

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.

ISSUE #1851

# Felix

KEEP THE CAT FREE | SINCE 1949

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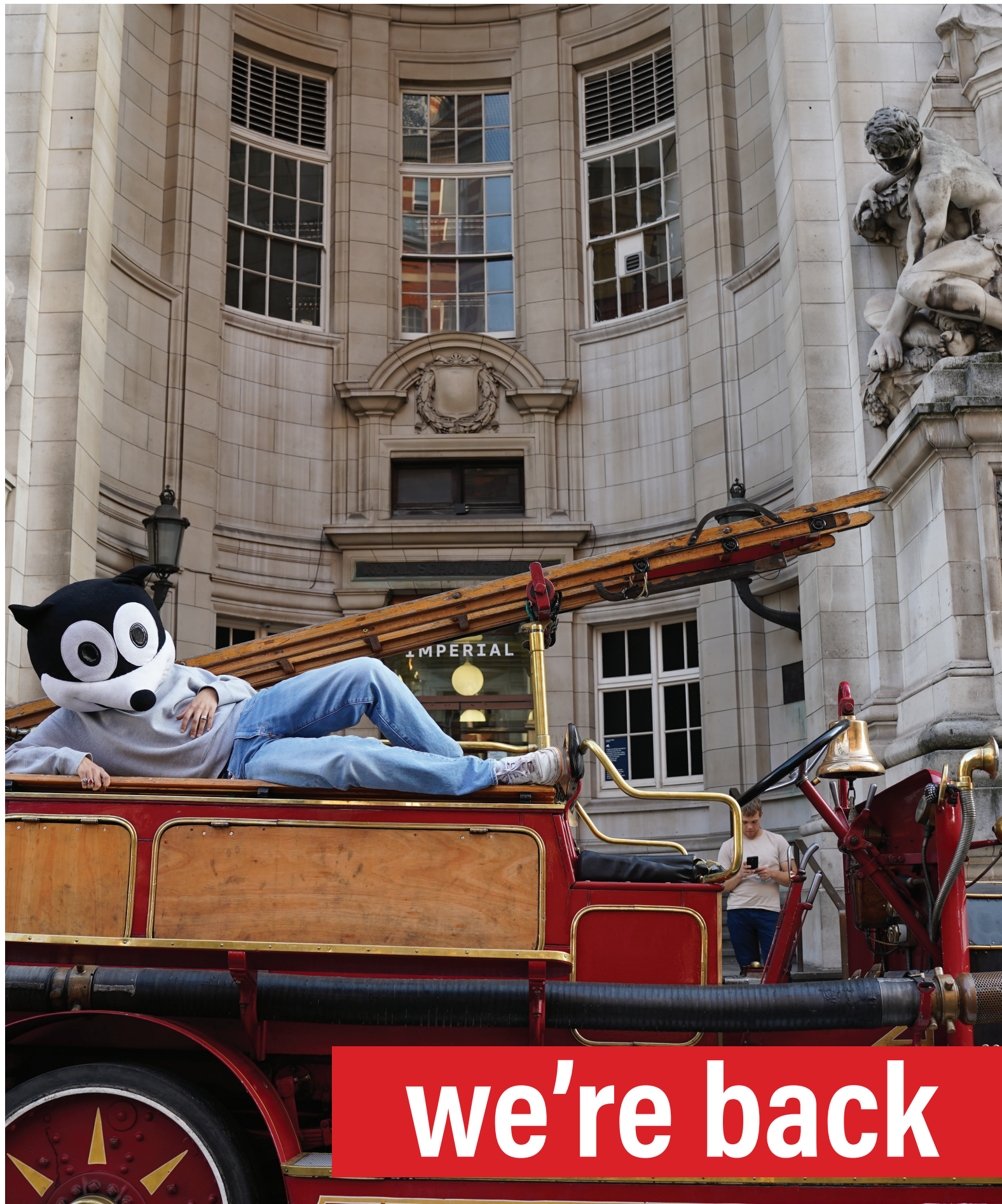
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# we're back



# 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 we, the *Felix* Editors, on behalf of the team promise that:

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

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

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

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

Signed by:  
**MOHAMMAD MAJLISI**  
Editor-in-Chief

# The Felix Team:



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News Editor



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Deputy Editor-in-Chief,  
Sports Editor



**CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL**  
Chair,  
Societies Editor



**TARUN NAIR**  
Chief Copyeditor  
Film & TV Editor



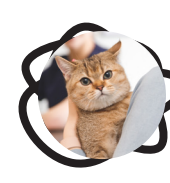
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Senior Webmaster



**ELSON THO**  
Junior Webmaster



**WE REALLY**



**NEED FRESH NEW**



**TALENTED EDITORS**



**OR WE DIE**



**AND OUR NUMEROUS  
CONTRIBUTORS ...**

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## VACANCIES

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We're always looking for fresh blood! If you're interested in a role below, or want to contribute in another way, email us at [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk).

### Illustrators

### Photographers

### Graphic Designers (Adobe)

### Writers

### News

### Business

### Arts & Culture

### Environment

### Film&TV

### Food&Travel

### Photography

### Societies

### Sports

## EDITORIAL

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# We are so back

**Editor-in-Chief**  
**MOHAMMAD MAJLISI**

There's been a lot of things going on, not least in the *Felix* Office as me and my team have worked to get started on this year's publication schedule. We've seen Brat summer come and go, race riots in the UK (that was a fun week commuting to my office in the bowels of Beit Quad) and a host of policies being introduced that might affect students, such as new sexual misconduct guidelines introduced by the Office for Students, a Renters Reform bill that will grant greater rights to tenants (apart from students in halls) being introduced, a ban on outdoor smoking, and universities being thrown to the wolves as a funding crisis grips the sector. But despite the doom and gloom of generally existing in the UK, *Felix* is so back.

I'm both excited and aware of the immense responsibility I have as the Editor-in-Chief, not only getting my dream job at the tender age of 21, but also because as Imperial College's newspaper of note, for students and staff alike, *Felix* has a duty to report on all the things of note going on at the College for both students and staff. *Felix* last year was brilliant, with some amazing stories that even breached the divide between a student newspaper and the national press, and I'm aiming to continue that vein of high quality of reporting that my predecessor Jamie John maintained. I would also like to dedicate my thanks to Zanna Buckland and Mike Buzadji, last year's Deputy Editor-in-Chief and Chair for running such a tight ship,

modernising our design, and for their excellence in Keeping the Cat Free.

*Felix* is always looking for fresh blood to join us. It's a great entry into a career in journalism – we've had previous editors and contributors move into careers for *The Guardian*, the *Financial Times*, and *The Economist*, to name a few publications. We rely on students to run and publish throughout the year. Anyone at Imperial can submit an article for publication, be that student, staff, or alum, and we aim to publish as much as we can, provided it's not someone's insane ramblings (we still might publish that – I mean my editorials are published weekly). Being an established writer doesn't matter – none of us already working in the office are particularly literate and we're all STEM meaning we can't communicate effectively for shit. *Felix* is also editorially independent, and we intend to keep it that way so we can maintain our high standards of reportage. You don't even have to write for us, we're always looking for illustrators, copyeditors, and graphic designers, so if you're interested, shoot us a message at [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk).

You can also keep track of the latest dealings on Imperial's campuses through our Instagram (@felix\_imperial) and through the weekly newsletter *The Lowdown* – see across for the QR code to join. Our papers are distributed across South Kensington for all 12 print readers. If you'd like to meet the team and consider getting involved, we'll be around at the Welcome Fair on Tuesday 1st October – we have stickers.

Lastly, I want to thank my team for their support in getting out the

first issue and all the background work we've done. A huge thanks to Charlotte Probstel, the Chair whose amazing organisation and dedication has ensured our editors are ready to go. Thanks to Tarun Nair, chief copyeditor, who along with my deputy Taylor Pomfret, have developed our style guide, which is essential onboarding for a lot of our editors who have just started. Also, before I forget, thanks to Ruby Lydford for designing our back cover, I believe the kids say "we stan a talented queen". I would also like to thank everyone for being so enthusiastic about starting another year at the office, because ultimately, without my team of editors there would be no *Felix*.

As you do x,

**Mohammad Majlisi** *Felix* Editor  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024



## OP-ED

# There's more to life than studying...

**Christian Cooper**

*ICU Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)*

**F**inding “your crowd” can be hard. That’s something I know all too well. Arriving at Imperial, you’ll be thrown into session after session of induction talks, each competing for your attention and interest, making it extremely hard to know what’s truly important. I want to convince you to look beyond your studies for a moment.

Whilst at school I found my outlet through theatre, piano, and hockey, so coming into Imperial I already knew what I wanted. As soon as I received my results, followed swiftly by confirmation of my place at Imperial, my first thoughts were not to look for information about my course, my halls, or London, but to scramble for the hockey Facebook page (yes, Facebook, I know) to find out how to sign up. My journey began with joining the hockey club, and from there, I got involved in volunteering with the Sports Committee and became the Sports Chair. That led me to where I am today, representing all clubs, societies, and projects at Imperial.

I was lucky enough to know early on what I enjoyed,

but this experience isn’t common. Despite being more connected as a society, with more opportunities available at the touch of a button than ever before, ironically, it’s become harder than ever to explore the breadth of what’s on offer as a student and find a community in which you feel you belong. It can be incredibly daunting, being inundated with information and no sense of where to start, especially if you’ve never taken part in something extracurricular before.



**I truly believe that my experiences in sports and societies have shaped who and where I am today**

“But why should I even bother?” I hear you ask. After all, you come to Imperial to study at a world-leading institution, not to have fun! The truth is, the significance

of taking part in something outside of academia cannot be understated. For one, it can have an enormous impact on your academic performance. Allowing yourself an outlet from your studies, a chance to de-compress and enjoy yourself, enables your mind and body to reset, meaning that when you study you study better. Just search “the effect of extracurricular activities on academic performance” if you’re not already convinced.

Beyond the academic benefits, however, lie what I see as the much greater good of taking part in activities at Imperial – finding your crowd. I wouldn’t be where I am today without my community. Clichéd it may be, I truly believe that my experiences in sports and societies have shaped who and where I am today, allowing me to meet so many friends and experience more than I ever could have through my studies alone.

“Okay, I’m convinced, but where do I start?” While I may have already known what I wanted to do at uni, many of you won’t – this is okay! That’s where the Union comes in. You’re bound to find a community in which you truly belong and can thrive, out of over 340 student-led groups, and if you can’t, you can start something new! I would love for you to join us from 11am-4pm on Tuesday 1st October for Welcome Fair, where you can meet almost every society and sports club on offer and find out about the free “Give It A Go” sessions they’ll be offering.

You’ll find that as times change, so do your interests and preferences, but if you take away one thing from my ramblings today let it be this: Joining a student society, project or sports club will enrich your whole university experience, providing an outlet from your studies, and for many will play a pivotal role in who they shape out to be.

What’s the worst that can happen? Get out there and try something new this year!



Christian Cooper with his hockey team at Varsity 2022. Christian has been an avid hockey player since his time at school, and was able to continue his passion at Imperial. Joining the hockey club meant Christian was able to develop professionally as well, becoming involved with the Sports Committee, which led him to run for his role as deputy president. *Christian Cooper*



# Finding your home away from home

**Stephanie Yeung**

*ICU Deputy President (Finance & Services)*

**H**i there! Welcome to Imperial! I'm Steph, Hong-Kong born and raised, a foodie with allergies, and parent to 18 plushies.

Once upon a time (five years ago), I left home for the first time and moved to London to begin my university journey at Imperial as an international student.



Proud mother of 18 plushies, Steph with Deputy President (Education) Emina Hogas. Stephanie Yueng

## Finding Friends

I was really excited about coming to a whole new place, meeting people, and making friends and memories!

Imperial has an incredibly diverse community with students from all over the world, something I found out on my very first day here! So not only is this a wonderful opportunity for you to get to know other cultures, but it's also a comforting reassurance that there are other students like yourself trying to navigate life in a new city.

There are plenty of ways for you to meet new people, whether it's through joining clubs and societies, mingling with others at social events, or just simply walking up to someone for a chat!

I personally met my closest friends in halls, where we would hang out daily after classes and yap over bowls of cereal. Eventually, we moved in altogether as flat mates after living in halls, and it was a lot of fun!

Within my course, I was initially quite intimidated by everyone, not because anyone was mean or rude, but because everyone in the room was top of their class, and I felt a bit like an imposter. But through the common struggles of surviving our degree, I've found that I had an extremely supportive and collaborative cohort of bioengineers, who helped me feel welcomed in this foreign land.

## Feeling Homesick

Being away from home can get tough, especially for those of us living on our own for the very first time.

I've found that finding a community that reminds you of home is often a good way to stay grounded and a place to connect with other people who share a similar experience with you.

You can check out some of our cultural, faith, and community societies to find your people, as well as the International Network and Interfaith Network to feel part of our wider community.

For me, I found home in the Mahjong Society, where I found friends who also loved the game as much as I did, and I even got the chance to share and learn from other cultures and their variations of Mahjong!

When I first moved here, staying in touch with my friends and family from Hong Kong was difficult to manage with the time differences and distance. But overtime, I've learnt to schedule time in my week to call them, and update on the big and little things I'd experienced lately, which has helped me feel connected to home.

Cooking dishes from home has been another for me to feel at home here in the UK (it helps that British food is just really bland), but there are plenty of other ways that you can do to remind you of home, so go ahead and explore the things you can do!

## It's the little things really

There's a lot to unpack about being an international student here at Imperial that I can go on forever, but a few final notes from me are:

Supermarkets and stores close early here (as early as 5pm on Sundays!), so be sure to plan your shops ahead

of time.

People ALWAYS talk about the weather! Get to know the British small talk culture and conversation starters, but also to never take a sunny day for granted!

London is an extremely walkable city, so take a stroll around, and explore life in the capital city!

Socialising in the UK has traditionally been grabbing a pint in the evening kind of vibe, and if you want to get immersed in the pub culture, give it a go! But please don't feel pressured to drink! As someone who doesn't drink, I've been working on introducing more non-alcoholic drinks in our bars to make socialising as inclusive and accessible as possible.

That's all from me for now, but if you would like to get in touch with me, please do! You can find me at [dpfs@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dpfs@imperial.ac.uk).

As you embark on this new chapter outside the comfort of your own home on your own, don't forget that you're not alone!

Good luck and have fun!



Imperial College Union



## NEWS

# Imperial comes out swinging with first *University Challenge* win

**Editor-in-Chief**  
**MOHAMMAD MAJLISI**

Imperial's University Challenge team succeeded in their first bout, as they scored an impressive 310 points against the University of Manchester's 75 on Monday 16th September.

Following on from last year's record-breaking fifth victory, the team, compris-

ing of team captain Matthew Spry, Charlotte Stokes, Jaime Salamanca Camacho, and last year's reserve Mattia Elkouby, dominated the first round.

Of particular note was Salamanca Camacho, who clutched several questions and was deferred to regularly. The whole team did incredibly well, with host Amol Rajan describing their performance as "extraordinary".



Imperial College's University Challenge team for 2024/25. BBC

# Drop to sixth place for College in *The Times* UK rankings

**Editor-in-Chief**  
**MOHAMMAD MAJLISI**

Imperial College has dropped down to sixth place in *The Times* UK university rankings for 2025, down from fifth place in 2024. The College also won the University of the Year for Graduate Employment, with 95.9% of graduates in "high-skilled full-time jobs or further education".

Imperial holds the highest paying degree according to the ranking, with Computing graduates earning an average of £65,000 15 months after graduating.

This year's rankings saw Oxford and Cambridge drop down to third and fourth place respectively, the lowest positions that the two institutions have held since the rankings began, and the first time Cambridge has not been in the top three.

The London School of Economics (LSE) took the top spot due to its graduate prospects, coming second only to Imperial College. "Improving rates of student satisfaction, expressed in successive National Student Surveys (NSS), have been key to LSE taking the No 1 spot," reported *The Times* in a feature on LSE's success this year.

LSE President and Vice-Chancellor Larry Kramer said: "A few years ago LSE performed badly on surveys of that measure, and we have made efforts to fix that, and the results have been spectacular."

The newspaper changed their ranking system to account for student concerns. Helen Davies, editor of *The Times* and *Sunday Times Good University Guide* said: "This year we have tweaked our methodology to keep up with contemporary concerns, boosting the weighting of graduate prospects and adding a sustainability metric."

# Cheaper pints at the Union

## Consortium membership introduces tiered pricing and greater variety of drinks

**Editor-in-Chief**  
**MOHAMMAD MAJLISI**

Imperial College Union (ICU) has joined the NUS Services Ltd (NUSSL) Consortium over the summer.

Joining the consortium means that the Union can purchase items at a cheaper price, and pass on the savings to students. The Union has now introduced three-tiered pricing. The number of no/low alcohol products has now doubled, as well as a new selection of draught beers and menu items on offer.

As part of joining the purchasing con-

sortium, ICU will also be joining the NUS's sustainability charter, which scores suppliers and identifies good practices. They will also have access to more local suppliers, which will help in reducing the carbon footprint of Union venues.

NUSSL operates under the National Union of Students (NUS) banner, but its membership is separate to joining the NUS itself. Imperial College Union is still independent from and unaffiliated with the NUS.

The Union will also join Best Bar None, an accreditation scheme used to audit safety procedures and policies.

### Here's how you can start to save on your pints:

Students can benefit from the new price tiers right now by downloading the ICU Orders app. Instructions are below:

1. Download the app.
2. Lucky you! All students have already got an account. So all you have to do is make sure you choose 'forget password' and use your long email (make sure you do this bit right!)
3. Wait 5 mins and check your email and then bosh!
4. Create your password and you're in!
5. Log in, scan your QR code at the bar, and get saving!

Interested in writing? Want to develop a useful skill? Have a tendency to stick your nose into things where you aren't welcome?

*Felix* is looking for news writers. If you think you have what it takes, contact the editor at [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk).

- Mohammad Majlisi, Editor-in-Chief



# Encampment activists and College negotiations continue



The encampment on Queens Lawn. This photo was taken on Tuesday 18th June as the activists were winding down their presence ahead of the shutdown for Summer Ball. Walt Gao for Felix

## Activists say they “can guarantee a presence this year” on campus

### Editor-in-Chief

**MOHAMMAD MAJLISI**

**S**tudent activists from the pro-Palestinian encampment have said they can “guarantee a presence” at Imperial College, as negotiations between the College and encampment continue. They have also promised an update on the discussions “soon” on their Instagram account.

Following the end of the encampment due to the Summer Ball on 20th June, a representative of the group has said that they have met with the College “regularly throughout [the] summer”. The negotiations have been held with both representatives of Imperial’s senior management team and Imperial College Union.

The activists have raised points around research partnerships that they believe contravene a June UN Office of the High Commission Human Rights (OHCHR) division press release, calling for states and companies to “end arms transfers to Israel immediately”. Activists highlight-

ed companies such as BAE Systems and Rolls Royce, which are believed by the UN to have links to alleged war crimes committed by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

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 Govern-

ment 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.”

The group have also discussed the number of sanctuary scholarships offered to Palestinian students, which they say they “will continue to push for [the] next academic year.” Another key concern of the encampment

activists was “the lack of clear policy on anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab racism”. A representative of the activists stated: “We will continue to fight for the rights of everyone – including Arab, Palestinian, and Muslim staff and students – to feel safe on campus.” The negotiations

remain ongoing.

An Imperial College spokesperson said: “Recent and ongoing events in the Middle East have understandably generated strong feelings and differing views within our community. In response to issues raised, senior representatives at Imperial have engaged and will continue to engage with representatives from a number of different Imperial student societies, with support from Imperial College Union. The safety and wellbeing of our community of students and staff is our top priority.”

Students began protests and the encampment in response to the IDF’s ground war and bombardment campaign on the Gaza strip. The war began following a Hamas attack on the Nova music festival and several surrounding kibbutzim, killing 1,200 people, and taking 251 hostages. Israel’s ensuing offensive in Gaza has killed over 40,000 Palestinians according to the Palestinian Health Ministry.



The encampment on its last day, Thursday 20th June. Walt Gao for Felix



## Senior Cabinet official to be College's Chief People Officer

**News Writer**  
**TARUN NAIR**

Imperial has appointed Kathryn Al-Shemmeri as the new Chief People Officer starting 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Currently occupying the same position in the Cabinet Office, she takes over Human Resources at Imperial from Director Harbhajan Brar as he enters partial retirement.

Al-Shemmeri graduated in Modern History with Politics from The Queen's University, Belfast and joined the Civil Service Fast Stream in 2002.

She has previously held senior human

resources positions within the Civil Service followed by directorial posts in the Cabinet Office, before being appointed Chief People Officer in September 2022.

Brar will remain at Imperial part-time to aid the transition in leadership.

The Chief People Officer is the most senior role in human resources: a press release last Tuesday from President Brady and Provost Walmsley said that Al-Shemmeri will "provide strategic leadership on all people-related matters."

"Kathryn will play a crucial role in delivering our Enabling roadmap, ensuring our community remains a diverse, values-driven environment where people and ideas can thrive."

## Kristin Blanchfield appointed Vice President for Advancement

**Editor-in-Chief**  
**MOHAMMAD MAJLISI**

Kristin Blanchfield is to succeed interim Vice President for Advancement Peter Haynes. She will begin to head the advancement division and be a "key member" of the University Management Board from January 2025.

Blanchfield will join the College after working for more than a decade at John Hopkins University in the US, where she works as Senior Associate Vice President for Philanthropic Partnerships. She has worked across a number of higher education institutions in her career after she graduated from Trinity College, Hartford.

In her role, she will "focus on driving fundraising and alumni engagement" as part of the new College strategy. "I am honoured to be joining Imperial at such a critical and exciting moment under the leadership of President Brady," she said, as well as stating that the new strategy "is a compelling framework for philanthropic support and engagement."

Outgoing Vice President Haynes, who is also the Vice-Provost for Education

and Student Experience, took on the role in an interim capacity after previous Vice President Michael Murphy left the position in March 2024.

College President Hugh Brady said, "Kristin will bring her wealth of leadership experience in alumni engagement and philanthropy to harness the full power of the global Imperial community so that we have the resources to maximise our incredible potential as a force for good in the world."



Kristin Blanchfield. Having had an impressive career in the American higher education sector, Blanchfield has now set her sights for the UK.  
Imperial College London

## NEWS THREADS

### Weekly bulletin

#### Encampment and College negotiations continue

**Encampment activists** and the College have met throughout the summer to negotiate their demands. The pro-Palestinian student activists want the College to divest from companies that the UN believes are connected to alleged war crimes committed by the IDF. They also want to increase the number of sanctuary scholarships, and improve on a "lack of clear policy on anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab racism." The activists have also said they can "can guarantee a presence this year" (p. 7)

#### New appointments at the College

A senior Cabinet Official who has worked in a number of departments across the Civil Service has been appointed the new Chief People Officer. **Kathryn Al-Shemmeri** will take on the job in November, as her predecessor Harbhajan Brar enters partial retirement. He will continue to support the transition as part of his exit.

**Kristin Blanchfield** is the new Vice President (Advancement). After a career in similar roles across a variety of American universities including John Hopkins, she will take on the role from interim VP Peter Haynes. Her role is to support fundraising and alumni engagement as part of the new "Science for Humanity" strategy. (p. 8)

#### Up and down the rankings

**The Times UK University Rankings** have dropped Imperial down from fifth to sixth place for its 2025 list. Imperial won the award for "University of the Year for Graduate Employment" with 95.9% of recent in a high-skilled full-time job or postgraduate study. This year's rankings have seen Oxford and Cambridge have their lowest positions, with Cambridge dropping out of the top three for the first time. LSE topped the list due to an improvement in NSS scores and student satisfaction. (p. 6)

#### Union introduces tiered pricing

**Imperial College Union** has joined the **National Union of Students Services Ltd.** (NUSSL), a purchasing consortium independent of the National Union of Students (NUS). As a result, ICU can introduce tiered pricing via the ICU orders app, have doubled their no/ low alcohol products and will join Best Bar None, a scheme that audits their safety procedures. (p. 6)

#### University Challenge Smackdown

This year's **University Challenge** competition has started, with Imperial's team dominating Manchester, with a resounding 310-75 victory. Imperial's team won the quiz competition for a record-breaking fifth time last year. (p. 6)

*We are always looking for story tips - whether that be changes on campus, like the new Union pricing, or serious cases of injustice. You can contact us by emailing felix@imperial.ac.uk.*



## SCIENCE

# Welcome to *Felix* Science

**Felix Science wishes all students and staff members a warm welcome back to Imperial for the brand new academic year.**



Collage of Imperial buildings, from left to right: Main Entrance, Central Library over Queen's Lawn, Royal School of Mines, Manor House in Silwood Park  
Wikimedia Commons, credit: Shadowssettle, Mick Crawley (CC BY-SA 4.0)

### Science Writer

#### TAYLOR POMFRET

**F**elix isn't your ordinary newspaper. It's a space where we share Imperial-related stories and engage with knowledge that goes beyond your textbooks. The science section stands as a gateway between you and the innovation here at Imperial and around the world.

Last year, we welcomed many new writers to the paper, and as a team, we covered lots of interesting scientific news stories and met with some inspirational staff and students who shed insight into the work they've been doing whilst at University.

We began our year with an interview by myself, *Felix's* new editor, Mohammad Majlisi, and Professor Michele Dougherty. Michele is the principal

investigator of the magnetometer device onboard this spacecraft, which will be arriving at Jupiter in 2031 to ascertain the possibility of life existing on its Galilean moons. This interview followed after the launch of the JUICE spacecraft in April 2023. Since then, Professor Dougherty has been appointed Executive Chair of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC).

Our new science writers who joined as freshers last year contributed massively to the paper! Elizabeth Glasson and Eleanor Goulding spoke with Daniel Khosravinia, a 3<sup>rd</sup>-year Biochemistry student who published his DNA double helix model on Lego Ideas. Emily Wentworth interviewed research associate Dr Robin Lamboll in his *Nature* paper studying the Earth's remaining carbon budget. Regular columnists James Desmet and Jasmine Marenzi wrote some

excellent articles on the pharmaceutical industry and proteins. Lastly, Tejas Gupta contributed several noteworthy pieces to the paper, including an interview with academic Dr Quentin Smith on his research in CRISPR-CAS9 drug therapy.

One of the highlights of the year was when Professor Brian Cox came to visit Imperial to honour the late Abdus Salam, former Physics Professor at Imperial and Nobel Laureate, whom the central library is now named after. What touched me most was the article a science writer, and dear friend of mine, Neha Yasin, published following the event. The piece was a touching tribute to Salam, who despite winning the Nobel Prize and becoming the first Muslim to do so, was persecuted in his home country of Pakistan simply because of his faith. Neha belongs to the same sect of Islam as Salam, and her narrative and

reflection on this shared experience were particularly moving.

As we look into a new academic year, we have lots of exciting science to look out for. The Nobel prizes in Physics, Chemistry, and Medicine are soon to be awarded. Imperial's Great Exhibition Road Festival will also be back again this academic year. The annual celebration in June welcomed a record-breaking 50,000 visitors across campus. The festival highlights some of the amazing research and outreach staff and students do through exhibits, delivering informative talks, and hosting a series of creative workshops.

To write for us and cover stories like these, head to our Welcome Fair stall on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October! We welcome new writers, as you'll have the chance to grow and work with us and produce some amazing writing and content!



## ENVIRONMENT

# £400 Sophia Prize up for grabs again this year

Environment Editor  
**OSCAR MITCHAM**

The Sophia Prize is a £400 prize for 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.”

The 2023/24 prize went to Sabrina Cittadino for her article on finding a use for an otherwise harmful waste product from burning biodiesel. She interviewed scientists and used research to show us an exciting innovation. Runners up included Zanna Buckland’s article on converting roads to tram rails.

Activists of all kinds know that the disaster we must prevent is not exciting. That dread is not what makes people stand up and protest. It does not change a mind; let alone the world. What excites is the better world we can build. Free energy for all. Time to do what you want. Children playing in the street. The pleroma of the basics. Bring hope, with eyes open. Get writing. Say something.

To be nominated simply submit your piece to the relevant Felix section (science at [science.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:science.felix@ic.ac.uk), environment at [environment.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:environment.felix@ic.ac.uk), or comment at [comment.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:comment.felix@ic.ac.uk)). I will be shortlisting writers who can effectively blend science and storytelling. The editor will pick the winner.

# Imperial’s sustainability policy is already making its mark



Heat pump room

Environment Editor  
**OSCAR MITCHAM**

In 2022/23 Imperial emitted 240,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e). Focusing just on the emissions Imperial is most directly responsible for – scopes 1 and 2 – it is not only among the top five highest emitting UK universities but also has the highest emissions of any UK university per full time equivalent staff and students.

It’s no huge surprise then that Imperial scored a total of 40.4% in the People & Planet University League 2023/24, scraping a 2:2. Yet less than a year later, the QS World University Rankings 2025 were released, with Imperial scoring 99.7 on Sustainability, putting it 6th in the world and well above the University of Reading, which came first in the People & Planet league and is known for its courses in climate and sustainability. In fact, Imperial’s score in the QS Sustainability Rankings jumped from 75.1 in 2023 to 97.0 in 2024.

Imperial’s main sources of emissions are fossil gas (15%), purchased electricity (6%), procurement and supply chain

(38%); fuel and energy (3%), business travel (11%), and student travel (24%). Other sources were either not reported or were less than 1% of emissions.

Imperial’s recent net-zero strategy for estates is a major step forward. The plan commits £920 million to £1.52 billion to improvements to bring Imperial to net-zero operational emissions by 2040. One major saving will come from switching from combined heat and power (CHP), which is responsible for the vast majority of scope 1 emissions, to heat pumps, and this benefit will only improve as the grid decarbonises. The strategy details, building-by-building, the fabric improvements required to make this possible.

Imperial’s new Sustainable travel policy has a lot of ground to cover to mitigate Imperial’s emissions from travel and commuting. Nearly all of these emissions are scope 3 and so don’t come under Imperial’s net zero commitment; instead, Imperial has committed to “minimise Scope 3 emissions as far as possible.” The policy focuses primarily on business travel and requires travel by rail instead of air for journeys under five hours.

Catering is another visible aspect of Imperial’s sustainability work. Imperial’s

most recent Sustainability in Catering Update, published in June, highlights their 86% reduction in beef, one of the highest emitting foods, of which 26% has been replaced with venison and they are ahead of schedule on their target to phase out beef completely by 2025/26. Last year, Taste Imperial trialled Plantworks, a plant-based catering outlet. This year, the brand has been expanded with plant-based meals spread around other outlets and indicated with a sticker. Catering was one of the first and fastest movers on sustainability at Imperial and they have been making other small changes which have largely gone unnoticed by students and faculty.

One aspect of Imperial’s low People & Planet score is its policy on divestment. 68% of UK universities have committed to divest from fossil fuels, according to People & Planet’s Fossil Free campaign, whereas Imperial has a partial commitment to divestment which we can expect more clarity on later this academic year.

We’re yet to see the real impacts of these new policies on emissions, but with all these new projects kicking in, this is sure to be an exciting year for Sustainability at Imperial.



# Not the End of the World

Environment Editor  
**OSCAR MITCHAM**

**H**annah Ritchie's *Not the End of the World* is a thing from which you can emerge hopeful. In it, Dr Ritchie addresses each of seven planetary crises: air pollution, climate change, deforestation, food, biodiversity loss, ocean plastics, and overfishing.

The book is extremely high-level. It looks at each crisis and discusses how we got here, where we are, and what we can do. It focuses on what we should be worrying less about and more about, and talks about the global strategies required to address each crisis. It all seems very simple.

*Not the End of the World* has a very specific scope, and that is to explain the big things we need to do to address massive global issues, without making the reader feel overwhelmed. It aims to inspire action by making these problems seem intensely solvable. Unfortunately, the major barrier to better environmental policy is no longer coming up with the ideas; it is actually passing and implementing them. That means both getting through NIMBYs and fossil fuel companies, and dealing with every unique circumstance and ensuring actual justice when implementing each policy. For example, here's a statistic you might not have heard:

**11-173 million**

is the number of people displaced by conservation efforts, according to a 2009 paper. Over the last 30 years, the vast majority of deforestation has been in South America and Africa. Tropical forests are incredibly complex systems, prone to unforeseen tipping points. Conserving them is important, but ongoing efforts to

protect forests are being used to achieve the same colonial aims that have defined the last two centuries.

Conservation is often done without consultation and displaces indigenous communities. These areas can be militarised and communities forcibly displaced in the name of, for example, the 30% protected terrestrial land by 2030 target (30x30). The massive range of 11-173 million belies the lack of research in this area.

If we want to ensure justice, or even just avoid displacing even more indigenous people from their lands, we in developed nations need to understand this issue much better. 30x30 is an admirable goal and we need to get there in a way that both meaningfully establishes spaces for conservation and ensures a just transition.

Likely the biggest way we could free up land would be reforming our diets and agricultural system:

**828 million**

is the number of people globally affected by hunger in 2021, the WHO reported. The UN FAO found that 76% of agricultural land is used for animal agriculture – not because we give our animals lots of space, but because we use so much space growing crops to feed them – to produce only 17% of our calories and 38% of our protein.

By wasting calories through inefficient animal agriculture, a 2013 paper found that people in the UK consume less than half as many calories as we actually grow. We need to address both the at least 20% of emissions from agriculture and global hunger concurrently by eating more plants and raising fewer livestock and we need to do all that without putting further pressure on small farmers.

One area where the crisis and ensuring justice are more closely aligned is the crisis of air pollution. More action on this is something that Dr Ritchie is – rightly – especially passionate about. Here's why:

**235.97 million**

million is the number of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) the world lost to air pollution in 2021, according to Our World in Data. Losing a DALY, if you're not a Medicine student, is the equivalent of losing one year in good health because of premature mortality or disability. Air pollution takes many more lives than terrorism, war, homicides, HIV/AIDS, road accidents, and obesity combined. It is a critical issue for us to address but it is also a solvable problem.

Air pollution has been falling across the developed world for decades. In London, for example, air pollution is down 97% since its peak in the late 19th century, making air pollution a much less worrying problem than before. This process can be replicated in developing nations and developed nations ought to be helping.

When we think about climate change, we probably think mostly about greenhouse gases and fossil fuels, and those are huge issues. The grand stat is of course:

**423.44 ppm**

is the annual average atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration as of August 2024, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found. CO<sub>2</sub> is usually measured in parts per million (ppm): 423.44 ppm means that the atmosphere is 0.0423% CO<sub>2</sub>, which seems like a pretty small percentage, except that for the last 800,000 years CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations have stayed between 200 and 300 ppm. Over the past 40 years or so, CO<sub>2</sub> concentration has been increasing at a fairly constant rate, but that rate is still about 100 times faster than any previous natural increase.

CO<sub>2</sub> is the least potent greenhouse gas we need to worry about, but this stat, alongside the concentrations of other greenhouse gases, is the ultimate authority on how successful our efforts to mitigate climate change and reduce our emissions have been. It is not, however, the ultimate authority of how successful we have been in fighting any actual crisis. Greenhouse gases are a useful measure because they cause future and current suffering, but they are not the suffering – and that is the cornerstone of what we need to look to when we try to address climate change. Climate adaptation, preparing for the effects of global warming, is just as important as mitigation.

Dr Ritchie is right. It is not the end of the world. It feels like hope that drives action is in rather short supply. In addressing that, her work is critically important.



Maize is one of the most land efficient crops, using only 0.65 m<sup>2</sup> per 1000 kCal



## COMMENTS

# Underage and overlooked

Every year, the youngest Freshers miss out on most of the fun at Welcome Week – and the chance to meet peers from other halls and departments.

Comments Editor  
**GUILLAUME FELIX**

Entering university before the legal age comes with its perks. The guarantee of obtaining a room of one's own, access to a slightly less extortionate Oyster deal, not to mention considerable bragging rights,

ever achieved at the expense of freedom, as they are bound to find out.

Welcome Week, organised by Imperial College Union, comprises a series of events designed to integrate new students into university life, familiarise them with a city many have never lived in before, and offer some entertainment before the workload piles up. All tickets for these events are

Quite understandably, an age limit is applied to the flagship Freshers' events, which include a batch of club nights traditionally held at iconic venues in London's nightlife scene.

However, the same restriction is too common for other events within Imperial. In these cases, the underlying reason is far less obvious. On-campus socials are mostly independent from

scarce, as Imperial's reputation suggests. Most strikingly, underage students trying to buy an entry to the Halls Mixers, advertised in 2023 as "THE night to get to know your fellow neighbours, [and] meet new faces", will only be met with a stubborn error message, and miss out on what will be the starting point of decisive relationships for many who attend.



Imperial students enjoy their fair share of light-hearted fun. Imperial College Union

are privileges enjoyed by Freshers still subject to the historical "taxation without representation". Alas, it seems no one is exempt from the popular adage that gains in comfort are only

released and easily purchased on the Union's website. This also allows for systematic screening of the partygoers, as the system automatically detects the age of the student who visits the page.

external regulations, and offer a one-off chance to meet future peers, hallmates, and students from other faculties. After Freshers' Week, opportunities to meet people from other courses become

In total, just over half of the Union-sponsored hours of socialising a Fresher can look forward to this year are not available to under-eighteens, including all events of the first weekend. Of the



remaining events, one is targeted at international students, and one starts with a five-kilometer-long race, which, although an enticing idea, might seem daunting to the less athletic. Excluding



## An age restriction is all too common for events internal to Imperial

the Welcome Fair, this leaves just three occasions to meet new faces. Realistically, these might see a lower attendance. The other Freshers, weary after a festive first weekend, could be tempted to snub these later events with a less obvious focus on socialising, and less vibrant titles (“Beit Farm” has arguably less of a festive ring than “VK House Party”).

### The unhappy few

The issue is of direct concern to a rather restricted group. Although Imperial does not release data regarding the age of incoming students specifically, the most recent statistical report (from the 2020-2021 academic year) identifies approximately 50 underage undergraduate students in total, the vast majority of which reasonably can be assumed to be in their first year of study. This number pales in comparison to the total number of incoming undergraduates, which revolves around 3000 yearly. Raising this issue is thus not an attempt at discrediting the effort that is already put into Welcome Week, which would be ungrateful to the Union’s dedication to making integration as smooth as possible. Most freshers keep fabulous, albeit hazy, memories of this modern rite of *passé*, and its characteristic assortment of tolerated excesses. But again, most freshers are over eighteen, and equality should not have any regard for numbers.

Fully integrating underage students into these famously rowdy events while respecting British laws protecting minors would make these events more challenging to organise and control. The unlawfulness of selling

alcohol to minors explains why they are unwelcome in many venues, including those on campus, although legally 16- and 17-year-olds can enter nightclubs if accompanied by their older peers. Universities have also grown increasingly wary of scandals and denunciation, in the wake of the social movements that shook them in the last years, and amidst the recent backlash against hazing. A fear of any incident involving minors may well have contributed to the current strictness.

Nevertheless, since the Equality Act 2010 prohibits educational institutions from discriminating against applicants based on age, and given Imperial’s longstanding commitment to the welcoming of all profiles, arrangements should be made. Agreeing that the isolation of younger students – whatever their number – in the first week of university has no impact on the fostering



## Over half of the Union-sponsored hours of socialising a Fresher can look forward to this year are not available to under-eighteens

of communal bonds, or the creation of diverse social groups, requires either abundant imagination or blatant dishonesty. This is especially true as the culture of gap years is not as strong in many foreign countries, meaning the sidelined students are more likely to be international, adding the burden of a potential language barrier or culture shock.

### You reached for the secret too soon

Some may point out that underage Freshers have made the choice not to delay their entry to university, but we can hardly make the case that it is an eccentric idea to start studying as soon as one possibly can. After all, “I challenge the status quo and seek better ways of [...] having an impact” is one of the “positive behaviours” encouraged by Imperial.

Working around the practical details of a universally welcoming integration week is possible without introducing

too much complexity. Many hall-specific events already use a bracelet system that allows bar staff to quickly identify those entitled to alcohol consumption, ensuring all residents can join in. Bracelet allocation does not significantly increase queuing time, as identification checks at the entrance of these events are already standard practice.

Obviously, clubbing events in external venues, which remain most popular, should neither be abandoned nor open to underage students. Instead, more events designed to bring newcomers together should be introduced to compensate, be they copies of the existing events with regulated access to alcoholic drinks.

### A quantum of solace

At any rate, if even considered, these changes won’t be enacted in time to benefit this year’s Freshers. In fact, the issue is unlikely to become more relevant.

The proportion of school students who skip a year consistently hovers around a single percent, and most forecasts agree that the enrollment of international students (a subgroup more likely to enter university before eighteen) has peaked in the past year.

What can then be done? While it is an open secret that the meticulousness and prevalence of age-checking at the Union Bar drop significantly after Fresher’s Week, making these previous restrictions somewhat hypocritical, lying about your age in such a context remains illegal, and certainly not advisable.

Instead, those who – either by choice or by a lack thereof – miss out on the wildest nights out should focus on the Welcome Fair, and leverage the uniquely wide range of clubs and societies offered to them. It remains the best way to make meaningful bonds in circumstances that are less harmful to the liver, eardrums, and reputation.

# Become an opinion writer!

**Is your friend group tired of hearing your hot takes on every topic? Do you wish to raise awareness about an issue or cause dear to you?**

Here is your chance to reach a wider audience! The Comments section of *Felix* always welcomes submissions, either standalone or periodical. You don’t need any previous experience in journalism, nor any conviction that you are a “good writer”; this section offers a chance for anyone to have their thoughts published.

If you want to learn more about writing for us, feel free to drop me a line at [fcomment@ic.ac.uk](mailto:fcomment@ic.ac.uk), or use the QR code below to join our Comments Writers Whatsapp group chat. Don’t miss us at the Welcome Fair next week!

Join our group chat...



... or reach out to me!





## CULTURE

# Welcome (and an intro) to the Culture Section!

## A not-so-brief introduction to the new section of Felix – the lovechild of two of our dearly departed

**Culture Editor**  
**ELIF CIVELEKOGLU**

As the new Culture Section Editor, I would like to cordially welcome all the freshers joining Imperial this year. And as for the returning students, welcome back.

Assuming you have already completed the rather harrowing beginning-of-uni shop, where you realised just how much staying alive costs, it is safe to say that by now you have realised that London is Huge, sprawling over six zones in all directions. This lovely city, of which you are now a resident, is home to many things: gigantic museums, dastardly landlords, lovely art galleries, overcrowded pubs, and more. What I am getting at, dear reader, is that London is a city of many faces. It offers just about everything one can ask for, except cheap prices: hence it is natural to feel overcome by the sheer number of places to visit and things to do.

Lucky for you, this section aims to help you with just that problem. The Culture section is a new addition to *Felix* and is the lovechild of two of our now dearly departed sections, Arts (concerning all things artistic, visual, and dramatic) and Music (concerning all things musical from classical to contemporary). Here, you can expect to read just about anything under the Arts and Music umbrella – architecture guides, commentary on plays, reviews of galleries, album reviews, and overviews of the different places you can visit. Now, some might be asking why such a section is needed for a STEM university; surely the topics of Science, Business, and Investment would be better material for our scientifically minded peers to consume. To that I reply with a resolute No.

As the often-belated realisation that one cannot live off Tesco meal deals forever and must learn how to cook things with actual nutritional value demonstrates, life is about balance. Just as only consuming crisps and cof-

fee is not the best thing for your physical health, only exposing oneself to a singular subject, without challenging yourself in others is harmful in the long run. Balance is a key element in ensuring your life is one you can look back on happily.

Similarly, a life spent running away from any possible expansion of one's artistic horizons is a rather drab one, and we can certainly do better than that. Without sounding too stuck-up, art is a part of our lives that we simply cannot ignore. As a society, we rely on the arts as one of the foundations of our culture, without which

life would be boring and dull. If I haven't managed to convince the naysayers yet, I will say one last thing: Imperial itself invests quite a bit of money to ensure its students can have access to affordable tickets to see plays and galleries. To the freshers reading this, your accommodations will also be arranging cheap tickets for you throughout the academic year as well.

Yet, what is one to do when dropped into an ocean of possibilities without being first taught how to swim? The Arts pose a rather daunting prospect for newcomers, at least partially due to the pseudo-intellectualism of an unfortunate number of its enjoyers. The thoughts of not "getting" the meaning, being confused by the frenzy of Latin, Greek, and Italian vocabulary, and not knowing who is "in" are all distressing enough by themselves – together, they are enough to discourage one altogether.

Please feel free to look to this section as a sort of map, showing the many different aspects of Arts and Music. And much like any good map, it's not about pointing out just one route but about laying out a landscape full of possible paths for you to explore. Maybe you'll take the scenic route through modern art, or perhaps you'll follow the winding trail of indie music reviews. There's no right or wrong direction; the idea is to find your own way and discover what resonates with you. This is not intended to be a compass, telling you what to and not to like; writers are free to write their own opinion, and you, reader, are free to disagree with it. This section offers to you a goldmine of ideas of what to see and explore next – at least, that's the goal!



Students enjoying music Rolando Charles



# An short beginner's guide to London's arts scene

**In which the author almost drove herself to the point of insanity while trying to decide to top six beginning stops for newcomers**

**Culture Editor**

**ELIF CIVELEKOGLU**

London is well known for its art scene. Despite the rather gloomy weather, it both keeps art alive – be it through its various galleries, the multitude of West End shows, and its opera houses – but also fosters it. There are many hotspots in London, containing everything between street caricaturists and Banksy. Yet, as previously discussed, the sheer magnitude of possibilities is overwhelming, especially if you are new to the city.

Fret not, dear readers, as this article's sole aim is to show you possible places you can start off with. Without further ado, here is a list of places you can visit:

## Victoria and Albert Museum

Starting off strong with the Imperial student's best friend, this lovely museum is located a short 10-minute walk away from our South Kensington Campus. A highlight of my academic life is to go here between lessons to decompress – this museum is large enough that with each visit, you can see a new section. They also have a free library for students, which is nothing short of picturesque.

## The National Gallery

This London landmark, located in the bustling Trafalgar Square, contains one of the UK's largest collections of international art. It's perfect for those looking to dip their toes into the world of art, containing a piece of just about every era within it. Showcasing the works of Van Gogh, Monet, and Da Vinci, it's no wonder that this museum is never void of visitors. Small tip from the editor: avoid coming here between 4 and 6pm, when it's at its busiest!

## Royal Opera House (ROH)

Located in Covent Garden, this is one of the most famous opera houses in the world. Home to the Royal Opera, the Royal Ballet, and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, this historic masterpiece offers some of the highest quality productions of opera and ballet one can

see. Not resting on its laurels, it offers both contemporary and traditional shows all year round. Lastly, it offers a discount on tickets for 16–25 year olds, which you can sign up for online in their website. A must see for every student in London for sure!

## Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre is a bit of a jack-of-all-trades, while not sacrificing on quality. Located rather obviously in South Bank, it is a hub for all kinds of music and art in true London fashion, hosting 5000 different events a year. They have four(!!!) resident orchestras, including my favourite, London Philharmonic Orchestra. Lastly, they feature iconic festivals, like the London Jazz Festival, the London Literature Festival, and the summer festival Meltdown.

## Marylebone

Marylebone, located just north of Hyde Park, is one of the most beautiful areas in perhaps all of London – a must see for sure, especially in the autumn. It contains

many centres that uphold London's legacy as a centre for culture and the arts, such as the Wallace Collection, which displays art from the 18th and 19th centuries. Not only is the art lovely, but the building itself is noteworthy as a standalone: it is a 19th century mansion. The Wigmore Hall, one of London's important concert venues for classical music, is another landmark. It also features an under 35s scheme, offering £5 tickets for select concerts.

## City of London (yes, all of it)

If you are a free soul and fancy a nice walk, nothing would be better than a simple walk around the City of London. To clarify, the City refers to the historic financial district within London, with boundaries stretching from Chancery Lane in the east to Liverpool Street in the west. The City, despite its small size, offers a goldmine of landmarks. The architecture alone is breath-taking enough that you can just walk through it while admiring the buildings; St Paul's Cathedral and Guildhall are two of my recommendations.



The Three Graces by Antonio Canova at the V&A Elif Civelekoglu



imperial college union **WELCOME WEEK 2024**

**Good Life**  
Flower Power

4 OCTOBER  
22:00 - 03:00

**MAS QUE NADA**

**HOLLIE PROFIT**



imperial college union **WELCOME WEEK 2024**

**HELLO I LEAVE!!**

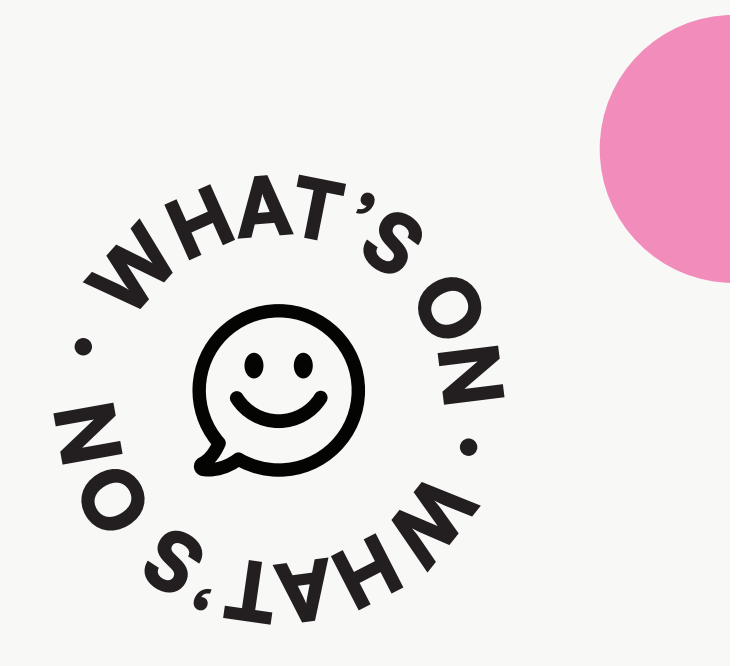
1 OCTOBER  
22:00 - 03:00

**HELLO I LEAVE!!**

**NATHAN DAWE**

**HELLO I LEAVE!!**

**RAPHI**



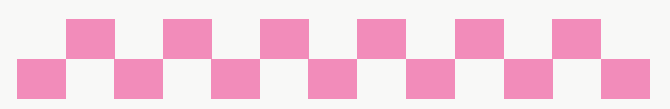
**RUN CLUB**

4 OCTOBER  
12:00

WELCOME WEEK 2024  
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS  
LIVE MERCHANTS

**WELCOME WEEK EVENTS**

27 SEPT - 5 OCT





**POST-GRAD MIXERS**  
 28 & 29 SEPTEMBER  
 17:00 - 23:00  
**SOLD OUT**  
 WELCOME WEEK 2024

**POST-GRAD PARTY**  
 27 SEPTEMBER  
 22:00 - 03:00  
**SOLD OUT**  
 WELCOME WEEK 2024

**INTERNATIONAL GATHERING**  
 2 OCTOBER  
 12:00  
 WELCOME WEEK 2024

**WEDNESDAY @ BEIT**

**HALLS MIXERS**  
 28 & 29 SEPTEMBER  
 17:00 - 23:00  
**SOLD OUT**  
 WELCOME WEEK 2024

**market day.**  
 30 SEPTEMBER  
 12:00 - 17:00  
 WELCOME WEEK 2024

**HOUSE PARTY**  
 30 SEPTEMBER  
 22:00 - 03:00  
**SOLD OUT**  
 WELCOME WEEK 2024

**BEIT FARM**  
 5 OCTOBER  
 12:00 - 15:00  
 WELCOME WEEK 2024

**WELCOME FAIR** 2024/25



**DON'T MISS OUT!**



## FILM

# The Teachers' Lounge

Here's a movie that'll make you never want to go into education.

Film Editor  
TARUN NAIR

It goes without saying that teaching is a daunting, often thankless job. Early mornings and late evenings; trying to squeeze out droplets of fun from a mind-numbing yet mandatory curriculum; having to stop periodically because one of the thirty-or-so kids in class has attempted to stab their neighbour with a compass; marking during breaktimes, and lunchtimes, and all other times – the list goes on, ad nauseam. Even its premise, that one teacher can get an entire room of attention-deficient teenagers to be remotely enthused about a subject so that they can then pass a series of seemingly arbitrary exams, seems overwhelming.

If there's one thing that German-language drama *The Teachers' Lounge* (2023) excels at, it's putting these hardships front and centre. Seventh-grade teacher Carla Nowak (Leonie Benesch) has to juggle a class of pubescent children and their morphing attitudes to authority, their demanding parents, and an administration which fails to solve endemic problems within the school.

But it is the titular lounge where many of Nowak's problems can be traced back to. Her relative inexperience and energy clashes with her colleagues' disillusionment: as a result, interactions with them are laced with simmering hostility, and she becomes more guarded in their vicinity. Things come to a head when the school secretary Friederike Kuhn (Eva Löbau) is accused of a series of thefts from various teachers, including Nowak. Her son Oskar, irate at the bureaucratic responses from school staff, begins to act out more and more in Nowak's classes.

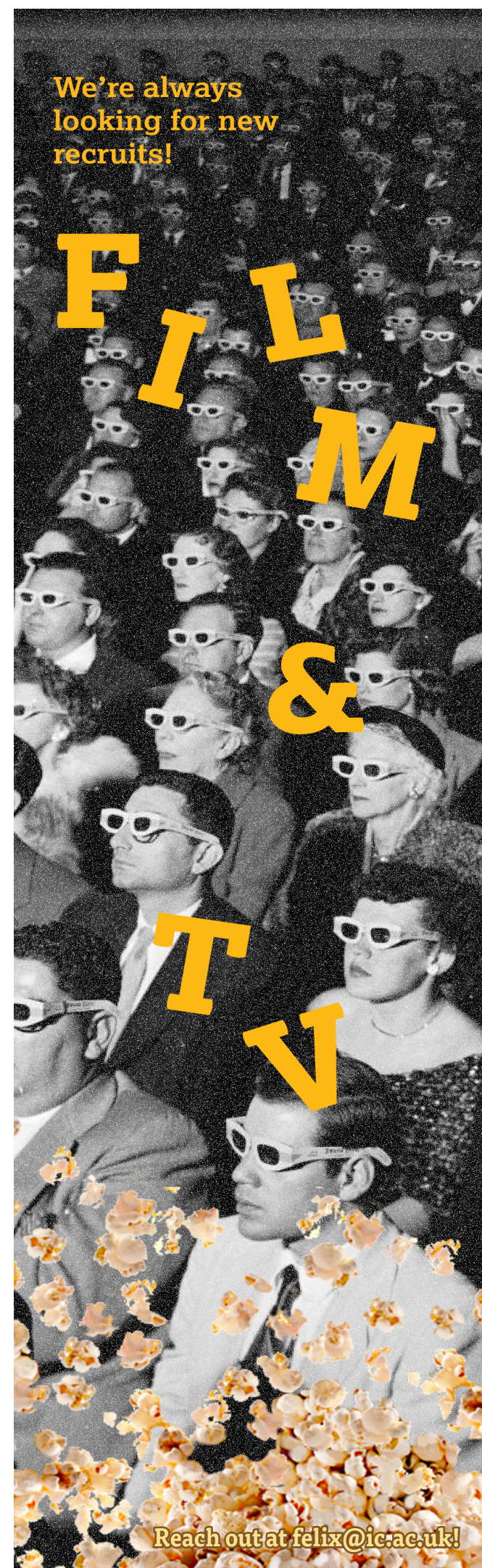
Movies about education tend to mirror the high standards of professionalism demanded of teachers in real life: depicting them as moral paragons, consistently cordial with one another and only ever disagreeing on topics of classroom technique. Bad news for morals police everywhere – people get annoyed, prejudice, and gossip. In his portrayal of Nowak's fellow teachers, director İlker Çatak manages to reflect these inescapable truths without making the characters seem too obnoxious. Ditto for the children, who throughout the movie seem to yearn to be older – from Jieun and Luise sneaking outside with a lighter for “fresh air,” to the entire class making a stand against Nowak for infantilising them.



**Movies about education tend to mirror the high standards of professionalism demanded of teachers in real life**

The only character, really, who falls short is the protagonist herself. Benesch's wonderful and fitting expressivity doesn't change the fact that her character martyrs herself to a degree that transcends the realm of admirable, and enters the realm of exasperating. When Nowak consents to an interview with the school paper and is subject to an interrogation by student journos about the Kuhn proceedings, one can't help but feel as if she is one of the people digging her grave. Even when Oskar breaks into the lounge, steals her laptop, and assaults her during his getaway, Nowak predictably defends him from suspension.

All in all, *The Teachers' Lounge* joins others like *The Class* (2008) in being a close look into education in the 21st century. Teaching, as always, is difficult and unglamorised, and Çatak accurately, if overstatedly, represents the issues that face modern teachers today.

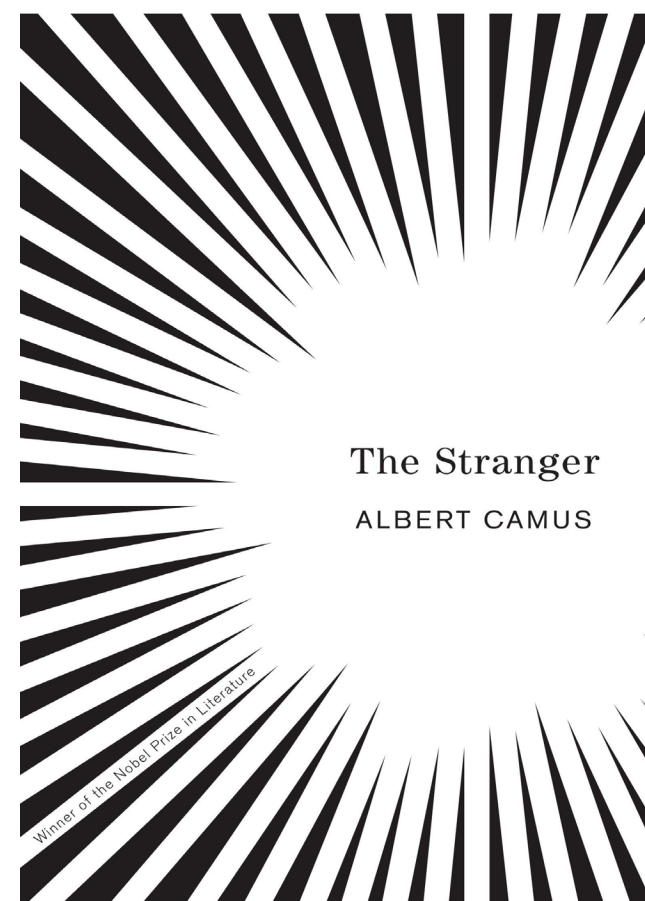
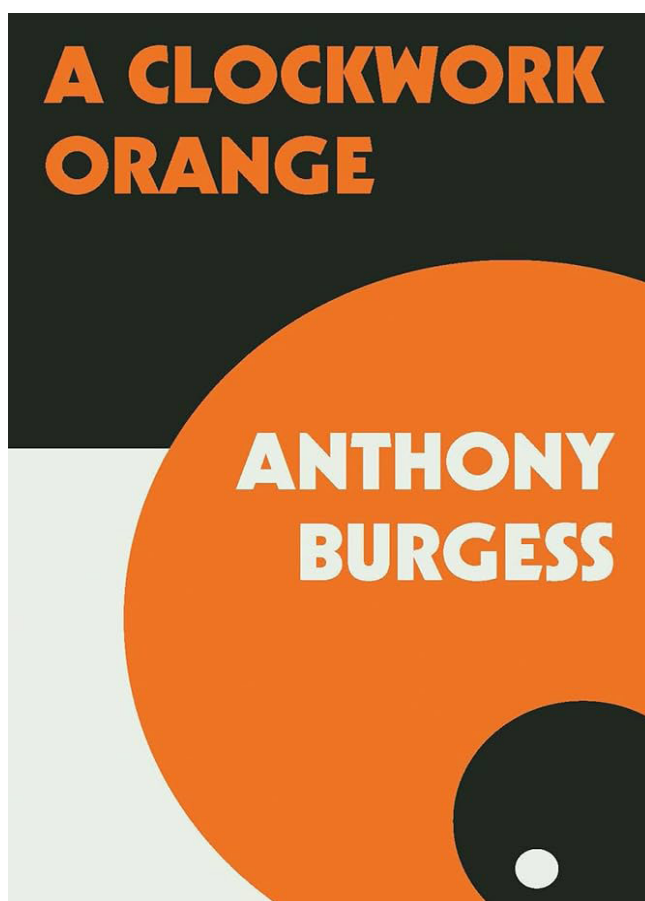




## BOOKS

# The Felix Team's Hot Summer Reads

The team's summer reads weren't exactly light and breezy.



**Books Editor**  
**ADITI MEHTA**

**Mohammad Majlisi**  
**Editor-in-Chief**  
*Miami* by Joan Didion (1987)

A foray into the political and social landscape of Miami and its Cuban occupants across the 1960s to the 1980s, Didion excellently captures the essence of America and Reaganism in a great bit of reportage. Her dry, yet compelling voice is always good to read, but *Miami* is set apart from earlier works in

that it manages to create enough distance between Didion and her topic so that you feel like you get a more accurate sense of the city without it being tinged by her opinion. That's not to say it isn't a Didion book – you can clearly see parts of her personality through her writing, but its mature tone provides it with a much more holistic view, to its benefit.

**Aditi Mehta**  
**Books Editor**  
*A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess (1962)

In a jarring and controversial exploration

of free will, *A Clockwork Orange* questions the moral significance of acting 'good' without the existence of or choice to be 'evil'. Set in a somewhat dystopian society, this novella is a violent tale of delinquency, rehabilitation, and the efficacy of it all.

Don't be fooled by its length though, Burgess' tale makes use of Nadsat – a fictitious Anglo-Russian language used to capture characterisation and setting – which happens to read like "chepooka" (nonsense). *A Clockwork Orange* is an alienating read for those who do not have the patience to stick with it, but it is certainly rewarding.

**Ruby Lydford**  
**Catnip Editor and Publicity Officer**  
*The Stranger* by Albert Camus (1942)

Nothing quite spells out summer like existentialism and a random act of violence on the beach. I would recommend every Imperial male to read this short book, so they can develop a complex over how divergent and individual they are. I found it quite funny that Meursault is widely regarded as a man without feelings or empathy, yet largely reminded me of a number of men I know personally.



**Guillaume Felix**  
**Comments Editor**

*Ficciones* by **Jorge Luis Borges**  
(1944)

*Ficciones* is a collection of short stories that explore thought experiments related to mathematics, linguistics, and time. A forerunner of magical realism, Borges uses metaphorical reinterpretations of historical settings to frame the stories but omits the practical details of his ultimately philosophical tales.

My favourite, "The Lottery in Babylon", imagines a state organised around a compulsory, all-encompassing lottery that allocates daily random 'prizes' which decides the fate of each citizen. These bizarre allotments range from prison sentences to coveted administrative positions. Some even say it inspired the Imperial admissions process.

**Ivin Jose**  
**Puzzles Editor**

*The Butterfly Lion* by **Michael Morpurgo**  
(1996)

A story about memories, promises, friendship, and a majestic white lion. One of those rare childhood books that sears itself into your heart and captures a piece of your soul. Beautifully written, quickly read, evocative, and timeless.

**Rolando Charles**  
**Photography Editor**

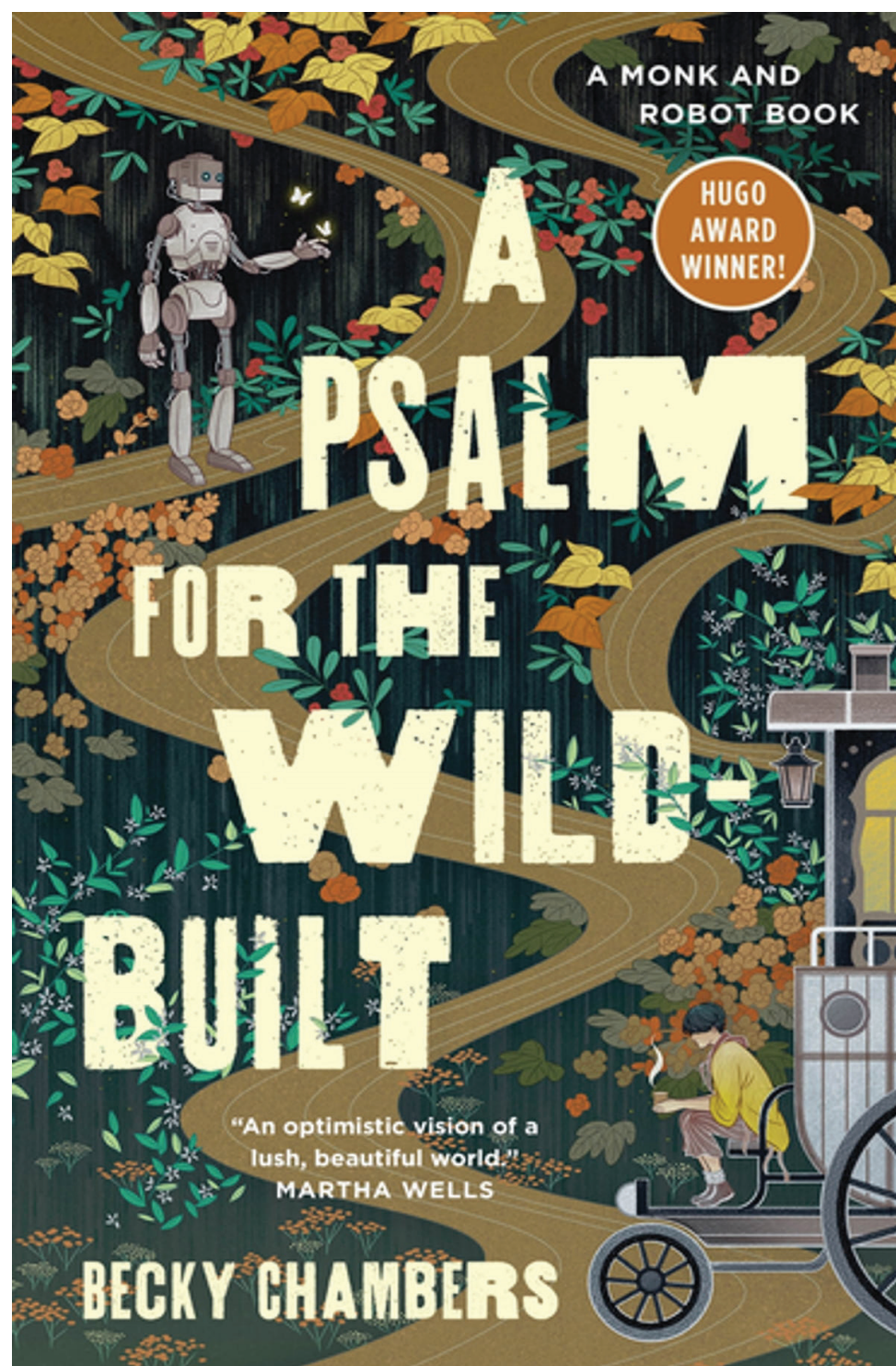
*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*  
by **Stieg Larsson** (2005)

After having seen the namesake film (directed by David Fincher, 2011), I got the feeling that a more nuanced and meaningful narrative might be present in the book. The original title - *Men Who Hate Women* - suggests a far more political and opinionated tale. This was precisely what I gathered from reading the novel and was certainly not disappointed by the high-stakes, plot-twist rich story mirrored the movie.

**Oscar Mitcham**  
**Environment Editor**

*A Psalm for the Wild-Built* by  
**Becky Chambers** (2021)

*A Psalm for the Wild-Built* is like sitting down to drink tea and needing to do nothing else and I loved it. Having won the Nebula and Hugo awards in 2022, this novella is apt for our society where we think more and more about dystopia and everything going wrong in the world. In light of this, Chambers does the vitally important work of realising the better world we wish to build, and tells a warm, compassionate story within it. Extremely solarpunk.



## JOIN BOOKS

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW RECRUITS!

Whether you love to praise prose or roast reading lists, the Books Section has a column waiting for your name. You don't need to be a bookworm to have an opinion. If you have thoughts on anything to do with the literary world, we want to hear them.

Drop us an email at [books.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:books.felix@ic.ac.uk) to register interest or send us a piece.

All voices are welcome, seriously.





## FOOD&TRAVEL

# Imperial offers three square meals a day, no?

With ten cafés, seven restaurants, and four bars at South Kensington campus, there are dining options from 8am till 9pm every weekday.

### Food Editor

### CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

Imperial's lack of a central canteen is fulfilled by smaller restaurants selling pizza, Japanese curries, vegan lunches, salads, pastries, and pre-packaged sandwiches. These cafés, restaurants, and bars are either in central areas such as the Junior Common Room (JCR), Senior Common Room (SCR), and the student Union, or hidden with departmental buildings, such as the Royal School of Mines (RSM) café and the Lumen Café in the EEE building.

### Cafés and co.

Every café opens between 8 and 9am and closes around 3 to 4pm, to sell coffee, vegan and non-vegan pastries and cakes, fruit, salads, drinks, and sandwiches. You can find the same items at every venue. Only the library café is open late in the evening, to serve coffee or any of the packaged food. During the week, the Library and City & Guilds Café sells delicious hot meat and vegetarian lunches.

For lunch, Sherfield becomes crowded with students buying pizza from Neo Pizza, vegan food from Plantworks, Japanese curry from Kimiko, and other warm meals from Feast and the SCR cafeteria. Queen's Tower Rooms serves Indian food, but only when exams are not taking place, and Kokoro at H-Bar

below the stairs next to the security office, serves sushi, and curries with rice or noodles. In the evenings, only Kokoro stays open for a hot meal.

In the evenings, student societies often socialise at FiveSixEight, a large bar east of Beit Quad, designed for people to

### Prices

Prices for a meal will float between £5 to £9 for staff, and slightly less for students. There are many places to go for lunch at Imperial; however, many students and staff will either bring their lunches or walk down to South Kensington station,

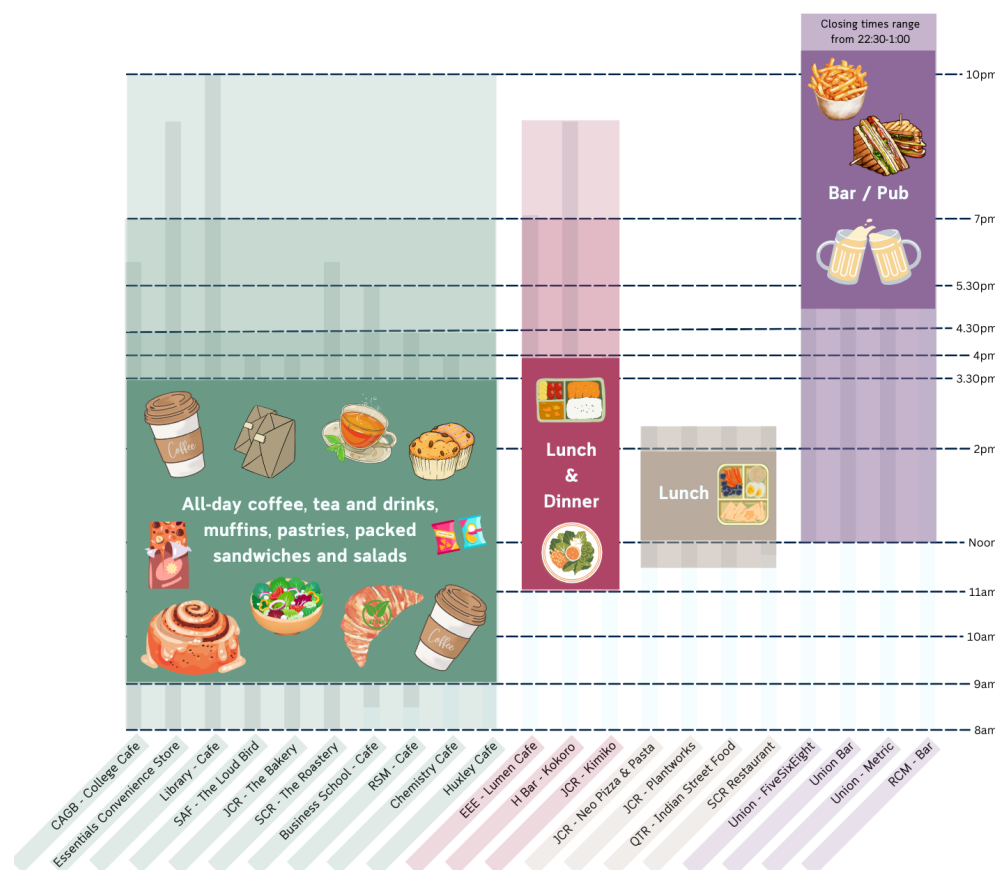
use cup will add a 30p charge. Hence, it is best to get used to carrying a reusable coffee cup and a water bottle, as water stations are placed all around campus. Single-use cutlery at restaurants is only available for paying staff and students.

On campus, everything is paid by card, and student discounts are offered by tapping a valid student ID card on the little black reader. More discounts and rewards are available with Yoyo Wallet, a loyalty app used around campus.

### The Convenience Store

Snacks are most affordable at the grocery store. However, for convenience, the store on the Sherfield Walkway across the Union merchandise store (open from 9 am to 5 pm) offers fruits, sandwiches, drinks, chocolate, chips, energy bars, and a wide variety of mochi ice creams and Asian snacks. They also sell stationery and basic sanitation items, medicine, and cables.

Students will also spot many vending machines with sodas, chips, oat bars, and protein bars stocked inside. Modern machines use a weight-sensing system to detect the removal of any items after opening the front door. To open the door, a £5 deposit will be charged to the student's bank account. While vending machines are not nutritious sources of food, they do occasionally sell nuts and dried fruits.



CAGB - City and Guilds Building, SAF - Sir Alexander Fleming Building, JCR - Junior Common Room on Sherfield Walkway, SCR - Senior Common Room on Sherfield Walkway, EEE - Electrical Engineering Building, H Bar - Lower Ground of Sherfield / Opposite of Queens Towers Room, QTR - Queens Tower Room below Sherfield Walkway, Union - North of South Kensington Campus (between Campus and Hyde Park) across Prince Consort Road, RCM - Royal College of Music wedged between RSM and Huxley.

### Opening times of each cafe, restaurant and bar Charlotte Probstel

sit in for many hours with friends. The menu accommodates, serving chips and burgers. During the week, the bar hosts daily drink deals and happy hours.

which hosts many restaurants and cafés with to-go options at slightly higher prices.

Coffee on campus is cheaper than at any coffee shop elsewhere, yet a single-



## BUSINESS

# Starlink took the fall for X's case in Brazil

## Why the use of Starlink's assets to pay for X's fines undermines Brazil's rule of law and could strain foreign investment

**Business Writer**  
**LEO IRGENDWO**

While the banning of X, formerly Twitter, in Brazil may have made headlines, investors would do well to follow the real story – the decision to seize Starlink's assets to cover the fines imposed on X. Both X and Starlink, a satellite internet service provider, share partial ownership with Elon Musk; however, legally they have no connection in either US or Brazil, and have different sets of investors. Bill Ackman, an



Elon Musk Wikimedia Commons

influential activist hedge fund manager at Pershing Square Capital Management and partial investor in X, issued a warning, stating that the decision could make Brazil “uninvestable” and could lead to capital flight from the country. Although Ackman's words may be heavy-handed, investors are right to worry about the implications of the ruling and what it could mean for navigating legal uncertainty in the Americas second-largest market.

The situation escalated on August 17th when X announced the closure of its Brazilian offices, following a prolonged legal dispute within the country's court system regarding the banning of several accounts alleged to be spreading disinformation. In its statement, X also cited concerns that representatives of the company could be arrested if it refused to comply with government directives to remove such accounts. In response, on August 29th, Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes announced the banning of X within the country and levied fines of 18.5 million reals (£2.5 million) for non-compliance with legal requirements for social media companies to maintain local representation within the country. While those familiar with Brazilian law would find the ruling procedural and well within precedent, what was highly unusual was the reason given for seizing Starlink's assets to cover the fines owed by X. In his ruling, Justice Moraes stated that Starlink and X function as a “de facto economic unit” and therefore Starlink could be held responsible for X's fines.

In the initial ruling, Starlink's assets were frozen, and the company announced it would pursue legal action

against the decision. However, it missed the deadline to appeal the decision, further complicating the situation. It also told regulators it would not comply with the court's order to block X in the

country but later reversed its position. After the fines were withdrawn from its accounts to cover X's penalties, Starlink's accounts were unfrozen.

In a set of interviews with the conservative Brazilian newspaper *Gazeta do Povo*, legal experts concurred with the assessment that such a ruling could



Judge Alexandre de Moraes  
Wikimedia Commons

deter foreign investment in Brazil. Brazil ranks as the world's fifth-largest recipient of foreign direct investment. However, with the election of Lula da Silva, Brazil has faced criticism, for moving in an irresponsible direction with high public spending and growing deficits. Adding to the pressure is the growing perception among regional investors that Argentina, with its increased market-friendly reforms, might make for a more attractive option for foreign capital. However, despite such concerns, Brazil remains a resource-rich developing market, but the questions remains about whether investors will see this as something deeper or an isolated case.

## Editor's Note

### Hello!

My name is Alia Friedman and I am the new Business Editor at Felix. The Business section has been dormant for the past few years with several editors leaving prematurely, but I am aiming to reverse that trend and take us out of the red.

I have previously worked in Finance, supporting risk modeling platforms on Wall Street before coming to the UK to complete my MBA at Imperial College Business School.

I am excited to help platform the voices of students passionate about business and encourage all readers to submit articles about their findings and interests.

I welcome each submission, feedback and enquiry send to [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk).





## PHOTOGRAPHY

# First Steps

## The beginning of your university life and your new photography hobby

Photography Editor  
**ROLANDO CHARLES**

For this first issue of *Felix* 24/25, it seems thoughtful to discuss first steps. For freshers, this could mean mustering up the courage to say hello to everyone you pass by on campus, or experimenting with your style to find something that make you more you. Back in my day, I started growing a beard, which turned out to be a good way to not look sixteen anymore. For second-years, first steps could be to sign up to different clubs or societies (*Felix* for example) or asking out your long-time crush from halls. Unfortunately, I wouldn't know what to recommend for third-years because, well, that's something I'm going to find out myself very soon.

Every year there are new first steps to be taken, at university and in life. A lot of the time they are intimidating, but more often than not they mark the beginning of something that could last a season, or maybe a whole lifetime. In the most cliché way possible: you have to start somewhere, and communicating that idea in photography is an interesting challenge and no easy task.

To be perfectly candid, I usually never read the 'comment' part of the photo submission form until after I've looked through all the photos and decided the week's winner. It's important to get a bit of context as to what I'm looking at, but it's doesn't sway me or bring meaning to the photos. This time, context is everything. Charlotte presents an unorthodox medley of shapes painted on a textured, monochromatic background. Amongst the shoeprints in the sand, small

paws trod alongside their owners. What she writes is poetic: "[The picture] was taken [...] on a beach in Canet, France. We know [that] many retired couples live here with their dogs. Few young people vacation here. Mostly adults come with their young children to visit their grandparents". What a beautiful story this picture tells, an intuition about generational continuation, family, loved ones, and their furry friends. Charlotte paints a smile on my face as I scrutinise her photo. I too would love to take a few first steps on some sandy beach in France.

Finally, it could not be a photography section article without making a point on some grand aspect of our lives. To such avail, I invite you to study Walt's mesmerising night sky. A jubilee of technical know-how (anyone who has tried astro-photography before will confirm this), and an invite to contemplate something greater than ourselves. It is truly special to spectate a night sky such as this, and you can almost see—or imagine—the starts born anew in the Milky Way, as that could never be seen from foggy ol' London. I would like to leave you with a sense of renewed enthusiasm for what is to come, and encourage you to take a few first steps, whether that be on the beach or through the stars.

Scan the QR code to submit  
for the next theme:  
**'Late Nights'**



Once the children leave  
Charlotte Probstel



A Stellar Beginning: The Milky Way's Embrace of Perseid Meteors

Walt Gao



## CATNIP

# 24/25 Imperial Bingo

Put on your wall and cross them off over the year!

Catnip Editor  
RUBY LYDFORD

Felix 75th Anniversary Quarter Quell with the editors	The Faculty of Medicine declares independence once again	Department of Physics satisfaction reaches an all time low	Docsoc platinum tier sponsor unveiled	Union President candidate pledges to create freshers border at union bar
New major Imperialverse social media account takes the scene	The Weeknd tops the Felix Sex Survey for the 3rd time in a row	Imperial Confessions extended plot line	Imperial falls out the top 3 QS World Ranking	Imperial wins University Challenge again
Library Cafe releases Pret-style subscription	Major celebrity on campus	<b>FREE</b>	ALERT statue is vandalised	Second Skempton floor defecation
Dua Lipa name drops Imperial during her Royal Albert Hall concert	Slug return	New imperialcollege Instagram admin is actually funny	Another major professor scandal	Queen's tower remains unfinished
Mass funeral for the old logo	Huxley budget accounts for air fresheners	Ribbon Guy comeback	Imperial intellectuals admin interviews for Felix	430 vs 74 bus live debate



# Fresher pledges to do everything

## Catnip Writer NEGAFELIX

Incoming Biology undergraduate Emmanuel Frederick has pledged to take over as both *Felix* Editor-in-Chief and President of Imperial College Union after uploading his CID photo onto MyImperial. Current editors at the paper and union representatives argue that he has no experience, yet Frederick has combatted these allegations by setting his LinkedIn profile public. On his Instagram campaign, he listed his experience, citing his time as head of the student council in sixth form and his representation of France in Model United Nations. Frederick also mentioned that

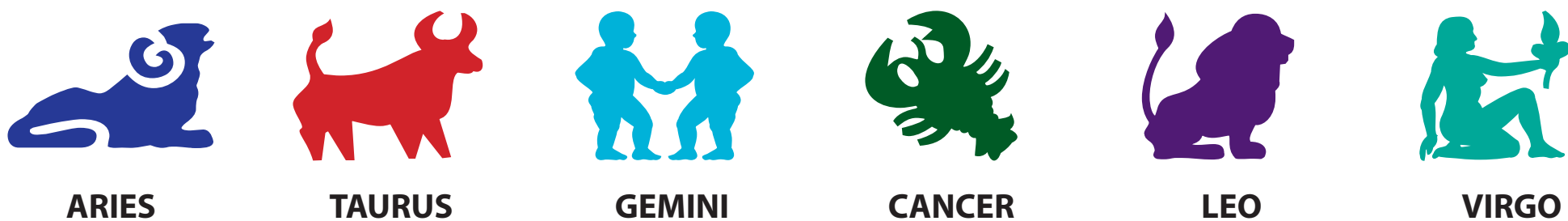
he was a merit in LAMDA Grade 8 Verse and Prose and gave numerous speeches as head student. His long-term MUN opponent, Clif Eivelekoglu, representing Turkey, said: "Emmanuel is far better at the role-play aspect than the politics."

"I don't need to have done the role before to know how things are being done are shit," Frederick states in his manifesto. "The current editor-in-chief doesn't know anything about anything. I edited my school newspaper for two years, and it was far better than this trash. I can get adverts from my uncle and triple the funding in a week." When asked about his plans for socials this year he responded with, "Why do you need socials? It's a newspaper, just read it."

At the top of a three-bullet-point long list, Frederick states that his main priority is to "scrap the cat". "No one cares about cats anymore. We need something that genuinely represents students. You're all yapping about keeping the cat free, well free it. Let the guy die, it's been 75 years." Due to Frederick's extremely busy schedule, he put Negaflix in contact with his campaign chief, Woven Ilkinson. When asked why Frederick is the best candidate for the roles, Ilkinson responded "based". To dig deeper, we reached out to Frederick's old drama teacher, who confirmed his LAMDA certifications, telling us "Everyone needs something to make them seem interesting in their personal statement."



As Socrates once said, "All learning is recollection", so perhaps Frederick will pick up the skills needed after he actually sets foot on campus for the first time. Frederick mentioned he will be using the "Stanislavski method to prepare for the role", so he is not worried. He is a "natural leader" after all, as he states in his Union President campaign.



**ARIES**  
This week you decide to tap into your leftist side and buy a McPlant, now that we finally have a Labour government.

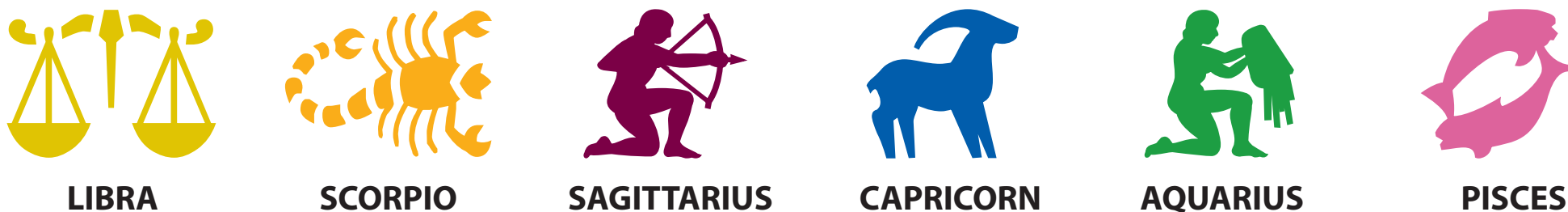
**TAURUS**  
This week you finally change your dentist to London because taking long-haul flights for toothache is costly.

**GEMINI**  
This week you nominate your flatmate for a Guinness World Record in most days without washing up.

**CANCER**  
This week you see your Art History ex-girlfriend selling your old logo jumper for six figures on Antiques Roadshow.

**LEO**  
This week you find out your housemate voted for Libdems because they love dirty iced chai lattes from Gail's.

**VIRGO**  
This week Kinky Club convince you to be their live volunteer at the fair. Inspired, you apply for a job at Heaven Porn Idol.



**LIBRA**  
This week you sell your Oasis tickets for a 400% profit margin. You add it to your LinkedIn under "investment projects".

**SCORPIO**  
This week someone in Blackett tells you that you smell amazing; you recommend l'eau de douche.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
This week you create a Vinted account to sell the England shirt you bought back in June.

**CAPRICORN**  
This week you get the ick when your campus crush joins Imperial Climate Action to "offset" their BP summer internship.

**AQUARIUS**  
This week your new lab partner tells you they won bronze at the Paris Olympics for fencing épée, so you make them do the pipetting.

**PISCES**  
This week you bring someone back and the emergency Physoc condom is the only option. They don't text you back in the morning.



## UNION & SOCIETIES

# Felix's guide to societies

Freshers, mark your calendar for Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, to be welcomed by an army of eager societies at the annual Fresher's Fair.

### Union & Societies Editor

#### CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

Societies at UK universities, unlike the party throwing, car-wash fundraising, Kappa-Omega societies portrayed by Hollywood movies, consist of hobby-associated student groups, managed and financed partly by students and the Union. This year, Imperial College Union added 12 new societies to the never-ending list of Clubs, Societies, and Projects (CSPs), reaching a count of 365 societies, each falling into one of nine categories.

### The Nine Categories

The Sports category hosts 93 different clubs, from the most common sports such as football and tennis, to less known ones such as pole and aerial, and synchronised swimming. Some sports have men and womens teams, and some are ICSM or "Medics" teams, meaning all members come from Imperial's medical school. These clubs will generally request a Imperial Athletic Membership as a base requirement to fund an additional membership to the team. With an average fee of £35, and a

maximum of £90 to cover equipment costs and coaches' fees, they are the most expensive memberships to join; however, they include a year of sports, training, social nights, and games – including the chance to play against other universities. As a fair warning, these can become very competitive, with members split into teams based on abilities. Last year's martial arts societies joined this year's Sports category.

The Medical School was granted its own category this year, named ICSM. It consists of 46 CSPs focused on medical specialities or artistic groups.

For thrill-seekers who enjoy athletic outdoor activities, the Outdoor category offers 17 clubs such as mountaineering, motorsports, gliding, surfing, skydiving, and racing.

The 42 academic-related clubs commonly supplement what members learn academically with speaker events and external challenges to attend. For example, the Developer Student Club aims to teach its members tech-industry-related skills and provide career guidance.

Of the cultural societies, there are 57, providing a home for all international students. These are often organised either by region or by language, such as the Benelux (Belgium, Netherlands, and

Luxembourg) society and the Russian Speaking society respectively.

The 31 Arts & Entertainment societies include theatrical, musical, and written entertainment. These often offer spectacular Friday night performances for prices far cheaper than that of West End. It also includes Imperial's radio and newspaper.

Hobby clubs, which used to be under the Social and Indoor categories, are the most diverse societies, ranging from Harry Potter society, to DogSoc, to AnimeSoc. They are incredibly fun to attend, and offer a relief from stressful academics.

Last year's charitable and faith societies are now combined into the Community category, the former dedicated to good causes, fundraising and raising awareness, the latter to religious groups.

Departmental societies are great opportunities to become acquainted with staff and students from different courses of years in the same department. Students can forge useful connections to build a network – useful for summer research internships (UROPs) or lab positions.

### Where to read more

Every CSP can be visited under the "A to Z" page on eActivities with details on their

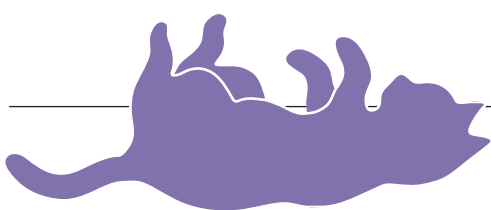
current committee, their membership prices, merchandise to buy from the Union store, and links to their email and social media. Around 61% of all societies list their Instagram and every one uses it to announce their events, present their members, and possible add a Linktree page for even more information.

### Where to see more

The first Tuesday of the term will host the Fresher's Fair from 11am to 5pm around South Kensington campus. It gets wild and crowded: hence it is best for students to browse the A-to-Z list in advance and mark which societies they wish to explore. QR codes are spread across tables linking to various mailing lists and memberships on eActivities.

The fair is an opportunity to learn more about the society, the people within, their schedule, and requirements. CSPs may offer taster sessions ("Give it a go") that are a great way to determine if the CSP fits to the student. It is normal to sign up for ten and end the year with one or two.

Many CSPs allow people to join around the year, however sport and musical societies fix their rosters early on for large events. It is always best to reach out the CSP via their social media to ask questions.



# Hi,

my name is Charlotte and I am this year's Union & Societies editor. I wrote the article above to help first-year students understand Imperial's societies a bit better. I remember my first week at Imperial and feeling

overwhelmed with all the societies. I wanted to join them all, but only managed to sign up to five or six of them. I chose *Felix* to cover society events and learn a bit of each. Since I started, I've reviewed plays and performances, covered events hosting inspiring speakers and took part in cultural celebrations. If you just thought, "That

sounds cool, I want in!", scan the QR code, send me an email, and we can talk more about what you would like to do. Don't worry, you don't need to be the perfect writer, just interested.



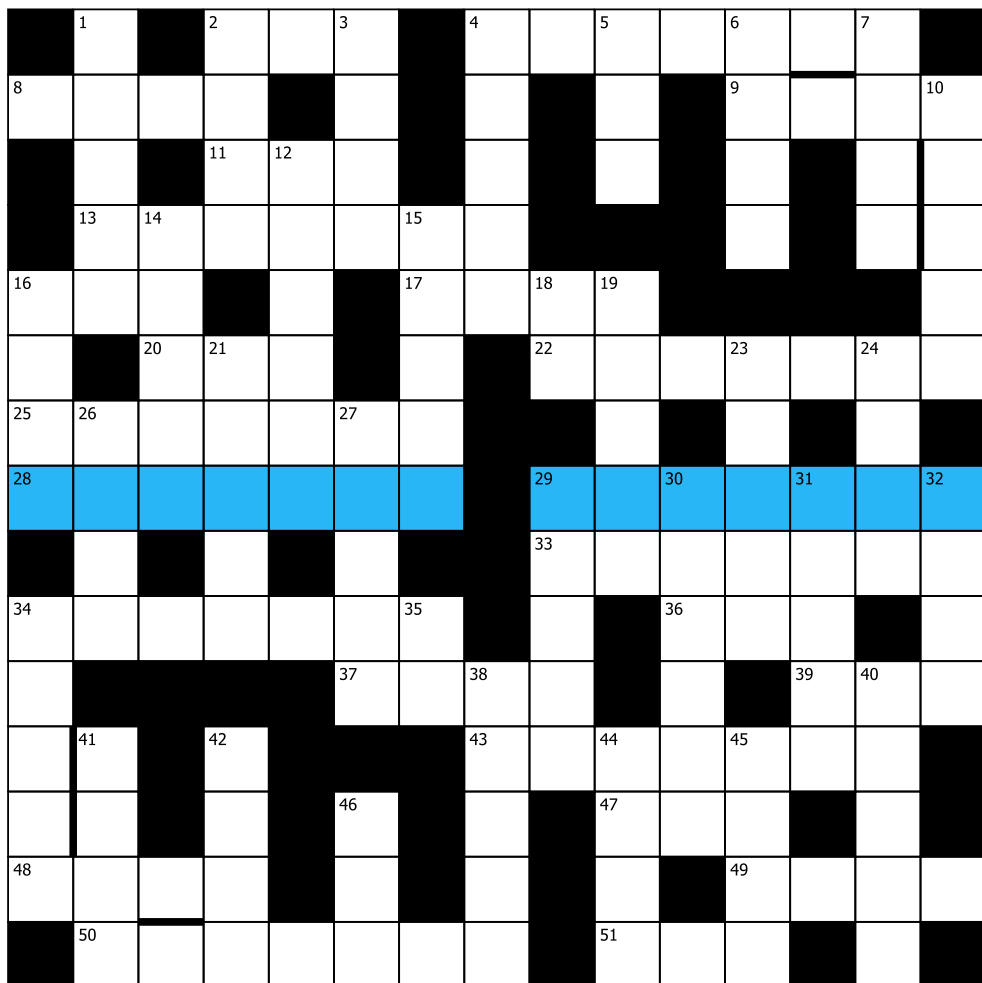


PUZZLES

Puzzles Editor  
IVIN JOSE

# CROSSWORD

(3 pts.)



## Across

- 2. Operate. [3]
- 4. Winged stallion. [7]
- 8. Set on fire. [4]
- 9. Purple flower. [4]
- 11. Solid water. [3]
- 13. In harmony with. [7]
- 16. Man, formally. [3]
- 17. Drizzle. [4]
- 20. Arctic seabird. [3]
- 22. Effect where wave frequency changes relative to observer and source. [7]
- 25. Threatening or foreboding. [7]
- 28. **\*Message from the Puzzles Editor** [7]
- 29. \* [7]
- 33. Clean with brush. [4 2]
- 34. Guided or led. (7)
- 36. Much \_\_\_ About Nothing [3]
- 37. Renegade Time Lady and nemesis of The Doctor. [4]
- 39. UK's health service. [3]
- 43. "In a manner of speaking." (2 2 3)

47. Deciduous tree. [3]

- 48. Burial place. [4]
- 49. Mood or spirit. [4]
- 50. A good-for-nothing person. [7]
- 51. What chicks hatch from. [3]

## Down

- 1. City in the UAE. [5]
- 2. A single measure. [4]
- 3. East of \_\_\_\_, Steinbeck's magnum opus. [4]
- 4. National animal of China. [5]
- 5. Navigational aid. [3]
- 6. Alpine Swiss town. [4]
- 7. Exhale deeply. [4]
- 10. So close, yet \_\_ \_\_\_\_. [2 3]
- 12. Bird famous for its call. [6]
- 14. Path or track. [5]
- 15. Remove. [5]
- 16. Display. [4]
- 18. The \_\_, ego and superego. [2]
- 19. "Not in any way." [2 3]
- 21. Brother of a parent. [5]
- 23. Covered, in relation to roads [5]
- 24. Light beige colour. [4]
- 26. Row of stables. [4]
- 27. Earthy brown colour. [5]
- 29. Class of antidepressant. [5]
- 30. Parts of trees that detach in autumn. [6]
- 31. Celtic goddess of horses. [5]
- 32. Places for relaxation and beauty. [4]
- 34. Cause sadness. [5]
- 35. Secret Hogwarts student organisation taught by Harry Potter. [2]
- 38. Belly button. [5]
- 40. Mythical serpent with several heads. [5]
- 41. Frozen rain. [4]
- 42. Spherical objects. [4]
- 44. Gesture or movement of sea. [4]
- 45. Black seabird often mistaken for a Cormorant. [4]
- 46. Express or vent. [3]

## Across

- 1. Holders for weapons caused old wound for musicians. [9]
- 6. Pests were singular with a hasty addendum. [5]
- 9. Nook adapted an inch eastward. [5]
- 10. Bear losing a part of finger in body of water in North Pacific area. [6 3]
- 11. Express incredulity at inner basification. [2 2]
- 12. Barely adequate preliminary system is not capable. [5]
- 13. Shuffle lacking energy. [4]
- 16. Scottish man eating melted Brie in European peninsula! [7]
- 17. Odd Emma sets benchmark progress ban. [7]
- 19. Be prepared, etc. test for cars at extremities. [7]
- 21. Providence cut short East German faculty position. [7]
- 22. United Kingdom follows metal sub-genre in capital. [4]
- 24. Something I love to spread on my

toast. [2 3]

- 25. Prisoner of their aquamarine country. [4]
- 29. Left-handed boxer loses part of jaw before stealing 500 from dole. Can only go North from here! [5 4]
- 30. Country which Barbie's boyfriend agrees to. [5]
- 31. Diminish file extension in overly sentimental way. [5]
- 32. Evoke regular labelling confusion without length. [4 1 4]

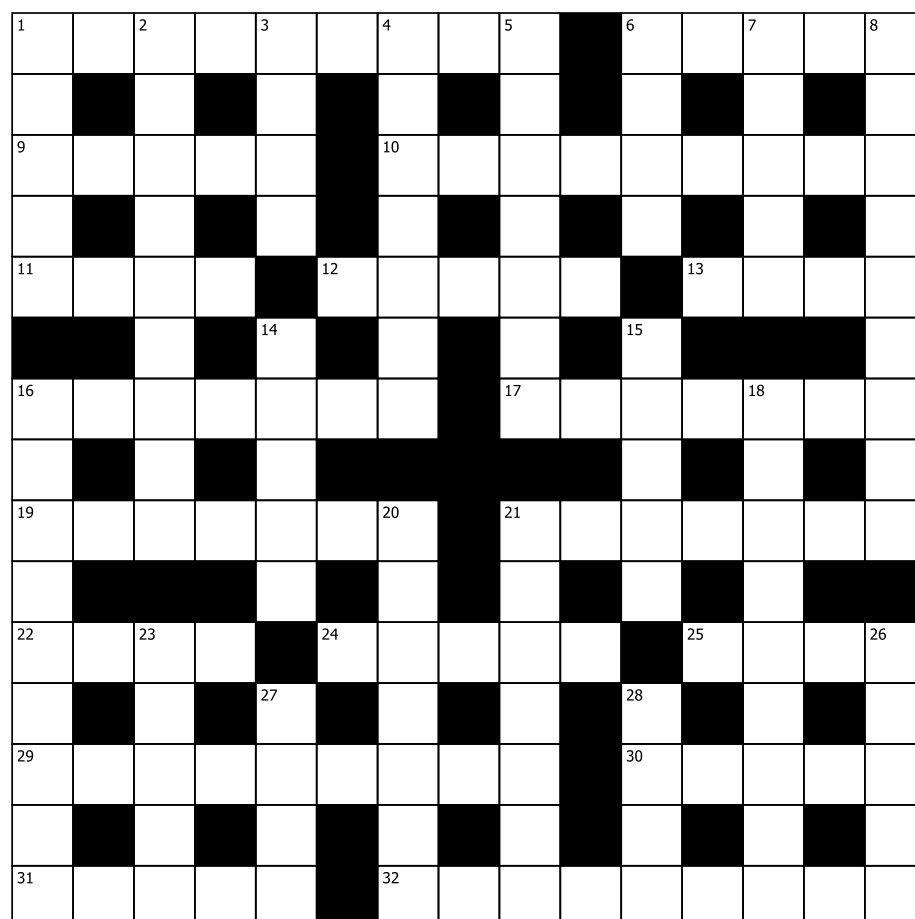
## Down

- 1. Sea engulfs New Zealand leaving lack of Italian. [5]
- 2. I follow bend with heart of protective designer. [9]
- 3. Pollinator starts transformation of root vegetable. [4]
- 4. It marks the point of no return from the red gemstone scam I heard about. [7]
- 5. Injector goes on syrup binge, losing heart. [7]

- 6. Baldwin, King, bridges the gap with a cheeky acknowledgement. [4]
- 7. Suspicious greeting from a seaweed wrap. [5]
- 8. Eradicates philatelist's collection spread. [6 3]
- 14. Two precede the child buffalo. [5]
- 15. Monastery leader gains muscle with not much bother. [5]
- 16. Protects menu; I miss soup. [9]
- 18. Firedragon confusedly lost beginner flight on watercourse. [3 6]
- 20. Royal Jane returns affirmation-she's mega possessive! [7]
- 21. Introduce acidity to a short French river. [5 2]
- 23. Mad Latin bear swaps South for pastures; beginning to illegitimately seize power. [5]
- 26. Shrink egg layer. [5]
- 27. Hello, anyone home? Over yonder, the premiers! [4]
- 28. Furniture store heading infinite kiosks, everything available! [4]

# CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Submitted by Ester K. Mirra (5 pts.)





# SUDOKU

Medium (1 pt. each)

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

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

Hard (2 pts. each)

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

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

Extra hard (3 pts. each)

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

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

## GROUPING GRIDS

Submitted by William West & Vittoria Dessi

sea	dyes	bee	TikTok
zip	you	define	rhapsody
eye	love	bright	dust
oh	nil	pressure	champions

### 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 week's solutions.

porridge	plant	bacon	pot
us	ram	rain	toast
jenny	eggs	bed	sow
jill	seed	oat	ewe

Medium (3 pts.)

1.					Connections
2.					
3.					
4.					

Hard (4 pts.)

1.					Connections
2.					
3.					
4.					







# COMIC

Submitted by Tengyu Zhao



## Puzzle Editor's Note

Dearest puzzlers,

Welcome to Felix's first Puzzles Section of the Year! I'll be taking the reins from the sensational Stanley, Felix's previous Puzzles Editor, who has now moved on to pastures new. Stanley oversaw the growth and flourishing of this section into what it is now. He has left huge shoes to fill, and I hope, puzzlers, you'll join me on this journey as I attempt to fill them as best I can.

To commemorate the success of the Puzzles Section last year, I've compiled the points accumulated by teams throughout the year to award the inaugural "Annual Felix Puzzles Award" to . . . Aspenlads!! Scoring an impressive 223 points, Aspenlads were truly remarkable and have set the record to beat for budding puzzlers this year! Huge congratulations also go to Fermat's Freaks (2nd), Louise Parchson (3rd), and all groups and individuals who submitted their solutions to our puzzles! The scoreboard has been reset for this year and I can't wait for your submissions to start coming in. Your submissions and comments are what make this section thrive (and feed this humble Puzzle Editor's soul)!

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to the puzzles section: Ester K. Mirra for their brilliant Cryptic Crossword, William and Vittoria for their delightful Connections, Tengyu for the wonderful Comic, and Ruby for the fabulous artwork.

That leaves me with nothing more to say, other than have a fantastic week of crossing, connecting, completing, code-cracking, comic-consuming, and competing!

- Ivin

## Cryptograms

"Why would you do this? Why would you invite your friends to see your death?" "I had to die. I didn't have to die alone. Amy and Rory.

However dark it got, I'd turn around, and there they'd be. If it's time to go, remember what you're leaving. Remember the best. My friends have always been the best of me."

Anagram: Domed Pylons = Melody Pond

Quote from: Doctor Who

I saw Aled raise a gloved hand. I could see every face in the crowd. I saw a girl near the front dressed as Toulouse, and it made my heart hurt. I watched Aled, or Radio, or whoever that guy was, grasp the microphone and open his mouth, and I whispered the words into the air while he roared them to the crowd. "Hello. I hope somebody is listening"

Anagram: Ensuing Hansel = Sunshine Angel

Quote from: Radio Silence

# Issue 1850 Solutions

Election!

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

Cryptic

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

Bonus Crossword

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

Medium grouping grid

achaemenid	mongol	roman	british	empires
table	lamp	sofa	ottoman	furniture
quebec	india	oscar	golf	NATO phonetic alphabet
yankee	birthday	citronella	electric	candles

Hard grouping grid

comma	semitone	cent	second	musical intervals
tilde	colon	dash	bracket	punctuation
radian	degree	turn	minute	units of angle
hell(fir)e	wenge(r)	ans(elm)	s(oak)ed	trees hidden in other words



## SPORTS

# A Fresher's fitness gym guide

## A beginner's guide to weightlifting with Arnold Schwarzenegger's classic routine

## Sports Writer

SIDDHARTA ADAIKALARAJ

Getting into a consistent workout routine is one of the most rewarding gifts you can give yourself. Even if there are a hundred different people with a plethora of workout routines that you'd be tempted to adopt, my advice is to pick something that works best for you. Not every workout routine will suit you.

### The Arnold split

With that in mind, the routine I'm suggesting to you today, is best for beginners who want to start getting into general weight lifting and bodybuilding. While the only qualifications I have as a personal trainer are abs and big arms, the chief creator of this routine – Arnold Schwarzenegger – has a lot more bodybuilding credibility to his name.

The routine I am about to suggest builds off of Arnold's book, *The Encyclopaedia of Bodybuilding*, a fantastic source for any fitness enthusiast. It even goes into detail about how to diet, pose, and train specifically for competitions. Following this routine, I've been able to weight train consistently for over

two years without any serious injury or setbacks, all while noticing definite muscular gains. The workouts, and splits among weekday, are shown in the table below.

### Exercise tips

For each of the following workouts, you should be going for three sets, each with a one minute rest time between each set. This should bring each workout session's duration to about 70-80 minutes.

Another important rule to follow for

lightest weight and end your last set with the heaviest weight you can do. Don't go too heavy, otherwise you risk an injury, but do try to push yourself. I recommend sets of 15, 12, and 10 reps.

If you're unfamiliar with any of these workouts and haven't done them before, start by learning the correct form of the movement. This means starting with very light weights and just making sure you get the full range of motion described by the workout.

Another tip is to log and to keep track

Exercise	Description	Days
Chest	Bench press, incline press, pullovers	Mon, Thurs
Back	Bent-over rows, deadlifts (3 sets of 10, 6, 4 reps to failure)	
Abs	Leg raises (5 sets of 25 reps)	
Shoulders	Barbell clean and press, dumbbell lateral raises, heavy up-right rows (3 sets of 10, 6, 4 reps to failure)	Tues, Fri
Upper Arms	Standing barbell curls, narrow-grip bench press	
Abs	Incline sit-ups (5 sets of 25 reps each)	
Thighs	Squats, lunges, leg curls	Wed, Sat
Calves	Standing calf raises (5 sets of 15 reps each)	
Lower Back	Good mornings (3 sets of 10, 8, 6 reps to failure)	
Abs	Leg raises (5 sets of 25 repetitions each)	

Recommended gym split and workout exercises, based on Arnold Schwarzenegger's split from *The Encyclopaedia of Bodybuilding*.

each workout is to overload progressively. Here, you start your first set with your

of your workouts. I am aware that there are also apps to do this. I prefer having



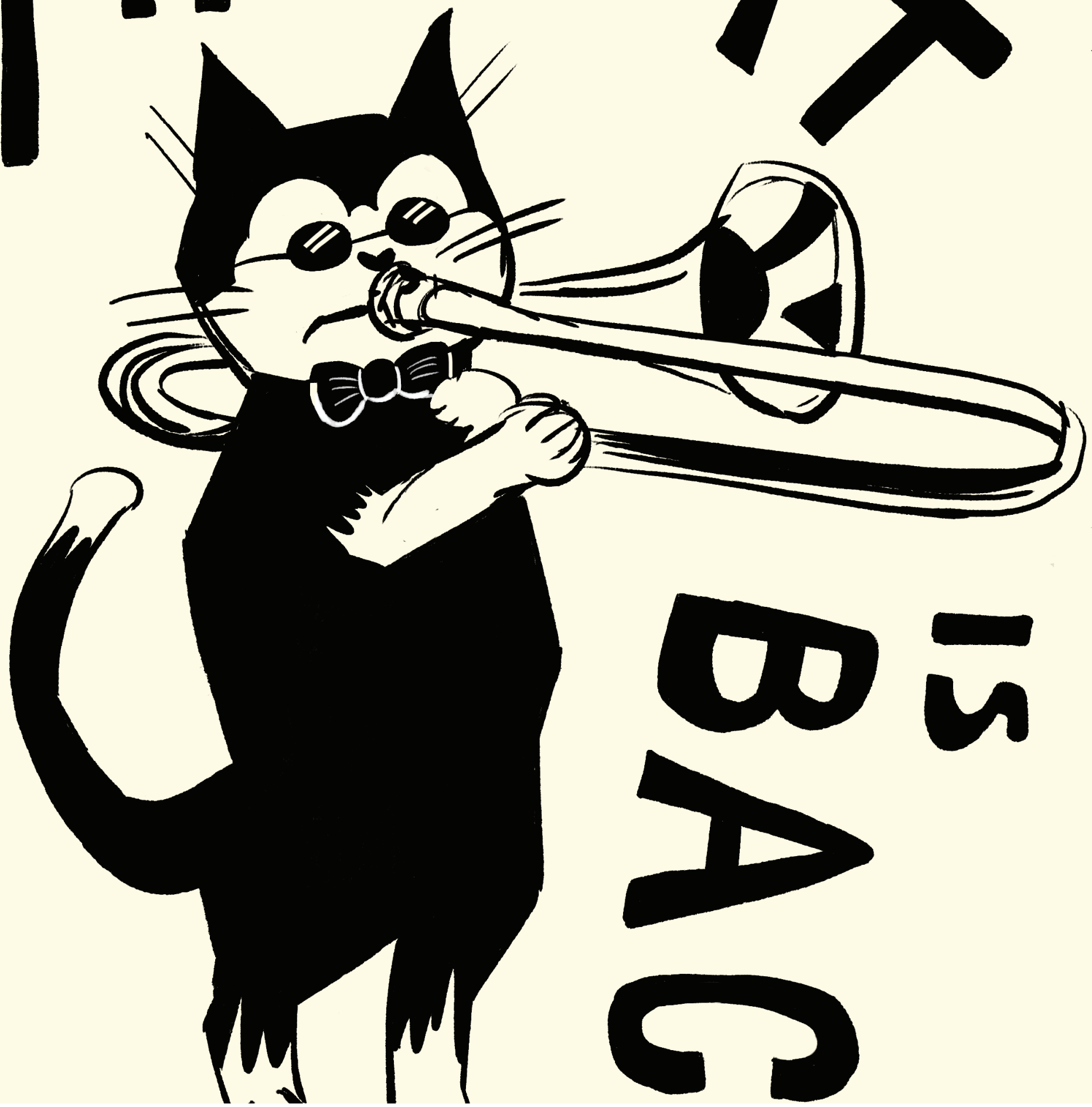
Sid, fourth year Theoretical Physics student, getting into his shoulder exercises at Ethos gym.

a physical little notebook that you can carry with you in the gym. Take note of which workouts you did, what your heaviest weight was for each exercise, and whether you experienced any discomfort that was out of the ordinary during any specific exercise. This helps to keep track of how much you're growing and improving. Looking back at your pages to review your progress can be a huge self-esteem boost.

Finally, even if you feel this split doesn't work for you, the workouts presented here are the fundamentals of weight lifting and should be incorporated into your workout one way or another. I'd recommend trying all these exercises and then creating a more convenient split/schedule for yourself that includes them. If you're unsure of what the right form for some of the exercises are, there are plenty of online resources that can help you. I personally like to use youtube to confirm that my form is right whenever I start a new exercise.

If you'd like to talk about this more, I'm always up for a chat and a workout and love helping out fellow gym-goers no matter what stage of their journey they are at. Best of luck working out and getting your dream body!

THE CAT



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BAG