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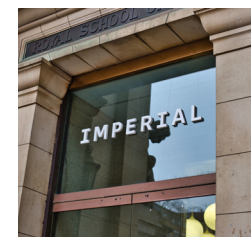


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**PUBLISHING
FORTNIGHTLY
THIS TERM**

NEWS

College spent half a million pounds on 'brand refresh' and logo



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'Nightmare' Roderic Hill mural axed



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Imperial wins record fifth University Challenge title



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FILM

Paths of Glory

Tarun Nair explores one of auteur Stanley Kubrick's earlier works.

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Slug shuts down

Imperial's favourite nightspot closed its doors in March amid 'sector-wide challenges'.

**Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN**

The Redback at Fulham, known to students as Slug, closed in the final week of March after its owner entered administration.

The pub was a favourite haunt of Imperial's sports teams, who turned out in droves for its Wednesday student nights and cheap drinks.

RedCat Leased Pubs Limited (RCLP), which operates 10 pubs across the UK



The Redback at Fulham this week. Rolando Charles for *Felix*

including The Redback, was placed into administration after it was unable to meet its financial obligations.

A spokesperson for Interpath Advisory,

which has been appointed administrator, said RCLP had been 'impacted by the wider challenges facing the pub sector', including a slow recovery → [READ MORE ON 7](#)

**End fossil fuel investment,
top scientists urge Imperial**



→ [READ MORE ON 4](#)

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.

Signed by:
JAMIE JOHN
Editor-in-Chief

Copyeditors

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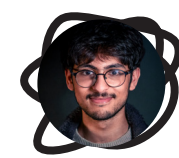
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Selina Ye

EDITORIAL

Slug and divestment

Felix is back for Summer Term and it's been a busy month in news. Our front-page splash is the closure of Slug, the beloved Fulham pub/club that became iconic for its Wednesday student nights.

In reporting the story, we were surprised to learn that the venue has air conditioning – you wouldn't know it from spending a night out there.

Slug nights were sticky, sweaty, messy affairs that played out to a strange soundtrack of country music, '80s classics and cheesy 2000s pop (think "Cotton Eye Joe", "Livin' on a Prayer" and "DJ Got Us Fallin' in Love")

It's not everyone's cup of tea, but it was certainly appealing enough to the dozens of Imperial students and sports teams that would pack out the venue every Wednesday. At its busiest, there was barely enough room to stand, and students would readily queue outside for hours simply to be told at midnight to go home.

For the Slugoholics among you, all is not lost; *Felix* has found that the pub might have a new proprietor soon, and we'll keep you updated as we learn more.

The bigger long-term story this week, however, is that prominent scientists have added their voices to a chorus of students, staff, and alumni calling on Imperial to divest from fos-

sil fuel companies.

Imperial's endowment – its investment portfolio – does not include any such companies at present. But what the activists are seeking is a change in policy; they want the College to state explicitly that it will not invest in any fossil fuel companies from now onwards.

It seems that such a move is quite possible; certainly, the direction of travel indicates a policy change.

Imperial's current stance was first established in 2020, by the Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Policy Working Group. They drew on the testimony of students, staff, and external experts – ranging from student-run activist group Divest Imperial to Shell's Head of Reputation Management.

The result was the SRI Policy, committing that Imperial would 'continue to invest in fossil fuel companies that demonstrate they are actively moving towards meeting Paris Agreement targets.'

It was a win for Imperial and for agitators. The College could satiate student activists without alienating important funders of research. Those same activists could also claim a milestone victory; they had made a real difference.

But for Imperial Climate Action (ICA), which took on the mantle from

Divest Imperial, only full divestment from all fossil fuel companies would suffice.

At the beginning of this academic year, our editorial (Issue #1829) noted that ICA had an ally in Union President Camille Boutrolle. And this, combined with an increasingly vocal series of campaigns from ICA, appears to be making a difference.

Imperial announced in February that it will determine its engagement with energy companies using its Imperial Zero Index.

The College has said that student representatives will be involved in the process, which will evaluate partners against a set of key criteria.

The index has been rubbished by ICA, which says that anything short of divestment is insufficient, given that 'decades of investor engagement efforts have failed to transition these companies away from their core oil, coal and gas business models.'

Nevertheless, it represents another incremental step towards the position of activists.

Only a few years ago, divestment seemed a million miles away.

But today, on 10th May 2024, the SRI Working Group will reconvene – for the first time since 2020 – to discuss that very topic.

And now, we wait...

Letter to the Editor: College spent half a million pounds on 'brand refresh' and logo

Hello,
Interesting to read about the cost of the latest branding exercise [this issue, page 5]. I wonder who said that the "Our full institutional name – Imperial College London" remains.

The full institutional name is "Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine" as on the royal charter

"Imperial College London" is a conceit dating from the equally controversial and expensive branding exercise of around 2002.

Best wishes,
Nick
Alumnus

NEWS

Top scientists urge Imperial to end fossil fuel investment

Former advisor to UK Prime Minister joins top Imperial scientists urging policy change.

Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN

Leading scientists including a former Government Chief Scientific Advisor (GCSA) and the co-director of Imperial's climate research institute have joined students and alumni in calling for Imperial to divest from fossil fuel companies.

The university's £555m endowment does not currently hold stakes in any fossil fuel companies.

However its investment policy has come under fire because it does not preclude such holdings.

Activist group Imperial Climate Action (ICA) has penned an open letter attacking the policy, under which Imperial says it will continue investing in businesses that 'demonstrate movement' towards the climate targets set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Senior staff at Imperial's Grantham Institute on climate change, including Co-Director Ralf Toumi, and Director of Research Joeri Rogelj, are among scientists at the College who have signed.

The letter, which ICA claims has the



Imperial Climate Action sent Imperial President Hugh Brady a Valentine's Day card signed by students urging him to 'break up with fossil fuels'. Imperial Climate Action

signatures of 396 Imperial employees, has been published ahead of a College working group meeting this Friday to discuss divestment.

Professor Sir David King, an alumnus who served from 2000 to 2008 as GCSA – the personal scientific advisor to the UK Prime Minister and Cabinet – urged Imperial to divest from companies 'still investing in new oil and gas discovery.

'As many economists point out, this will not only worsen our chances of a manageable future for humanity, it will also prove to be a stranded economic asset.'

Dr Neil Jennings, Partnership Development Manager at the Grantham Institute, and a signatory of the letter, said: 'Warm words from fossil fuel companies have not been backed-up by meaningful deeds.'

'It's good that the current College endowment doesn't include investments in fossil fuel companies, but I'd like to see this formally reflected in the investment

policy.'

Imperial has holdings in a range of companies through its endowment, a portfolio of assets that generates income to support the College's work.

Until recently, it owned indirect holdings in hydrocarbon exploration firm EOG Resources, and Berkshire Hathaway – which itself has billion-dollar stakes in fossil fuel companies such as Chevron and Occidental Petroleum.

Quarterly reports from the College reveal that EOG and Berkshire were removed from Imperial's holdings between October 2023 and January 2024.

Since 2020, the university's investments have been governed by its Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) policy, which aims to ensure that the endowment is consistent with Imperial's mission.

Under the SRI policy, Imperial says it will continue to invest in fossil fuel companies that demonstrate movement towards meeting Paris Agreement targets. The university argues that engaging with

such companies allows it to proactively exert influence in a way that divestment would not.

ICA's open letter attacks the SRI policy's approach of engagement, claiming it gives fossil fuel companies 'credibility' and 'a licence to continue their operations with limited scrutiny.'

It calls on Imperial to 'update and extend its current investment policy to publicly exclude all fossil fuel companies within the next 12 months.'

Separately, ICA also poured scorn on the Imperial Zero Index, a framework announced in February to determine engagement with energy and fossil fuel companies.

Imperial said it would 'disengage from academic and research collaborations with companies that score poorly against [the index's] criteria', adding that the framework would also inform its investments.

'We don't require yet another index to comprehend this; we need full divestment from fossil fuels,' said Ioana Balabasciuc, ICA's divestment campaign leader.

Harvard professor and Imperial alumna Naomi Oreskes added to the calls for a divestment policy, saying that as 'a leader in science, technology, and engineering', Imperial 'should have been at the forefront of the divestment movement'.

Oreskes co-authored the book *Merchants of Doubt*, on how contrarian scientists obfuscated the dangers of smoking and climate change.

Editor's note

Professor Ralf Toumi wished to add that his view is that 'sending a positive investment message rather than just divestment is important.'

College spent half a million pounds on 'brand refresh' and logo

Costs include an 'inclusive research agency'.

Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN

Imperial has spent nearly half a million pounds on its polarising new logo and brand project, according to a College disclosure issued in response to a wave of freedom-of-information (FOI) requests.

The logo was met with derision upon its unveiling at the end of February, and

spawned a petition calling for its removal that has gained over 8,000 signatures.

Imperial says that the costs, totalling £434,801.47, include spending on external agencies who provided 'brand strategy, verbal and visual identity, design assets for launch, templating, training, and an assessment of the accessibility and inclusivity of the refreshed brand'.

Design studio Pentagram worked on 'brand strategy and creative elements' according to the College website. Open Inclusion, an 'inclusive research agency', was brought onboard to 'ensure the inclusivity and accessibility of this work.'

Imperial also paid for a bespoke font, new signage, and promotional material associated with the project, including a

'brand animation video and lanyards'.

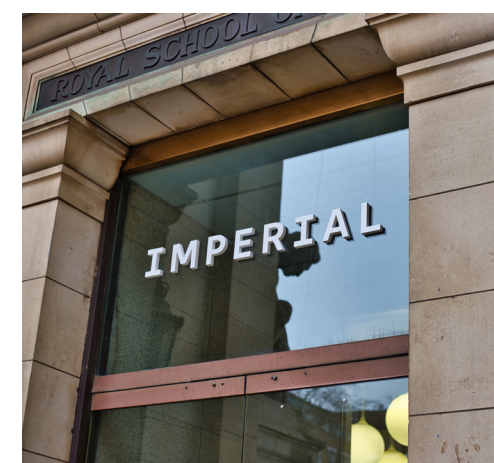
The new logo has come under fire for its omission of the words 'College London'. Critics say that the word 'Imperial', presented alone, harks back to the university's historical links to the British Empire.

They have contrasted the new logo with the university's decision in 2020 to remove Imperial's motto ('Scientific knowledge, the crowning glory and the safeguard of the empire') from the College crest.

'Our full institutional name – Imperial College London – remains unchanged,' writes the College in its FOI disclosure, adding that it has 'chosen to use Imperial as an official visual shorthand for our

name in our logo.

'London remains a hugely important part of who we are, and will be fully reflected through our brand outputs, including through imagery and text.'



Walt Gao for Felix

All staff to get minimum 4% wage boost after JTUs accept pay award

Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN

All employees of Imperial College London will receive a minimum 4% increase in pay after members of the three Imperial-affiliated trade unions voted last month to accept the College's pay award for 2024/25.

The announcement marks the end of a bitter two-year pay dispute between the Joint Trade Unions (JTUs) and Imperial's negotiating team, which saw strikes and a marking and assessment boycott – the first in the university's history.

UCU, UNISON, and Unite branch members at Imperial voted in favour of a £1,000 consolidated increase to annual full-time pay, backdated to 1st January

2024, followed by a minimum 3.14% pay increase from 1st August 2024.

Combined, the two increases amount to a median rise of 5.1%. All staff are guaranteed a 4% uplift, rising to 7% for those on the lowest pay scales.

Trade union negotiators had originally requested a median 6.1% increase in order to maintain real terms pay at its level in 2005, when Imperial withdrew from national pay bargaining.

Since 2005, the College has negotiated pay for all staff directly with representatives from the Imperial branches of three trade unions – UCU, Unite, and UNISON – known collectively as the Joint Trade Unions.

The trade unions recommended that their members vote to accept the university's latest offer, saying: 'For at least half of College staff, [Imperial's offer] is above the current inflation rate which means we are starting to close the gap between pay and inflation.'

'While we believe that the College could afford more this year, [this offer] is the best that can be achieved through

negotiation.'

Some trade union members were dismayed that even the highest earners would be guaranteed a 4% rise in salary, but the pay package was ultimately voted through.

In addition to the wage increases, Imperial says it will increase family emergency leave from three to five days from 1st August 2024 and commence a review of annual leave entitlements.

The university will also start work on long-awaited reforms to the pay scale for Professional, Technical, Operational, and Learning staff.

The JTUs' collective spat over wages began in July 2022, when members of all three unions rejected Imperial's pay award for the next academic year.

Declaring a formal dispute, they accused Imperial of 'refusing to budge' in negotiations. For the first time, all three unions commenced strike action together.

The trade unions escalated their action in May last year after members rejected Imperial's → [READ MORE ON 6](#)

'Nightmare' Roderic Hill mural axed

Students had decried the artwork as 'ugly'.

Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN

Imperial quietly withdrew its planning application for a mural on the western wall of the Roderic Hill Building in February.

Approached for comment, a spokesperson for Imperial College London said: 'Following discussions with Westminster City Council, it became clear that it would not be possible to secure approval for the mural in the timeline needed for the project to go ahead and we therefore withdrew the application.'

Students and staff had objected to the

artwork, decrying it as 'ugly' and out of touch with Imperial's values.

College President Hugh Brady and Professor Omar Matar, head of the Chemical Engineering department which is based in the Roderic Hill Building, both issued letters in September last year claiming students and staff were 'enthusiastic about the project'.

But occupants of the building including student representatives said they had not been consulted by the College, adding that the mural was incongruous and 'really poorly made'.

An objection submitted to Westminster City Council in December claims that 'there was limited consultation regarding the proposed artwork', but that 'the one meeting that was held was not satisfactory. The picture was deemed ugly, a nightmare, and on the "dark"/witchy side. Also it was suggested that it did not fit in with the values of the Imperial College.'

The author of the objection comment – who purports to work in the Chemical Engineering department – contends that 'the "artists" seemed to be against changes.'

The mural was estimated to cost up to £2m and was commissioned and paid for by the United Nations Environmental Programme. It was designed by Vesod, a Turin-based artist selected by the UN to work with Imperial.

The College's withdrawal of its planning application came less than a year after Westminster City Council rejected its previous proposal – for an almost identical mural on the adjacent Blakett Building.

Students and staff submitted 37 objections to the earlier application, describing it as 'meaningless' and taking issue with the 'outdated and somewhat sexualised representation of mother nature as a white woman'.



What the mural would have looked like in-situ at the entrance to Calendar Road, according to planning documents. Graphic created by Felix using mural by Vesod overlaid onto photograph by Shadowssettle (CC BY-SA 4.0)

→ FROM P. 5: JTUS END PAY DISPUTE

2023/24 pay award.

They argued that Imperial's initial offer of a median 3.3% pay rise was a cut of around 8% in real terms, and disputed claims that the College could not afford a bigger pay rise.

Additionally, trade union members accused the College of engaging in 'blackmail' by offering a £500 one-off payment, conditional on acceptance of the 2023/24 pay award. The offer was withdrawn when union members rejected the pay package.

Imperial UCU said the university was treating staff 'as a cost to be managed' and 'role playing in... the marketisation of higher education'.

Members of Imperial UCU, which represents academic staff, subsequently voted in favour of a marking and assessment boycott, agreeing to cease all summative marking and assessment duties.

Physics, Computing, and EEE students felt the effects most keenly, and faced delays of several months in receiving their end-of-year grades.

In a formal complaint over their department's response to the boycott, Physics students claimed to have lost one in every 10 hours of lectures to strikes during the 2022/23 academic year.

The JTUs agreed to end industrial action in October 2023 'as a gesture of goodwill to facilitate pay negotiations' in January.

Writing to staff last month, Provost Ian Walmsley said he was 'glad that the formal acceptance of this offer will bring our pay disputes to an end.'

'I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has worked through these significant negotiations.'



Imperial UCU members on the picket line in October. Rolando Charles for Felix

Imperial storms to record fifth University Challenge title

Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN

Imperial won a record fifth University Challenge title this year with a rampant final-round display against University College London (UCL).

In a manner that has become familiar over the past few months, the team of Haddad, Debnath, Lee, and Jones eased past their London rivals, winning 285-120.

Both teams came into the final unbeaten and appeared evenly matched with the scores at 40-40 early in the game. But Imperial quickly accelerated away from their opponents, demonstrating their knowledge of literature, music, science, and art.

UCL's team members put in a spirited performance but were unable to get off the mark and had their heads in their hands by the halfway point.

The victory is Imperial's third since 2020 and fifth in total, making it the most successful team in the competition's 62-year history.

'I'm thrilled to have captained Imperial College London to its fifth historic win, making us the institution with the most wins in the history of the programme,' said team captain Suraiya Haddad. 'We have all worked incredibly hard and done Imperial proud.'

'The level of support we have received from the Imperial community and beyond has been amazing, thank you to everyone who has been cheering us on!'



The winning team of Justin Lee, Sourajit Debnath, reserve Mattia Elkouby, captain Suraiya Haddad, and Adam Jones. Imperial Quiz Society/X

→ FROM P. 1: SLUG SHUTS DOWN

from the COVID-19 pandemic, changing consumer habits, and the cost-of-living crisis.

The Redback is one of five RCLP pubs that Interpath closed upon its appointment.

'Financial challenges have weighed heavily on the company in recent years which rendered it unable to continue in its current form,' said Nick Holloway, Managing Director at Interpath and joint administrator of RCLP.

'The administration now provides a period in which we can undertake a marketing process to explore a sale of business and assets of the pubs either individually or as a group. We expect interest from across the industry.'

Upon its closure, squatters took to The Redback, and over two weekends unlicensed music events were held at the premises.

Speaking two weeks ago, Greg Hands – MP for Chelsea and Fulham – praised

police, who he said had "intervened" and taken "decisive and quick action". He added that the pub would be closed for up to three months.

A sign posted at the entrance to The Redback, and dated 22nd April 2024, says that Ilona House Investments Limited has applied for a licence to sell alcohol at



The Redback in 2009, when it was called Fiesta Havana. Ewan Munro, CC BY-SA 2.0

the premises and use it for 'the provision of regulated entertainment' and 'late night refreshment'.

In the late 2000s, The Redback was called Fiesta Havana. It was renamed The Slug @ Fulham in the 2010s, leading to its current nickname, 'Slug'.

The pub was rechristened once again

in the summer of 2019, taking on its most recent name, The Redback at Fulham.

A former member of staff at the pub said that even in the weeks leading up to closure, Wednesday nights at the Redback continued to attract large numbers of students. Long queues extended out into the street, and locals complained to the council about the noise.

But the former employee felt that it was a decline in custom on other days of the week that led to The Redback's closure.

"Before Covid, Fridays and Saturdays were crazy busy," they said. "We had Aussies, Kiwis, South Africans coming in, it was packed. Now it's dead quiet."

On Thursdays, the Bogan Bingo game show drew in revellers, but that ended in December when the show's hosts left London.

"After that, we didn't really have any customers in on Thursdays. Student nights were the only busy ones."

ICU Elections: Student disillusion casts pall over Union President race

Over 40% of voters opted for candidates with no manifesto promises.

Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN

Student disillusionment dominated last term's race for Imperial College Union's next President, as over 40% of voters opted for candidates with no manifesto promises.

Incumbent Union President Camille Boutrolle won re-election, but was trailed closely by Cedric Poon, who emerged as the dark horse of the race with a campaign that capitalised on disaffection with the university.

Poon was just 11 percentage points behind Boutrolle in the final round of voting, winning 951 votes to Boutrolle's 1,253.

'I'm not here to promise you a better future, or any future at all,' he declared. 'I'm by no means competent. I'm here purely out of spite.'

'Imperial has taken too much from me [and] from us... We need them to know they can't do whatever they want while pretending everything's fine. Get me elected

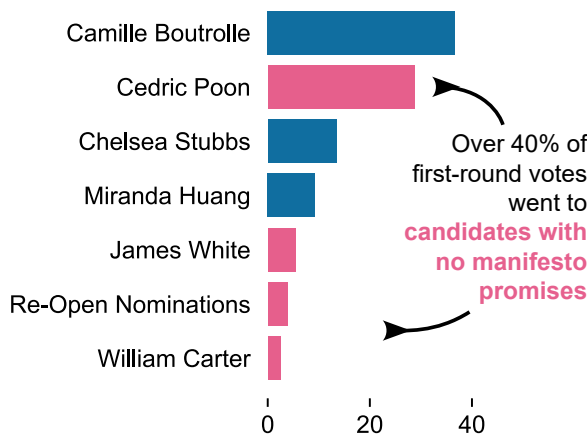
and I'll make the whole system a dumpster fire.'

He took aim at overseas tuition fees, Imperial's muted response to criticism of its new logo, and previous Union Presidents whom he accused of being 'personality-less NPC[s]' and 'kissing Imperial's cake'.

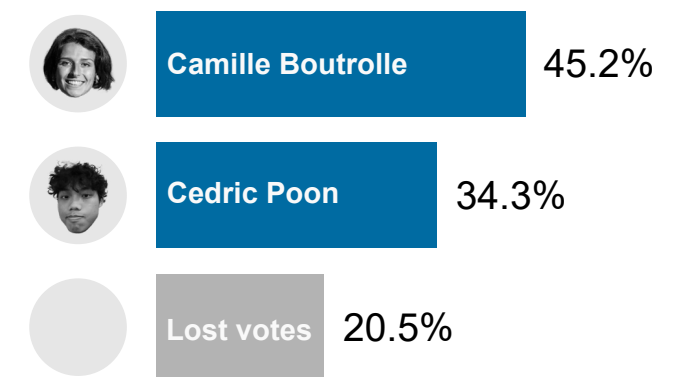
Disillusion dominates

% Vote share, Union President election

First round



Final round



Felix
Source: ICU Leadership Elections Results 2024

Meet your new OTs for 2024/25

Among those being elected in last term's Leadership elections were the Union's Officer Trustees (OTs). The OTs are a team of five students – the Union President and four deputies – who take a year out of their studies

to lead Imperial College Union (ICU). They each earn a salary of roughly £38,000 pro rata and work to improve the student experience.

Under UK law, they can serve for a maximum of two

years at ICU.

This year, three of the five Officer Trustees stood for re-election, and all three of them won second terms.



Camille Boutrolle
Role: Union President
Incumbent



Christian Cooper
Role: Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)
Incumbent



Emina Hogas
Role: Deputy President (Education)



Nico Henry
Role: Deputy President (Welfare)



Stephanie Yeung
Role: Deputy President (Finance & Services)
Incumbent

No encampments for now, says IC Action for Palestine

Pro-Palestinian activists at Imperial say they will not follow their peers at other UK and US universities in setting up encampments just yet.

In a statement sent to its WhatsApp group, IC Action for Palestine said that it was 'active and working hard with respect to our demands for divestment.'

'Based on our collaborations with other London unis, at the moment we're not sure that an encampment would be the right decision because we haven't exhausted other means of escalation.'

'We also would not have the capacity to hold it down until our demands are met – this is based on conversations from other unis who have had to retreat for similar reasons.'

In a later message sent this week, the group said it would meet on Thursday 9th May 'to discuss our way forward and strategise our actions at Imperial.'

IC Action for Palestine has urged Imperial to cut its ties with companies that it alleges have fuelled 'a campaign of genocide by the Israel Defence Forces in Gaza'.

The Israeli government has rejected accusations of genocide. There is no indication that Imperial has broken the law in its relationships with the companies flagged by the protest group.

The College's research relationships are governed by its Ethics Code and its Relationship Review Policy. The latter forbids relationships that violate 'international conventions on human rights'.

IC Action for Palestine said: 'Acting without careful planning risks throwing away what we've built so far.'

'We will communicate in the coming days our plans for applying pressure with you and we hope you can join us. A united movement is the strongest one.'

Wake up babe, new Imperial merch just dropped

The merchandise in Imperial College Union's shop on the Sherfield walkway in South Kensington has been updated

in line with Imperial's new branding.

Let us know what you think by DM'ing @felix_imperial on Instagram.



Walt Gao for Felix

NEWS THREADS

Weekly bulletin



Slug closes amid sector-wide slump

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Top scientists urge IC to end fossil fuel investment

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Imperial wins record fifth University Challenge title

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College spent half a million pounds on 'brand refresh'



Walt Gao for Felix

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All staff to get minimum 4% pay rise

All **employees** of Imperial College London will receive a minimum 4% increase in pay after members of the three Imperial-affiliated trade unions voted last month to accept the College's pay award for 2024/25. The announcement marks the end of a bitter two-year pay dispute between the Joint Trade Unions (JTUs) and Imperial's negotiating team, which saw strikes and a marking and assessment boycott – the first in the university's history. (p. 5)

We are always looking for story tips – whether that be changes on campus, or serious cases of injustice. You can contact us by emailing felix@imperial.ac.uk.

ENVIRONMENT

Are carbon credits and Science Based Targets misleading?

Imperial College might be assessing fossil fuel companies using oversimplified emissions metrics.

Environment Editor
SIMRAN PATEL

In 2020, Imperial's Grantham Institute responded to a call for evidence from the Imperial College Socially Responsible Investment Policy Working Group. The letter said that 'many of the fossil fuel companies we hold investments in (e.g. Exxon Mobil, BP, Shell) have also spent significant sums of money lobbying against meaningful climate action – in many cases by casting doubt on the scientific consensus for climate action.' Two years later, Imperial researchers co-authored an article concluding that the net zero pathways of fossil fuel companies are incompatible with global warming goals in the Paris Agreement.

Environment Writer
PETER KNAPP

Despite this, Imperial continues to invest in and partner with fossil fuel companies. The College asks any fossil fuel companies it invests in to commit to the Science Based Targets (SBTs) Initiative, a United Nations-backed program which monitors and assesses the net zero targets of companies. Imperial believes signing up to SBTs 'will enable fossil fuel companies to reach net zero by 2050 (or earlier) with realistic interim targets,' according to its Socially Responsible Investment policy.

However, SBTs do not hold a company liable for all of its emissions. Their alignment to Paris Agreement targets



SCIENCE BASED TARGETS

DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION

Science Based Targets Initiative

only includes scopes 1 and 2 emissions, not scope 3. Scope 1 is a company's direct emissions, and scope 2 is emissions from operating the company's infrastructure, such as electricity. On the other hand, scope 3 emissions are most of a company's indirect emissions, including employee and student flights. A 2021-22 evaluation found that 79% of Imperial's emissions were scope 3, but this did not include any flights from overseas students, who make up 61% of undergraduates and postgraduates. We calculated that including flights from students and staff may increase scope 3 emissions to 85% of total emissions which are ignored by SBTs.

For fossil fuel companies, scope 3 emissions include the emissions created by burning the fossil fuels they extract – which don't feature in the SBTs. According to *GlobalData*, Shell's invisible scope 3 emissions made up 97.14% of their total 2021 GHG emissions.

Moreover, fossil fuel companies are not meeting the SBTs by scaling down their oil and gas production. According to the think tank *Common Wealth*, Shell invested five times as much in oil and gas as it did in renewables and energy solutions in the third quarter of 2023. It also found that BP invested 11 times as much in oil and gas as it did in 'low carbon technologies'. Restricting supply – such as stopping any new oil or gas licences – is important to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Last month, the Science Based Targets Initiative allowed the use of 'carbon credits' as evidence that a company is reducing its scope 3 emissions. The idea is that protecting a rainforest from deforestation

would offset the carbon emissions that company creates. However, 'protecting' an area tomorrow does not justify using the carbon credits to burn fossil fuels today. "Carbon offsetting is problematic on so many different levels," said Joe Eisen, executive director of Rainforest Foundation UK. "First and foremost, it enables business-as-usual in the Global North. And then there's all sorts of problems around whether it actually does anything to stop climate change. For example, it's so easy for companies to inflate the baseline of deforestation and say that all this deforestation would be far higher if we weren't there. That means they can generate more carbon credits to sell, but it may not be linked to reality."



Two weeks ago, Imperial researchers co-authored a paper in *Science* highlighting yet another problem with SBTs.

In response to the change in carbon credit guidelines, employees of and advisers to the Science Based Targets Initiative have called for the CEO to resign. According to *Bloomberg UK*, some advisors felt they were not sufficiently consulted before the change was made.

Eisen told *Felix* that there are several other problems with carbon credits – including additionality, leakage, and permanence. Additionality means "people will never know what would happen if

the project was there or not.” Referring to leakage, Eisen said, “Even if you stop deforestation in one place, that doesn’t mean a logger won’t just go to the next province and log there.” Finally, offset projects are not permanent. “In theory, you might save deforestation for a year or two,” Eisen explained, “but what happens if in a warming climate there’s forest fires and all the credits bought by a fossil fuel company go up in smoke?”

“There are so many problems at the conceptual level with offsets,” Eisen continued. “They’ve been trying to make them credible for about 15 years now, and they still haven’t been able to do it. The current price of carbon is less than US\$1.00 a tonne on the voluntary markets, and that’s not a large enough incentive to induce behavioural change in forests.”



Simran Patel

Two weeks ago, Imperial researchers co-authored a paper in *Science* highlighting yet another problem with SBTs. They assume that the market share of a company will remain the same in the future – the most polluting companies now will remain the most polluting in decades’ time, albeit with lower absolute emissions. This does not allow space for greener, more ethical emerging competitors to emit much carbon dioxide without overshooting a sector’s Paris Agreement targets. As what the paper calls ‘solution-providing’ companies expand, their carbon emissions will expand too. The Science-Based Targets Initiative does not account for this because it cannot imagine existing, polluting corporations losing their market share to new companies. These existing corporations form 48% of the Science-Based Targets Initiative’s income, as they pay to get their decarbonisation plans validated.

When asked what Imperial can do instead of relying on SBTs, Joe Eisen emphasised the importance of divesting from fossil fuels. “I know there’s a line of argument that you need to stay in the house to change the house, with the rise of activist investing and so on,” he said. “I think some of the recent cases have shown the limitations of this approach.” Eisen also suggested Imperial invests in “other projects which support sustainable development in tropical forest countries that empower and equip local communities to have what they need to protect and thrive in their forests.”

Plant-Based Universities motion loses 11-13 in the Union Council

Plant-Based Universities Imperial campaigner OSCAR MITCHAM

Imperial’s Student Union Council held their latest meeting on 30th April. Only one motion was presented – “Just and sustainable plant-based catering at Student Union outlets to tackle the climate crisis” by grassroots campaigners from Plant-based Universities (PBU). The vote was close, with the result being 11 for, 13 against, and 2 abstentions.

The motion would commit the Student Union to supporting and lobbying for plant-based catering across Imperial. It also asked the Union to transition catering to 100% plant-based, although it did not set a timeline. PBU Imperial hopes that this would encourage people to eat more plant-based food. The campaigners accepted the two amendments proposed during the discussion, which helped place fewer restrictions on the process of the transition for the Union and encourage locally sourced food.

Well over a dozen questions were taken on the motion and the campaigners plan to respond to each point ahead of submitting a revised motion in June. A threshold of 50% + 1 is needed to accept motions (with the chair breaking ties), so the campaigners need to flip one councillor by the meeting at the end of term.

Many people eat what they think tastes best without considering the environmental or ethical consequences. This was reflected by councillors who wanted to ensure that meat-eating students would like the plant-based options as much as meat. They asked for more evidence showing enthusiasm from students for plant-based options and more evidence that the options could be healthy and tasty. Councillors also had concerns about land use, prices, and whether they could represent students on the motion. If the motion is passed, students wishing to eat meat on campus could still bring in their own food – like many people with allergies and dietary restrictions already have to.

“Losing by only two votes shows that what we’re asking for isn’t a wildly unpopular idea, so I’m feeling positive,” said Hollie Meyers, lead campaigner of Plant-Based Universities Imperial. “During the meeting, I

welcomed concerns over the logistics about the move to 100% plant-based, but the relentless comments about whether plant-based diets are actually healthy annoyed me. I want to emphasise that we’re asking for systemic over individual change, so I’m hoping that people’s own barriers to eating plant-based diets are left aside and to agree that a radical change in our university catering system is needed to save our dying planet.”

The Union almost committed to plant-based catering, but why is this necessary?

Global warming requires urgent action. According to a *Nature* paper last month, we are likely already committed to a 19% income reduction worldwide by 2050. This is alongside climate change potentially displacing billions and being a threat multiplier. Food systems make up a between one-quarter and one-third of global emissions. Just continuing to eat as usual would use up our entire carbon budget for limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial temperatures, and 75% of our budget for 2°C.

Plant-based food wouldn’t just help us decarbonise. It would free up land – the same area as China, Europe, and the United States combined – currently used to grow crops to feed animals. The land we would no longer use could be rewilded to help address the man-made mass extinction, and the extra space would help us adopt more sustainable farming practices which can maintain output for decades to come. A plant-based diet is healthy and costs about 20% less than the average.

Transitioning to plant-forward diets is not about being perfect or strict – it is about eating more plants and less meat and dairy. Scientists know this is a social transition we need to make, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report and the UK Government’s National Food Strategy both mention it. To quote Michael Pollan, “Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants.”

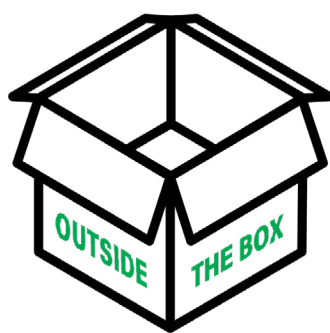
THE SOPHIA PRIZE  FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  WRITING  IS AWARDING £400  TO ONE  OUTSTANDING,  INSPIRING AND ACCESSIBLE ARTICLE  THAT HELPS TACKLE  CLIMATE  DEFEATISM & COVERS  AN  ECONOMIC CULTURAL OR  SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION THAT  HELPS  FIGHT  GLOBAL   WARMING.

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Having taken a hiatus from this column, I returned from the Easter break thinking I would easily slip back into the pattern of writing on sustainability and climate change. Unfortunately, our minds often have other ideas, and I have found myself struggling to pin down a subject I feel is relevant and interesting enough to develop into an article.

This is not for a lack of relevant and interesting environment-related news; in the past few weeks alone, extremely high water temperatures have resulted in a mass fish die-off in Vietnam's Song May reservoir and a fourth coral-bleaching event in oceans all over the globe. Consumer-goods firm Unilever has also altered its plastics-reduction pledge from half by 2025 to one-third by 2026. On the opposite end of the spectrum, we are seeing more investment into climate tech and solutions than ever before, and increased funding for environmental organisations. A fine example of this is Patagonia CEO Ryan Gellert's decision to turn the company into a non-profit organisation a couple of years ago, with all of its profits now going towards wildlife conservation. Renewable-energy councils have also confirmed that, as of 2023, seven countries worldwide are able to run on 100% renewable energy. Spotify has also collaborated with artists and activists to register 'Nature' as its own entity on the streaming service. The initiative involved the release of a series of songs featuring the sounds of nature, with all royalties also going towards funding conservation practices.

It is this sheer endlessness and range of both positive and negative stories — particularly those relating to climate change — that can induce a mental fatigue in writers, activists, and re-



Not all doom and gloom

Navigating the negative narrative of climate doomism

WITH ZANNA BUCKLAND

searchers alike. Nevertheless, one topic I considered exploring was the idea of climate doomism, which it seems appropriate to tackle in relation to my own writer's block. Climate doomism is the acceptance of climate change as an inevitable series of events and fixation on the idea that nothing can be done to reverse its effects. There has been a marked shift from denial to doomism among climate deniers, and this new mode of thinking can be detrimental to even the most optimistic of us. With the distressing reports released by organisations such as the IPCC and UNFCCC that the Earth is passing climate 'tipping points' more rapidly than anticipated, it should come as no surprise that climate doomism is on the rise.

Over the Easter break, I went back home, to a country that has less progressive environmental policies than the UK does. On

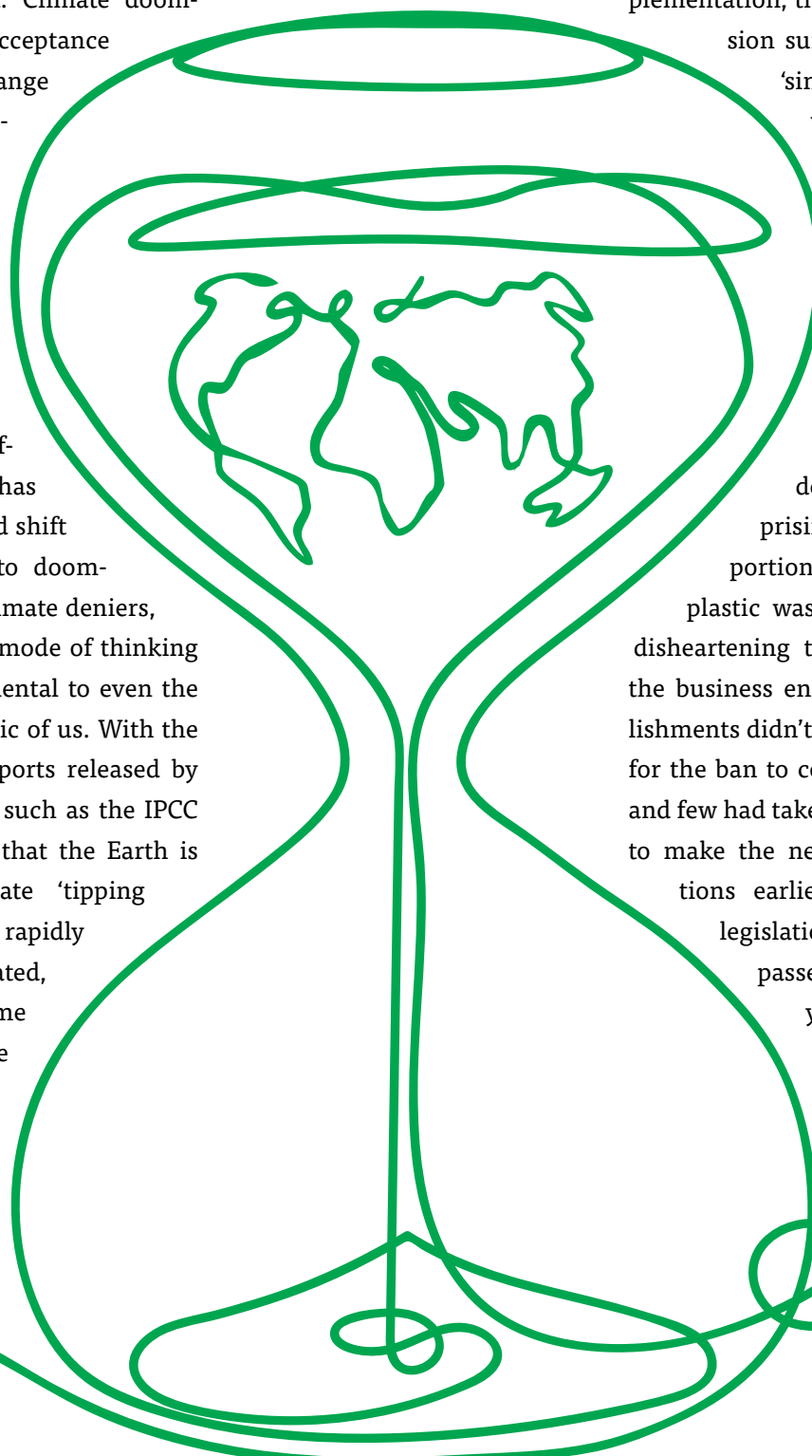
Earth Day (April 22nd), Hong Kong (HK) implemented a city-wide ban on single-use plastics, which at first glance appears to be a major win for the environment. Unfortunately, when

observed more closely, loopholes and cracks can be found in the policy that reveal the lack of foresight that went into its design. Following the ban's implementation, there was confusion surrounding how 'single-use plastic' was defined. For example, plastics used for take-away-food packaging are excluded from the ban until 2025, despite it comprising a large proportion of the city's plastic waste. It was also disheartening to see that, on the business end, many establishments didn't seem prepared for the ban to come into force, and few had taken the initiative to make the necessary transitions earlier, despite the legislation having been passed over half a year earlier.

This apparent apathy from both the

HK government and local businesses feeds into my sense of futility about humanity's ability to make necessary transitions towards a more sustainable civilisation. And to return to the concept of climate doomism, it is a similar kind of stagnation in global politics and mega-corporations that discourages people from taking individual action, protesting against unsustainable practices, or actively participating in voting. The latter is particularly topical, as 2024 has been named the 'biggest election year in history', and so climate activists have been encouraging the public to vote for politicians with climate-friendly agendas.

Despite the negative dialogue surrounding climate and environmental preservation, particularly from mainstream news sources, it is vital to recognise that the last few years have still seen some massive leaps in these areas. This includes innovative technologies for renewable-energy and ecosystem monitoring, and more-robust conservation and climate policies. The acceleration of progress towards a more sustainable and liveable future should be a cause for celebration as well as a driver for wider positive change. Finally, the place of environmental journalism in all this is to simultaneously bring attention to challenges and setbacks while promoting successes and encouraging further contribution to these causes. There is value in using the written word to spread optimism and hope, especially in what appears to be the most dire of circumstances.



COMMENT

Why we need the arts to tackle climate defeatism

Comment Writer
DANIEL HESK

Well, here we are. A quarter of the way through the 21st century, and carbon emissions are still rising *maestoso*, like the balloon house from *Up* – except the house is on fire and the talking dog is dead. And I guess in this case the balloons are filled with CO₂? But that’s denser than air, so it wouldn’t... anyway, the point is that things aren’t looking great. Oil companies are seeing record profits, climate sceptics are now piloting governments, and weather all across the globe is going bananas. Wildfires, cyclones, glacial collapse, and mass extinctions have become typical. In scientific terms, the Earth’s having a very bad time, and this is something that everybody with an internet connection and an ounce of critical thinking knows. Even paragraphs like this have become cliché. It’s not ideal for one’s mental health. So, in the face of total, biblical disaster, how do you avoid total, biblical depression? If planet bad, how feel good? Because, to be honest, *science isn’t helping*.

That’s not to say science isn’t helping the climate crisis. In the current absence of any truly disruptive protests, scientists are the only people in politicians’ earshots willing you yell at them about global warming – they’re doing their best, though it won’t be enough. What I’m saying is that the fields of science and technology are not well-suited to countering this pervasive air of defeatism. Eco-grief does not seem to be a disease that STEM can cure. On the one hand, you have cli-

mate scientists issuing constant warnings about Points Of No Return that grab headlines, but are never quite as bad as they’re made out to be. After all, the world hasn’t ended quite yet. Things are getting worse, but they can always get better if we put in the effort.

And on the other side of things, you have the tech-bros claiming that by 2030 market forces will have made everyone switch to renewables anyway, and we’ll build these great big filters that’ll suck up all the carbon and store it... somewhere... and nuclear! Oh, just wait until you hear about how completely flawless nuclear power is, and don’t forget we’ll all be able to move to Mars soon, so does any of it really matter? It’s a comfort, but it’s wishful thinking. Poor people are never going to Mars, nuclear power has plenty of its own issues, and nobody’s put up the cash for large-scale carbon sequestration. Sorry lads, but capitalism’s not going to solve a problem that capitalism created.

That leaves me banging the drum for the arts. If you feel you’re staring down the barrel of an ecological apocalypse, the good news is that it’s a barrel everyone else is examining as well. Historically we find art flourishing during catastrophe – after all, nothing gets the creative gears running like the collapse of one’s world. Think of the titanic body of poetry written in the trenches of WW1, or the subversion of Dada, Surrealism, and other ‘degenerate’ art forms under Nazi occupation. Since time immemorial, humans have been painting and writing and sculpting beauty in the face of disaster, and we can draw on this for strategy

and fortitude in the days to come. From Joy Harjo’s climate poem *A Map to the Next World*: ‘You will have to navigate by your mother’s song, renew the song she is singing/Fresh courage glimmers from the planets.’

Harjo was the first Native American to serve as US poet laureate. She says that ‘arts are how we know ourselves as human beings.’ and I’m inclined to agree. It’s all very well to see the raw data of global heating, but internalising the human cost and the need for direct action’s another task. Populations and statistics can quickly become meaningless; really, what we need is a personal connection. Philosopher Tim Morton has described climate change as a ‘hyperobject’ – a material object that’s too spread out in space and time to be easily pictured. Where film, literature, and music outstrip climatology is in their ability to bring this hyperobject into focus.

You have protest music, from Bob Dylan to Kay Tempest, distilling that mood of desperation and despair into something you can sing while chucking bricks through windows at Canary Wharf. You have films, like Ghibli’s *Princess Mononoke*, which depict our relationship to nature changing around us; and you have films that shows how far people will go to defend that nature, like the recent adaptation of Andreas Malm’s *How To Blow Up A Pipeline*. In literature, there’s now a whole genre of ‘cli-fi’: that is, science fiction like that of Kim Stanley Robinson and Octavia Butler which seeks to invent a climate-ravaged future and show how we might live through it.

I recently read through one of these books: *Dead Astronauts* by Jeff VanderMeer. It’s stuck with me, not because of any lucid and rational approach to the science of global warming, but because of the opposite – it’s a book almost impossible to understand. It’s a story told in fragments, in poetry and logbook entries, in streams-of-consciousness and, at times, the same phrases repeated again and again for several pages on end. Its narrators include a blue fox, a giant mutant fish, a column of sentient moss, and a nihilistic astronaut. At its core is

an ecological crisis, similar in ways to the alien blights of VanderMeer’s better-known novel *Annihilation*, but in this case totally anthropogenic. It’s chaotic, off-kilter, and very, very, strange. In other words, it’s a perfect impression of how it actually feels like to be living in an era of climate catastrophe.

The arts are a comfort because they’re relatable. Everyone has had a moment where some oppression they’re facing, or a dilemma they’ve wrestling with has been depicted perfectly in a piece of media. The moment where you say, “Yes. That’s it. That’s how I feel,” can really be a lifeline to someone suffering. 45% of young people say that climate anxiety affects their daily functioning. In the absence of proper mental health provisions, it’s art where we can find people worrying about the same problems that we are. This is also the reason that representation matters so much – keeping marginalised groups and their issues out of mass media is a very effective way to prevent those issues from being recognised as systemic.

If you’re struggling with climate grief, you should talk to people about it. But if they won’t listen, you can still find catharsis in the stories being told about global warming by artists from every different background, all over the world. Ignore the attempts by technocrats to present climate change as an equation in search of a neat, commercial solution. This is dark, and messy, and needs a plethora of voices to address. That’s something that artists understand better than scientists, I think. It’s certainly in art where I’ve found most of my hope. In the hurricane of words and images that make up *Dead Astronauts*, it can at times feel like the world VanderMeer created is without purpose, happiness, or hope. Yet, at the heart of the book is a simple affirmation of how much we can weather, so long as we’re around to weather it: “What is too much to bear?” the blue fox asks itself and its companions. “Not being alive is too much to bear.”

Sing, protest, read bad books. This too shall pass, if we can hold on through the storm.

FILM&TV

Film Writer
TARUN NAIR

In stark contrast with his later, more even-handed work *Full Metal Jacket* (1987), Stanley Kubrick firmly takes a side in his 1957 movie *Paths of Glory*, an adaptation of the eponymous 1935 book by Humphrey Cobb. A recounting of the Souain corporals affair during World War I, the film tells the story of the failed assault by a regiment of the French Army upon a heavily fortified German position, and the subsequent court martial on charges of cowardice.

After being goaded into it by fellow officer Broulard, scar-faced General Paul Mireau (George Macready), a division commander highly decorated and in equal parts optimistic and hard-headed, directs Colonel Dax (Kirk Douglas) to advance the 701st Regiment towards the Anthill. The assignment seems to be self-culling: previous engagements have taken a toll, both physically and otherwise, on the infantrymen, and the German front line is armed with barbed wire and machine-gun posts.

Yet, Mireau announces the attack with nonchalance, claiming that the Anthill is “certainly pregnable” – even estimating, with disturbing detachedness, that under half of the regiment will survive the occupation. Later,

witnessing his men retreating from the slaughter, the general is infuriated, and orders a court martial, during which, to set an example for the rest of the men, three soldiers selected from the regiment will be tried for their lives.

The characterisations are more conventional than those in Kubrick’s more famous works. Dax is the archetypal heroic leader of men, whereas Broulard, Mireau, and the officers in attendance during the trial are the quintessentially Sassoonian senior officers, willing – almost eager – to spill the blood of their troops in battle.

By contrast, from beneath their boisterousness, Kubrick draws out the innate humanity of the soldiers themselves: embroiled in a war whose purpose they don’t understand, and under the crushing thumb of commandants who order them into battle, as though they are cattle in an abattoir. Moreover, when the regiment is being tried for cowardice, they are being indicted for a very human quality: the French command has continually demanded extraordinary feats of perseverance from them while under fire, so their retreat during the

Battle for Anthill demonstrates that even their bravery has a limit, that at some

point they too must regress to human nature. As Dax himself admits, “If I had the choice between mice and Mausers [the rifle used by the German army] ... I think I’d take the mice every time”.

The camerawork reaches its technical peak during the battle itself, an affair both chaotic and tragic. The tracking shot fixes on Dax as he, whistle in mouth, attempts to marshal his men across no man’s land. As the attack progresses, and the regiment comes under both machine-gun fire and a barrage of mortar explosions, the shots of advancing infantrymen around him give way to their bodies, littered across the cratered landscape. In a brief period when the dirt from the incessant artillery bombardment has settled, the Anthill comes into view; yet Dax and what’s left of his regiment seem no closer to it than they did at the start.

All in all, although neither as renowned, nor as cinematically innovative as the latter part of Kubrick’s filmography, *Paths of Glory* is nevertheless a good movie in its own right. If you are looking for a break from the overwhelming cynicism of *A Clockwork Orange* (1971) and *Lolita* (1962) – something more endearing – then look no further.



Graphic by Mike Buzadji. *Paths of Glory*

BOOKS

A call for the Arts, or how Imperial once housed The Time Machine

A brief history, and a call to *The Phoenix*

Books Historian
GEORGE MOREAU

You go to a STEM university?" If there's a particular problem with going to a university known for its rigorous dedication to the pursuit of scientific knowledge, it would probably be that: its predominant focus on rigorously pursuing scientific knowledge and insight.

The stereotypes surrounding this predate themselves. Accusations of Imperial College being some sort of homogenised republic, its hallways echoing with conversations about theoretical concepts, and a general lack of sense of reality. There are kernels of truth in these pre-

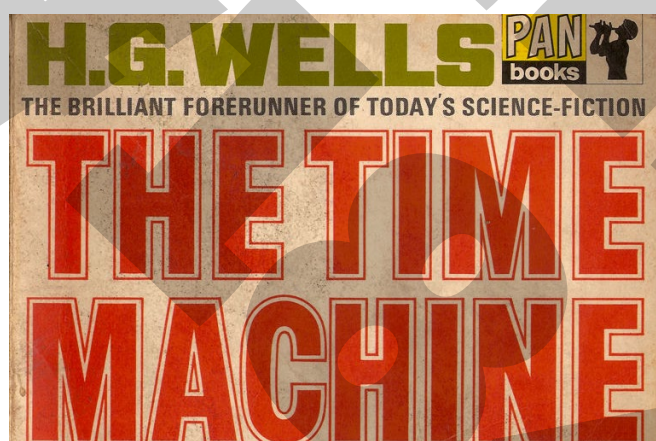
conceptions. But, if there is one that rings particularly false, it would be that, beneath its austere atmosphere – exposed-concrete buildings, scaffolded monument, and rusting ambiguously shaped statue – lies a wasteland for the arts. Or, at best, they are relinquished to unimportance: filler for *real* conversations, about the sciences.

An abundance of artistic and creative societies thankfully subvert this notion. However, as often is the case, it's not just the now we're talking about, but an identity formed over years. Fortunately, as history would illustrate, not everyone at Imperial has fit into the mould of a 'scholar of the Sciences'.

One such person was H. G. Wells, a student of biology between 1884 and 1887, at a time when Imperial was still the Royal College of Sciences. Wells founded the *Science School Journal*, which was created as a place to unite and share the range of thought and art that was present in the college at the time. (This journal would go on to become *The Phoenix*, evolving into the student-led newspaper known as *Felix* that you read right now.) It was in this journal that Wells published the short story 'The Chronic Argonaut', the first iteration of his revolutionary novel, *The Time Machine*, a landmark of science fiction. Though Wells failed his final year exams and ultimately never obtained his degree in biology, he later went on to be named an Honorary Fellow of the college.

Today, *Felix* remains an outgrowth of this, sustaining a relationship between the arts and the sciences for students. A place for students with a passion for writing and journalism across different fields to come together and present their work to a large readership.

However, the argument is still to be made that Imperial has a need to let the arts to run deeper through its core identity. As a man with great visions of the future, Wells foresaw this. It is the need to display how the arts and the sciences reflect and spur each other on. This common harmony, between creativity and innovation, is required to truly and fully examine the human condition. More importantly, there should be a community for that, in order to develop both. Wells had dedicated himself to creating the *Science Schools Journal* in order to fulfil these convictions. It is down to us to resurrect the idea of a school magazine of the Arts, or as it was called, *The Phoenix*.



The Time Machine. John Keogh

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FOOD&TRAVEL

Dilara: Uyghur restaurant in London

I went knowing only ramen and lamian. Now I know laghman.

Food Writer
CHARMAINE CHUE

The rattling of woks intensified, and a burst of aroma wafted into my nose. It was from the takeaway counter behind me, as I sat facing the interior. A well-lit sight: meticulously arranged, crackle-glass lamps, quilted chairs and tables not an inch out of place, and a picture-still scene of a restaurant awaiting its guests, greeted me.

It's a Uyghur restaurant. The Uyghur people are native to Xinjiang, a large province in far-west China bordering Central Asia. Turkic-speaking and Quran-abiding, they are a distinctive community from Han Chinese, the majority in China.

I didn't know what to expect, being part of 'the majority' and coming from the opposite corner of China – Hong Kong. But ever since the incidents in recent years that made Uyghur people known to the world, I'd gained an inexplicable feeling of kinship with this faraway, rural community.

This would be the first time I tried their food – food in China is synonymous with home. Excited yet clueless about where to start, I picked the first item on the menu.

Soon, a steaming bowl of Laghman was brought to my table. I thought it had a somewhat earthy look. Loops of chunky noodles of varying thicknesses emerged from a bottom layer of rust-red stir-fry sauce. Piled on top were rough cuts of tomato, Bulgarian pepper, and onion. Slices of fried lamb were interspersed among the vegetables.



Top: Kökbayraq flag of East Turkestan. Wikimedia Background: Laghman Charmaine Chue

Against the backdrop, the dish looked harmonious. Whether it be the wooden chairs with emerald-green quilting that lined the tables, the greeneries that dotted the space, or the off-white stone panels that tiled the walls.



This would be the first time I tried their food – food in China is synonymous with home.

I first took a strand of the bouncy noodles and gave it a few swirls, so that it was coated with the sauce. The sauce had the sweetly acidic taste of tomato and a kick of chilli pepper, and it gained a slight sheen from the oil. I took another strand with the vegetable dice.

But delight came with the moment I bit into the fried lamb, and savoury juice oozed out. The tender lamb was satisfying with chewy noodles; vegetables

interjected the denseness and made the lamb's flavour sing higher.

One strand after another, as if under a spell, the dish was emptied before I noticed.

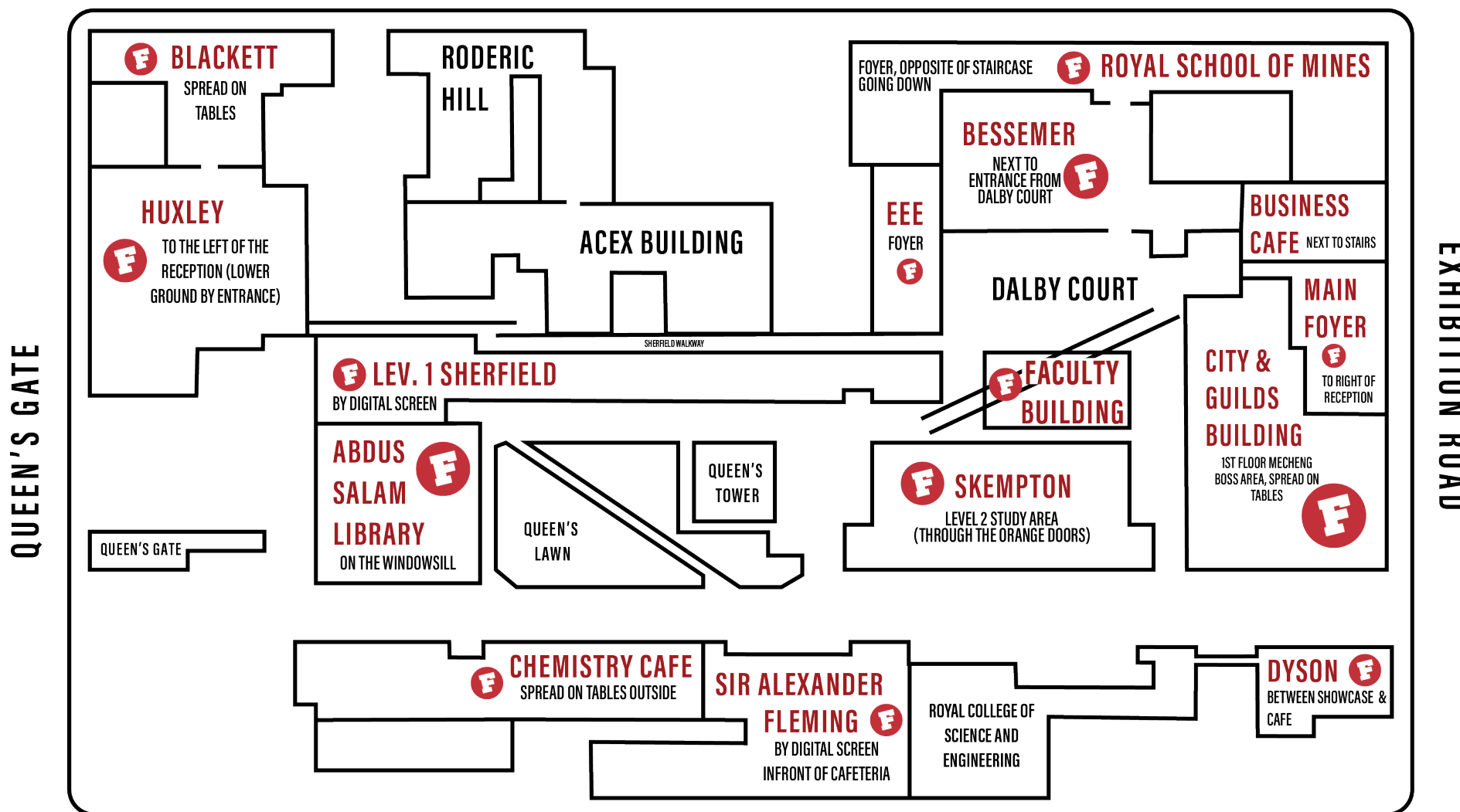
The West End is once again lit up with lights to celebrate Ramadan, an important month for Muslims around the world, including the Uyghurs. It's a glowing symbol of the fact that, in this city, diversity is strength. To the hundreds of Uyghurs who have settled in London, whose second home is the handful of Uyghur restaurants they opened: I hope you have a light, happy Ramadan.

Note: This article was submitted to Felix on 10th April 2024, when Ramadan was still in full swing.

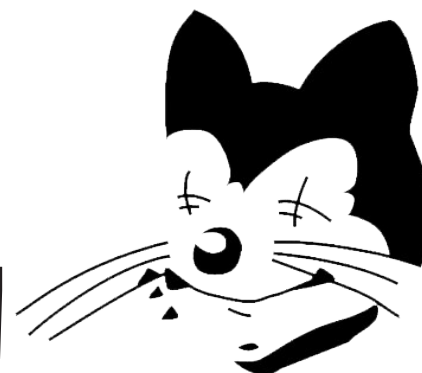
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CATNIP

Boyfriend frustrated that his girlfriend has faults

Relationships Correspondent GRAFTON CHANCE

Imperial College biochemistry student Joseph Monks has expressed horror at finding out that his girlfriend Georgina Neighton (three months younger) has faults.

According to Monks, the young couple met a few weeks into their first year and Monks describes being “smitten”. The relationship got off to a good start with the new couple going on dates, watching

films together, and texting most days. However, problems began to emerge several months into the relationship when after going round to her flat after university, he realised that his so-called perfect girlfriend had faults.

Monks said to *NegaFelix*, “I am concerned that these faults will impact our relationship going forward and could even cause tensions between us. After all, I have to consider, do I want to be with someone that has faults? Her faults might impact me and even, if we end up having them, our future children.”

Clinical psychologist Mariana Springs said that this phenomenon was a growing problem among young people. “Looking at the trend over time,” she told reporters, “The number of people with faults trying to date people has tripled over the last 20 years.” She called for a normalisation of setting boundaries against fault-bearing people in order to avoid the harm that they could inflict.

Monks’ friend Johannes Clume said that he was shocked that Georgina would hide her faults from his friend and was concerned that other people with faults

might consider putting themselves on the dating market in their present condition. “Joseph was really excited about this girl and now she had thrown it all in his face. She should be ashamed of herself,” he said.

Neighton was not contacted for comment as we are sure that our readers wouldn’t want to hear from such a horrible person as her.



ARIES

This week you type up some witty lines to use later



TAURUS

This week your local Tesco will be closing an hour early on Saturday



GEMINI

This week four little monkeys will ruin your hard fought efforts at interior decor



CANCER

This week you decide to seriously engage in the works of Kierkegaard



LEO

This week you beat the personality hire allegations by being a vindictive wanker



VIRGO

This week you scientists discover that boomerangs don’t actually come back, there is just always an aboriginal hunter in the distance ready to throw it back



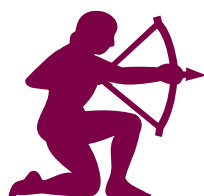
LIBRA

This week you consider including listing ‘overthinking’ as a skill on your CV.



SCORPIO

This week you start using coffee as a unit of time. Three coffees till your next call and 438,197 coffees till you can afford a house



SAGITTARIUS

This week asparagus season kicking off really gives you the chance to let your hair down



CAPRICORN

This week 9 out of 10 scientists are sure that it isn’t meant to look like that



AQUARIUS

This week the sun coming out means the annual pint glass stealing competition 2024 has kicked off



PISCES

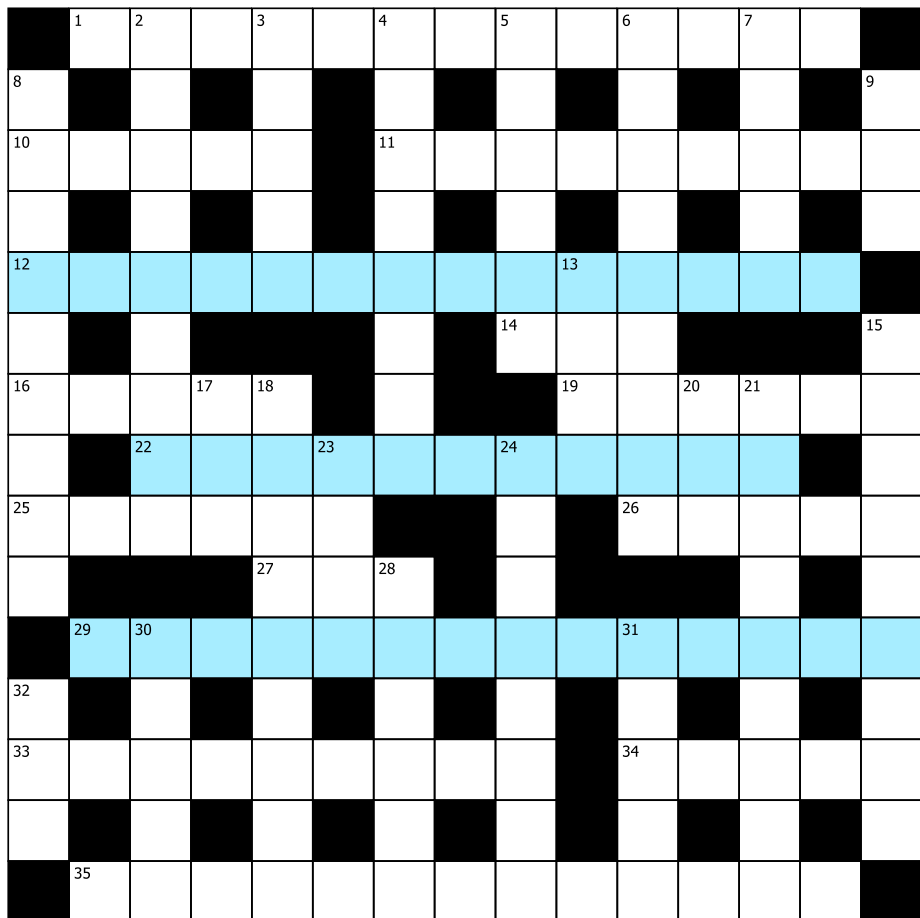
This week NHS plans to hire orangutans as doctors are foiled as they have already taken up jobs in Australia

PUZZLES

Puzzles Editor
STANLEY SCOTT

CROSSWORD

Frequency (8 pts.)



Across

- 1. Do as Freud did. [13]
- 10. Rings or knobs. [5]
- 11. King Arthur's claim to the throne. [9]
- 12. How often we can publish an issue this term due to a Union blunder. [5 5 4]
- 14. Note in solfege. [3]
- 16. You might've heard of an elf on one of these. [5]
- 19. One who breaks up large chunks. [6]
- 22. How often we can publish an issue this term due to a Union blunder. [11]
- 25. Skin picture. [6]
- 26. Continental currency. [5]
- 27. Musical genre originating in Jamaica. [3]
- 29. How often we can publish an issue this term due to a Union blunder. [3 5 1 5]
- 33. Fling. [9]
- 34. Alternative healing practice. [5]
- 35. Lack of shame or concealment. [13]

Down

- 2. Where the actor might exit. [5 4]
- 3. As a deal, sweet. [5]
- 4. Reverse. [8]
- 5. "If I had a _____." [6]
- 6. Pure. [4-5]
- 7. Fur source. [5]
- 8. Prejudice, hardship. [9]
- 9. Tolkien creation. [3]
- 13. Quick and without thinking. [4]
- 15. Sniper's aide. [9]
- 17. Auction follower. [3]
- 18. Affliction of the cold. [9]
- 20. Affliction of the cold. [3]
- 21. Reigns of terror. [9]
- 23. ____ Pona, constructed language. [4]
- 24. Type of prosthetic. [5 3]
- 28. Judge Holden of *Britain's Got Talent*. [6]
- 30. When reduplicated, a city in Washington (or part of what the Witch Doctor reportedly says). [5]
- 31. Japanese rice wine. [5]
- 32. Quality of a couple or sock. [3]

Cryptic across

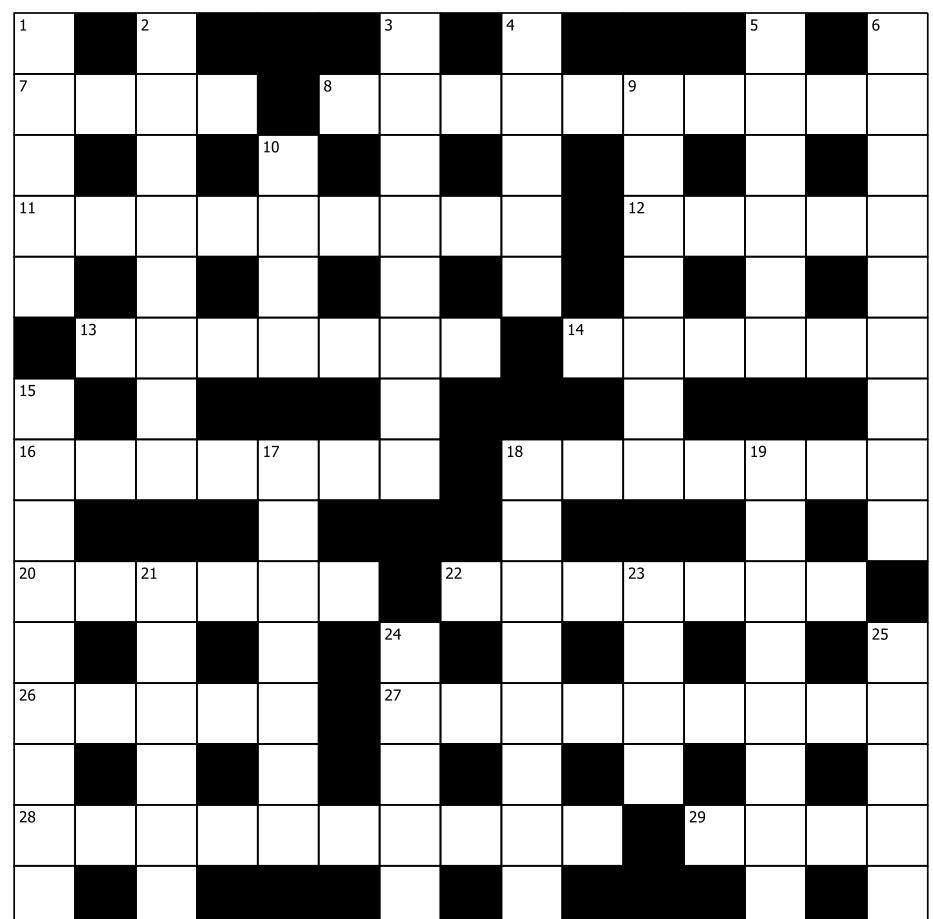
- 7. Vera's greeting, I heard. [4]
- 8. Nonsense about Dara playing the drum pattern. [10]
- 11. Group activity to seem strange with her. [9]
- 12. Twist, sprain and chop off a bit - agonising things! [5]
- 13. Group of moneymakers does not allow North Korean embassy head in. [7]
- 14. In a rage, he lost the accomodation. [6]
- 16. Green New Deal Maine Republican got into. [7]
- 18. Put in regarding grammatical concepts: they need to be ironed out. [7]
- 20. Full of passion now dried up? [6]
- 22. Bug everyone in the nation. [7]
- 26. Company came face-to-face with astral wanderer. [5]
- 27. Ranted, having charged through the Hague at the beginning of dawn. [9]
- 28. Gaining removal, I heard? [10]
- 29. Chew up most of the donut - then spit it back out? [4]

Cryptic down

- 1. A part of the island which belongs mostly to Tahiti? [5]
- 2. Gamer too twisted for his station. [8]
- 3. Worked as a mole? [8]
- 4. High primary keys and their notes. [5]
- 5. Include someone previously absent: the tech-junkie! [6]
- 6. Unrelenting, almost having gotten rid of all 18-Across. [9]
- 9. I push through PR stunt to make things better. [7]
- 10. Dreadful funeral for the sick. [4]
- 15. Many armed Celts at Erin's border abandoned. [9]
- 17. A body is only truly in crisis when it's first lifeless. [7]
- 18. Arrows hover around in empty cans. [8]
- 19. I heard the kid took the brunt under pressure and got his skin damaged. [8]
- 21. Chef, sear my mash! [6]
- 23. Animal in and around Milton Keynes. [4]
- 24. I couldn't learn this language; I just didn't click with it! [5]
- 25. That said, I omit keeping the expression. [5]

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

(12 pts.)



SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

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

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

Medium/Embarassing (1 pt. each)

Hard/Laughable (2 pts. each)

Extra hard/Easy (3 pts. each)

GROUPING GRIDS

milk	detox	plasma	sebum
lymph	oy	puzzaw	superfluid
willam	gas	solid	pus
puye	yeh	bile	liquid

How-to:

For fans of *Only Connect*! The sixteen clues in each of these puzzles can be placed into four groups of four, each with a connecting feature. To solve the puzzle, write these groups and their connections below! An example can be seen in last issue's solutions.

card	red	mushroom	sauce
young	sanguine	scala	gorsuch
scarlet	ruby	kinnock	pearl
crimson	python	diamond	rust

Medium (1 pt./group, 1 pt./connection)

Hard (2 pts./group, 1pts./connection)

1.					Connections
2.					
3.					
4.					

1.					Connections
2.					
3.					
4.					

CRYPTOGRAM

Clue: *Rage primer (anagram, 2 words)*

Submitted by Ivin Jose

How-to:

A cryptogram is solved by cracking the cypher in which an encoded phrase is written. The first few letter correspondences are given to you, and your job is to use your linguistic and logical skills, as well as your quotes knowledge, to work out the secret message. Bonus points for giving where the quote comes from!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

M	Q	Q	B	N	K	Q	N	K		M	P		I	B	B	Y	K	I		V	B		I	M	K

W		P	K	Q	P	K	T	K	P	P		I	K	W	V	A		W	V		B	J	E		

B	L	Q		A	W	Q	I	P		W		N	W	P	J	W	T	V	F		B	G			

V	A	K		Y	M	P	V	W	D	K	P		L	K		N	W	Q		Q	K	S	K	E	

J	Q	I	B		P	B		L	K		T	W	F		V	B		E	K	P	V		V	A	K

L	M	I	K		-	K	F	K	I		L	B	Q	I	K	E		L	K		B	Q	N	K	

V	A	E	M	S	K	I		J	X	B	Q		E	K	X	T	W	N	M	Q	U		M	V	

L	M	V	A		V	A	K		P	N	W	E	P		B	G		L	A	M	N	A		L	K

Q	K	S	K	E		P	X	K	W	D		V	B	B		D	Q	B	V	V	K	I			

G	B	E		W	Q	F		W	Y	B	J	Q	V		B	G									

V	K	N	A	Q	B	T	B	U	F		V	B		E	K	X	W	M	E						

(3 pts.)

Quote from: _____ (2 pts.)

Last week's solutions

How many zeros?

Q: How many zeros are at the end of the number that is the product of the first 2012 prime numbers?

A: 1.

P-q pairs

Q: How many pairs of digits (p, q) are there so that the five-digit integer 'p869q' is a multiple of 15?

A: 6 pairs: (1,0), (4,0), (7,0), (2,5), (5,5), (8,5).

L	S	S	K	I	Z	A	T	B					
O	U	T	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G	E	M	U
R	A	E	Y	E	U	P	A	C	E	G			
D	E	S	K	W	O	R	K	L	I	O	N	S	
I	H	I	S	T	E	T	A	N	U	S	K		
N		N	L	I	E	I	N	N	I	S	I		
V	O	U	G	E	A	L	D	E	N	T	E	N	
A	P	O	N	S	L	S	O	B	S	G			
D	G	L	O	T	T	I	S	W	A	T	T	S	
E	T	U	I	A	U	N	T	Y	S	O			
R	S	V	E	R	I	G	E	B	I	O	F		
W	H	E	L	K	T	A	B	L	E	F	U	L	
R	I	R	E	H	O	L	L	A	U	E			
I	N	N	G	R	A	N	T	U	R	I	S	M	O
B	G	Y	G	H	E	E	E	E	N				

Maths puzzles

N	A	C	H	O	F	R	A	U	D	S	T	E	R	
O	L	N	L	B	O	O	E							
T	R	A	N	S	V	E	R	S	E	C	O	L	O	N
T	M	P	W	A	U	L	E							
I	S	S	U	E	D	C	L	U	M	P	S	W		
N	H	A	O	K	O	E	A							
G	R	E	E	K	S	M	I	N	I	C	A	B		
H	L	I	T	O	L									
A	P	L	E	N	T	Y	A	R	C	H	I	E		
M	G	O	P	R	E	A	E							
S	M	A	T	U	R	E	C	A	R	B	O	N		
H	I	E	K	K	D	I	E							
I	M	M	E	R	S	I	O	N	H	E	A	T	E	R
R	I	M	S	O	R	O	G							
E	X	C	I	S	E	T	A	X	S	U	R	L	Y	

Musicians at Court

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	C	S	T	O	Q	V	Y	A	U	B	R	X	D	H	P	K	L	M	N	J	G	I	W	E	F

A fallout in the nature of reality because, while they were eating, for the first time ever, a nightingale sang in Berkeley Square. No one heard it over the noise of the traffic, but it was there, right enough.

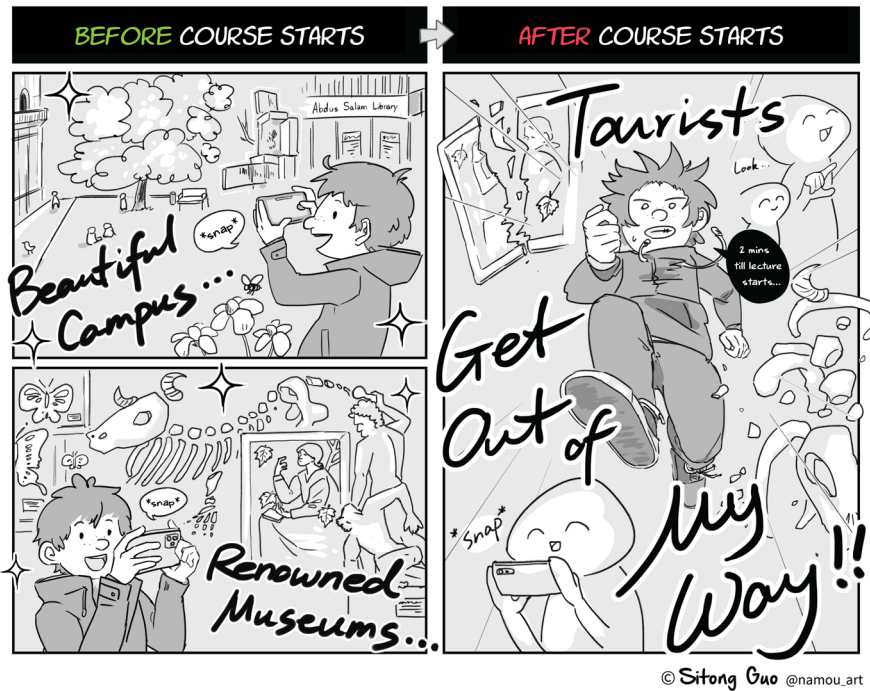
Quote from: *Good Omens* (Neil Gaiman/Terry Pratchett)

Cryptic

Cryptogram (Demon's goo)

COMIC

Submitted by Sitong Guo



© Sitong Guo @namou.art

FELIX PUZZLE LEADERBOARD		LEADERBOARD	
POSITION	PUZZLERS	POINTS	LAST WEEK'S POINTS
1.	Aspenlads	137	42
2.	Louise Parchson	117	37
3.	S&J	103	36
4.	Fermat's Freaks	93	39
5.	Hursh&Jasmine	57	-
6.	Brunel's Children	50	30

(leaderboard will reset this week!)

Graphic by Selina Ye

Last weeks' solutions continued

mother	brother	son	monk	'o' pronounced as 'u'
blue	hejira	mingus	court and spark	Joni Mitchell albums
star (st. + Ar)	herd (He + rd.)	terne (ter + Ne)	krave (Kr + ave.)	street abbreviation + noble gas
benthivore	overground	clouds	abba	last 4 weeks' Felix crossword themes

Bonus grouping grid

guppy (puppy)	bat (cat)	moose (goose)	vole (mole)	still animals with a different first letter
green	elm	upton	stone-bridge	parks (on the London Underground)
wenge	sequoia	balsa	maple	trees/wood
latin	devanagari	hangul	kana	writing systems

Medium grouping grid

queue (Q)	are (R)	eye/see (I/C)	you (U)	letter homophones
ell	miles	fathom	link	imperial lengths
eye/see	clock	scan	view	look at synonyms
tea	goss	rumour	dirt	change one letter for dog sounds

Hard grouping grid

MATHS PUZZLES

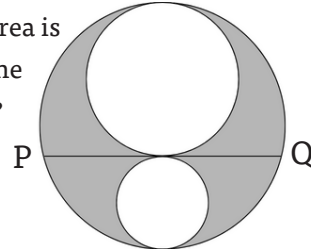
(4 pts. each)

Submitted by Charlotte Probstel

The length of a chord

Pink Kangaroo 2004 Q24

The shaded area is 2π . What is the length of PQ?



Puzzle Editor's Note

Dearest puzzlers,

Welcome back! Just like that, we have come to the final term of this academic year! For many of you, as for me, that means the dreaded exam season is upon us. As much as that can feel like wading through a swamp of notes, past papers, and all-nighters, we shall of course soon emerge victorious, if a little exhausted, on the soft banks of summer. At any rate, I hope that we, the *Felix Puzzles* team, can make that journey feel a little less arduous, naturally through the medium of brain-teasers.

I would like to address a concern about the difficulty of the sudoku puzzles that has been brought to my attention by a few readers. Namely, that they're too blummin' easy! One particularly passionate puzzler remarked that to label the previous issue's sudoku as extra hard was 'almost a humiliation' and that the puzzle was 'easily solvable by seventh-grade youngsters.' Naturally, this is of great concern to me. The problem is that, being no talented sudokuist myself, I currently rely on computers to generate them for me. This week, I have switched to a new program, so it will remain to be seen whether or not some trickier sudoku are produced. In the meantime, so as not to so offensively mischaracterise the aptitude of *Felix's* puzzlers,

Whole fractions?

Senior Mathematical Challenge 2009 Q15

For how many integers n is n divided by $(100 - n)$ also an integer?

I have changed the labels of the sudoku difficulties, taking into account this present ambiguity. However, if any of you dear puzzlers, or people you know, possess sudoku-creating talent, then please do get in touch with us! Submissions are always more than welcome.

I shall close this note - or column as it is now growing to be - with some much-deserved congratulations.

Aspenlads have come top of the leaderboard for last term's puzzles, with an astonishing 137 points! In close second is **Louise Parchson**, who managed 117 points as a solo entrant. And taking bronze are **S&J**, who scored a very respectable 103. Although they don't all fit on the leaderboard, I would like to thank everyone who submitted last term, including Fermat's Freaks, Hursh&Jasmine, Brunel's Children, The Bombe, Alvikash, CXXII, Xuangyong Tay, Chess Society, and Christopher Kay. It has been such a pleasure to see these puzzles being done by so many people. And once again, congratulations to Aspenlads on your well-deserved victory.

I look forward to seeing your submissions again very soon. Until then, happy crossing, connecting, completing, code-cracking, comic-consuming, calculating, and competing!

- Stanley

Send a picture of your solved puzzles to puzzles.felix@ic.ac.uk by **23rd May** to get yourself or your team on the leaderboard! Send them in by **21st May** to appear up-to-date in the 'last week's points' column.