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Felix

KEEP THE CAT FREE | SINCE 1949



ISSUE #1835

80-car convoy intercepted outside Imperial

Siya Gupta

Police helicopter deployed to stop convoy heading for Israeli Embassy. → READ MORE ON 3

NEWS

Ex-Imperial lecturer arrested

Manoj Sen has been served a caution after calling Jews 'circumcised vermin'.

→ READ MORE ON 4

Grantham Institute director blasts Rishi Sunak's climate U-turn

Alyssa Gilbert has co-authored a letter accusing the PM of 'watering down' UK climate commitments.

→ READ MORE ON 5

SCIENCE

Assessing the climate crisis with Dr Robin Lamboll

Dr Lamboll discusses his headline-making climate change report, featured on BBC News.

→ READ MORE ON 6

OUTSIDE THE BOX

Why companies make products that don't last

A discussion of planned obsolescence and the waste it produces.

→ READ MORE ON 7

FOOD&TRAVEL

You brought WHAT through customs?

→ READ MORE ON 13

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DECLARATION

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

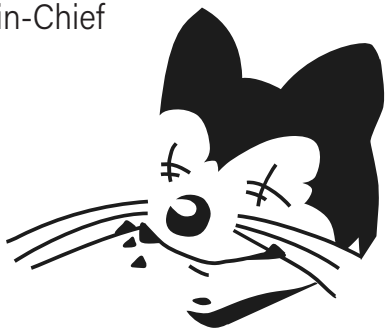
We will, to the best of our ability, tell you the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

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

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

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

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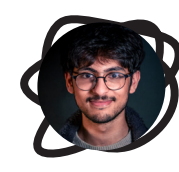
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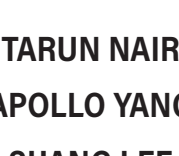
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NEWS

80-car convoy intercepted outside College



Siya Gupta

Police helicopter deployed to stop convoy heading for Israeli Embassy.

**Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN**

An 80-strong car convoy was intercepted by the Metropolitan Police outside Imperial College’s Main Entrance on Saturday, at around 11pm.

Road policing units, public order teams, and a police helicopter were deployed to the

scene.

“There were a lot of loud bangs, cars with Palestinian flags, and loud music,” said one onlooker, a first-year student describing the scene before police arrived.

A dispersal order was put in place, and all 80 cars were given notices ordering them to disperse and cease their participation in the convoy, or face being seized.

The convoy appears to have stopped outside the College, and the Met says the group had plans to travel to the Israeli Embassy, near Kensington High Street.

It is believed the cars set off from a car park in Hancock Road, Tower Hamlets, East London.



A Shahada flag waved outside the College Main Entrance. Siya Gupta

On its way into London, the convoy stopped twice on major roads – the A13 and the Limehouse Link Tunnel – ‘causing not only disruption but danger to other road users’.

“On previous occasions, convoys of cars have passed through Jewish communities with occupants waving flags and shouting anti-Semitic abuse,” said T/Commander Karen Findlay, in charge of the police operation.

“Our intervention on Saturday night was effective in stopping this convoy in its tracks, but now we need to identify those we suspect of being involved in offences earlier on their route.”

Officers are appealing for assistance in identifying 15 people suspected of involvement in offences earlier on the route.

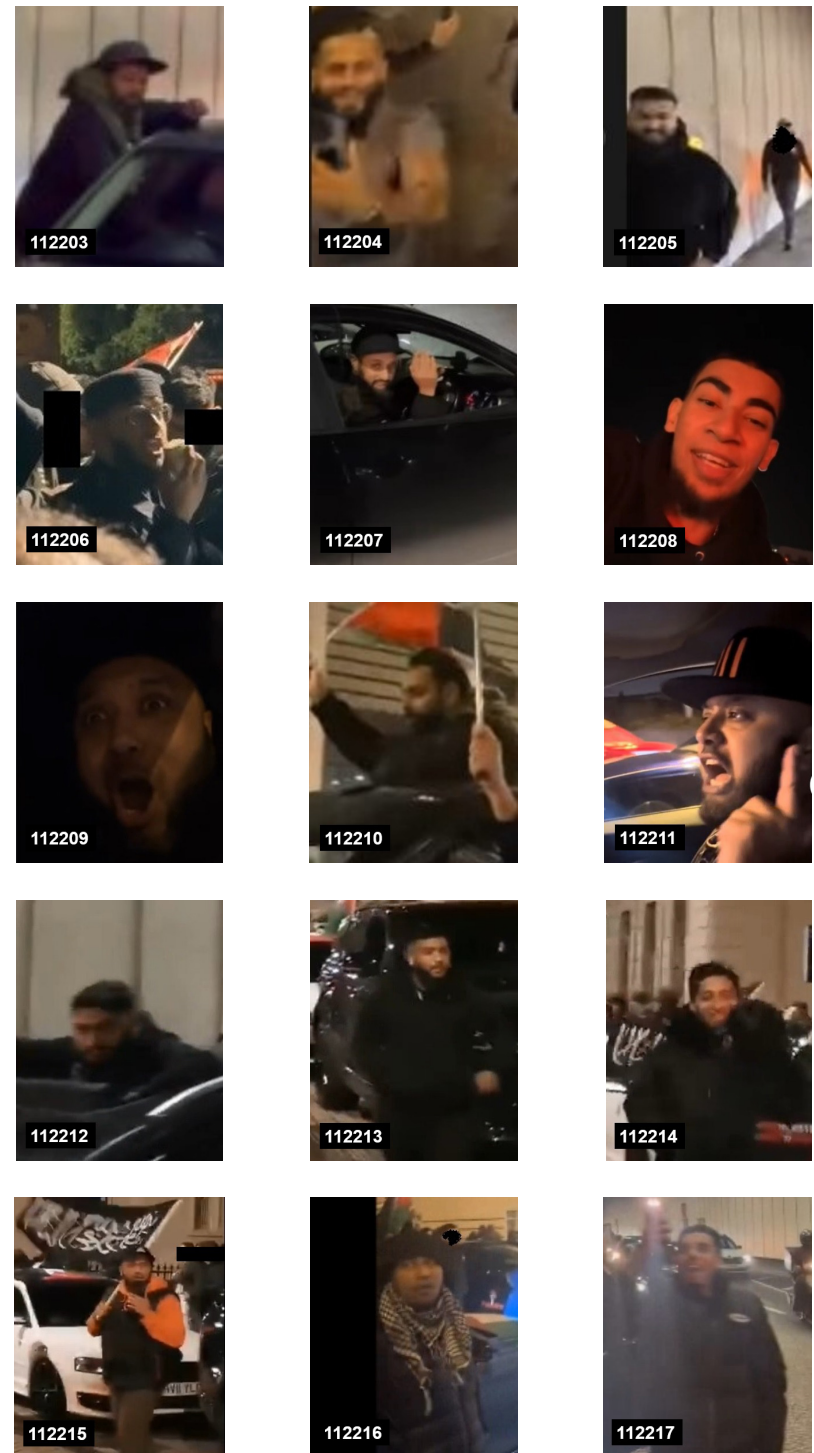
Anyone who can assist with identifying those in the images shared should call 101, providing the reference 4237915/23 along with the unique number in the bottom corner of the images being released (see right).

Information can also be given to the independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Imperial’s Friends of Palestine society has confirmed it had no part in Saturday’s events.

Have you seen these men?

Police are asking for assistance in identifying these 15 men. Those with information are asked to call providing the reference 4237915/23 and the unique number in the bottom left corner of the relevant image.



The convoy parked on Exhibition Road, outside the College Main Entrance. rabbanitweets, Twitter

Ex-Imperial lecturer arrested

Manoj Sen has been served a caution after calling Jews ‘circumcised vermin’.

**Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN**

Ex-Imperial lecturer Manoj Sen was arrested at his home in North West London on 10th November, and taken to Colindale Police Station, where he was questioned, before being served a caution.

Two days prior, Sen apologised for making a series of anti-Semitic comments on Facebook, including calling Jewish people ‘circumcised vermin’. Sen told *Felix* that he was very sorry for his remarks, calling them “a lapse for which I sincerely apologise and regret.”

He launched into the anti-Semitic tirade after a Dr Benjamin Zachariah questioned his sobriety.

‘Hope they hound you out from wherever you are Jew-boy,’ he told Zachariah, before using a slogan adopted by the Nazi-era newspaper *Der Stürmer* as its motto. During World War II, *Der Stürmer* regularly published articles calling for the genocide of the ‘Jewish race’.

In an email to *Felix* this Monday, Sen wrote:

‘I had entered into an altercation with someone I knew who happened to be a Jew and whose family has been well known to me for thirty years. This altercation had nothing whatsoever to do with the current Middle East conflict or Jews in general. Indeed I count Jewish people as my close friends.’

‘The anti-Semitic words I used were directed against one individual (whom I shall not name) who insulted me online in public. However the words I used were ill judged and for which I have issued verbal, online, and written apologies.’

‘I had retired from all clinical work due to ill health and had made the decision to do so in June 2023 and my last activity as Honorary Senior Lecturer at Imperial was back in 2017. I had not been “fired”.’

‘I sincerely regretted and apologised for any feelings I may have caused to anyone, specifically the Jewish people.’

‘I am now back to leading a quiet, retired life with my ongoing health problems my most immediate concern. Once again my deepest apologies to the Jewish people.’

Sen held an Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer in Imperial’s Faculty of Medicine until 2020, and before his retirement last month, was a colorectal surgeon at Northwick Park Hospital.

‘We do not tolerate hate speech or discrimination of any kind and take immediate action when such behaviour is brought to our attention,’ wrote a spokesperson



Retired surgeon Manoj Sen said he ‘sincerely regretted’ his remarks.

for London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust, which operates Northwick Park Hospital.

‘We continue to work closely with our teams to make sure that all our people feel comfortable in reporting unacceptable language or behaviour.’

Imperial referred *Felix* to a message sent to College members, that said: ‘Any form of racist or hateful behaviour, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, will not be tolerated and all incidents will be taken extremely seriously’.

The Metropolitan Police declined to comment.

Union calls on Imperial to condemn Israel’s ‘indiscriminate killing’ of Gazan civilians

**Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN**

Imperial College Union (ICU) has released a statement calling on Imperial College London to ‘take an official, public

stance condemning the indiscriminate killing of civilians by the Israeli government in Gaza, and to continue their condemnation of Hamas.’

The statement comes two weeks after College President Hugh Brady told students that providing “ongoing geopolitical

commentary” would compromise Imperial’s ability to “provide an open forum for debate”.

The College has so far steered clear of outright condemnation of Israel. It has criticised Hamas’s ‘terrible attacks’ and ‘the escalation of violence in Gaza’.

Hours after Brady’s message was sent, Union Council, the student body responsible for setting Union policy, voted through its motion calling on Imperial to condemn Israel’s retaliatory attacks.

That motion has now been approved by the Union’s board of trustees, with amendments.

The original motion passed by Union Council accused Israel of ‘targeting’ civilians, but the statement released this week contains no such accusation, referring only to ‘killing’.



Union Building, Beit Quadrangle, Imperial College London

Grantham Institute director blasts Rishi Sunak's climate U-turn

Alyssa Gilbert has co-authored a letter accusing the PM of 'watering down' UK climate commitments.

**Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN**

Grantham Institute Director of Innovation Alyssa Gilbert has co-authored a letter urging Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to rethink his new climate strategy.

'Watering down the country's climate commitments at this time risks sacrificing hard-won credibility that has been crucial to instilling business confidence and making the UK an attractive location for green investments,' reads the letter, written by leading climate entrepreneurs and policy experts.

It comes in the wake of Sunak's September 'speech on Net Zero', in which the Prime Minister signalled a rollback of the UK's net-zero plans, including delays to a ban on sales of new petrol and diesel cars,



Jamie John

and a scrapping of energy efficiency targets for UK homes.

Sunak slated those "who argue with an ideological zeal that we must move even faster and go even further no matter the cost or disruption to people's lives."

This week's letter hits back at the Prime Minister, asserting that there are 'clear benefits to rapid action on [the UK's net-zero goals], and huge risks to slowing down.'

Signatory and venture capitalist Greg-

ory Dewerpe accused the government of 'astonishing political short-termism' in its revised net-zero strategy.

The letter calls on Sunak to 'unleash growth by creating an economic plan that prioritises green investment' and 'leverage the power of innovation and technology to take real action on climate.'

'As the UK cleantech community gets ready for climate negotiations at COP28 next month, we have an opportunity on a global stage to show leadership.'

'We should recognise that investing in climate tech isn't just the right thing to do, it also has the potential to turbocharge our economy and offer a great return on investment.'

Among the signatories are UCL climatologist Professor Mark Maslin, and Hoa Doan, sustainability lead for start-up Notpla. Notpla was founded by two Imperial graduates and last year won Prince William's £1-million Earthshot Prize.

SCIENCE

Assessing the climate crisis with Dr Robin Lamboll

Felix talks with Imperial's Dr Robin Lamboll to discuss our remaining carbon budget.

Science Writer

EMILY WENTWORTH

A recent study by Imperial's Dr Robin Lamboll shocked the climate-science community and captivated the media, landing a spot on the front page of BBC News. This week, *Felix* sat down with Lamboll, Research Fellow at the Grantham Institute for Climate Change, to delve further into the details of the research.

A recap of the study

"The study looks at the remaining carbon, the amount we can emit before we exceed a certain temperature with a certain probability", Lamboll explained. "The international community agreed that we should try to be below 1.5°C and well below 2°C. For 1.5°C, the remaining carbon budget is really very small, approximately equal to six years of current emissions, and now that's nearly down to five years".

Lamboll's work made important adjustments to the method used in calculating the remaining carbon budget, which effectively shrank the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's prediction by half.

"The main part of that update was us now understanding that aerosols are cooling us slightly more than we thought." Aerosols are tiny particles in the atmosphere, released by processes like combustion. "One effect is that they change how clouds form. You've got all this particulate matter in the air, and they form nucleation sites, so aerosols can be a form of seeding for clouds." Clouds reduce the amount of sunlight reaching

to the Earth's surface by reflecting it. However, the reduction in use of fossil fuels means fewer aerosols are emitted, and therefore worsening the global climate.

Tackling the challenges of climate science

Lamboll's study, published in *Nature Climate Change*, explored the uncertainties that overshadow climate science. "We have to use a collection of social models and try to include all of these different types of uncertainty, which are along very different axes. With the social uncertainty, the problem becomes that they're not necessarily symmetric so there's much more chance that you're going to be hotter than the expected value. We use something called a generalized extreme value fitting."

Another uncertainty arises when considering the timing of net zero. "You can get to net zero by several different routes. The sooner you start reducing emissions, the longer you have to get to net zero, but if



For 1.5°C, the remaining carbon budget is very small, approximately equal to six years of current emissions, and now that's nearly down to five years.

you were going to do it linearly starting at the beginning of this year, which clearly we didn't, you'd have 12 years to get there." Despite this, Lamboll remains somewhat optimistic.

Read more in Issue 1833:



Dr Robin Lamboll, Imperial College Research Fellow at the Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London

"It's important to bear in mind that the climate can predispose you towards worse disasters, but humans almost always have opportunities to mitigate against that."

Political and economic factors determine the world's responses to climate research, as Lamboll elaborated:

"Government plans for reaching net zero by 2050 exist. There are still some question marks over bits of it, but we probably won't be very far off in this country. By contrast with the rest of the world, there are quite large fractions that have no net-zero plans for before 2060.

"The capacity to change obviously scales with the amount of money you have to bring about that change. We need to rely on international agreements."

"One of the really big problems with movement in the climate [policy] space is that it requires consistent action over a long period to motivate those social changes and those technological changes that bring about a greener world, but politicians work on very short timescales and therefore find it very difficult to set up systems that are going to deliver over those long timescales".

What's next?

When asked about his future research, Lamboll explained: "Some projects include looking at carbon debt, which is how much we have emitted in different countries relative to what our fair budget would be. Another project is trying to get absolute probabilities of climate impacts because we require those social and physics predictions".

Planned obsolescence refers to the designing of products to last only for a short period of use. This makes no sense at the surface level: why would you make something built to fall apart? As with many seemingly irrational commercial decisions, this can be explained by money. Companies can turn huge profits from cheap, non-durable products that need to be replaced frequently. This is highly resource inefficient, and creates unnecessary excess waste, much of which ends up in landfills long before it needs to.

A prime example of planned obsolescence sheer nylon stockings. In the 1940s, the women's garment industry realised the potential to make more money by selling more of these at cheaper prices. This led to a redesign of previously robust, good quality stockings to incorporate a 'laddering' issue, that creates holes and permanently disfigures them. Typically, the cheap, thin stockings produced by most major clothing manufacturers today only fulfil their purpose well for two or three wears before breaking, which means customers have to frequently purchase new sets of these stockings.

Apple's iPhone is another product that has been designed to swiftly become obsolete. Anyone who has owned an iPhone will have noticed that every time the tech company builds up to the release of new models, their older phones start to work slower and run out of battery more quickly. These issues, termed Batterygate, have been theorised to be built into Apple's software updates to incentivise customers to buy the latest phone.

Apple is also currently under investigation by French advocacy group Stop Planned Obsoles-

cence (HOP) for their practice of pairing, in which components are linked to specific devices through their serial number. This means that devices can recognise unregistered components and potentially be less compatible with them, which disincentivises their customers from repairing their phones in favour of buying a new one. HOP claims that this goes against the EU's 'right-to-repair' legislation, which requires manufacturers to make repair-and-maintenance information available to consumers and third-party repair services.

In many such cases, eventual obsolescence is so ingrained in product design that the consumer can do little to prevent it, and only recently brands started to revert back to the quality-over-quantity approach.

I recently had the pleasure of chatting with Laura Harnett, the founder of Seep, a brand looking to reinvent cleaning products to make them more durable, longer lasting, and less toxic to the environment than similar conventional products. Harnett noted a gap in the market for eco-friendly sponges, in which other products such as cleaning detergents have established alternatives like Ecover. Conventional sponges are made primarily of polyester and polyurethane, with an adhesive in between – these are worn down extremely quickly, and result in lots of microplastics

released down our drains and into our waterways. Seep aims to combat this by using only recycled or natural materials; for example, their sponge is made from recycled cellulose wood pulp and loofah plant fibres, with cotton thread to secure the spongy and scouring sides

together. Seep is not the only company making their mark in this fashion, but unfortunately breaking into existing markets as an eco-friendly alternative more often than not means losing money or making a much lower profit margin at the outset.

Why companies make products that don't last

Perceived obsolescence is multi-faceted, encompassing the view of products as only being useful or valuable when in good condition, as well as tying in the effect of trends on consumption. At some point

we have all experienced the targeted advertising that says you must have the latest shoes, make-up, television or celebrity collaboration from your favourite brand.

Trends are one of the greatest barriers to reducing consumption; we are heavily influenced by both our friends and role models to wear or use particular products, and owning items that are in fashion or from iconic brands has long been seen as a symbol of wealth and status. New isn't always better either; your three-year-old pair of sneakers is likely to be much more comfortable than the trendy fresh pair you just bought – and until they start to literally fall apart, they're likely to be equally as functional as when they were brand new – yet there is a satisfaction and self-esteem that comes with making that purchase.

One could even draw a link between perceived obsolescence and food waste, although this leads into a whole other discussion topic, and one that I won't spend too many words on here. So many food items remain edible long after their stated expiration or use-by date, with the exception of products such as milk, but it is much easier to avoid food poisoning by sticking to the date than by making your own judgement.

To effectively move towards a world in which our consumption is reduced and all our waste can be reused or recycled, a wide

behavioural change is needed on the part of consumers. But, more importantly, producers need to be driven to design products that can be recycled, and one approach to this is the policy of 'extended producer responsibility' (EPR), which extends the responsibility of producers to post-consumer products, so that they must manage their disposal at the end of their lifetime.

Another good practice is to encourage manufacturers to make goods in a modular way, so they can easily be replaced or mended when they fail; this is already done by Rolls Royce, who own all their engines, even those in use. This follows the EPR policy, while incorporating ease of maintenance and replacement for engines nearing the end of their life.

Furthermore, these concepts link to the potential for creating a 'shared economy', in which a wider variety of goods are treated as services that can be used by different people. An example of this is Circos, a children's clothing company that offers baby clothes for rent, since most are only worn a few times before the child grows out of them.

As it is, the market incentives of capitalism and consumerism are nuanced, and not in favour of creating an environmentally sound economy. This might seem pessimistic, because the foremost drivers of change to economic structure, sadly, are not environmental lobbyists. However, what such a dire scenario indicates is that there are plenty of avenues for such groups to form, and to advocate for and put into place the incentive structures that produce positive impacts. This is not a case of saturation, but one of infinite opportunity for a meaningful transition towards a sustainable future.

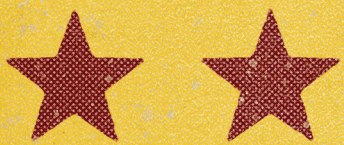


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COMMENT

20 Jewish students arrested for pro-Palestine protest

On why you should be worried about your rights as a student.

Comment Writer
ANONYMOUS

We like to think of prestigious universities such as our own as guardians of free speech. We look to these institutions to foster intellectual diversity; we trust them with the mission of making our world a more equitable place. However, there is a stark difference between their rhetoric and their actions.

In a decisive move against the right to freedom of expression, the police arrested 20 students at Brown University, in Providence, US, for protesting for an immediate ceasefire to the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Last Wednesday, the advocacy group 'BrownU Jews for Ceasefire Now' staged a peaceful sit-in protest on campus. Its message was clear, with its statement reading: 'In light of the ongoing genocide occurring in Gaza backed by American aid, weapons, media, politicians, and academic institutions, we, BrownU Jews for Ceasefire Now, call on Brown University to do its part to promote an immediate ceasefire and a lasting peace by divesting its endowment from companies that enable war crimes in Gaza.'

This is far from an isolated case – pro-Palestinian students have been consistently shunned by the university's media. The pro-Palestinian movement is

universally being painted as anti-Semitic; however, this accusation could not be further from the truth – as Ariela Rosenzweig, a researcher at Brown, explained, upon being interviewed by the *Boston Globe*. "As Jewish students, we've had enough of our university co-opting our identities to justify maintaining financial ties to an apartheid state and suppressing advocacy for Palestinian liberation."

In response to the protest, the local police forcibly removed them from campus. Despite being part

of a university that seeks to 'elevate voices across campus through a culture of questioning and active participation', as it claims to on its Admissions page, these students were met with unwavering hostility. This is just the most recent addition to a list of incidents in which student voices have been silenced.

But why should this matter to you, a student at Imperial? Together, with scholars from all around the world, we form a tight-knit community. We are the thinkers and leaders of tomorrow – yet, people such as us have had their rights stripped away by those they trusted most. Even as you are reading this, student voices are being suppressed. The right to freedom of expression cannot be applied selectively; everyone must have the right to express their beliefs, and we must stand in solidarity with those who cannot.

When interviewed by the non-profit newsroom *Prism Reports*, Stephen Hamad, a student representative of the group 'Students for Justice in Palestine' at George Washington University, commented that "there's particularly a reason why they focus so much of this repression on the student movement. And that in our eyes is because they understand the student movement is being a significant material threat [to the oppressor's narrative.]" Referring to the "scare tactics" used by institutions, Hamad continued by saying that instead of relying on US institutions, they, "find safety in the fabric of mutual care and in the fabric of community-centred and collective action".

Imperial is a diverse community. We come from all corners of the globe and all walks of life. Because of this, we fight many battles. As a collective, we advocate for a great plethora of causes; we each raise our voices in the hope of making our world a better place. We should not stand idly as our peers are forced to stay silent.

This is not just a Palestinian problem. If we accept the silencing of the Palestinians, we accept that we ourselves can and will be silenced.



Imperial is not immune to this issue – recent events are not and should not be taken as one-time incidents Xiang Hong Tan

BOOKS

Yellowface by R. F. Kuang hits the mark, sometimes

Book Club's November pick: a witty take on the failings of an industry.

Books Writer
DELIA GINCU

R.F. Kuang's *Yellowface* tells the story of a literary heist. When the acclaimed author Athena Liu dies in her apartment, a friend from college, June, is right there with her. June steals her late friend's manuscript, and publishes it under her own name. It propels her from flop to bestseller, a writer sailing at Icarian heights of success. What comes after, however, is a series of intrigues: June attempts to cover up her theft, and faces challenges in the literary industry, all while trying to find her next hit story.

Praised by *The Sunday Times*, *Time* magazine, and the horror writer Stephen King himself, *Yellowface* has made waves far beyond Kuang's loyal readership, capturing the attention of thousands of readers worldwide.

The novel tells the tale of a once-friendly rivalry turned vitriolic, exposing the unholy methods used to progress in the merciless publishing industry. The nimble pace of narration makes *Yellowface* a quick and enjoyable read. Kuang uses her deft prose and an original plotline to highlight racism, tokenisation of minority writers, and the prevalent

dog-eat-dog culture in the industry. This sardonic portrayal of the literary 'road to the top' possesses a certain sense of charming irony, as it seems almost like Kuang is describing *Yellowface's* path: are these signs of a bestseller in the making?

But where it tries to incorporate elements of the thriller genre, it fails in its prose to cast a gripping narrative. Scenes intended as suspenseful fail to deliver their promised punch, and as a consequence, they instead come across as rather unsatisfactory.

And sometimes, Kuang's criticism



For an account of everything wrong with the publishing industry, read on!

of the literary publishing industry is so explicitly voiced that the writer may as well be holding a sign with big, flashing arrows saying: 'For an account of

everything wrong with the publishing industry, read on!'

It never particularly feels that the narrator is one step ahead of the reader. Indeed, some plot lines are so evidently planted and left unfinished in the first two-thirds of the book that their ultimate entanglement can be seen from miles away, dissolving any tension before it is allowed to precipitate in the first place.

In June, Kuang conjures an extremely self-righteous protagonist who is hard to sympathise with. Though easily digestible and entertaining to read, her inner monologues feel childish and petty. The reader is thus confronted by a narrator, whose character flaws mercilessly strip away any account of credibility.

All things considered, *Yellowface* presents a clever and facetious take on the publishing industry's faults that expose its deep-rooted, systemic failings. The novel's thriller elements feel somewhat out of place, noticeably engineered to come together at the end. However, when they do arise, it is worth the thrills. *Yellowface* is a fun, quick read, though suffering from an episodic lack of subtlety.



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ARTS

DramSoc's Waiting for Godot

A bold and challenging play well executed.

Arts Writer

CALUM DRYSDALE

DramSoc's production of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* was an impressive showing by a society showing off its theatrical chops. A difficult play, Ben Meacher and Manu Greenfield as Vladimir and Estragon led the play with panache and seemed to have a good chemistry with one another. In difficult roles they performed well and confidently. They could, however, have benefited from picking up on their cues faster and increasing the variety of the pacing they used in their lines as some sections felt monotonous and unnatural. There were moments of highly polished dialogue when all actors ran on oiled wheels and lines flowed smoothly from one to the next. However, it was hard not to notice the moving back and forth between the practised and less practised sections of the play. On the less positive side, engaging with the audience was an idea that should have been left in the rehearsal room. The play already has humorous sections but mugging to the audience only served to undermine the more serious sections of the play.

Stars of the show were certainly Roman Lewis and So-



Roman Lewis, twisted and in pain as Lucky Imperial DramSoc

phie Stevenson as Lucky and Potso. Potso commanded the stage, sometimes so well that other actors were often overshadowed. Stevenson made Potso a towering spidery scarecrow of a character, scuttling and bellowing across the stage. A malevolent presence, she was brilliant as a truly frightening figure, swinging rapidly from generosity to malevolence and back. Her decline in the second act was made even more tragic having seen the heights from which she had fallen. A tour de force and I hope that she will continue to act for the society going forward.

Lewis's commitment to the role was extraordinary, bending and contorting his large frame in a way that

was truly horrifying to witness. His famous monologue was well performed if idiosyncratic. He chose to break up his Think with pauses and movement in a way that was not completely successful. The use of language in the passage, however, was striking and reached its audience more powerfully than many other productions had achieved. Another talent that I hope the society will foster.

Final commendations to the set and tech. The set was minimal with a single gaunt and striking tree that dominated the stage and would not have been out of place in an independent London theatre.

Hamnet: The perils of adapting a book too closely

Hamnet was a book that many read during Covid. It felt both strikingly modern and deeply grounded in the tradition of British historical fiction. Tragically, however, the play does not live up to the book. Like a butcher displaying the different cuts of beef, the play chopped up the book into a crude mockery of its source material. The decision to stick obsessively close to the plot and to drop the book's non-linear storytelling required a vast amount of scenes and dialogue to be squashed into a play

of two and a half hours. Nuance and subtlety were lost as actors powered through story beat after story, beat before stripping and remaking the stage for the next moment of forced drama. Each scene could, by necessity, only last a few minutes due to the sheer volume of material that had to be covered. Where the book danced lightly, allowing readers to draw the connections and feel the horror of Hamnet's oncoming death, the play felt like a plodding teledrama novella.

Furthermore, the play betrayed the spirit of the book. In the novel, the boy's life and fatal decision were woven through the book's story. This allowed the reader to imagine the emotional turbulence that Will and Agnes Shakespeare must have felt with him gone. Their one son, whose birth and life, that they viewed their whole life as preparation for, is snatched away from them, sending them into the depths of grief.

FOOD&TRAVEL

You brought WHAT through customs?

If it is as small as a pack of spices or as large as a kilogram of bacon, it will travel from all over the world into London.

Travel Editor

CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

Before I left London to travel home, my friend asked me to come back with a loaf of bread for them. For avid Food&Travel section readers, the previous issue revealed my distaste for British bread and love for the German sort, as well as how I bring my own mixes from home. My friend always returns with mountains of cheese rarely found in London's many foreign grocery stores, hence I became curious and set out to gather some data about the types of food eaten by international students.



A suitcase with food in it Ruby Lydford / Felix Illustrator



Ciobar Hot Chocolate
delicatezza.co.uk



Grana Padano
somersefoodie.com



Maggi Masala Noodles
amazon.co.uk



Mitmita Ethiopian Spice
etsy.com

What does London not provide?

Ten students completed the survey sent out last week about food from their cultures. Surprisingly enough, the most common answer was not a meal such as pasta; it was spices. Specifically, eight spices: sumac, turmeric, garam masala, red chili powder, cumin seeds, Kashmiri chilli from India, pepper, mitmita

any frozen food, such as the stuffed grape leaves mentioned by an Omani Lebanese student and Moroccan sweet pastilla.

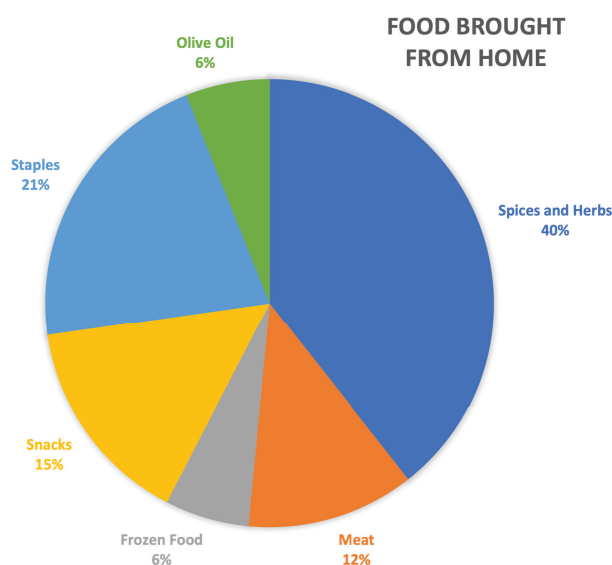
There is no place like home

Besides the food, one student brought a rice cooker from Hong Kong. Having bought a rice cooker (which was anything but) in the Netherlands myself, I understand that countries that eat rice every day will develop the best tools for their cuisine. Another thing: cheese from Italy. One student brings grana padano parmesan, which can be found in the UK under the same name, but probably not with the same taste.

In a city as international as London, it becomes easy to find a couple of places that represent your culture. However, whereas a restaurant might claim to be authentic to a cuisine, it does not take long to doubt the authenticity. Take Winter Wonderland. Last year, I went to the spectacle that is Hyde Park's winter pride and found myself disappointed by the German food they claimed to serve. Käsespätzle, a unique cheese dish in southern Germany and Austria, was served as a common mac-and-cheese plate. It is completely understandable if an enterprise cannot find the correct ingredients in the UK – something which many international restaurants struggle with – however there is a difference, for instance, between pho and noodle soup. I think many readers might find such moments familiar. You not only taste the difference on your buds, but feel the difference in your heart.

Customs versus food

Although my initial reaction to the survey often included the words “customs” and “how?”, it was clear in the research that meat and dairy from the EU are allowed to pass through customs. Only non-EU countries are banned from bringing any animal-related food through the border. I do hope to hear more stories about what students prioritise when packing food from their home country. Now, I hope my friend does not get caught, because her cheese does not have the visa to enter the UK.



An overview of the survey data Charlotte Probstel / Travel Editor

from Eritrea, as well as seaweed seasoning from Hong Kong. Two people mentioned olive oil, of which one also wrote that they brought zaatar, a herb from the Middle East.

Noodles, chocolate, and bacon

Among the submissions were Moroccan dumplings called briouate, bread, sausages, hams, Polish kabanosy, instant noodles by companies such as Maggi, lentils, and curry cubes. Obviously, no fresh or easily spoiled items were mentioned. As for snacks, there were mostly nuts, raisins, dried fruits, an Indian dessert called kaju katli, pepernoten from the Netherlands, and chocolate bonbons called Sonho de Valsa from Brazil. Reading all of these submissions gave a nice understanding of the food missing in London, but also the specialties of each country. Italian smoked bacon must be pretty good for it to be worth flying home, as one student did. The same applies to

PHOTOGRAPHY

City Silence

When was the last time you did absolutely nothing?

Scan the QR code to submit for the next theme 'Accidental Renaissance':



Urban Oxymoron Callum Marshall

Head Photographer ROLANDO CHARLES

Stephen West, on episode #160 of the podcast *Philosophize This!*, talks about silence in terms of meaning and systems of values. He discusses the book *The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air* by Søren Kierkegaard, the 19th-century philosopher, which denotes some traits that we must follow to create meaning, starting with silence, obedience and joy. Stephen states that, in our daily lives, we are constantly immersed in noise. On our commute, at work, at university,

and at home, there is always some sort of background chatter, and not just in the literal sense. We are often distracted by our phones and by our to-do lists, and always concerned about the next task, assignment, or promotion. But somewhere beyond this realm of habitual concern is the opposite of thinking: silence.

This week's theme was intended to capture a moment of that precious, rare silence. But what does the city have to do with it? I believe there is some nuance to this 'city silence' combination. Yes, silence implies the absence of communication, but it also help us listen to our environment, enter into communion

with other creatures, people, and shared spaces, such as a city. In this sense, 'city silence' is both an egocentric and ego-less concept.

Let us come back to photography. Callum represents this silence in an incredibly eloquent manner. High Street Kensington is a very touristy and extremely busy area in London, and we always expect people to buzz around the main tube station moving to and fro. This photo, however, captures a singular moment when all is silent, the trains are running but nobody is on them. It gives us a moment of pause from the noise of rush hour and the time to understand

our own internal silence that can only be acknowledged by simply looking, and not thinking nor acting.

Luckily for us, Callum has sacrificed their own moment of silent reflection to take this picture and show us this scene. The banality of it hits us, in the same way that a completely silent room, or utterly deserted field does. We feel both a part of the empty city scene and completely abstracted from it, just like the 'city silence' theme suggests, our ego simply existing amidst the silence.

This week take a nice deep breath and don't think too hard. Don't even think about this photo, just look.

CATNIP

Imperial announces cutting edge anti-donation technology

Morality Correspondent NEGAFELIX

Applied economics researchers at Imperial reveal their new charity anti-donation technology. This new service allows governments, NGOs and members of the public to pay money in order to remove an equal amount of money from a charity of choice.

Researcher Feb Senton who led the project told assembled journalists at a press conference that “The main aim of this research is to drive innovation

in the charity sector. For too long, do-gooders have had a monopoly on charitable donations which has been very unfriendly to large parts of the misanthrope community”. He went on to express hope that this would open up the field to disruptors.

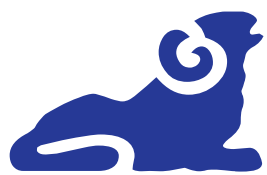
The announcement has been met with dismay by Big Charity. Oxfam Head of Guilt Tripping Colando Rharles told NegaFelix, “This totally upsets our industry. Previously, we could send out our chuggers en masse and bombard people with images of dehydrated children and the money would pour

in. It didn’t matter if we got ridiculous complaints like ‘Please stop hanging me upside down and shaking me’ and ‘It is cruel to keep that child in a cell and not give him water’ because what could the haters do?”.

Fellow Charity Industrial Complex member Banna Zuckland also expressed her frustration saying, “What is the point of having a cushy job if people come and make it not cushy anymore?”.

Despite opposition, Fenton has put his money where his mouth is and has founded the world’s first anti-charity called Giving Back. “The concept is

simple” he explains. “People send us money and the charity they want to give an anti-donation to and then we handle all the invoicing, threatening letters, goon squads and ultra-violence required to carry out the anti-donation. We also help people GiftAid their anti-donations so they can use it as a tax write-down.” The charity also offers a Regret service for those that want their donation back or a Christmas present package that allows you to give a goat to a child in the Congo for your niece and then sell the goat off after Boxing day to get the cash back.



ARIES

This week after playing I Spy in Beijing, you eat food with a straw



TAURUS

This week your intimacy coach cuts all ties



GEMINI

This week Hasbro launches a toy greyhound range called Hot Dogs



CANCER

This week you are asked to make a conservative estimate so you lie



LEO

This week your Autumn budget comes out and it doesn’t have money for heating



VIRGO

This week Goldilocks is the least washed up celeb in the jungle



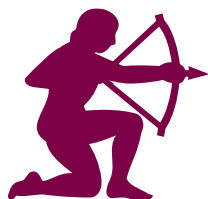
LIBRA

This week Cameron announces his Hug-a-Border-Force-Officer policy



SCORPIO

This week the Stratford sphere will be built instead in Kettering



SAGITTARIUS

This week you swipe right on a girl with no Tories in her bio for pure thrill



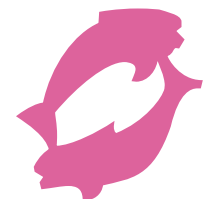
CAPRICORN

This week you will snub your toe



AQUARIUS

This week you prefer your girlfriend’s dad to her



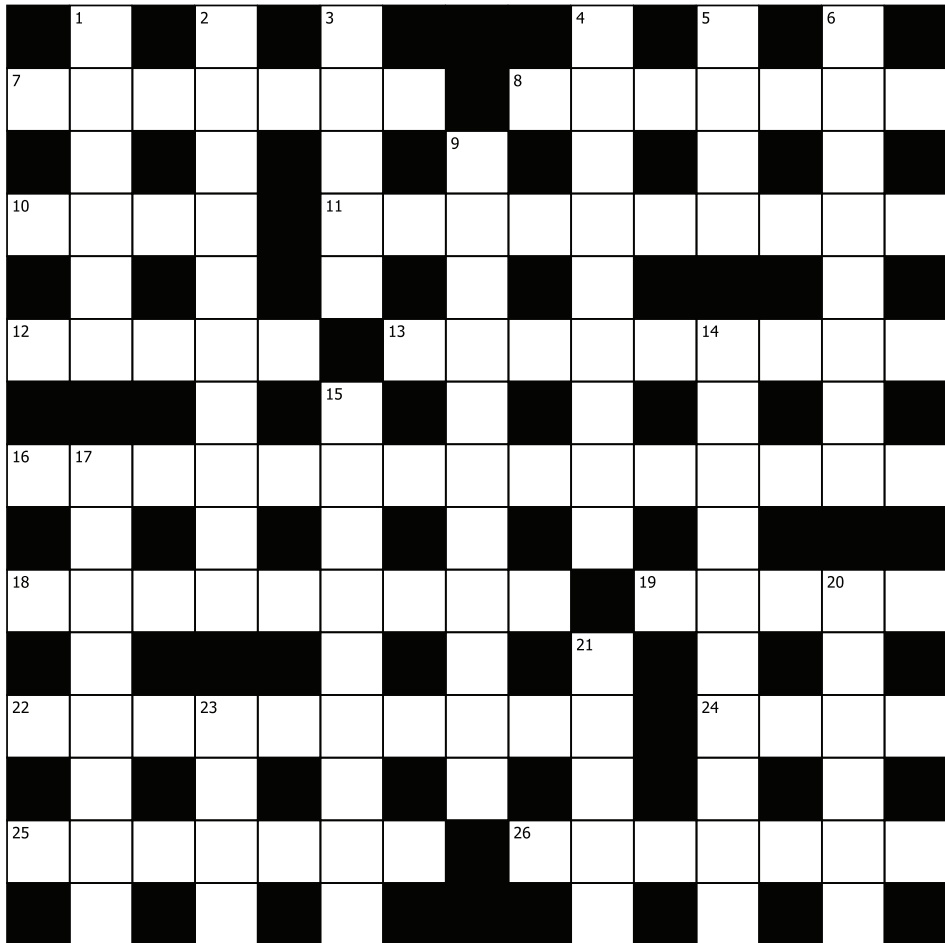
PISCES

This week you are still not going to call it X

PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

by Stanley Scott



Across

- 7. Winkleman of Strictly Come Dancing. [7]
- 8. It comes after this evening. [7]
- 10. Raincoats. [4]
- 11. Game show participant. [10]
- 12. Slang for "that's understandable". [5]
- 13. Violating symbiosis. [9]
- 16. Those born in the early 50s. [15]
- 18. Having room above. [9]
- 19. Strikes, to the numismatist. [5]
- 22. Relating to longitude lines. [10]
- 24. Greek hero lending name to Dutch football club. [4]
- 25. Wails. [7]
- 26. Set in aspic. [7]

Down

- 1. It's often confused for a llama. [6]
- 2. Surfaces supporting semiconductors, e.g. [10]
- 3. Face made when applying antiseptic, perhaps. [5]
- 4. Breaks. [5 4]
- 5. Government bond. [4]
- 6. One from Accra. [8]
- 9. Failing to persuade, as a story. [11]
- 14. Striking uniqueness. [10]
- 15. Patterns, structures. [9]
- 17. Fade away. [8]
- 20. One who uses a camera obscura. [6]
- 21. Less healthy. [5]
- 23. ___ Gems, popular children's snack. [4]

Answers for Issue 1833



FELIX #011

