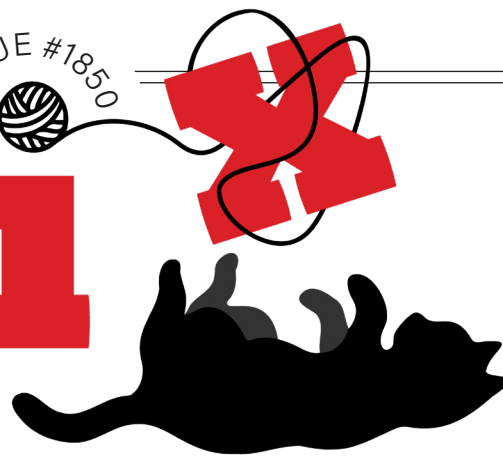


First published in 1949, *Felix* is released weekly during term time and is distributed around Imperial's London campuses. All students, staff, and alumni are welcome to contribute to the paper.

Felix

ISSUE #1850

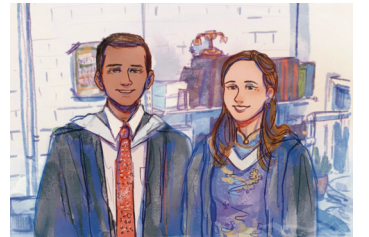


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NEWS

An interview with this year's Felix Editor and Deputy Editor



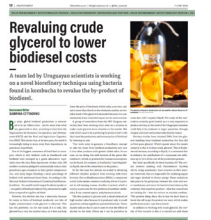
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An interview with the firm behind Imperial's new logo

Misha Buzadji talks to Pentagram.

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Sophia Prize Winner 2024



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FILM

Dune 2 review

In her final article for *Felix*, Deputy Editor Zanna Buckland reviews the second *Dune* movie.

→ [READ MORE ON 40](#)

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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.

Signed by:
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Editor-in-Chief

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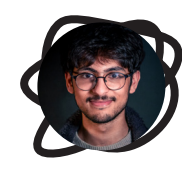
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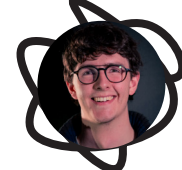
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EDITORIAL

And so it ends

After four years, my time at *Felix* is coming to a close. It is difficult to overstate how much the paper has meant to me over the course of my time at Imperial. It has taught me so much and has been a joy to contribute to. I'll miss the camaraderie of being in the office with the rest of the team, the rush of racing to meet a print deadline, and the satisfaction of making a difference to student life through our reporting.

As I am sure is the case for many of our editors, being a part of *Felix* kept me going through the toughest parts of my degree. It was something to look forward to through the dreary, unending monotony of problem sheets and coursework. There have been difficult times, yes, but pushing through them has taught me a great deal and brought together the entire *Felix* team to produce some of our best work.

I came into this year bored with the tired press releases and 'follow' stories that have often made the front page in recent years. I intended to overhaul the news section by placing interesting original reporting at the forefront of our coverage – and I think we have managed that this year. Such content takes far more effort to produce, and entails more risk on the paper's part, but should be the bread and butter of our news content. It is what makes *Felix* news worth reading.

To focus solely on our news section would be to do a disservice to our exceptional team of editors and contributors. The paper's other purposes besides news

reporting are to provide an outlet for students to improve their writing skills, and to entertain. Our section editors have performed admirably in these respects. The Puzzles section in particular stands out for its quality and breadth. Under the stewardship of the brilliant Stanley Scott, it has grown to encompass an ever-increasing array of brainteasers. Stan's crosswords could easily be featured in the national papers, and he will be missed sorely by the *Felix* team as he moves onto a PhD in Germany.

Deputy Editor Zanna Buckland's contributions over the past few years have been immense. Without her help organising the team last year, the paper would not be in the shape it is today. The Deputy Editor role is a little nebulous, with no real statement of responsibilities, but Zanna has put her stamp on it this year. Most of our section editors have benefited from her experience and advice, and she has always been on hand to help plug the gaps during our inevitable rush to meet the print deadline each issue. Her weekly 'Outside the Box' column has been one of the highlights of the paper for its astute analysis and excellent design.

Outside the Box, and indeed the entire paper, owe their smart look and much more to *Felix* Chair and Film Editor Misha Buzadji. Misha has juggled his considerable work at *Felix* with a Computing degree and his position as marketing head at DoCSoc. Anyone who knows anything about even one of these activities will understand the herculean task that he has pulled off in making a success

of the year. To understand Misha's vital role in the paper, look no further than this very issue, in which a full 26 pages have been written or designed by him. He has decided to take a break next year and focus on his degree, and who can blame him? I wish him the very best for the future.

Lastly, I'd like to highlight the work of Tarun Nair, a first-year copyeditor who, throughout the year, has gone above and beyond to ensure the paper goes out on time. Copyediting can be a thankless and unseen task, especially when there is only a small team to help you. Over the past few weeks, Tarun's work behind the scenes has freed me up to publish the breaking news stories that have featured on the front page. Recently, he joined our news team and has written several stories that feature in this week's issue.

I have singled out a few of our contributors here, but I am grateful to every single one of them – all of our writers, editors, copyeditors, illustrators, and photographers. They have all played important roles in this year's successes.

I don't think there is anything else like the *Felix* community at Imperial, and I'd encourage anybody who is interested to get involved. Many of our contributors are leaving this year, meaning there will be plenty of vacancies. The team is cordial and welcoming – you will make friends and learn so much from them. Being Editor this year has been a great privilege; I am excited to see what the future holds for the paper.

NEWS

BBC presenter booed after telling Imperial student to “buy ladies’ shoes”

Comment at Imperial Sports Awards night draws rebuke from attendees.

News Writer
TARUN NAIR

A BBC One presenter was booed at Imperial’s annual sports awards ceremony after telling a female award winner to buy “ladies’ shoes”.

Mark Clemmit, who hosts the BBC’s Football Focus TV show, presented the student with a prize during Sports Awards 2024 at Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington a fortnight ago. After she returned to her seat, Clemmit observed that the student was wearing trainers and remarked that she should consider selling her award to buy some “ladies’ shoes”.

The broadcaster said in an email that his comments had not landed as he had intended, and that he was commenting solely on the student’s decision to wear trainers to a black-tie dinner and ‘nothing more’.

Clemmit said: ‘I was alerted that the individual involved was upset. I went to



Mark Clemmit (inset) apologised to the student after telling her to buy “ladies’ shoes” at Move Imperial’s annual Sports Awards event. Skippo10, CC BY-SA 4.0
The ceremony was hosted at The Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington (pictured). Jim Linwood, CC BY 2.0

her. I apologised. I asked her if we were OK. She said we were. On that basis, as far as I was concerned this was dealt with on the night.’

The student in question could not be reached for comment.

Clemmit’s words prompted opprobrium from the audience of Imperial sports clubs. Imperial College Union Sports Chair Vaibhav Chetty, who was present at the event, said: “Unanimously, all the students in the crowd were disapproving, booing, you could tell the air changed a bit.” He added that Clemmit’s comments came “out of nowhere”.

An attendee who recalled the broadcaster’s comments and spoke on the condition of anonymity said that the award winner “was very upset, it

was meant to be a good night for her... All the girls I talked to were like, this is outrageous. We just felt singled out.

“If any of the boys were wearing trainers, he wouldn’t have said that.”

Clemmit told *Felix* that he was satisfied with his ‘honesty and integrity’ but apologised to audience members who ‘don’t agree and were offended’. He added: ‘Live events, in which I am very experienced, involve making unscripted, split-second decisions. Very occasionally things don’t work out as planned.’

It is understood that Move Imperial, which hosted the ceremony, is investigating complaints made regarding a comment at the Sports Awards night.

Additional reporting by Taylor Pomfret.

Imperial security officer called student a ‘wanker’, claim activists

A ctivists at Imperial’s Palestine solidarity encampment alleged that a university security officer called a student a ‘wanker’ during a raid on the camp in the early hours of Friday 7th June.

According to a post on the encampment’s Instagram account, security officers arrived on Queen’s Lawn at around 4:30am to ‘forcefully remove’ anti-Zionist signs, which the university banned a day earlier.

The post says that ‘students who were awake mobilised and defended the signs (again), but not before some were taken. Security also called a student a “wanker” when he physically took one of the signs back.’

It is understood that Imperial is aware of the post and is looking into the allegation.

A day before the early-morning seizures, the university told campers that they would have to remove slogans containing references to Zionism after university president Hugh Brady received complaints about a plaque reading ‘Siamo Tutti Antisionisti’ (‘We are all anti-Zionists’).

The slogan has been used in pro-Palestinian protests in Italy and references an older catchphrase used in the country – ‘Siamo Tutti Antifascisti’ (‘We are all anti-fascists’).

Students refused to remove the plaque and instead made more in different languages. The university has told them that they could face disciplinary action as a result.

Commenting on the seizures, the encampment’s Instagram post says: ‘They came in the early hours of the morning because they thought we were asleep and they fear strength in numbers. Repression of voices and censorship of the fundamental nature of this movement will not succeed.’

The students say security officers attempted another 4:30am raid on Monday 17th June.

Imperial researcher resigns after racist comments at Queen's Lawn encampment

Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN

A researcher at Imperial College London has resigned after he was filmed making racist comments and calling for Palestinians to be driven into Egypt at the Queen's Lawn encampment in South Kensington.

A video published on Instagram depicts the man, a research associate, saying that the "vast majority" of Palestinians are "collaborating with the Hamas regime" and "cherish death".

He alleges a conspiracy in which "the Arabs control a huge fraction of the world and have it under their tyranny," and says that "Islam and democracy are incompatible and always have been."

The caption under the video says that the students

being addressed are a Muslim student wearing a hijab and an Arab, though they are not visible on screen.

The researcher describes the war in Gaza as "a battle of civilisation against barbarism". When asked by the students who he would consider to be barbarians, he says, "You."

The social media video begins mid-conversation with the man being asked if he wishes for Palestinians to be wiped out. He responds: "Who would miss them?"

Later, he says that he would not like for Palestinians to be wiped out but wants to "drive them into Egypt."

He says: "I try to extend my compassion to them, I try to practice unconditional love, but I just can't, something is holding me back. These people are not the same as me, they do not have the same values. They cherish death, while we cherish life."

The researcher becomes increasingly agitated as the conversation progresses. He shouts "Depart!" and says,

"If you support the Palestinians so much, leave this country."

He tells the students: "You don't belong here, none of you do because you hate this country."

In a statement published on its website, Imperial said: 'We aware of footage relating to an incident on one of our campuses involving a member of Imperial staff.

'A disciplinary investigation was immediately activated and a decision taken to suspend. The individual has resigned with immediate effect.

'There is no place at Imperial for any form of racist or hateful behaviour and any incidents are taken extremely seriously.

'Anyone who feels that they have encountered harassing speech or behaviour is encouraged to use our Report and Support tool, to ensure we can take any necessary action.'

Palestine activists drop banners from windows at Exhibition Road Festival

Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN

Pro-Palestinian activists dropped banners from windows on Imperial's South Kensington's campus during a science festival on Sunday, in protest of the university's links to companies that work with the Israeli military.

In the early afternoon, with the Great Exhibition Road Festival in full swing, the students unfurled banners from upper levels of the Sherfield Building and the Dyson Building, which faces Exhibition Road.

Nearby on Imperial College Road, they draped the ALERT statue with bunting composed of Palestinian flags.

In a statement published on Instagram, the group – part of the

encampment on Queen's Lawn – said: 'The goal of this action was to call public attention to the relationships Imperial College has to companies that enable the ethnic cleansing and the genocide of the Palestinian people.'

Since establishing the encampment a month ago, students have held events including banner-making sessions, teach-outs, and poetry nights.

The demonstration last Sunday was part of a weekend of activities scheduled to coincide with the Great Exhibition Road Festival, a celebration of science and the arts that is held in South Kensington and open to the public.

An encampment representative said: "People came to see Imperial and regard it as a great institution. [The festival] was a great opportunity to state the facts of what this institution does and the

genocide it is complicit in."

Israel has denied accusations of genocide, made in the wake of its retaliatory attacks on the Gaza Strip.

Hamas killed around 1,200 people in Israel and took a further 251 hostages in attacks on 7th October last year. Israel's subsequent military campaign has killed over 37,000 people in Gaza, according to Palestinian officials from the Hamas-run health authority.

Over the past two weeks, the Queen's Lawn encampment has grown to 25 tents and now covers both sides of the Dangoor Walkway. Students pitched 10 tents when they set up the encampment in May, all of them on the side closest to Queen's Tower.

Encampment representatives claimed that 45 people stayed in tents on Queen's Lawn last week at an 'all out camping'

night. The group had put out a call for students to 'Camp with us... for our biggest night yet'.

The activists have called on Imperial to cut ties with engineering companies such as BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce, and Caterpillar Inc., which have supplied technology to the Israel Defence Forces (IDF).

In an Instagram post on Monday, the activists claimed that BAE Systems had dropped out of an Imperial-run careers fair 'following determined opposition for students'. BAE Systems did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

BAE Systems and Rolls-Royce have designed parts of the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II, a stealth combat jet that the IDF has deployed in the Gaza Strip.

B o t h → READ MORE ON 6

companies say that they abide by defence export controls.

In January a spokesperson for BAE Systems told *Felix* that the company was ‘horrified by the situation in Israel and Gaza and the devastating impact it’s having on civilians in the region and we hope it can be resolved as soon as possible. We respect everyone’s right to protest peacefully. We operate under the tightest regulation and comply fully with all applicable defence export controls, which are subject to ongoing assessment.’

A spokesperson for Rolls-Royce said: ‘Rolls-Royce supports the UK Government and its allies in providing power solutions for defence purposes. In doing so, we abide by all applicable export control and sanction laws. In the UK, those regulations demand that exports are considered against a range of criteria including relevant international law.’

Caterpillar has supplied armoured bulldozers to the IDF, which has used them to bulldoze Palestinian homes. The company did not respond to a request

for comment from *Felix* in January. It has previously responded to similar criticism by saying that it ‘shares the world’s concern over unrest in the Middle East’ but has ‘neither the legal right nor the means to police individual use of [its] equipment’.

Imperial wrote to student activists two weeks ago, telling them that it recognised ‘the profound human suffering’ caused by the war in Gaza.

Responding to their demands for divestment, the university said that its

investments are made in accordance with its Socially Responsible Investment Policy, which makes it a ‘signatory to the UN Principles of Responsible Investment’.

It added that its research relationships are governed by its Relationships Policy, legislative requirements, and the provisions of the National Security & Investment Act 2021.

Encampment shuts down for Summer Ball

Editor-in-Chief
JAMIE JOHN

Encampment activists packed up their tents on Thursday after what was billed as their final rally before

Summer Ball this weekend.

Two weeks ago, the group released a statement saying that they would ‘facilitate the summer ball going ahead’, explaining that the event was delivered by Imperial College Union (ICU), with whom they had no quarrel. They said:

‘The ICU showed care for the mental and physical wellbeing of the campers as well as the impact camping has had on our studies... [We view] the ICU operations as essential to us.’

Representatives of the encampment told *Felix* this week: “The plan is that

we’re going to put our tents to the side on Thursday so that Summer Ball can go ahead.”

They were not forthcoming on plans for the period following Summer Ball.



The encampment on Queen’s Lawn on Tuesday 18th June, winding down ahead of the full shutdown for Summer Ball. Walt Gao for *Felix*

General Election 2024

Hear from your local candidates

In just under two weeks, on 4th July, voters will go to the polls to elect Members of Parliament to the House of Commons. Under the UK's uncodified constitution, their decisions will determine who the King decides to appoint as Prime Minister and in turn, which political party leads the government.

On 4th June, ahead of the election, we contacted candidates standing in

constituencies with large populations of Imperial students.

All the candidates for Chelsea and Fulham; Kensington and Bayswater; Cities of London and Westminster; Hammersmith and Chiswick; and Ealing Central and Acton were given the opportunity to submit 200 words outlining their plans where they pertained to students.

We received written statements from three Labour candidates, one Conservative candidate and one Green Party candidate. Six other candidates – two from the Green Party, one from Labour, one from Reform UK, one from the Liberal Democrats, and one independent – expressed an interest in sending us a statement but did not do so in time for publication.

In two cases, candidates exceeded the 200-word limit substantially. In those cases, we trimmed the statements and have indicated this in below the text.

With thanks to Tarun Nair for contacting candidates and obtaining statements.

Tim Barnes, Cities of London and Westminster

Conservative and Unionist Party

I'm standing to be your next MP here in the Cities of London and Westminster, but who is Tim Barnes?

I'm 49 years old. I live in Soho. I work on Strand, where I'm the CEO of a small charity that helps people to start a business, particularly those from deprived backgrounds. I love living here!

As a former Westminster councillor and Cabinet Member for Young People and Learning, I know how to deliver for the people that live, study and work here.

Away from politics, I have dedicated much of my working life to education. I've worked in universities across the world, including UCL, Cambridge and MIT and have delivered a few guest lectures in entrepreneurship at Imperial

over the years!

Ensuring there is a ladder of opportunity for everyone who lives here is one of my key

commitments. That means support for affordable housing, decent education and good jobs. I will work hard to ensure our streets are safer for everyone and want to improve our air quality with real plans to tackle the problem.

You can find out more about me and what I stand for at votetimbarnes.org/ students or on social media – @vote-TimBarnes on Facebook, Instagram, and X/Twitter.



Ben Coleman, Chelsea and Fulham

Labour Party

Students like you will play a central role in rebuilding Britain after these disastrous 14 years of Conservative rule. Tackling the crises in climate, infrastructure and healthcare will rest upon your expertise in science, engineering and medicine.

I'm proud of having helped save Charing Cross Hospital, run by the Imperial NHS Trust – and of the unique industrial policy partnership between Imperial College London and Hammersmith & Fulham Council, where I'm deputy leader.

But Labour is about more than providing good, meaningful jobs to Imperial students and local people. Housing is a major issue for us in Chelsea and Fulham and across the country.

That's why Labour will unlock the planning laws to build more homes and help

first-time buyers. We're also going to crack down on exploitative landlords to stop renters paying high-end prices for low-end homes.

Your voices matter. Chelsea and Fulham is a straight Labour-Conservative battleground. An 8% swing would take it for Labour and give us enough seats to form a government.

Your votes will be crucial in deciding the next government. Labour is offering change. If I'm fortunate enough to serve as Chelsea and Fulham's MP, I'll fight to get Britain's future back – your future back.



Kate Crossland, Ealing Central and Acton

Green Party

As an Imperial graduate myself, I understand the draw to study at a prestigious London university, but I also know there's a price to be paid – in debt, and also in rent! If elected as a Green Party MP, I'd be working to introduce a living rent and create a renter's union to help fight against unscrupulous landlords.

I'd be backing the abolition of undergradu-

ate student fees, as well as looking at ways to support mature students and their families.

Complex international problems are being discussed at universities across the country, with protests calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, and climate change affecting everything from job prospects to the fundamentals of what the world's population will eat. As somewhat of a veteran of protest movements, I applaud this student activism. I will work to amplify your voices at the heart of power. The

Greens have long stood for peace and social justice, and of course for environmental protection, and I am proud to stand for a party with these core values at its heart.

And how to pay for all of this? Tax the richest 1%, and the polluters.



Read statements from candidates for Kensington and Bayswater, and Hammersmith and Chiswick on the next page

Joe Powell, Kensington and Bayswater

Labour Party

Kensington & Bayswater is one of the seats that will decide whether we have a change of government in July, and it's a tight two-horse race between the Conservatives and Labour. I'm standing for parliament for the first time, having spent my career working to fight corruption and make democracy more open, accountable and inclusive. That means young people having far more of a voice in how decisions are made in Britain. It's no coincidence for example that London's housing crisis affects young people most acutely. If elected, I will be a champion for far more social and affordable housing, better protections for renters and to build 1.5 million new homes in the first term of a Labour government. That will have a big impact for young people. I also believe the current higher education funding settlement does not work for the taxpayer, universities,

staff, or students. It needs reform and Labour will act to create a secure future for higher education.

A Labour government will also bring in a Green Prosperity Plan, designed to invest in the green industries of the future that will generate economic growth, make us more energy independent and meet our climate change obligations.

Joe Powell's statement was 69 words over the limit, so we removed the final two sentences to bring it down to 199.



Andy Slaughter, Hammersmith and Chiswick

Labour Party

Housing

My constituency is home to a high student population, including many studying at Imperial, with most renting privately. I am often approached by renters who are asking for assistance with excessive rent increases or landlords not carrying out basic repairs. Labour will immediately abolish Section 21 'no fault' evictions, while preventing private tenants being exploited and discriminated against, for example enabling them to challenge unreasonable rent increases.

Employment

Many students have part time jobs to support them through higher education, but these can often be low paid with few rights and little security. Labour will work with unions and businesses to improve working conditions, especially for those in low paid work. This will include banning exploitative zero hours contracts,

ending fire and

rehire and introducing basic rights, such as a right to sick pay and protection from unfair dismissal, from day one.

Education

Labour will implement a comprehensive strategy for post-16 education, including a guarantee that all 18- to 21-year-olds are offered training, an apprenticeship, or help to find work. A new body, Skills England, will be created and skills funding will be devolved regionally to empower local leaders to have greater control of skills development in their areas.

Andy Slaughter's statement was 114 words over the limit, so we removed several sentences in order to bring it down to 201 words.



Great Hall redevelopment plans underway

News Writer
TARUN NAIR

A refurbishment of Imperial's Great Hall is in the early stages of planning, with work projected to start next summer pending approval next month.

The project, led internally by the Education Office, aims to address the need for more spaces for education and to improve the existing functionality of the hall, but has attracted concern over the potential impact on club activities and Summer-term exams during the closure.

A key element of the project will be the installation of removable dividers, allowing the hall to be divided into three separate areas, while retaining its original purpose as an event space.

Plans so far also include separate audio-visual systems for education and events, and extra storage for musical

instruments and technical equipment.

Music societies have expressed concerns about being displaced from the hall for the duration of the project, and about the promised upgrades themselves.

Society members have taken exception to the use of dividers to turn the hall into a lecture space, saying that it would impinge on their ability to hold music events. ICSO Hall Manager Ben Bishop said that the arrangement 'is highly problematic, as many clubs and societies that use the hall need a large space, not just one-third [of the venue].'

He added that no suggestions have yet been made for temporary storage of instruments and alternative rehearsal venues during refurbishment work.

He worried that it would be 'nearly impossible to rehearse [even] if the space is merely 10 minutes away' from the current storeroom in the Great Hall.

'Even a couple of flights of stairs will completely derail a setup and pack-down

operation due to some percussion being too heavy and delicate to lift, and what was a simple pre- and post-rehearsal activity will outlast the rehearsal itself.

'We could have at least had some earlier and better communication from the College, as what could have been a fruitful operation is currently looking like a logistic nightmare.'

The Education Office did not respond to a request for comment.

Another issue being raised is the disruption of finals during refurbishment work, as some students sit end-of-year exams in the Great Hall.

Imperial College Union's officer trustees, who were briefed on the plans by the university, sought to allay fears surrounding the venue's temporary closure.

Union Deputy President (Education) Yi Yang said: "The Centre for Timetabling and other offices are looking for sites on campus or external sites close to Imperial as replacement venues for exams.

"They'll make sure the sites meet all requirements of exam conditions to ensure no student is impacted by this change."

The student union will work with societies to mitigate the impact of refurbishment work on societies which host events in the Great Hall.

Union Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Christian Cooper said: "The aim will be, in the leadup to closure, to make sure that all the key student groups impacted have been consulted. [We will] make sure that we can work with [them] to come up with an alternate venue.

"Because this is already on our radar more than a year in advance, we shouldn't have any issues."

Felix understands that planning will reach RIBA Stage 4 – the final stage before work begins – in the coming weeks. The renovation is planned to end in September 2026.

“You’re allowed to make mistakes ..., to learn as you go”

An interview with Jamie John and Zanna Buckland

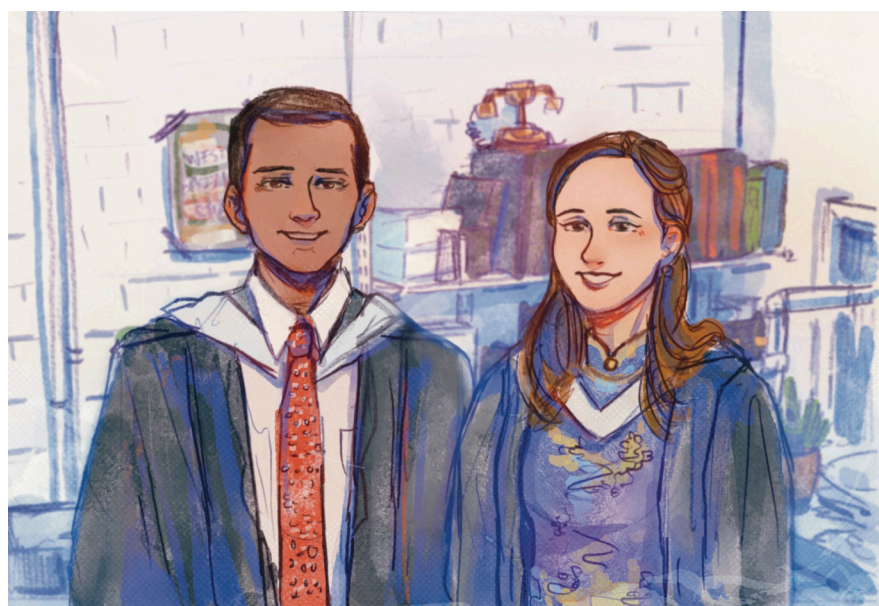


Illustration by Natalie Yu

Felix sits down with its outgoing editors to recap the year gone by, and to talk about how it all started.

News Writer
TARUN NAIR

Daylight pours into West Basement, making the indoors illumination pretty redundant. We’re discussing one of the biggest stories of the year – and the last issue Jamie John will be involved in as *Felix*’s editor-in-chief. For someone who became a news writer at the start of last year, it is fascinating to see how he has mastered his role – coming up with new leads to pursue, finding people to contact, navigating the College’s bureaucracy, and putting the story together on the page, all with ostensible ease.

Zanna Buckland, the other half of the senior editor team, joins us. The Materials graduate and Master’s student shared the top job in the latter half of last year follow-

ing the resignation of that year’s editor, but this year has settled into the deputy position, which involves liaising between the different teams of people who keep *Felix* running. In addition, she manages the Books section as well as her own Outside The Box, an off-shoot of the Environment section where she publishes weekly essays on sustainability issues.

Nudged into joining in her second year by the television programme *Gilmore Girls*, Buckland jumped right into the deep end as a Books editor. “The guy who was doing it at the time hadn’t really been doing anything for a while,” Buckland says about her meeting with then-editor Sam Lovatt, “so he’s like, if you feel like you’re up to having a section editor position, you can start and do that.”

The role – one she has held for almost three years – entails eliciting new submis-

sions from both new and regular writers, interviewing authors, and receiving requests for reviews from publishers.

John’s more sedate start as a copyeditor – checking spelling and grammar before articles go to print – was blighted by the COVID lockdown, forcing him to work remotely. “We used Teamviewer to access everything. It was really horrible to work on, because ... you’d click something and there’d be a one or two second delay before anything actually happened.”

He chuckles as he remembers never being credited in the paper as a copyeditor. “I don’t think we published many issues that year because of the pandemic, but it was cool to see the issues that did come out. I could see I had a role to play.”

After overseeing the Science section the following year, John was appointed Deputy Editor in 2022, and started to specialise in news writing. It would transpire to be a pivotal year. An inexperienced, overwhelmed editor-in-chief led to a poor output for *Felix* in the first term. Buckland recounts how, as motivation and submissions dropped, the paper shrank. “We were definitely very low on engagement, and we weren’t getting in writers, and the editors didn’t really have anything to do, so they weren’t coming in.” By Christmas time, it had fallen to just eight pages, little more than a pamphlet.

Clearly, something needed to change. As complaints from section editors mounted, the editor stepped down the following January; John and Buckland, together with fellow news reporter Isabella Ward, took up the mantle the following month.

Felix’s readership is a lot smaller than typical newspapers, by virtue of being tied to a university. For that reason, John expounds, it is all the more important for the editor to take charge – they have to “be proactive in encouraging people to write.” The pair have done exactly that. John has consistently tried to dispel the impression that contributing to the paper requires existing literary talent, in order to draw in a wider range of potential writers. “*Felix* is a really good opportunity to learn how to write and to explore things. You’re allowed to make mistakes. You’re allowed to learn as you go.” Indeed, I owe my own foray in news writing to his initial encouragement, and patient tutelage thereafter.

Part of the duo’s success has been down

to establishing a routine. By the Sunday before print, editors add their section’s articles to the pagination, a document which specifies the contents of the upcoming issue. The editor-in-chief finalises this by Tuesday, cutting or adding pages where necessary. Once articles have been edited and laid out on the page, they are handed over to copyeditors for a look-over. The whole paper is sent to the printers on Thursday, and is returned the next day for distribution around campus.

But it’s the best hits, those stories out of the ordinary which stick with people. Just one issue into their tenure, Ward and John published one of *Felix*’s biggest exposés in recent memory – an investigation into the chronic failure of the Physics department to provide welfare for students (*Felix* #1821). “[It] really did blow up,” Buckland relates. “When that article came out, everyone was reading it, and they were telling their friends to read it, because it was about people’s experiences with the Physics department.” “The news stories I’m proud of the most are the works like that, which have a big impact,” John adds.

There are some from this year too. Pulling a copy of *Felix* #1840 from a pile on a nearby table, he shows me the front-page Sir Ernst Chain heating story: the building’s heating system had failed, subjecting researchers to freezing cold temperatures over the whole winter season. It’s admittedly hard to know just how much the article had a hand in the situation improving; nevertheless, it provided a platform for students to speak out about their experiences, and shone a light on the college’s denial and mismanagement of the issue.

And the things that you would rather forget? “There was an article, a news article, which was about this guy who was stuck in Gaza. We were working to a really tight deadline, I’d spent all the time working on the front page story,” John grins at me. “Do you remember this?” I certainly do. Inside the sobering description of Imperial alumnus Nael Qtati’s life in Gaza (*Felix* #1834) was a pull quote – a quote from an article, set in a larger font for emphasis – from a cheerier Food&Travel segment about a mountain range. Truth be told, I may have had something to do with it.

Embarrassment eventually subsiding, I ask my interviewees about their plans for

next year. John modestly talks about the graduate scheme in the Financial Times he will be starting in September, a remarkable achievement for a STEM graduate. Buckland, whose twelve-month Masters' program has not yet finished, is looking into several jobs, many sustainability-oriented,

such as the civil service, and consultancy. "Felix has given me a lot of really good portfolio content," she says. "It's been great to be able to use it as a way to build up experience in writing, and to show that I have knowledge of sustainability."

PHOTOS FROM THE ENCAMPMENT



Walt Gao



Walt Gao



Walt Gao

Jamie John Felix Editor exposé

Readers breathe a sigh of relief as John's tenure of worryingly excellent journalism comes to an end.

NEWS WRITER CALUM DRYSDALE

In an exclusive, NegaFelix has discovered that Felix Editor-in-Chief Jamie John — who delivered a phenomenal paper under his editorship — is going on to better and brighter things at the Financial Times. John, who started as a copyeditor at Felix during the COVID-19 pandemic, proving his dedication by working remotely, has long concerned critics with his thoughtful and detail-led reporting. One worried reader, Feb Senton, told a NegaFelix reporter: “There was always something fishy about him. His science columns were never just standard student journalism press release rehashing. It really put my teeth on edge!”

Following on from his suspiciously successful term as Science Editor, John took up the reins of the paper as a Co-Editor-in-Chief when the editor that year resigned, in a move that his critics are calling public-spirited and a huge amount of work!

His election as full Editor-in-Chief came the following year. One section editor who agreed to speak to us under the condition of anonymity said “I always enjoy coming into the office. Jamie makes the space feel incredibly welcoming”. She went on to say that he was responsible for the massive increase in her writing ability and confidence.

One thing is certain. His reputation will never recover after this.



Jamie has presided over the best year Felix has had since I first joined Imperial four years ago. He is an exceptional professional, journalistic talent and mentor, and I strongly doubt I'd have enjoyed contributing to the paper this year had he not been at the helm. Financial Times are extremely fortunate to have him write for them next year, and he will be a sorely missed force for good at Imperial.

STANLEY SCOTT



As a leader, Jamie has shown over and over again how hard work, honesty and a good balance of grind and play can motivate and power a stable of writers. I found that working with Jamie led to efficient and effective results and that's what I aim to find in my next boss. He will forever be Jamie, the Chief!

CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

Jamie was Science Editor when I first joined Felix, and I've had the immense pleasure of working with him over the last 3 years. What I've appreciated most about Jamie is his dedication to printing stories that reflect the student voice at Imperial - from Blackett Blues to Mural Monstrosity - Jamie's always been there for us students.

TAYLOR POMFRET

Your Editor-in-Chief this year was a joy to work with. Jamie has been diligent, positive, and understanding even on our busiest days. He brings out the best in editors and writers, holding us to the highest standards while respecting good work-life balance. Personally, he has supported my journalism endeavours since day one - always making me feel heard and appreciated. Thanks to his work over the last three years, our newspaper is back where it belongs - in the hearts and minds of many Imperial students. His time at Felix will go down in history.

SIMRAN PATEL



Being social, I'm disheartened when no one messages me on WhatsApp. But in these moments of melancholy, an oasis would often appear: Jamie John. His eloquence in “Hi Gilbert, do you have an article for the Arts?” is something that I will never forget.

GILBERT JACKSON



Closest we've ever flown to The Sun. Thanks for everything Jamie!

TARUN NAIR



Ironically, I'm struggling to find the words that describe how incredible it has been to have Jamie as an editor-in-chief. And perhaps that is what I should say - that having witnessed over a year Jamie's humility and care as a leader, his vigorous pursuit of the truth in a news story, and the sincere geniality and warmth I come across each time I enter the Office, I don't think I could construct a deserving sentence. Fortunately, I've learnt from him what to do for an assignment like this: to not bury the lede. So here's my message: thank you.

FIYINFOLUWA OLADIPO



It's Wednesday, you walk into the office, the cool light from the sunroof gently welcoming you in. You turn to your left, and notice a slender figure wearing a windbreaker and a cap, a soft smile and big eyes instantly soothing your soul. Behold Jamie John, a man of virtue and intellectual integrity, but most importantly a journalist, always looking for the next big scoop. He looks at you intently, and slowly whispers: <Watson, this story turns out to be a vast, dark conspiracy that may just go all the way to the top...>.

Jamie John stars in Felix: A West Basement Study in Scarlet Coming to cinemas 18th May 2026

ROLANDO CHARLES

Rebranding Imperial

An exclusive interview with Pentagram's Visionaries - Domenic Lippa & Kimberley Langham

NEWS WRITER

MISHA BUZADJI

Much like waves relentlessly reshaping the shoreline, the world of academia is in constant motion, requiring institutions to evolve and adapt. In this ever-changing landscape, change is not just inevitable but essential. Over the past few months, Imperial has been rolling out its refreshed brand identity across campus and media platforms, a process we at Felix have been following closely. This bold rebrand has sparked considerable debate, leading to heated discussions both on campus and online, including a petition to revert to the old branding that drew thousands of signatures. As the buzz around the new look begins to settle, we seized the chance to explore the motivations and vision behind the changes. Felix sat down with Domenic Lippa, Partner at Pentagram, and Kimberley Langham, an Associate at the firm, who were part of a broader team that included both Pentagram and Imperial staff, all collaborating on this ambitious rebranding project.

Pentagram, a globally renowned design agency, has been at the forefront of the design industry, known for its transformative work with clients worldwide. Situated in the heart of London's museum district, Imperial students are likely already acquainted with some of Pentagram's work, notably a new identity for one of our neighbors, the Natural History Museum. Domenic Lippa's career is a testament to his passion and dedication to design. Graduating from the London College of Printing and running his own firm for 16 years before joining Pentagram, Lippa has spent the last 18 years as a partner at this prestigious design consultancy. When asked what drives him in his career, he shares, "What I've always believed about design and art and the humanities is that any form of culture can change countries and improve society." Domenic explains that Pentagram, unlike many design firms, does not just seek profit but aims to create meaningful and lasting impacts through design.

The relationship between Pentagram and Imperial College London began years ago via a recommendation from Birkbeck College. This led to a productive collaboration over the years with various Imperial departments, including the advancements team. The project most of us are familiar with is the "Circle of Benefactors," a unique installation honoring the college's donors at the Main Entrance. Reflecting on Imperial's STEM-focused environment, Domenic Lippa shared, "What I find interesting about Imperial is that it's a STEM institution, and I come from the total artistic side of that. It's intimidating yet fascinating." About a year ago, building on this trusted partnership, the idea for Imperial's rebrand emerged, which aimed to update the college's image and reflect its forward-looking vision.

MB - Misha Buzadji

DL - Domenic Lippa

MB: *Domenic, you're a partner here at Pentagram. Would you mind sharing what your role is exactly and what your usual involvement with projects, such as the Imperial rebrand, entails?*

DL: At Pentagram, each partner runs their own team. I work closely with my team on all projects, from inception to completion. For the Imperial rebrand, my role involved collaborating directly with Imperial's stakeholders, understanding their needs, and guiding the creative direction. This hands-on approach ensures that our designs are not only innovative but also align with the client's vision.

MB: *From what I've heard, Pentagram usually has a thorough plan going into new big projects: getting to know the client, defining goals, and setting expectations. What was it like with Imperial? Would you mind taking me through the process?*

DL: With Imperial, we began by understanding their existing identity and the reasons behind the need for change. This involved numerous stakeholder inter-



views, focus groups, and workshops to gather insights. Imperial did have a vision, but our process was to refine and expand that vision into a coherent brand strategy. There was some uncertainty initially, which is natural, but through collaborative efforts, we developed a clear and impactful direction.



simplified approach to branding, making it more adaptable and easier to use across various platforms and mediums. Lippa also highlighted the international implications of the name change, noting that “College London” could be confusing or carry different meanings globally. By shortening it to “Imperial,” the goal was to strengthen the brand’s presence in the international arena. While acknowledging the historical connotations of “Imperial,” the intention was to reclaim and redefine the name in a modern context, focusing on leadership, excellence, and innovation.

The old identity of Imperial was characterized by its use of a dark blue color and a typeface called Meta. Lippa noted that while Meta

was a popular font in the 90s, it had become restrictive and outdated. “The previous logo was essentially just a typeface. It didn’t convey the dynamic and innovative spirit of Imperial.” With its rigid and formal appearance, it didn’t resonate with the vibrant and diverse community at Imperial. The new color palette moves beyond the traditional dark blue, introducing a

broader spectrum that can convey different moods and themes. This change allows Imperial to communicate a wide range of messages, from serious academic content to engaging and vibrant student life. “Color can be your mood. If you have something serious, you can use a darker palette. If you want to be bright and bold, you have those options too,” Lippa emphasized.

The new identity also brings a sense of inclusivity and warmth, countering the old branding’s cold, corporate feel. By incorporating elements that aim to give the impression of humanity and approachability, the new identity aligns with Imperial’s values of collaboration and integrity. “We wanted to show that Imperial is not just about hard science and rigor but also about being a welcoming and inclusive community.”

Imperial Sans, the new custom typeface, is modern, legible, and humanistic, offering various weights and styles. This adaptability makes it suitable for everything from formal documents to vibrant promotional materials. “We wanted a typeface that felt modern and approachable, yet maintained a sense of authority and trust.”

Another significant element of the new branding is the introduction of the ‘I’ character, which serves as a dynamic symbol of the institution. This character is not just a logo but a versatile element that can be adapted and integrated in various creative ways. Lippa highlighted, “The ‘I’ character is expressive and can evolve over time. It’s a metaphor for discovery, freshness, and being brave.” This flexibility allows the identity to remain fresh and relevant for years.

As we reflect on the essence of the rebrand, it becomes evident that the changes go far deeper than surface aesthetics. “This rebrand is fundamentally about aligning Imperial’s visual identity with its strategic objectives and cultural ethos,” Lippa pointed out. “It is an embodiment of the institution’s commitment to leading in innovation, inclusivity, and global impact.”

This rebrand also introduces a new era of engagement for Imperial’s community. It invites students, faculty, alumni, and partners to be part of a living, evolving brand that adapts to the challenges and opportunities of the future. The new identity is not just something that has been handed down; it is a canvas for the Imperial community to co-create and express themselves.

“We see this as just the beginning,” Lippa added. “The new identity needs time to grow, expand, and integrate into the fabric of Imperial’s culture. It’s born from a deep understanding of Imperial’s heritage and aspirations but requires the active participation of its community to fully realize its potential.”

The unveiling of Imperial’s new identity, while initially met with skepticism and considerable pushback, reflects a broader conversation about change and innovation within our community. It is clear that such transformations, even those meant to foster a more connected and dynamic environment, can provoke a spectrum of emotions and reactions. However, this period of transition also opens up an invaluable opportunity for dialogue and collective growth.

Rather than resisting this new phase, we can channel our diverse viewpoints into constructive discussions that enhance our sense of community and shared purpose. By embracing this change with an open mind, we not only embody the very spirit of innovation that Imperial champions but also play an active role in shaping the future of our institution. This is not merely about accepting a new logo or color scheme—it’s about coming together to contribute to our legacy and the legacy of Imperial.

One of the most notable changes in the new branding was the shortening of the institution’s name from “Imperial College London” to simply “Imperial.” Lippa explained that this decision was significant and aimed at creating a more memorable and impactful brand. “Imperial is a strong, recognizable name that can stand alone,” he said. This change aligns with a modern,

SCIENCE

AstraZeneca COVID vaccine: boon or bane?

Science Writer
TEJAS GUPTA

Last month, AstraZeneca announced that they are withdrawing the vaccine from the market.

The company said “as multiple, variant COVID-19 vaccines have since been developed there is a surplus of available updated vaccines. This has led to a decline in demand for our vaccine, which is no longer being manufactured or supplied.”

The vaccine, heralded as “a vaccine for the world” in November 2020, has since delivered over three billion doses worldwide.

While the vaccine is estimated to have saved many lives during the pandemic, the company did admit that the vaccine caused rare side effects of blood clotting and lowered platelet counts.

Scientifically termed Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome, the company had previously disclosed these side effects to health care regulators.

Developed by researchers at the University of Oxford, the vaccine is a double stranded DNA vaccine which targets the spike protein of the coronavirus.

While AstraZeneca is standing steadfast on their withdrawal, speculation continues to rise among the people across the world who received the vaccine.

The next steps of action on behalf of the company and medical authorities remain to be seen.

In hindsight, however, the fatality and effects from the blood clotting caused by this vaccine were negligible. The vaccine saved over six million lives by the end of 2021 and acted as a true ray of light amidst the shadow of the pandemic.

Imperial student develops flat-pack homes for earthquake-stricken regions

—
MEng student
Mayar Ariss’
design aims
to reduce the
impact of
humanitarian
crises worldwide.

Science Editor
TAYLOR POMFRET

In the last issue of *Felix* this academic year, I’ve decided to dedicate this article to an inspiring project an Imperial

civil engineering student, Mayar Ariss, has been working on with MIT for the last couple of years called the GAMMA relief project. Ariss started the GAMMA relief project in 2023 in response to powerful earthquakes that ravaged through Morocco, Syria and Turkey, which claimed tens of thousands of lives and left countless survivors homeless.

Ariss believes that while emergency services provide immediate relief, they are not long-term solutions to solve such crises. In fact, they are harmful, as they lead to protracted refugee situations where refugees remain in camps much longer than intended.

During his time at MIT, Ariss assembled a team of architects, designers, engineers, and scientists to offer an alternative to the traditional way humanitarian agencies deal with earthquake crises. The team focused on developing disaster relief through the urban design

of timber units (flat-packs). These flat-packs can be assembled into shelters in a matter of days and constitute a foundation for expansion and customisation in the mid-long term. One flat-pack costs \$69,500 (~£55,000) to produce and can house six to seven people.

After hearing this story, *Felix* sat down with Ariss to learn more about his motivations behind starting the GAMMA project and the team’s ambition to design sustainable cities of the future.

Seeking a permanent solution

“It all started in February 2023,” Ariss explained, which followed the devastating earthquakes in Syria and Turkey. “Tents provided by organisations like the UN, though essential initially, deteriorated into slums over time – lacking adequate sanitation and security,” Ariss said. “That’s not a permanent solution,



Cleanup of the wreckage of a collapsed building in Diyarbakir, Turkey, following the 7.8 magnitude earthquake which had its epicenter in Gaziantep. Stemoc / Wikimedia Commons User (Licence: PDM 1.0)

it's a short-term solution.”

His team's solution is a flat-pack timber unit – reminiscent of IKEA flat-packs – which can provide a new



While emergency services provide immediate relief, they are not long-term solutions to solve such crises. In fact, they are harmful, as they lead to protracted refugee situations where refugees remain in camps much longer than intended.

home in just a few days. These units are not only quick to install, they also provide a foundation for sustainable urban development in disaster-stricken regions. “Think of it like assembling a piece of furniture,” Ariss explained. “The nice thing about this is that it's mod-



Timber is lightweight and absorbs seismic shocks better than concrete, providing safer living conditions during earthquakes.

ular. Each module can be customised and expanded, offering families a dignified living space with the potential for long-term use.”

Two-storey sustainable housing

The modular units designed by the team match the standards set by the UN for humanitarian housing. Each house is a two-storey modular structure made of plywood – which is sustainably sourced timber – and has a surface area of about 86 m². When asked about their choice of material, Ariss answered that “timber is lightweight and absorbs seismic shocks better than concrete, providing safer living conditions during

earthquakes.”

On top of sustainable foundations, each unit is equipped with solar panels for energy independence.

“These units are self-sufficient,” Ariss explained. “They include everything from kitchen facilities to bathrooms, reducing reliance on external resources and minimising the strain on local infrastructure.”

Future scope

The scope of the GAMMA Relief project extends beyond the Middle East, with potential applications in regions with refugee camps, namely in Palestine, France, or South America. Fittingly, one of the main advantages of the unit is that it can be shipped worldwide.

Ariss said his team has “engaged with non-governmental organisations and conducted market research in Lebanon and Syria, confirming a substantial demand for our modular units.” “We've made strides in reducing costs through efficient manufacturing and assembly processes,” he continued. “However, securing financial backing remains essential to scale our operations and make a tangible impact.” To secure funding for their project, the team has turned to crowdfunding platforms and have currently raised over \$3,000.

Looking ahead

As GAMMA Relief prepares to enter its next phase of development, Ariss remains optimistic about the project's potential impact. “Providing flat-packs not only conveys a message about how natural disasters should be handled, it also presents an alternative vision for the local urban communities. Despite the hostile context of war and destruction, it offers a glimpse into the cities of tomorrow.” To support the GAMMA project, scan the QR code below - which will direct you to the team's MIT crowdfunding page. The team at Felix wish Mayar and his team the best in their transformative flat-pack housing project.

Scan for MIT Fundraiser

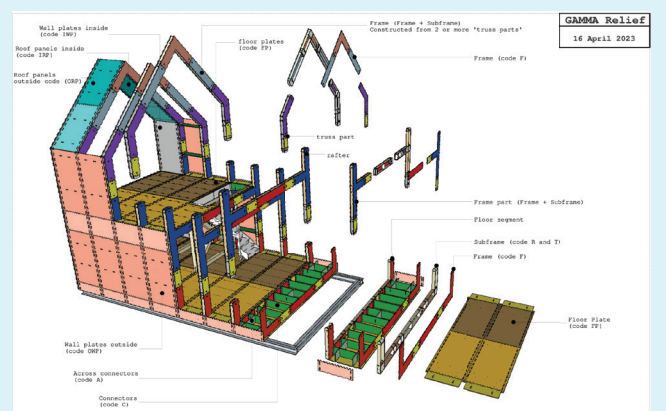


GAMMA Project: Review

Motivation

The project bridges the gap between providing short-term immediate shelters, and long-term permanent homes which can withstand harsh external conditions. The flat-pack is fully equipped to accommodate an entire family and is capable of making its own energy.

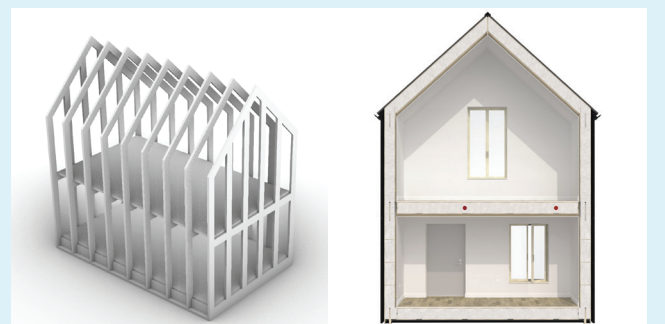
Assembly



Exploded-view drawing of the GAMMA relief flat-pack house. The assembly takes just a few days. GAMMA Relief

The assembly of the delivered flat-packs would be done by the local population. The team believe a community led approach will foster a sense of ownership and investment in the environment.

“Self-sufficient unit”



Each two-storey unit is made from sustainable plywood, and contains solar-panels, kitchen facilities, bathrooms and can house six to seven people. GAMMA Relief

The house is a two-storey modular structure made from a sustainably-sourced plywood, having a total surface area of 86 m². Components are digitally fabricated using CNC machines, ensuring millimetre precision during manufacturing. Perfectly cut pieces will create a straight and accurate structure.

Future impact

The team envisage a future with more sustainable housing through their design. Their units are not only appropriate for earthquake affected regions, but are suitable for refugee camps too.

The insulin controversy in the US: a financial tug-of-war

James Desmet delves into the rising prices of insulin in the US and explores the impact on both companies and patients.

Science Writer
JAMES DESMET

Insulin, a hormone critical for diabetes management, has become a highly contentious issue in the United States due to its soaring prices. Despite its discovery over a century ago with an initial intent to keep it affordable from its discoverers, the cost of insulin has escalated dramatically in recent years.

Price surge

Insulin was discovered in 1921 by Dr Frederick Banting and Charles Best. Their patent for insulin was sold to the University of Toronto for just \$1, reflecting their commitment to making it affordable. Over the past two decades, insulin prices have increased by over 600%. A vial of Humalog, which cost about \$21 in 1996, now exceeds \$300 in some states. A study by the Health Care Cost Institute found that between 2012 and 2016, the average price of insulin nearly doubled, from \$2,864 per year to \$5,705 per year for patients with type 1 diabetes. According to the American Diabetes Association, approximately 7.4 million Americans with diabetes rely on insulin. For many, these rising costs are unsustainable and can lead to dangerous practices like insulin rationing.

Key players in the insulin market

The insulin market in the US is dominated by three major pharmaceutical companies: Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi. These companies have been at the centre of the pricing controversy, with critics accusing them of exploiting their market power to maximise profits. While these companies argue that

high prices are necessary to fund research and development, the financial benefits they reap suggest a more complex picture. According to a 2019 Senate Finance Committee report, Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk, and Sanofi spent significant amounts on lobbying efforts to influence legislation related to drug pricing – further entrenching their market power.

Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and Health Insurance Companies

Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) play a critical intermediary role in the pharmaceutical supply chain. They negotiate prices between drug manufacturers and insurance companies, ostensibly to secure lower costs for consumers. However, PBMs have been criticised for their opaque pricing mechanisms and rebate structures, which can contribute to higher out-of-pocket costs for patients. Health insurance companies are also key players in the insulin pricing controversy. They determine the formulary, or the list of medications covered by insurance plans, and negotiate with PBMs and pharmaceutical companies to set prices. Insurers benefit from the current system by passing on higher costs to consumers through higher premiums, deductibles, and co-pays.

Impact on patients

The financial strain on patients is perhaps the most devastating aspect of the insulin pricing controversy. Many diabetics face monthly costs of hundreds or even thousands of dollars for insulin, forcing some to ration their doses or forego the medication entirely. This can lead to severe health complications including diabetic

ketoacidosis, hospitalisation, and even death.

A 2018 study published in *JAMA Internal Medicine* found that 25% of diabetic patients reported using less insulin than prescribed due to cost concerns. This statistic underscores the severe impact of high insulin prices on patient health. Additionally, a survey by the non-profit organisation T1International revealed that nearly one in four Americans with diabetes have rationed insulin due to its high cost.

Addressing the insulin crisis requires comprehensive reforms to increase transparency, promote competition, and prioritise patient access to affordable medication. Only through concerted efforts can the original vision of Banting and Best – making insulin accessible to all who need it – be realised in today's healthcare landscape. The current system's complexity and the significant financial interests at stake make this a challenging issue to resolve, but the health and lives of millions of Americans depend on finding a sustainable solution.

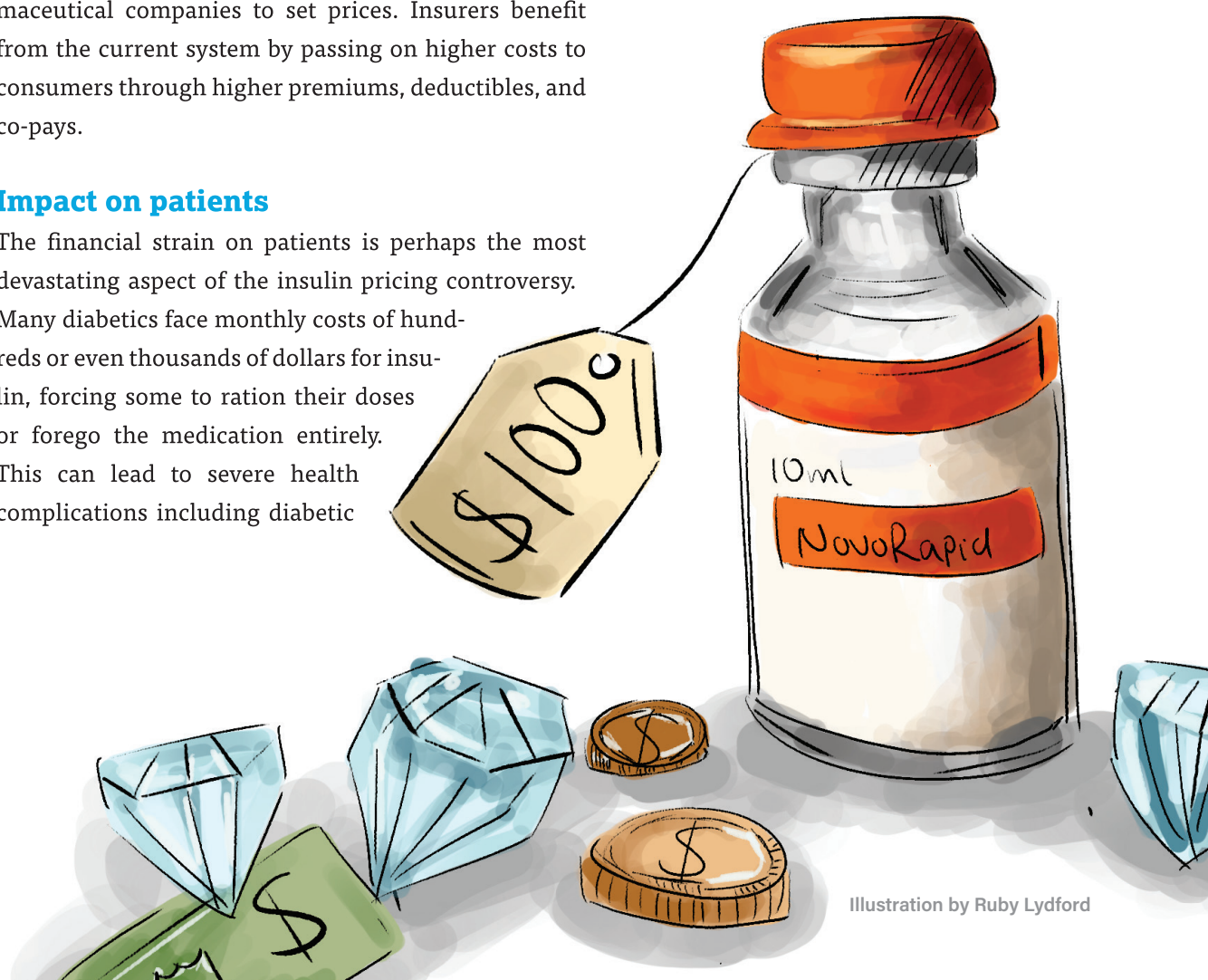


Illustration by Ruby Lydford

The Sophia Prize 2024

The £400 Sophia Prize is awarded to an ‘outstanding, inspiring, and accessible article that helps tackle climate defeatism and covers, or conceives of, an economic, cultural, or scientific innovation that helps fight global warming’. All pieces published in *Felix* and meeting the criteria above are eligible. Keep submitting articles for a chance to win next year!

Winner

Revaluing crude glycerol to lower biodiesel costs

By Sabrina Cittadino

Issue #1849

One of the most pressing problems facing the world today is that of how to end our addiction to fossil fuels. Over the past decade, electric vehicles have surged in popularity, but one technology that has failed to gain traction in the same way is biofuel.

The 2024 Sophia Prize winner turns its attention to this problem and looks at how researchers are working to make biodiesel commercially viable.

Sabrina Cittadino writes that burning one gallon of biodiesel releases eight times less carbon dioxide by mass than the same amount of diesel. However, the former produces highly contaminated crude glycerol as a

byproduct, which fetches little on the market and harms the environment if discarded.

Cittadino’s piece explores how a group of Uruguayan researchers are taking crude glycerol waste from biodiesel production and using bacteria to obtain products that can be sold to the cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries.

In the spirit of the Sophia Prize, she has interviewed the scientists behind the work, and adroitly uses their voices to shed light on a fascinating area of innovation.

Congratulations to Sabrina Cittadino for winning this year’s £400 prize and thank you to all those who submit-

Revaluing crude glycerol to lower biodiesel costs

A team led by Uruguayan scientists is working on a novel biorefinery technique using bacteria found in kombucha to revalue the by-product of biodiesel.



The bacteria found in kombucha can be used to reduce the price of biodiesel. (Evelina Elizarraraz)

Environment Writer
SABRINA CITTADINO

By 2030, global biodiesel production is estimated to be 20 billion litres – 28.2% more than what was generated in 2021, according to data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). This shows that, at its own pace, the world is increasingly trying to move away from dependence on petroleum-based fuels.

One of the biggest consumers of fossil fuels is transport, which is why biofuels such as bioethanol and biodiesel have emerged as a green alternative, especially since the 2012 Paris Agreement. At that time, UN member countries pledged to substantially reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to limit global temperature rise, and many began blending a small percentage of biofuels with petroleum-based fuels. According to the National Bioethanol Federation of Colombia (FEBIOCOMBUSTIBLES) – the world’s tenth-largest biodiesel producer – one gallon of biodiesel reduces CO₂ emissions by eight kilos compared to a gallon of diesel.

However, this biofuel also has a downside, because for every 10 kilos of biodiesel produced, one kilo of highly contaminated crude glycerol is obtained. This has two problems: on the one hand, if it is sold, this glycerol has a very low market value, so it does not help

lower the price of biodiesel, which today costs 70% and 130% more than diesel on the wholesale market; on the other hand, if the glycerol is discarded because it is contaminated, it has a harmful impact on the environment.

A group of researchers from the ORT Uruguay university have been working since 2016 on a solution to make crude glycerol more valuable on the market. Not only will it cease to be a polluting by-product, but it will also boost the production and consumption of biodiesel by lowering its cost.

“Our work aims to generate a biorefinery concept to take the waste from biodiesel production and turn it into other products with greater added value. In our case, we are doing this with bacteria of the genus *Gluconobacter*, which, in products for human consumption, can be found, for example, in kombucha,” says Magdalena Ripoll, one of the researchers on the project.

So far, the team has already succeeded in obtaining different valuable products from working with these bacteria. One is dihydroxyacetone (DHA), a component useful in the dermo-cosmetics industry, when it is present in self-tanning creams. Another is sorbitol, which is used as a precursor for the synthesis of synthetic antibiotics, X-ray contrast agents, and pharmaceuticals.

The other product is glyceric acid, a chiral molecule of high market value because it is produced only in small quantities and has significant potential functions. “Some studies indicate that it can be used to treat the effects of alcohol on the body. Others say it can be protective in

some skin cells,” explains Ripoll. The study of this molecule is currently quite limited, as it is very expensive to produce and buy, so the work of the Uruguayan scientists could help it be produced in larger quantities, through cheaper and more environmentally friendly means.

Previous studies have obtained DHA from the glycerol resulting from biodiesel production, but they did so from pure glycerol. What’s special about this team’s research is that it is from crude glycerol. This is fundamental because, according to Ripoll, it is estimated that in industry, the purification of a compound can influence up to 70% of the cost of the production process.

This emphasises the need for a global shift towards bio-based economies to ensure sustainable development and environmental protection. It is important to note that governmental involvement, through regulation and investment, forms the backbone of all economies by supporting the development of various sectors. Notably, the UK government has pledged to invest as much over the next 10 years in synthetic biology technologies to advance the UK bioeconomy. This substantial investment aims to attract more private investors, pressing growth in sustainable synthetic biology businesses and driving innovation in the field.

Building climate change requires an industry-wide shift to sustainable bio-based processes derived from organic matter, as well as adaptation of manufacturing practices. This is vital in creating a sustainable cycle where waste becomes our new source of raw materials. Increased government and private investment in the bioeconomy will pave the way for a bio-based industry that supports our climate instead of harming it.

Runners up

Converting roads into tram rails could be revolutionary, so why aren’t we doing it?

By Zanna Buckland

Issue #1849

Eco frontiers: from groundbreaking discoveries to trailblazing leaders

WITH ZANNA BUCKLAND

Regular air quality in environmental terms, there are always people making remarkable headlines. This week, we take a look at some of the recent insights for the environmental sector from all over the globe. This includes the release of Imperial College’s decarbonisation plan for the South Kensington Campus, its reported 100% journey to net zero energy by 2026, prepared with help from Arup consultants.

Breaking the cement ceiling

Researchers at the University of Cambridge published an article in *Nature* in the 10th of May describing a breakthrough in cement recycling. They found that cement could be used as a substitute for the fine-grained flux used in electric arc furnaces for steel recycling. Low flux works by being heated on the surface of molten steel to prevent the metal from reacting with air and forming impurities – the waste product of this reaction is often the slag, which is sold as a by-product. The replacement of low flux with used cement is one being studied by several materials processing plants since the researchers also determined that the resultant waste product could be recycled into new cement for use in concrete. If this process can be commercialised and implemented at scale, it would greatly decrease carbon emissions for both the concrete and steel recycling industries, two of the most carbon-intensive materials used in the construction industry.

Madame President, PhD

On the 2nd of June, Claudia Sheinbaum was elected as the 68th president of Mexico. Sheinbaum has several records behind her, as Mexico’s first female president, and the first president with a PhD in energy engineering. Sheinbaum worked at the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change, contributing to the negotiation, Fourth and Fifth Assessment Reports with a focus on climate change mitigation. She researched energy use in Mexico’s building and transport sectors for her PhD, and worked on electric vehicle and low rapid transit projects in Mexico City as an environment scientist. Sheinbaum’s historic appointment provides an interesting lens through which to view the environmental movement, especially with Donald Trump appearing to be a strong contender for the 2025 US presidential election.

Costa Rica’s zoos on the verge of extinction. A little over a year ago, Costa Rica finally closed all of its zoos. This was a process that began in 1993 but was delayed by the constant extension of a management contract with Wildlife Foundation. Finally, the contract was not renewed and the Ministry of Environment and Energy to go ahead with the closure of Finca Bolson Sur and the Finca Ana Conception Center. The remaining animals are in the process of being transferred to a rescue centre, where they will be held until a decision is made on whether they should be released into the wild or should be rehomed to other wildlife sanctuaries. Tragically, several of the animals died following the initial transfer, which was attributed to their history of confinement, causing stress. Although the country still has 16 private zoos – a mixture of rescue centres closed to the public, wildlife sanctuaries open to visitors, and breeding centres – the closure of state zoos has still been recognised as a step in the right direction. Environmental groups have long decried the state’s huge amounts of electricity and water are required to run them from the state necessary to ensure sufficient amounts of CO₂ as other climate change mitigation measures remain essential. However, Mammouth has been effective and, unlike the zoo, and is set to become fully operational by next year, and Cisneros is looking to expand to regions in Norway, Canada, and Korea.

Iceland’s Mammoth operation

Mammoth is the name given to the world’s largest direct air capture and storage plant, which began partial operation in early May. Managed by Swiss company Climeworks and located in Iceland, the plant is claimed to be able to capture up to 3,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year operating at full capacity. The Mammoth direct air capture facility recycles air into collection chambers containing fibre material for extracting CO₂. Concentrated CO₂ is then mixed into a seawater-based solution and pumped deep to the ground where it mineralises into solid rock. These kinds of facilities are now being developed to capture huge amounts of electricity and water are required to run them from the state necessary to ensure sufficient amounts of CO₂ as other climate change mitigation measures remain essential. However, Mammouth has been effective and, unlike the zoo, and is set to become fully operational by next year, and Cisneros is looking to expand to regions in Norway, Canada, and Korea.

Planes, runways, and aviators

With help from law firm Clive Earth, the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds has successfully advocated the Portuguese government’s plans for an airport to be built on the Tagus estuary. This wetland habitat near Lisbon hosts thousands of birds, both local and migratory, and has Special Protection Areas and Sites of Community Importance. The legal suit was supported by several national and international environmental organisations (WWF, as well as numerous scientists and aviators who opposed the airport’s planned location. The lawsuit targeted the plans set out on the grounds of public procurement law but they were not won as the country’s climate commitments. Although proposed construction on the Tagus estuary has now been prevented, the Portuguese government is now pushing forward with a nearby site at Alentejo, the result of a strategic environmental assessment to determine the best place for the airport. Clive Earth has also recently taken on legal action

Transitioning towards a bio-based economy to combat climate change

By Julia Purrios
Issue #1849

ENVIRONMENT

Transitioning towards a bio-based economy to combat climate change

Environment Writer
JULIA PURRIOS

A bioeconomy is an economic system that depends on biological resources and processes to produce goods in an environmentally friendly manner. Current industrial economies rely on fossil fuels to manufacture products like engine fuels and plastics, which form the basis for many products and services that we use. The primary fossil fuels – oil, gas, and coal – are non-renewable carbon sources that contribute to climate change by emitting greenhouse gases when burned. The alternative, a bio-industrial model, would use bio-based feedstocks and synthetic biology to manufacture products to maintain production. Strategies in modern biology include, such as synthetic bio-based plastics and fuel sectors.

Synthetic biology

Synthetic biology is an emerging interdisciplinary field in which scientists engineer new systems out of biological components to fulfil useful purposes. By harnessing biological systems, synthetic biologists can produce products from renewable feedstocks and generate diverse micro-organisms. This would help to reduce our reliance on petroleum-based processes and therefore reduce our carbon footprint. All in one, synthetic biology promotes responsible innovation, enabling industrial processes to evolve in harmony with the planet’s needs rather than exploiting its resources. It can facilitate the development of carbon-neutral fuels, biodegradable materials, and efficient carbon capture technologies. These advancements can transform how we produce and consume both energy and materials.

Bioplastics

Traditional plastics, a major source of pollution in industrial nations, contribute significantly to the climate crisis. This production relies on fossil fuels, and their decomposition or incineration releases greenhouse gases. In contrast, bioplastics can be produced from plant matter waste such as crop residues. The key innovation involves engineering cells to convert this waste into biodegradable plastics to create a renewable production cycle. These bioplastics can be applied in many products to conventional plastics, making them a viable and sustainable alternative that supports bioeconomics.

Biomanufacturing

Biomanufacturing processes use biological systems, often involving synthetic biology to produce renewable materials like hydrogels and hydrogels. Biogenerated cells are cultured in bioreactors and create diverse molecules such as bioplastic precursors that are often extracted and purified for industrial use. For example, GlaxoSmithKline is a leading synthetic biology company that specialises in developing micro-organisms for industrial applications. However, the main downside is its higher cost and lower efficiency compared to

standard industrial processes. Additionally, biomanufacturing is yet to be adopted by industrialised nations. The UK and USA are the only countries to significantly invest in synthetic biology approaches to sustainability. This emphasises the need for a global shift towards bio-based economies to ensure sustainable development and environmental protection.

Government regulation/investment

It is important to note that governmental involvement, through regulation and investment, forms the backbone of all economies by supporting the development of various sectors. Notably, the UK government has pledged to invest as much over the next 10 years in synthetic biology technologies to advance the UK bioeconomy. This substantial investment aims to attract more private investors, pressing growth in sustainable synthetic biology businesses and driving innovation in the field.

Building climate change requires an industry-wide shift to sustainable bio-based processes derived from organic matter, as well as adaptation of manufacturing practices. This is vital in creating a sustainable cycle where waste becomes our new source of raw materials. Increased government and private investment in the bioeconomy will pave the way for a bio-based industry that supports our climate instead of harming it.



ENVIRONMENT

How do UK parties compare on climate change?

Incoming Environment Editor
OSCAR MITCHAM

The UK elections are coming up on 4th July. If you can, vote. An important issue for many voters is how each political party will tackle the climate crisis if elected, so this article summarises some of what each party has promised. For more details, read their manifestos.

The Conservatives would:

- 🌱 keep the 2050 net zero emissions target;
- 🚗 keep the 2035 phase-out date for new combustion engine vehicles, expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and undo the recent Ultra-Low Emission Zone expansion in London;
- 🏠 give out North Sea oil and gas production licences every year, build new gas power stations, increase offshore wind capacity threefold, and increase nuclear energy production with Small Modular Reactors;
- 🏠 invest £6 bn in energy efficiency over the next three years, never force replacing boilers, and make the Climate Change Committee consider cost to households in any future climate advice;
- 🌱 support British sustainable aviation fuel and local steel production, and implement a carbon pricing mechanism by 2027;
- 🌱 make British fisheries sustainable in the long term.

Envato Elements

The Labour Party would:

- 🌱 keep the 2050 net zero target;
- 🚗 restore the 2030 phase-out date for new combustion engine vehicles, bring railways into public ownership, and deliver a reliable and affordable rail service;
- 🏠 create and fund a publicly-owned clean power company, “double onshore wind, triple solar power, and quadruple offshore wind by 2030”, and ensure nuclear power plays “an important role in the helping the UK achieve ... clean power”;
- 🏠 invest “an extra £6.6 billion over the next parliament” in offering “grants and low interest loans to support investment in insulation ... solar panels, batteries and low carbon heating” and never force replacing boilers;
- 🌱 invest “£2.5 billion to rebuild our steel industry”, invest “£1 billion to accelerate the deployment of carbon capture”, and promote sustainable aviation fuels;
- 🌱 aim for “half of all food purchased across the public sector to be locally produced or certified to higher environmental standards” and “make land management schemes work for farmers and nature”.

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A Friends of the Earth analysis assessed where major parties stand on climate, energy, nature, and the environment before manifestos were released, assigning the following scores as an aggregate of ten policy areas:

Reform would:

- 🌱 scrap net zero;
- 🚗 remove the phase-out date for new combustion engine vehicles and “scrap all Net Zero related objectives” including legislating to “ban all ULEZ and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods”;
- 🏠 scrap renewable energy subsidies, “start fast-track licences for North Sea gas and oil”, “grant shale gas licences on test sites for 2 years” and “fast-track clean nuclear energy with small modular reactors”;
- 🌱 “scrap climate-related farming subsidies.”

Reform does not have a manifesto, they have a “Contract” which is “deliberately issued as a working draft.” Reform also makes several widely debunked claims about climate change, such as that the current rate of climate change is normal and that excess CO₂ is good because plants ‘breathe’ it. Their contract did not mention retrofitting or insulating homes or climate resiliency. They also say that “net zero is ... damaging British industry”.

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The Liberal Democrats would:

- 🌱 set a 2045 net zero emissions target;
- 🚗 restore the 2030 phase-out date for new combustion engine vehicles, further electrify Britain’s rail network and create new cycling and walking network, and introduce a “Young Person’s Buscard” for a third off bus and tram fares;
- 🏠 generate “90% of the UK’s electricity is generated from renewables by 2030”, remove “restrictions on new solar and wind power”, introduce “a ban on new coal mines”, and “end fossil fuel subsidies”;
- 🏠 launch “free insulation and heat pumps for low-income households” over the next 5 years and “ensure that all new homes are zero-carbon”;
- 🌱 invest in green infrastructure, “implement a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism for high-emission products”, and support carbon capture and storage in cement and steel production;
- 🌱 invest £1 bn a year “to support ... nature-friendly farming”, maintain environmental standards in food production including making sustainability “the heart of fisheries policy”, and support alternative protein.

Envato Elements

- Conservatives - 27/100.
- Labour - 51/100.
- Liberal Democrats - 68/100.
- Greens - 82/100.

The Green Party would:

- 🌱 set a 2040 net zero emissions target;
- 🚗 make bus travel free for under 18s, bring railways into public ownership, and spend £19bn on electrifying and improving public transport, cycle paths, and footpaths over five years;
- 🏠 provide 70% of the UK’s electricity from wind power by 2030, allow no new oil and gas licences, end fossil fuel subsidies, and stop nuclear power stations from being developed;
- 🏠 invest £33 bn over the next five years to insulate homes and public buildings, and £9 bn for improving heating systems, and £7 bn for preventing overheating in homes during the summer;
- 🌱 invest £11 bn in reducing emissions from industry and implement a carbon tax on all fossil fuels, including imports, rising to £500 per tCO₂e over ten year;
- 🌱 reduce meat and dairy farming, encourage fruit and vegetable horticulture, and triple support to nature-friendly farming over the next five years.

Envato Elements

Delving into Imperial's sustainability vision

Incoming Environment Editor OSCAR MITCHAM

Last month, Imperial announced a series of new commitments, reports and policies setting out how the university plans to reach net zero without offsets by 2040, in line with their sustainability strategy. I interviewed Academic lead for Sustainability, Professor Tim Green, and Sustainability Officer Rhea Samra about Imperial's new policies.

"It's been a huge amount of work by a lot of people", said Professor Green, explaining that Imperial wants to "be active on all fronts". The strategy, developed with consulting firm ARUP, covers net zero operational emissions – while indirect (scope 3) emissions are addressed by various other policies.

Imperial is also committed to improving the fabric of buildings. Professor Green believes "it's our job centrally to improve the glazing, ventilation, insulation in the roofs, and the building management system so they heat our rooms more accurately."

Unfortunately, disruption is inevitable with all the building improvements. "We're going to have to shift some of our teaching out of the building it's customarily done in ... It's probably going to be tougher on staff," he continued.

Professor Green sees the fabric improvements as part of larger improvements to campuses – direct benefits of which include making rooms safer for students and the learning environment more comfortable. Imperial will "coordinate the sustainability actions with the refurbishments that the buildings need", he explained. He wants to make "labs

the sort of labs we want to use for the research and teaching we do now and for the next 20 years – or as far as we can see in the future – but also configure teaching spaces, reacting to the fact that we have more flipped classroom activity. We need more space for group work and student-to-student interactions." These additional refurbishments are not counted in ARUP's cost projections, which Professor Green said require a "sustained spend of about £50-£100 million a year".



It is possible we don't quite make it for [net zero by] 2040, but – gosh – we're going to be trying hard.

Professor Green thinks actions on scope 3 emissions are where students and staff "more directly get to choose things and do things", but his main request to students was to help with ventilation issues. He appreciated the difficulty of getting rooms to the right temperature, but asked for people to "close windows when they leave the room – so the heating system has a chance of getting the right comfort levels in the rooms without a ridiculous waste of energy."

Samra noted other ways students and staff can get involved. "There are lab efficiency programmes that are mainly run by staff that students can get involved in too, especially because they are the ones in the labs." For offices, she promoted "another scheme which is also for staff

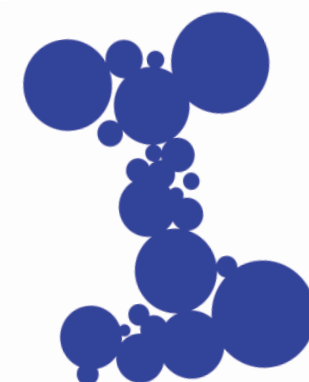
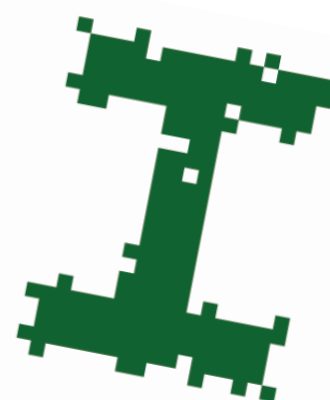
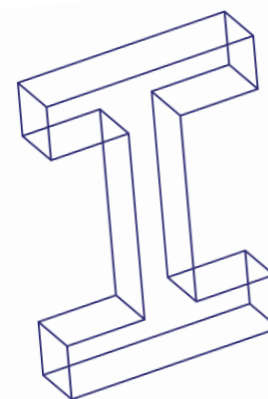
called Green Impact, which is where people who are based in an office can reduce energy use to be more sustainable." Imperial has created a '9 things you can do to be more sustainable at Imperial' page to help students get involved.

The College also plans to further integrate sustainability into education for staff and students. "The Grantham Institute are working on a module for all students to take which is about sustainability and climate change," said Samra. She also mentioned that staff can take "a half day course which is the baselining of understanding climate change, how to communicate it, actions – organisational and individual – and what initiatives are going around at government and international levels."

If students want to get involved in informing policy and curricula, there are "sustainability committees for individual departments," continued Professor Green. "I happen to sit on the one for electrical engineering. That's got student representation. ... and Rhea will not forgive me if I don't mention the sustainability champions."

Imperial's goal with decarbonisation is to do it properly. "There are universities that have made commitments to decarbonise their buildings sooner than us, but that's going to be based on offsets and we don't buy that argument. We don't see an offset in the market that's credible," explained Professor Green.

When asked about their confidence that Imperial would meet its 2040 target, Professor Green said it is "possible we don't quite make it for 2040, but – gosh – we're going to be trying hard. I think we will get very close if we don't actually achieve it."



As the 2023/24 academic year comes to a close, I am reflecting on my time at Imperial across multiple facets: my hours at *Felix*, researching, writing, and editing to my heart's content; my academic experience, which will conclude in September; and my aspirations for a career working towards a better future for our planet. This year, I have put myself in the fortunate position to be able to carve out my own section of the paper in which I could explore, dissect, scrutinise, dispute, and advocate for some of the hottest topics in the environment sector. At times this has felt like screaming into the void, but I have faith that there are at least a few dedicated (or one-time) readers of *Felix* who have enjoyed embarking on these intellectual adventures with me.

Interestingly, although I started university as a passionate advocate for specifically the climate-change agenda, this interest has evolved to encompass the environment sector more broadly. Whereas I still believe strongly in our need and ability to tackle the global

challenges that climate change poses, I have become much more of an advocate for holistic mitigation methods and general preservation of Earth's resources. That being said, climate change remains one of, if not *the* largest threat to these precious resources. So, I return to a topic from one of my earliest column articles, about net-zero: the roles of definition, interpretation, and robust, objective research in climate-change mitigation.

In a 2024 report titled 'The next frontier for climate change science', the European Commission sets out 11 clusters of research that it has deemed essential for effective mitigation, and how this should inform policy-making. Such clusters include 'risks and vulnerability across time and space' and 'accelerating climate action: levers and enablers', spanning the whole range of physical, social, and economic impacts that climate change can have.

The subsections for these clusters contain terms such as 'understanding', 'investigating', 'assessing', and 'attributing',

all actions that require stakeholders to define and interpret the given area to a particular standard. The factors contributing to climate change, and to exacer-

bating its effects, are numerous, and can truly be understood only through rigorous data collection and analysis. These can be anything from the impact of poverty on the ability to withstand increased heat and more severe natural disasters, to the climate benefits from new forest growth of carbon dioxide absorption and ecosystem regenera-

tion. To tackle the interconnected nature of these elements, it is crucial to employ both

wide-ranging climate models and holistic, interdisciplinary policy research to really capture the big picture.

The document itself provides recom-

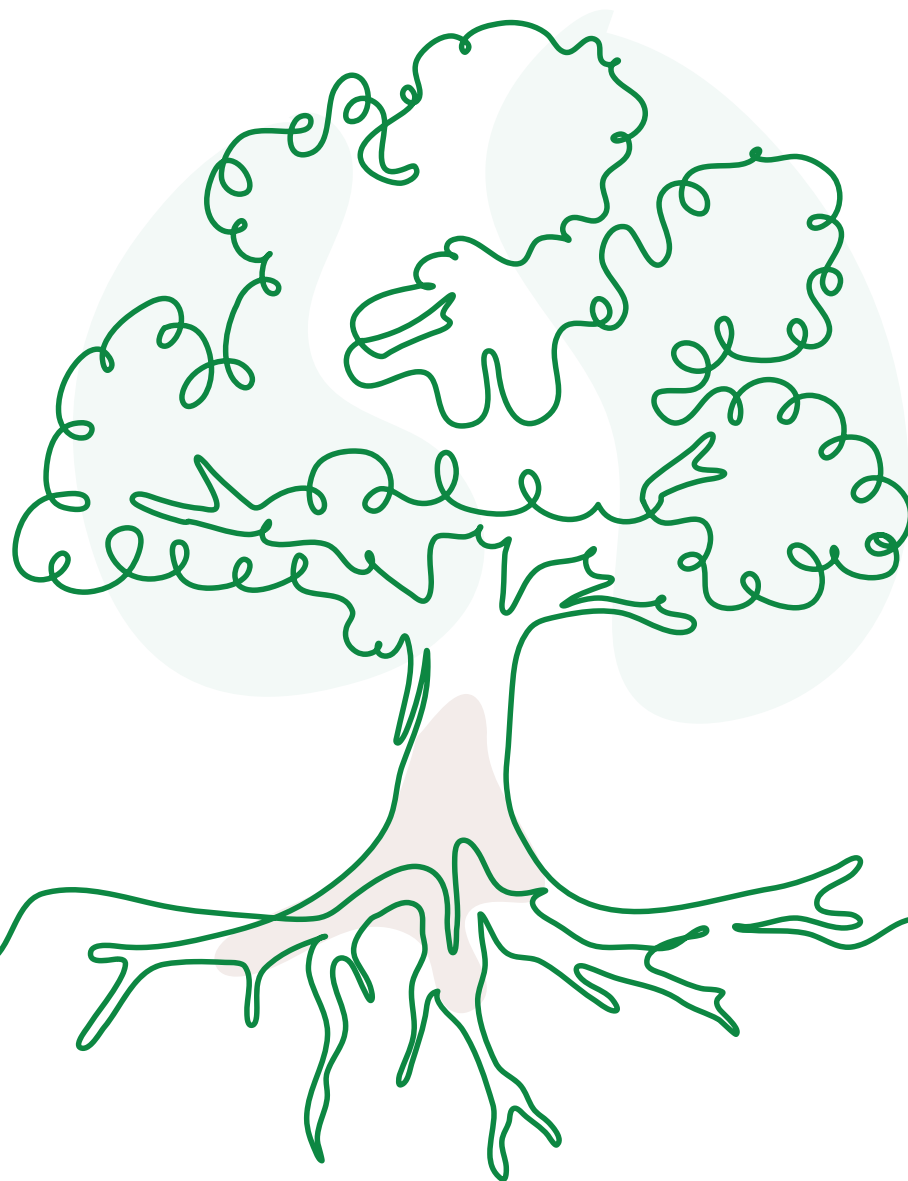
oxpecker birds (*Buphaga africana*) feed on the insects living on buffalo and elephants, fending off disease-carriers and irritating pests, so can our investment in restoring natural resources provide us with climate-change mitigation.

This also emphasises our need to treat the climate crisis not as a single-solution problem but as a complex tapestry. It was never going to be enough to simply 'stop burning fossil fuels' or 'buy electric cars', but in wider societal change – even just the willingness to adapt – there can always be hope that our future is not a bleak one. This includes setting out definitive, undisputable targets for us to work cohesively and collaboratively on areas like getting to net zero and reversing biodiversity loss.

At Imperial, although we might not always see it, we have the whole world at our fingertips and its fate in our hands. It is vital that we work towards improving the state of the Earth, and recognise that many of us are doing so already, some without even realising it. I continue to be

inspired every day by the research and innovation that takes place within the walls of the College, and hope to soon join the ranks of incredible students and alumni who are making positive contributions to society.

I implore anyone who is remotely interested in taking up the mantle of environmental journalism, or any kind of writing for that matter, to put yourself out there and get involved with the paper – I guarantee it is a rewarding, fulfilling experience. And if you don't write about it, at the very least talk to anyone and everyone about the issues and breakthroughs in the environment sector: everything starts with the sharing of ideas. Finally, a massive thank you to Mike Buzadji, *Felix's* current Chair and one of Imperial's greatest assets, who has put in an incredible amount of graphic design work over the past year to make this column a visual masterpiece, and to Jamie for giving me all the creative freedom I could wish for.



Signing off for the year Sealing the box, what's next for me?

WITH ZANNA BUCKLAND

land use, and systems transitions, which all link to the idea of symbiosis. Just as

The Tao of Bitcoin

How Bitcoin can fix the broken monetary system.

Comment Writer
BRETT BUCKLAND



Before one can start to appreciate the many philosophical lenses through which Bitcoin can be contemplated, one first needs to understand the riddle it strives to solve – the broken monetary system. I remember feeling deflated as a boy after discovering that the coins jangling in my pocket didn't have any intrinsic value; their value is forced by decree (or fiat). It made the world seem a little bit fake, disconnected from the old world of shiny gold coins and merchant trading. I assumed that money was printed to replace ageing notes and coins and that total supply was fixed.

Money is a tool with which to store time and effort spent providing value to others. It has taken many forms, from beads 75,000 years ago in Africa to tally sticks in medieval England. With half the world still living in poverty, the monetary system is clearly skewed in favour of the minority living in luxury, but it wasn't until the 2008 crash that I started to dig deeper to try and find out why.

Trade has underpinned civilised society since time immemorial, but strangely the monetary system isn't taught at school. Even those who study economics are taught not about the philosophy of money itself, but the workings of the existing 'Keynesian' financial system. Studying Civil Engineering at Imperial in early 90s, I was struck by how many graduates were going into banking and finance, and how perverted it was that those who'd studied to bring tangible improvements to the world were being enticed into careers making money from money itself. I've since become aware of many financial crises just within my lifetime. I'm convinced that such events and the distortions in our lives – where rent-seekers earn more than producers and creators, and environmentally destructive mega corporations use carbon credits to continue as normal, while the average Joe is told to own nothing and eat bugs – are a product of a flawed monetary system. It is a system of bad incentives that causes misallocation of capital, preventing zombie companies from being flushed out, and hindering companies offering good-quality products and services. The system has

turned into a Frankenstein's monster over the last few centuries and especially decades, due to monetary inflation, central banking, lending money into existence, and fractional reserve banking.

Prior to the 60s, 'inflation' referred to the increase in paper money relative to gold backing



The monetary system has turned into a Frankenstein's monster over the last few decades.

it. Historically it was difficult to inflate the supply of hard money without a lot of effort and without people noticing. However, in the 1800s the telegraph brought speed-of-light communication of information, facilitating fast global transactions. A chasm developed between credit and settlement of gold, which moved at a snail's pace due to its physicality, leading to credit changing hands multiple times before settlement could catch up. Growing confidence in credit led to unfettered borrowing during World War I, prolonging the 'August Bank Holiday' war. Consequently, the gold standard of the 19th century was generally dropped, and after World War II, with much of the world's gold moved to the US for safety, a pseudo-gold standard was established at Bretton Woods (BW). Currencies were pegged to the US dollar, which in turn was pegged to BW gold reserves. It was short-lived due to difficulty maintaining the peg versus the free market. In 1971, after France and then England demanded their gold back, President Nixon severed the peg, defaulting on the US's obligation to redeem gold for foreign US dollars. There has since effectively been no physical constraint to inflating the US dollar supply, and by extension the global money supply, and inflation has been meteoric.

It is a silent tax that dilutes the wealth of

everyone except the few who have earliest access at the lowest interest rates to the newly created money, known as the Cantillon Effect. To simply maintain the value of one's hard-earned money, one must invest in harder assets like real estate, stocks, and gold. Many such assets appear to appreciate, but in fact it's the value of money that is declining relatively. Between 2010 and 2022, the broad money supply doubled from around \$4 trillion to close to \$8 trillion.

It's little known that the concept of central banking is written in *The Communist Manifesto*, yet we live in a world where the price of money is set by the Federal Reserve, the central bank of the world reserve currency, formed in 1913. Private banks used to issue their own gold-backed banknotes and it was understandable to lend money at interest rates reflecting their risk and overheads. But it seems nonsensical that the cost/reward of borrowing and lending is now subject to the whims of a handful of people at the Fed with the power to print money at will.

The market includes all wilful entities in an environment of variables differing in scale and predictability. The true value of goods and services at any moment is a product of all market forces. If buyers and sellers have a reliable measure of value, such as gold coins, those market forces can be distilled into an amount of gold that reflects what they're willing to accept for a trade. If the gold itself was randomly expanding and contracting, it would be very tricky to settle on a reasonable price. Disgruntlement for one or both would cloud the trade and discourage future trades. Only with a stable monetary measuring stick can the true price of things be discovered. The market trying to determine the prices of everything based on a monetary unit that can be printed with negligible effort and lent at a rate determined by a finger in the wind is akin to measuring the sea level with a ruler attached to a bob floating in the sea.

History shows that humans cannot be trusted to regulate money supply. Until



The Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States, where delegates from all 44 allied nations met in 1944, leading to the establishment of the Bretton Woods system of monetary management. rickpilot_2000, CC BY 2.0

50 years ago there were constraints to expanding money supplies, but without tethering to physical constraints, the money printer goes brrrrrrrr....., diluting the average person's wealth.

Bitcoin can solve this problem by removing human intervention. Like

applied – the more difficult it becomes to 'win' the reward and transaction fees from successfully adding that block of transactions to the chain. This ensures that effort is always required to add a block to the chain, and the distributed nodes ensure only transactions that

one Bitcoin today equals one Bitcoin tomorrow, not three-quarters of a Bitcoin, half of a Bitcoin, or whatever that small group of people in a far-off land decide it's going to be.

The writer is an alumnus of Imperial College London.



Studying at Imperial in the 90s, I was struck by how perverted it was that those who'd studied to bring improvements to the world were being enticed into careers making money from money itself.

a Kung Fu master channelling his opponent's energy to his own advantage, Bitcoin harnesses greed in humans and channels it into securing a single ledger perfectly duplicated in thousands of nodes around the world. It employs a system whereby the difficulty of finding a valid input to a 'hashing' algorithm to obtain an output below a target threshold, is increased the more effort is

fit the chain's history can form part of that block. No one can increase the ultimate supply of 2.1 quadrillion satoshis, interest rates for lending will be determined by the market, everyone can keep custody of their own Bitcoin, and people will no longer have to divert precious time towards finding places to store their hard-earned wealth just to maintain its original value. Best of all,

Felix

SEX SURVEY



After three years, the Sex Survey resurfaced on Felix's annual to-do list, and it was nothing short of a mammoth task. Although released to students in February, the survey work has been underway since

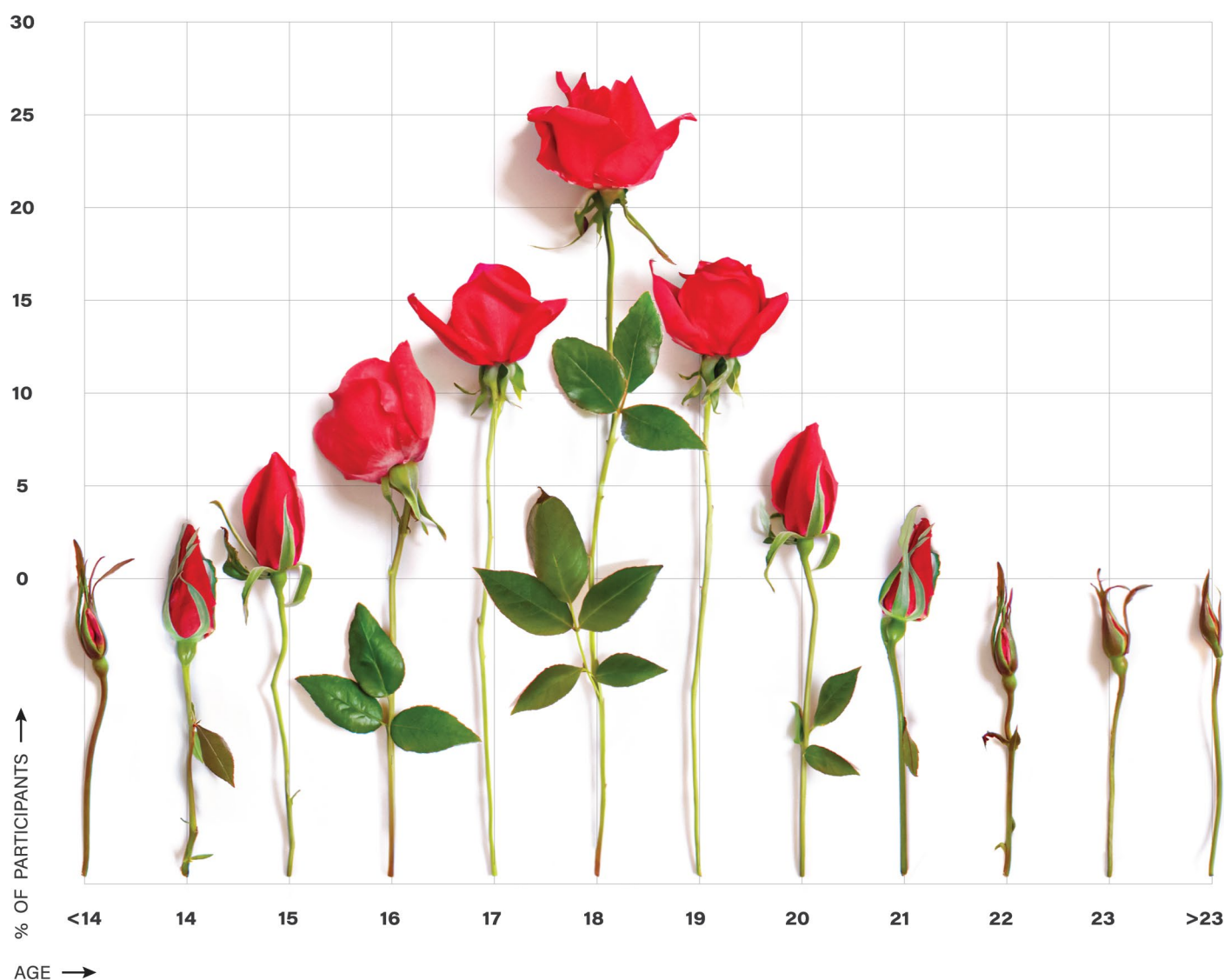
December. We thank our dedicated team, Elif, Amy, Mohammad, Selina, Zanna, Jamie, Mike and Charlie, for writing questions. Jamie and Charlie processed data, and along with Mike and Ruby, generated the graphs

you see in today's spread. We extend a special thanks to our Chair and designer, Mike, whose iconic advertisements and layouts have made the 2024 edition of the Sex Survey one of the best this college has seen.

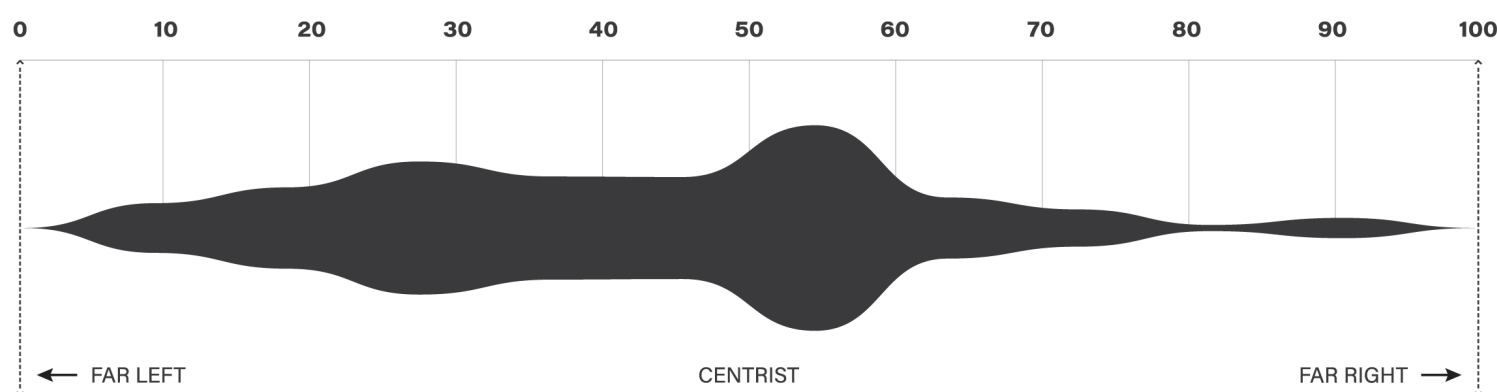
Imperial College students are known for their obsession with science, maths, and medicine, but where do they stand in terms of carnal competence and libidinous literacy? Here, we present our study of Imperial students' sexual experience. If you ever wondered whether Imperial has more repressed nerds who (over)explored their sexualities at university or refined scholars who've renounced the primitive desires of man, our 2024 Sex Survey has the answers. This year, we have dived into the Imperial id. We asked about your political views, turn-ons and offs, Rice Purity Scores, even where and when you first learned about sex. Our questions on sexual health shed light on safe sex practices at Imperial, after all, we still aim to educate. With nearly 1500 responses, the results from the Sex Survey illuminated the darkest corners of Imperial's debauchery: golden showers, bondage, and even real estate porn. However, we are happy to report that some trends have stood the test of time. We have found that The Weeknd is still the most popular artist to have sex to, medicine and business students are still the hottest people according to other departments, and most responses still come from male physics students, for whose dedication we are ever grateful. Moreover, we have once again confirmed that should the Union and the library ever come under a UV-lamp they would light up brighter than Bonfire Night. Our favourite results were painfully typical of Imperial students. A few people are turned on by a good maths problem or when the code compiles on the first try. The worst song to ever come up during sex is the national anthem, to which we ask, which one? Could it be to do with hearing the words "send him victorious, happy and glorious"? Before you dive into the following pages, we wish to thank all undergraduate, postgraduate students and alumni who spared a moment to take part in the survey. We hope you participate next year as a newcomer or as a veteran survey-taker.

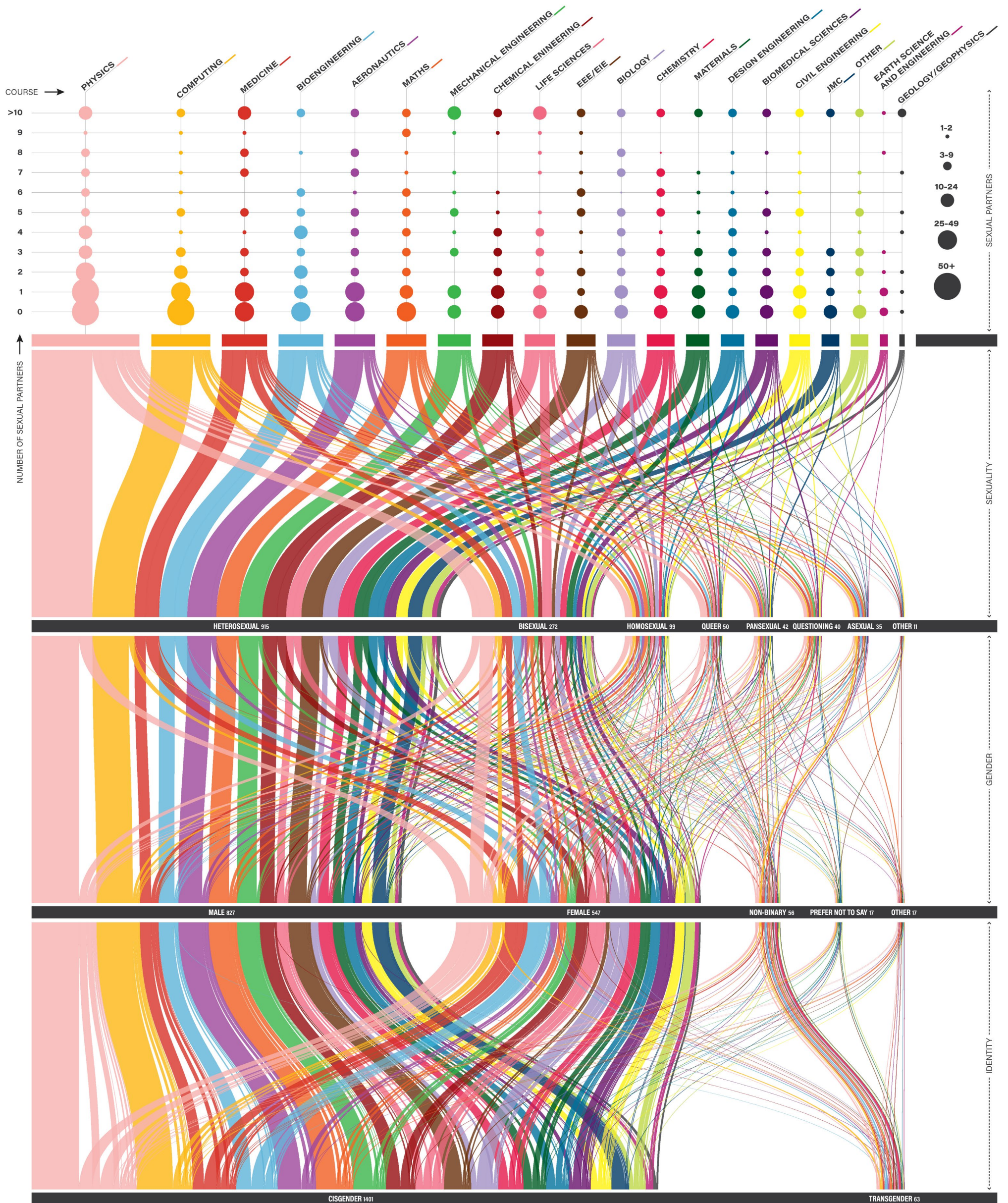
SEXY DEMOGRAPHIC

AGE OF LOSING VIRGINITY



POLITICAL VIEW





WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY?

MEDIAN NUMBER OF SEXUAL PARTNERS BEFORE AND AFTER COMMITTING TO A RELATIONSHIP



Before



After

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A ROMANTIC SEXUAL PARTNER



Yes 81.9%



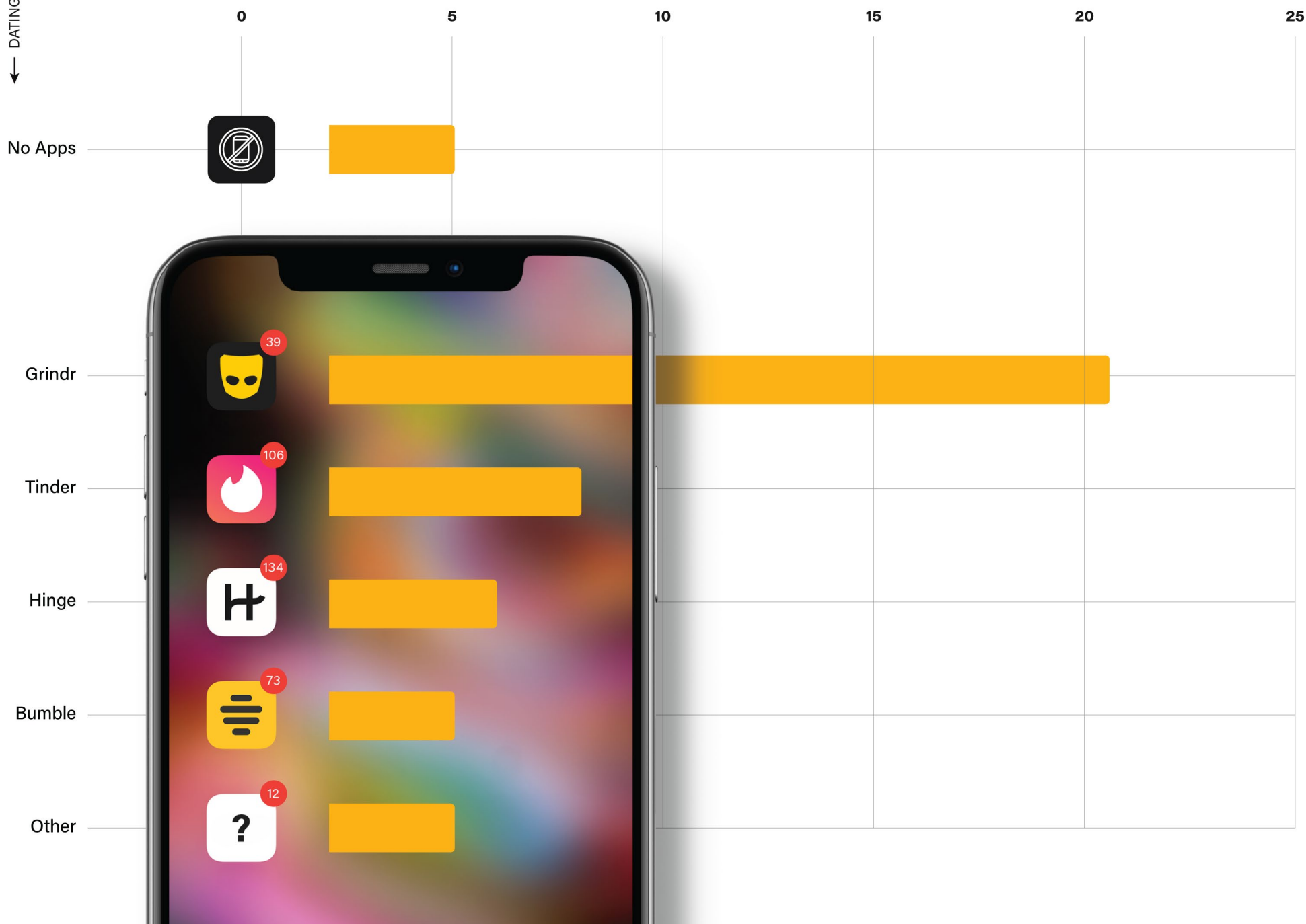
No 19.1%

MEDIAN NUMBER OF PARTNERS →

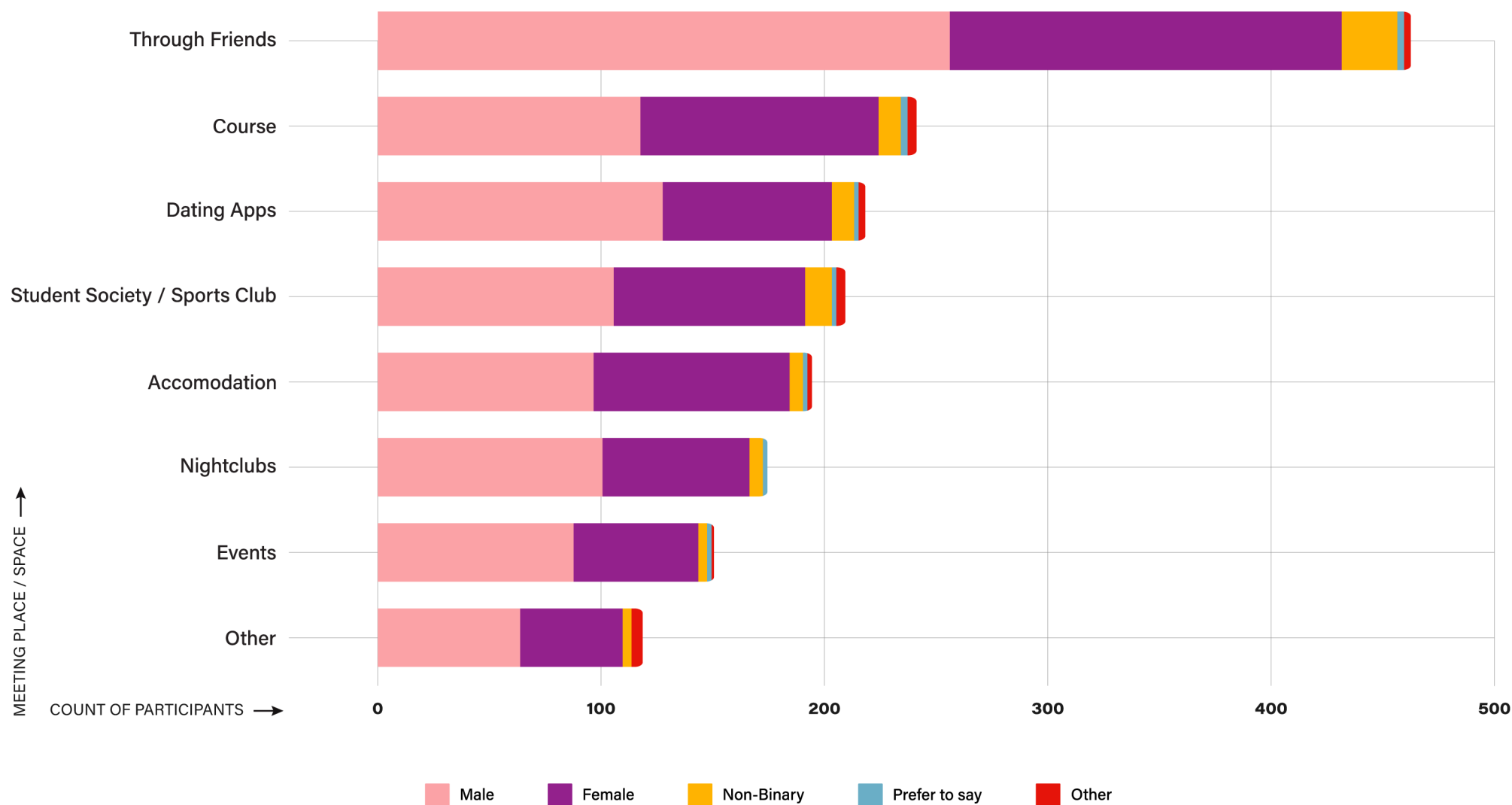
MEDIAN NUMBER OF PARTNERS, DATING APPS

- # OF USERS, PARTICIPANTS

DATING APP ↓



WHERE DID YOU MEET YOUR PARTNER



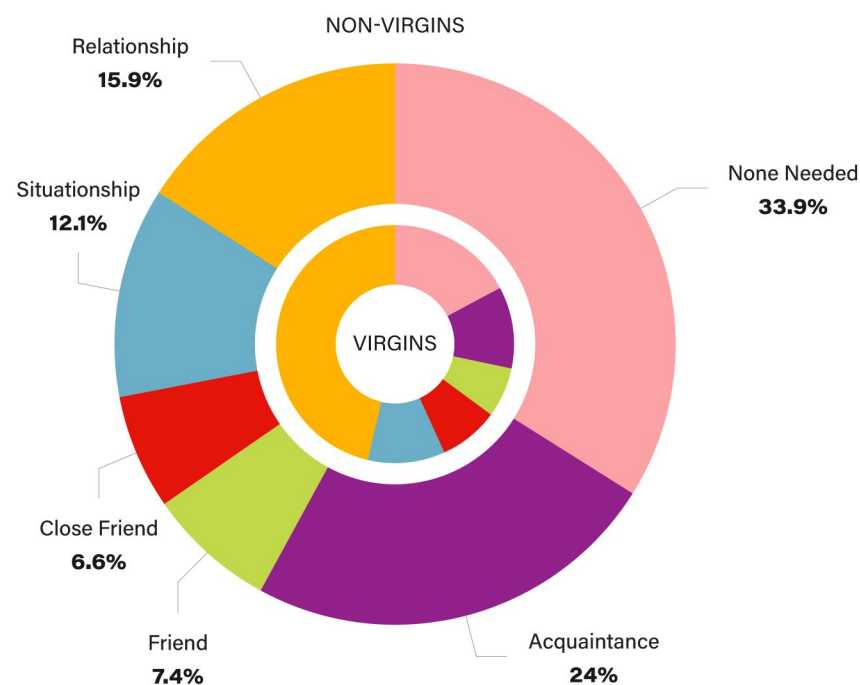
10 ESSENTIAL SAFETY TIPS FOR ONLINE DATING

- 1. Keep Your Personal Information Private:** Be cautious about sharing personal details such as your full name, address, workplace, and phone number. Keep conversations on the dating platform until you feel comfortable.
- 2. Research Your Date Before Meeting:** Use social media and search engines to verify that the person you're talking to is who they say they are. This can help you spot any potential red flags.
- 3. Meet in Public Places:** For the first few meetings, choose public, well-lit places where there are likely to be many people around. Avoid secluded areas such as parks, or inviting someone you don't know well to your home.
- 4. Tell a Friend or Family Member About Your Plans:** Inform someone you trust about your whereabouts. Share details like who you're going with, the meeting place, and expected return time.
- 5. Use Your Own Transportation:** Arrange your own transportation to and from the date. Avoid getting into a personal vehicle with someone you've just met or do not fully trust.

- 6. Stay Sober:** Avoid excessive alcohol consumption or using substances that could impair your judgment and make you vulnerable.
- 7. Listen to Your Gut:** Trust your instincts. If something feels off about the person or the situation, do not hesitate to end the date and leave.
- 8. Use the Features Provided by the Dating Platform:** Take advantage of any safety features your dating app offers, such as location tracking or the ability to block and report users.
- 9. Have a Safety App Ready:** Consider having a safety app on your phone that can send your location to emergency contacts and alert authorities if you feel unsafe.
- 10. Practice Safe Sex:** If you decide to engage in sexual activity, discuss boundaries and use protection to guard against sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unintended pregnancies.

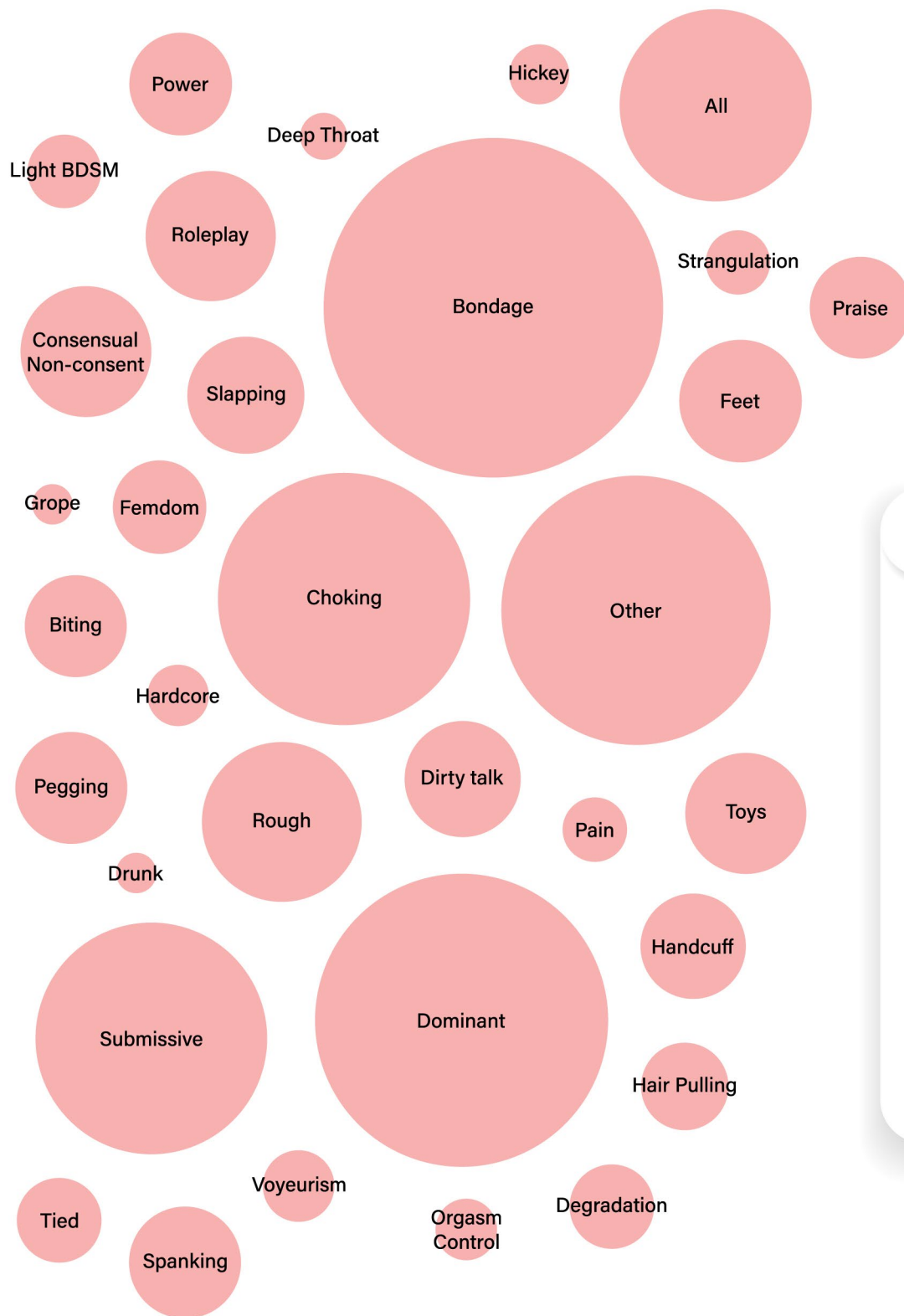
Remember, the goal is to have a positive experience while keeping yourself safe. If you ever feel uncomfortable or pressured, it's okay to pause or stop communications with someone. Your safety is paramount.

WHICH PRE-ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIP STATUS DO YOU NEED TO HAVE SEX?

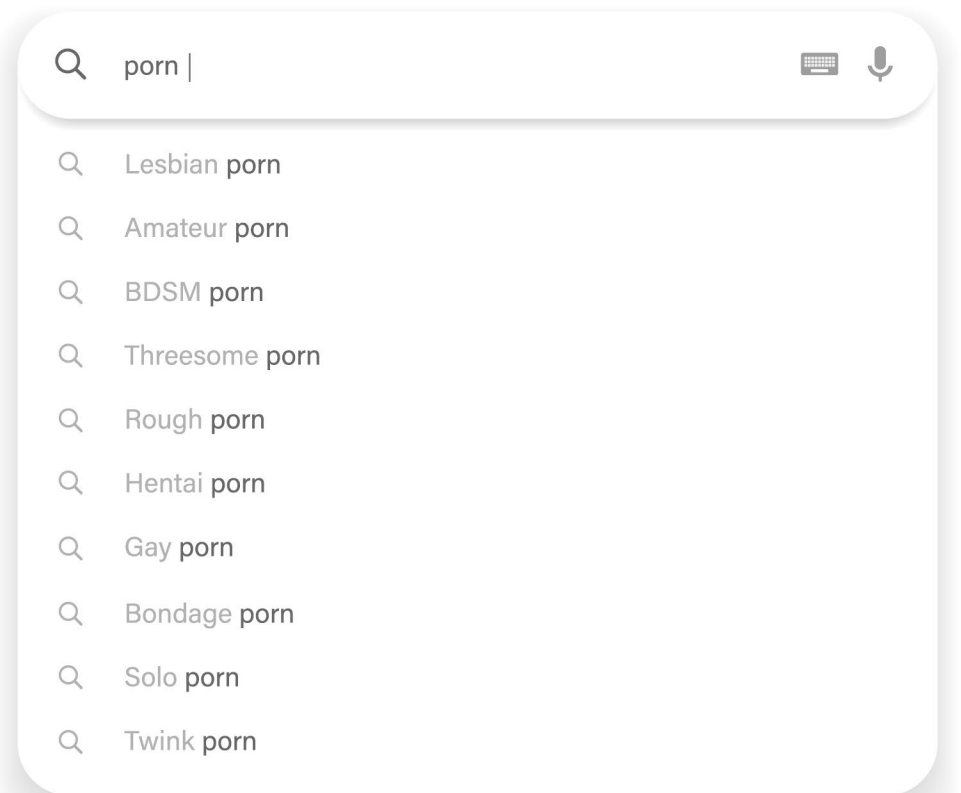


PORN,

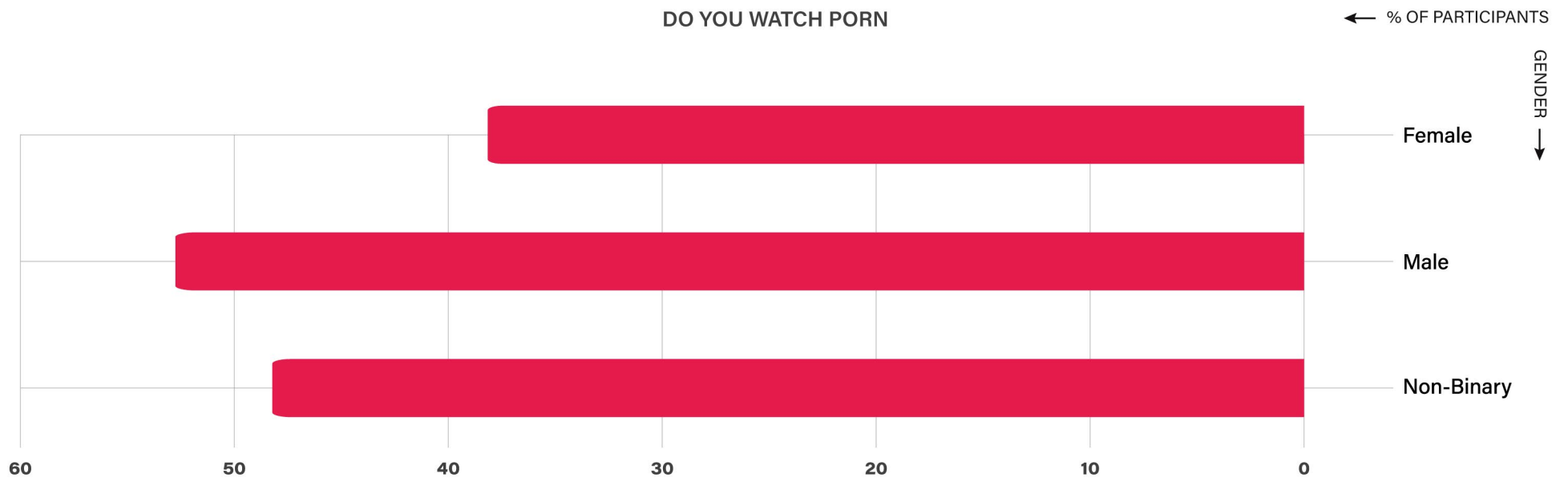
KINKS



TOP PORN CATEGORIES



DO YOU WATCH PORN



KINKS & SEX TOYS

SEX TOYS, PARTNER

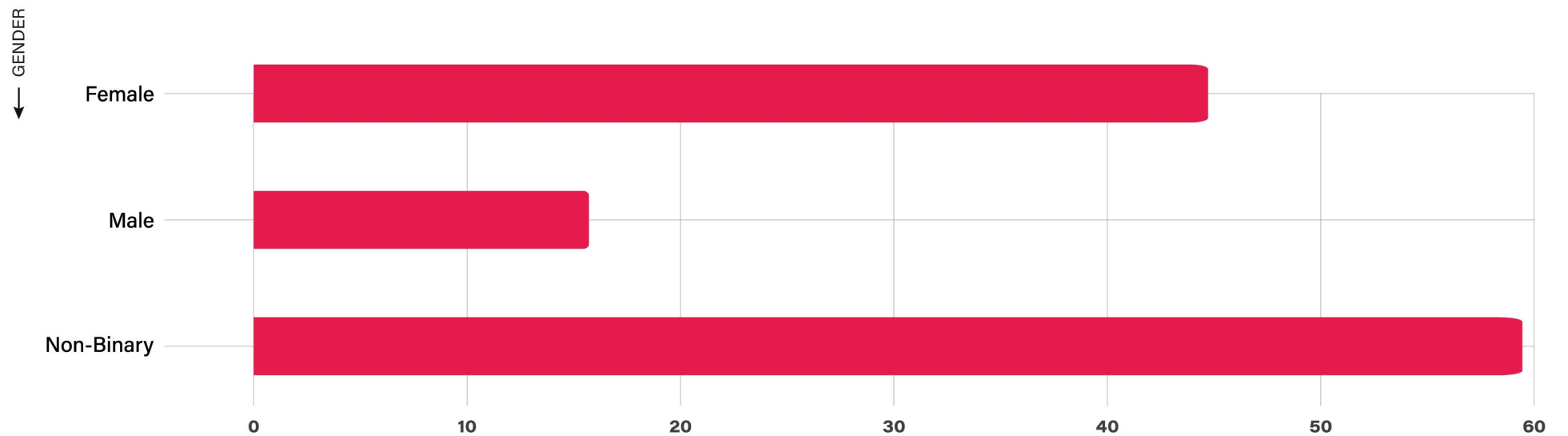


SEX TOYS, SELF



% OF PARTICIPANTS →

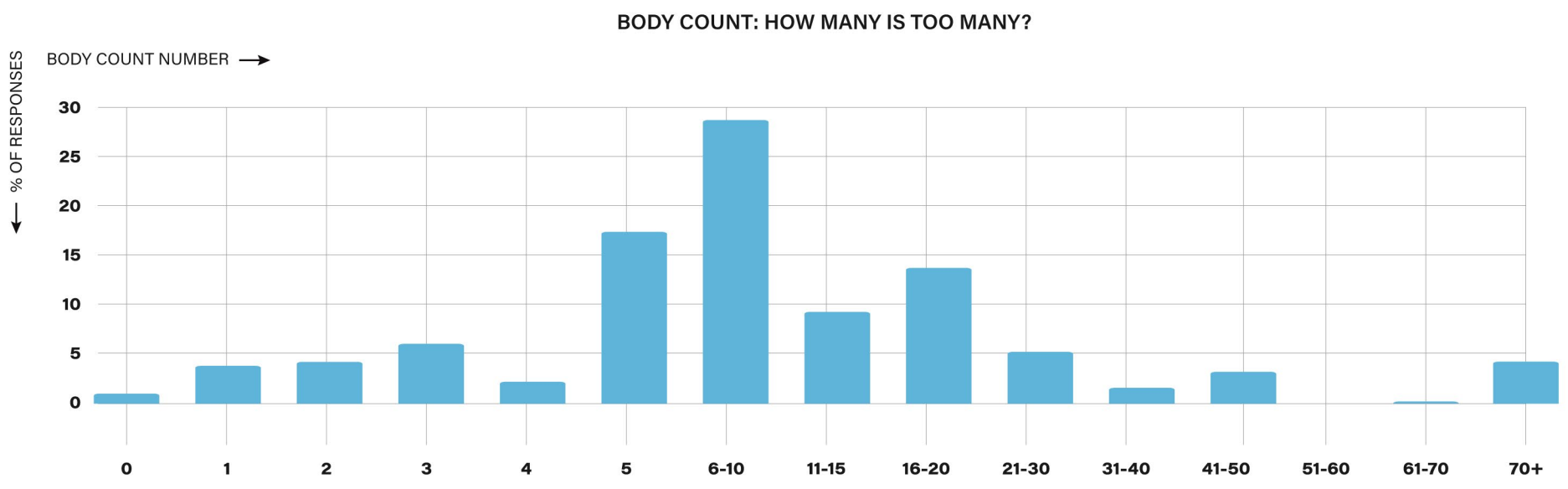
DO YOU USE SEX TOYS TO MASTURBATE



HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

MOST ATTRACTIVE BODY PART
Guess the body part from the list below

ARMS LEGS ABS FACE NECK HAIR HIP BUTT CHEST BOOBS EYES WAIST LIPS SHOULDER BACK HAND THIGHS



I PREFER IF MY PARTNER SHAVES:

Pubic Hair: 387 votes
No preference: 376 votes
Facial Hair: 370 votes
Armpits: 344 votes

Legs: 233 votes
Chest: 222 votes
Arms: 156 votes
All natural: 114 votes

I SHAVE MY:

Pubic Hair: 614 votes
Armpits: 527 votes
Facial Hair: 466 votes
Legs: 294 votes

Chest: 178 votes
Arms: 136 votes
All natural Hair: 102 votes
No preference: 99 votes

smile acts idk kindness cute dance legs
 passion sleeves hair contact conversation nice
 laugh confidence eyes little cuddling voice
 intelligent people good neck eye competence
 women saying waist funny body eye enthusiastic
 athletic touching someone glasses service
 intelligence face deep humor things
 thigh na holding
 smart food clothes
 smell head arms cooking
 talking hands ear thighs tall
 veins personality



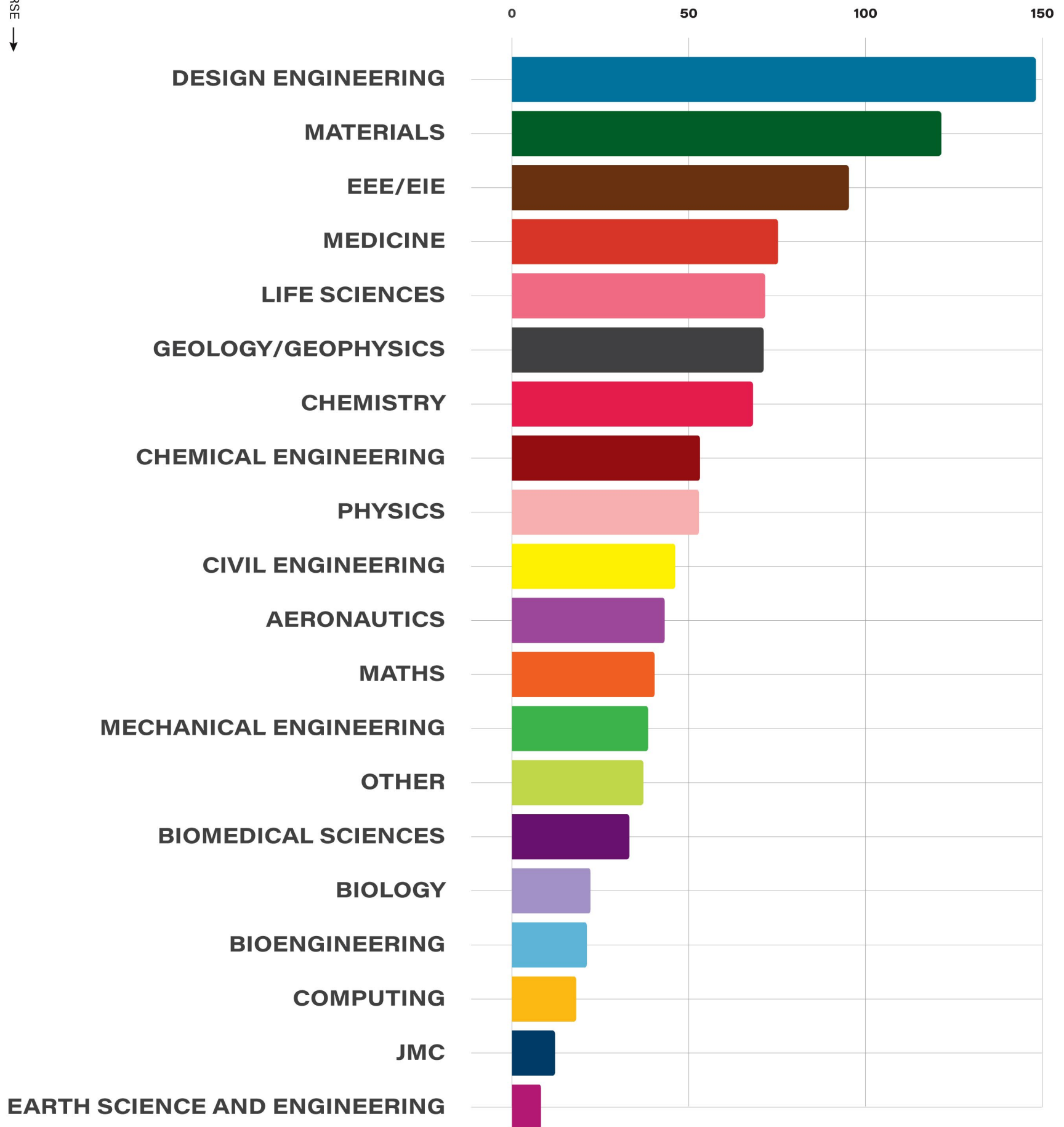
cocky dick skinny
 smoking annoying
 foreplay armpit
 smelly communication
 personality bad high homophobia judgemental men
 time wing rude count political
 hair women ego overweight shit people right pushy
 saying loud others ugly long girl dumb
 mean arrogance views body feet hygiene big
 teeth things none stupidity arrogant
 smell piss self-obsessed dirty insecure stuff lack
 nails talking rudeness breath tories clingy

COURSE CLASH

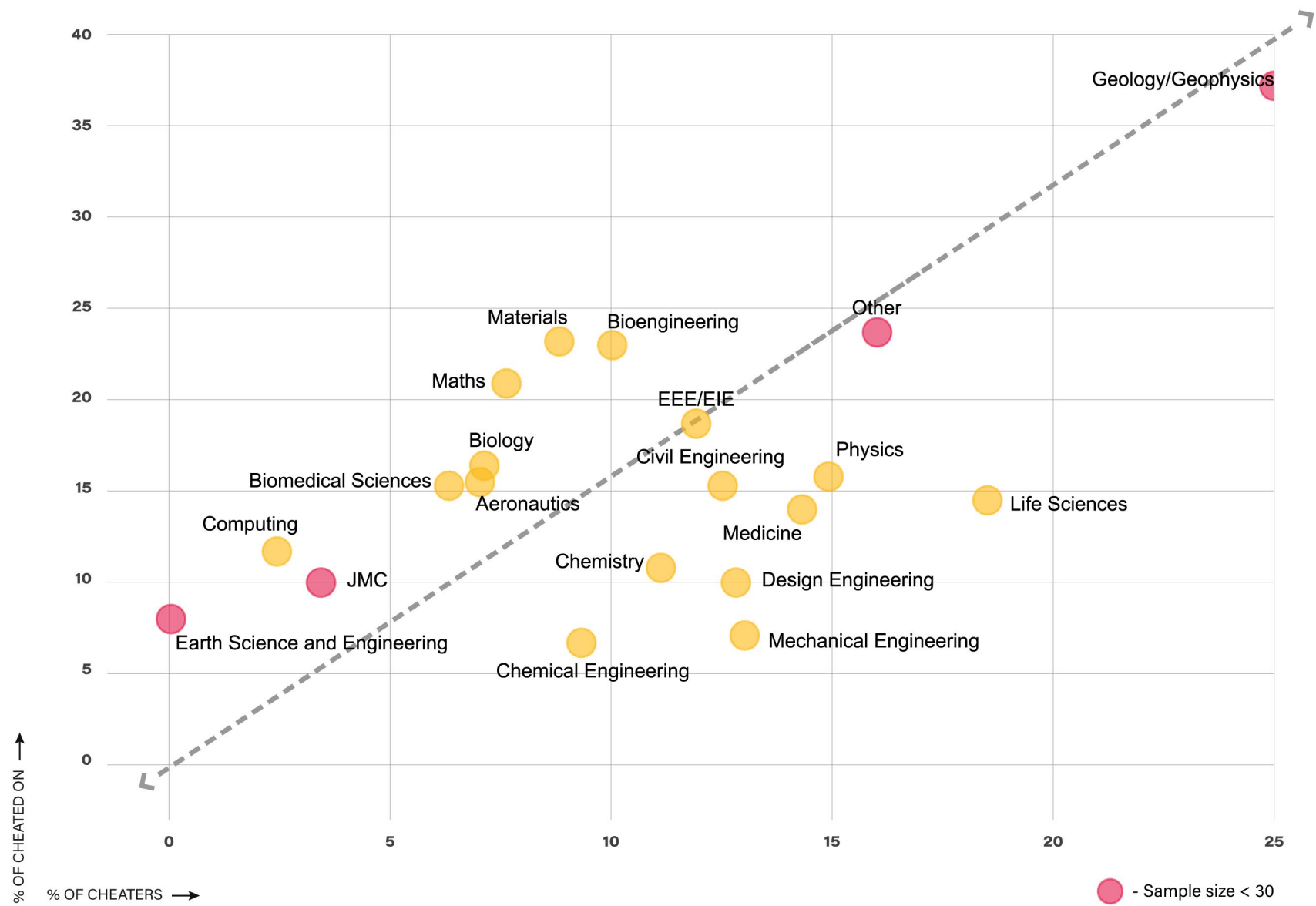
OF PARTICIPANTS →

WHICH COURSE IS THE MOST ATTRACTIVE

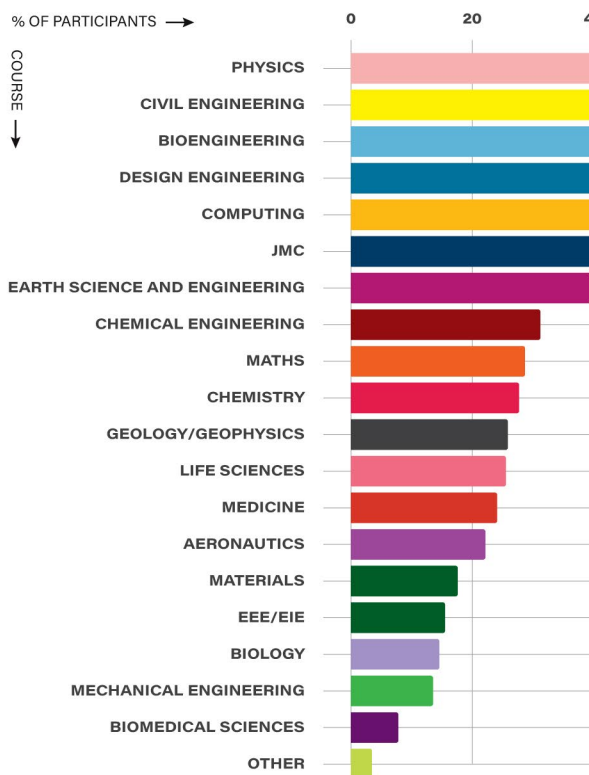
COURSE ↓



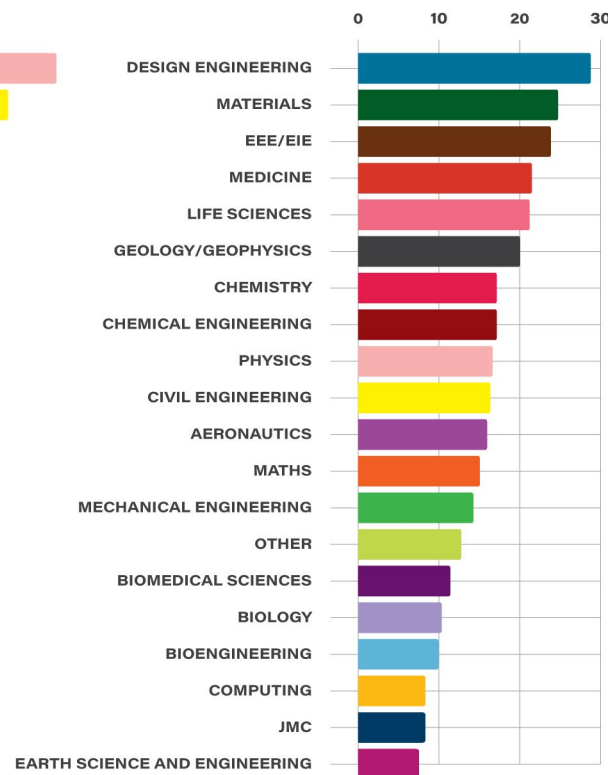
CHEATERS VS CHEATED ON BY COURSE



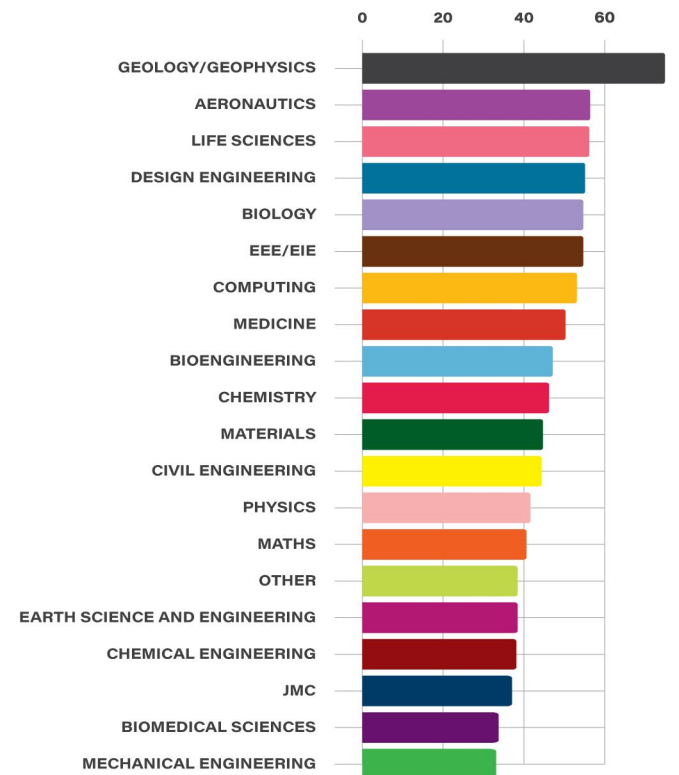
PROPORTION WHO FOUND THEIR OWN COURSE MOST ATTRACTIVE



PROPORTION WHO HAD SEX ON CAMPUS




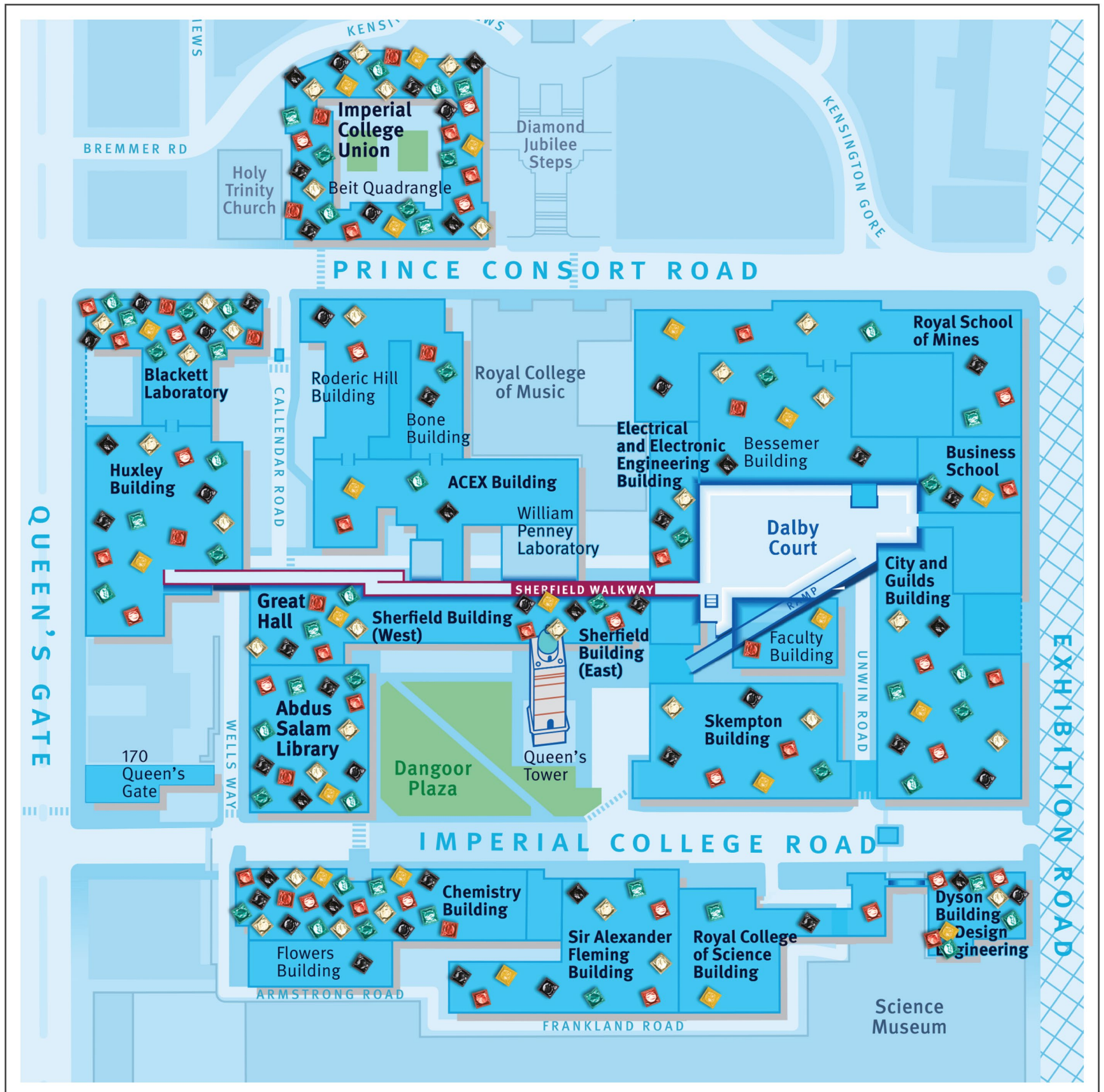
PROPORTION WHO SAID THEY WERE KINKY



CAMPUS CONFIDENTIAL

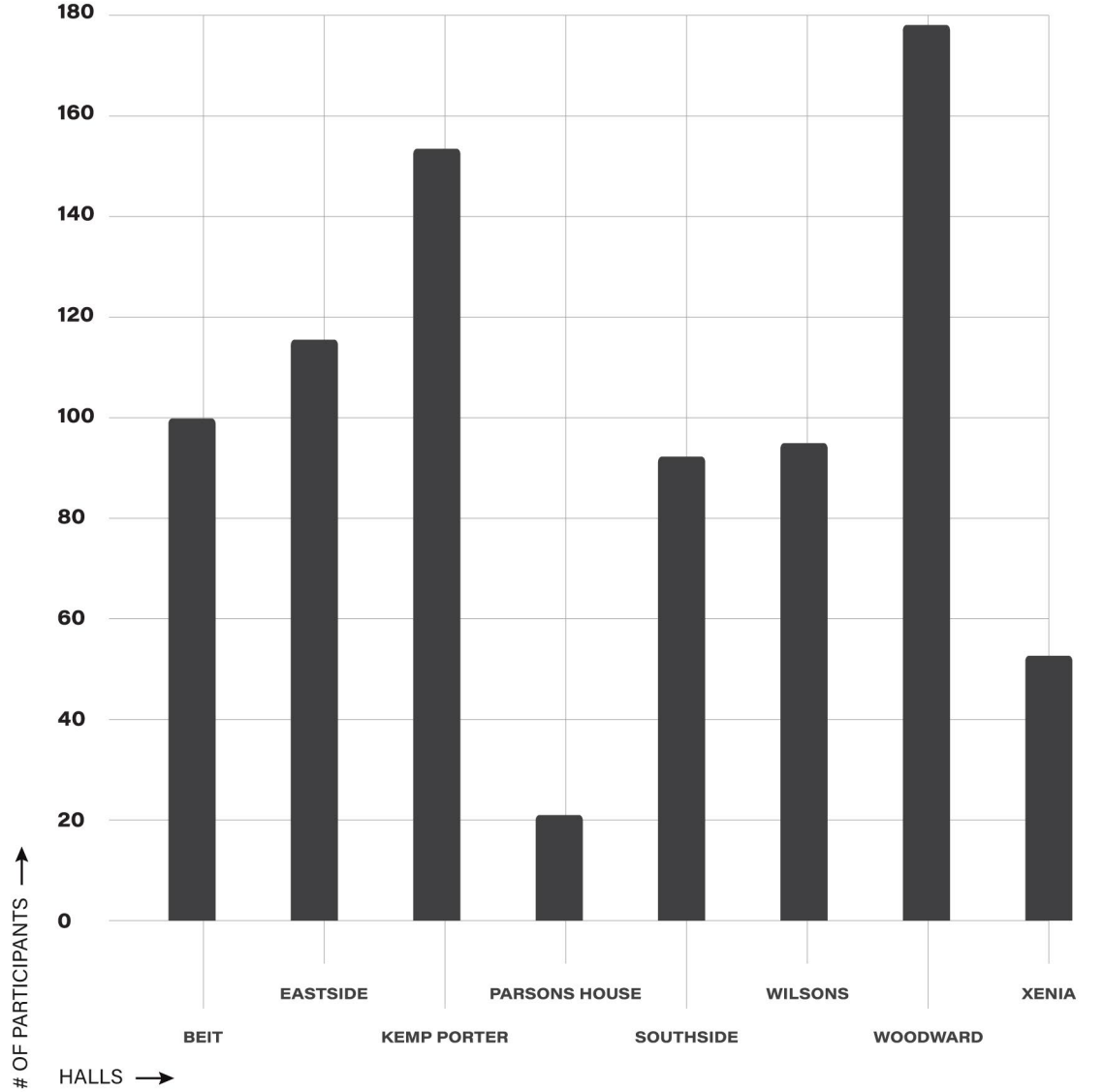
SEX ON CAMPUS

 - # OF PARTICIPANTS WHO HAD SEX AT LOCATION

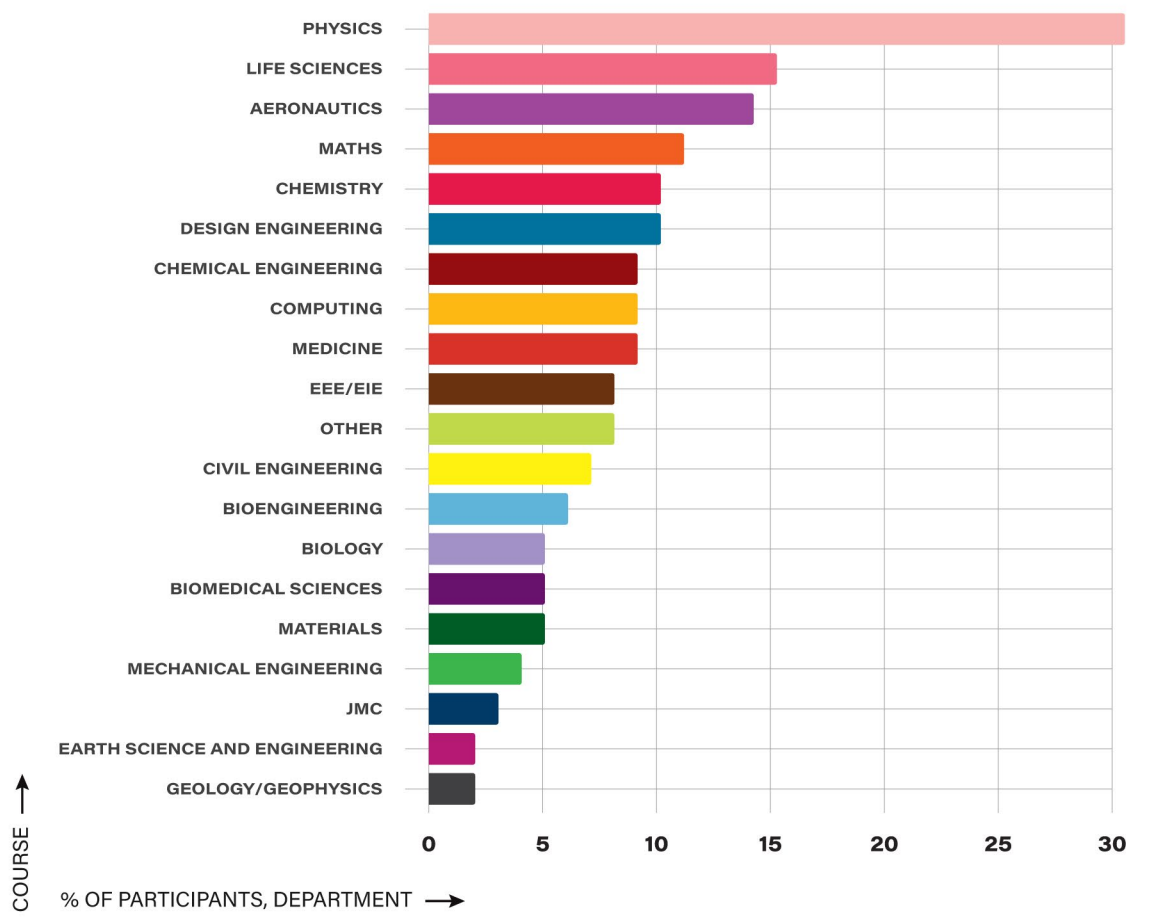


SEX IN THE LIBRARY

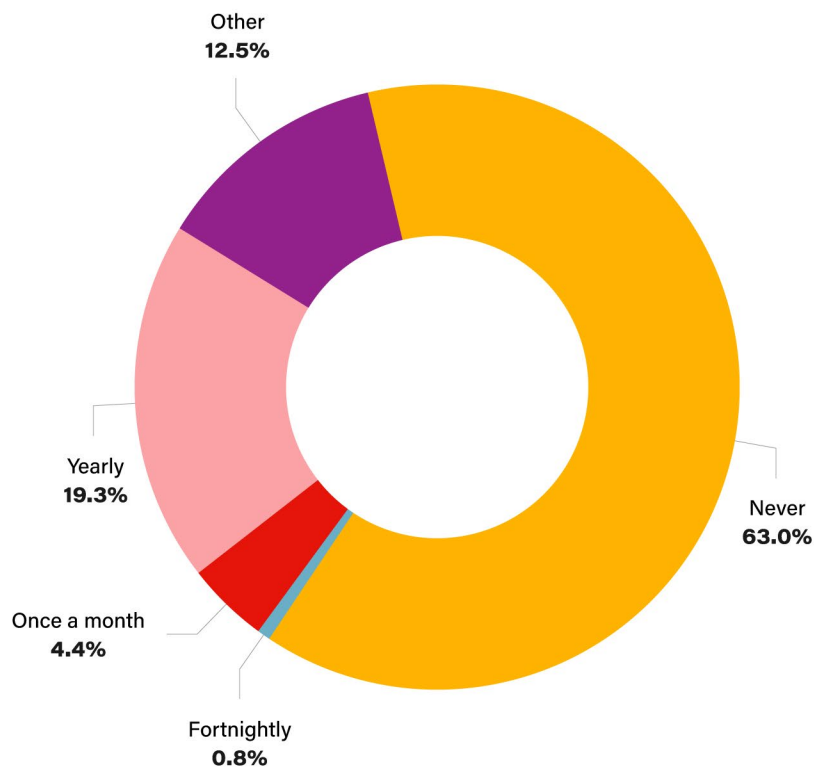
SEX IN THE HALLS



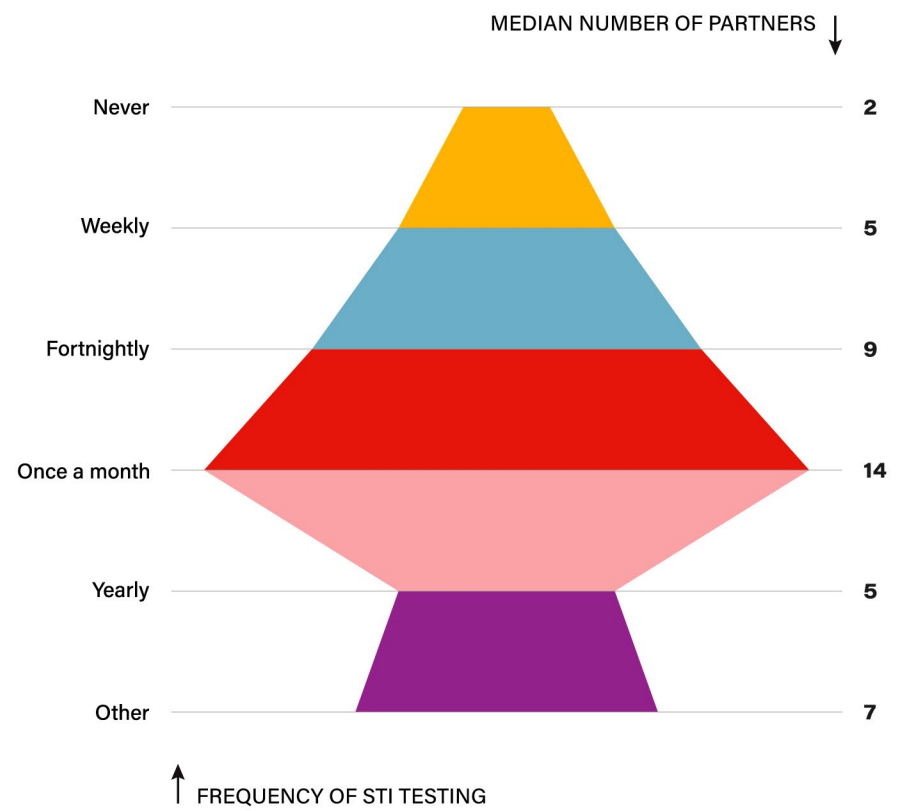
DID YOU COMMIT FLATCEST?



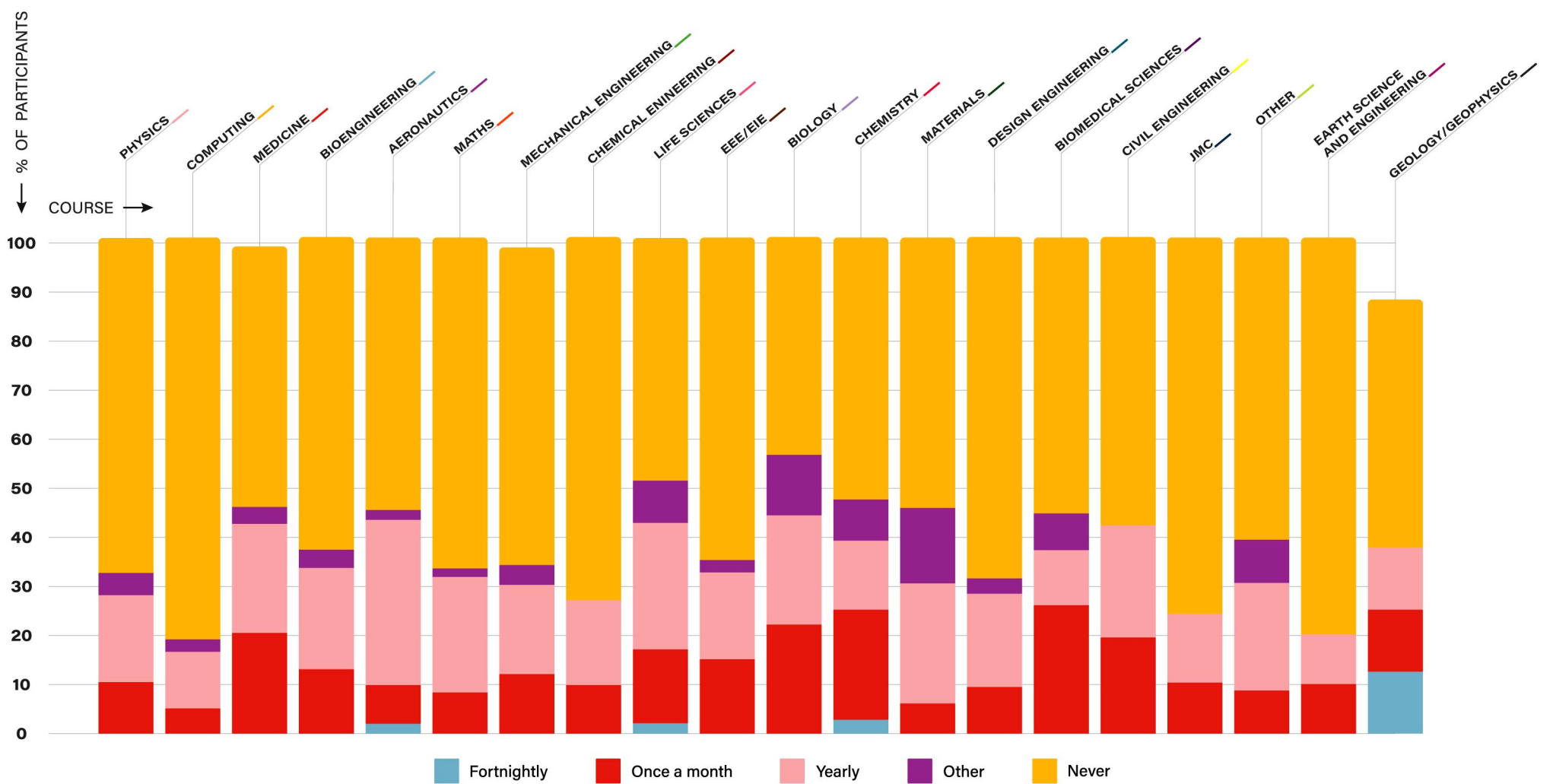
STI CHECKS OVERALL



MEDIAN NUMBER OF PARTNERS, STI TESTEES



STI TESTING PER DEPARTMENT



SAFE & SOUND

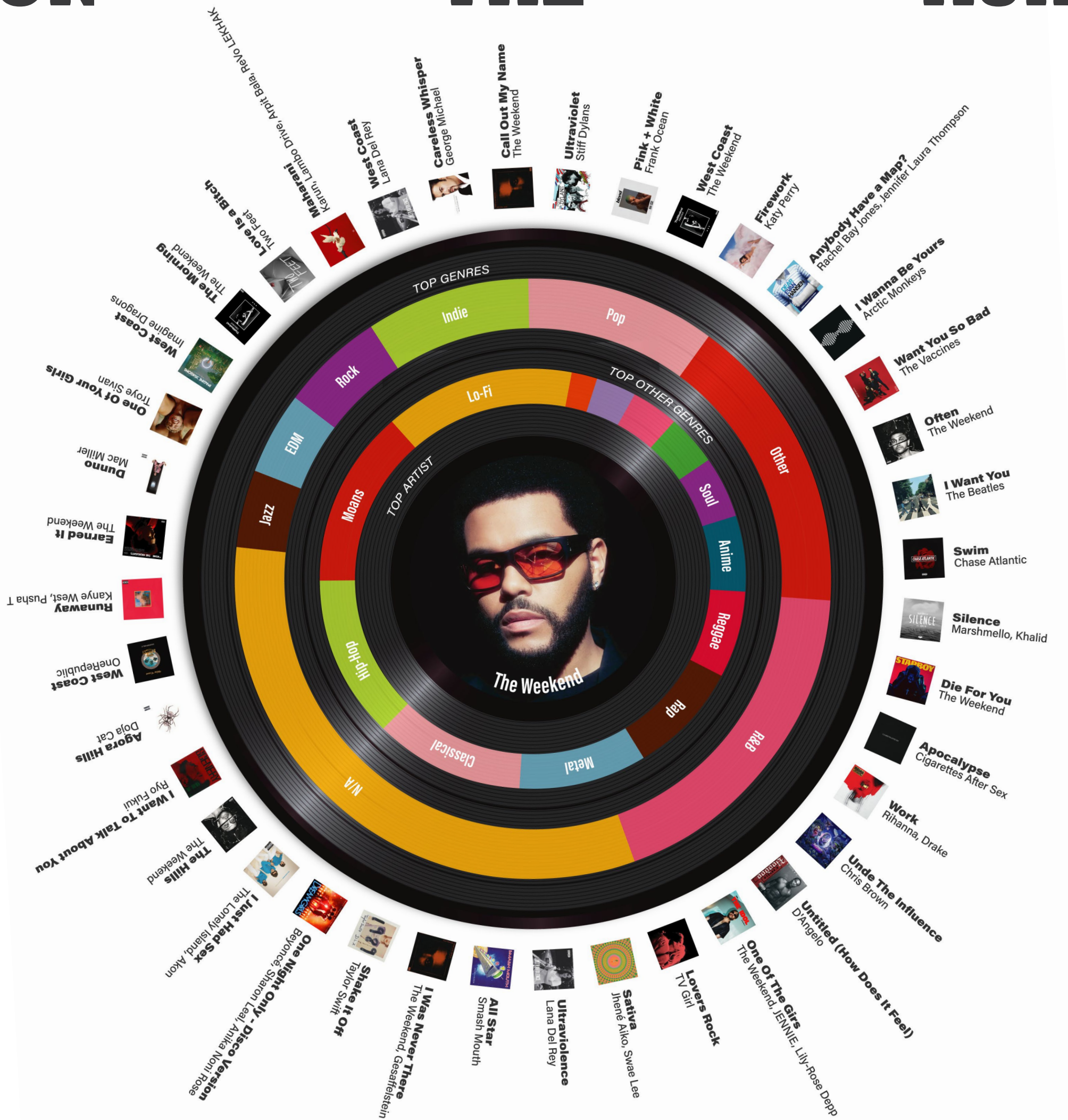
We know that moment – but you forgot to buy protection and your partner shakes their head as well. Against all advice, you go for it. A few days later you experience pain while peeing, notice lumps and rashes around your genitals or if you have a vagina, unusual bleeding and discharge. You need to get tested. Luckily, you remember that Sexual Health London (SHL) offers free at

home testing kits. You get one immediately or get a checkup at your local clinic and find the appropriate treatment, but not before you tell your partner. Sexual health, just as mental or physical health is vital; hence the Union Front Desk gives free condoms to all students. Find more information under Imperial’s “Sexual Health Imperial Service” page. Better yet, bookmark the page.



| CATEGORY | KIND OF SEX | PROTECTED? | STI | | | | | RISK | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|----------|-------------|
| | | | Chlamydia | Gonorrhea | HIV | HPV | Herpes | Syphilis | Total Count |
| PENETRATIVE | Vaginal and/or Anal sex | Raw | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red | Red |
| | | Condom | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow |
| ORAL | Deep Kissing (with tongue) | Raw | Green | Yellow | Green | Yellow | Red | Yellow | Yellow |
| | | Condom | Green | Green | Green | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow |
| | Fellatio | Raw | Red | Red | Yellow | Red | Red | Red | Red |
| | | Condom | Green | Green | Green | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow |
| | Cunnilingus | Raw | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Red | Red | Red | Red |
| | | Condom | Green | Green | Green | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow |
| Rimming (mouth on anus) | Raw | Yellow | Yellow | Green | Red | Red | Red | Red | |
| | Condom | Green | Green | Green | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | |
| OTHER | Masturbation | Raw | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green |
| | | Raw | Green | Green | Green | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow |
| | | Raw | Green | Green | Green | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow |
| | Genital to Genital | Shared Body Fluids | Yellow | Yellow | Yellow | Orange | Orange | Orange | Orange |
| | | No Body Fluids | Green | Green | Green | Orange | Orange | Orange | Orange |
| | Sharing Sex Toys | Raw, Uncleaned | Orange | Orange | Orange | Orange | Orange | Orange | Orange |
| Condom, Cleaned | | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | Green | |

ON THE AUX



PLAYLISTS





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BASEMENT
STUDIOS**

if you're interested in writing, directing, producing, filming, animating,
social media, music, and audio engineering



FILM

Dune: Part Two

Redefining the big screen with *Dune: Part Two*'s monumental blockbuster success

Film Writer
ZANNA BUCKLAND

D*une: Part Two* is arguably one of the best blockbuster films of the last few years, perhaps even since the first installment was released in 2021. It is also one of the best sequels to be produced in a long time – the disappointments of *Avatar 2* and *The Marvels* speak for themselves.

Let's revisit the fall of cinema-going. The streaming industry started to properly take off throughout the 2010s, with Amazon Prime Video and Disney+ being launched in 2014 and 2019 respectively. These major services gave users a wider range of content and became the main competitors to Netflix, which led people to seek out lesser-known services such as Hulu and Mubi too. This coincided with an increase in the use of smart TVs, which can connect

to these streaming services via Wi-Fi. When the people behind these platforms began to realise how much people value the convenience of being able to legally access 'endless' movies and TV shows on their home big screens, they realised they could invest in production of their own content to be released and available exclusively on their services.

Direct-to-streaming releases have had an impact on movie theatre attendance, a result exacerbated by the social-distancing measures and cinema closures sparked by Covid-19. Direct-to-streaming films thrived during this period as it became exceedingly difficult for independent and high-budget productions to make a profit. This also meant that production became less ambitious as films were being watched on smaller screens, and big blockbuster-style movie releases got delayed.

The first *Dune* film coincided

with the reopening of cinemas and lifting of Covid restrictions in many countries, and was one of few major blockbusters being released at the time. My own review of *Dune* from 2021 is on the *Felix* website, and it was met with mixed reviews from critics and fans alike. However, this did not prevent director Dennis Villeneuve from being able to build up the hype for the second film in his franchise, continuing the story in Frank Herbert's novel.

What *Dune: Part One* lacked, its sequel more than made up for. *Part Two* was definitely an economic success, maintaining its place at the top of the 2024 worldwide box office despite having been released back in early March and being followed by huge titles like *Godzilla x Kong*, *Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes*, and *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*. Although its runtime clocks in at nearly three hours – around 15 minutes longer than the first installment – *Dune:*





Part Two is much better paced than its predecessor. Villeneuve spends just enough time on a given scene before switching focus to another character, and there is much more interesting development in both the characters and the plot as a whole. There is also a distribution of action and calmer scenes, allowing the audience time to appreciate the stunning setting and world-building without compromising on the excitement.

The visual effects and score were two areas in which the first film excelled, and *Dune: Part Two* didn't disappoint either, in fact, the consistency of its production quality might even have been highlighted by how good the first film was. Zendaya finally commands the screen as Chani, while Timothée Chalamet (Paul Atreides) and Rebecca Ferguson (Lady Jessica Atreides) remain at the core of the star-studded cast.

Part Two gets to the crux of Herbert's story, with Paul Atreides gaining god-like status among the Fremen and learning their ways with Chani's patient guidance. Part of this process involved learning to tame and ride one of the massive sandworms, culminating in an epic cinematic sequence that was the perfect combination of build-up, exquisite special effects, and stunning score. Though the ending scenes of the film are a bit of a letdown, and somewhat underutilise the

skills of Florence Pugh (Princess Irulan) and Austin Butler (Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen), they lead to a cliffhanger that ultimately does indeed make you itch to see the third and final part of the series, which has just begun development.

Regardless, there is very little that *Dune: Part Two* did wrong, and it is solid evidence that big blockbuster films can still do well and proof that there is still demand for them. This is especially surprising given that sequels are unlikely to outperform the original film. *Dune: Part Two* also highlighted that cinemas still have a place in the movie industry despite the competition with streaming services. There is a certain charm and enjoyment in the cinema-going experience that just can't be matched in a home environment, regardless of how dark it is and how much popcorn you make yourself.

There aren't many things that can beat the theatrical experience as a social activity; there is a sense of community that only comes from sitting down for two hours with friends (and strangers) to watch a movie for the first time. The atmosphere of a darkened cinema is also the only surefire way to avoid distractions and stay in the zone, no matter how far away from your phone you might sit at home. I often find myself struggling to keep from looking up movie trivia and

fact-checking during movies, especially during supposed biopics like *Oppenheimer*. Christopher Nolan's biographical film about the unwilling architect of the atomic bomb is also the perfect example of a movie that must be watched on the biggest screen with the best quality sound system. This is also true of recently-released *The Fall Guy*, which showcases every kind of action stunt under the sun.

Some cinemas now rerun old films for the benefit of those of us who weren't around to see them when they were originally released, including classics like *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *Chungking Express*. The slow pace of the former benefits greatly from being contained in the theatrical atmosphere. *Chungking Express* is a Cantonese film from the mid-90s and so naturally requires subtitles, which are much easier to focus on when there's nothing around to distract you from them. This serves to highlight the value that cinemas still have in movie-watching, particularly for big blockbuster films like *Dune: Part Two*.

The rest of 2024 promises to serve us with several more blockbuster-scale films with, *A Quiet Place: Day One*, *Gladiator 2*, and *Joker: Folie à Deux*, which also happen to be all sequel movies. Only time will tell whether these will live up to their predecessors as well as *Dune: Part Two* has done.

**INTERESTED IN
FILMING?**

**INTERESTED IN
WRITING?**

**INTERESTED
PHOTOGRAPHY?**

INTERESTED IN

**INTERESTED IN
AUDIO?**

**INTERESTED IN
DIRECTING?**

**INTERESTED IN
VIDEO?**

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Civil War

In his closing act, Garland gives the age-old war photographer's dilemma a brand-new coat of paint.

Film Writer
TARUN NAIR

How would Texas and California, two states neither politically nor geographically close to each other, ever end up forming an alliance matching the might of the government military, and launching one of the world's most developed countries into *totum bellum*? Alex Garland's latest flick *Civil War* holds no answers to that geopolitical conundrum, but it does provide a fascinating – and sometimes unflattering – examination of photojournalism during war.

Film-camera-wielding novice photojournalist Jessie (Cailee Spaeny) hitches a ride with a party of three, including her idol Lee (Kirsten Dunst) and reporter Joel (Wagner Moura), into the epicenter of a brutal war between the insurgent Western Forces and the rest of the American armed forces. Along the way, as the crew witnesses one violent atrocity after another, Lee and Jessie eventually form a mentor-mentee bond – and then start to trade roles, as the former softens and the latter hardens.

Dive into the deep end of the reviews of the movie on Letterboxd, and two camps emerge. Some take it as a prophecy of where the US is headed given its current political No Man's Land, in which case *Civil War* falls face-first on the doorstep. It almost obstinately refuses to provide a backstory for the political climate its characters are thrust into from the very beginning. Others – perhaps those less entrenched in the American way

of life – embrace the apoliticality, instead viewing it as an ode to the war journalist.

Indeed, in its creation *Civil War* was intended to be a tribute to the serious correspondent, which Garland claims is a dying breed. In an interview with *The Guardian*, he said that he “wanted to make those people ‘heroes’ to put them front and centre.” Yet the execution achieves something quite different: the choices the characters make over and over again, prioritising the perfect photo over the suffering of the subject within it, make it hard to attribute any sort of heroic epithet to them. Meanwhile, the argument for posterity – that these photos would ram home the savagery of war to future generations – suffers a canonical blow when Lee muses: “Every time I survived a war zone, and got the photo, I thought I was sending a warning home. ‘Don’t do this.’ But here we are.” Journalism during conflict is in effect a zero-sum game, and it is difficult to find our protagonists likeable when they time and time again choose to be bystanders to the violence around them – even if it is in the name of an honourable, long-term goal.

On the other hand, the film does get the little things right. The acts of violence are indeed violent, with the opening scene with flag-bearing sui-

cide bomber charging into a squad of SWAT officers setting the bar for the rest of the movie. These scenes become especially jarring when an upbeat track starts up in the background, or when the movie cuts to tables of drunk journos rowdily socialising. A nice thing about this repeated disjunction is that when it is finally dropped, namely during Jesse Plemons's spine-chilling cameo, the accompaniment by a suitably abrasive track makes the scene all the more harrowing – not to mention, when they race away, Moura's face as it contorts with pain and terror, a sight to behold in of itself.

But with paintings, books, and certainly movies, many small do not necessarily make a great. *Civil War* is a thrill, no doubt, and its dramatic peaks will have you riveted to your seat. But when the dust settles, it is stuck between stating the obvious and stating nothing.



Misha Buzadji/A24



Paola Cortellesi writes, directs, and stars in *There's Still Tomorrow*. *C'è ancora domani*/Vision Distribution

A thought-provoking masterpiece that should be seen globally.

Film Writer
ROLANDO CHARLES

Few films have ever made me cry. *Leon: The Professional* caught me off guard with its innocent sweetness, *生きる (Ikiru)* eloquently answered the question 'What do we live for?', and *Past Lives* left me with a bittersweet feeling and a gentle heartache. By comparison, *C'è ancora domani (There's Still Tomorrow)*, made me audibly sob in the cinema for a large part of its runtime. The film is written and directed by Paola Cortellesi, who has created nothing short of a masterpiece of contemporary cinema, and this article is my attempt to give her the credit she deserves.

The movie is set in post-WWII Rome, at the time occupied by the Allies, and presents the story of Delia (as played by Cortellesi), who is married to Ivano, a violent and irritable man. The couple has three children, of which Marcella is the eldest. Delia spends her days looking after the house, her kids, and Ivano's rude and bedridden father, and working an assortment of odd jobs around the neighbourhood. She only has a couple of friends: Marisa, a greengrocer, and Nino, a mechanic with whom she shares a romantic past.

For all intents and purposes, Delia is an average woman in this time and place. As such, she is stripped of her individuality and reduced to a gender stereotype and a sexual object. The only crumb of personality that is left of her is that "She talks too much.", as her father-in-law says. She is also a victim of domestic violence, and the audience witnesses the frequent, never-ending abuse

she has to go through every day. It is a heavy watch, appealing to one's humanity, and the outrage and sadness it evokes can be felt throughout the film. Every time Delia commits a single mistake, however insignificant, the violence thrust upon her by the men in her life is enough to make you shiver in your seat and pray for it to end. This thought is vocalised by Marcella, who asks her mother "Why won't you just leave?". Delia sees in Marcella's soon-to-be-fiance her own history repeating itself: he claims to love her, so much so that she must be only his, and if not his, then nobody's. It is this twisted reasoning that Cortellesi so eloquently presents to the audience, as she shows us the reality of patriarchal violence, not simply as a remnant of the past, but as a perpetual disease that kills every single day and propagates through the ages, a fact that many choose to ignore.

There's Still Tomorrow is also a movie about mother-daughter relationships, class and status, and solidarity. Delia eventually helps her daughter escape her engagement by blowing up her boyfriend's family's business with the help of an Afro-American soldier called William. Although Marcella is broken by the news of her failed engagement, Delia knows she has helped her avoid a life of abuse and violence. The two share a quiet moment on screen in which the only sounds are the bittersweet sobs of the daughter.

I must here briefly praise the technical aspects of this film. The story is presented theatrically, acted out al-



Delia (Paola Cortellesi). *C'è ancora domani*/Vision Distribution

There's still tomorrow

most as if it were on stage, and yet the immersion that Cortellesi achieves is unbreakable. This is an even greater accomplishment considering that the movie is in black and white, a creative choice that is also historically appropriate. The set, the costumes, the music, everything comes together as only the most experienced of directors can make it happen. Yet this is the first film Cortellesi has directed, although she has famously starred in many others. Finally, the acting is phenomenal, Cortellesi's performance first and foremost, but Valerio Mastandrea (Ivano), Emanuela Fanelli (Marisa), and Romana Maggiora Vergano (Marcella) all interpret their characters seamlessly, contributing to what is by far one of my favourite movies of all time. The Roman dialect used is fun for Italians, and charming for those who hear it for the first time. The way the abuse is portrayed is almost metaphorical, and effective, while completely avoiding the trauma of showing crude violence on screen. The movie is a symphony of impeccable cinematography, brilliant acting, and sensational storytelling far beyond what I could've expected upon walking into the cinema.

Back to the plot. Delia's plan of running away is foiled by the death of her father-in-law, forcing her to remain a prisoner of her husband. But when all seems lost, she remembers that *There's Still Tomorrow*. And tomorrow indeed comes around, and she runs away with a letter she received from an unknown sender, being hunted down shortly after by Ivano, followed by Marcella. In what can only be described

as some of the best storytelling ever shown on screen, Cortellesi compels you to feel, to live the anxiety and the fear that these women have to suffer through every time they are around the men who supposedly love them. Delia arrives at her destination, and Marcella hands her the 'letter', which was never a real letter in the first place. It's a 'tessera elettorale' - an electoral card - and Delia is going to vote, because for the first time in Italy's history, on the 2nd and 3rd of June 1946, women could finally vote.



Nascere donna è già far parte di un movimento. Che tu lo voglia o no

Being born a woman means to already be part of a movement. Whether you want it or not

Every year, Italy still celebrates the choice of republic over monarchy; a decision made by popular vote from 13 million women and 12 million men - 89% of the voting population at the time. In a shocking, unexpected plot twist, Cortellesi slaps the audience in the face and reminds us that Italy is a country founded, by both men and women, on equality. Ivano is impotent in front of the polling station because voting gives a voice to all the people, like Delia, who cannot use theirs. *There's Still Tomorrow* is a film about domestic abuse and women's rights, it's a cinematographic masterpiece, and it's a tool to understand the present and never forget the past.



Giulio (Francesco Centorame) courting Marcella (Romana Maggiora Vergano). *C'è ancora domani*/Vision Distribution

BOOKS

A swan song

Our outgoing Books editor Zanna provides some *Felix*-certified recommendations for the summer.

Deputy Editor
ZANNA BUCKLAND

As I'm closing out my time at *Felix*, I felt I should return to the Books section where I had started. The pages of *Felix* Books feel like home, just as walking into a well-curated bookstore, but I feel content leaving it in equally – if not more so – capable and passionate hands.

Writing a final article to be edited by my incredible successors feels like a full-circle moment befitting a section that loves a good narrative, and I hope the following recommendations make you want to pick up a fresh read for the summer.

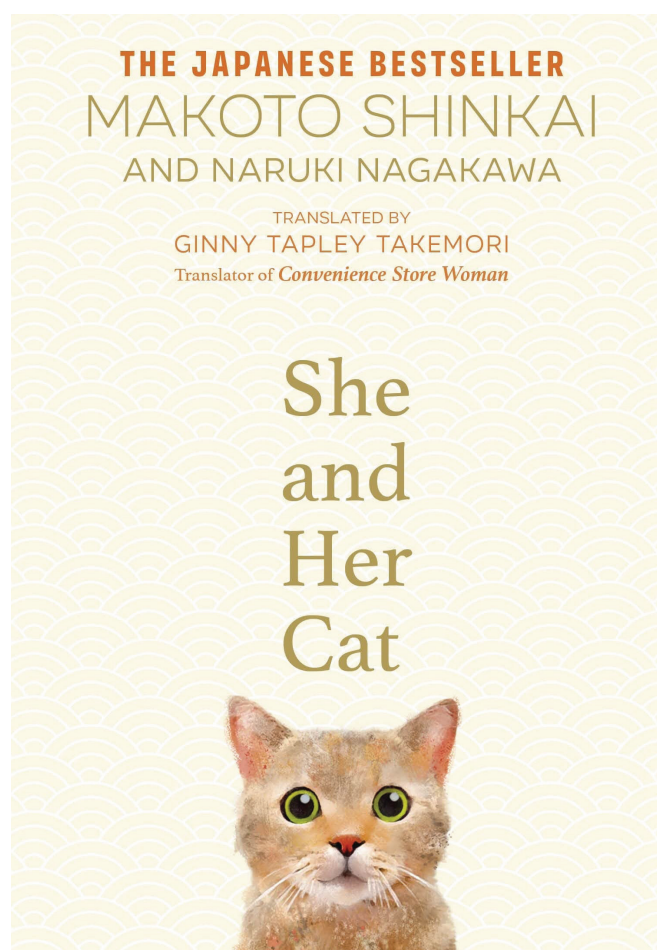
She and Her Cat

I was recently gifted this short translated novel by a close relative, and was able to finish it over a couple of weeks of Tube and café reading. *She and Her Cat* was originally written in Japanese by Makoto Shinkai and Naruki Nagakawa and translated into English by Ginny Tapley Takemori. It is a wonderful assortment of intertwined stories set in Tokyo that focuses on city cats and their owners.

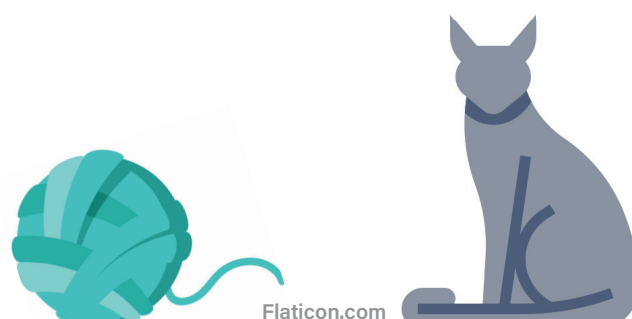
On a surface level, these are sweet tales about the comfort and companionship that felines offer to humans – women in particular. At times, it is an amusing representation of their nonchalance and aloof dependence on us for food and shelter. However, these

charismatic tales also form a collection of subtle, thought-provoking commentaries on all aspects of life: romantic relationships, lifelong friendships, career drive (or lack thereof), the beauty of ageing, and many more universal human experiences.

I personally adore and advocate for Japanese-to-English translations, not only because they almost always feature a cat in the story or cover art, but also because of a magnificent simplicity and profoundness that shines through. Something in this language pairing lends itself particularly well to translation and highlights the unique sense of sanguinity in the face of solitude that runs through many Japanese novels. *She and Her Cat* also features four stunning print artworks illustrating the stories presented in the book. If you're on the hunt for a quick but meaningful read, this might just be the title for you.

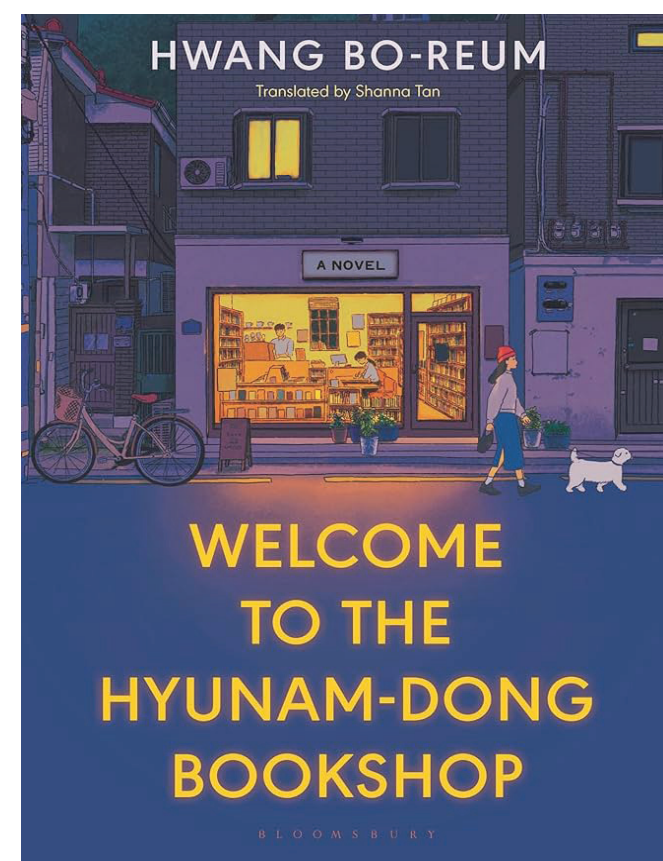


Sweet tales about the comfort and companionship that felines offer to humans.



Welcome to the Hyunam-Dong Bookshop

Another translation – this time from Korean to English – is *Welcome to the Hyunam-Dong Bookshop*. This novel was written by software engineer-turned-author Hwang Bo-reum, and translated into English by Shanna Tan.



This title tells the story of a woman named Yeongju who quits her 9-to-5 back-breaking desk job to pursue her dream of running her own bookstore. What is intended as a temporary hiatus from the typical successful career path becomes a life-affirming experience that introduces Yeongju to some of the most important people she will ever meet. Hwang's storytelling is excellent, with a lovely narrative pacing and filled with references to all sorts of other literature and information bites.

The books-about-books genre is one of my favourites: to craft a beautiful story primarily out of one's love for



Hwang allows one to inject their own vision of a perfect bookshop into the novel without sacrificing the integrity of the story.

reading is the purest form of literature appreciation out there. This novel captures the essence of this by bringing to life the Hyunam-Dong bookstore and making it feel almost tangible. The subtle description employed by Hwang allows one to inject their own vision of a perfect bookshop into the novel without sacrificing the integrity

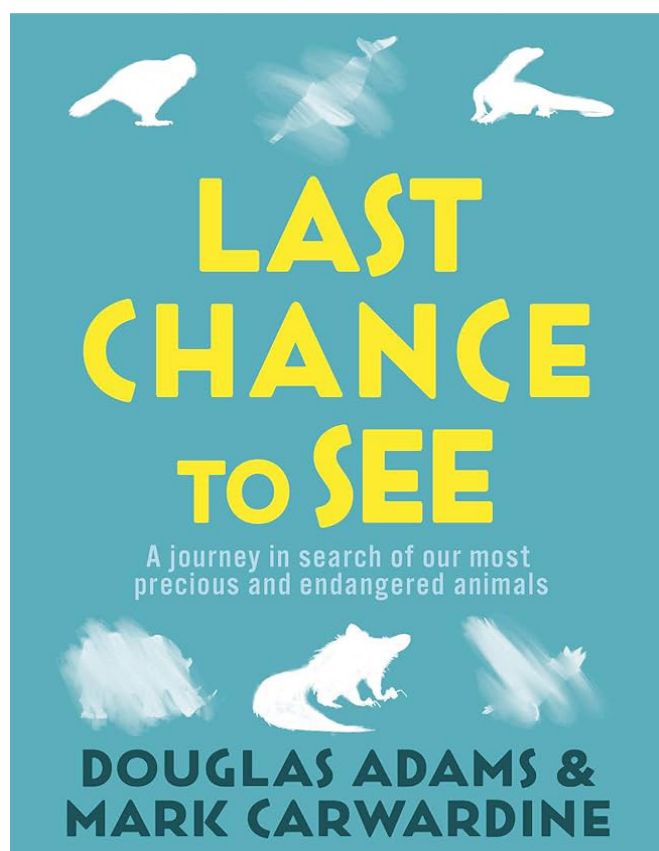
of the story. This is an example of one of the most special features of good fiction writing – an ability to activate your imagination while still anchoring it to the author's plot and ideas.

This is a great title to dip in and out of and to gradually absorb. And it will be particularly enchanting for all the bookworms who daydream about going off the beaten track and starting their own bookshops.

Last Chance To See

Coming from one of the most acclaimed authors of the 20th century, Douglas Adams, and a renowned zoologist, Mark Carwardine, *Last Chance To See* is an exposé on the conservation status of a collection of endangered species around the world. From Komodo dragons to baiji dolphins, Adams' sardonic sense of humour is the perfect tone for a book about animals at risk of going extinct. He ridicules the tourist-trap nature of the remote locations visited by their team, bluntly relays the snip-pets of conservation information he is being taught by Carwardine, and contemplates about the nature of evolution and humanity's place in the world.

As a skilled programmer in his own right and an avid technophile, Adams' intellect, wit, and philosophical tendency form a lethal combination. Though, admittedly, I am currently only partway through the book, the first few anecdotal chapters alone do not disappoint. The dry, articulate narrative voice used by Adams only grows on you over time, and he describes his encounters with wildlife with the level of awe and reverence that these creatures deserve. *Last Chance To See* is for anyone who wishes to learn more about the part that evolution has played in extinction, while simultaneously being entertained by the journey taken to arrive at these revelations.



A long read for your summer?

Nothing says 'summer' like an aching thumb.

Books Editor

FIYINFOLUWA T. OLADIPO

Everybody needs a long read for their summer. Whether it is one that you've already started earlier in the year or have been meaning to for a while, undertaking a read of a longer-than-average book can make a memorable act for the summer – irrespective of whether it is on a mountain or a living room sofa.

Of course, the idea of a long read differs for everyone. Some people (approach them with caution) find breezing through a 600-pager to be just another activity over Sunday brunch, while others find reading a book half that length to be six month excursion.

Nevertheless, a long read often is a book that has a lot to say about a certain subject matter. Whether you are in the type for *Infinite Jest* or *Wolf Hall*, a long read should be a book that is daunting enough to make you step out of your comfort zone and ponder over a topic for long stretches of time. Here are a few to get you started:

Moby Dick

It shouldn't come as a surprise to see *Moby Dick*. There is a reason why this novel is an absolute must for so many readers.

Moby Dick describes the hunt for an elusive white whale – well, yes, Moby Dick – by a whaleman and his crew, but serves as several subtle allegories for life strung together by a plot. It is a great novel to have you ponder about where you might stand in relation to these characters on their quest. Despite the novel's size, it is divided into chapters of manageable lengths that allows small, incremental progress. I highly recommend reading this voyage this summer.

One Hundred Years of Solitude

This is a book I do not plan to re-read for a while – but certainly not because it's not worth the revisit. On the contrary, Gabriel Garcia Marquez's epic magical realism

family saga is full of material to reimagine yourself in. But because of how unique Marquez's prose is, it is hard to recreate the wonder of a first read. Hence, while it requires for me to take a bit of time before I return to his fictional Colombia, I would absolutely encourage you to make a start and experience it for yourself.

I'll avoid a recap (partly because of how difficult it is and also because each plot point deserves a personal encounter), but this will be the companion for all the sweltering days of your summer from the first sentence alone – which, funny enough, starts with the discovery of ice.

Half of a Yellow Sun

In this novel, history and fiction work in unison to form Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's account of the Nigerian Civil War through the eyes of an upper class family and their house servant.

This epitomises all the best qualities of a summer long read: challenging, yet intriguing enough to make you want to read on, unfamiliar, but for only the first dozen pages before you get sucked in, and a beautifully smooth story that is universal in its narrative. Though the shortest book here, *Half of a Yellow Sun* is bound to leave an indelible mark on your summer.



Unsplash

Summer is a period of time where you get the chance to do all the things you have been putting off or have been maybe thinking of doing – and that's where a long read fits right in. A big book doesn't necessarily mean you have to finish it right this summer: take your time and go at your own pace. But give yourself the chance!

Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 4.0)

Teetering on The Razor's Edge

—
Aditi journeys with
W. S. Maugham in *The
Razor's Edge* to explore
his timeless quest for
meaning.

Books Writer
ADITI MEHTA

Nearly a decade after starting *The Razor's Edge* with my father, I finally finished the novel. At the ripe age of eight, along with Stevenson's *Treasure Island* and Orwell's *Animal Farm*, my dad set about reading me one of William Somerset Maugham's most acclaimed works as a bedtime story. For whatever reason, we never finished it. At 13 and 15, I tried again on my own but I was unable to complete it.

Still, the nostalgia of those early readings was too strong. The tension and vivacity encapsulated in the novel remained dynamic in my memory; my father swore it was a life-changing book. So, when I began packing for university, in it went, becoming one of the many items inundating my overflowing suitcase.

The Razor's Edge isn't about anything in particular. Published in 1944, set in the aftermath of World War I and the lead-up to World War II, it captures the disillusionment and existential searching of the Lost Generation – the generation that came of age during World War I. And perhaps that's where its beauty lies.

Characters are the foundation of Maugham's narrative – each is an exploration of the complexities defining the human condition. Larry Darrel, who entered World War I as a pilot at the age of 16 and departs traumatised, is a spiritual seeker. In a bewildering quest



for knowledge, the very one that Maugham claims inspired the novel, Larry says he wants to travel the world to “loaf”. Larry is a maverick: detached, mysterious, and motivated by something the reader can only speculate with rapture. Isabel Bradley, initially his fiancée in the novel, is a portrait of intellect, progressiveness, and beauty, but ultimately a prisoner of her naivety. Maugham characterises her free spirit while capturing how the allure of a sheltered life simultaneously makes her predictable. She beautifully represents the tension between autonomy and societal conformity.

Elliot Templeton, Isabel's uncle, who elicits both disdain and endearment, personifies the paradoxical dichotomies within people. Elliot maintains loyalty only to himself but is vexed when others act similarly. He hosts lavish parties for people he detests but aids those he loves without question. He knows social status is fickle but makes it his life goal to perpetually climb the ladder. Elitist yet feeble, Elliot induces both dislike and pity. Although they are not the only sig-



**Caught in the delicious agony
of understanding what it is to
be human.**

nificant characters in the novel, Maugham's observations about them ring an undeniable truth about our life experiences – eliciting the variety of desires (or lack thereof) that we endure.

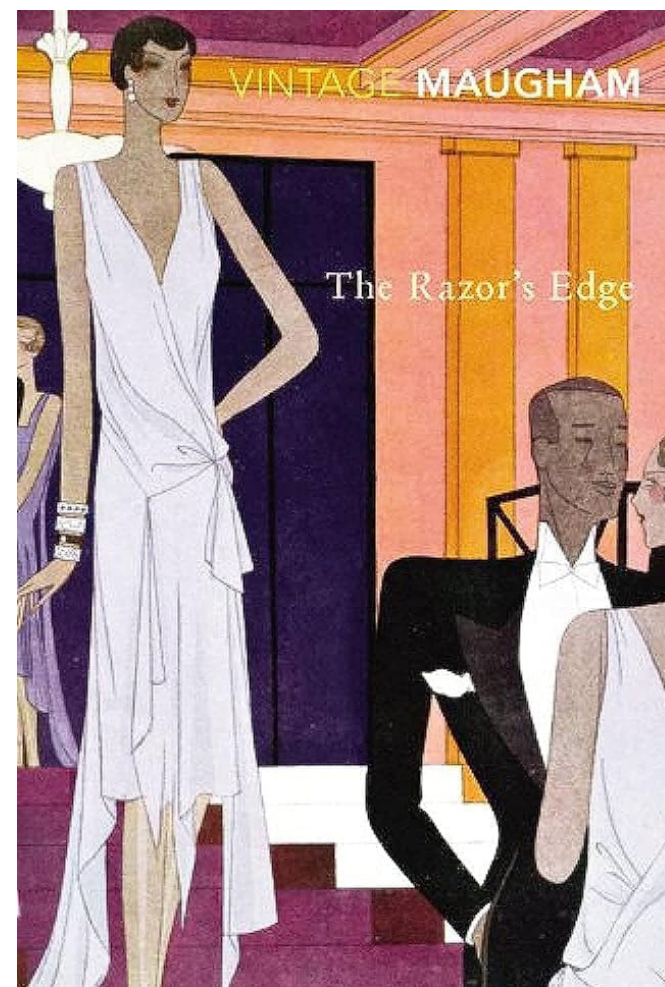
But more than *The Razor's Edge* itching my philosophical quandaries, Maugham's writing style is truly captivating. The novel is written in first person, from his perspective as the real-world ‘William Somerset Maugham’. The tale takes place over a 26-year period which Maugham narrates in hindsight. He weaves in and out of the story where relevant, not strictly in chronological order, sometimes omitting years at a time when he doesn't interact with the characters. He acts as an observer on the precipice of events, poised between involvement and spectatorship.

Akin to the reader, Maugham too eagerly awaits the unfolding of their fates. Yet, his actions also play a role in the unfolding of the events. Naturally, Maugham's biting self-awareness disguises how the narrative exonerates himself from much of the responsibility. In fact, *The Razor's Edge* is loosely based upon true events. Maugham's close friend, Guy Hague, also travelled to India for spiritual enlightenment, similar to the character Larry.

Through the characters, Maugham presents the ambiguity of mankind. During my childhood – and still – this was invaluable to me. It seemed to present all the paths I could end up on. Did I want to be elusive like Larry and abandon my regard for social norms? Yield to the comforts of society like Isabel? Channel my snobbish or endearing side like the multifaceted Elliot? Surprisingly, the dichotomous nature of these characters was comforting. I could truly be anything I wanted. It was completely up to me.

I now understand why at eight my dad tried to read me this book, and why he said it might be better to wait until I was 13. And I am glad I waited even longer. *The Razor's Edge* is a heavy and powerful novel. Time's touch unveiled what my father wanted to communicate to me about the grown-up world. The nuances of lust, envy, ambition, and restlessness of the novel would have eluded my younger self.

These very complexities are what defined and made the novel alluring. The characters are just people, brimming with moral ambiguity, virtue and vice, and the continuum that separates them. These characters are like me, like those people around me, existing beyond the simple boundaries of good and evil. As I finished the book, engrossed at three in the morning, I reached a realisation. In it, I was torn apart by Maugham's work – caught in the delicious agony of understanding what it is to be human.



Demons: Dostoevsky's most Dostoevskian book of all time

Fyodor Dostoevsky delves deep into social critique in this gripping read.

Books Writer

MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

The issue with personal writing is that it can lead the author to remove some of their technical prowess and regular sophistication, resulting in a much more raw, candid quality – something *Demons* has to both its benefit and detriment.

Drawing upon Dostoevsky's time in the Petrashevsky Circle in the 1840s and the contemporaneous murder of a student in 1869, *Demons* is a transfixing read. It is positioned as both a society novel and a deep psychological study of the reactionaries of late Romanov Russia. It pulls no punches, savaging the ideologues of the era and the 'new people', the individuals seeking to violently and immediately reform Russia from its pre-industrialised, autocratic state.

The plot is fantastic and starts off slowly, but by books II and III of the novel, it becomes a locomotive force. The reader holds onto the plot, as everything inevitably rushes towards its horrific conclusion. I had been holding onto my copy for over a year, reading bits and pieces, and even putting it off at one point – it's 800 pages – but ended up reading the last 400 pages in three days.



The rawness of emotion placed in the novel shines through its cracks.

At the same time, the rawness of emotion placed in the novel shines through its cracks. The metaphors are extremely obvious and thin: the liberal character is the literal father of the socialist revolutionary, and there

exists another one of Dostoevsky's frequently used Sofia archetypes. Although, this one has none of the



This novel is in parts a satire, despite its almost gothic darkness, and a fantastic treatment of the themes of belief and disbelief.

characterisation of her character in *Crime and Punishment*. She exists solely as a deus ex character to bring the aforementioned liberal character into Christian salvation – but the satire and social commentary he makes in this novel are excellent and among his best. One can see that his own time within the Petrashevsky circle has laid an impression, and the complexity of the radicals in the novel provide subtle but hilarious critiques of the Left as well as a deeper understanding. Think *Disco Elysium* levels of commentary.

Dostoevsky works best when he seeks to ape and satirise. The character of Karmazinov is a vicious attack targeted at literary giant Ivan Turgenev, who Dostoevsky had a complicated relationship with. Personally, it is a biting brilliant caricature and one of my high points.

This novel is in parts a satire, despite its almost gothic darkness, and a fantastic treatment of the themes of belief and disbelief. Its long sprawling discussions, especially in its cut final chapter now presented as an appendix, are brilliant. Despite their moralising, they're



beautiful to read, especially the cut chapter, which is in itself a literary masterpiece. Once again, the candour of Dostoevsky's experiences shine through and bring the novel into greater heights.

Given its length, depth, and its incredible deep cuts, you will need an edition with footnotes to read it in its fullest – I recommend the Robert A. Maguire translation from Penguin Classics. *Demons* can be a good project for summer reading if you enjoy reading about a plot to destroy society from its core. The weather forecast is looking glum, so why not match the tone with a dark and gloomy novel?



PHOTOGRAPHY

Chasing the next great shot

A love letter to running, scenic photography, and how they intertwine with each other.

Photography Writer
ZANNA BUCKLAND

I often get asked why I run so frequently – I’m not training for races, and it’s occasionally an extra source of stress and disappointment when I have to skip a scheduled run. On top of that, I run in all kinds of weather: rain or shine, scorching heat or biting cold. Reading this, one might think me slightly insane, but running

might just be one of the purest forms of connection with the world around us – you are simultaneously one with everything and whole with yourself.

I don’t go on runs specifically to take photos, but I inevitably end up stopping at least a few times to take pictures of my surroundings. When you’re running, your only job is to keep your eyes up and your legs moving, and you notice things that you would otherwise ignore while on

your phone, chatting with friends, or thinking about your final destination.

While on runs I’ve taken photos of some stunning skies, surprise encounters with wildlife, and parts of the city that I might not have otherwise encountered on my regular commute. A good example of this is St. James’s Park, which I usually have no reason to visit but is a beautiful location to run through, offering lots to see, such as the Royal pelicans that live on the lake. If you’re like me and you’re not naturally a long-distance runner, or are starting up again after a break, quick photo stops are also a good excuse to have a breather.

Besides the great photo opportunities, a run might be your only chance during the day to be (almost) entirely isolated from responsibilities and obligations. There’s beauty in this isolation, but there is also a charm in the fleeting moments of connection you might have. This might take the form of momentary eye contact with strangers or the contact of your feet against the ground. You are part of a community, not only with other runners, but also with anyone else who is outside being active, and maybe

also a few photographers scouring the streets and parks for exceptional shots.

The run can also be a great source of clarity and freedom – providing your mind with the space to think as much or as little as it wants to. Running is sometimes seen as self-indulgent, but improvements in your own life can in turn positively impact the lives of others you interact with. There is a parallel between this and scenic photography, an art form that might seem introspective, but is actually fuelled by the desire to capture and share what you’re seeing with others.

Some of my favourite running photos have been taken while travelling in different cities. It’s a great way to find your bearings when visiting a completely new place, and lets you see more in a shorter period of time, maybe even scout out places to return to with a better camera. So why not go out for a run or a jog; have a look around and take some photos, or don’t! But ten, five, even two minutes is enough to get your blood flowing – and to spy a great shot.



Looking down the Albert Bridge Zanna Buckland



Heron chick in Holland Park Zanna Buckland



Marrakech in the morning Zanna Buckland

A Year in Felix

How your photography has inspired mine.

Head Photographer
ROLANDO CHARLES

Academically, this year has been quite tough. It is no exaggeration to say that it would have not been possible to stomach all of my exams and coursework deadlines without hobbies such as photography and *Felix* writing to keep me sane. However, keeping up with such endeavours is no easy task, and I must thank all of my fellow photographers who have submitted their photos to this section and who have inspired me to keep taking pictures. I must confess that, when coming up with themes, I usually had no idea what to expect or what I would submit myself. I found that this uncertainty kept things exciting whenever the first submissions started to come in. Then, at the end of the week, on the basis of whatever I received, I'd write my pretentious articles and interpretations. And simply by studying your pictures, I feel like I learnt more than I ever would by taking a hundred more photos of my own.

This collection is the reflection of your photography through my lens. I believe that the feelings, techniques, and thoughts behind your photos have made me think differently about mine. Embarrassingly, this is also my first time publishing my own pictures in this paper. Today then, I am not the all-seeing photography editor, but the student photographer, and I'm humbly submitting my pictures to you, the reader.

Special thanks go out to Charlotte P. and Jonah H., who submitted more photos than anybody else; I applaud your perseverance and admire your creativity. Finally, thank you to our Editor-in-Chief Jamie John, who has allowed me to make this section a reality, and has happily tolerated my consistently late article submissions. I should also mention all the other wonderful people at *Felix* who have helped me and my photography throughout the year, but there would be too many to list, so the only way for you to find out just how inspiring these people are, is to join the paper next year.



The Decisive Moment Rolando Charles



What to live for Rolando Charles



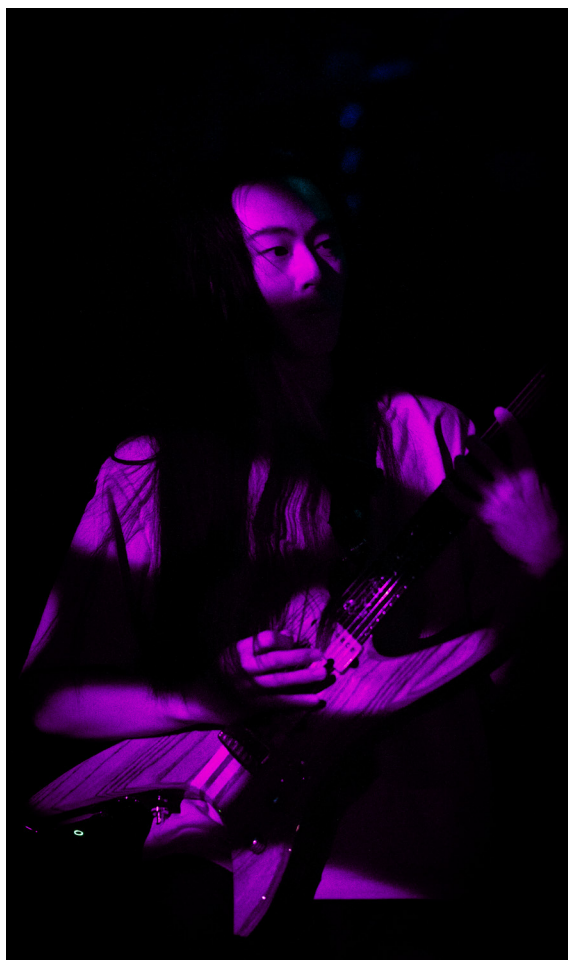
A Sensory Experience Rolando Charles



Accidental Renaissance Rolando Charles



Writer's block Rolando Charles



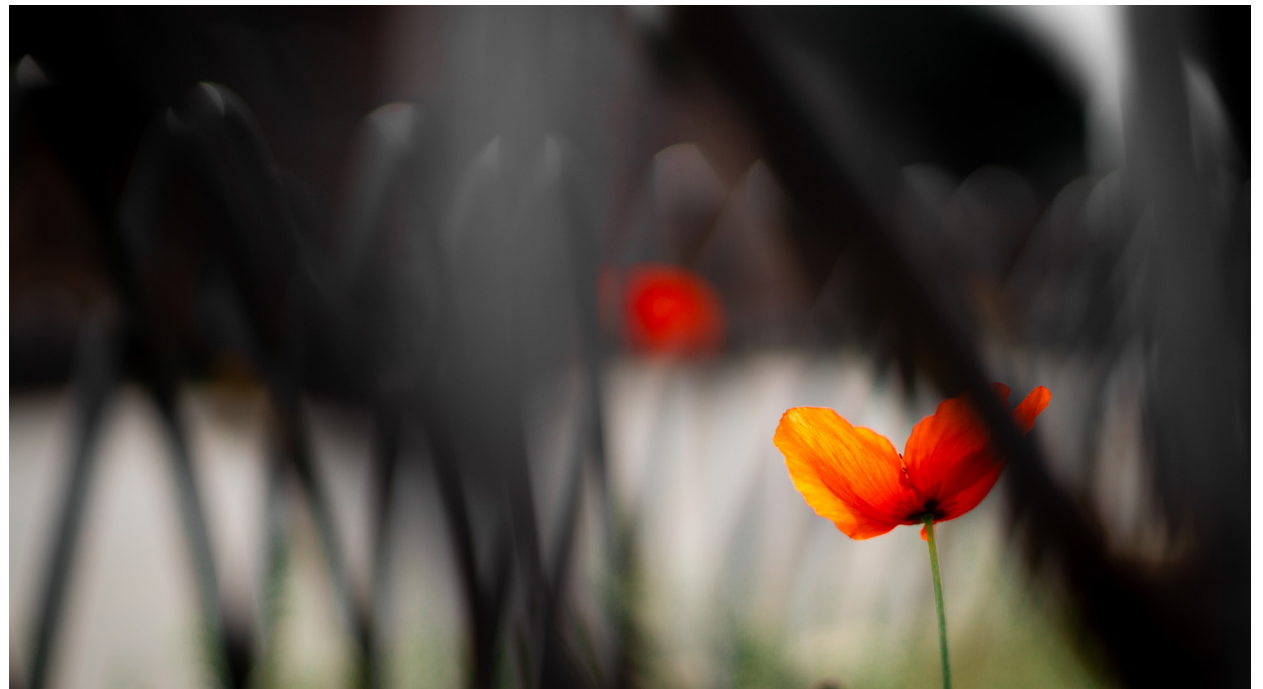
Purple Rolando Charles



City Silence Rolando Charles



Smells like home Rolando Charles



Shout Rolando Charles



Paranoia Rolando Charles



Limerence Rolando Charles



Sonder Rolando Charles

CATNIP

Scientists reveals that all slacker group project members that did no work are in fact just one person

Itinerant Education Correspondent
KEITH TALENT

Scientists at Edinburgh University have revealed that every single lazy member of a uni team that never contributed to your group project is actually the same guy.

Scottish Researchers in the Experimental Pedagogy Department have tracked down the man who is added to groups to work on a project before disappearing and not doing any of the

work that is assigned to him.

Feb Senton, 23, is a student at multiple universities around the world under many different aliases and disguises and describes himself as 'actually incredibly hard working'. He told scientists that he couldn't make up his mind which university to attend or which course to do after completing his A-levels so decided to simply apply to several. However, the build up of his course load meant that he often had to skip meetings and couldn't be as present as he would like to be.

"It is hard enough attending all the

lectures and doing my own individual work, not to mention flying from country to country every day and putting on my various disguises, I sometimes have to let others take the burden when it comes to group projects".

Members of groups that Fenton has been assigned to have reacted with fury to the news. Narun Tair, a 1st year Maths student at Imperial told *NegaFelix* "I got paired with Senton on an algebraic geometry project earlier in the year, although he was calling himself Consuela Diverdé at the time. After

the first meeting he just vanished and I couldn't get through to him in any way."

Senton has issued an apology to all who were affected by his actions and has promised to focus on only one course. However, our reporter did note that he left the interview in a hurry, muttering something about having a plane to catch. Unfortunately his reign of terror may not be over quite yet.



ARIES

This week you remind your friends that unless it comes from the Cancèl region of France it is just sparkling arbitrary ostracism



TAURUS

This week the epic battle between the frisbee players and the Palestine liberation zone ends with a crushing victory for the frisbee players



GEMINI

This week Feb Senton is revealed as the writer behind the *Felix* Horoscopes



CANCER

This week you graduate and go home. You can finally stop pretending to care about your flatmates' boy troubles



LEO

This week watching the Euros is revealing parts of you that you didn't know existed



VIRGO

This week no one wants to sublet your room between 28th June and 6th July



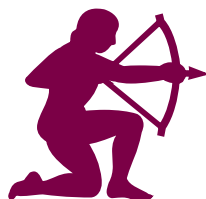
LIBRA

This week the flat you found debilitatingly cold in the winter will be nauseatingly oppressive in the heat



SCORPIO

This week the presence of lemonade and chopped fruit won't obscure the fact that you drank most of a bottle of 25% liqueur



SAGITTARIUS

This week the existential risk of the inverted demographic pyramid means phenomenal finds in the charity shops



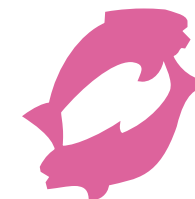
CAPRICORN

This week your Hinge profile has even fewer views than your LinkedIn



AQUARIUS

This week you try wearing shorts for the first time in a year and give everyone around you snowblindness



PISCES

This week you have mixed feelings about seeing your ex. On the one hand he cheated on you with your sister, but on the other hand he is the one that bought the Erastickets

Are you...



...painting something?

... wrapping gifts?

or mugs or plates or anything else



... in need of a lot of paper?

Feli



has over 500 old newspaper issues to give away to anybody.

We really do not want to throw them away... or spend any energy recycling them. But of course, they will eventually be recycled.

I use old newspapers to wrap gifts and they have a vintage look to them :D



Deal is open all year long!!!

FOOD & TRAVEL

Solo in zhe Schwyz



Read as *Felix's* Travel Editor Charlotte shares her exploration of four towns in Switzerland on a week-long solo trip, and her tips on traveling alone.

Travel Editor
CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

Plopped between France, Germany, Austria, and Italy lies the multi-cultural haven of banking, cheese, and scenic mountain ranges – a well-connected country ideal for an inexperienced female solo traveler on her first trip alone. Unlike most countries in this world, Switzerland is difficult to explore on a low budget as most prices are at least twice the cost of necessities in London. However, I noticed quickly that I was always paying for quality, health, and most importantly, safety. From Sunday to Sunday, I visited St. Gallen, Zurich, Lucerne, and Basel to enrich myself with the country I have been curious about for the last few years.

St. Gallen

St. Gallen is known for Universität St. Gallen, a top-tier business school situat-

ed close to Bodensee, a lake bordered by south-west Bavaria, Austria, and Switzerland. A quaint little university town squished in a small valley, it seems ideal for a peaceful suburban lifestyle, and safe for children and young adults. I visited the usual series of historic museums, university campuses, and churches, only to find myself content and satisfied after 24 hours, ready to move to Zurich.

Zurich

A city well-centered in the country and sitting at the peak of an exquisite and long lake, it is nothing short of traditional aristocratic beauty. Clean streets, shops galore, museums catering to different niche interests, and architecture reminiscent of the Middle Ages. While this may describe most European cities, Zurich is the most organised and the best-maintained city that I have travelled to in the Western Hemisphere, second overall to Tokyo and Seoul.

The attractions offered by Switzer-

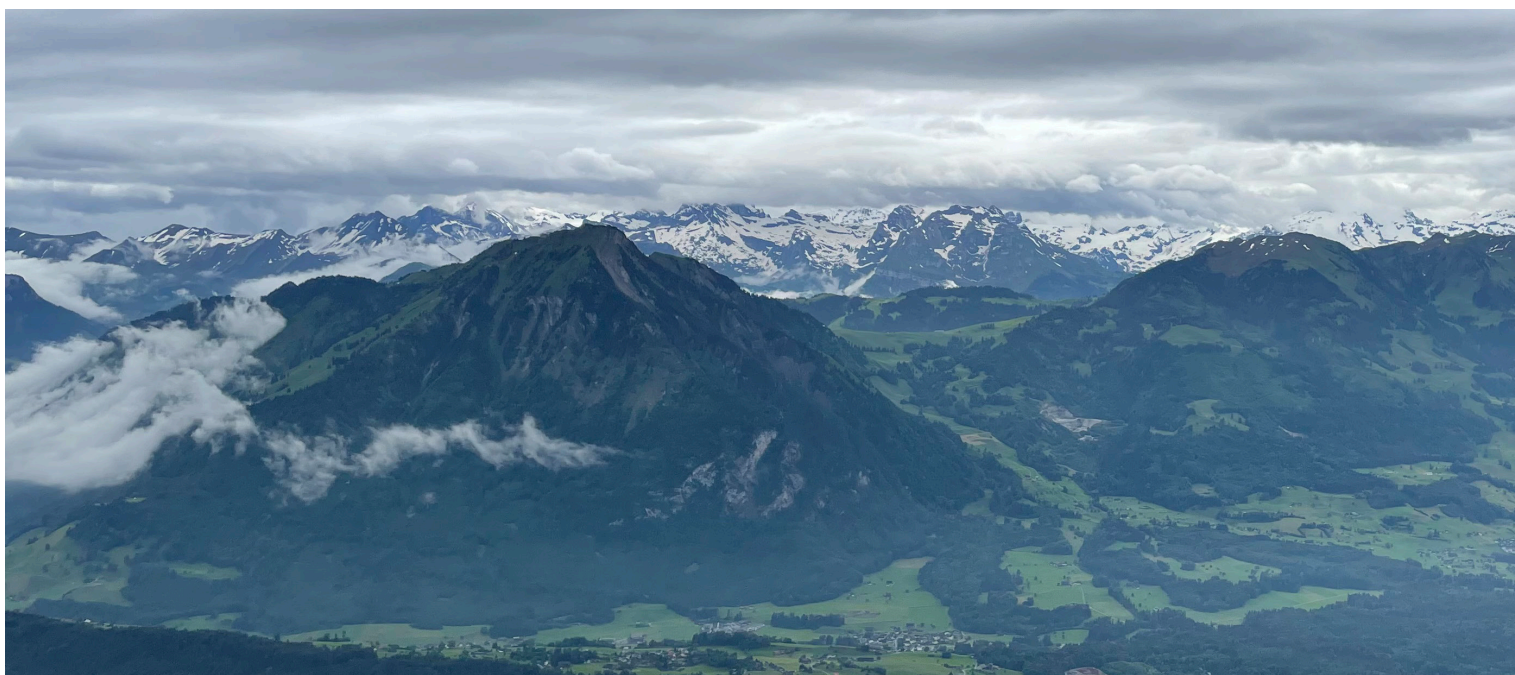
land's cultural capital, such as the Swiss Natural Museum – a mass collection of various historical items – and the House of Art – an exhibition of modern and world-famous art pieces – further convinced me of the country's even-handed approach to historical conservation and modern advancement alike. Funnily enough, the Natural History Museum of Zurich neighbors the city's most prestigious technical and scientific university, ETH. As if I had not seen this before.

Besides the usual mass of cultural attractions embodied by beautiful churches, statues, and fountains, Zurich is also home to the FIFA headquarters and its associated museum. A rather fun way to spend an hour or two, I learnt about the organisation's history, the most historic players, which countries joined where and when, all the while surrounded by dramatic action-packed videos and background music highlighting the global importance of the World Cup. Nobody is more patriotic than fans of football, for

sure.

Lucerne

A smaller and more peaceful version of Zurich, I found Lucerne to be beaming with beauty and filled with unique attractions. First of all, there is a statue of a lion engraved into a stone wall, a monument commemorating the loss of Swiss lives in the French Revolution. Secondly, its picturesque lake sits between monstrous mountains, all prepared to be hiked upon and admired by locals and tourists. I spent one day hiking Mount. Pilatus. The fresh air, the spectacular top view, and the fun of walking and climbing itself all reminded me of why I love the Alps so much. Thirdly, it is home to the Museum of Transport, a little treat for engineers of all sorts. It hosts a planetarium, multiple aircraft, cars, boats, trains, exhibitions on energy and transport, and of course a museum dedicated to Lindt chocolate inside.



A view of the Swiss Alps Charlotte Probstel



At the top of Mount. Matthorn before reaching Mount. Pilatus Charlotte Probstel



Lion Monument, Lucerne Charlotte Probstel



Lake Zurich on a beautiful sunny day Charlotte Probstel

Basel

The final 24 hours of my trip were in Basel, a city of art and history. On the map, Basel is located at the intersection of France, Switzerland, and Germany, which made the Three-Country Point exciting to visit as I could run into three separate countries within a single minute. Record time, no?

The following morning, exhausted as I was, I took it easy and went on an insightful and amusing two-hour bus ride around the city before visiting the Paper Museum. You may think: paper, how is that interesting? Well, I was surprised by how much I did not about it, along with papyrus, tapa, cloth, the history of language, printing, and producing books. While this could all be taught in a YouTube video, I was pleased when the staff offered me the chance to make my paper from scratch, practice writing with a quill and ink, use the printing machines myself, and type out a little letter on a very loud typewriter. It is little interactive things such as these which I always enjoy in quirky and niche museums.

I returned to the train station, bought myself whichever 10 CHF (£8) sandwich I could find at Migros, the only grocery store at the station open on a Sunday, and hopped onto the train home, happy and satisfied.

Tip: Swiss Travel Pass

The Swiss Travel Pass is an ideal ticket to have for Switzerland. For a six-day youth

ticket, I paid 268 CHF (£238) overall, or about 45 CHF (£40) per day. It offers unlimited travel by train, bus, or tram and discounts and free tickets to 500 museums and tours in Switzerland, primarily the main attractions. I saved at least 250 pounds with the ticket. At one counter, I said I had the BaselCard and the Swiss Travel Pass, and the man selling tickets went, “You get it cheaper with the Swiss Travel Pass,” to which I chuckled, knowing I had the almighty ticket of Switzerland.

Tip: Storage

Unless you plan to hike, carrying a large rucksack can be less than ideal for city touring as most museums do not accept them, and it can easily become a nuisance to find accessible storage. Also, your back needs a break.

Moreover, every train station in Switzerland has a storage facility with lockers ranging from S to XL, though the S locker was large enough for a carry-on suitcase. I would check out of the hostel, bring my suitcase to the station, lock it, and pick it up many hours later before hopping onto the train and checking into my next hostel. I paid roughly 10 CHF per transition day for storage.

Tip: Packing

Furthermore, I was sure to pack some items that I generally do not pack when on vacation: shower and hand towels, soap and shampoo for the hostels as they only provide bedsheets, and shower slippers to protect my feet from other

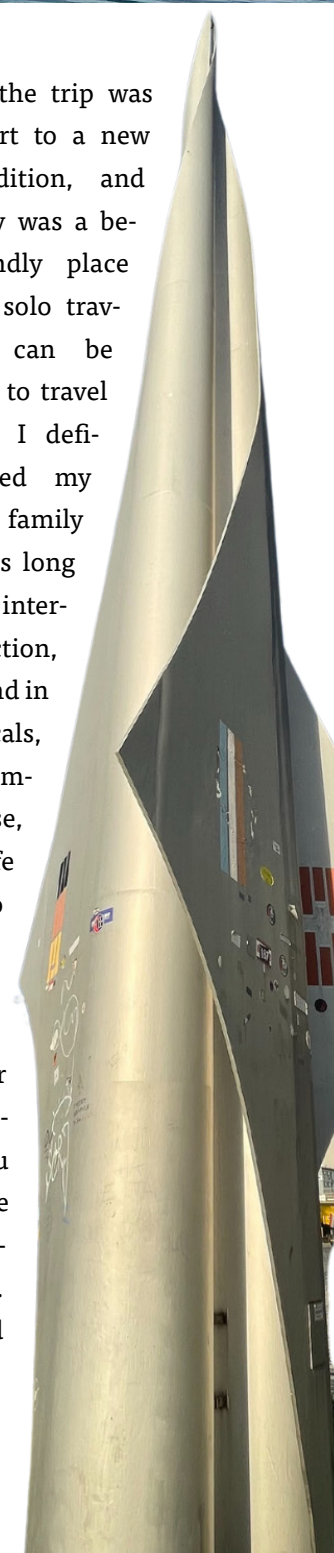
people’s foot fungi. I packed a lock which came in useful at the last hostel that didn’t provide locks with their lockers. A portable cutlery set, but not any containers, as I ate most meals from the grocery store and I didn’t need the single-use cutlery. Generic hygiene products such as hand sanitiser, tissues, and biodegradable wet wipes. One pair of shoes for all conditions: I chose waterproof hiking boots as then I didn’t need to pack extra hiking boots for my trip up the mountain, I could explore the town for multiple hours on foot without getting any blisters and my feet stayed dry during the occasional rain showers. A day pack with all essentials as I did not plan to return to the hostel during the day to rest, hence a Kindle for relaxing entertainment, a power bank to charge my phone, a small first-aid kit, and a notebook to write down my thoughts – solo traveling gives opportunity for reflection.

Tip: Tram Safety

All Swiss towns are filled with a dense network of trams, which are smoothly intertwined with the sidewalks and roads. My friend’s advice is to watch out for trams. You would be surprised to learn that 675 tram accidents occurred in 2023, of which many were fatal.

Last Tip: Book tickets for the Lindt Museum in Zurich weeks in advance. It is still on my bucket list and I regret not having prepared well enough. You just know that it will be the highlight of your stay.

Overall, the trip was a good start to a new yearly tradition, and the country was a beginner-friendly place to explore solo travelling. It can be frightening to travel alone, and I definitely called my friends and family a lot, but as long as I had an internet connection, tried to blend in with the locals, and used common sense, I felt safe enough to enjoy the trip. Final tip: if a stranger at the hostel asks you if you are alone, always lie. “My friend is upstairs,” I said.

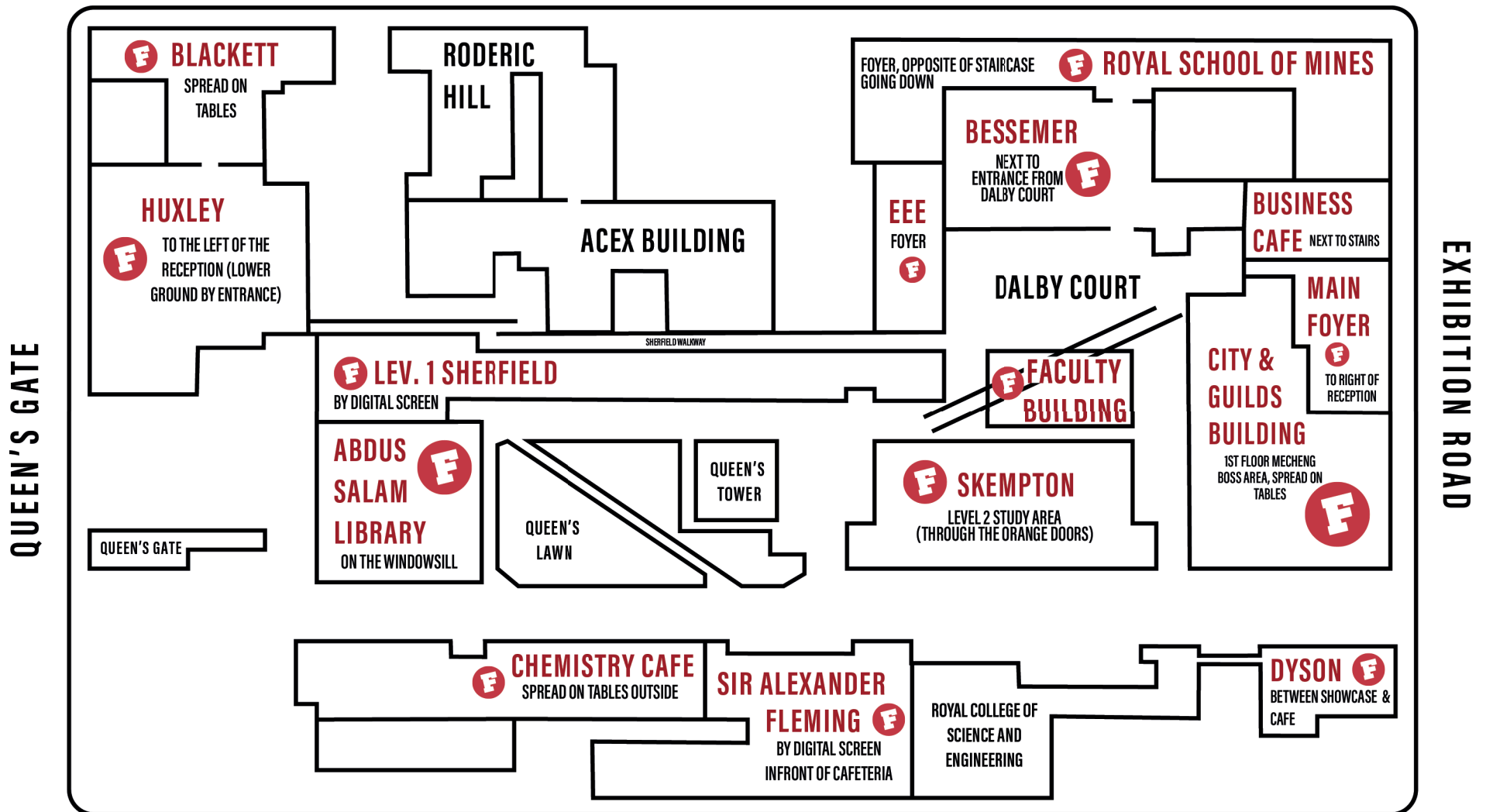


Three-Country Point in Basel marks the intersection of Switzerland, Germany, and France Charlotte Probstel

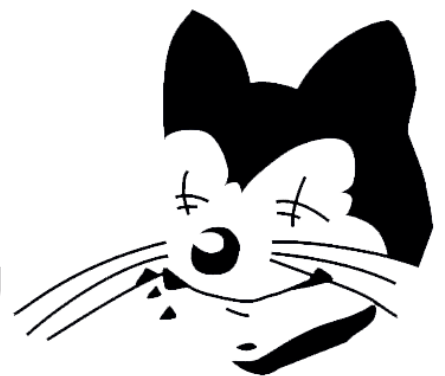
Find Felix ...



PRINCE CONSORT ROAD



PICK UP YOUR COPY EVERY FRIDAY!

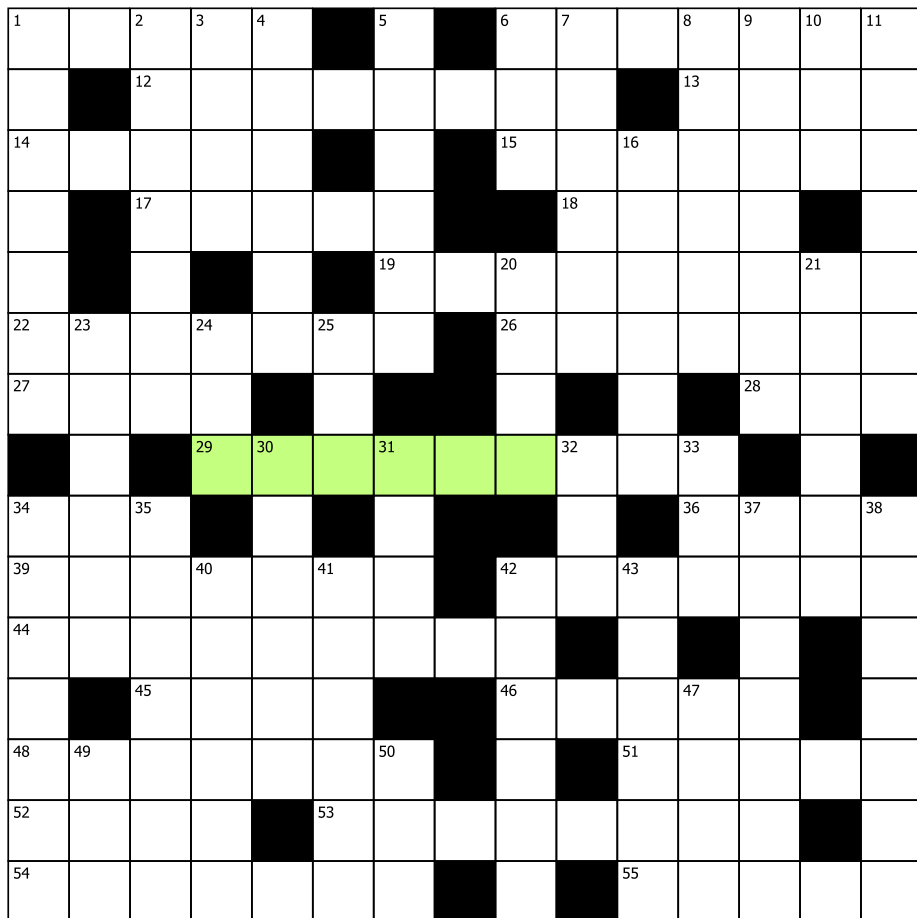


PUZZLES

Puzzles Editor
STANLEY SCOTT

CROSSWORD

Election! (8 pts.)



Across

- 1. Bubble's fate. [5]
- 6. Took snuff, e.g. [7]
- 12. Justification. [8]
- 13. Type of bird to which the bald eagle belongs. [4]
- 14. Exposed. [5]
- 15. Kind of awareness. [7]
- 17. Accent, informally. [5]
- 18. "Once I had love and it was ___" - Blondie, *Heart of Glass*. [1 3]
- 19. Leveraged. [9]
- 22. Aretha Franklin spells it out. [7]
- 26. Copy, ape. [7]
- 27. Where Old Compton Street is. [4]
- 28. Only in German. [3]
- 29. **The headline in two weeks?** [6 3]
- 34. Crab from Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, for short. [3]
- 36. Be an accomplice. [4]
- 39. Self-satisfied person? [7]
- 42. Good looks. [7]
- 44. Acting as the man-in-the-middle. [9]

- 45. Chromosome part. [4]
- 46. Kind of airship. [5]
- 48. Steel part of worker's boots [3 4]
- 51. One who schmoozes. [5]
- 52. Phrase in many a court proceeding's title. [2 2]
- 53. Cromwell's people. [8]
- 54. Swimwear, informally. [7]
- 55. The dots, in music. [5]

Down

- 1. The brass section, perhaps. [7]
- 2. Small and filthy. [7]
- 3. Do as the volcano does. [4]
- 4. As of now, yet. [2 4]
- 5. Obliviate. [6]
- 6. Bro's counterpart, perhaps. [3]
- 7. Incendiary weapon used in Vietnam War. [6]
- 8. John Lewis's gig. [6]
- 9. Romantic character. [7]
- 10. Sharples from *Coronation Street*. [3]
- 11. Indulger of fantasies. [7]
- 16. Fur colouration. [6]
- 20. Green foodstuff. [4]
- 21. They include *Waterfall* and *Aeolian Harp*. [6]
- 23. Geological time period. [6]
- 24. One of two names of Cambodian dictator. [3]
- 25. Four-wheeled vehicle. [3]
- 30. Girl's name. [6]
- 31. Preposition indicating movement. [4]
- 32. English 60s rock band. [3]
- 33. *The Catherine Tate Show* recurring character. [3]
- 34. Bodily. [7]
- 35. Hounds, so to speak. [7]
- 37. Pillar of the boudoir. [7]
- 38. Vest concealers. [1-6]
- 40. 6-Dn.'s daughters, e.g. [6]
- 41. Mongolian landscape. [6]
- 42. Central plot point of Series 9 of *Doctor Who*. [6]
- 43. Country with red, white and blue flag. [6]
- 47. Prefix for culture or phonic. [4]
- 49. Lennon's wife. [3]
- 50. Questionable, in Gen Z/Alpha lingo. [3]

Cryptic across

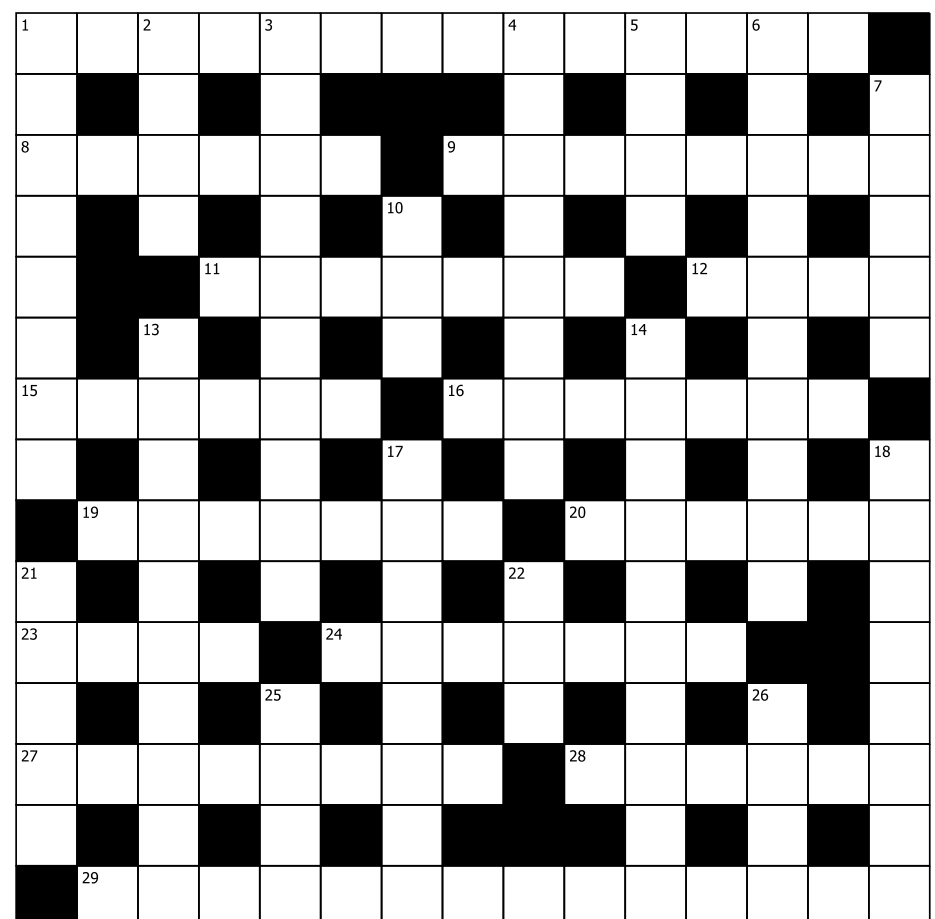
- 1. Keep up the faculty's green target. [14]
- 8. A grave injury causes ruin. [6]
- 9. Crumpling, leaving in greater numbers. [8]
- 11. The loos are weird in this country. [7]
- 12. Girl is taking secret notes. [4]
- 15. Prophet gives final "hallelujah!" before judge. [6]
- 16. These, but not that! [7]
- 19. Useless hope to veto the city. [7]
- 20. Seafood with strong flavour? [6]
- 23. Girl polishes cover of bad record. [4]
- 24. The left or right ones and their chairs. [7]
- 27. Poem to be given to woman, so I heard. [3 2 3]
- 28. A reduced-pay contract will be satisfactory. [6]
- 29. Navajo, to the Navajo! [6 8]

Cryptic down

- 1. Publisher making leaps? [8]
- 2. Prevent the vase being broken. [4]
- 3. Got together with a guarded man inside. [10]
- 4. Where nobody's interested in mining? [8]
- 5. Horse around with the bread. [4]
- 6. Questions the rotten lies and doesn't take them seriously. [10]
- 7. Turn age at which one gets a red jewel. [5]
- 10. Cave up the swamp. [3]
- 13. The Gilbert and Sullivan production LP? Go hear it! [5 5]
- 14. Glues retro patchwork to the bit of clothing. [7 3]
- 17. An anatomical 'pick-me'? [8]
- 18. Be a bodyguard in there and get a bruise! [5 3]
- 21. Going on with an imperial unit. [5]
- 22. Head commissioner of police? [3]
- 25. Why no soldier is a teacher. [4]
- 26. Is it written in Indonesia? [4]

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

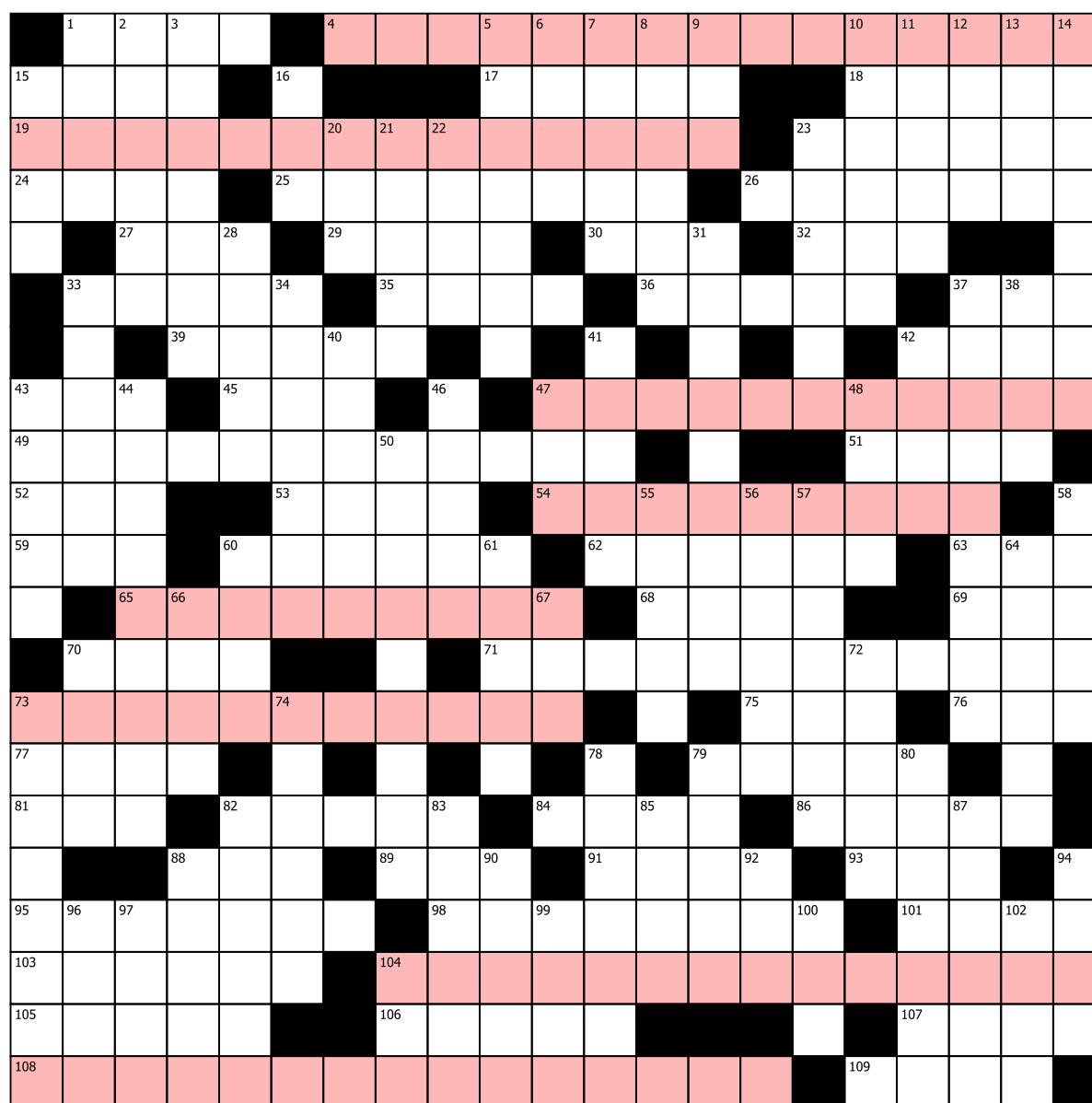
(12 pts.)



BONUS CROSSWORD

Across

1. Perform a vasectomy, informally. [4]
 4.* **The final Puzzle Editor's Note!** [7 8]
 15. RAM or clock speed, e.g. [4]
 17. Forego what one is owed. [5]
 18. Grim and gloomy, to the Scot. [5]
 19.* [4 1 9]
 23. Ancient Greek city. [6]
 24. Creature who might 1-Ac. [4]
 25. Body of water named for a Greek Titan. [8]
 26. Leaves a ship, e.g. [7]
 27. Abbreviation in mathematical proof, perhaps. [3]
 29. Flogged. [4]
 30. Laughing gas, informally. [3]
 32. A thou thou? [3]
 33. Court on the London Underground. [5]
 35. Tide type. [4]
 36. Word preceding semiconductor. [1-4]
 37. Spanish interrogative. [3]
 39. Old Soviet instrument of forced labour. [5]
 42. Celtic folklore creature. [4]
 43. ___ Graham, British stand-up comedian. [3]
 45. Word following snake, coconut and engine. [3]
 47.* [6 5]
 49. Cilla Black or Jodie Comer, e.g. [12]
 51. They can short or spare. [4]
 52. Taiwanese film director. [3]
 53. Self-satisfied. [4]
 54.* [7 2]
 59. Make a mistake. [3]
 60. Arboreal art form. [6]
 62. Had a showdown, perhaps. [6]
 63. One part of a minced oath coming from "God blind me". [3]
 65.* [4 1 4]
 68. Is not abbreviated. [4]
 69. The number of millibars in a hectopascal. [3]
 70. Hammer, e.g. [4]
 71. Frisbee-like object from TRON. [8 4]
 73.* [3 3 2 3]
 75. Never, in Berlin. [3]
 76. Fourth word of *Lorem ipsum* text. [3]



77. Those that came after the Boomers. [3 1]
 79. Contracted phrase of regret, or archaic word meaning senselessly. [5]
 81. Example bra cup size. [3]
 82. Stock company. [5]
 84. Zeus's wife. [4]
 86. Flat-Earther's anathema. [5]
 88. Tom Hanks film with famous piano scene. [3]
 89. *Les ___*, shortened name of successful musical. [3]
 91. Be in possession of. [4]
 93. Din, ruckus. [3]
 95. Weaponry. [7]
 98. Kind of sports shoe. [8]
 101. Cupid, to the Greeks. [4]
 103. Milestone in baby's diet. [6]
 104.* [4 1 9]
 105. Stage of insect metamorphosis and clue in last week's crossword! [5]
 106. Take off the bulletin board, e.g. [5]
 107. 'I'm all ___!' [4]
 108.* [4 4 7]
 109. Workshy. [4]

Down

1. Engage in practice combat. [4]
 2. Crucial state in US 2020 presidential election. [6]
 3. Well-known ship-sinker. [7]
 5. From a central African country. [7]
 6. Where the trade winds blow from. [4]
 7. Protest instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement. [3-2]
 8. Star of the screen, so to speak. [2 4]
 9. Gymnast's focus for the day, e.g. [3]
 10. The Cranberries song. [6]
 11. Like a dog to its owner. [5]
 12. Long hesitation. [4]
 13. Where hockey's played. [4]
 14. Maritime radio language. [8]
 15. Heat energies required to raise the temperatures of 1 kg of substances by 1 K. [4]
 16. River in the Ural Mountains. [3]
 20. Symbols for email. [3]
 21. Of arbitrary size. [1-4]
 22. One might be as old as time. [4]
 23. ...*in principio, et nunc, et _____*... [6]

28. First halogen, in many European languages. [5]
 31. Least long. [9]
 33. One who turns green, perhaps. [6]
 34. Gets into. [5 2]
 37. From Montreal, e.g. [9]
 38. Pre-university group. [4]
 40. Post-university group. [6]
 41. Tightened the strings. [5]
 42. Proper. [4]
 43. Less healthy. [5]
 44. Did 41-Dn. too much! [9]
 46. Ocean bloomers. [5]
 47. Day of rest, abbr. [3]
 48. Produced offspring. [4]
 50. Dry weather phenomenon. [4 5]
 55. Inner Hebridean island. [5]
 56. Periodic global climate variation. [2 4]
 57. Doing background checks. [7]
 58. Like ALERT? [5]
 60. Campanologist's study. [4]
 61. Homeric poem. [5]
 64. Not prompting a raising of the flag. [6]
 66. Spoof, deception. [4]
 67. Mormon Church, abbr. [3]
 70. Three-___ sloth. [4]
 72. Cowardly, to the southern American. [5]
 73. Mythological tree, alt. spelling. [8]
 74. Notes twice as long as breves. [6]
 78. German-origin surname. [7]
 79. Prefer in the US. [5]
 80. Did as Hank Williams. [7]
 82. A little bit. [4 2]
 83. Gets stinkier, as brie. [6]
 85. Croak, grumble. [4]
 87. Like the taiga. [6]
 88. Latte foam colour. [5]
 90. Got shut-eye. [5]
 92. Old Testament figure. [3]
 94. Applications. [4]
 96. Nineties UK nightclubbing movement. [4]
 97. Czech speaker, e.g. [4]
 99. South American dolphin genus. [4]
 100. Fifty-six, to Caesar. [3]
 102. Fairytale monster. [4]
 104. The end, in a way. [3]

SUDOKU

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

Medium (1 pt. each)

Hard (2 pts. each)

Extra hard (3 pts. each)

GROUPING GRIDS

| | | | |
|------------|--------|--------|------------|
| achaemenid | lamp | quebec | birthday |
| table | mongol | oscar | yankee |
| british | roman | sofa | citronella |
| electric | golf | india | ottoman |

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.

| | | | |
|--------|--------|----------|----------|
| comma | minute | bracket | degree |
| tilde | colon | dash | semitone |
| second | anselm | soaked | turn |
| cent | radian | hellfire | wenger |

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

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

| | | | | | |
|----|--|--|--|--|-------------|
| 1. | | | | | Connections |
| 2. | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | |
| 4. | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|----|--|--|--|--|-------------|
| 1. | | | | | Connections |
| 2. | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | |
| 4. | | | | | |

BONUS CRYPTOGRAM

Clue: Ensuing Hansel

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| W | H | P | N | H | P | G | T | L | S | V | F | W | I | L | V | T | I | X | | | | | | | |

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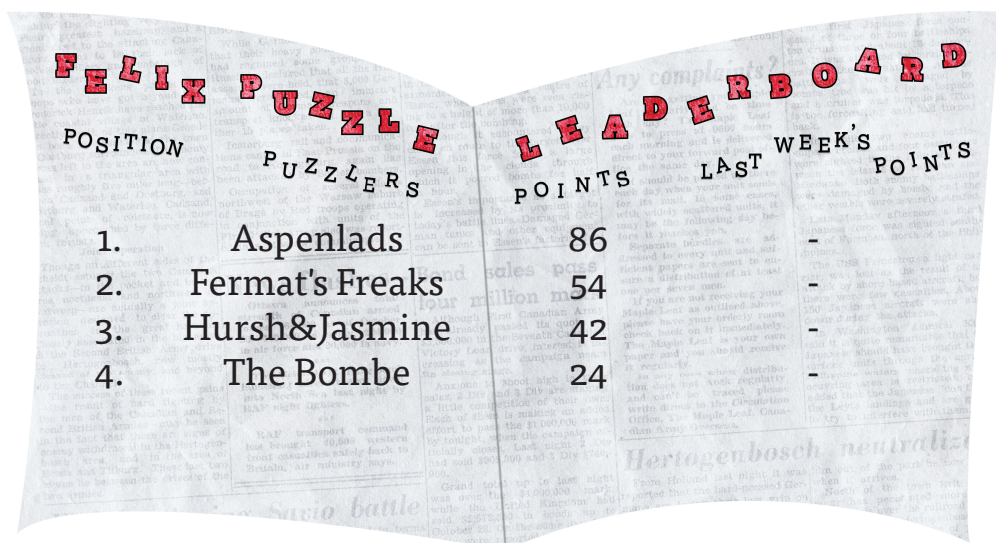
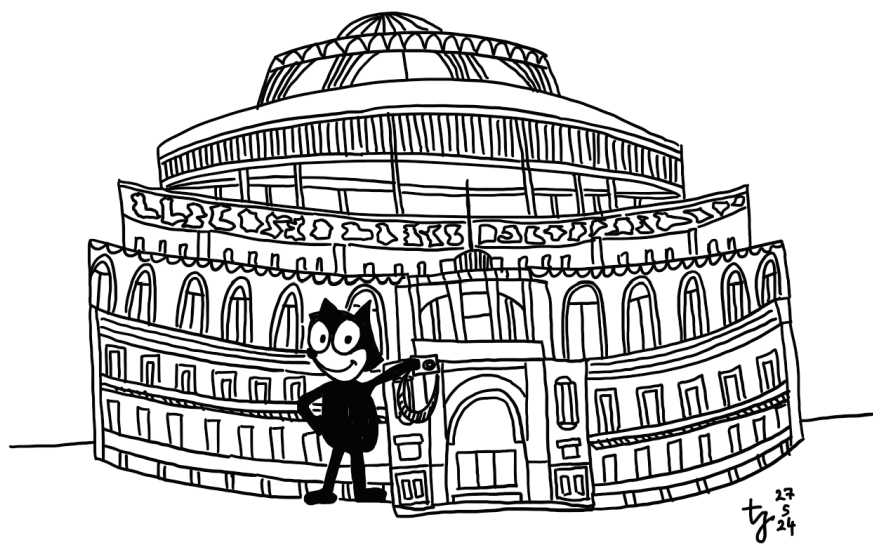
(3 pts.)

Anagram: _____ (1 pt.)

Quote from: _____ (1 pt.)

COMIC

Submitted by Tengyu Zhao



Graphic by Selina Ye

Puzzle Editor's Note

Dearest puzzlers,
An enormous congratulations to all of you for finishing this year at Imperial. As this part of the academic journeys of so many of you draws to a close, so too does my time as *Felix's* Puzzles Editor. It has been an enormous honour to see what I have always done in my spare time become something enjoyed by so many. Whether you're undergrads, postgrads, doctoral students, faculty, staff or any other part of the College, I sincerely hope that this little section has brought you some joy over the last few years.

This week, we have a truly magnificent five pages of puzzles for you with a bonus cryptogram and crossword. Hopefully, it'll be enough to tide you over until the 2024 autumn term. I particularly like the regular crossword this week, the theme for which I shamelessly stole from the New York Times 1996 election day puzzle. Please enjoy it (and don't forget to vote!).

I would like to thank the trusty contributors to the puzzles pages, without whom there would have only been a couple of crosswords and grouping grids in each issue. Thank you to Charlotte Probstel for her wonderful maths puzzle submissions, and to Tengyu Zhao and Sitong Guo for their fantastic comics. Thanks also to Selina Ye for her graphics. Isaac Winson was this section's editor before

me, and I am very grateful to both him and our outstanding editor-in-chief, Jamie John, for their guidance and advice. Lastly, Ivin Jose has been a brilliant right-hand-man over the last year, and I'm sure you'll all agree his cryptograms are marvellous. He will, no doubt, be a splendid Puzzles Editor next year.

Of course, this wouldn't be complete without some (drumroll please) corrections from last edition's puzzles. In rather calamitous fashion, the crossword included a violent car-crash of two errors. First, the clue denoted 43-Across was actually the clue for 44-Across. Perhaps keen-eyed puzzlers would have noticed this mistake, were it not that 44-Across was entirely missing. My humble apologies for this dreadful mess, and +100 imaginary bonus points to anyone who managed the crossword anyway!

The leaderboard will be reset by Ivin after the first issue of next year, so do keep an eye out for that, and keep sending in your answers!

That leaves me with nothing more to say, other than to wish you all an absolutely marvellous summer. And of course, for the last time, happy crossing, connecting, completing, code-cracking, comic-consuming and competing!

- Stanley

Last weeks' solutions

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------|---------|---------|-------------------------|
| glabella | philtrum | gelasin | sclera | parts of the face |
| crux | draco | octans | cepheus | constellations |
| harry | minerva | albus | lucius | Harry Potter characters |
| galatians | sirach | obadiah | malachi | books of the Bible |

Medium grouping grid

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|--------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| sisimiut | svalbard | tromsø | murmansk | cities north of the Arctic circle |
| ciren | lei | wor | tow | -cester |
| dump | fire | box | pickup | types of truck |
| bridge | nut | peg | headstock | parts of an electric guitar |

Hard grouping grid

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

Crosscerto

What's the remainder?

Q: What is the remainder when the number 743589 × 301647 is divided by 5?

A: 3.

P-q pairs

Q: The sum of 5 consecutive integers is equal to the sum of the next 3 consecutive integers.

What is the largest of these 8 numbers?

A: 11.

Maths puzzles

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

Cryptic

Send a picture of your solved puzzles to puzzles.felix@ic.ac.uk by the beginning of next term to get yourself or your team on the leaderboard! Send them in a little before to appear up-to-date in the 'last week's points' column.