

# felix

ISSUE 1823

FRIDAY 24TH MARCH 2023

## Union announces new Officer Trustees for 2023/24

**Jamie John** Co-Editor-in-Chief

As the sun set on the penultimate Friday of Spring Term, five students were announced as the new Officer Trustees of Imperial College Union for the 2023/24 academic year. This week, *Felix* takes a look at each of their campaigns.

The Officer Trustees are elected representatives of the student body, who take a year out of their studies to lead Imperial College Union. All the roles are full-time, paid positions. There are five Officer Trustee positions: four Deputy Presidents, responsible for specific aspects of the student experience, and one Union President. The President is ultimately responsible for the Union, and also sits on College Council, meeting regularly with senior Imperial staff and acting as the voice of the student body.

Camille Boutrolle will head up the team of Officer Trustees (OTs) as Union President for 2023/24. Boutrolle won a landslide victory which saw her claim just over half of all first-choice votes – double her closest rival – clinching her a win after just one round of voting.

Alongside her as next year's Officer Trustees are:

- Stephanie Yeung, Deputy President (Finance & Services)
- Christian Cooper, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)



The OTs for 2023/24. Left to right: Andreea Cojocea (DPW), Yi Yang (DPE), Camille Boutrolle (Union President), Christian Cooper (DPCS), Stephanie Yeung (DPFS)

- Andreea Cojocea, Deputy President (Welfare)
- Yi Yang, Deputy President (Education)

**Camille Boutrolle**  
**Union President**

Boutrolle's campaign centred on *Continued on page 3...*

pledges to reform and work with the College for a more inclusive student experience. She promised to push for on-campus food options for all dietary requirements and 'readily available' microwaves, lecture theatre plugs and

**FELIX FILM AWARDS:**  
**Imperial's Choice**  
**> Page 33**

Imperial investigates recent data leak > Page 5

Behind the scenes at the Science Museum > Page 7

Netball Centrefold > Page 24

Review of MT Soc's *The Addams Family* > Page 25

New Union President cites vast experience > Page 32

*Felix* Oscar's Winners Page 39

Blockchain and fashion > Page 40

*Felix* reviews TooGoodToGo > Page 41

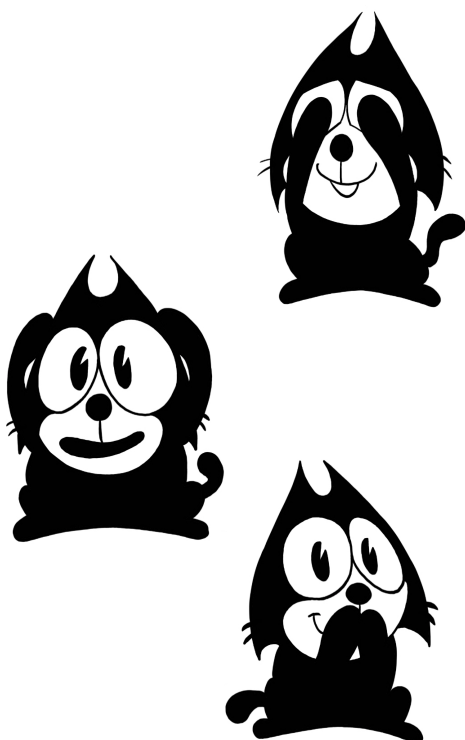
Varsity rundown > Page 43

# EDITORIAL

This issue was produced thanks to the work of:

Jamie John	News Editor
Isabella Ward	News Editor Sport and Societies Editor
Angie Lo	Science Editor
Taylor Pomfret	Science Editor
Marie Mori	Environment Editor
Simran Patel	Environment Editor
Elif Civelekoglu	Comment Editor
Isaac Winson	Puzzles Editor
Amy Smith	Catnip Editor
Gilbert Jackson	Arts Editor
Sophie Pointon	Arts Editor
Zanna Buckland	Books Editor
Joe Riordan	Music Editor
Tara Palchadhuri	Music Editor
Jonah Hewett	Film and TV Editor
Mike Buzadji	Film and TV Editor
Charlotte Probstel	Food and Travel Editor Sport and Societies Editor

And our numerous contributors!



Another election cycle has drawn to a close, with five new Officer Trustees (OTs) appointed for the 2023/24 year.

What is striking about this year's elections is the dearth of experienced candidates for OT positions.

Camille Boutrolle comes to the role of Imperial College Union (ICU) President with the least experience of anyone to hold the role for several years. The officeholder this year, Hayley Wong, served for two terms as President of the City and Guilds Union, and as an academic representative before that.

Wong's predecessor, Lloyd James, had an even more extensive record, having served as President of the Royal College of Science Union, Union Council Chair, and Student Trustee, before becoming ICU President.

In response to questioning about her lack of experience for the role, Boutrolle rebutted that she had been similarly unprepared for her two previously held positions (IC Snowsports Trip Secretary and President of IC Netball), and this had not prevented her from performing well.

Those who have worked with her say she is a competent, firm leader – qualities which may well enable her to flourish. She takes up the mantle of ICU President with a strong mandate, having achieved a resounding majority in the leadership election – though admittedly, it was not a particularly crowded field, with two out of the four contenders being 'joke' candidates.

Last issue, *Felix* noted that, for someone running for Union President,

Boutrolle's manifesto makes very little mention of the Union itself, the very organisation she would be running.

One former Deputy President who spoke to us suggested that a 'hands-off' approach from the ICU President can be beneficial when it comes to changes within the Union. It lets the four Deputy Presidents work towards achieving their own goals without the interference of an overbearing superior.

This same individual suggested that the ICU President has a lot more freedom to define the focus of their role. Unlike the Deputy Presidents, the Union President is not restricted to a specific portfolio. This leaves them with more scope to pursue changes as they see fit – whether that be pursuing reform within the Union itself, or lobbying the College as Boutrolle appears set to do.

Be that as it may, it is imperative that Boutrolle formulates and communicates her OT team's plans for the coming year. "We all agree the Union should do better", her manifesto boldly proclaimed. Now she is an officer-elect, the task falls to her to set out to students how she plans to improve it.

In the post of Deputy President (Education) next year is Yi Yang. Never in our time at Imperial did we expect to see a candidate running for any position (let alone Deputy President) citing their experience on a 'Mums and Dads' scheme as a reason for election. Yet Yi Yang has done just this, and actually won. In fact, she beat the current holder of the role, who was running for a second term – and by

most accounts, is doing an excellent job in his first term.

Yang goes on in her manifesto to describe campaigns she has participated in as Gender Equality Officer (GEO). She credits herself with launching the successful campaign for 'free period products on all floors'. *Felix* should point out that in fact, this push started before Yang commenced her term as GEO.

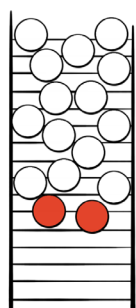
Furthermore, *Felix* must question how any of this relates to the Education portfolio; Yang does not appear to have served as any form of academic rep, and whilst this paper is all for accessibility, one would expect some evidence of Education-related experience.

Yang's election, *Felix* would argue, speaks to the importance of considering the international student community and the unique problems it is facing. Imperial's most recent annual report provides a breakdown of its demographic. International students make up half of the College's student population – Chinese students alone account for a quarter of the student body. What sets Yang's campaign apart from those of her competitors is her appeal to international students – take, for example, her promise to campaign against the steep rise in overseas tuition fees – a major source of concern for those coming from abroad.

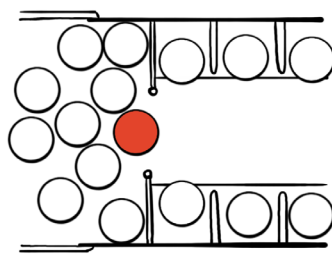
Only time will tell how next year's OTs perform. We here at *Felix* congratulate them on their election and wish them every success.

## Illustration by Nicolas Geiseler Toran

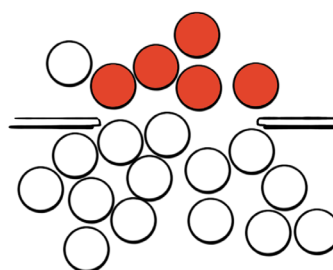
SOME SOURCES OF MINOR HEAD LOSS ON THE UNDERGROUND



SLOW COUPLES THAT WALK SIDE BY SIDE ON THE STAIRS



PEOPLE THAT DON'T WANT TO STAND IN THE SEATING AREA IN THE CARRIAGE



PEOPLE WAITING TO BOARD WHO STAND IN THE WAY OF PEOPLE GETTING OFF

Felix Office  
Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road  
London, SW7 2BB

Tel: 020 79548072  
Email: felix@ic.ac.uk

Printed by Iliffe Media  
Winship Road,  
Milton, Cambridge  
CB24 6PP

Registered Newspaper ISSN 1040-0711  
Copyright (c) Felix 2023

## Continued from page 1... Leadership Election results

water fountains across all of Imperial's campuses. Alongside this, she said she would lobby the College for full disclosure of its investments, and advocate for it to reduce its portfolio carbon intensity.

Boutrolle has also proposed a novel cross-registration scheme with the London School of Economics, modelled after an existing partnership between MIT and Harvard. The Harvard-MIT scheme lets students at one institution register for modules at the other, for credit, at no extra cost.

## Stephanie Yeung Deputy President (Finance & Services)

Stephanie Yeung secured the biggest victory of the OTs, winning four times as many first-choice votes as her nearest

(and only) competitor. Yeung told voters she would lobby the College 'to allocate resources to further sustainability efforts'. She paired this with pledges to improve the Union, promising to make Union venues safer and to work with student groups, and clubs, societies and projects (CSPs) to deliver more inclusive events. Yeung hopes this will encourage more students to come to the Union and hold their events at its venues, providing a boost to revenue. She intends to use this additional income to 'bring back student-friendly prices' at the Union's bars.

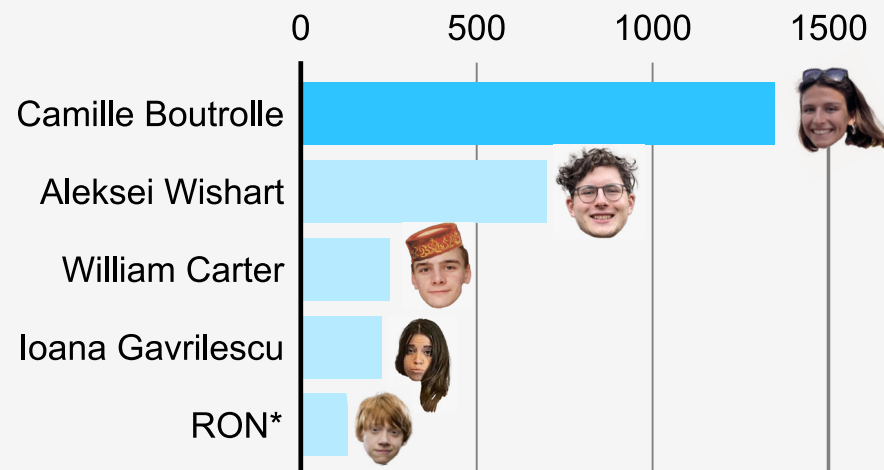
## Christian Cooper Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Christian Cooper won 47% of first-choice votes, with a campaign centred on improving transparency and reducing barriers to CSP participation. Cooper said he would 'establish a platform for

Felix

## 2023/24 Union President Election Results

Number of first-choice votes



\* 'Re-Open Nominations'. *Felix* regrets to inform readers that Ron Weasley did not, unfortunately, stand for election.  
Source: Imperial College Union  
*Felix* is the student newspaper of Imperial College London

students to openly field questions to ICU staff'. At a Union hustings event last week, he elaborated on this proposal; the platform would take the form of a discussion board, where students can ask CSP-related questions to Union staff publicly.

Cooper sees financial, social and CSP-culture-related problems as the three biggest barriers to student participation. At hustings, he said he would tackle the first by seeking additional funding from the Imperial College itself. He intends to work with the Deputy President (Welfare) on reducing social and cultural barriers, by first holding student focus groups to see what the biggest complaints are.

## Yi Yang Deputy President (Education)

Yi Yang pulled off the biggest upset of this election cycle, narrowly beating the incumbent Deputy President (Education), Jason Zheng, who was seeking to secure a second term in the role. She pledged to review undergraduate and postgraduate syllabuses 'to ensure that state-of-the-art material is being taught' at the university, and to 'launch

campaigns to standardise UROP [Imperial's undergraduate research placement programme] applications'.

Her campaign sought to woo Imperial's international and postgraduate contingents. In her manifesto, Yang said she would 'keep campaigning against tuition fee increase'. Undergraduate fees for home students are currently capped by the UK Government at £9,250. Overseas and postgraduate student fees, however, are set by the College, and were increased by 6.5% this year, in line with the annual rise in average RPI.

## Andreea Cojocea Deputy President (Welfare)

Andreea Cojocea secured 61% of first-choice votes, beating her sole competitor to the position of Deputy President (Welfare). Cojocea's campaign pledges spanned a whole range of welfare-related topics: she promised to 'alleviate the distress caused by the cost-of-living crisis', tackle the 'insufficient support and visibility regarding sexual misconduct', improve the accessibility of welfare support, and partner with CSPs and students to foster a sense of belonging and community.

## How do Union elections work?

Imperial College Union runs its elections under the single transferable vote (STV) system. Under STV, voters rank the candidates in order of preference; they can rank as many or as few candidates as they like. Voters who feel none of the candidates are suitable can instead vote to re-open nominations (RON). Votes are counted, and the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. This candidate's votes are transferred to the respective voter's next ranked candidate. This process continues until one candidate has more than half of all votes, and is declared the winner.

See pages 2 and 14 for the *Felix* Editors' views on ICU elections  
... and send in your hot takes to [comment@felix.ac.uk](mailto:comment@felix.ac.uk)

## NEWS

# Imperial College launches investigation into February cyber attack

- ▶ *Information accessed included names and details of money owed by some students to the College.*
- ▶ *Students affected have already been contacted.*

**Jamie John** Co-Editor-in-Chief

Imperial College London has launched an investigation into a cyber-security attack on its IT systems which took place in February. Confidential information was accessed, including the names and courses of some students, and details of money they owed to the College. However, no student bank details or passwords were obtained.

All of the affected students were emailed by Imperial's Student Credit Control team at the beginning of this month and informed of the breach. "We have identified all of the information

that was potentially accessed and have secured this data," reads the email. "We have also blocked the external account from accessing any College systems, as well as launching an investigation into the potential data breach... Your password and your own banking details should be safe."

The College believes that the purpose of the attack was to obtain information about its debtors, with the aim of writing to organisations to trick them into paying money owed to Imperial into a fraudulent account.

"We are aware that at least one College supplier has received correspondence

along these lines," the email continues. "That supplier was suspicious of the correspondence it received and alerted the College to this attempted fraud."

Imperial informed the Information Commissioner's Office, the UK regulator for data protection, which has since confirmed that it is content with the College's response and will take no further action.

The College is reviewing its security measures and systems in light of this incident to see if there are any actions that could make a similar incident less likely in future. It has urged all College members to report suspicious activity on

their accounts and only click on links in messages from trusted sources.

An Imperial College London spokesperson said: "As soon as we became aware of this malicious attack, we took swift action to protect our security systems and students' data. We have identified and secured all of the information that was potentially accessed and have contacted all students affected by the breach."

*Students with concerns can contact the ICT Security team: Level 4, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus, it-security-officer@imperial.ac.uk or +44(0)207 594 6966.*

## USS to vote against individual directors with unsatisfactory climate transition plans

- ▶ *The new policy enables USS to hold company management personally accountable.*
- ▶ *Members have launched a legal case against the scheme to protest scheme's investment in fossil fuels.*

**Isabella Ward** Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) has announced a new policy which will enable it to vote against individual directors of companies, to hold them accountable in certain instances – including 'where a company is lagging in its climate ambitions or disclosures'.

The policy would first be enacted in May. For some, this may be too little too late. Although the decision has been welcomed by Ethics for USS, a self-proclaimed 'group of USS members committed to reforming USS and ensuring an investment strategy that protects the planet, respects human rights, invests responsibly and ensures good pensions', they told the Financial Times, "USS also needs to stop funding all new fossil fuel developments and to divest immediately from fossil fuel companies that are not rapidly

cutting emissions." The group runs the Divest USS campaign, which believes that "USS's action to address the climate emergency has been woefully inadequate" and aims to rectify that by pushing for reform.

Subsidiary group Save Pensions and Planet will attend the Court of Appeal on 13 June with the hopes to hold USS directors legally accountable for failing to fulfil their duties. The appeal, for which already over £381,000 has been crowdfunded to cover legal fees, mostly focuses on the pension cuts of April 2022. However, it also hopes to hold USS to account to "divest fossil fuels with a plan that includes a credible shareholder voting policy for clean energy in all companies".

Organisers argue that this is actually intrinsic to protecting their pensions, as it makes no economic sense to continue investing in fossil fuels. On the Crowdfunder page, they explain "Gas,

oil and coal were the worst performing assets in modern history; the 2022/23 energy crisis and price spikes simply underlines their volatility, and they have no future." As of October 2022, the £91 billion pension fund had holdings in 48 leading fossil fuel companies.

Hence the appeal cites a "failure to act in beneficiaries' best interests by not divesting from fossil fuels, even though these are causing significant financial detriment: coal, oil and gas are the worst performing asset class, they are destroying the ecosphere, and the beneficiaries of USS have said they want to divest."

Indeed, when the appeal was launched in March last year, Save Pensions and Planet highlighted "the failure of USS to [divest from fossil fuels] cost us £500,000,000 in write-offs from Russia's appalling invasion, and all because the failed USS chair and directors had careers in coal and fossil fueled banks."

Currently, USS invests over £570 million into fossil fuel companies.

Organisers write "If we get out of fossil fuels, our pension will not face massive climate risks from bankrupt fossil fuels; it will be healthier, and so will our planet."

It's an ambitious case – the "first case in the world to hold directors of a corporation directly accountable for climate risk," according to organisers – and was dismissed by the High Court because "duties cannot be enforced unless directors personally benefit from their breach". Nevertheless, the organisers persist, writing "We will not accept the climate risk to people's pensions, or the damage to our environment."

A Crowdfunder donor commented "Such a shame that the USS is unable to adapt appropriately to the major issues of our time, without being pushed into doing so."

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

THIS WEEK IN...

1994

## Counting through the night

It is often said that journalism is the first rough draft of history.

At *Felix*, we offer you a glimpse into the history of the College, as told in our own news section. Join us as we explore stories from our extensive archive, which spans 74 years, since our founding in 1949.

To browse the archive for yourself, scan the QR code here: Email us if you find something interesting!



- ▶ This week in 1994, closing time at the Union's bar didn't stop the counting of votes for Union sabbatical officer positions.
- ▶ This was back when votes weren't logged and counted online, and students were still forced to gather together to find out the election results in real time!
- ▶ The story was featured in *Felix* issue 994 (below).



# Felix

This front page is from our physical archives; it isn't included on the digital version of the issue.

### ICU Sabbatical Elections Results

16th March 1994

## Bar Closes As Counting Drags On...

BY THE NEWS TEAM

This year's Sabbatical Elections belonged to the voters, with a record turnout encouraged by the candidates' campaigns. Regrettably, the counting of ballot papers dragged long into the night. The delay even ran past closing time – much to the chagrin of the assembled hordes. The results eventually came just past midnight, ninety minutes after the end of the first count. The crowd's resultant cheer raised the roof.

In three out of the four elections, the candidates were chosen by the first count. Dan Look, Deputy President-elect (Finance & Services) and Ian Parish, Deputy President-elect (Clubs & Societies), both soared past the necessary number of votes. "Hold me up. I'm going to fall over," said Dan. Owain Bennallack, the *Felix* Editor & Print Unit Manager-elect, clocked up over eleven hundred votes – the highest in living memory – on the back of eight pints of Guinness and a "real man" leaflet campaign.

The Presidential race was much closer, remaining undecided until the third count. Worry and anxiety stayed on the faces of the candidates until Lucy Chothia squeaked through with 870 votes against New Election's 662 – by far its strongest showing of the night. Kamran Bashir and hack's choice Paul Thomas were knocked out in earlier counts. Despite the victory, Lucy was keeping quiet about her big idea. "There is no new policy direction on the NUS," she said. "I will ask the students about that."

Ian Parish was forthright in victory. Thanks partly to his friends in Guilds, he said, Imperial College Union members had "got the best man for the job". And what future for the vanquished? "I will move on to other things" said Tim Brown, defeated in his bid for the job of Deputy President (Finance & Services). "I am not bitter." Nor was Joe McFadden, the loser in the election for *Felix* Editor. "Owain is going to give you the best *Felix* you've ever seen," he said.

Figures courtesy of ICU Returning Officer.



Photo by Mike Chamberlain

Candidate	1st Count	1st Transfer	2nd Count	2nd Transfer	3rd Count	Margin
<b>President</b>						
Kamran Bashir	313	+ 34	347	- 347	0	
Lucy Chothia	612	+ 112	724	+ 146	870	103 votes
Paul Thomas	282	- 282	0	0	0	
New Election	463	+ 80	543	+ 119	662	(after 2 transfers)
Spoilt Papers	149	+ 56	205	+ 82	287	
QUOTA	836		808		767	
<b>DP (C&amp;S)</b>						
Mark Baylis	134					
Maria Moratis	470					
Ian Parish	835	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21 votes
New Election	187					
Spoilt Papers	150					(on 1st count)
QUOTA	814					
<b>DP (F&amp;S)</b>						
Tim Brown	419					
Dan Look	916	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	111 votes
New Election	273					
Spoilt Papers	155					(on 1st count)
QUOTA	805					
<b>Felix Editor</b>						
Owain Bennallack	1143					337 votes
Joe McFadden	323	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
New Election	144					(on 1st count)
Spoilt Papers	146					
QUOTA	806					

## Sabbatical Elections Results

BY THE NEWS TEAM

This year's Imperial College Union (ICU) Sabbatical Elections have shocked candidates and bystanders alike.

Following the casting of over seven thousand votes, the much feared St Mary's block vote seems to have lost the 'king-maker' power which has marked recent elections.

The number of votes also caused problems, with the first counts only finished at 10:30pm. Those involved in the count spent six hours poring over ballot papers. After the results, Steve Dunton, one of those counting, said: "It's been very tiring."

The greatest surprise occurred in the race for the Presidency. At the first count, St Mary's support put New Election in second place to Lucy Chothia. Paul Thomas, expected to be one of the stronger contenders, had the least votes.

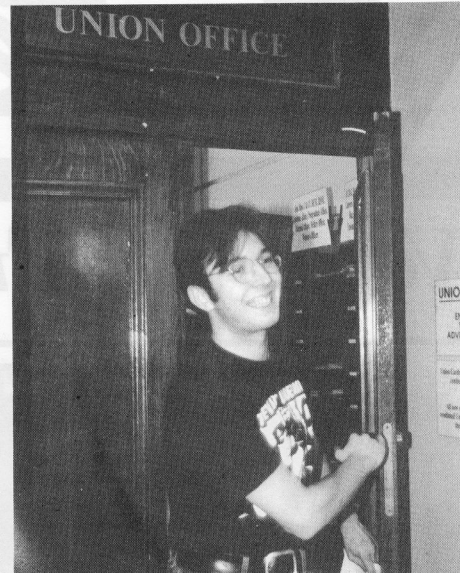
After the re-allocation of Mr Thomas's votes, the result was still undecided. It was only after the second reallocation (of Kamran Bashir's) votes, that Lucy Chothia was declared the winner with 870 votes.

Commenting to *Felix* on the way forward, Miss Chothia said: "I am

going to start talking about the second-hand bookshop now, because that is something that I can work on, not being in power, without treading on someone's toes."

In the other elections, the job of the Mary's vote was merely one of confirmation. All of the victors secured a sufficient majority of votes without the Mary's block. In addition, all of the other posts were decided on the first count. The victorious candidates are: Dan Look, Deputy President-elect (Finance & Services), the winner with a margin of 111 votes; Ian Parish, Deputy President-elect (Clubs & Societies), claiming a margin of 21 votes and Owain Bennallack, *Felix* Editor and Print Unit Manager-elect, sporting a margin of 337 votes. The overwhelming mandate given to Mr Bennallack would have resulted in a win even if his 336 Mary's votes had gone to Joe McFadden.

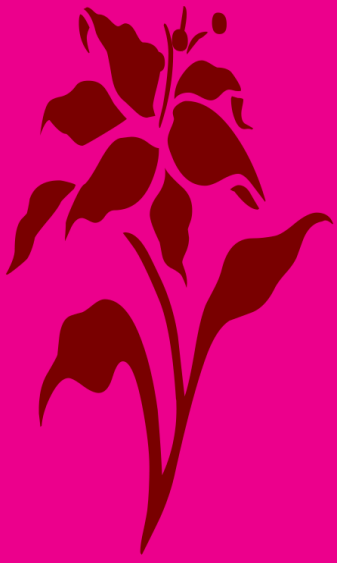
Those elected will take up their posts on the 1st July. The current Sabbaticals finish their employment on the 31st July, following a one month 'change-over' period. The importance of training has been stressed by ICU President Andrew Wensley.



Andrew Wensley, Returning Officer, on his way to announce the results

Photo by Mike Chamberlain

Candidate	Chem	Chem Eng	Mines/Elec Eng	Maths	JCR	Mech Eng	Silwood	Mary's	Union	TOTAL
<b>President</b>										
Kamran Bashir	35	27	29	56	79	29	9	11	38	313
Lucy Chothia	75	83	66	126	93	63	19	19	68	612
Paul Thomas	22	48	28	68	30	28	7	12	39	282
New Election	10	8	23	39	17	8	5	326	27	463
Spoilt Papers	4	30	12	24	17	20	11	21	10	149
QUOTA	837									
<b>DP (C&amp;S)</b>										
Mark Baylis	14	6	38	22	16	15	4	8	11	134
Maria Moratis	39	62	37	113	76	59	23	17	44	470
Ian Parish	48	96	47	109	90	52	5	316	72	835
New Election	33	11	18	38	30	7	7	7	36	187
Spoilt Papers	12	24	14	27	17	15	12	14	15	150
QUOTA	814									
<b>DP (F&amp;S)</b>										
Tim Brown	45	60	37	112	61	39	13	9	43	419
Dan Look	54	83	80	114	104	60	17	320	84	916
New Election	33	21	28	64	43	26	7	12	39	273
Spoilt Papers	13	29	12	25	22	20	12	8	14	155
QUOTA	805									
<b>Felix Editor</b>										
Owain Bennallack	88	96	82	191	149	72	15	336	114	1143
Joe McFadden	30	42	43	57	55	35	19	7	35	323
New Election	10	7	26	28	15	15	6	14	23	144
Spoilt Papers	17	15	8	30	17	24	11	13	11	146
QUOTA	806									
<b>Total</b>	582	748	628	1243	931	587	202	1470	723	7114



*Phoenix* is returning  
as a section of *Felix!*

submit your  
writing/poetry,  
photography/artwork to:

[editors.phoenix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:editors.phoenix@ic.ac.uk)

[felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk)

*creative writers*

*photographers*

*poetry*

*artwork*



# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Behind the scenes at the Science Museum

► *Angie Lo interviews curator Alexandra Rose on the Science Museum's various inner workings.*

Angie Lo Science Editor

I'm a major fan of the Science Museum, and I've always been curious about what goes on behind closed doors. So when I score an interview with Alexandra Rose, one of the museum's curators, I am, to say the least, pretty excited.

I meet Alexandra in one of the museum cafés. Even though it's late in the afternoon, it's still full of chatter and excitement, with the same kind of lively bustle that's present throughout the galleries of the museum. It's in this liveliness that we start the interview.

### Role of a museum curator

First things first: in three sentences, what exactly do you do as a curator?

Alexandra laughs at the challenge. "Can I do three sentences?" The work of a museum curator is a lot to fit into a few phrases, but Alexandra accomplishes it, explaining the three different aspects of curating. First, there's developing new galleries and exhibitions, being responsible for their intellectual aspects. Then, there's managing the museum's collections, and, lastly, performing academic research with the collections as the basis.

### Going behind the scenes

Conducting academic research involves managing the museum's 'behind-the-scenes' collection—all the stuff that currently isn't being exhibited. I ask what this hidden collection is like, and the first thing Alexandra tells me is that it's absolutely huge.

"Only around five percent of the collections are on display at any one time, which is quite mind-boggling," she says. And as a curator, she's continuously on the hunt for new objects to add to the collection: both historical objects, as well as objects from the present that may one day be used in a future exhibit.

### Sourcing artifacts

The objects come from all sorts of places: scientists will sometimes donate old equipment that's become obsolete, or individuals may donate antique science-related objects.

They also purchase objects from auctions. As for contemporary objects, curators often proactively approach people and sources for them.

One of the fascinating parts of figuring out what modern objects to collect, says Alexandra, is having to step back. "You're always trying to look at it from the perspective of someone in the future."

I ask if I'd be able to peek at this

collection, but no luck: none of the hidden collection is located at the Science Museum.

Right now, it's boxed up in a storage unit in Kensington, and is in the process of being moved to another facility just outside of Swindon.

But there'll be a chance to look in the future: the Swindon centre will be opening its doors up to the public come early 2024, and visitors can browse rows of stowed-away objects for the first time, looking for interesting gems tucked inside.

"There's a bit of a time to wait," says Alexandra, "but it will be an amazing facility." Although they're not being

exhibited, the objects of the behind-the-scenes collection have a vibrant life of their own.

As well as being used for academic research, the exhibits are also loaned out to other museums, and the Science Museum invites other museum professionals to examine the objects too.

For Alexandra, doing research with these objects is an especially fulfilling part of her job. "[By] tracing [an object's] history, we're kind of like [in] a detective story, piecing together its story. And it's just really satisfying when you find that little breakthrough."

*Continued on page 8...*

Credit: Wikimedia Commons



The Science Museum, London, as seen from Exhibition Road. Founded in 1857, the Science Museum now attracts over 3.3 million visitors annually.

## SCIENCE

### Discovering new details

Examining objects up close also allows one to discover new details, which in turn can reveal knowledge about the objects' wider contexts. "There's all sorts of things you can only really get by physically being with the objects."

As for the objects that do get into the display cases, trying to make an exhibition out of them is its own kind of unique challenge. For Alexandra, an important part of exhibiting is to harness the distinct opportunities an exhibition presents: three-dimensional space, encountering real objects, interactivity and play, and emotional experiences. "A classic criticism of exhibitions from museum people tends to be like, 'oh, it's just a book on the wall,' which means you've just essentially written a story—you might have illustrated it with some things, but it's not really achieving its potential."

### The Grand Orrery

As a curator, one way Alexandra approaches this challenge is by tapping into all the opportunities an object presents: not just the information it holds but its aesthetic and emotional qualities as well.

She gives the example of the grand orrery, a 1700s planetary model in an exhibition she curated: "[it's] just beautiful and it's got loads of brass and gold and shiny stuff on it, and it just kind of draws you in... And it's like, how can we make more opportunities like that?"

Credit: Wikimedia Commons



The grand orrery, part of an elegant collection of scientific instruments located within the *Science in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century* exhibition at the Science Museum.

### Injecting Hope

Alexandra also talks about the Science Museum's intent to include the stories of their public audiences. She gives the example of *Injecting Hope*, a new Science Museum exhibit on the COVID-19 vaccine. "There's a lot of focus on the work that scientists were doing. But there's also quite a lot of ephemera and things like that as well; things trying to capture the more public, social aspects of the pandemic, like the greeting cards that were made for people when they were having birthdays in lockdown."

"Traditionally, very early on in its history, the Science Museum was very much about 'this is the work that scientists are doing,' and it was quite an elite set of stories, but now we have this much more generous approach to the importance and significance of science in our lives—and as such, it's really important to look at a broader set of voices."

### Future Exhibit on Oceans

Finally, if there's anything that Alexandra could make an exhibition about, what would it be? It's hard to decide, but if she had to pick one topic, it would be Earth sciences: "My collections which I love the most are around Earth sciences, and actually there are very few of my collections on display in the museum, which makes me sad." But a new project related to her interests is in the works: the Science Museum is hoping to create an exhibit on oceans and oceanography.

She's hoping this exhibit can display the importance of the oceans and the interdisciplinary nature of Earth sciences, and how the science and instrumentation around studying oceans has transformed through time.

The exhibit won't be out for a long while: "It's not something that we've even really started working on, like it will be years and years and years in the future."

Nevertheless, Alexandra is really looking forward to it. "I think there's some really interesting potential, and we've got some brilliant and some very large objects that came to us in the last couple of decades," she says. "There's lots of stuff in store that's just waiting to come out and tell its stories."

Credit: Wikimedia Commons



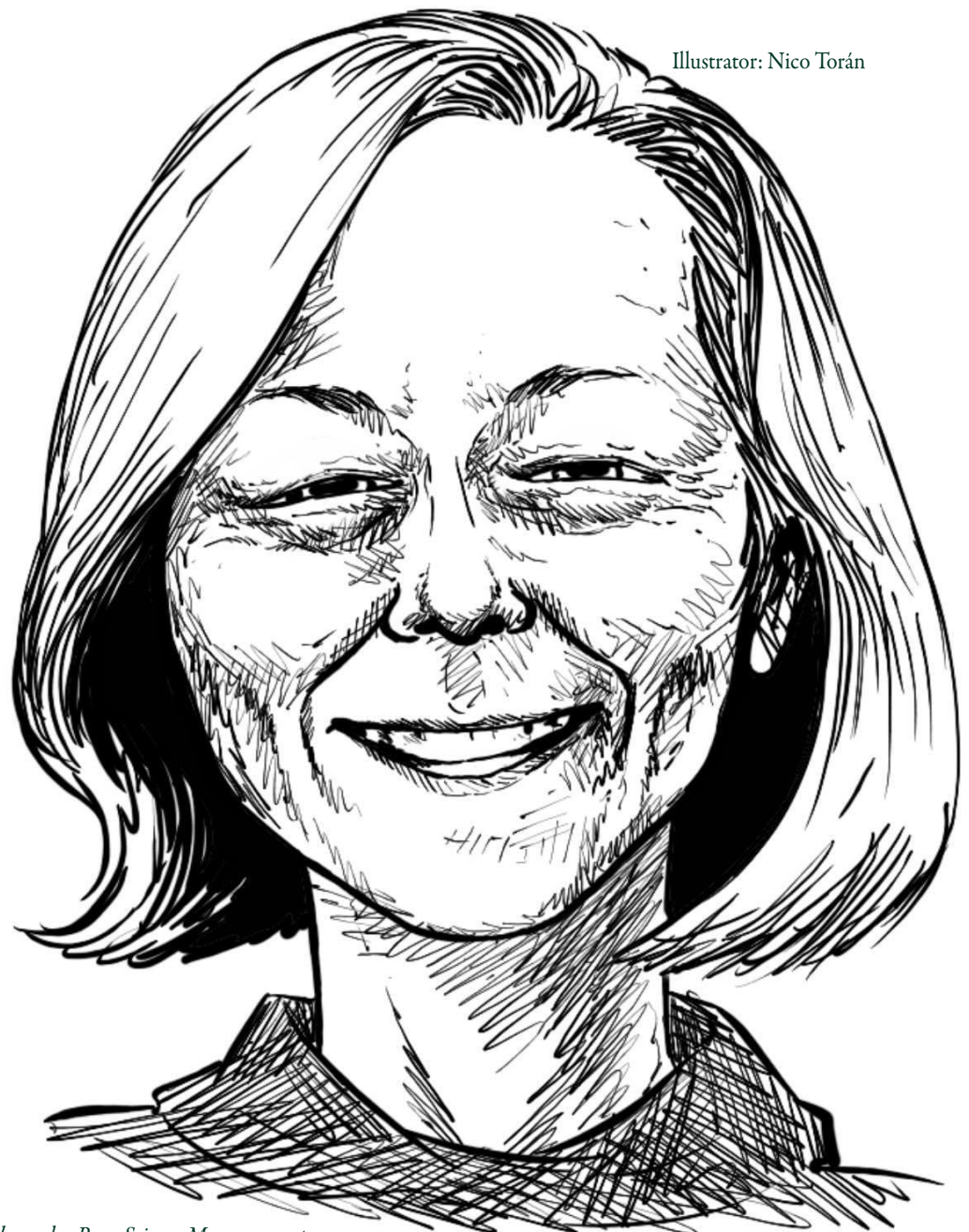
Reentry capsule of Soyuz TM-14, part of the *Cosmonauts: Birth of the Space Age* exhibition at the Science Museum. Soyuz TM-14 was the 14<sup>th</sup> expedition to Mir, and was the first mission after the collapse of the USSR.

Credit: Wikimedia Commons



"Great Scott" Moon rock currently located in the Science Museum, and named after astronaut David Scott who picked it up off the lunar surface in 1971 during the Apollo 15 mission.

Illustrator: Nico Torán



Alexandra Rose, Science Museum curator



# 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!

## Science show: *Fartology*

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 6:00pm-7:15pm

**Price:** £16 (regular price), £10 (full-time student price); must book in advance

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

**Accessibility info:** Wheelchair accessible; induction loop installed; email events@ri.ac.uk if you have any specific needs

Not your typical science talk, *Fartology* takes its audience through an interdisciplinary journey on the chemistry, biology, and physics behind—you guessed it—our farts. In this stage show, scientific concepts come alive through larger-than-life demonstrations, including “massive bottoms, vortex cannons, vast whoopee cushions, explosions and the world’s loudest fart machine.” Filled with hilarious hijinks at every turn, *Fartology* promises to be a rip-roaring show (yes, pun intended).

Scan the QR code below to get more information and to book your tickets.

## Exhibition: *Titanosaur: Life As The Biggest Dinosaur*

**Date and time:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 - 7th January 2024, regular museum opening hours

**Price:** £16 (regular price), £12.95 (student price); advance booking strongly recommended

**Location:** Waterhouse Gallery, The Natural History Museum

**Accessibility info:** Wheelchair accessible; seating provided; large print guides available

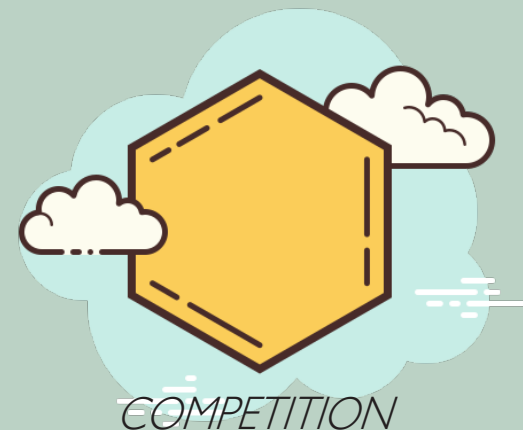
Celebrate the end of the term with a brand-new exhibit at the Natural History Museum (NHM)! This event will be huge in more ways than one: the NHM will be unveiling *Patagotitan mayorum*, one of the largest creatures to have ever walked on land. Described as “four times heavier than Dippy the Diplodocus and 12 metres longer than Hope, our blue whale,” this dinosaur is definitely a unique sight up close.

As well as getting a close-up look at the dinosaur, visitors will get to handle specimens and take part in interactive activities. There’ll also be the opportunity to learn about the natural giants of the present day, as well as the issues they face and how best to protect them.

## Competition: The RCSU Science Challenge

The RCSU Science Challenge is an annual science communication competition open to all Imperial undergraduate and Master’s students. Contestants are invited to create fun, engaging scicomm pieces in response to one of four prompts, with opportunities to submit video, written, and visual pieces. Winners will receive some awesome prizes, including getting written work published, a trip to the House of Lords, and tickets to the Cheltenham Science Festival.

The deadline to submit is the 17<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm. For more information about the competition, including this year’s prompts, scan the QR code below.



# Sophia Prize

*Felix* is offering a **£400** prize to one **outstanding, inspiring and accessible** article that **helps tackle climate defeatism** and **covers, or conceives of, an economic, cultural or scientific innovation that helps fight global warming.**

Send your submissions to  
[fcomment@ic.ac.uk](mailto:fcomment@ic.ac.uk)  
[environment.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:environment.felix@ic.ac.uk)  
[science.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:science.felix@ic.ac.uk)



## ENVIRONMENT

## Stop polluting, stop EACOP

► *The pressure is on for London's banks and insurers to prevent the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) from proceeding.*

Tasha Wheeler Environment Writer

On 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010, Deepwater Horizon — a BP-operated oil drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico — exploded, killing 11 employees. It was the most extreme oil spill in marine oil drilling history. According to the National Wildlife Federation, 900 bottlenose dolphins were found dead between then and 2014, and the oil killed 500 sea turtles annually between 2011 and 2013. Four years after the incident, 14 populations of marine species still showed symptoms of exposure to the oil. Since we know the devastating consequences of oil projects all too well, why do they continue to surface?

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project (EACOP) is a plan for 1443 km of high-risk, perpetually-heated pipes to be built across East Africa. The pipes will transport the oil produced by oil fields in Uganda's Lake Albert to Tanzania's coast. While this pipeline may seem far away, the chaos is frighteningly close to home. Oil giants TotalEnergies and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation, who are responsible for the project, are attempting to secure insurance for EACOP through Lloyds — a world-leading insurance market located in London.

But why is the EACOP project so harmful? It is estimated that 10.9 million tons of oil will be transported through the pipeline each year. This much oil would emit the equivalent of 34.3 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year if burnt — far more than current emissions of Uganda and Tanzania combined. As well as threatening the planet, EACOP has been called a “gross violation of human rights” by Ugandan opposition leader Bobi Wine. Building the pipe requires destroying land which the pipe runs under — this could displace at least 100,000 people. In October of last year, nine Ugandan university students



EACOP protestors outside Standard Chartered Bank building.

who were protesting against the project were arrested, and other human rights defenders are being intimidated.

Because the pipeline is so long, a leak to never occur anywhere along the pipe is near impossible. Leaks put local people and wildlife at risk of becoming extremely sick from contamination. Lake Albert provides around a third of Uganda's fish, and borders the Democratic Republic of the Congo, so a leak in the tiny portion that spans Lake Albert could have devastating knock-on effects. The risk of EACOP leaking is magnified by the potential seismic pressure on pipes during an earthquake. Although rare, Tanzania's earthquakes in the past have been of high magnitude, making these pipes vulnerable to earthquake-induced leaks.

The EACOP website claims the project can achieve “no net loss of natural habitats and a net gain in critical habitats”, by publicising that the pipeline does not run through Lake Victoria. However, many underappreciated biodiversity-rich regions are sure to be impacted. The largest and oldest natural park in Uganda, Murchison Falls, could be exploited for this project.

The end point of the pipeline happens to be the Chongoleani Peninsula near Tanzania's Tanga Port, which is a very sensitive coastal region. This area hosts an abundance of marine reserves, mangroves, and coral. According to Flora & Fauna International, Tanzania is home to 6 out of 25 globally recognised biodiversity hotspots. 43% of the plant species of the coastal forests of Eastern Africa are endemic, i.e. they are essentially irreplaceable. At this point in the pipeline, the pipes can be hundreds of metres below sea level, with many crude oil tanks off the coast. An oil spill in an area like this could have irreversible effects on marine life.

It is imperative to act now against this ticking time bomb, as it is still not too late to combat the project. With recent news of the ozone hole gradually getting smaller after the world came together to abandon CFCs in aerosols, we now know that it is possible to reverse some of the man-made damage done to the planet. TotalEnergies does not yet have enough funding to go ahead with the project because many banks and insurers have refused to insure the project. This is not only due to the number of risks

that go hand-in-hand with projects like this, but also because activist groups like StopEACOP and a generation of young, planet-friendly potential investment bankers are putting their reputations at risk. So far, 24 commercial banks and 22 insurance companies have opted out of supporting EACOP, but there are still more to go.

Due to the harsh treatment of activists that have protested against the project, particularly in Uganda, it is essential that we use our voices to help protest against it in any way we can. As many people in this country do not know about the EACOP project or why the extraction of fossil fuels does not meet criteria of the Paris Agreement, a simple way to get involved in the StopEACOP movement is to spread awareness. Since Lloyds is located in London, more proactive local activists are taking physical action outside of their building and engaging with employees about the project, which is proving to be very effective. StopEACOP London is also participating in a phone campaign, in which activists are calling insurance companies during office hours to discuss the impacts of this project.

**Follow the movement on Instagram!**

@stopeacop  
for more information on the campaign as a whole

@letsstopeacopuk  
to join the Whatsapp chat and get involved in the London campaign

## COMMENT

Edited by: ELIF CIVELEKOGLU

## COMMENT

## The meaning of religion

► In this response to Joseph Canavan's article 'On religion and meaning', Jorge de Andres demonstrates the Christian point of view when it comes to the meaning and significance of religion in believers' lives.

Jorge de Andres Comment Writer

Imagine, if you will, a small firelit cave not far from civilisation. In the cave are chained three prisoners who have been facing the damp and cragged back wall since birth. They can't see each other but they can talk. The first prisoner notices that the shape of the shadow cast by a young woman who brings them breakfast every morning never changes, and so the three decide to call her by a certain name. The same is true for the doctor who comes weekly to check their vitals and sometimes pushes a sharp needle into their shoulder – the second prisoner really doesn't like him! All they've ever known of the outside world are these moving shadows.

One day, the chains on the third prisoner come loose and he's able to walk out. For the first time, he sees the beautiful birds singing in the trees, breathes in fresh smokeless air and, the best part, feels the warmth of the sun on his face. It dawns on him that there's a whole world outside the small firelit cave and now, finally, he's seeing life in full colour. So naturally, he runs back shouting with joy and explains to his two friends that the shadows aren't real; there's more to life than Lucy who brings the breakfast every morning and Johnny who checks on them once weekly. "You've gone mad!" they reply. "Leave us alone, we're cared for and, besides, we're happy here."

This story is an allegory from Plato's Republic titled 'The Cave', which was written in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. And I'm presenting this as my response to the comment article in the last issue of Felix, "On Religion and Meaning". I can't speak on behalf of all Christians but I suspect most would relate to the experience of the third prisoner to some degree. I'll come back to this in a moment.

To take a quick detour, a common misconception of Christians, one that

I read in the aforementioned comment piece, is that we, in Canavan's words, "believe that being religious is required to be 'good' ... (and) it is entirely possible to be a good person while being non-religious". Our leader and our God, Jesus of Nazareth, said 2000 years ago "It is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick... I have not come for good people, but for the bad." So as Christians, we do not think of ourselves better than anyone else, but, conversely, that we need help. This is why we turn to Jesus.

On the topic of morality, Canavan quite rightly ended his article with this: 'We are capable of many things both good and bad, so let's choose to do good where we can, when we can.' Yet from a philosophical point of view, the abstract concept of good and bad are just that: abstracts. One man's good is another man's bad; one woman champions pro-choice, another pro-life; one nation endorses the slave trade, another fights

for emancipation. As Christians, we cannot rely on ourselves to know what is good and bad because, in Jesus' words, our soul is "sick" not "healthy", as is our conscience. So, dogmatic though it may



## WE CANNOT RELY ON OURSELVES TO KNOW WHAT IS GOOD AND BAD

seem to others, we do believe in objective truth and morality because God made us to live a certain way. He sets moral boundaries for us, His children, for our own good as any loving father would.

Coming back to Plato's analogy, I would suppose that the first and second prisoners found some degree of

satisfaction and meaning in that cave; after all, they knew nothing else. But how much greater and more fulfilling do you reckon the third prisoner's new life in the real world would be? Jesus calls this the "rebirth". In essence, Christians are born twice: first, by our mother into a life we think is satisfying enough even with its ups and downs (the cave), but then at some point we are 'born again' and set free, like the third prisoner, and we see life in full colour (the outside). In part, that's the invitation Jesus offers to us all regardless of our background; He tells us "Come to me all you who are tired and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

We'd love to have you at a Christian Union event if you'd like to know more.

Credit: Wikimedia Commons, Dr. Ondřej Havelka



Jorge de Andres disputes Joseph Canavan's article through his own understanding of Christianity.

# Invest in her future: fundraising for a new women's scholarship

► *Danielle Kurtin promotes the fundraising campaign for the UniArk Women's Scholarship to allow more disadvantaged women the privilege of attending university.*

**Danielle Kurtin** Comment Writer

As an Imperial student, what does your typical day look like? Do you walk to campus, attend lectures, eat food with friends? Perhaps you make art in the evening, spend time at the pub, or are working on a start-up. The choice is yours; you have the freedom to choose whether or not to do any of those activities.

However, Zakia does not have that choice. She finished high school as the top student in her class for the fifth year in a row, and was accepted to Kabul University. Zakia wanted to study computer science to develop AI solutions for healthcare and was excited by the opportunity to do so. But she lives in Afghanistan, and with the Taliban's ban on education for women, she is no longer allowed to attend university. Moreover, she cannot leave her house without accompaniment, and is forbidden from doing nearly everything she cares about.

Afghanistan is the only country in the world to have banned women and girls' education. More than half of the population are now homebound and unable to access schools and universities, a privilege that we take for granted. Former school sites and accommodation for women's universities are now used as military spaces, transforming areas once dedicated to personal and professional growth into its antithesis. Whilst Afghanistan is the only country with this form of explicit gender discrimination, many places around the world still place barriers against women seeking to enter higher education and access to the same opportunities as their male counterparts.

But Zakia is determined and will not give up on her dreams of going to university. She went online and found out about UniArk, a relatively small and recently established registered charity founded with the aim to aid students from persecuted and minority backgrounds to navigate higher education opportunities and

applications for UK, US and European universities.

That's how I met Zakia — I volunteer for UniArk, and have been helping her navigate the application and visa process for universities in the United Kingdom and the United States. I believe in her dreams, her ability, and, most of all, her right to an education.

UniArk has successfully supported over 100 students in its two-year existence, with three of its students receiving fully funded scholarships in the US and UK. However, for students who are not awarded the fully funded, yet highly competitive bursaries, the financial barriers they face still prevent them from attending. To be so close to, and entirely deserving of, achieving one's dream, only to be prevented from doing so in the final hour, is another disappointment to women who have worked so hard to overcome so many obstacles to even just apply for university.

In light of this issue, we are now launching a fundraising campaign for the UniArk Women's Scholarship in order to address what we recognise as one of the most common barriers faced by our high-achieving, dedicated, and brilliant women mentees: the cost of attending university.

Now we ask you, reader, for help. UniArk is raising funds to support the higher education of disadvantaged women. By donating towards the education of disadvantaged women through our GoFundMe, you can take a stand against structural educational injustice. Your donation can help break down barriers, provide access to knowledge, and empower a woman to reach her full potential. Donating to the UniArk Women's Scholarship extends beyond the recipient of the scholarship; it supports the positive change they wish to enact on the world around them.

If you would like to contribute in another way, you can run your own fundraising event in support of UniArk's campaign. Invite your friends and fellow



QR code for UniArk events pack



UniArk's GoFundMe

students to support women's education with you at a movie night, sip & paint session, or a bake sale. Our events pack can be downloaded via the QR code here and will guide you through the process of organising your own event. If you have any questions or want to get involved with UniArk, please get in contact with me at [danielle.kurtin18@imperial.co.uk](mailto:danielle.kurtin18@imperial.co.uk).

Education is a powerful tool that can change lives and shape futures. Access to education can mean the difference between a life of oppression and a future filled with limitless possibilities. By supporting the UniArk's Women's Scholarship, you can help give women the same opportunity you have: to receive a higher education and build a brighter future for herself and her community.



Students like Zakia need the opportunities provided by UniArk to get the education they deserve.

## COMMENT

# What does the Union President do anyway, and who cares?

► *Felix Co-Editor-in-Chief Isabella Ward on her experiences hosting this year's leadership elections*

**Isabella Ward** Co-Editor-in-Chief

I am sitting on the Metric stage, microphone in hand, ready to host the second Hustings for the 2023 Imperial College Union Leadership Elections. Tonight will see candidates for the roles of Deputy President (Welfare), Deputy President (Education), and Union President address students and answer questions. Voting has been open for over four hours.

Next to me sits Andreea Cojocea, contestant for Deputy President (Welfare), a role 'responsible for driving permanent and student-led change to College's culture to make Imperial a welcoming and supportive place to study,' with a salary of circa £35k. Her opponent is not present, meaning Andreea is the only one of the two who

must respond to questions about the role and her manifesto on the spot. This can

“

**ALL THIS MAKES ONE BELIEVE THAT STUDENTS DON'T CARE ABOUT THEIR LEADERSHIP TEAM. BUT IF THEY DON'T CARE, WHY ARE THEY VOTING AT ALL?**

be daunting and difficult, and in principle

it seems unfair that only Andreea should be put to this test without any consequence for the absentee.

In reality, few people are watching. The 30-strong audience consists almost entirely of either other candidates waiting for their turn, or friends of the candidates. Not that Andreea can see them: both of us are blinded by fierce white light which I suppose makes for a clearer image on the Instagram livestream. The event garners little interest there too. Students such as myself have been staying away from Instagram recently as our feed has become a landfill of campaign accounts that I only followed out of fear of rudeness. Candidates are only allowed to begin campaigning less than five days before voting opens, so these accounts are short-lived.

Furthermore, the fact that I am

not allowed to comment on or query candidates' responses significantly reduces the likelihood that they will be undermined during the event, as it enables them to get away with unsatisfying, or even just factually incorrect, responses.

Hustings is an opportunity to question those running in the Union Leadership Elections for the positions of Council Chair, Deputy Presidents for Welfare, Financial Services, Clubs and Societies, and Education, and Union President. Students can send in questions for candidates, grilling them on anything from their past experience to their future plans and promises laid out in their manifesto, and how they will keep them. Yet so few questions have been sent in that almost all questions have been written by the *Felix* editorial team. It seems that students don't have questions and don't want answers. When I last checked, at 4 p.m. that day – two hours before hustings begins – nearly 30% of the final voting turnout had already cast their virtual ballots.

All this makes one believe that students simply don't care about their Union leadership team. But if they don't care, then why are they voting at all?

Perhaps they care more about personality and less about competence. Joke Union President candidate, Ioana 'Christine' Gavrilescu is running this year to show how easy it is to be endorsed by people of influence within the Union, despite clearly being unfit for the role. Her campaign Instagram account boasts endorsements from the DPFS, as well as the RCSU and CGCU Presidents.

Either way, I believe that the lack of want to vet the competence of candidates reveals students' doubt in their candidate's capability to make a meaningful change. And perhaps this is warranted. On Tuesday, I asked the re-running DPE how he had progressed with his manifesto from last year. After the hustings, I overheard him say, "that was brutal". But it shouldn't have been; it was a straightforward

Credit: Rolando Charles for *Felix*



Nathalie Podder, DP(E), reading election results out last Friday

question which could have made for a good opportunity to show off the progress made over the past year.

However, his answer failed to highlight any tangible developments already made. Three months away from the end of his term, it seems unlikely that he will be able to see any significant change through. Perhaps Deputy Presidents are lumped with too many administrative tasks, or perhaps the College needs to work better alongside the Union to implement policy within shorter timeframes. Another option is to increase the length of tenure. Whilst the longer commitment could mean that there would be fewer candidates running for the roles, those who did would probably be considerably more competent and have a proven vocational desire to lead the Union.

Later, the Union President candidates' responses on how they would alleviate the pressures of the cost-of-living crisis for students don't offer any hope that change may occur more rapidly. Camille Boutrolle answers that she would "establish what students need" and act accordingly. It's a true politician's answer – vague and incomplete – but let's give her the benefit of the doubt that this isn't just a cover for inadequate preparation. With her position beginning in mid-July, this initial research phase would not be completed by September at very least. By that point, students would have been experiencing the crisis for a year. College bursaries will have been agreed and grants allocated to Clubs, Societies and Projects (CSPs) months ago during the annual budgeting done by outgoing officers.

Even if they were able to stay in term for longer or move changes through more quickly, the incoherence between the manifestos of the Union President and DPs may add friction to processes. When asked how he will ensure his manifesto doesn't interfere with that of the DPs, Presidential candidate Aleksei Wishart asserts, "The Union President doesn't have a mandate: they support Deputy Presidents with what they want to do." In her answer, Camille agrees. But this begs the question: if this is the case, why even write a manifesto?

The night concludes with the questioning of the Union President candidates, and Christine's opening speech is wonderfully on the nose:

"With my vast experience at the Union, having been part of zero

committees and having held no serious leadership position whatsoever, I think I know exactly how the Union is being run and how to make all the changes you want to hear and see."

A line like this hits hard for the serious candidates Aleksei and Camille, neither

“

## IS THE PANDEMIC TO BLAME FOR SUCH DISINTEREST AMONGST STUDENTS AND INEXPERIENCED CANDIDATES?

of whom have held a position on Union Council: a body integral to the Union's democratic structure. When questioned on this they take different approaches. Aleksei waves it aside as "the only box [he] has not ticked", having been Vice President of Electrical Engineering Society and Sports Sector Treasurer, whilst Camille concedes that she does not have the experience, but that she didn't either when she took on the role

of Netball President (due to her lack of experience with the normal operations of the club thanks to COVID-19) and was still able to succeed.

Neither is a satisfying answer (it's a pretty crucial box), but Camille has raised an interesting point: is the pandemic to blame for such disinterest amongst students and inexperienced candidates? In 2021/22, restrictions meant few CSPs operated normally and the Union building was mostly shut; students would have had little interaction with the workings of the Union. Is the inexperience and lack of engagement from third and fourth year students due to this? Indeed, this year's voting turnout of 22.70% was seven percentage points lower than last year's. Even at Union Council meetings, whilst there have been a few standout people showcasing a clear desire to tangibly improve the experiences of students during their tenure, most student body representatives just seem disinterested and disengaged.

Regardless, both Union President candidates are clearly out of their depth. There is a demonstrated lack of understanding in the actual role of the Union President, which Aleksei attributes to there being "no job description for Union President". So why would they apply to a job with no

description? For the title? For the power? Is it the management experience? It's a question that neither have convincingly answered, despite Aleksei's protestation that the role is designed "to make the lives of the DPs easier". With a set of DPs of which several are similarly inexperienced – for example, the DP(E) cites the 'mums and dads' scheme as relevant experience – trying to insert any 'ease' into the roles of the DPs will be a big undertaking.

Three days later, we are back in Metric for results night. The size of the crowd has increased, but only because all candidates ought to be there to hear if they have succeeded. It's about as lively as a usual Decibel night. In fact, it is a Decibel night; candidates have been given free entry to the St Paddy's club night following the announcements of results. The crowd diminishes in size as the event goes on and candidates leave after hearing what they have been waiting for.

Notably, Christine receives fewer votes than the other joke campaigner, who not only did not campaign at all, but also in his manifesto implored potential supporters to vote to re-open nominations instead of voting for him, saying. "I am entirely, profoundly unsuitable for such a role."

If only all candidates were this honest.

Credit: Rolando Charles for Felix



For the Union to properly serve the students, the voters and the candidates must be more engaged in this process

ARTS

ARTS

- ▶ TRAPPED INSIDE *ADDAMS FAMILY*
- ▶ [GILBERT PIECE]
- ▶ [KIARA PIECE]

Edited by: GILBERT JACKSON  
SOPHIE POINTON

Theatre Review

## A full disclosure on MT Society's *Addams Family*

When you're a STEM student, an intense week of living before you die is one normal night.

Credit: Miguel Mestre

Sophie Pointon Arts Editor

As I write this article, a sound check is taking place on the stage of the Union Concert Hall (UCH) in Beit, which means the cast is being asked in turn to speak, then sing, then shut up. It's the last night of Musical Theatre Society's (MTSoc's) production of *The Addams Family*, directed by Nathalie Tedfors Lindell with Miguel Mestre assistant directing, and produced by Sam Lee. By the time you read this, the four performances (on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> of March) will all be over, but I have tried to capture the brilliant dichotomy, all-pervading talent, and gorgeous satirical inversion that came together to form MT's version of *Addams*.

For those of you who don't know the plot, it involves two families, the 'normal' Beineke family, and the Addams. Members of the latter dream of visiting the sewers of Paris, enjoy being tortured by a sibling, collect instruments of torture persuasion, fall in love with the Moon, and squish songbirds to death with their bare hands.



The Addams family in a little moonlight.

The play opens with the revealing of an unlikely and subversive love story between the Addams' only daughter, Wednesday (Dana Whigan) and the Beineke's son, Lucas (Jack Finnis). They've decided to get married, but Wednesday can't quite bring herself to

Credit: Miguel Mestre

tell her mother, Morticia (Solen Marqueste). The keeping of this secret comes between Morticia and her husband, Gomez (Magdy Mekdad) and sends Wednesday's brother, Pugsley (Aanaya Miah), into a crisis. Inspired by his niece's engagement, Wednesday's uncle, Fester (Isabela Lopez Ticianelli), leads the ghosts of past Addams during the rest of the play in a mission to ensure Lucas and Wednesday's love story is a success.

No one's really sure whose grandmother (Molly Clifford) is living in the attic of the Addams mansion but it's clear that Lucas' dad, Mal Beineke (Alfie Grimshaw), has become an "unfeeling, rigid, selfish control freak" and his wife, Alice (Cecilia Longoni) is secretly wishing for the passion that used to exist between them. All of this is punctuated by the perfectly enunciated grunting of the Addams' butler, Lurch (George Chipperfield). Things only look up from there.

The tango between Morticia and Gomez has been stunning every night so far, thanks to the efforts of choreographer Isabella Romeo, and one of Fester's best songs, *The Moon and Me* was made all the more wonderfully quirky by the skill and talent of the ensemble, who acted as a chorus in almost every scene. A special mention goes to the 'sexy trumpet', and to the lighting during the arrow scene, which was apparently "to die for". In fact, a lot of things in this show were "to die for", according to its producer. Lucas almost did.

Last night's (Friday's) performance caused many happy tears, and the general feeling is that tonight won't be able to beat it (side note: everyone was wrong about that). If you didn't manage to see this darkly humorous take on love and life, then you will have to close your eyes and imagine the soaring vocals, Gomez's ridicu-



Wednesday (Dana Whigan) being pulled in new directions.



lous comedy and four kinds of crazy love. You won't come very close to the real thing, but it's a start.

In a similar vein, they'll try to keep it a secret, but most of the cast will be humming the songs under their breath for the next week, and don't judge them too hard if they burst out with a "call me Cougar" or "the way you spoke at dinner touched my soul!" Oh, and if you see a Dachshund near the Union building, it's actually a gigantic rat.

With a set designed by Liberty Wright, lights programmed by Josh Henry, a stage managed by Pip Moss (assisted by Jarek Ciba and Madison Fernando), flies operated by Victor Starzec, producing managed by Jack Beaumont, and sound designed by Will Blayney and operated by Ka Jun Cheng – \*deep breath in\* – the show was a work of love and frenzy from start to finish. Fun facts: this was a musical cued without the use of a score, and Lurch was wearing knee-high boots under his butler suit for every performance.

The sound check is coming to an end and the band is warming up in the room just above the UCH, MR4, in front of whom stands Hannan Seyal, Musical Director, who will conduct them throughout the duration of the show. The cast vanishes into the wings to take up their starting positions, and the audience is ushered in. Then comes:

"That's crew call," from Josh, who is also Deputy Stage Manager, and I have to put my laptop aside, take up my single ear headset and say into the mouthpiece: "LO on comms."

Then Josh says in his pre-show voice, "O-kay, let's get this show on the road," and rattles off the list of stage management, lighting, follow spot and music director's cues, ending with, "LX 2, go."

The lights are dimmed to house half, the audience quietens, and the last show begins.

Credit: Miguel Mestre



Grandma (Molly) and Pugsley (Aanaya) having a heart-to-heart.

Credit: Miguel Mestre



Credit: Ka Jun Cheng, imgflip.com, Jake-Clark.Tumblr



A brief glimpse into backstage woes.



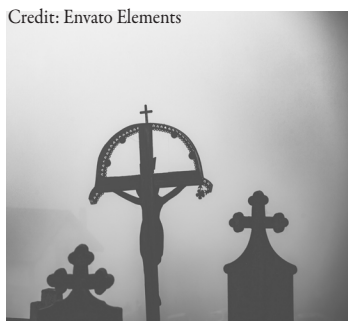
Fester (Isabela Lopez Ticianelli) confessing her love for the Moon.

Credit: Miguel Mestre



Credit: Envato Elements

Credit: Miguel Mestre



Credit: Envato Elements



Gomez (Magdy) with the love of his life, Morticia (Solen).



Alice Beineke (Cecilia Longoni) after drinking acrimonium.



The directing team! (No further explanation needed.)

# Sophia Prize

*Felix* is offering a **£400** prize to one **outstanding, inspiring and accessible** article that **helps tackle climate defeatism** and covers, or conceives of, an **economic, cultural or scientific innovation** that helps **fight global warming.**

Send your submissions to  
[fcomment@ic.ac.uk](mailto:fcomment@ic.ac.uk)  
[environment.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:environment.felix@ic.ac.uk)  
[science.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:science.felix@ic.ac.uk)



# Are you an alumnus or staff member of Imperial?

Felix isn't just for students! It's also a great place to discuss matters relevant to staff, and showcase what our alumni and researchers are up to!

Send submissions in to [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk), or get in touch on our Instagram account [@felix\\_imperial](https://www.instagram.com/felix_imperial)



## BOOKS

Edited by: ZANNA BUCKLAND

## BOOKS

## Book Review

## I trust you'll read this, right?

► Books writer Fii Oladipo discusses the importance of understanding trust, as explained by author Martin Mikael Lilius.

Fiyinfoluwa Timothy Oladipo Books Writer

"We do not normally notice the air we breathe. Similarly, we [...] have not noticed the climate of trust that is required to support much of our knowledge."

- John Hardwig

An analogy that can be used to describe the ambition of Martin Mikael Lilius in writing *Trust, Knowledge and Society* is trying to explain the concept of air to an unaware, unassuming stranger. Air is essential. It's ubiquitous. But to the stranger it might seem strange that someone has approached them to discuss something they already have a subconscious appreciation of. They are breathing, after all. That is what it feels like for Lilius to dedicate an entire piece

of work to a single moral concept, trust. He takes us through how it interweaves with everyday society and how it all affects us, enabling us to live with ourselves, others, and the planet. *Trust*, like the one just used, both make and guide how *Trust* elaborates its grand ideas to the reader. The book is divided into the relationship between trust and 'The Individual', what we know ('Knowledge'), and 'Society'.

In 'The Individual', trust is first portrayed as a means to understand who we are, and why we are who we are. Here, the reader is allowed to become familiar with how Lilius gets his point across. In what might appear to be a dry approach to creating a narrative in non-fiction, Lilius insists that simply and directly reframing existing models of knowledge within the lens

of trust will serve to open the eyes of the reader to its importance. It is with this systematic approach that he somewhat repurposes psychological concepts like attachment theory into deft new instruments for dissecting our views of love and the relationships we have.

As a result, it is quite enjoyable to read *Trust* as it becomes an excellently condensed story of our existence. In 'Knowledge', Lilius uses events ranging from the US elections to the advent of Darwinism to explore the sources of information we trust, and the reasons for trusting them. And in 'Society', Lilius heavily focuses on the economic relevance of trust and how it shapes the financial world as we see it.

Limits naturally appear for the ways in which trust can be turned into a progenitor for problems or concepts of life, but the book lends itself to offering insights with the potential to change your perspective; depending on the attitude you approach it with. So, while certain sections

## 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

## Languages

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

Email [books.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:books.felix@imperial.ac.uk) if interested!

# Trust, Knowledge and Society

MARTIN  
MIKAEL  
LILIUS

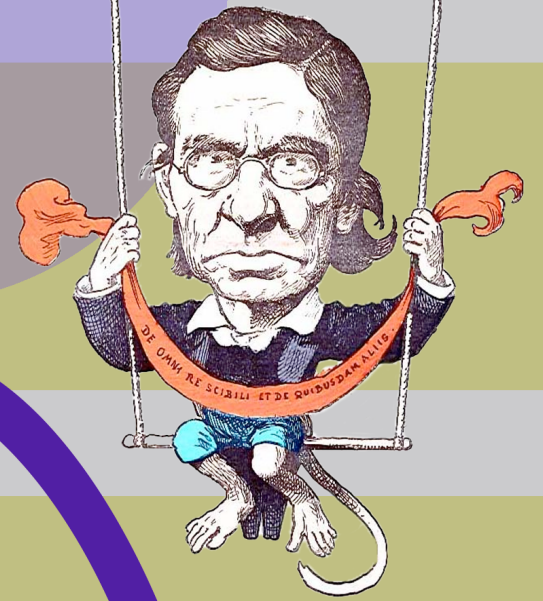


TRUST AS THE  
FOUNDATION  
OF SOCIETAL  
DEVELOPMENT

might seem less appealing upon an initial read, the comprehensive nature with which Lilius tackles his topics, leaving much room for self-reflection, means that it is almost certain that different sections will have their time in the limelight, though not necessarily all at once. I found myself, for example, resonating with the sections on how we assess people as trustworthy and felt a younger version of myself more engaged with Lilius' psychotherapeutic analysis of trust.

There is an inherent irony in writing a book about trust; in having the need for trust between reader and writer. That irony extends to this review too: do you as a reader trust that I have read and finished the book and am offering my honest opinion? However, returning to the analogy of comparing the written efforts within *Trust, Knowledge, and Society* to explaining air to a stranger (something Lilius' references himself), there is an element that such a hyper-aware focus on trust may serve no purpose in place of our intuition in our inherent perception of how the world works. We do not necessarily stress over the trustworthiness of what may be deemed minutiae in everyday living. But in this age of bias, where it is ever more important to assess who and what we listen, Martin Mikael Lilius crafts a necessary impersonal look into a quality that, when compromised, has grave consequences for everyone, and for our planet. This is likely why Lilius quotes Shakespeare in the book – love all, trust a few, do wrong to none – as so much can hinge on the 'few' we trust. Or as he begins: 'trust [is] that lubricant of life everyone instinctively recognises as essential'.

*writers: submit to the emails  
at the top of each section!*



***felix* wants you!**

**writers  
illustrators  
copyeditors  
video creators  
graphic designers**

**Help us fill the pages of  
*felix* with quality content  
for everyone on Imperial's  
campuses and beyond**

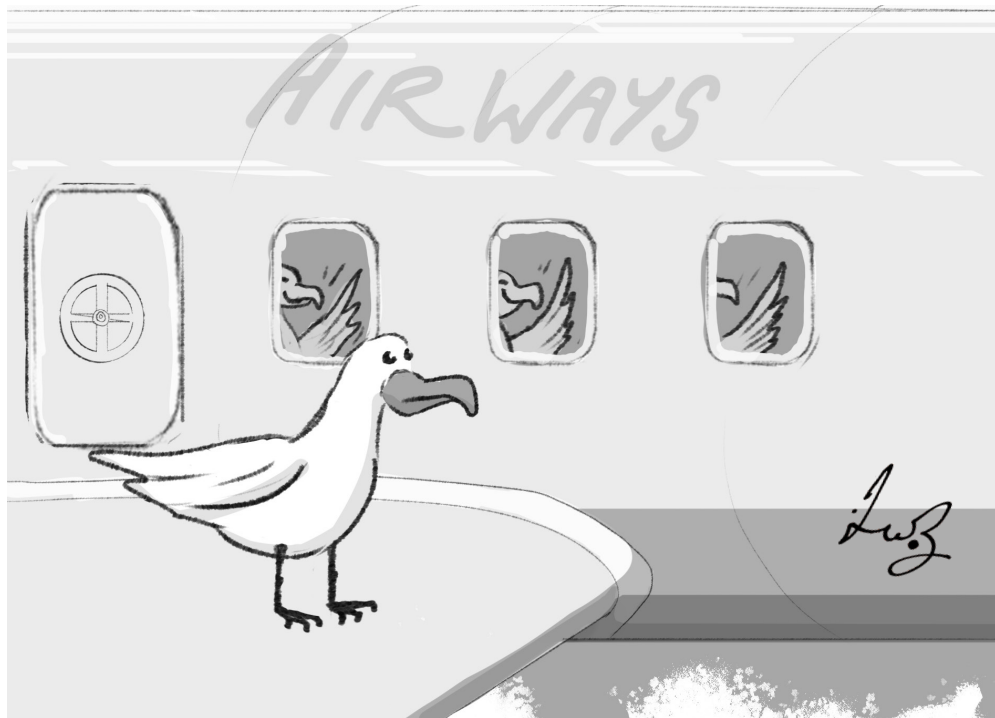
**email: [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk)**



**f**

## CAPTION COMPETITION

This week's winner - Harry Mitchell



*"Sam regretted booking Ryanair's new 'on a wing and a prayer' seat"*

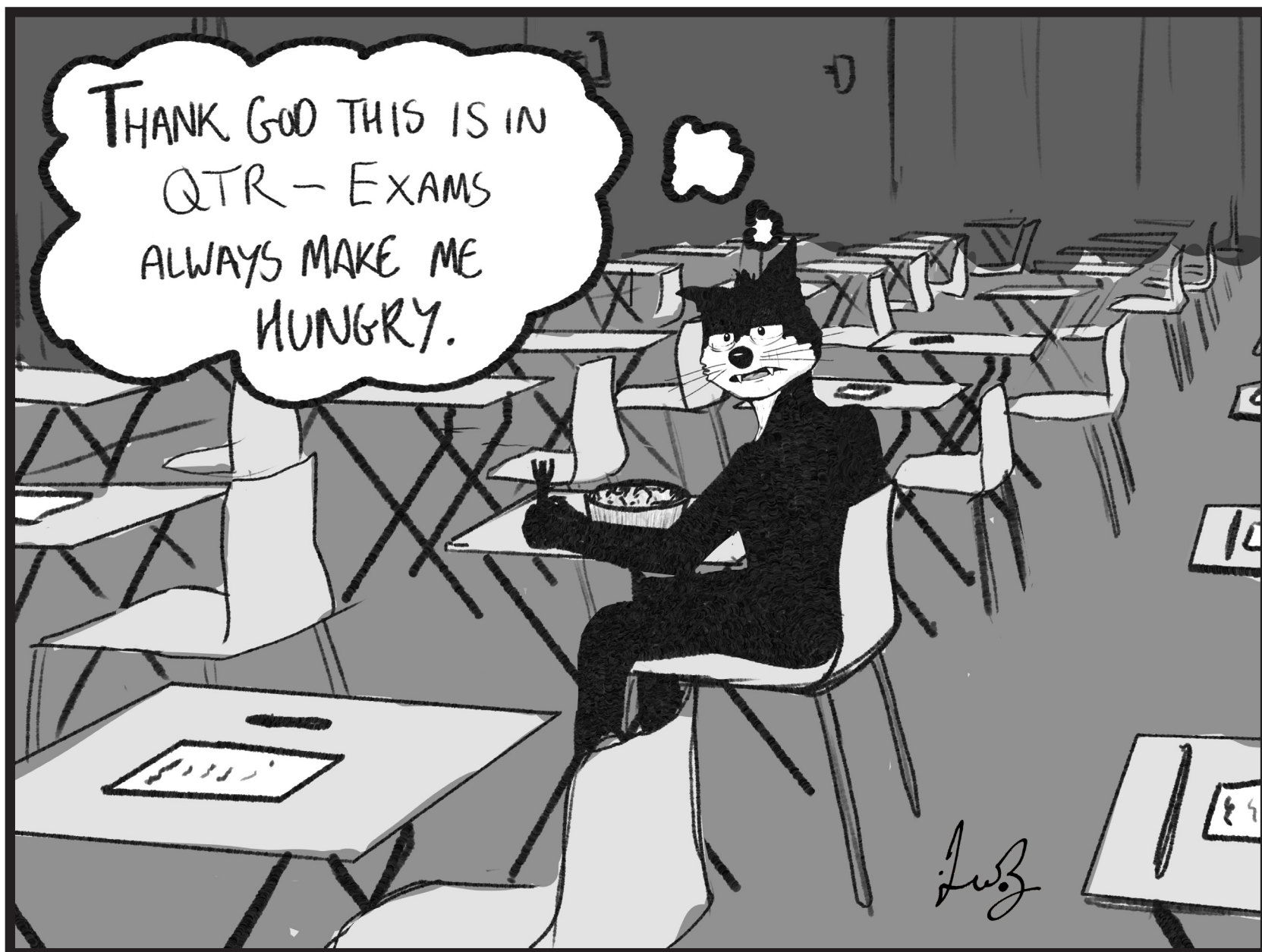
**WANT TO DRAW  
COMICS FOR FELIX?**

**CONTACT US AT:**

**PUZZLES.FELIX@IMPERIAL.AC.UK**

**TO GET INVOLVED**

The Cat #004



If you want to contribute comics to Felix, or a cartoon for the caption competition, please contact us at [puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

# HEADSHOTS

COMICS

## Boris Johnson Faces Scrutiny



## Jeremy Hunt Distracted in Meeting

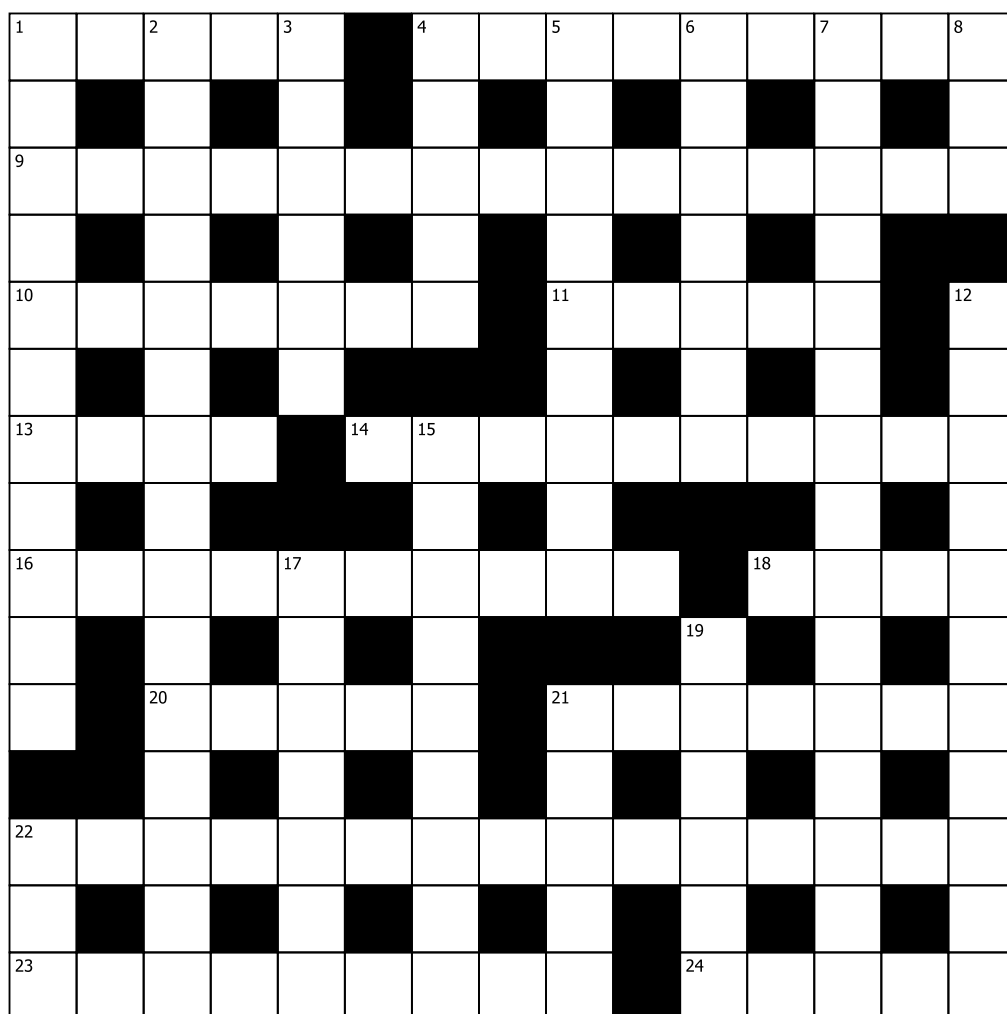


## Across

- 1 1966 film starring Michael Caine, also remade in 2004 with Jude Law as title character (5)  
 4 Costs or expenses (9)  
 9 Sign often put up by protective neighbours (4, 3, 3, 5)  
 10 Main competitor to IOS (7)  
 11 Make a speech (5)  
 13 Official title of Maggie Smith (4)  
 14 The state of lacking intelligence or speed of mind (10)  
 16 Corresponds with (10)  
 18 Main character of 2013 massively popular Disney film, sequel in 2019 and third film anticipated in 2025 (4)  
 20 Sheet of lead used to shield the body during X-rays (5)  
 21 Process required in hypersonic jet engines to stop them overheating (7)  
 22 Thought by some as the first hydraulic machine (10, 5)  
 23 A state of aversion (9)  
 24 President of Syria since 2000 (5)

## Down

- 1 Quality leading to embarrassment (11)  
 2 Mobile front-line medical units used in WW1 (5, 10)  
 3 Outer appendage of a crustacean (6)  
 4 Killed (5)  
 5 Member of east-African land-locked country (9)  
 6 Rubbish! (7)  
 7 1929 Ernest Hemingway novel, set in Italian campaign of WW1 (1, 8, 2, 4)  
 8 Call for help (3)  
 12 To have violated the sanctity is to have \_\_\_\_\_ (11)  
 15 Relating to legendary island originally described by Plato, thought to have been lost 11000 years ago (9)  
 17 US term for pest (7)  
 19 The body of water crossed in Exodus (3, 3)  
 21 The act of being religious (5)  
 22 Fraxinus genus of flowering plants, containing mainly deciduous trees (3)



## Missing Vowels

1 point each

## CATEGORY: Tube Stations

Put the correct vowels and spaces in these jumbled-up consonants to find the answers. Send your answers in along with your puzzler-name to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk for points on the leaderboard:

- i) LV RP LS TRT  
 ii) LP HNT NDC STL  
 iii) WLT HMS TWC NT RL  
 iv) M RNN GTN CR SCNT  
 v) CC KF STR S  
 vi) T HYD N BS  
 vii) PR SNS G RN  
 viii) HT HR WTR MNLS NT WTHR  
 ix) CLP H MC MMN  
 x) FL HM BRD WY

## From the Editor

Hello there,

My sincerest apologies for the misprint in the previous issue, and I can assure you that it will most definitely probably perhaps not happen again. Maybe.

As this is our last issue of the term, I'll have a good amount of time to tot up the totals for the leaderboard in the break, which is returning in the first issue next term.

As always, if you have any requests for puzzles, perhaps ones more or less difficult than those currently presented, then please write to us at puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Happy puzzling!

Sincerely,

Isaac Winson, Puzzles Editor





## PUZZLES

## Sudoku

2 points each

## Very Easy

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

## Easy

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

## Picture Hunt

3 points

This photo was taken somewhere on campus - know where?





# CATNIP

## Theatre review: Pontius Pilate takes Umbridge

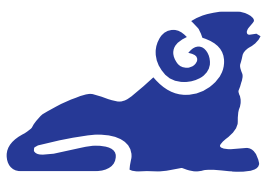
*Hernest Emingway*

Inspired by the fact that over 40% of the British population confuse the plot of the Bible with that of *Harry Potter*, Frantic Assembly's sister company, Calmly Built, put on a raunchy blend of the two below a Brixton microbrewery. The venue has previously housed a range of London's up-and-comers, from Otto Von Skidmark's shitty one-man show to the critically acclaimed Take That tribute band, And That. Some truly tough acts to follow, but I was practically moist with anticipation as I waited for the doors to open.

On entering the theatre each audience member was handed a copy of *The Old Man and the Sea*, with sentences arranged in alphabetical order. Nothing was said about it during the show but I later read online that it was a commentary on the plight of Afghan women under Taliban rule, and I think this was a very brave and poignant statement. Having nodded thoughtfully while flipping through the pages, I settled back into my chair and waited for the play to begin.

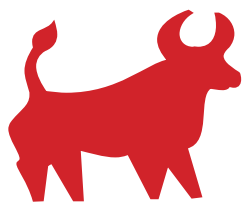
The majority of the performance was dedicated to a blind man attempting to give himself a splinter by rubbing his hand on a wooden tabletop in a remarkable display of method acting. Personally I might have simply pretended that I got a splinter, but I suppose that's the difference between me and a real actor. And while this hiccough did impact the pacing of the show, things really picked up in the second half with the steamy love story of the Roman governor and the Defence-Against-the-Dark-Arts teacher. The climax of the performance was marred slightly by the unfortunate angle of Pontius' wand meaning that some of his spell landed on the shoes of a woman in the front row. Turns out it's not just Dog's Trust that can catch strays.

Overall, I enjoyed the show despite its imperfections. At the very least, I consider it our duty to support the hardworking actors in independent productions, especially when the government itself is doing so little to help with the long-term unemployed.



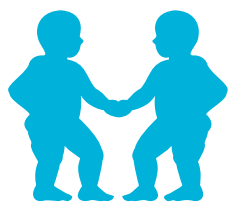
**ARIES**

This week men's rights is a bit passé, so you instead become a women's wrongs activist.



**TAURUS**

This week your dad wants to make up for last night.



**GEMINI**

This week Mother's Day doesn't quite warrant you unblocking that bitch.



**CANCER**

This week your girlfriend's 'cute cat' fursona goes south when she starts licking her bumhole.



**LEO**

This week you reminisce on that time your dad drove you and your date to the prom haha you got so nervous didn't you?



**VIRGO**

This week you forgot to buy your mum a Mother's Day present - lucky your girlfriend gave you that hall pass.



**LIBRA**

This week you support stay-at-home parents by deporting your immigrant dad.



**SCORPIO**

This week you fail your driving test after hitting one too many minors.



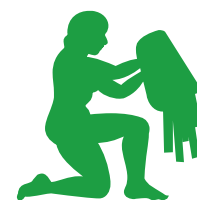
**SAGITTARIUS**

This week you're disappointed when you only spot one woman during birdwatching.



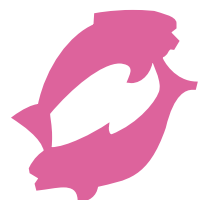
**CAPRICORN**

This week you regret telling your mates you could fight a cheetah when they take you to London Zoo for your birthday.



**AQUARIUS**

This week you get in the Oscar's spirit by slapping your boyfriend during your viewing party.



**PISCES**

This week your biggest Varsity win is in the boat race.

# New Union President: I will dig deep into my experience for this role

*Wisabella Iard*

Following the results of the 2023 Union Leadership elections, some have voiced concerns that the new Officer Trustee team might not have the experience necessary for their upcoming positions. However, Bamille Coutrolle, the Union President-elect, in a statement to Catnip this week aimed to dispel worries, telling Catnip reporter Feb Senton that her background as “ Trip Secretary of IC Snowsports, President of IC Netball and member of IC Women’s Rugby” gave her plenty of relevant knowledge and abilities, suitable for her upcoming position.

Coutrolle said “My previous roles will inform my Presidency and provide a strong base from which to spring off”. She also assures students that her experience playing rugby means that she will be ready to tackle any issue.

In fact, Union staff have been overwhelmed by the energy of Coutrolle’s transition team who have been bombarding full time staff with requests so that they can “hit the ground sliding” when her term begins. Enquiries have ranged from the practical (“Will the President’s office have a squat rack?”) to the philosophical (“How fast can the institution of the Union down a pint?”).

Coutrolle has criticised some of her predecessors however saying that the Union needs to execute a “pivot” as “the way forward is currently blocked” and “new avenues of attack need to be found”. She was happy to demonstrate this to the assembled reporters, rotating rapidly on one leg. She was less happy to explain whether a subsequent second pivot would simply put the Union back where it started again.

The nature of this pivot has started to take shape after an email told staff and new officer trustees that they will have to wear bibs with their positions clearly listed on the front and back. Not only is this intended to facilitate introductions and camaraderie but it will also make it clear when employees are away from their desks and not ‘in the right area’ and can be encouraged to get back to work, a key part of Coutrolle’s efficiency drive.

Coutrolle’s opponent graciously conceded on the night, in a move that commentators said would strengthen the democratic culture in the Union. He told reporters “My opponent has shown that she can organise a piss up in a ski resort and the voters clearly responded to that”.

Coutrolle’s new colleagues have also shown their support for her



vigorous style. New DPE Yang Yi has said that Coutrolle’s us-and-them attitude learned on the sports field has been an inspiration to her and that she intends to be a powerful advocate for the students that voted for her.

Yi, who has also received criticism for the limited experience she was bringing to the role, has not responded to multiple requests for comment.

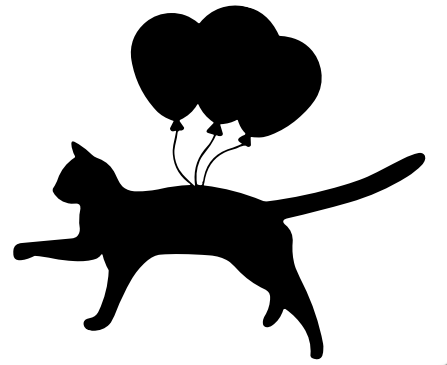
We here at Catnip wish her luck in her plan to review every single undergraduate and postgraduate syllabus.

FILM & TV

# FILM & TV

## What's Osc-urrrin'?

Scan me to read Ioana Esanu's review of EAAO!



► A brief recap of the events of this year's Academy Awards.

Jonah Hewett Film Editor

So, that's it – the 95<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards have been sand gone. For those of you who care, we hope that your favourite films and characters won – which, it turns out, is the same as saying 'we hope that your favourite film was either *Everything Everywhere All At Once* or *All Quiet on the Western Front*'. Here at Felix Film HQ we spent hours producing our Oscars pullout in Issue 1822, so we hope that you found it informative and helpful. If you didn't see the pullout, we actually managed a 100% success rate for all of our predictions. If you did see it then, for the record, all of those predictions were Mike's.

*Everything Everywhere* was certainly the star of the show this year, taking home a total of seven awards: the illustrious Best Picture, Best Actress (Michelle Yeoh), Best Director (the Daniels), Best Supporting Actor

(Ke Huy Quan), and Best Original Screenplay. It also set its fair share of records, with Michelle Yeoh being only the second woman of colour to win in the leading actress category, and according to *The Guardian* it's the first time multiple Asian actors won in a single year. Even for the most verdant Hollywood haters among you (and you would not be blamed for that opinion), that's certainly something to celebrate. Or, depending on how you look at it, the fact that it took so long is something to be depressed about.

*All Quiet* was the other top scoring feature this year, taking home four awards: Best International Feature Film, Best Original Score, Production Design, and Cinematography. It's a rare thing for an 'international' film to do so well, and one produced by Netflix at that, which might speak to the potential of streaming services to promote foreign language films that might otherwise be ignored by anglophone audiences.

The award for Best Actor went to a tearful Brendan Fraser, who, in a story almost parallel to that of Ke Huy Quan, expressed his gratitude at being given such a creative opportunity after so many years of being shunned by the industry.

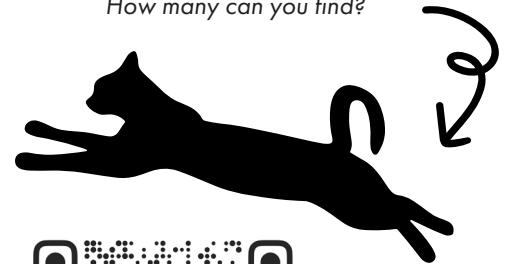
Predictably, the night was not short of references to the infamous slapping of yesteryear, but in the end it turned out to be thoroughly mundane – as far as physical violence is concerned. However, the *Felix* Film bingo card actually was quite successful; hopefully some of you used it, and took as much delight as I did at actually getting a (tentative) bingo from our terrible jokes. Until next year!



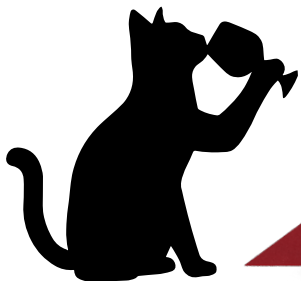
Credit: Getty Images

### SPOT THE OSCARS

How many can you find?



Let us know!





# ← And the award for Best Picture goes to...

If you haven't seen it yet, a short synopsis of *Everything Everywhere All At Once*. ◀

If the Academy were comprised entirely of Felix readers, what would The Oscars look like? Here at Film & TV, we were interested in finding out; so, to coincide with The Oscars, we've been running our own Best Picture tournament on the *Felix* Instagram over the last two weeks. And finally, the moment you've been waiting for – the results!

After tallying the results, we're excited to announce that *Everything*,

*Everywhere, All at Once* has emerged as the winner with an overwhelming majority of votes. This visually stunning sci-fi film received the highest number of votes, beating out tough competition from other contenders in the finals: *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish*, *Nope* and *The Banshees of Inisherin*.

*Everything Everywhere All At Once* is a mind-bending adventure that follows Evelyn Wang, a Chinese-American woman struggling to keep her laundromat business afloat, as she discovers the existence of the multiverse. The laundromat is on the verge of collapsing, and her relationship with her husband, Waymond, is in jeopardy. Moreover, connections with her father, Gong Gong, and daughter, Joy, are strained. To add to her worries, she has to meet with an IRS auditor, Deirdre, who appears distant and uninviting. Can things get any worse? If your



Mike Buzadji Film Editor

husband getting possessed by an alpha version of himself telling you about the multiversal crisis and incoming threat to your entire existence is worse, then yes!



The film weaves together multiple universes and timelines in a way that is both innovative and entertaining, it explores thought-provoking themes including identity, destiny, and the interconnectedness of all things, leaving audiences with much to ponder.

*Everything Everywhere All At Once* is a must-see sci-fi adventure that will have audiences captivated from start to finish. With its intricate plot and breathtaking action sequences, this film is sure to keep viewers on the edge of their seats. Make sure to check out the other finalists too; this year was full of exceptional films that captivated audiences with their creativity and storytelling.



## FOOD &amp; TRAVEL

Edited by: CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

## FOOD &amp; TRAVEL

## A Seine-sational trip to the Croissant Capital

► *Crunching croissants, panoramic views and a museum exhibit of the 1980s without the 80s vibe*

Charlotte Probstel Travel Editor

Cheap and low-quality croissants are made half with olive oil and half with butter, as the taste and look are similar — but then they are technically not proper croissants. That is what Gabriel, a recently graduated pâtisserie chef, taught us when we visited Paris for the weekend. The world of pâtisseries circling the city is in fact very small. Most chefs know each other, or know a friend that knows the person they wish to contact. Our friend Gabriel could lead us to the good pâtisseries, as he could confirm the dignity and qualities of the head chefs. He knew where we could find the croissants where you could taste the butter, hear the layers crunch as you bit into the delights, and see a matrix of dough breathing underneath the golden crust.

As we sat along the Seine, munching on croissants, pain au chocolat, and pain au raisin, we enjoyed the view of the classical buildings on the opposite bank. Paris was not bombarded in the Second World War, so most architectural establishments are still alive — evident in the slightly wonky buildings that gated some small alleys. We would look up, and the sky was bordered by anything other than two parallel lines.

The sidewalks were wide enough for bicyclists, joggers, grandparents, and young children to have their own lane. Along the river banks were no shortages of joggers — but there were plenty of bridges, so there was little traffic to cross the river. My friend and I, both students in London, particularly enjoyed the space. Within the metropolitan city, there was room for trees, gardens, playgrounds, and — most importantly — pedestrian zones, so that people could walk more.

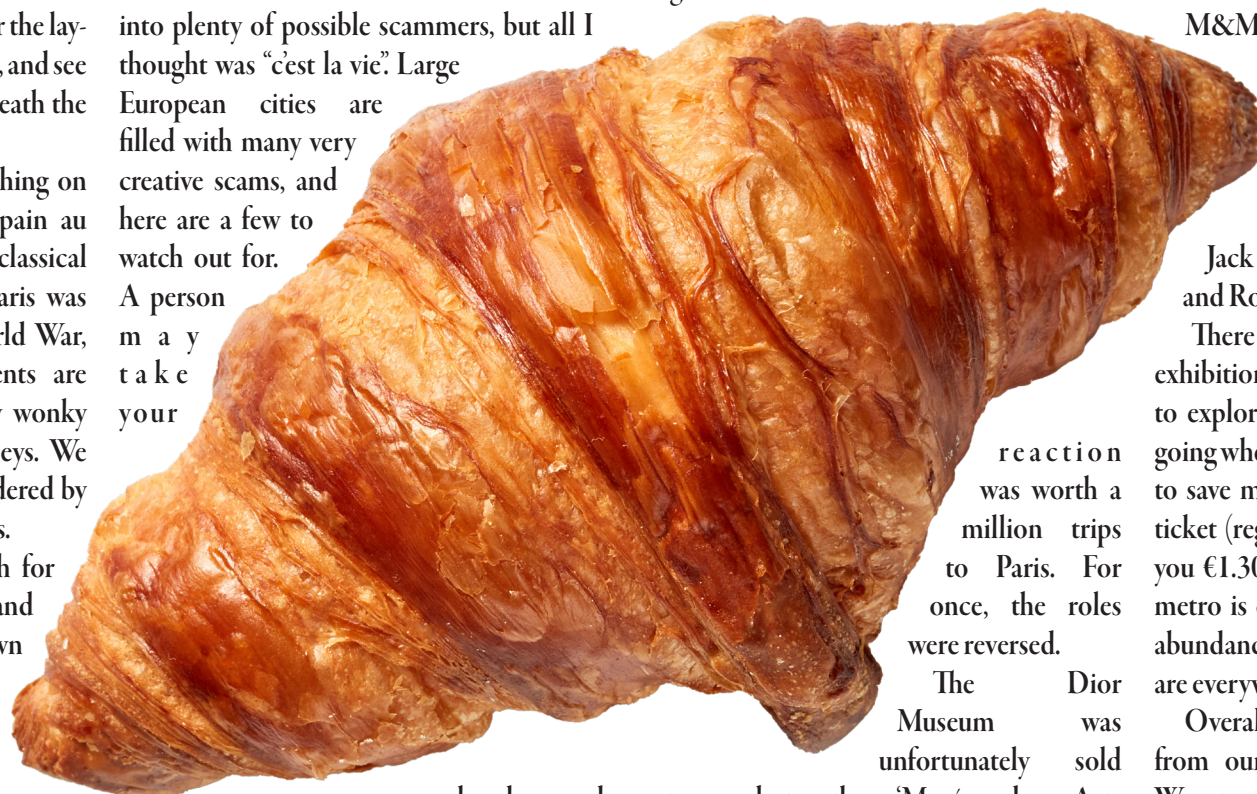
Instead of trying to see as many events as possible, we enjoyed walking through the

town. From the Latin Quarter, near where the construction of the Notre Dame is taking place, we walked towards the L'Orangerie — a museum famous for hosting Monet's water lilies. There, we turned left towards la Place de Concorde, where the Obelisk from Egypt is placed and which ends at the L'Arc de Triomphe. The cafes were filled with people talking and drinking a proper café — a small ceramic cup with black coffee. If you ask for coffee, that's what you'll get. They don't serve lattes, iced coffees, or triple-shot caramel-frappuccinos with two vanilla pumps.

That weekend was Paris Fashion Week, but it wasn't noticeable. We hoped to run into a model, but there was no luck. We ran into plenty of possible scammers, but all I thought was "c'est la vie." Large

European cities are filled with many very creative scams, and here are a few to watch out for.

A person may take your



hand and start braiding a friendship bracelet around your wrist, while indulging in a common conversation with you. Once the bracelet is finished, you can't take it off without breaking it — so they will ask for payment due to their service. Protect yourself by yelling "Non, ne me touchez pas" ("No, do not touch me"). The classic free roses and

anything valuable found on the floor (ring, wallet) are quite common, so keep valuables always in sight or well hidden and protected. The meanest scam is when people pick-pocket you while convincing you to sign a petition.

As an example, we walked past people who checked out my dad. Not because he is incredibly handsome — which he is — but because of his back pockets. My dad has a tendency of keeping his phone in the back pocket of his rather visible jeans. My friend pointed it out and I took the phone and put it in my bag. I did this multiple times, as he kept on forgetting about his pocket. Once he forgot I had it, his freaked

by someone who asked themselves the question "What would a five-year-old child believe if we gave them unlimited money and access to a candy shop?" I found the commercials humorous, but very different from the adverts we see nowadays for insurance — or even a simple bag of

M&Ms. My dad, the only one in our group alive in the 80s, didn't recognize anything besides the purple jacket with the padded shoulders as large as a life vest. If Titanic had happened in the 80s, Jack's jacket would have saved both him and Rose.

There are many more unique events, exhibitions, buildings, shops, and quarters to explore in Paris — I would recommend going when you have the chance. Book ahead to save money and use the metro. A single ticket (regardless of line and zone) will cost you €1.30, so transport is no problem. The metro is clean and safe. There are hotels in abundance and restaurants or food corners are everywhere.

Overall, the trip was a wonderful break from our studies and our daily routine. We ate excellent food, spoke with many people, witnessed some classic road rage while sipping on our coffees, and enjoyed the artistic feats of Monet and Matisse while teaching my friend from London as many french words as we could. Sunday night we took the Eurostar back to London and fell into bed with a smile on our faces.

Credit: Charlotte Probstel





# TooGoodToGo: the name is the game

► *Can we finally combat restaurant overproduction with TooGoodToGo?*

**Charlotte Probstel** Food Editor

We had just walked into the establishment at exactly 19:47 on a casual Saturday to pick up our £5 TooGoodToGo order from the Danish all-day bakery Ole & Steen. We were looking forward to the sandwiches and pastries, hoping to exchange some like Pokémon cards on the playground. But we were not the only ones there. We ran into our classmate, who had the same hungry eyes as us.

We removed our gloves, unlocked our phones, turned them towards the barista, and swiped the “Confirm Collection” lock to ensure we were not frauds picking up an order we had not paid for in advance. Before we left, we took a small sneak peek — two pastries, one sandwich, and one mystery item enclosed in a paper box and sealed with a plastic sticker. We had no idea what it could have been, but we trusted the team at Ole & Steen to spoil us with something good. And we were right, as the apple pie inside the white box was not too sweet — the perfect light dessert.

If you have not heard about TooGoodToGo yet; it is an app that allows food businesses such as Starbucks, Wasabi, and Leon to sell goodie bags with unknown contents at the end of

their day for a fraction of the original cost. Customers are required to pay in advance, pick up the items themselves within a set time frame (usually 15-60 minutes), and are allowed to give a review.

An initial £15 order may be sold for £3-£7. I am particularly fond of Roll Baby Roll, as they sell four rolls at an initial price of £3-4 each for £4. So you save about £12.

On the app, you can set your time preferences (morning, noon, afternoon, evening, night), your dietary preferences (vegan, vegetarian, or none), and your meal preference (meals, baked goods, groceries, and others). Furthermore, a map shows you which businesses are close to you and you can set the area of your location from 1 mile to 30 miles. Payment is all cardless, and the rest is very intuitive.

The goal was to reduce food waste by selling food that could not be sold

the next day for a cheap price. The stores set the time frame when you can pick up the food and how many people can reserve a bag.

Popular spots such as the Japanese Patisserie “Sakurado” on Gloucester Road sell quickly, as only three to four bags may be sold daily —

sometimes none.

One night, as I was calling my boyfriend who lives in the Netherlands, I mentioned how I had discovered this app and was using it to buy pastries and leftover food. I talked about it frequently for the following week, amazed by the amount I got even though I had no control over the amount or quality of food.

A month or so afterwards, at the usual evening call with him, he goes “Hey Charlie, have you ever heard of this app TooGoodToGo? It allows you to buy food from businesses for less than half the price. It’s so cool, I got two meals for only €4”. I face-palmed myself, as you may have done as well.

Why did I tell this story? Well, TooGoodToGo is also available in 16 other countries including Canada, the US, Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, and Italy. From 2018-2022, the app grew to 9.5 million app installs, with 154,000 businesses signed up on the application.

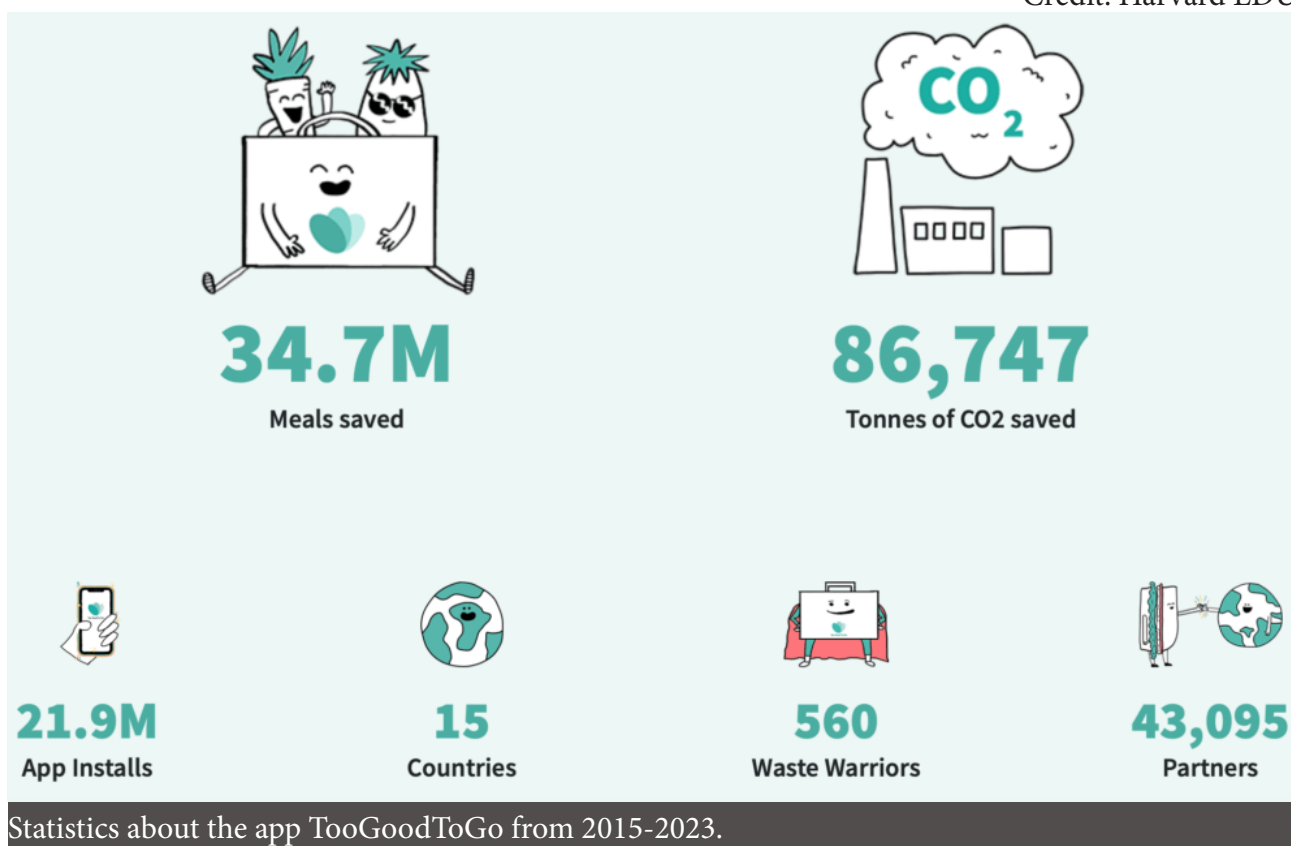
It is an exceptional method to reduce food waste and lead a more sustainable lifestyle. 320 million meals are thrown away each year by restaurants in the UK. 34% of the food waste is customer leftovers, 21% is spoiled food and a whopping 45% is due to

over-preparation. It’s embarrassing for a restaurant to admit they no longer have any food, so they make more than required. This is where TooGoodToGo comes in, helping businesses sell tasty unsold food unless the employees can take it home.

From a personal experience, TooGoodToGo has an abundance of pastries, bread, croissants, and other baked goods to offer. They are incredibly easy to make and don’t cost much. There are fewer quality restaurant offers, but you learn which ones you like and dislike quickly. I would stay away from chain restaurants, as the food is most likely the stuff that nobody picks — such as Starbucks’ sliced cheese between two pieces of untoasted white bread. The vegetarian options are limited, as restaurants cannot always promise vegetarian food. However, most of the time, restaurants don’t sell you the popular meat dishes on TooGoodToGo — the majority are vegetarian.

South Kensington has a nice variety of restaurants and fast-food places on TooGoodToGo, so if you ever crave sushi or pastries while studying your brain out at the library at 10 pm, TooGoodToGo may be a cheap way to get fueled up for an all-nighter.

Credit: Harvard EDU



Credit: Too-GoodToGo

## FOOD &amp; TRAVEL

# The Chinatowns of Europe: food, contrasts, and diaspora

► *Snapshots of Chinese migration in two European cities*

Kenton Kwon Author

## PARIS, FRANCE

I found myself in a bakery on a quiet street in the 13<sup>th</sup> arrondissement of Paris. While the shopkeeper and I exchanged customary “bonjours, I was immediately drawn to the assortment of not croissants, but egg tarts, mooncakes and coconut buns stacked neatly in piles on glass shelves. Shops like these are plentiful in the ‘Quartier Asiatique’ of Paris, an area between the Seine and the southern edge of the city. The district is not just a Chinatown, because the place is a real mash of locals and immigrants mainly from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and China who have populated the area. The display cards in the bakery in front of each variety of baked goods, were in French, (traditional) Chinese and Vietnamese — in that order.

Sometimes when I travel, I yearn to get an eye of the main sites, to walk on the grand tree-lined boulevards, or to inspect the treasures hidden in their museums. Other times, I want to craft an experience of my own and seek something I won't find printed on postcards. And it is usually abroad, I feel, when I'm immersed in a strange environment, that any sort of familiarity can spark curiosity. That's why I was drawn to this area of Paris and this bakery.

At the display window of the bakery was a

Credit: Kenton Kwon



Display window of a bakery in the ‘Quartier Asiatique’ of Paris.



Gate with the Chinese character for door.

shelf with ‘galette au durian’ (durian cake) and ‘galette aux tarot’ (taro cake) — glossy and golden flaky pastries with fillings that will transport you to Southeast Asia. Right below that were pyramids of jam-filled Ladurée-style macarons under ornate glass domes. And if that wasn't enough, just below the French desserts were figurines of the Chinese god of fortune, a lady with a Vietnamese nón lá (leaf hat). The juxtaposition of items here shows an incredible melding of culture, and the peculiarities it can sometimes create. It seemed that this bakery cabinet was more than a display of pastries, but a showcase of the contrasts of immigration itself.

In London, what people tend to head to Chinatown for is to grab a bite or to take a photo under the strings of red lanterns. The ‘Quartier Asiatique’ did not bear much resemblance to the hustle and bustle of Shaftesbury Avenue. It was much more peaceful, and feels like a vibrant and liveable community. Stripped of the casinos, traffic, and crowds, I could hear the gentle chitchat of locals, in a variety of dialects, who seemed to be strolling home from a supermarket

Credit: Kenton Kwon

run. There was a whole ecosystem here. Apart from the Chinese bakery, there were Vietnamese restaurants selling pho, local estate agents, a Japanese comic shop, and a Taiwanese dessert place. Some of these were housed just below a high-rise housing estate — groups of 30-storey tall flats, with shades of concrete that somewhat uncomfortably reminded me of my hometown of Hong Kong.

The centrepiece of a Chinatown is usually a gate (paifang). The ‘Arche de la fraternité’

(brotherhood arch) was constructed in 2020 “in homage and in thanks to France and Paris which welcomed many refugees in Southeast Asia in the 1970s.” This was when the ‘Khmer

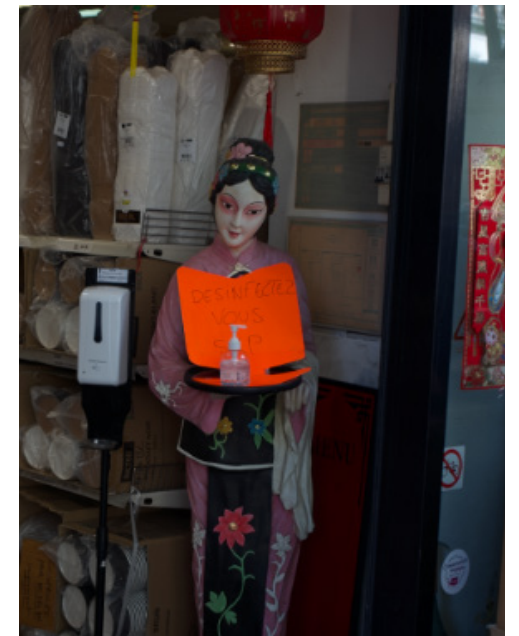
Credit: Kenton Kwon



High-rise residences in the 13<sup>th</sup> arrondissement of Paris.

Rouge’ swept the area that used to be called French Indochina. The gate’s red steel pillars were planted on a central square and, when viewed from a certain anamorphic angle, give the Chinese character for door. The gate is less glamorous and more barebones than the one at Gerrard Street — but perhaps to those moving here, it’s the symbolism of shelter, and a new beginning that matters.

Credit: Kenton Kwon



In a small shop, a figure in traditional dress holds up a sign saying ‘Disinfectez vous SVP (s’il vous plaît)’.

**MADRID, SPAIN**

The capital of Spain is a city with great art (think Picasso, Velázquez and Goya), parks (El Retiro), and architecture. The city charms and warms, with yellow and orange buildings lining the cosy cobbled city-centre streets. A bit further away is Usera, which houses one of the few themed metro stations of Madrid (the other being in Chueca, known as the gay district). Red wallpaper adorned the walls of the passageways of this station, from the ground level to the platform that is deep underground. Lining the walls — apart from the meandering dragons and lanterns — were recurring unifying motifs of “Metro somos todos” (Metro we are all).

Immigration from China to Spain has been recent, and mostly driven by socioeconomic factors. Usera is now Madrid’s unofficial Chinatown. Cultural integration is a hard yet important part of moving to another country, but unfortunately is made more difficult by cultural and language

barriers. Common to many people who move abroad are, unfortunately, stereotypes and microaggressions that may undermine sincere efforts to assimilate. The station art might not mean much to me, but I’m sure it will carry more weight to the generations of immigrants living in the area.

Being south of all the major sites and a walk across the river Manzanares, Usera is one of the places that you wouldn’t just stumble across randomly. Food has a great part in cultural exchange, and is usually a good reason to visit an area with diverse inhabitants. Indeed, for some immigrants, one of the most immediately marketable skills is the culinary craft of a foreign place thousands of miles away. Before my trip, I was talking to a Spaniard, hoping to get advice for local food to try. To me, she replied, “what’s good about

tapas? My favourite is Chinese food.” Another popular business for people who have recently immigrated are corner shops — where you can buy basic drinks,

heart of Madrid. It was the combination of the verdant green façade and the sign in glowing neon that caught my eye. At the storefront was a poster advertising a popular

rice dish back home, with a cheeky Stephen Chow movie reference accompanied by a cheesy slogan that was a play on words in Cantonese. ‘Restaurante Hong Kong 70’ pumped a momentary surge of nostalgia through me that not many places have been able to create. At that moment, I thought about how —

despite the vastness of the world — people continue to spread ideas, stories and experiences at pace. I exhaled, and smiled, but then kept on walking to the opposite side of the plaza to do what I originally came here for — grab a nice greasy bocadillo de calamares (squid sandwich).



Passageway in the Usera Metro station in Madrid.



Closeup of the motif ‘Metro somos todos’ in Usera station.

foodstuffs, and household items. In Spain, this phenomenon is embedded into the language — the name for these stores, in general, is ‘el Chino’, because the shop assistants are frequently of Chinese descent.

Restaurants and stores were dotted along the gridiron streets of Usera. Above the restaurants were typically three floors of residences, with balconies that overlooked the streets. Clothes were hung on the balcony to dry in the hot and arid air of Madrid. Sometimes residents were sitting on their balconies, either on their phones or peering down at the shuffling of people beneath. Swap the stores and the signs, and the district would probably look like a general neighbourhood anywhere in the country.

What was particularly memorable, however, was an unexpected encounter with a shop next to the Plaza Mayor — the literal

Credit: Kenton Kwon

Credit: Kenton Kwon



Nostalgic poster advertising a classic Cantonese dish.

Credit: Kenton Kwon



Storefront display with dishes and statues.

Credit: Kenton Kwon



Storefront of ‘Restaurante Hong Kong 70’, a restaurant next to Plaza Mayor in Madrid.

# WHAT TO WATCH

## Imperial News

### Science and Technology

'How nuclear fusion works.'

'A look into the inner workings of ant colonies.'

'The science behind superconductors.'

'An interview with an epidemiologist.'



### Books and Literature

'A review of Tolstoy's Anna Karenina.'

'What you get out of reading physical books.'

'Why activism in the form of literature is important.'

'Five things I learned from Harry Potter.'

# WRITE ABOUT

Copyedit for us!

## Films and TV

'The top ten movies nominated for Oscars this year.'

'A review of The Last of Us.'

'What makes a performance award-worthy.'

'Lighthearted TV shows to get you through exam season.'



## Food and Travel

'How to get the best photos of famous places.'

'Five recipes that will make you want to be vegan.'

'Top tips for travelling alone.'

'Why Nando's isn't overrated.'

## BUSINESS

Edited by: CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

## BUSINESS

## Blockchain is the new black

Credits: Uxwing.co.uk

Kiara Rao Writer

The fashion industry is undergoing a major technological revolution, and blockchain technology is playing a pivotal role in this change. From establishing innovative payment methods to monitoring supply chain processes, the fashion world is embracing the numerous advantages that blockchain brings to the table.

One of the most substantial advantages of blockchain in the fashion sector is transparency. As a decentralized ledger that records transactions securely and openly, blockchain makes it possible for consumers to

Credits: Uxwing.

trace the roots of the products they buy. This presents fashion brands with the

opportunity to display their commitment to ethical sourcing, which has become increasingly important to buyers. A recent survey

conducted by Accenture showed that over 70% of consumers are willing to pay more for products from companies with a solid reputation for social and environmental responsibility. By utilizing blockchain, brands can offer customers thorough information about the product's journey, from raw materials to

manufacturing and working conditions. A brand that has embraced blockchain for transparency is BREEZ, a sustainable fashion brand that uses blockchain to track the origin and production of their clothing.

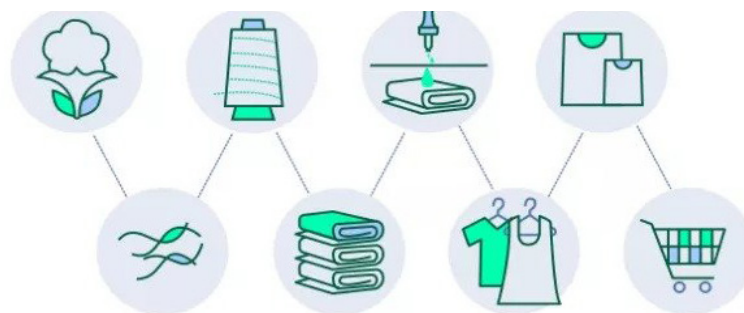
Another plus of blockchain in the fashion industry is its ability to address the issue of counterfeiting. Counterfeit goods are a significant challenge for the fashion industry, with a global market value estimated at \$450 billion (according to the International Trademark Association). Blockchain can help tackle this problem by creating a secure and unchanging record of ownership and authenticity. Each item is attached with a unique digital certificate, providing a verifiable history of its authenticity.

Moreover, blockchain technology has the potential to revolutionize the way the fashion industry operates. Tokenized fashion items, digital representations of physical fashion items, are an example of this change. These tokens can be bought, sold, and traded like traditional assets, allowing customers to own a piece of fashion history. In fact, a recent auction saw a tokenized piece of fashion sell for \$100,000, showcasing the potential of this technology.

A report by Grand View Research predicts that the global blockchain market in the fashion industry will grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 63.8% from 2020 to 2027, reaching a market size of \$955.8 million by 2027. The rising adoption of blockchain in the fashion industry can be attributed to its ability to increase transparency, combat counterfeiting, and improve the overall customer experience.

Although integrating blockchain in the fashion industry presents several benefits, there are still obstacles to overcome. One of the primary challenges is the need for widespread adoption and standardization of blockchain technology. Some fashion companies are

Credits: betweenconscious.com



just starting to explore blockchain and

may require time and investment to fully take advantage of its benefits. Another challenge is the lack of technical knowledge and expertise in the fashion industry, as blockchain technology can be complex and challenging for those without a background in technology.

In conclusion, the fashion industry is leading the charge in the blockchain revolution, offering transparency, combating counterfeiting, and changing the way the industry operates. While there are still challenges to face, the potential benefits of blockchain technology are undeniable, and it's clear that this technology will play a crucial role in shaping the future of the fashion industry.

## WHAT IS BLOCKCHAIN?

According to IBM, "Blockchain is a shared, immutable ledger that facilitates the process of recording transactions and tracking assets in a business network. An asset can be tangible (a house, car, cash, land) or intangible (intellectual property, patents, copyrights, branding). Virtually anything of value can be tracked and traded on a blockchain network, reducing risk and cutting costs for all involved."

## WHY IS BLOCKCHAIN IMPORTANT?

According to IBM, "business runs on information. The faster it's received and the more accurate it is, the better. Blockchain is ideal for delivering that information because it provides immediate, shared and completely transparent information stored on an immutable ledger that can be accessed only by permissioned network members. A blockchain network can track orders, payments, accounts, production and much more. And because members share a single view of the truth, you can see all details of a transaction end to end, giving you greater confidence, as well as new efficiencies and opportunities."

**SPORT & SOCIETIES**

*Edited by: ISABELLA WARD  
CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL  
NATALIE YU*

# SPORT & SOCIETIES

## IC and LSE clash throughout week in newly launched Varsity

► *Teams from Imperial and LSE played each other in a variety of sports in front of supporters across the week.*

Imperial	LSE
Fencing men's Fencing Women's Futsal Volleyball Men's Volleyball Women's Hockey Women's Athletics and Running Football Women's Rugby Women's Rugby Men's	Badminton Men's Badminton Women's Staff Football Squash Men's Basketball Men's Basketball Women's Table Tennis Men's Table Tennis Women's Hockey Men's Tennis Mixed Netball Squash Women's Lacross Men's

**Dylan Hughes**  
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

After a week of hard-fought matches, dubious adjudicating and faint-hearted furious fundraising, the inaugural Imperial-LSE Varsity has come to an end. There's no doubt as to which uni had the better teams and deserved the victory, but as is often the way with these things, it finished a little differently. LSE won 14 games to Imperial's 12 and will undoubtedly goad us with that for years to come.

A big thank you goes to everyone who took part in any way, shape or form! Despite the best efforts of Imperial College's Sport Department, it looks like we were able to cobble together a functional event with plenty of sport and even a little fun. A big thank you in particular goes out to Sports Sector for jointly running and funding the event, as well as the after-

party (although the midnight fire alarm may have ruffled some feathers).

Amidst all the ball-booting, crosse-crashing, and crouch-bind-setting, Imperial RAG (Raising and Giving) even managed to raise £368 for charity. This is undoubtedly the most sporting and prestigious of all the events, so it should come as no surprise that Imperial did better than LSE on that one: final score £267 - £101.

**DONATE TO RAG:**



## Victory deja-vu for volleyball

► *Volleyball Women's 1s finish the season with a 3-1 win against LSE (again)*

**Sacha Avey** Women's Volleyball Captain

Almost exactly a year since last playing LSE, IC Women's 1s once again met their friendly rivals at this year's Varsity. Shaken by a few last-minute injuries, IC stepped up to defend their title. After being promoted last season, IC has not played against LSE since their final BUCS game last season, where IC won 3-1.

The line-up consisted of an unforgiving middle attack (Emma LeGousse and Elisabetta Merico), formidable outside and opposite hitters (Miriam Sarkis, Sacha Avey and Arancha Ramirez), unrelenting liberos (Chiara Mauri and Yixin Zou), and, everyone's favourite fresher,

setter Alix Maillard.

After a close first set (25-20), IC ran away with the second set (25-16), bringing the score to 2-0, before losing the third set to LSE. A regroup and pep talk was exactly what the team needed to secure the fourth set, resulting once again in a 3-1 win. This marks an exciting end to a short but successful season, where IC has managed to hold their own in a new league, finishing third overall in Tier 1 of the BUCS Women's South Eastern Division.

There was much cause to celebrate in the club as victory for the Men's team meant that this year's Varsity was an all-round success for IC Volleyball.

**3-1** ICUNC I  
VS.  
LSE I



The IC Women's Volleyball team celebrate.

## SPORT

# Narrow victory for Imperial in Men's Rugby

► Imperial beat LSE in The City Varsity for the third year in a row after penalty awarded in final minute.

Olly Tatlow The City Varsity Secretary

The final match of the Imperial-LSE Varsity saw the Men's rugby teams face each other under the floodlights at Roslyn Park. The women's game just before had set an extraordinary precedent with a 102-0 victory to IC, so even the wet conditions couldn't dampen the IC players' and supporters' spirits.

A cagey start from both sides allowed

halfway line.

Eventually, pressure paid off from the IC attack, led by Ed Bruun and Archie Rees, and IC were finally able to move up the pitch into the LSE 22-meter line. Yet an impressive take in the lineout by Fraser Reed was unfortunately quickly negated by an offside penalty, and the progress and distance was lost. Now pinned on their own 5-meter line, IC lost their lineout, but scrambled in de-

attack from IC during an LSE lineout. This culminated in Joe Berry going over the whitewash, but a missed conversion meant the teams were drawing 12-all at half time.

Imperial kicked off the second half, but play was suspended whilst Spencer Ingall was substituted off following his unfortunate injury, after a strong chase and monster tackle. LSE made the most of more missed touch kicks from IC with a line break this time. Another prolonged period of forward attacks resulted in another try. Despite missing the conversion, LSE took an early 12-17 lead in the second half.

Imperial's scrum struggled initially, allowing a few opportunities and again more kicks from LSE. Max Wang returned them well, providing some stability so that Imperial could regroup and show their form once again in their classic lineout-maul combination. IC pushed LSE back 15 metres until an injury to Walter Taylor forced another long break in play. When play resumed, the attack from IC was repelled, but IC maintained momentum, loitering in LSE's half and launching attack after attack.

Desperate to keep their lead however, LSE demonstrated a mighty effort in defence to absorb wave after wave of pressure from IC.

The set piece continued to allow Imperial a steady platform to launch yet more attacks, when finally at 65 minutes, a monumental maul ensued as the IC forwards walked LSE back from outside their 22-metre line, enabling captain Sean Nakai to score. A missed conversion meant that, once again, the teams were neck-to-neck at 17-all.

# 20-17

IC  
vs.  
LSE

The now reinvigorated LSE mounted the pressure upon IC, who fought off LSE in their own half for the following ten minutes but were able to keep them at bay. With five minutes on the clock, Imperial won a series of penalties, allowing them to move up the pitch and back into the dominant position in the dying moments of the game. As time ticked away, several tense lineouts and scrums fed into each other, resulting in an Imperial lineout on LSE's 5-metre line at the zeroth minute. The ball was fed perfectly by the replacement hooker Olly Tatlow to Fraser Reed, and the forwards attempted to crash over the line in a multitude of phases, but to no avail. The ball appeared to be turned over, but much to the joy of the IC crowd, illegally. Alex Mitchener took an awarded penalty in front of the posts and slotted the ball home, bringing the end score to 20-17, with IC taking the win for the third year in a row.



Credit: Rolando Charles for Imperial Rugby

IC launch attack after attack.

the first scrum of the game to come around early. Imperial pushed straight through LSE, with the front row of Sam Johnson, Chay Bailey, and eventual Player of the Match Joe Berry decimating their counterparts. Imperial established their dominance quickly by winning the first penalty of the game.

However, messy play ensued, with Imperial fumbling opportunities, including several missed touch kicks. LSE were quick to capitalise on a scrambling and disorganised IC defence. Following a loose ball, and a chip through chased by winger Joe Mondadori, LSE were first to score in the corner, much to the delight of their supporters. The conversion, however, was sent wide, sparing IC an extra two points.

LSE kept momentum and were able to move up the pitch through a sequence of offside. As per before though, the set piece proved to be an issue for them, as they lost the maul from the lineout, and then the consequent scrum. Remarkably resilient, the team rallied with enormous shots in defence, keeping IC around the

fence well to turn it over again.

The relief didn't last long as fly hacks through from dropped balls and a long-lasting barrage of forwards attacks from LSE pinned IC on their line. IC battled enormous pressure for several minutes but kept their cool and managed to escape with the score unscathed.

Following a series of IC attacks that led nowhere, a penalty granted LSE an opportunity to kick for 3, which was yet again missed, fortunately for IC. The trench warfare-like slog for ground continued from both sides. The first break through for Imperial came following a superbly executed backs move, setting up winger Spencer Ingall to ride the momentum and go over the LSE line for a try. A successful conversion secured Imperial a 7-5 lead.

LSE struck back almost immediately, with a try under the posts after a quick tap-and-go, and strong forward attack, converted by Ounsley. There was little time to celebrate, however, as IC exerted an incredible amount of pressure in LSE's 22-metre line following a ruthless



Credit: Rolando Charles for Imperial Rugby

Last lineout for final Fraser.



# Imperial dominate at LUSL fest

► *Imperial make up one third of the teams in LUSL finals, with victories in Badminton and Basketball*

Credit: LUSL



Imperial Men's Basketball 1s beat Goldsmiths 1s in the LUSL cup final.

**Sid Halder** Badminton Mixed 1s Captain

The pinnacle of the 2023 LUSL badminton competition, the LUSL cup final, was played out on an eventful Saturday morning at Royal Holloway on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023. An all-Imperial clash highlighted the extensive badminton talent present at the College, with no other London university being able to keep up. Imperial Medics defied all expectations with their outstanding run to the final. Imperial Mixed 1s have struggled to perform in the cup in recent history, with some heart-breaking losses to UCL and KCL in previous years. The team, led by me and vice-captain Karen,

were determined to go all the way this year. There was all to play for in an unofficial Imperial Varsity game!

The first hurdle was actually getting to the Egham venue on time – Sid had to make sure everyone was actually awake by 7am. Luckily, no hiccups occurred, although the same couldn't be said about some of the Medics (who shall not be named) who missed their train. Luckily all players eventually arrived and matches could commence. Karen and Sid won all three matches comfortably against their Medic opponents, with Karen carrying and providing emotional support to Sid as always. The (basically) freshers Mihir and Tvishi had a tougher time, es-

Credit: LUSL



Imperial College and Medic teams face off to be LUSL cup champions.

## Georgia Smith

**BUCS regional competitions coordinator and LUSL administrator talks to Felix**

**T**his season marked the ten year anniversary of London University Sports League (LUSL) so we went especially big for LUSL Fest this year. Following a risk of snow earlier in the week, I breathed a massive sigh of relief to wake up on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> and see that the sun was out. It was brilliant to see we had full attendance from all the teams invited to battle it out to be crowned LUSL Cup and Plate winners.

We had 14 fixtures across nine sports with over 450 students from nine different universities. This meant that Royal Holloway was buzzing with activity as participants were cheered on by with family members, academic peers, and pets.

There were so many close games, with only marginal gaps between our winners and runners up, and that shows the high standard of sport we have in LUSL. Likewise, the level of sportsmanship from all attendees was admirable; all teams were respectful of one another and match day officials, making the day a real pleasure to deliver and underpinning the strong values of spirit of sport we have within LUSL.

We hope all participating teams, champions or runners up, enjoyed the day and are now motivated to try to reach the final again in the 23-24 season!

Video highlights from the event will be posted on Instagram @luslsport within the next few weeks.

pecially from Medics Andy and Sophie who played brilliantly, but managed to pull through and win three matches despite Tvishi being headshotted. The Medics won their first match with Andy and Sophie beating Tom and Fuyue in two sets, a surprise victory but well deserved for the resilient medics. Tom and Fuyue bounced back to crushingly win their next two matches.

With that, the win was sealed: Imperial Mixed 1s won 8-1 and were crowned LUSL cup champions after

nine-odd years! Sid was close to tears as he lifted the trophy for the first time, his lifelong ambition finally being achieved. There were smiles all round and many laughs when Fuyue completely mistimed the trophy lift. Well done and thank you to the Imperial Medics for such a fun and competitive final. It has been such a monumental season for both Imperial teams and we hope to have inspired the next generation of Imperial mixed players.

## SPORT

# IC win 27-12 at the Imperial Varsity

Credit: @alekziol for Imperial Athletes



Supporters cheer on teams at Imperial College Sports Ground in Harlington.

IC got off to a flying start thanks to victories across the board for IC Badminton Men's 1s and 2s, Women's 1s and Mixed teams. The Cricket Men's 3s, 2s, and 1s,

IC's clean sheet. With the wind in IC's sails, it was time to get in the water for the headline event. The IC 2s set the precedent with a win, followed by convincing

**Isabella Ward** Co-Editor-in-Chief

As Sport Editor, I have been looking forward to the Imperial Varsity – a weekend of sport which sees Imperial College clubs (IC) face off Imperial College School of Medicine (ICSM) teams – for a long time, and not only because it is a celebration of sport at Imperial. Readers may

have noticed that *Felix* very rarely features instances of Imperial teams losing the game. This is not because Imperial rarely lose (believe me, having monitored BUCS and LUSL scores weekly, this is far from true) but because, often only victorious teams want to send me content. In fact, several teams have even pulled out of sending reports after faring worse in games than they anticipated (you know who you are). So it is a relief to me that, however the games go, at the Imperial Varsity, an Imperial victory is guaranteed.

## Friday sees clean sweep for IC 12-0

and the Women's 1s maintained IC victories in the Women's and Men's 1s games, counting for double points.

## Another annual devastating defeat in Waterpolo

**Angelo Battistini, Juan García Rodenas**  
IC Swim and Waterpolo

Another year, another Varsity, and another great win for Imperial College Swim and Water Polo (ICSWP). Varsity is one of the most hotly anticipated meetups of the year for ICSWP and their Medic counterparts, ICSMWP, and this year was no different. In an Ethos filled to capacity with eager spectators, the rivalry between IC and ICSM reached levels higher than the pre-covid era. Indeed, throughout the season, both teams have shared players for national and regional competitions, leading the Medics to gain 1st place in London league, while IC qualified to the final of the LUSL cup (to be played this Friday). So, it was with great anticipation that both sides assembled themselves at Ethos on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

In a twist with respect to the latest years, this year a grand total of three games were played, with an outstanding performance from all the six teams participating.

After Sean's excellent goal in the first quarter, it was quickly clear to that this year would be just

like every other year: incredibly painful and downright depressing for the Medics. With IC 2s captain Nic leading the charge, the result was never really in doubt. Despite a brief flicker of hope in the second quarter when the Medics managed to get ahead by one goal, IC buckled down during the third and fourth quarters, when Medic enthusiasm and aggression gave way to our discipline in defence (partially thanks to the screams and compulsive hand-waving of the acting-coach Betsy) and ruthless efficiency in attack. IC won the tough but exciting game 5-7.

Next up were the Women's 1s, led by the immense Philo. After a one-year hiatus, IC girls were back in action and in incredible form, playing harder, faster and stronger than the Medics could handle. This game didn't even give them an opportunity to equalise, as goal after goal was scored in an impressive demonstration of precision and power from IC. The girls also demonstrated some excellent defensive plays, forcing the Medics to always be on the back foot when in IC's side of the pool, struggling just to get a ball on target,

sive player still trying to catch up. The final score of 6-1 to IC really reflects just how little chance the Medics had.

The final game was between the Men's 1s. Despite IC's coach shamelessly playing for the Medics, nothing could stop the inevitable. With a long bench that would keep the boys fresh and well-rested, ICSWP played some excellent polo.

let alone score against one of the best goalkeepers in the league, Megan. Even when given the opportunity to take penalties, Megan acted as a literal wall, saving three of the Medics' attempts and ruining many a Medic's hopes and dreams. IC star player Matilda left the Medics clueless during counters, often leading the charge with some excellent one-on-ones which the Medics could do little but watch, their nearest defen-

Credit: @alekziol for Imperial Athletes



Teams battle it out in water polo in an Ethos packed to capacity.

IMPE

VAR

20

concluded the evening with a 14-7 victory.

In summary, it was a very hot and exciting Friday evening. After a hard-fought, and, at times, intense season, it was heart-warming to see all teams display their full range of waterpolo abilities and win so convinc-

ingly. ICs Women 1s and Mixed 2s teams were both formed just this year and seeing them perform so cohesively and with such vigour was a spectacle few could have imagined in October. After all the games were done, all teams descended on the Un-

ion, for a night of reconciliation with the Medics, who desperately needed the emotional support. Medics, IC wishes you the best of luck for 2024, you'll need it.

Credit: @alekziol for Imperial Athletes

## Saturday's scramble for points

Saturday saw ICSM scramble to close the gap, but to no avail, as IC won 15 points to ICSM's 12, concluding the Imperial Varsity with a 27-12 victory for IC.

On the Netball court, ICSM nearly had a clean sweep of victories across all five teams, marred only by a close IC victory for the 4s. Nextdoor, however, ICSM fared less well as wins in both the Tennis 1s and 2s games went to IC.

ICSM Men's Lacrosse 1s, Rugby 1s, and Football 1s and 2s won their games, as did Women's Touch

Rugby, whilst victories went to IC in Mixed and Women's Lacrosse, as well as Women's, Men's 3s and 4s Football.

Results for headliners Hockey were also a mixed bag, as ICSM won the Women's 1s and 3s games whilst victories for the Women's 2s and Men's 2s, 3s and 4s went to IC. A tense Men's 1s game concluded the event by going to penalty flicks, with IC's Justin Mak scoring the winning goal. After an exciting two days, IC win 27-12.



Men's Hockey close the competition.

## IC takes narrow victory in Netball 4s game

an early lead. Strong defence from IC Goal Defence and team captain Hannah, and quick conversions of the team's own centre pass to a goal – much owed to the incredible stamina of Centre Bea – narrowed the gap, and at the end of the first quarter, the Medics were only up 9-8.

From the strong show put on by IC by the end of the first quarter, it was clear to them that they were in with a shot of winning, and, reinvigorated, returned ready to put up a good fight. The attack sharpened, and Goal Shooter Emma and Goal Attack Vivienne became more daring with their movement and shots, evading their defenders with ease and creating more opportunities to get the ball into the circle. The shooting accuracy was admirable and the performance put on by Vivienne earned her Player of the Match. The tremendous effort brought the score to 16-14 to IC.

Throughout the third quarter, the teams remained neck and neck. Each goal was hotly contested, and pressure was mounting from the supporters on the sidelines. The Medics' defence took full advantage of missed goals with a notable sense of urgency, trying to clear out their defensive end as quickly as possible. They were not met without resistance, however; in one instance, momentum for the Medics following a rebound in the IC attacking circle was destroyed by an outstanding interception from IC Wing Defence Mariam, who, having plucked the ball out the air midway through its trajectory into the

Medics' attacking third, quickly sent it back down the court. The exhausting 15 minutes concluded in a draw for that quarter, meaning IC kept their two-goal lead.

In the final quarter, the Medics stayed hot on their heels and at one point IC only led by a single goal. Having to fight so fiercely made for a gruelling game, but the encouragement from supporters on the sidelines cheering on (and only minorly heckling) the teams motivated players to keep going. The impressive and close standard of gameplay made for an enthralling watch for us spectators.

IC did eventually manage to re-establish their two-goal lead, but such was the sustained high energy of the Medics' attack that this did not give IC any breathing space. When the final whistle went, cementing an end score of 34-32, there was audible relief from IC that they had managed to fend off the Medics for long enough.

As supporters rushed to con-

gratulate both teams on their play and the captains popped their customary bottles of prosecco, it was written on the faces of the players that this was a fantastic way to conclude the season.

Simultaneously, the 5s had been playing on the adjacent court. The Medics made for a powerful opposition, with great defense making it difficult for IC to score. They capitalised on this and patiently worked the ball down the court and safely into their shooting circle, securing a well-deserved win and making for celebrations all-round.

Credit: @alekziol for Imperial Athletes



Team captain Hannah puts on pressure in the ICSM attacking circle.

ERIAL  
SITY  
23

Isabella Ward Co-Editor-in-Chief

Saturday morning saw the 4s from IC and ICSM Netball face each other. Some of the players, at least for IC, had never even played before October. Through training weekly and playing in the London Universities Sport Leagues, they have picked up the rules and rhythm of the game and, by the time the Imperial Varsity rolls around, showcase fluid gameplay.

This drew a crowd of supporters to watch, despite the rain, and it proved to be an engrossing game. Both teams started strong but the Medics took

## SOCIETIES

# Carpe Diem - Poets of Imperial

► Meet Onali and Dan, leads of the Poetry Society at Imperial and owners of their audiences' hearts...

Charlotte Probstel Societies Editor

Poetry isn't STEM-related. It is the slight escape of science because it is completely different," said Dan, the founder and current lead of Imperials Poetry Society. The third-year Biology student began searching in the middle of the pandemic for like-minded students with a passion for poetry. As a STEM university, our education in humanitarian subjects such as Literature, Law, Drama, and Visual Arts is minimal, as shown by the few literary novels stacked on the fifth floor of our Central Library. Nonetheless, Imperial students' artistic sides breathe within our societies.

With 110 members gathered since 2021, the society never lacks conversation even when 7-8 people appear every Wednesday between 6-8 pm at the usual meeting in Meeting Room 1 of the Unions Beit Quad. When asking the members about the atmosphere, Onali, a second-year medical student and the society's Publicity Officer commented: "The people who show up are all different in terms of what they read and explore. But they all have one thing in common: the share. You can say anything here whether you like something or not. The pressure is low and if you disagree, the mood is relaxed. The



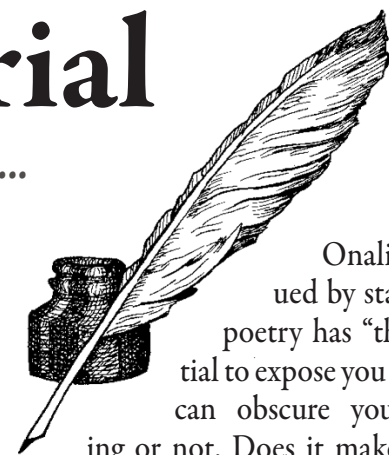
**IT IS THE SLIGHT ESCAPE OF SCIENCE**

members are warm and very inviting". "The discussion is rich. [The members] are there to chill, have tea and biscuits" added Dan. I witnessed the openness later that night at their Open Mic Night when I performed two self-written poems and received kind applause.

Compared to LSE and Kings, which offer economics, law, literature, and various other related subjects, Imperial is "isolated because [it] has no humanities

[courses]. We are locked in the STEM atmosphere. It is a bit cold," said Onali. That is why she is aiming to build a community of poetry societies from other London Universities such that members can exchange poetry with English students. Despite our lack of a Literature Department, Onali pointed out that "at Imperial, we have more range in the po-

"The very last thing poetry is is a poem." (*The Wind in the Willows*, Zaffar Kunial), read Sophie, one of the members at the open mic night. Dan echoed a similar point when he commented: "Powerful images are indirect. When you say things clearly, they are not impactful. Saying the truth is boring. To make it art, you al-



Onali continued by stating that poetry has "the potential to expose you a lot. You can obscure your meaning or not. Does it make it more expressive when you obscure your



**SAYING THE TRUTH IS BORING. TO MAKE IT ART, YOU ALTER YOUR SPEECH TO MAKE IT HIDDEN, DEEP AND INTENSE**



## The Wind in the Willows

Unread, the book was all shades of distance but I knew the title and the title stuck. Mossy cover. Hazed interior. The species too. I'd say, if asked, it was my favourite kind of tree, though it was never with one certain tree in mind. There was a garden

I vaguely remember, the way the leaves curtained like shadows. A lit cave. A fringe, not yours, you could look through. And the wood that grew by flowing water carved cricket bats, which was a part of the little I also knew. Maybe it was all a little to do with letters too, the tongueless

trees of that printed double l, or the uncrowing tall Ws of *The Wind in the Willows*; maybe it was all aural – an echoed 'in', Wind in... the open-mouthed billowy lows – maybe the leaf-fringed mystery, between the two. And speaking of poetry, I had this initiating thought: in

the flax-smelling grain of the first bat I was gifted wind was contained. Old power locked. A gravity well beyond mine. Light enough, slight arms could lift it. Wind in willow, this percussive wood a gathered strength. A mutual bind. Though I was far from writing – or this book –

that sense, I suppose in spirit, was poetry and early.

The very last thing poetry is is a poem.

Zaffar, Kunial

etry because so many members pursue it themselves." It is not taught in school or driven by a teacher. It is original and unique. It is also completely voluntary, meaning the students can just close their eyes and relish in meaningful words, and allusions to other poets and enjoy the rhythm of an iambic pentameter.

ter your speech to make it hidden, deep, and intense, but you risk obscurity. You may conjure different images. Otherwise, the reader will feel something new. It's not about telling a fact or providing information; it's always about the experience of art. I cannot put it into words. Art is always much more than its origin."



collective than they would line by line; especially when you take the song-writers life and history into perspective.

“There are two worlds of poetry. In



**POETRY DIDN'T SPEAK TO ME IN CLASS. IT IS ONLY WHEN YOU EXPERIENCE POETRY ON YOUR OWN, THAT YOU APPRECIATE IT.**

one, you are solitary with your aesthetic. You don't need anyone else to live. The second side is purely performative. We try to accommodate both interests,” mentioned Dan. Last year, they focused on traditional forms of poetry and this year, the society is more open to spoken poetry. Open mic nights, which are open to everyone, are fun events to combine written interest into classical poetry.

Consequently, the poets within the society take advantage of the city

they live in and regularly attend poetry readings around town. Outings to the Bloomsbury festival in April are also on the agenda, as members can appreciate insightful pieces of art. Otherwise, the leading team organizes workshops, where they look into different poetic styles, watch a few performanc-

es, discuss the poems and dive into conversations about metaphysical abstraction and how poets abstract themselves from the world and their bodies.

If you love reading, writing, and/or eye-opening abstract discussion, then the Poetry Society may be the place for you. You may discover a hidden passion

for writing, as you can be just you. There is only one right way to express yourself: by being yourself. The words are for you to juggle and use as you feel right.

Until next time,  
Charlotte

## I ask

Give me a life  
Where I can dance without brows frowning  
Laugh without the sound drowning  
Smile without giving wrong intentions  
Talk freely, without excruciating tensions

Give me a day  
Where the sun shines her pure skin  
Lets me forgive the past, my sin  
I can close my eyes to breathe in  
Forgive me, let the sun sink in

Give me the end of a week  
Of pure bliss,  
oh why does end it so soon?  
Don't leave me alone to seek  
for its my love, for its she I will miss  
when sitting alone in my room

Give me a month

Which hides my worries in all four corners  
And eats my knotted thoughts for dinner  
Lights a scented candle and for once  
Beyond my imagination without borders  
Distracts me with the book that never gets thinner

Give me two seasons

Let me soak in the shades of dark green oak  
Or lay in the freedom of a subtle beige beech  
Take my little toes where I hear toads croak  
Lead my hand and let me give my speech

Give me a year, a decade,  
a century of love

For I don't know when I  
will be greeted by a white dove

Emily Jacobi

# The Voice for International Students in the UK

► *Meet Master's students Anouk Stricher and Laura Malaussene, who advise to international students about living in the UK*

Charlotte Probstel Societies Editor

Imagine walking to university in your first year, and you have no idea how to budget your new profound adult freedom. You listen to your new favourite podcast and hear Laura and Anouk teach you, while you watch out for oncoming traffic or perhaps enjoy the beautiful weather. You focus on

Credit: Anouk and Laura

their voices and imagine yourself sitting across them in Laura's room. There may or may not be a guest with them, who shares their story and the lessons they learned. You arrive at campus, satisfied with having learned something new before the first class of the day starts.

Catering or non-catering? On-Campus or Off-Campus? Living alone or with flatmates? Anouk Stricher and Laura Malaussene share their answers to those questions in their up-and-coming podcast “International Students Voices” (ISV), where they discuss their experience as international students in the UK. The two French students met while completing Bachelor of Arts degrees in Communication and Media

at the University of Leeds. Now Anouk has joined the Imperial Business School to pursue an MSc in Strategic Marketing, while Laura is studying for an MA in Public Relations at the University of Arts, London.

The project started in 2020, when Anouk and Laura left their hometowns, crossed the English Channel, and found themselves lost in varying advice posted on student forums and given by the mass of YouTubers. They noticed there was very little content giving international students advice and guidance in a fun, entertaining and concise manner. They investigated the biggest issues that first-year undergraduates experience, such as housing, degree change, and part-time jobs by reading the 50 replies to their survey. Fast-forward to their graduation summer and their first episode was re-

Credit: Anouk and Laura

**International Student Voices**

The ISV Logo

leased in September 2022. Each episode is at most 20 minutes long, posted fortnightly on Spotify, Apple Podcast, and Google Podcast, and discusses the topics you can see on the next page.

As entrepreneurs, the two students made mistakes and improved their product quickly. In the beginning, the episodes were scripted and they barely made it past the 15-minute mark, but



Laura (left) and Anouk (right) in their graduation gowns

## SOCIETIES

13 episodes in and they have to stop themselves from going past the 20-minute limit. They no longer have anything pre-written, they talk naturally and comfortably into their shared microphone. They have also made their project in the most cost-efficient way. The softwares to post (Anchor for Spotify and Spotbin for others), the editing tool for their recordings (Audacity), and their website are either free or low-cost. The microphone is checked before each recording to ensure maximal professionalism.

You may ask yourself, especially as a second or third-year student: *Why do I need this? I already survived my first year.* Well, as the podcasts grow and Anouk and Laura are experiencing life, they plan to share their journey beyond life as undergraduates and postgraduates. Laura just confirmed a 12-month internship which she plans on starting after she graduates and her insights



Laura and Anouk recording their first episode

promote their podcast with pre-university students. They also reached out to the news stations back in their hometowns. Luckily, their bachelors degrees were instructive in teaching them the marketing, presentation and public relations skills required to share their product, and I must congratulate them for a job well done. The website looks professional, as well as its logo. If you look closely, you may find a hidden speech bubble in their logo. Can you find it? The answer will be at the end of this article.

Since every international student is different and has a different story, the two students are careful to avoid generalisation, however, they stay away from focusing on specific cases, such that everyone can feel

Credit: Anouk and Laura



Laura in their recording studio in Leeds

will be very useful for all of us who plan to enter the industry or start working after our degrees.

Their goal is to reach as many international students and they started by contacting their old high schools in order to

included. They invite multiple guest speakers, such as Maya, who discusses the benefits and downsides of living alone or with flatmates. They offered me a little sneak peek into their future by mentioning that their next speaker will talk about applying for a UK Visa and what it is like to be a non-Home student.

Further plans include summarising the key activities and restaurants of various UK cities, such as Leeds or London. This is to help international students compare cities in a quick manner. The team is constantly innovating and looking for ways to approach more and more students. And of course, they are open to listeners every day.

Let's say, you wanted to rent an apartment with your friend, but have no clue. You can a) try to figure it out yourself and make tons of rookie mistakes or b) privately DM Anouk and Laura on Instagram and ask if they have any advice. Be sure that if they do not know themselves, they will find a guest speaker with good advice. Now, not only will you learn about London's spectacularly friendly and honest housing market, with agents that will never rip you off or landlords that will give you the best price, but you will have added to all the other listeners' general knowledge. Who knows, you may prevent your classmate or peer from being scammed as many of us have been by housing agents.

All salty comments aside, Anouk and Laura are welcoming new topics and guest speakers to come and record an episode with them. It does not take long and it would be a fun way to be on a show. Check out the QR code to their

## Playlist

### Episode 1: Our first episode!

Welcome to the ISV Podcast! We are Laura and Anouk, two friends who have been sharing their international journey since the first year of university in the UK.

### Episode 2: Freshen up, it's freshers!

Have you just arrived or are you planning to arrive in the UK soon? From feeling homesick to budgeting, trust we've experienced it and so will you!

### Episode 3: Let's talk budget

Becoming a student comes with responsibilities. In this episode we discuss budgeting from creating your budget to managing it throughout university.

### Episode 4: Living alone vs with people

To live alone or to live with people, that is the question. Our very first guest, Maya, has come to discuss her experience living both with flatmates and on her own.

### Episode 5: Finding a part-time job

Whether you're looking to gain some experience, improve your CV or get some extra money, part time jobs is the best and most common option when you're an international student.

### Episode 6: Spending the winter break abroad

It's not always possible for international students to go home for the winter holidays. Ushua shares her experience having stayed over for Christmas in England, and gives ideas on social and festive activities to do in the months of November, December and January.

### Episode 7: All about host families

Have you ever heard of host families before, because we hadn't! We're joined by Max who goes through a detailed overview of his experience.

### Episode 8: Experiencing culture shocks

Experiencing culture shocks is completely normal and should be expected when you study abroad no matter what country you find yourself in. In this lighthearted episode, we both discuss a list of what we found and still find unusual, surprising and funny.

### Episode 9: Bachelor's Degree vs Master's Degree

Having experienced both, this episode highlights the key differences and similarities we have found between the degrees, as well as advice for those of you seeking to apply in the future.

### Episode 10: Day in the life international students edition

Every student's day can be different, but we decided to share a glimpse of what our day to day looks like as two international students living in the UK.

### Episode 11: A spotlight into hospitality at university

Working in hospitality as a student is extremely common. Today, Josie will talk about her experiences working in hospitality.

### Episode 12: Attending university Open Days

Open Days are a great way to get to know the universities that you have or want to apply to. As student ambassadors, we share our thoughts and advice on the topic.

### NEW: Episode 13: Changing study fields after your Bachelor's degree

If you're thinking about changing your field of study between your bachelor's and master's degrees, don't worry! Whilst it can be a challenging decision, following through with this switch can be the key to a fulfilling career.

website which links to their Spotify, Instagram and many more platforms.



Answer: The V in "Voices" looks like the speech arc of a speech bubble and surrounds the words "International Student"

# International Student

## Voices

Podcast

# International Student Voices

Laura Malaussene, Anouk Stricher

FOLLOW

Up next

- Episode 13: Changing study fields after your Bachelor's degree

If you're thinking about changing your field of study between your bachelor's and master's degrees, don't worry! In this episode we've invited a guest speaker who made a drastic switch in his field of study. Whilst it...

**About**

Are you a current student thinking In this podcast

Podcasts are available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts