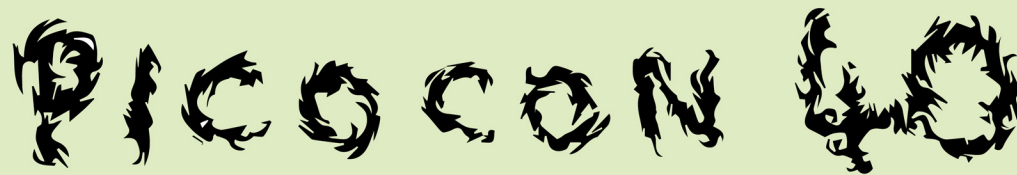
Then email us your story and pictures to

travel.felix@ic.ac.uk

and it will appear in the next issue!



Science Fiction & Fantasy Society presents...



TWISTED

11TH MARCH 2023

BLACKETT LT 1 9:00 - 20:00

GUESTS OF HONOUR

Jonathan Sims

Gav Thorpe

Mark Lawrence

Alma Alexander

Tim Klotz

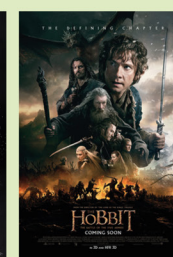
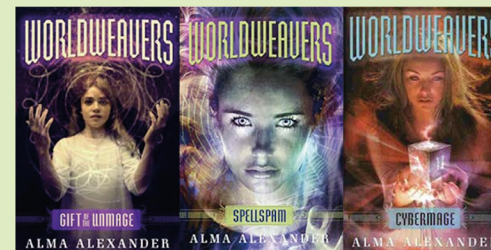
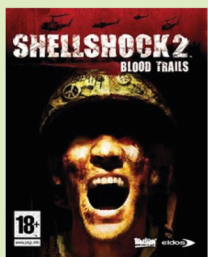
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PUBLIC

SPORT & SOCIETIES

Imperial's Ladies cricket team: one of the best in London!

► Read on to find out how Ladies cricket squashed LSE, King's College, Middlesex University, and

Lizzie Williams

Imperial Women's Cricket Club President

Imperial College Union Cricket Club Ladies took on Portsmouth, UCL, King's, LSE, and Middlesex Universities, coming 2nd in the first ever indoor 6-a-side LUSL Competition, held at The Kia Oval! Imperial defeated Portsmouth in their first group stage match by 15 runs. Next up they played King's, batting first ICUCC Ladies set an impressive total of 49 runs off 25 balls. They followed this up by restricting King's to 4 with a very string bowling line up, most notably, Alvina took her first ever wicket, bowling an over which went for minus 2 runs! They then played their final group stage match against UCL who they beat comfortably.

Next up they played UCL again in a semi-final. Imperial hit a total of 20 runs off 12 bowls which UCL struggled to chase only managing a total of 5 runs. Imperial suffered the loss of their wicket keeper Rutvi during the semi-final, after colliding with a batsman while pulling off an impressive run out.

They then went into the final against Portsmouth which was now to be a 4 ball 4 over game due to time restrictions. Imperial set a total of 15 runs after some late wickets from Portsmouth. The first over, bowled by Lizzie, went for 1 run after she cleaned up one of Portsmouth's openers! Holly and Gaya then bowled impressively, however, the batting side got away with some lucky shots and got to up to 13 runs going into the final over.

Skipper Shannon started off by bowling a dot ball. On the second ball of the over Portsmouth's remaining opener edged the ball to backwards point who then threw the ball to directly hit the stumps. Although controversially, the run out was not given. The batters ran on the third ball of the over adding 3 to the total, and placing them in the lead by 1. Imperial require a wicket to win on the final ball! The final ball is another run, and Imperial lose by just 4 runs after an impressive showing in the entire tournament, still placing 2nd out of 8 teams!

After the success of last year, winning the London Varsity and being shortlisted for BUCS National Sports

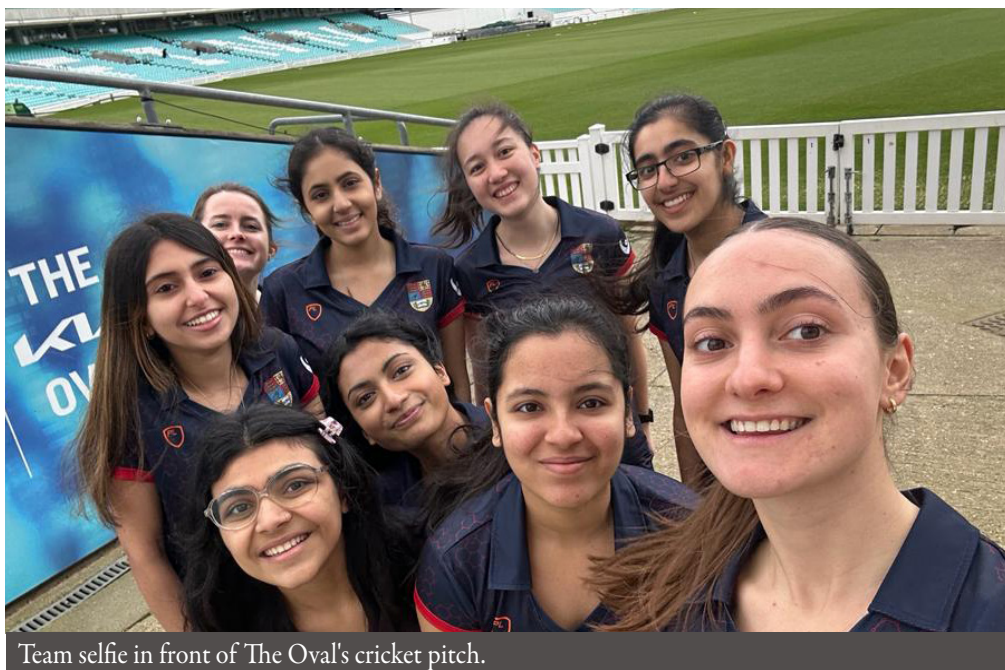
Club of the Year, Imperial College Union Cricket Club's Women's team has only carried on improving, by winning 6 out of 8 of their Spring fixtures!

To get involved, click on the link in our bio on instagram @icucricket to join our whatsapp group and mailing list!

Credit: Envato Elements



Credit: Lizzie Williams



Credit: Lizzie Williams

Team selfie in front of The Oval's cricket pitch.



Top row (left to right): Rutvi, Holly, Lizzie, Zanna, Shannon.
Bottom row (left to right): Alvina, Tanya, Gaya, Aarna.

SPORT & SOCIETIES

Credit (for graphic icons): Envato Elements

THE IMPERIAL VARSITY 2023

WATERPOLO

IMPERIAL COLLEGE vs IMPERIAL MEDICS

FRIDAY 17 MARCH
ETHOS TAKEOVER

THE IMPERIAL VARSITY 2023

HOCKEY

IMPERIAL COLLEGE vs IMPERIAL MEDICS

SATURDAY 18 MARCH
HARLINGTON

THE IMPERIAL VARSITY 2023

HOCKEY

IMPERIAL COLLEGE vs IMPERIAL MEDICS

SATURDAY 18 MARCH
HARLINGTON

Quiz is coming home

► *Imperial triumph at national tournament.*

Oscar O'Flanagan
Quiz Treasurer

The Imperial A quiz team have made history by winning the British Student Quiz Championships (BSQC) for the first time ever, beating Oxford A 370-185 in their final match. This is also the first time in over 20 years that a non-Oxbridge team has taken home the trophy. This year's BSQC was hosted inside the City & Guilds Building on Saturday 4 March; Imperial was represented by a total of three teams, featuring both new and experienced quizzers.

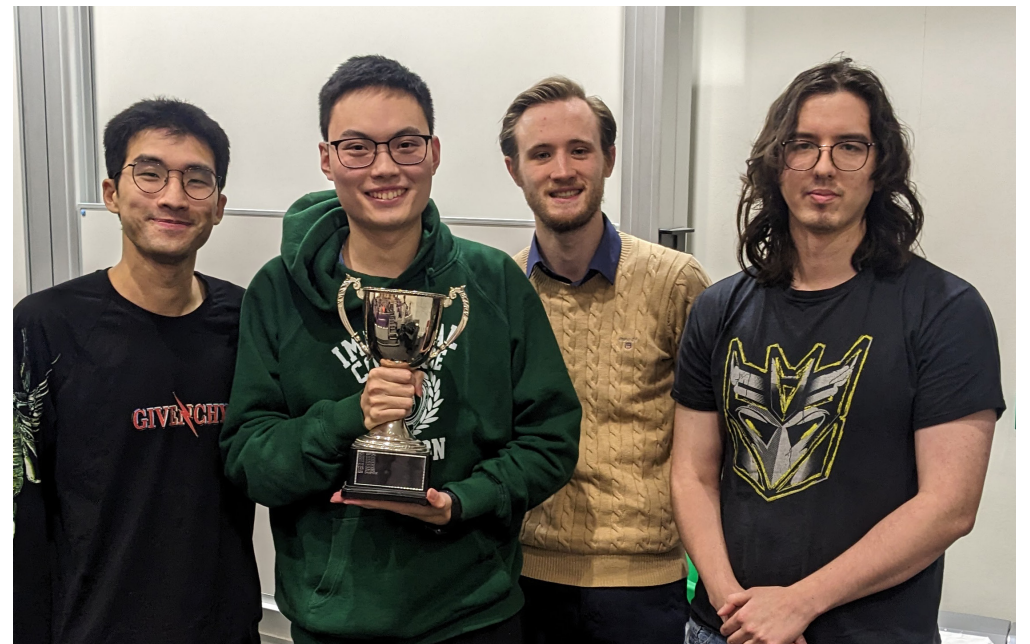
24 teams from a total of 11 UK universities participated in this year's BSQC, making it the largest student quiz tournament in the country (that is, the largest one that doesn't air on BBC Two on Monday evenings). This year marked the 25th anniversary of BSQC, having first been held in 1998 at Imperial, and then here every year since 2011.

The Imperial A line-up once again consisted of undergraduates Adam Jones (Computing) and Justin Lee (Chemistry), and PhD students Michael Mays (Aeronautics) and Enoch Yuen (Molecular Biosciences). Having swept through the last three regular season tournaments, the four were touted by the UK Quizbowl organisation prior to the

tournament as being on "undoubtedly the best form of any team in the country". Nonetheless, Oxford A, Cambridge A, and Edinburgh A were also heavy favourites to clinch the title this year, the latter two having met in last year's final.

The tournament began with five preliminary rounds in brackets of six teams, from which teams would then be sorted into upper, middle and lower brackets to give them a fairer competition in the afternoon. Imperial A breezed through the morning with a clean sheet. Imperial B had a rougher start to the day, with a 505-80 walloping by Edinburgh A. Narrow defeats to Cambridge B and Warwick B then led to them being placed in the middle playoff bracket. Imperial C had the misfortune of facing Oxford A, Durham A and Bristol A in their bracket, and ended up in the lower playoff bracket.

All three Imperial teams fared well in the afternoon playoffs. Imperial A extended their winning streak to 40 games, before finally being bested by the formidable Edinburgh A team in the 11th round. Imperial B secured victory against all but Bristol A, squeezing past Sheffield A and Edinburgh B. After their rough start, Imperial C broke into the top half of their playoff bracket – no mean feat, considering the difficulty of



The Imperial A team with the BSQC trophy. L-R: Enoch Yuen, Justin Lee, Michael Mays, Adam Jones.

the questions and that most of its players had only started quizzing this year.

After 11 rounds, Imperial A and Oxford A were both on top with a 10:1 win-loss record; therefore, a one-game final would determine the overall winner. Imperial A scored the first starter question, but the game was closely fought; Oxford led 115-75 after five questions. At the halfway point, Imperial was back with a narrow 25-point lead. Things turned south for Oxford after that; a few well-intentioned but incorrect buzzes gave away the questions to Imperial, who

extended their lead. At the end, Imperial had doubled Oxford's scoreline, and was presented with the trophy.

With Mays and Yuen finishing their degrees this year, and most of this academic year's tournaments now behind us, BSQC 2023 is likely to be this Imperial A team's swansong. However, with Imperial's quizzing scene continuing to flourish, I very much doubt we'll be waiting as long for the second title as we did for the first.

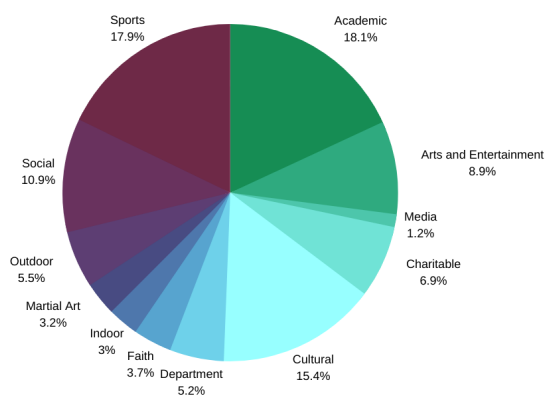
Student Societies Stats

► How well are Imperial's societies spread out?

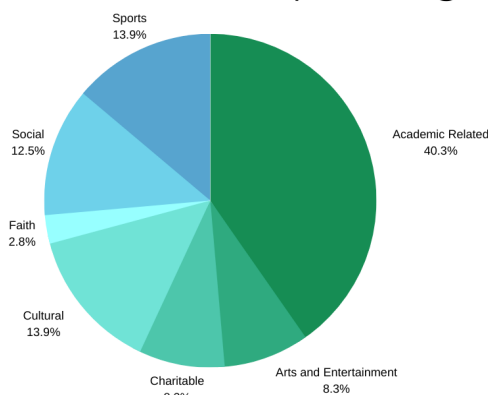
Charlotte Probstel Societies Editor



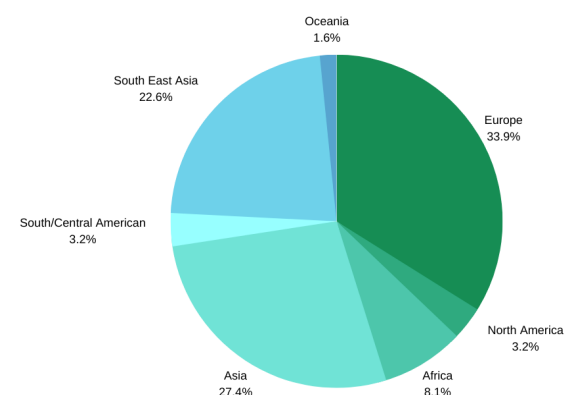
% of Societies per Category



% of New Societies per Category



% of Cultural Societies per Continent



403 societies. What a statistic for our University. With 74 new societies having joined in 2022, this shows that at Imperial we have the entrepreneurial spirit to fill the holes within our social culture, and that if we really want something, we'll work for it.

As shown in the three graphs above, Sports, Academic, and Cultural societies dominate the categories. Cultural societies all represent different countries and regions. Asian cultures make up almost 50% of all our cultural societies, while all the North, Central, and South American societies, in addition to

Australian soc. make up 5%.

This year, around 40% of new societies were academic, showing how students can create clubs that aid in learning outside their curriculums. This is particularly helpful for learning the skills and theory of other disciplines. A chemistry student could join the Neurosurgical or Data Science Society. Based on my experience interviewing academic societies, most members do share the same major, but every society welcomes students from any academic background.

Some of the smaller categories are Media, Indoor, Outdoor, and Martial

Arts. Media embodies mostly News (Felix, Gazette (Medical), and IC Radio) but also includes Photosoc and the Swift Society; a society for appreciating Taylor Swift (who doesn't love Taylor Swift?). Indoor societies are mostly Games (Poker, Mahjong, Bridge, etc.) or calming activities such as yoga or knitting (Knit-Sock).

By comparison, Outdoor societies are perfect for adrenaline junkies who race, scuba dive, surf, hike, glide, cave, canoe, skate, wakeboard, fly planes, mountaineer, beekeep, or garden. Martial Arts has enough societies to form its own

category, as there are 8 different martial art types available at Imperial.

The Charitable societies focus on one issue each, and it's fascinating to see how students are giving back by raising funds for refugees (STAR), North Korean escapees (Liberty in North Korea), rural areas which lack education (RED), and actively participate in things like feeding the homeless community.

There are currently 403 societies, but if you feel like there could be a 404th, then please do apply through the Union before the 12th of March or 21st of May deadlines to get started!

SOCIETIES

The great global Google Club

► Meet the Google Developer Society Club and the potential they offer to Imperials students to kick off their career in tech.

Charlotte Probstel Societies Writer

LSE had the biggest GDSC (Google Developer Student Club) in the world and I thought I could make Imperials GDSC better, stated Clemen, a second-year Electronics Information and Engineering Student and one of the four leads of the GDSC. The competition between the two schools is friendly enough for the two clubs to have enjoyed a communal field trip to the F1 Arcade in central London last term.

Ruchit, a second-year Computer Science and Engineering student and the second lead, described GDSC as “[...] a venture to build. It brings people of different backgrounds into tech. And to have fun at it.”

“It is very inclusive as engineering, business, and science are accepted. We explore technology, software engineering, and how the industry works,” Clemen added. Members are free to join any of the many weekly workshops which focus on software engineering and machine learning. For Clemen, these workshops are a „means of appreciating something you didn’t know you could do previously. We teach Flutter and Firebase to make full stack applications. This is the basis for developing an app or business.”

Sometimes, the Industry gets invited to speak to the student. A highlight of

this term was the five-member Microsoft team which presented its Power Platform. How did they manage this? Well,

“

ITS VERY INCLUSIVE AS ENGINEERING, BUSINESS, AND SCIENCE IS ACCEPTED.

the leads emailed the head of Microsoft in Europe, and the rest was organised internally by Microsoft. I had the incredible luck to attend that event and I learned that Power Apps (you may have seen it used for the Shuttle Bus to White City and Hammersmith) allows you to create an app as easily as a Powerpoint presentation. To that I say; be gone to the days of learning Java, SQL, Swift, etc.

You may ask yourself, what’s so special about Industry talks? Yes, you can also see them on Youtube, but can you meet the speakers yourselves and in-

roduce yourself? Via Youtube, no. Via GDSC, yes. One member spoke with the presenters from the London-based startup CORD and landed an Engineering Management Internship with them. Coincidence? No. The second side of the GDSC is how they organise a mentorship program that helps professionals from BBS, *The Times*, and JP Morgan mentor students at Imperials. This is how you skip the recruitment line.

Exceptional members may be inspired to become a lead. For that, you complete an application process with

athon called the ‘Solutions Challenge’. The teams within the club are working together to come up with and develop a solution to solve one of the 40 UN Sustainable Goals using Google Technology. The collaboration isn’t cut-throat, as one may think. The common goal is to help the world and make an actual i m -

pact, so the competition, as described by both leads is “healthy and cooperative.”

Cooperation is the key adjective of this society. It is “super relaxed” and “not com - pet-

an interview, but it allows you to contact the industry and expect responses. As Ruchit mentioned “In this current job market, networking holds a lot of power. If you understand the industry, you’ll have an easier time.” You can collaborate with the GDSCs of other universities e.g., LSE, King’s, and UCL, and join their events. Google calls club leaders and workers from industries all over the UK and Ireland for a conference in Canary Wharf every year. This networking event has helped Clemen, Ruchit and Nico present their stories, experiences, and achievements with others at the fun-filled summit.

While the Prosthetics Society is competing in the 2024 Cybathlon, the GDSC is competing at the Global Hack-



The software company ‘Docker’ giving a speech to the group.



Website

itive at all.” They are all “really good friends” and “everyone is pushing everyone else.” Ruchit gave a special shoutout to Clemen for taking “a lot of hard work” and doing a “lot of the background work”. There is always someone to help you set up your program or whichever task you are at to overcome difficulties. Surprisingly, even students from Sixth Form come to the workshops, and the students at Imperial teach them. They teach, they learn, and they share.

Rucit and Clemen aspire in life to build

their volunteers. As of now, they are in the corresponding phase and will soon



THEY TEACH, THEY LEARN, AND THEY SHARE

want to find a structure to get their members involved. This will not only benefit the charity to solve homelessness but also give the members experience which the society promises.

When asked what ad-

something that “can touch lives across the world” and “to do something really impactful”. So, they are working with a non-profit charity called Under One Sky where they help to find a solution for managing

vice they have for potential members, Ruchit invites everyone to “come with an open mind. We won’t bore you and learn you out. We will explain technology in simpler words.”

“Take advantage of all the opportunities available. In this program, there are platforms to become better Computer Scientists and Software Engineers. You learn the importance of community and collaboration.”

Members can join from wherever, whenever.

Until next time,

Charlotte



Developer Student Clubs
Imperial College London



The GDSC Kickoff in October 2022.

SOCIETIES

Picocon 40: TWISTED

► *The Science Fiction and Fantasy Society (ICSF) is preparing its annual convention, and it may come with a twisted surprise...*

Rebecca Allday Chair of ICSF

Every year a smallish, nerdy, themed convention takes place in Blackett Lecture Theatre 1. Picocon is run by the Imperial College Science Fiction and Fantasy Society (ICSF), and this year it's happening on the 11th of March. Attendees will have the chance to listen to talks and panels by guest speakers, then join in some wacky fun with a menagerie of games for charity, as well as a quiz and a scavenger hunt. We at ICSF are especially excited as this is the 40th Picocon! The convention first ran in 1984 and even has its own Wikipedia Page. Past guests have included Terry Pratchett, Carrie Hope Fletcher, and Tamsyn Muir.

What is the theme this year?

This year's theme is 'Twisted', which aims to celebrate those who have left their mark on us by adding their own twist to conventions, expectations, or tropes. It may also include plot twists, genre twists, and medium twists.

Who are this year's special guests?

We have an exciting roster of guests joining us online and in-person for Picocon 40, who have been involved in a variety of 'twisted' works spanning books, games, podcasts and film.

Alma Alexander, the Duchess of Fantasy, and author of many great series including *Worldweavers*, *The Secrets Of Jin-Shei*, and *The Were Chronicles*.

Mark Lawrence, best known as the author of *Prince of Thorns*, *Red Sister*, has also written many other series including *Impossible Times* and the *Red Queen's War*.

Gav Thorpe, games developer for

Warhammer and Warhammer 40,000, has also written numerous novels, including *The Sundering Trilogy*, *the Path of the Eldar*, and *Warbeast*.

Jonathan Sims, author (and voice) of *The Magnus Archives*, an award-winning horror fiction podcast, as well as books *Thirteen Storeys* and *Family Business*.

Tim Klotz, fight director for theatre, ballet, opera, film, video games and television alongside Allan Henry, a mocap performer who's played a role in many blockbusters including *Cocaine Bear*, *The Hobbit*, *Mortal Engines*, and *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay (Part 2)*.

What else happens at Picocon?

We have a multitude of games for charity, such as the infamous 'Destruction of Dodgy Merchandise' where attendees bid on whether awful merch should survive, or meet destruction by being dipped in liquid nitrogen and shattered with a large hammer. Another staple of Picocon is the 'Turkey Talks' where attendees offer to give their own funny speeches, and others pay to force them to continue, or to shut them up. Our rather unconventional scavenger hunt takes place throughout the day, where teams compete to gather or create objects from a specially collated list. Last

year's scavenger hunt included: a zombie horde (minimum 3), a bowler hat, a barbershop quartet, and chocolate to be eaten by the committee. We round off the day with a sci-fi and fantasy themed quiz!

Picocon tickets are available now and cost £6 for members, £8 for students, and £10 for the general public. We hope you'll come along on 11th March. The convention will run all day from 9:00 – 20:00!

About ICSF

Imperial College Science-Fiction and Fantasy Society have a Library in the West Basement of Beit Quad, where we hoard over 10,000

books and 3,000 DVDs as well as graphic novels and audio books. It's open from 12 – 2 every weekday so drop by and say hi! We also host regular film and game nights, usually on Fridays, as well as subsidized-ticket cinema trips whenever something Sci-Fi or Fantasy comes out!

March 11th
9:00 - 20:00

West Basement
Beit Quad

TICKETS OUT NOW!

£6 for Members, £8 for Students, £10 for General Public

PICOCON 40

ALLAN HENRY

COCAINE BEAR • THE HOBBIT
MORTAL ENGINES • THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY (2)

PICOCON 40

ALMA ALEXANDER

WORLDWEAVERS • THE SECRETS OF JIN-SHEI
THE WERE CHRONICLES • FRACTURED FAIRY TALES
CHANGER OF DAYS

PICOCON 40

MARK LAWRENCE

PRINCE OF THORNS • RED SISTER
IMPOSSIBLE TIMES SERIES • RED QUEEN'S WAR SERIES

PICOCON 40

TIM KLOTZ

FIGHT DIRECTOR FOR THEATRE, BALLET, FILM, VIDEO GAMES & TV
MOTION CAPTURE FOR VIDEO GAMES

PICOCON 40

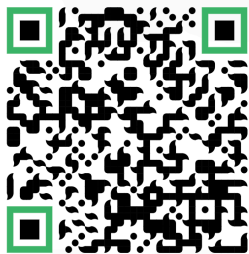
JONATHAN SIMS

THE MAGNUS ARCHIVES • THIRTEEN STOREYS
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PICOCON 40

GAV THORPE

WARHAMMER • WARHAMMER 40,000
THE SUNDERING TRILOGY • PATH OF THE ELДАР
WARBEAST • RAVEN'S FLIGHT AUDIO DRAMA



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