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Felix

ISSUE #1855



KEEP THE CAT FREE | SINCE 1949



Imperial is ranked second globally.

Students don't think so.

Juliette Flatau

NSS results reveal downward trend in student satisfaction across most College departments

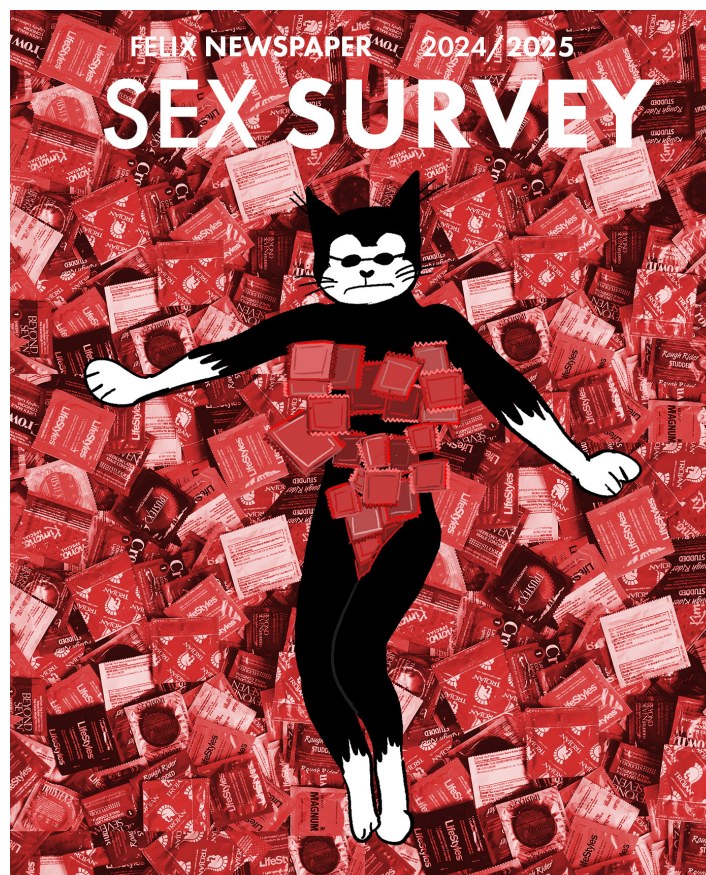
News Writer
TARUN NAIR

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Imperial is below the national average in three themes in the National Student Survey (NSS), according to this year's results. It placed in the bottom quartile in "Assessment and Feedback", with 11 of 17 departments under the 25th percentile of all British providers for their respective subjects.

The College, which ranked second in the QS World University

→ **READ MORE ON PAGE 4**



NEWS

Imperial graduate salaries revealed

→ **READ MORE ON 5**

SCIENCE

Generative AI: paradigm shift or fad?

→ **READ MORE ON 6**

COMMENT

Britain must commit to the Chagos Islands

→ **READ MORE ON 8**

SOCIETIES

Modulate returns: a look at IC Radio's resurgence

→ **READ MORE ON 17**

SPORTS

A look at IC Barbell Soc

→ **READ MORE ON 24**

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

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

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

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

Signed by:
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EDITORIAL

What does it mean to go to university?

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

What does it mean to go to university? What does it indicate now to have a degree or to be a student? Anecdotally, a lot of academics on Twitter/X are recounting stories of how students in the US are discovering innovative ways to cheat using AI, which coincidentally is the second-best use case anyone has found beyond detecting cancers. A recent article in *The Atlantic* suggested that students at elite universities are unable to cope with the demand of reading several papers and books for their courses, and everyone is suffering as a result.

This issue is neither surprising nor unexpected – with degrees being the skill barrier into higher paying jobs, and a commercialisation of education as a service, a university education is no longer a liberator, but instead a barrier one must overcome to try and live a better life. I suspect the same thing happens in Britain. Drawing upon personal experience, one of the biggest concerns my peers and I had was the cost. Student loans in England, are extremely high, and in my neck of the woods, the idea of moving away and encumbering yourself with loans, which despite the somewhat reasonable adjustments, still feel punitive for those from poorer backgrounds who will have more to pay, despite being most worthy for some level of forgiveness or loan free education.

The experience at universities isn't much fun.

Growing up, the prospect of a degree was sold rather than encouraged to my cohort of disinterested students. This week, *Felix* has spent a lot of time looking at Excel spreadsheets and tables trying to figure out how exactly students, or paying customers for what is ultimately a service, feel about their degree.

Coming from an low socio-economic city (without

doxing myself, it is one of the poorest cities in England), we were constantly bombarded with the messaging that the only “real” way out of this West Yorkshire shithole was to go to university. I was basically groomed into applying to Oxford; teachers would ask when, not if, I would apply. As a 16-year-old, I didn't understand the material, mental, and physical cost of going to university, especially one so far away.

On the other hand, I can empathise with international and privately educated students (those who could afford to pay a lot for their education), and even the middle-class parents (those goddamn relocations to get your children into that grammar with really good Oxbridge admission statistics mustn't have been cheap).

And then when you finally arrive, all bright-eyed, excited to learn, the reality is a slightly different to what one can imagine. Imperial College is, as of right now, a research university first and foremost. It doesn't really matter what happens to the poor undergrads paying money into their institutions. They're here to pay, suffer, graduate, and maybe stay on if they're good enough. Imperial almost boasts about how bad it is, and this trickles down to students and how they treat each other.

The Higher Education sector is like many others – mismanaged. Reliant on short-term funding fixes, chugging by on a skeleton crew of overworked staff, and ever reliant on successive governments who still think austerity is the magic fix to the country's problems, it is no small wonder we somehow have one of the most highly reputed sectors in the world. Imperial, as many students love to boast, is highly prestigious, and rightfully so for research. There needs to be a lot more transparency on what this actually entails and who it benefits. I know I was sold my place based on rankings.

On balance, it isn't necessarily the fault of academics. Most of these people have managed to have extremely

successful careers learning (and doing) STEM and it's reflected in the passion we see as students throughout our times here. But it's also important to reflect on the fact that the vast majority of academic staff have achieved these careers with relatively few setbacks – many of them were probably prodigies in their own time, lauded across their time as students. It's tough to take feedback on the one thing you've excelled at all your life from snot-nosed, freshly independent adults who still can't regulate bedtime or drinking. But sometimes taking in that feedback and looking at the big picture is the best and most honourable thing you can do.

Or you could turn a blind eye of course, and deal with falling ratings in successive ranking systems, and plenty of material for *Felix* to write about.

NEWS

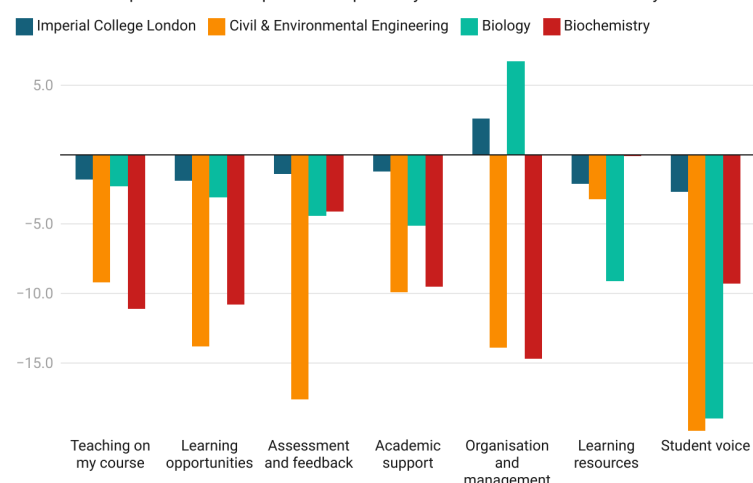
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

Rankings 2025, experienced a fall in overall positivity scores across all themes but one from 2023 – most notably in “Student Voice”, where as many as eight departments saw a decrease of at least five percentage points (pp).

“Assessment and Feedback” is a problem across nearly every department this year: only Chemical Engineering and Medicine placed in the top quartile, while Physics and Bioengineering are the worst ranked departments within their own subjects. Civil & Environmental Engineering and Design Engineering experienced sharp drops in the category by 18 pp and 14 pp respectively. Imperial is ranked, as an institution, in the bottom quar-

Greatest decreases in each theme

These three departments saw a plummet in positivity scores in all NSS themes this year



Imperial overall positivity scores provided for comparison.
Chart: Felix • Created with Datawrapper

tile nationally, with an Assessment and Feedback score of 67.3%.

Imperial's Physics department is ranked the second worst in the country, despite moderate improvements in “Assessment and Feedback” and “Organisation and Management”.

Physics' performance, however, mirrors that of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, especially the Department of Life Sciences. Biochemistry ranks in the bottom quartile among 47 providers of Molecular Biology, Biophysics, and Biochemistry for all themes except “Learning Resources”, placing 45th in “Teaching on my course”, “Assessment and Feedback”, “Organisation and Management”, and “Student Voice”. Biological Sciences received similarly unfavourable results, including the position of being the lowest ranked UK department in “Student Voice” following a plummet of 19 pp from 2023.

Similar trends can be observed in the Faculty of Engineering. Civil Engineering experienced a significant drop in virtually all themes: as well as “Assessment and Feedback” the department fell in “Student Voice” by

almost 20 pp, two themes that did not rank highly in the previous year's survey.

The percentage of good degrees, the proportion of both first class and upper second class (2.1) degrees awarded, across also partially reflects the state of each department. While this generally doesn't correlate with the average positivity score, there is some indication of departments which might be underperforming compared to the rest of the College. Physics has stayed at least one standard deviation under the College mean percentage from 2017 to 2023 and fell to 79% – some 14 pp below that year's mean – in 2022, coinciding with its lowest overall satisfaction positivity in the same period.

Others fared better. Chemical Engineering is number one ranked among similar departments in Russell Group universities across five themes; Medicine topped London providers after significant improvements in all categories, including a 12 pp increase in the “Student Voice”. Imperial College School of Medicine

Students' Union also received the highest satisfaction score among all UK Medicine departments in how well it “represents students' academic interests”.

The overall satisfaction question has not been asked to students in English providers since last year as part of an upheaval of the survey questions after the 2022 edition, though it continues to be given to providers in Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. A question

Imperial performance in NSS themes by department

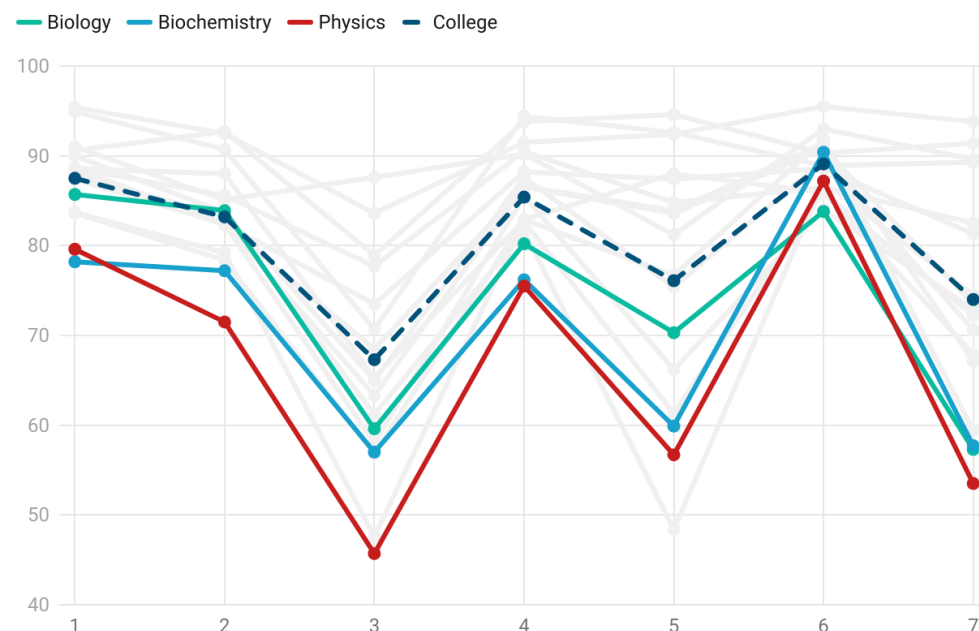


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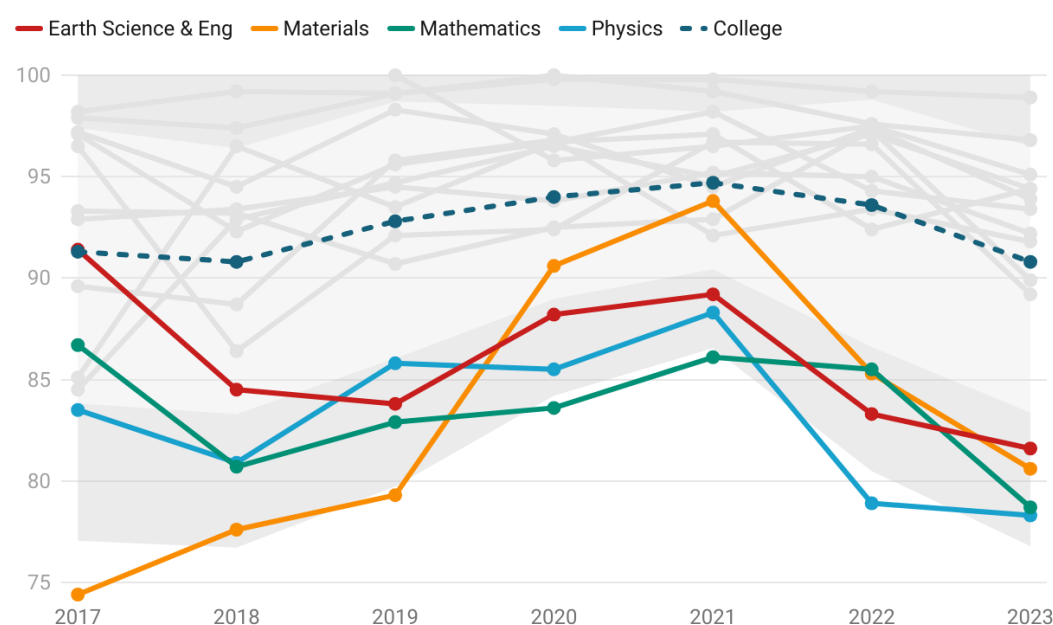
Themes: 1 - Teaching on my course, 2 - Learning Opportunities, 3 - Assessment and feedback, 4 - Academic support, 5 - Organisation and management, 6 - Learning resources, 7 - Student voice

on the freedom of expression was added in its place, for English institutions only.

In a consultation in October that year, the Office for Students (OfS), the regulatory body for higher education in the UK, and which manages the NSS, explained that the higher specificity of the rest of the questions is “important for our approach to the regulation of [the] quality” of higher education providers, remarking that the overall satisfaction question “does not contribute to our understanding of the aspects of quality that are within the scope of” the standards set for providers by the OfS.

Good degrees at Imperial

% First and 2.1 degrees by department over 2017-2023



Light grey represents being within 1 standard deviation of the mean % First/2.1; dark grey represents being between 1 and 2 standard deviations. Design engineering data for 2017 and 2018 excluded due to a small sample size.

Chart: Felix • Created with Datawrapper

Computing tops graduate salaries in UK

Computing graduates earn a median £65,000 six months after graduating

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Imperial Computing grads are the UK's highest university leavers with a median salary of £65,000 six months after graduating. Imperial topped *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide* for graduate employment, with a median grad salary of £37,000, compared to a national median of £28,000 across all subjects and universities, and a Russell Group median of £30,000, according to calculations by *Felix*.

On the other side of graduate outcomes, with Life Sciences graduates earning a median £32,000, and Civil Engineers earning a median £31,454 per annum – only £1,454 more than the national median of £30,000 for graduates with Civil Engineering degrees.

The news comes as the graduate jobs market toughens, and top firms move away from recruitment. “Recruitment targets are lower than in 2024, with fewer entry-level vacancies in nine out of 15 top industries, including consulting, banking and law,” said Martin Birchall, the editor of *The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers*.

A recent report from the Institute of Student Employers (ISE) – a non-profit organisation that represents graduate recruiters, such as Deloitte, the BBC and British Telecom – has said that demand for jobs is at a “record high”, with an average of 140 applicants per graduate role, an increase of 59% from last year.

Graduate salaries have also decreased in real terms since 2021. With an average salary of £32,000, wages have increased by 3.2% from 2023-2024, but

have amounted to a real-term decrease of £3,559 according to the ISE.

Since 2015, the rate of graduate salary increase has been 16.4% compared to a 56.6% rise in those entering the job market after leaving school or college. However, graduate salaries are still at a

greater monetary value than those of school-leavers.

Stephen Isherwood, the chief executive of the ISE, said: “The graduate jobs market is tough. There are a lot of students chasing a small number of vacancies.”

Mean undergraduate salary six months after graduation

Department	Imperial Median (£)	UK Median (£)	Rank (across departments)
Computing	65,000	30,000	1
Materials	47,500	32,000	1
EEE	41,000	32,000	1
Bioengineering	40,000	30,000	2
Maths	40,000	31,000	=1 with Oxbridge
Chemical Engineering	36,500	32,300	3
Medicine	36,000	35,000	10
Mechanical Engineering	35,700	31,000	3
Aeronautics	35,000	31,000	4
Design Engineering*	35,000	32,000	4
Physics	35,000	30,500	=2 Warwick
Chemistry	34,000	28,000	=1 with Oxbridge and KCL
Life Sciences	32,000	26,000	2=2 with Oxford
Civil Engineering	31,545	30,000	7

*Design Engineering is not a specific category in the dataset. However, we have compared it to all Engineering (non-specific) degree programmes. Source: *The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide* / Higher Education Statistics Agency

Plantworks shifts strategy for more vegan options at Imperial

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Plantworks will no longer be a single outlet on campuses as Taste Imperial moves to providing more vegan meals across every catering across every catering facility on all of Imperial campuses. The standalone vegan counter has moved from the Junior Common Room into the Senior Common Room.

An Imperial College London spokesperson said: “We are proud of the positive steps that Imperial has taken to improve the availability of vegan food on our campuses. Since we launched Plantworks in 2019, we have significantly expanded our vegan offerings. Every Taste Imperial outlet now serves vegan options daily, including hot food. We have also broadened our use of the Plantworks logo to highlight vegan options across these outlets.”

“Alongside this, we recognise the value of having a vegan-only counter and this can now be found at the Plantworks counter in the Senior Common Room. The new outlet that will move into Plantworks’ former space in the Junior Common Room – Hào Chi – will also serve hot vegan options every day.

Plantworks originally opened in 2019, as part of the College’s Sustainable Food and Drink Policy. It was the College’s first entirely plant-based outlet. It’s new integration into every Taste Imperial outlet demonstrates the popularity of veganism and plant-based diets on campus. Last year, Imperial’s branch of the campaign group, Plant-Based Universities, almost succeeded in passing a motion in support of plant-based catering at Union Council, losing only by a slim margin.

SCIENCE

AI to Z: The paradigmatic shift facing the world as we know it

Examining the impacts of AI from industry to intelligence.

Science Writer
JAMES DESMET

Throughout history, certain events have fundamentally transformed our world. The Industrial Revolution moved people from farms to cities as industrialisation expanded. The internet granted us access to all human knowledge within devices we carry everywhere. And finally, the pandemic changed how and where we work, accelerating virtual workspaces. Now, we stand at the cusp of perhaps the biggest change since the Industrial Revolution: the societal integration of AI.

AI's rapid growth and influence are undeniable. Already, AI-driven recommendations account for 80% of content viewed on Netflix and 35% of Amazon's revenue. Tools like ChatGPT have seen unprecedented usage, reaching 1 million users in just five days after its launch in November 2022.

Companies like Nvidia are soaring in value, and Large Language Models (LLMs), which enable AI to comprehend language and context, are expanding at rates surpassing Moore's law. For instance, GPT-3's LLM contains 175 billion parameters – over 100 times the 1.5 billion parameters of its predecessor, GPT-2. Clearly, AI's societal impact will only continue to grow. While the benefits are significant, many are also concerned with 54% of Europeans worrying about job losses due to automation, and 61% about privacy implications, according to

the European Commission.

These concerns are understandable. AI has taken a foothold in technical fields like science, with two out of three of the 2024 Nobel Prizes involving AI. Furthermore, it excels in areas once thought uniquely human, such as language recognition and replication, mimicking

human voices nearly perfectly. Simply put, AI processes information orders of magnitude faster than people, has access to all human knowledge, requires no breaks, and is rapidly becoming pro-

ficient in complex problem-solving and creativity. Its ability to 'brute force' processes also offsets many drawbacks compared to humans in novel, data-starved contexts. You don't need an innovative

solution if you can try every single one and see which is best.

Economic data further justifies concern: studies suggest unemployment rates of 15-

20% can trigger major crises, with the Great Depression peaking at 25%. Others suggest if 30% of jobs are replaced within 5-10 years, job markets could be overwhelmed, and our ability to create

new jobs will be hindered. AI's rapid development predominantly threatens industries like transportation, retail, finance, and manufacturing due to the ease of automation and the superiority of AI in terms of data handling. These industries account for around 40% of global employment – 1.3 billion jobs.

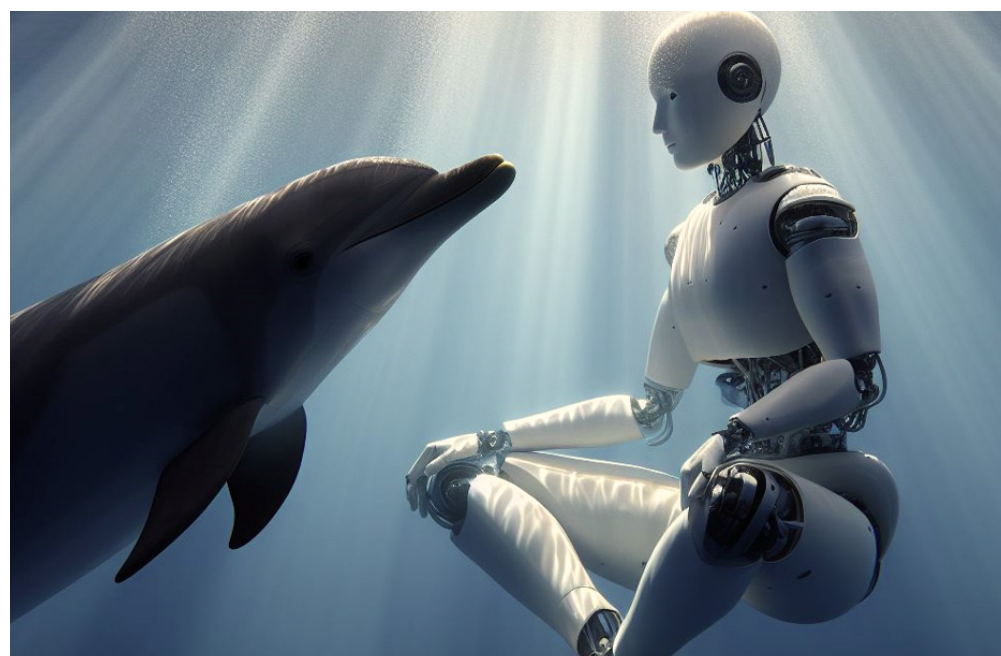
However, AI also promises tremendous positive impact: faster, more effective medical diagnostics, uncovering hidden data patterns, automating repetitive tasks and, in general, massively improving efficiency across various sectors – its potential is staggering. In fact, PwC predicts that by 2030 AI will boost GDP by 14%, adding \$15.7 trillion to the global economy – assuming we adapt adequately to its integration.

AI is the very definition of a double-edged sword; it has the potential to revolutionise the world for better or worse. Without adequate regulation and control of its integration, it poses a major threat to the working class' livelihood and, therefore, to the global economy. However, if a symbiotic relationship between man and machine can be fostered, it has the potential to shatter barriers and birth a new age, just as the internet did a few decades ago.

Whether humanity has opened Pandora's box once too often or has now opened the door to a prosperous new age is yet to be seen; as individuals, we are simply just along for the ride...



AI is the very definition of a double-edged sword; it has the potential to revolutionise the world for better or worse.



An artist's vision of artificial intelligence learning to communicate with a dolphin Laimot (CC BY-SA 4.0)

ENVIRONMENT

Editor's note

Environment Editor
OSCAR MITCHAM

At the Reform UK party conference, Deputy Leader Richard Tice set out three cults. Imposed on us were “the cult of mass immigration”, “the cult of the NHS”, and “the cult, this new religion, of net zero”.

It's no wonder net zero is a focus of Reform when 92% of their funding from the 2019 general election to the start of the 2024 campaign was from fossil fuel interests, according to DeSmog.

With similar messaging about each of these issues in the UK, and similar tactics in the US, net zero is just one of several out-groups far-right parties can target.

Climate action is happening anyway. The International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook 2024 predicts that renewables will grow 2.7-fold by 2030, Carbon Brief summarises. Yet the outlook acknowledges the uncertainty of these predictions, “Countries representing half of global energy demand are holding elections in 2024, and energy and climate issues have been prominent themes for voters that have been buffeted by high fuel and electricity prices, and by floods and heatwaves.”

The US presidential election is in less than two weeks, and even though last week Adrian Draber wrote a piece for this section about the attribution science behind hurricanes Helene and Milton, Republicans are still lying their way out of acknowledging the climate crisis. The most recent conspiracy has them falsely blaming the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the weather. Architect of the Paris Agreement, Christiana Figueres, called Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene's comments about how ‘they’ can control the weather “absolutely irresponsible and unfeeling.”

Sorry fruit bats, the Republican party gives you a bad name.

ChatGPT's carbon tab

The environmental cost of every question you ask

Environment Writer
NADEEN DAKA

I'll admit – I've lost count of how many times I've asked ChatGPT for help planning my weekly meal preps or double-checking my emails. Like so many others, I've grown reliant on having a digital assistant at my fingertips, ready to solve my problems in seconds. But while we marvel at the convenience of our (relatively new) AI-powered friend, it's worth asking: how much is the Earth paying for all its instant information?

Generative AI models, like ChatGPT, are deep learning systems designed to generate new content by predicting sequences based on patterns in massive datasets. These models require enormous amounts of computational training, and that power doesn't come cheap – at least not for the environment.

Research from Cornell University es-

timates that just training GPT-3 alone produced 552 tons of carbon dioxide (the equivalent of what 120 gasoline-powered cars would emit in a year). And that's just for getting the model up and running. With millions of users accessing ChatGPT daily, energy consumption skyrockets.

Each message sent to ChatGPT produces approximately 4.32 grams of CO₂, according to ML CO₂ Impact, an emissions calculator. For reference, one Google search emits only 4% of that, 0.2 grams. Keeping this in mind, let's do some oversimplified math: sending 15 messages produces as much CO₂ as watching one hour of Panopto lectures; sending 50 messages equals the CO₂ produced by boiling a kettle for your daily cup of coffee or tea; sending 150 messages is the same as taking a bus from Imperial's South Kensington campus to Hammersmith; and sending 100,000 messages generates as much CO₂ as taking a flight from London to New York.

At first glance, these numbers might seem small. I mean, who is asking 100,000 questions every day anyway? But when you consider that ChatGPT handles an estimated 50 million unique visits daily, the numbers add up.

As these AI models continue to grow, the challenge isn't just cutting down on our usage but making that usage smarter. Researchers and tech companies are already exploring ways to reduce AI's carbon footprint, from more energy-efficient algorithms to powering data centres with renewable energy.

As users, we can think more about when we really need AI's help – sometimes, a good old-fashioned Google search or a bit of human problem-solving might be the greener option.

Ultimately, if both AI's creators and consumers limit its environmental impact, we can continue benefiting from AI without leaving such a heavy footprint on the planet.



Coal mine Envato Elements

COMMENT

The Chagos deal is a betrayal of Britain

The recent decision to give away the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius is an environmental, strategic and legal disaster that betrays the Chagossians.

Comments Writer

AATISH GRIDHARAN

The sun has finally set on the British Empire, from Adamstown to Akrotiri, for the first time since 1763. After decades of maintaining its claim, Britain has decided to hand over the Chagos Archipelago (a smattering of 60 islands in the Indian Ocean) to Mauritius and pay them for the privilege of pinching this vital strategic asset from us. This sharp political U-turn (which started under Liz Truss) isn't some justified surrender to Mauritius and the entire 'debate' hinges on a ridiculously paper-thin claim by them. The reality is that the connection between Mauritius and the Chagos Archipelago is tenuous at best.

Britain annexed both Mauritius and the Chagos Islands from France back in 1814, and continued the previous administrative arrangement. The Chagos Islands were sparsely populated, and daily operations were handled by local plantation managers. For legal matters, a magistrate from Port Louis would sail out twice a year to handle cases. Fast forward to 1965 when Britain was eagerly shedding her colonies. Mauritius' main party agreed to ceding the islands in exchange for £3 million, a defence agreement and no independence referendum. "London [had forced] its own will for decolonisation [sic] on a [...] reluctant territory" wrote the historian John M. Ostheimer (who wrote a book on the political histories of the western Indian Ocean).

Mauritius has cloaked its claim to the Chagos Islands in rhetoric, focusing on

the displacement of Chagossians from 1968 to 1973 to make way for a UK-US military base on the island of Diego Garcia. While no one was forcibly removed at gunpoint, Britain effectively displaced its own citizens by closing plantations and shipping islanders to Mauritius and Seychelles, where they were dumped into slums. The UK provided £650,000 for resettlement, but the Mauritian government delayed action; inflation ate away most of their compensation, and the Mauritian PM blamed "Îlois [Chagossian] indolence." Despite a further £4 million from the UK in 1982, Chagossians continued to face poverty, housing discrimination, and racial bias from the South Asian majority.

When Tony Blair offered the Chagossians British citizenship in 2002, they accepted eagerly. By 2022, the Chagossian population in Mauritius was about 3,500, meaning Crawley in West Sussex now boasts the largest Chagossian community in the world. The Chagossians' loyalty isn't ambiguous: even Mauritian President Caseem Usteem admitted that the vast majority of Chagossians would choose Britain in a referendum. "We are British, and we want to remain British," chanted protests outside Westminster recently. Wanting to understand their motivations, I went and talked to those who had come to protest. When I asked about the issue of sovereignty, the response was unanimous: "We are British citizens" said one lady, who seemed to be leading a small group of protestors, "who have suffered immensely". Everyone else I talked to echoed similar sentiments. Mauritian sovereignty was treated as something

ludicrous, as if I had proposed giving the archipelago to Mordor. The Chagossians have long cherished their British identity. In the 1950s, Sir Robert Scott, the British Governor of Mauritius, was greeted by islanders waving Union Jacks. In 1976, a Sunday Times journalist tracked them down in the slums of Mauritius and noted portraits of Queen Elizabeth II in nearly every Chagossian home. Scientist Charles Sheppard met a few displaced Chagossians working in shops on Diego Garcia and asked one what they would do if they finally resettled under Mauritian rule: "Raise the Union Jack."



We must defend our islands, our people, and our rights; if necessary, we should be prepared to do so alone

Diego Garcia, the largest island in the Chagos Archipelago, hosts NSF Diego Garcia (a vital UK-US military base in the Indian Ocean) and was essential for bombing operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Its isolation and strategic location shields it from conventional ballistic threats and allows control over key global trade routes like the Cape of Good Hope and the Straits of Hormuz. While Mauritius proposes leasing the base for 99 years, these agreements are fragile as seen with U.S. base closures in the Philippines and Libya. Or as legal scholar Yuan

Zi Yhu notes: "Sovereignty is very powerful; a lease isn't." With Mauritius' ties to Beijing, Diego Garcia's security could also be easily compromised.

Under Britain's stewardship, the Chagos Archipelago's pristine 640,000 km² Marine Protected Area (MPA) is a haven for over 800 fish species, 300 types of coral, and thriving shark, sea turtle, and bird populations. It's one of the healthiest reef systems globally, with fish levels six times higher than other comparable protected areas. Thanks to a strict 'no-take' policy, overfished stocks have rebounded, and scientists Pippa Gravestock and Charles Sheppard value these efforts at over £1 billion. Mauritius, whose 21 MPAs are sixty thousand times smaller and poorly managed, threatens this success. With plans to lift fishing bans and a record of reef destruction, the future of Chagos is at risk.

The fundamental reason we should keep the BIOT (British Indian Ocean Territory) is because, as then Conservative MP Paul Bristow summed up: "despite everything—and everything we have done to them—Chagossians are proud to be British". It would be nice to finally give them a reason to be proud by allowing them to resettle in their homes, or in the shorter term, to make the most of their lives here through some form of monetary support. The Chagossians are British and deserve the same rights and protections every other British citizen gets. We must defend our islands, our people, and our rights; if necessary, we should be prepared to do so alone.

Felix

STARK SUPREMEY

HAVE YOU
FELT
THE FIZZ?



FILM&TV

The Rings of Power: Season 2

A recap of the latest season of *The Lord of the Rings* spin-off, as well as what's next to come.

TV Writer
SIJUNG LEE

Warning: spoilers

While most people are familiar with J.R.R. Tolkien's masterpiece, *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, not many are acquainted with its new prequel television series *The Rings of Power*, about the forging of the rings: "Three Rings for the Elven-kings under the sky/ Seven for the Dwarf-lords in their halls of stone/ Nine for Mortal Men, doomed to die," Tolkien described. First premiered on 1st September 2022 on Amazon Prime, the series just closed out its second season, with the finale airing on 3rd October. This season, like the first, has been quite an unsettling journey, with underdeveloped characters and weak plot lines. Of course, it's quite a task to please the original fanbase; that being said, the entire show was still genuinely enjoyable to watch with its fantasy elements linked to Tolkien's original works, as well as its Hollywood-level cinematic excellence.

Since the show follows various, and at times confusing, narratives in different regions across Middle-earth during its Second Age (nearly five thousand years before the setting of *The Lord of the Rings*), here are some key takeaways from each section focusing on this season's finale.

Númenor's power struggle

While the entire Númenor plot line of this season seemed to focus on predictable power struggles between Elendil, Míriel, and Pharazôn, it is likely that Númenor will play a more significant role in the next season. To those unfamiliar with the lore, Númenor is quite significant: Sauron will certainly play a part in its future, and soon. For this season, the power dynamics seemed quite vague – the finale portrays Pharazôn using a random scroll to decry the Valar's Faithful as Sauron's allies and arrest them when Míriel had just swam with the Sea Worm to rise in power. Another source of confusion came perhaps from a lack of understanding of scale and how many Faithful (including Elendil) there were compared to the King's Men (with Pharazôn). However, one of the most memorable scenes of the finale included the appearance of the Narsil sword given to Elendil by Míriel. Those who have watched the movies will realise that this sword, forged by the dwarf smith Telchar, becomes Aragorn's sword Andúril when it is reforged by the Elves millennia later. This scene drew many parallels to the scene in *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* where Aragorn unsheaths Andúril for the first time, evidently as fan service. This also makes sense considering that they are very much alike since Aragorn tries to redeem himself from Isildur's failure and return to the glory of Elendil's days.

Meanwhile, Kemen – Pharazôn's son – arrives in Pelargir. Pelargir is a Númenorean colony, in which Isildur – son of Elendil – sought refuge after everyone in Númenor thought he was dead. Kemen refers to the southlanders in Pelargir as "low men" and demands timber supply by saying that "they're only trees". This phrase hints at a reappearance of the Ents – one of the highlights of this season – in the next, which I personally favour.

The "Grand-elf" and the Harfoots

This story line, for me, was full of missed opportunities and did not live up to the expectations set by the original films. Even in the first season, I wasn't a fan of what their descendants, the Hobbits, represented. We found out in the finale episode that the wizard, previously known as "The Stranger", was indeed Gandalf from *The Lord of the Rings*. We see him making the connection and learning his name when referred to as "Grand-elf" from the Stoors after saving them from the Dark Wizard. Here, the show deviates from Tolkien's books, as there Gandalf arrives around the first millennium of the Third Age, and this name is given to him by men in the north. Nevertheless, the viewers finally got to see him gain his powers and find his staff.

The Dark Wizard initially tries to convince Gandalf to take over Sauron together and become his successors. He explains that they are part of the five Istari, or wizards, sent by the King of the Valar to Middle-earth to combat Sauron, and that Gandalf was the one who convinced him to reside in the wastelands of Rhûn. He reveals Nori and Poppy, who were

captured by the Rhûnic nomads under his command, and even kills one of his own followers to try to convince Gandalf. This scene simply made me think that the Dark Wizard might end up being revealed as Saruman from *The Lord of the Rings*, which would be a shame. I say this because it would've been much cooler if The Stranger turned out to be Saruman, since he wasn't always portrayed as evil before *The Lord of the Rings*. Furthermore, Nori's sympathy towards the dead



nomad was one of many instances where it felt considerably less impactful compared to those of the Hobbits. Indeed, one of the famous quotes from Gandalf's conversation with Frodo in *The Lord of*

the Rings was: “Many that live deserve death. Some that die deserve life. Can you give it to them, Frodo? Do not be too eager to deal out death in judgment. Even the very wise cannot see all ends.” All in all, Gandalf learns the importance of friendship over power, and finally parts ways with the halflings.

Dwarves of Khazad-dûm

Meanwhile in Khazad-dûm, Prince Durin IV and his wife Disa are dealing with King Durin III, who is now heavily influenced by one of the Dwarven rings he bears. When Prince Durin tries to prepare to leave for Eregion after Elrond, his old Elven friend, pleads for aid, he is deterred by his father’s madness and obsession over digging further into the mines. King Durin III isn’t dissuaded by his son and

eventually discovers a mine full of Mithril – a legendary and powerful metal used to make the rings in this show. This is where another one of the best scenes of the show comes into place: the Balrog! The appearance of this fiery demonic creature in the depths of Khazad-dûm was truly amazing, an impressive physical replica of the one in The Lord of the Rings. This appearance

also marked the end of King Durin III’s era, as he finally takes off his ring before charging towards the monster and says, “Forgive me my son... King Durin.”

The end of the show, however, doesn’t foreshadow a smooth succession for Durin IV. It is mentioned that

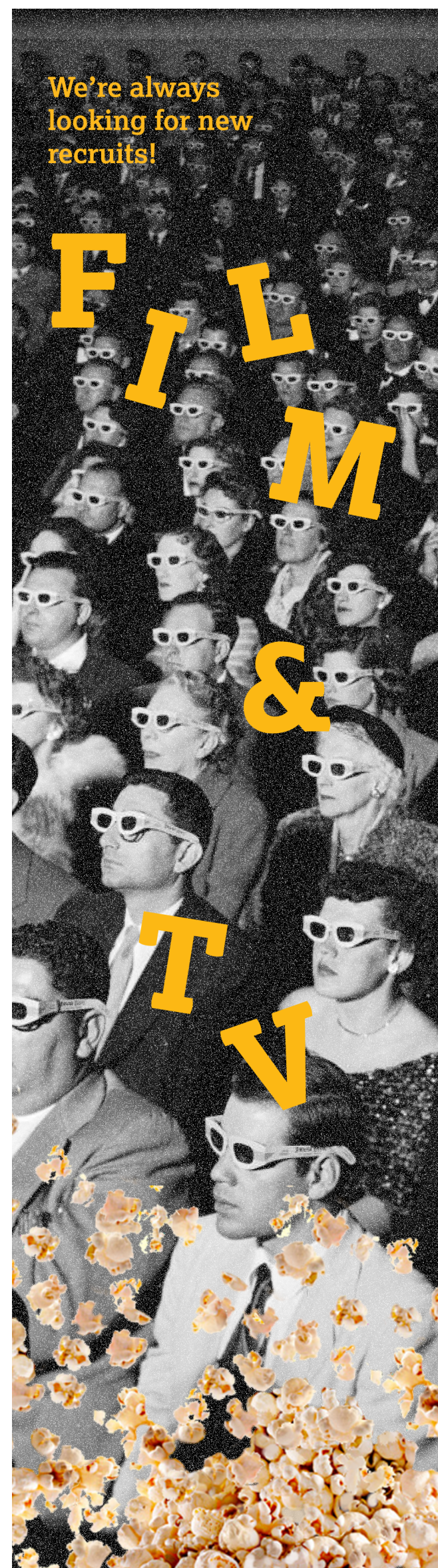
Durin’s brother has been gaining support to claim the throne, as well as some information that the Dwarves of the Blue Mountains wish to collect their rings in exchange for their vast tributes.

Light and Darkness in Eregion

The culmination of the finale took place in Eregion – the Elven realm ruled by the legendary smith Celebrimbor, grandchild of Fëanor. At this stage, Sauron has taken control of the city disguised as Annatar (Lord of Gifts), manipulating Celebrimbor to forge the nine rings for men and leading the Elves to believe that Celebrimbor’s mind was lost. While there were some spectacular scenes from this episode, my personal favourite was the dynamics between Celebrimbor – played by Charles Edwards – and Annatar – played by Charlie Vickers. Just before his death after being tortured by Sauron, Celebrimbor tells him that the rings of power will end up being his downfall, referring to him as “Lord of the Rings”. Elves predicting the future before death is a common theme in the Tolkien lore, and Sauron seemed genuinely surprised by this notion of self-destruction.

If it wasn’t clear to the viewers before, the finale finally portrays the death of Adar, betrayed by his own orcs whom he genuinely cared for. This was all part of Sauron’s orchestrated plan, of course, to get the orcs to join his side during their invasion of Eregion. It truly was unsettling to watch Adar get stabbed by his own “children” while Galadriel just stood there, neither helping nor running away, even after Adar promised her eternal peace by handing her the Elven ring. This leads us to the scene where Sauron faces off Galadriel; here, Sauron shape-shifts each into Halbrand, Galadriel, and Celebrimbor to get into Galadriel’s mind. The end of this duel results in Sauron stabbing her with the Morgul crown, seizing the nine rings from her possession. Galadriel then somehow thinks it’s a good idea to fall off the cliff with her ring, and Gil-galad – High King of the Elves – tries to save her soul from falling into the Shadow Realm. In The Lord of the Rings, there is a similar wound when Frodo gets stabbed by one of the Morgul-blades, which makes me wonder if the show will reveal that Sauron forged the Morgul-blades from the crown. Another interesting object is Fëanor’s hammer in the hands of Sauron after he defeats Galadriel, suggesting that he may use it to make the One Ring. Sauron’s ruthlessness without mercy was shown well in this episode as well, even killing the orc who betrayed Adar without particular reason.

The show ends with Galadriel alongside Elrond, Arondir, and Gil-galad amongst dozens of defeated Elves in a sanctuary protected by the power of the Elven rings. The wide shot of this scene indicates that the sanctuary is evidently the Valley of Imladris, more commonly known as Rivendell. After all, as Celebrimbor says, “it is not strength that overcomes darkness but light. Armies may rise, hearts may fail, but still light endures.”



University Challenge tryouts are on



First round tryouts

**25/10/24—Royal School of Mines, Lecture Theatre
131, 6 PM**

29/10/24—Blackett, Lecture Theatre 1, 6PM

**31/10/24—Charing Cross, Reynolds, Brian Drewe
Lecture Theatre, 6 PM**

Please attend only one, and bring a pen.
If you have any questions about the try-outs, email quiz@imperial.ac.uk

BOOKS

Capturing humanity in historical trauma

Doyeon reflects on Han Kang's remarkable lessons of empathy and the universal power of her novels.

Books Writer
DOYEON MYEONG

The announcement that Han Kang was awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature was met with jubilation across the world, and especially my home country, South Korea. Like most children of my generation who grew up there, Han's novels were an integral part of our youth and education – her presence was, and continues to be, the pride of Korean literature. As someone from a non-English speaking country, I never dreamed that one day I would be able to read Nobel-winning books in their original language.

Han's Nobel Prize is significant not just because it was awarded to an Asian female novelist – a group historically marginalised in the literary community and society – but because she writes about the discarded and silenced with passion and empathy. In an time where empathy in relationships is increasingly rare, Han's books hold great value by

making her readers think deeply about human nature.

Han Kang's influences

Han Kang's birthplace of Gwangju, South Korea, played a significant role in shaping her. In 1980, 10 years after she was born, the Gwangju uprising took place. The uprising – arguably one of the most violent events in South Korea after the Korean War – was a student demonstration movement against the South Korean military dictatorship. During the demonstrations, the military shot participants and innocent civilians. Under government authority, even those who discussed the demonstrations were punished.

Miraculously, Han's father managed to keep some photos taken during the uprising and shared them with his daughter. Two pictures particularly affected her: one of bloody, bullet-lined corpses, and another of people lining up to donate blood for injured students. In an interview with Korean news outlet, KBS, Han explained she was “shocked by both the violence and the kindness people show

under such extreme situations and started to question the duality of human nature.” This led her to write novels and poems delving into the strength of human empathy in confronting violence.

Facing historical trauma

Han works often touch on historical traumas that resonate deeply with South Korean culture. What makes her work distinct, however, is her depiction of the discarded and unheard. Han's novels don't focus on people with power and voice. Rather, they are about people who were pressured, silenced, and unable to openly grieve.

One of Han's most famous novels, *Human Acts* is set during the Gwangju uprising. The Korean title means “The boy is coming” and fittingly, the novel begins with a teenage boy compelled by the thought of justice to participate in the uprising. The novel depicts his painful death under soldiers' guns, how this affects individuals, society's view of the demonstration, and the concept of humanity.

Han revealed she named the novel *Human Acts* because she interpreted the memory of the uprising as an act of humanity confronting historical tragedy. A key theme in *Human Acts* is how the experience of enduring loss can fuel a will to live. She wanted to show the people that even in moments of violence and despair, beauty exists in remembering humanity and surviving another day.

The power of Han Kang and her work

The reception to *Human Acts* was astounding. It became a bestselling book, especially catching the attention of students that didn't know about the Gwangju uprising beyond government narratives. South Korean schools started to use Han's novel as mandatory reading in history lessons in response to students' growing interest. Generations that lived through the Gwangju uprising also emphasized the importance of the book, especially given its honesty and bluntness.

As *Human Acts* gained recognition in 2014, the South Korean government blacklisted Han and *Human Acts*, preventing media attention and banning

its exhibition internationally. But Han refused to bend to the government's will. In response, she wrote *I Do Not Bid Farewell*, about the Jeju uprising, where the government slaughtered communities on Jeju Island.

Han's short stories and poems from this era also marked her name into the canon of Korean literature. Her books are more than just a retelling of history. The common themes of violence, loss, and confrontation of pain are applicable to all generations. *The Vegetarian* taught me the dangers of male chauvinism in South Korea, while *The Wind Is Blowing* offered solace as I navigated the grief of losing a dear friend.

Over time, her books have also resonated with global readers, earning awards and recognition around the world.

Han Kang's message

Han Kang does not tell typical stories of victory or success. Instead, she deals with how devastating life can be, how violent and inhumane some people are, and how injustice can ravage the world. Yet, by depicting people's struggles against cruelty and their continuous triumph after tragedy, Han also reminds her readers that we have an internal strength that allows us to carry on. In a 2019 interview, Han revealed that she is driven by a belief that “there is something inside humans that cannot be killed or destroyed”. As an ardent reader of Han Kang's work, I hope her messages can be delivered to every corner of the world, continuously reminding us of the strength of humanity.



Charles Montgomery

Chelsea FC feel the Blakett Blues

Premier poachers dribble over the peer-reviewed

Catnip Writer
NEGAFELIX

Last season, Chelsea Football Club poached a new 'free kick specialist coach', formerly of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club. Unbeknown to them, the specialist, Levin Kydford, came from the Physics Department at Imperial College London. His process involves explaining the science behind free kicks, long cross-field passes, and corners to the players. We decided to get in contact with the goalkeeping coach to see if they were also looking to employ this method.

"Lev has been setting the boys four problem sheets a week, but the lads already abandoned two of the modules by week two," said Ren Boberts, current Chelsea goalkeeping coach, also previously working for Brighton. "We won't be using this for goalkeeping, because the long and short of it is, we just lump it up the pitch, mate."

Kydford wrote his undergraduate BSc project during his time at Brighton Polytechnic on "Analysing the Kinematic and Aerodynamics of Free Kicks and Long-Range

Crossfield Passes in Association Football: A Comprehensive Computational and Experimental Study". The study involves multiple simulations using Python, Fifa 06, and experiments using a foosball table, yet we could not find mention of any practicals involving men on a physical pitch. Kydford took an extensive look at previous data from White Hart Lane, the late Spurs stadium, where there seemed to be a proliferation of goals conceded by the home team from corners.

To understand the art of free kicks, NegaFelix reached out to two football players renowned for their success with them, to gather their perspective. When asked "so what do you think of physics?", football legend Dave Peckham answered "I loved physical education in school." We then followed with further clarification and gathered the response "all I learned is what goes up must come down - Newton's fourth law of Norwich City." Although we managed to secure a quote from Thames Alexander-Ronald, unfortunately none of our interviewers could decipher what the Scouser was saying.

Chelsea "soccer" fans have mixed feelings on this tactic. When approached outside Fulham Broadway

station, many quoted "I don't know which way we're going", revealing the uncertainty felt, feeling the need for "direction". We conducted a simple survey and found that there was only 55% satisfaction among fans with the Imperial College Physics lecturer.

Chelsea's decision to target Brighton's expertise becomes clearer when examining the numbers behind long term set-piece success. Felix have compiled a table ranking a selection of relevant clubs by the number of goals arising from set pieces, to highlight the results of this theoretical football approach. To further contextualise these numbers, we have also provided the net spending per goal scored from set pieces over the 20/21-23/24 seasons in GBP.

Chelsea FC have signed Levin for a forty-year contract.

Special thanks this week

A special mention to Jilbert Gackson for bringing "Cum" into fruition. Thank you to my dad, Kev, for helping falsify football data, and to my other dad, Tony Bloom. A special mention to Harrison for yapping about the Premier League so much that I have a non-consensual deep pit of knowledge on Joe Gomez that I can now refer to without research. I would not like to thank you for your shitty club taking the light and joy in my life Alexis Mac Allister. For my readers, I would like you to know that Mx Harrison has no affiliation to the city of Liverpool, and is thus a glory hunter, or in the lingo a "wool". They have also stolen many Brighton shirts from me in my time that I will be using as photographic blackmail. Thank you for ending your stupid fucking football podcast, I know this is not currently the case, I am just thanking future you. Thank you to Clementine, Slates, Larry, and The Welsh One for keeping the culture alive.

Club	Free Kicks	Corners	Goal Kicks	Club	Net spend per goal scored from set pieces (£)
Manchester City	21	17	3	Chelsea	51,000,000
Liverpool	18	12	1	Manchester City	12,000,000
Brighton	18	11	2	Liverpool	8,000,000
Southampton	12	3	0	Southampton*	3,000,000
Ipswich	11	2	1	Ipswich*	2,900,000
Chelsea	9	2	1	Brighton	1,500,000

*includes Championship data

Arts night: all transition metals, few noble gases

Ex-Catnip Editor
JUBY ROY

This morning, I and the Catnip team gained access to the Arts and Entertainment Committee's Arts Night sound check, to write an exclusive early review of tonight's upcoming showcase.

First up was not one, not two, but three acapella groups: n+1th Harmonic, The Large Slabs of the Earth's Lithosphere, and The Stethoscopes. All groups had a thorough lack of live band, and it would have been greatly appreciated had they subverted the genre by entirely disregarding it. However, one tradition was notably missed; it was particularly disappointing that there was no riff off between any of the groups. One small member of The Stethoscopes brought an overly

enthusiastic, joyful energy to the stage. However, this was overlooked by the group members, as they seemed to be more focused on one particularly attractive ginger fellow.

My knowledge of East Asian pop prior to this night was limited to incredibly sexy feminine boys and bad-die girls, making bisexuality non-negotiable, but Pop of East Asia Society raised my opinion. One may have heard that "there is always an Asian student out there better than you", and these bandmates through practice, hard work, and talent certainly ensured this, but I would like to extend this to say "there is always a student in PEASoc fitter than you."

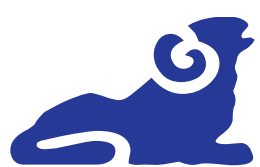
Next up was Siana Dongwriter, a mysterious dirty blonde with a serious case of middle-class voice. While the second song was lyrically impeccable, the third was my favourite, and had me creating a parasocial relation-

ship with the cleverly intimate songwriter, noting to take a good stalk of the gram later on.

There were then various metal and "alternative" bands - so many that they formed an alloy. Cum created the sound of a rabbit holding a dagger emerging out of a pigeon wearing batman's cape, one I was not previously familiar with, and was not sure I wished to be.

Small Band had a 45 minute set. What was intended to be a Tuxedo Junction was giving finance bro function. There were no bleeding hands from the drummer, or any throwing of chalk, unfortunately. Though their incredible musical talent gave me whiplash, I would have appreciated some more theatrics. Yet, their love was for sale, and I bought it.

The finale set by the DJ performer was what you would expect from a DJ in South Kensington studying at Imperial College. Overall, a touching night.



ARIES

This week you practise your Arts Night set with your band and the subdominant quickly becomes the power bottom.



TAURUS

This week you offer \$1 million a day to one random swinger if they vote for you in the Autumn Election.



GEMINI

This week you eat everything with a spoon so everything tastes like spoon all week.



CANCER

This week you re-enact the Last Supper. Not the Christian one, you're just in overdraft.



LEO

This week you give up pussy for Lent. It's not Lent, but you really do not want any more pussy.



VIRGO

This week you support the government's latest crackdown on child vapists.



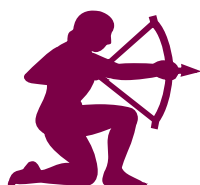
LIBRA

This week you cover your flatmate's eyes for their surprise party and they say, "None of this is funny. None of it is cute. It degrades me. It degrades us."



SCORPIO

This week you ask your friend with benefits can she make her moans more harmonically interesting so she calls your dick microtonal.



SAGITTARIUS

This week your textuationship get so confusing you read *Capablanca's Chess Fundamentals* to work out your next move.



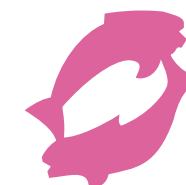
CAPRICORN

This week you tell your friends you chaired a committee meeting. This is better than saying you watched someone fuck your girlfriend.



AQUARIUS

This week you and your situationship play down the significance of alleged interference. You are just volunteers "doing it in their spare time" and staying with other volunteers.



PISCES

This week you forward 127 emails containing 290 highly sensitive unfinished problem sheets to your private email, breaching departmental code.

UNION & SOCIETIES

Matchmaking with ICRadio

Watch out for Erika and Lilly's weekly show *CupidsOnCampus* to listen in exclusively on first dates.



Union & Societies Editor CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

In a university as large as Imperial College London, it's often surprising how many students feel isolated when it comes to finding meaningful connections. Two passionate students, Erika and Lily, are on a mission to change that with their newly launched ICRadio show *CupidsOnCampus*. The show, which airs every Thursday from 5 to 6pm, aims to bring a fresh, fun, and engaging approach to student matchmaking, offering a platform for Imperial students to potentially find love—or at the very least, break the ice.

The concept

The idea behind the show is quite simple but solves a common problem.

Erika explains, "We thought it would take away some of the awkwardness of having a first date if we're doing the ice-breaking for them." The hosts will facilitate the initial conversation, ensuring that participants don't feel the pressure of making the first move or coming up with awkward questions. This is not new, many YouTube channels produce similar videos, however the idea of just listening in and keeping the couples' faces unknown offers a level of

privacy not granted on YouTube.

Erika and Lily's matchmaking idea takes the form of an hour-long episode where two individuals—matched based on their interests and preferences—meet for the first time live on air. The catch? They can not know anything about the other person beforehand.

Erika describes the process, saying, "In the beginning, we'll start asking questions and facilitating the conversation, hoping they get along well. [...] I think we're just going to ask about their dating history and what's gone right in the past, what's gone wrong in the past, and what they're looking for. By the end of the hour, we'll ask if they want to go on a date together."

How it all started

Although the concept sounds straightforward, Erika admits that the launch was anything but smooth. For the first matchmaking session, hosted last Thursday, she commented that they've "had about 15 responses so far, but people have been a bit apprehensive about being the first to participate. The idea of being on a public platform and potentially facing embarrassment is understandably daunting."

The pair used a Microsoft form to collect responses from interested participants, creating an Instagram account and linking the form for their

friends to see on social media. Students could fill out the form for themselves or even fill it out for their friends, sharing key details such as their interests, age, and what they're looking for in a match. The two then use this information to create the matches. Erika says they're hoping the show will soon gain traction as more students hear about it and see it as a fun opportunity rather than a nerve-racking experience.

How ICRadio comes in

Erika and Lily aren't doing it all alone. ICRadio's Head of Spoken Word, Amara, plays a vital role in supporting the show's development and promoting it within

of the talk shows showing," she says. The matchmaking show fits perfectly into that vision, offering something different from what ICRadio listeners are accustomed to.

Amara is also key in helping the show reach a larger audience. As part of the ICRadio Committee, she's committed to ensuring that talk-based shows like *CupidsOnCampus* are given the promotion and attention they deserve, potentially attracting more participants and listeners.

Prioritising comfort for participants

One major concern for participants has been the issue of privacy. Erika shared that their first match was hesitant about having the episode recorded and available online. "They don't want it to be out there forever, especially if it's awkward," Erika explains. As a solution, they decided not to upload matchmaking episodes to SoundCloud, allowing the interactions to remain a one-time experience for live listeners only.

Erika and Lily also want to make sure that their participants feel comfortable, emphasizing that they won't use real names if the guests prefer to stay anonymous. The focus is to ensure that the students can relax and enjoy the experience, without fear of



One of them says 'fish,' and the other says 'car,' and they have to find the middle ground!"

the radio station. Amara's goal is to increase the presence of talk shows and podcasts on ICRadio, a station dominated by music-based programming. "We've got a lot of DJs, so I'm trying to get more

embarrassment or long-term public exposure.

Encouraging participants

Despite some initial hesitation from participants, the response from the wider student body has been positive. The first-ever episode, which served as an introduction to the show's concept, drew an impressive 19 listeners. "That's quite high by IC Radio standards," Erika said, noting that they were surprised by the turnout for their debut.

Looking ahead, Erika and Lily hope to further develop the structure of the show. They plan to personalise the questions to each couple, tailoring conversations to shared interests. Additionally, they're open to adding new elements, such as incorporating a live chat where listeners can send in questions or suggestions during the broadcast.

The next steps

As the show continues, Erika and Lily are excited to develop their process. If their participants do decide to go on a real date after the show, they hope to invite them back for a follow-up episode, where the couple can recap their experience. "We think it would be really cool to have them back and see how it went, just to encourage others to participate and show that it actually works," says Erika.

Though it's still early days for IC Radio's matchmaking show, the enthusiasm and creativity of Erika, Lily, and ICRadio suggest that it could become part of Imperial College's society and improve the dating scene.

As Erika says, "We're speaking from our own experiences, and we just want to help others."

Become a contestant by scanning the QR code below.



MODULATE is BACK!

A line-up of DJs, a variety of genres, and tickets selling out within minutes, ICRadio is well on its way to host *Modulate* in mid-November.

Union & Societies Editor CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

Creativity thrives in surprising places, and nowhere is this more evident than in West Basement, home to ICRadio. For years, this student-led station has been a stepping stone for DJs, musicians, and innovators to kick-start their hobbies. One of the key events that brings this vibrant community together is *Modulate*, ICRadio's signature club night, which showcases the comprehensive musical talents of Imperial's DJs. With the next event just around the corner, *Felix* sat down with Andres, Aaron, and David—three key figures from ICRadio—to discuss the event's history, its creative philosophy, and how it's shaping the social scene at Imperial College London.

The origins of *Modulate*

Modulate started with a simple idea: to create a space for Imperial students to express themselves musically in ways



"People were tired of the same playlists at the student bars, so *Modulate* became a place for something different."

they couldn't at typical student nights. Andres, the current Head of Discos at IC Radio, explains how the event has evolved over the years.

"There wasn't really a night for alternative or underground music at Imperial," Andres reflects. "People were tired of the same playlists at the student bars, so *Modulate* became a place for something different."

Originally launched a few years ago, *Modulate* quickly found its footing as a major event on the campus calendar. David, IC Radio's Station Manager, expressed gratitude for the revival of the event as a platform to share Imperial's creative culture. "He [the creator] threw the first *Modulate*, and it just grew from there," says David. "It's been amazing to see it evolve into a space where people from across disciplines come together to share their love of music."

A space for everyone

Far from being a niche event just for DJs or musicians, *Modulate* encourages participation from all corners of the university community. Aaron, the Head of Music at ICRadio, explains how the event draws in students with diverse interests.

"It's not just about DJ-ing or playing music," Aaron says. "We have people who are producing their own music live, or even students who are just passionate about sharing ideas. For example, we have two students, Erika and Lily, who are running a live dating show. It's all about giving people a space to express themselves in different ways."

And it's not just about what happens on stage. Behind the scenes, ICRadio brings together people with a wide range of skills—from graphic design to sound engineering—to make ICRadio and *Modulate* happen. "We have PhD students maintaining the equipment,

people working on the website, and others doing promotional materials," Andres adds. "It's a real team effort."

A community through music

What really sets *Modulate* apart is the sense of community it promotes. For students who might feel isolated in the high-pressure academic environment of Imperial, the event offers a much-needed creative outlet.

"It's not just a night out; it's about building connections and giving people



We like to dig deep and find tracks that you might not hear elsewhere—small artists on SoundCloud with maybe 1,000 or 10,000 followers.

the chance to meet others who share similar interests," Andres explains. "You come to *Modulate*, and you meet people who are into underground music, who want to DJ, or who just want to be part of something creative."

David echoes this feeling, noting that *Modulate* is more than just a student event. "It's a showcase of the talent we have here at Imperial, and it brings together students from different backgrounds," he says. "Even students who aren't familiar with electronic music or DJ-ing come along for the atmosphere and end up enjoying themselves. It's all

about having an open mind.”

New talent, new sound

For music lovers, one of the main draws of *Modulate* is the variety of genres offered. From house to garage to techno, *Modulate's* lineup spans a wide range of sounds, many of which you won't hear at other student nights. Aaron is particularly proud of how the event showcases underground music and gives a platform to lesser-known artists.

“We like to dig deep and find tracks that you might not hear elsewhere,” he says. “A lot of what we play comes from small artists on SoundCloud—people with maybe 1,000 or 10,000 followers. It's a great way to discover new music.”

But *Modulate* isn't just about Imperial and current students. “Last year, one of our alumni, Meg, came to *Modulate* and played a track she had produced herself—a fusion of Beyoncé, jungle, and bass. The crowd went wild,” Aaron tells. “That's the kind of magic that happens at *Modulate*.”

Behind the Scenes

While *Modulate* is all about fun and enjoyment for the attendees, organising the event was no small feat. David, Andres, and Aaron have been hard at work for months, planning

every detail to ensure the event runs smoothly. From working with the Union to sorting out promotions and tickets, the team has been managing endless responsibilities to make sure everything comes together.

since August, and it's been a team effort. The design, the promotion, the event planning—it's all been a big project.”

One of the most challenging aspects was making sure the event stays fresh while still delivering the same high energy

Andres explains. “It's about striking that balance between giving people what they love and introducing them to new sounds.”

First show

As the 15th of November approaches, the excitement for *Modulate* is noticeable. Early bird tickets sold out in just a few minutes, and general tickets were gone before the end of day. For anyone lucky enough to score a ticket, the event promises an unforgettable experience filled with great music and a chance to be part of one of Imperial's most creative communities. And since it will be a six-hour long show with a dozen DJs, there is ample chance to witness *Modulate* within a busy schedule.


What can readers with tickets expect?

The event will start at 8pm and last late into 2pm. Since it will be at Metric, ICUnion's own performance venue in Beit Quad, most students, especially first-year freshers, won't have too far of a commute. Drinks and food will be provided, with a food truck stationed outside the venue for attendees that have been dancing all night. The food truck is yet to be decided.

Attendees who are desperate to go may be able to score some tickets at the entrance, so hope is not lost for those who were unable to do so via their website. The best course to find tickets is to keep an eye on their Instagram @icradio.



imperial college radio presents

MODULATE



8pm till late ... at metric

15-11-24

“It's a lot of work, but it's worth it when you see everyone having a great time,” David says. “We've been preparing

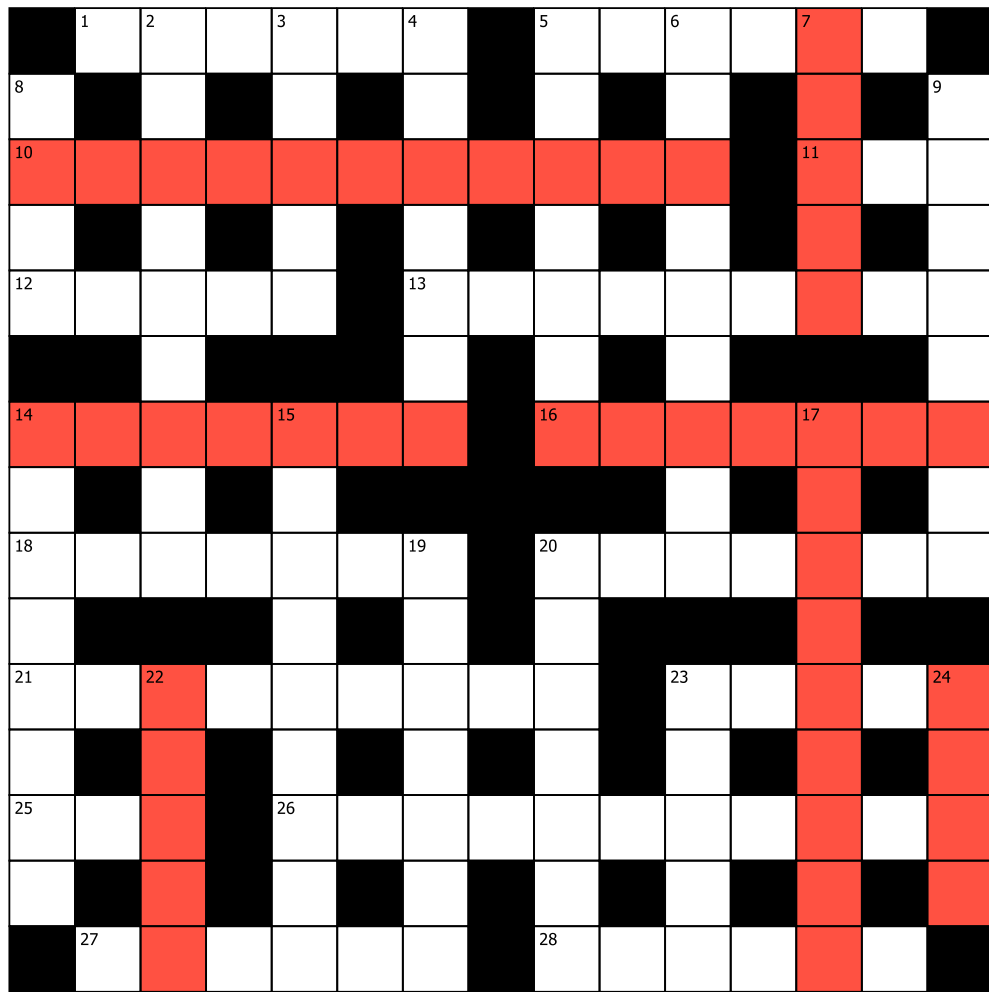
that attendees have come to expect. “We want each event to feel different, but we also want to maintain the same quality,”

PUZZLES

Puzzles Editor
IVIN JOSE

CROSSWORD

"America runs on Dunkin'""* (3 pts.)



Across

1. Sometimes leathery, made to hold things in place. [6]
5. Captain of the Pittsburgh Penguins. [6]
10. *Has chocolate icing and a Bavarian filling. [6 5]
11. Say no, but archaically. [3]
12. Choose someone to hold a position. [5]
13. Romeo's, Don Pedro's and Portia's servant. [9]
14. *Has vanilla icing, song by Electric Light Orchestra, Mr. _____. [4 3]
16. *Has salted caramel filling, author of *Peter Rabbit*. [7]
18. Hilton, Best Western and Center Parcs, for example. [7]
20. A molecule that becomes happy to react after picking up an electron. [7]
21. Ariel, Comfort and Lenor, for example. [9]
23. What the cat did with the mouse before ending its misery. [5]
25. Intelligence Agency. [3]
26. City in Southeastern Tennessee in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. [11]
27. Found between the front and rear wheels of cars. [6]
28. The Encyclopaedia of DNA Elements, (abbr.)

Down

2. What you would use to sense the flavours of this week's theme. [9]
3. One can do this to: dogs, children and styles. [6]
4. Where one goes to if they are feeling ill at school, on a ship. [7]
5. On your left after SAE, when coming in from Exhibition Road. [4 3]
6. How gossip is often unintentionally spread. [9]
7. *Has a cookies and cr me filling, adults have 206 of these. [5]
8. Having the skill to do something. [4]
9. Alcohol's functional group. [8]
14. The dawn chorus is composed of this. [4 4]
15. There's one of these called Desire. [9]
17. *Has a hazelnut filling and marshmallows, is also a dessert. [5 4]
19. Up-and-down things in playgrounds. [7]
20. Floral decoration sometimes given alongside a medal. [7]
22. *Has a caramel filling, he sang *Fly Me to the Moon*. [4]
23. Garment worn in ancient Greece and Rome. [5]
24. *Has an indulgent chocolate, Bram Stoker's gothic horror novel, but shortened. [4]

Across

1. Tobacco holder causes dejected hush. [4 4]
5. Criminal ensemble from Italy. [6]
10. Insolence caused carnage or wreckage. [9]
11. Deployment of herb following final item of menu. [5]
12. Brute caused splattered gore. [4]
13. Do not bat if led at random! [5]
14. Fast fashion brand for a girl. [4]
17. Timothy, oddly bleary, warns passersby of falling trees! [6]
18. Refuse balderdash. [7]
20. Hasten to floodgate; it can be resealed! [7]
22. Rubbish also gets permanent mark. [6]
24. Apprehend last felon to come down with something.

[4]

25. Secretly slimly; I'm turning into a Yankee! [5]
26. It marks the spot for beam of scan. [1 3]
29. Peacefully demonstrated soft fabric. [5]
30. Travel in Europe between external track. [9]
31. Map research. [6]
32. Confused Phylis is following something you don't want to catch! [8]

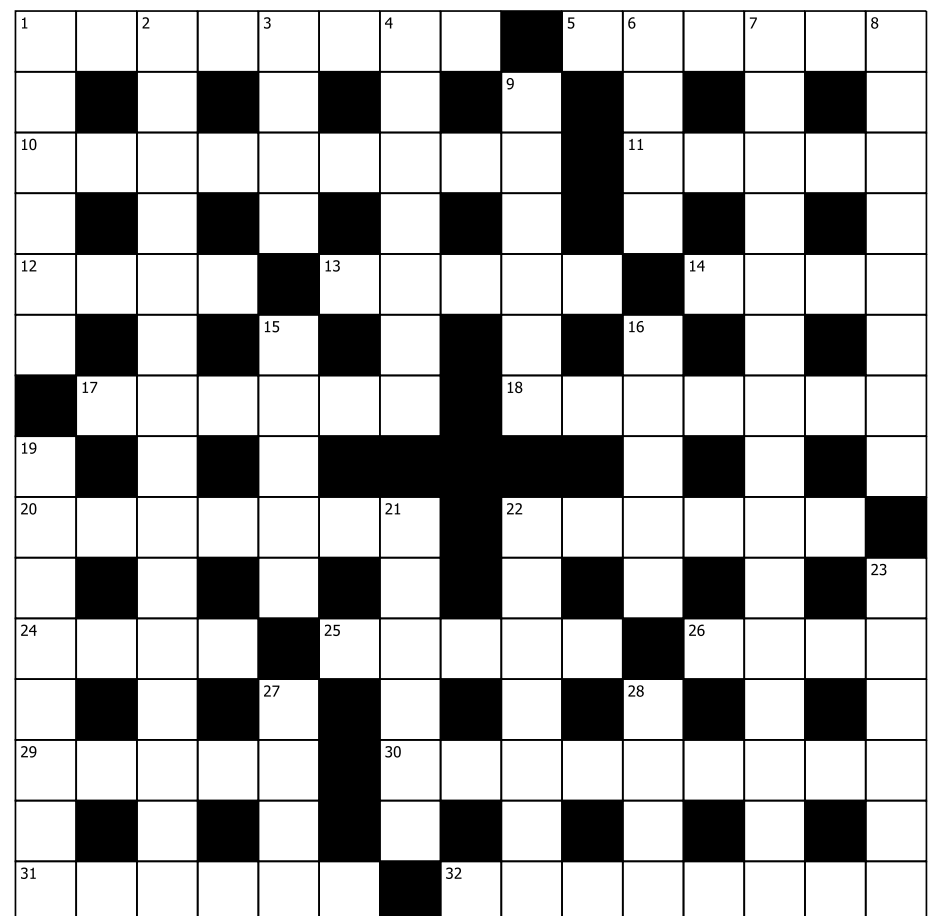
Down

1. Mange tout which personal assistant confused with dope. [6]
2. Man using brush learns Spanish for property of ache, initially trying emergency room. [8 7]
3. Without commencing disasters, dodge important Venetian. [4]

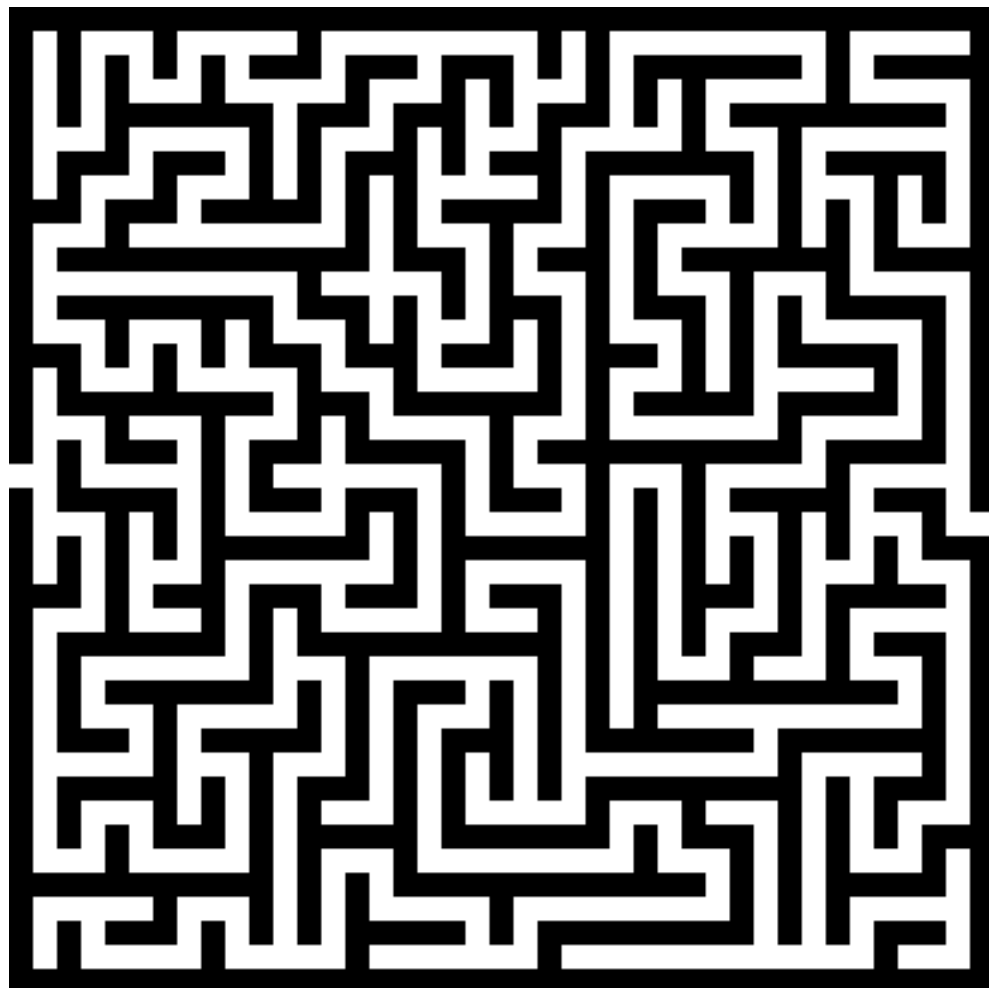
4. Victorious Starmer becomes more unsteady. [7]
6. All quick-growing undergrowth at first needs water. [4]
7. Chaos of a ASDA noodle raid ends lifelessly. [4 2 1 8]
8. Young one to peg badger for concerning reversal. [8]
9. Gush about delay disrupting sleep pattern. [3 3]
15. Oh, bra got tangled- hate it! [5]
16. Savage traitor addressed by Caesar. [5]
19. Adds oxygen: size soon varies! [8]
21. Start keeping eleven litres of French wine in unit. [6]
22. Writer told endlessly of small plaything. [7]
23. Pedals in circles. [6]
27. Only one time previously. [4]
28. Monarch loses head in vault. [4]

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Submitted by Ester K. Mirra (5 pts.)



MAZE (2 pts.)



FELIX QUIZ TREE (15 pts.)

Round 1 - Guess the Character

1. British man with a taste for fast cars, sharp suits, luxury watches, and a cocktail order that must be just right? [1 point]

Round 2 - Guess the Movie

2. Brad Pitt, Crime thriller, Los Angeles, "What's in the box?" [1 point]

3. J.K. Simmons, Drama, New York City, "Not quite my tempo." [1 point]

4. Benedict Cumberbatch, Historical Drama, Bletchley Park, "Advice about keeping secrets: it's a lot easier if you don't know them in the first place." [1 point]

5. Will Smith, Drama, San Francisco, "You're a good papa." [1 point]

Round 3 - General Knowledge

6. **The early bird**
What can be African, Little or Macaroni? [2 points]

7. **Don't be Hasty**
(a) What is the 100th of a dollar called?
(b) Which country is known as the garden of England?
(c) What is the period of fasting that precedes Easter called?
(d) What has types including Bell, Frame and Oxygen?

What links these answers - and which author created these creatures? [5 points]

8. **Where next?**
What follows Vienna, Brussels, Prague, Copenhagen, Tallinn Helsinki, Athens? [3 Points]

NONOGRAM (4 pts.)

How-to:

A nonogram consists of a grid with clues along the top and left side. Your aim is to colour the whole grid in to black and white squares. The numbers along the top and the left side tell you runs of black squares in that column/row. For example, if you see a '2 3' it tells you there will be a run of 2 consecutive black squares followed by one or more white squares, followed by exactly 3 black squares. There may be more white squares before/after this sequence.

		3	2		
	2	2	2	5	3
3					
5					
2 2					
2					
2					
2					
2					
2					
2					

BRIDGES (5 pts.)

How-to:

Bridges consists of number islands on a grid. Your aim is to connect all islands according to the number of bridges for that island. There are no more than two bridges in the same direction. Bridges can only be vertical or horizontal and are not allowed to cross islands or other bridges. When completed, one should be able to move from any island to another across the bridges.

	1			2		2
2			2		3	
		1				2
			4		5	
3		3				3
					1	
	1		4			3

SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

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

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

Medium (1 pt. each)

Hard (2 pts. each)

Extra hard (3 pts. each)

GROUPING GRIDS

Submitted by William West & Vittoria Dessi

Rope	Cognac	Starboard	Keel
Twine	Mast	Bow	Neck
Brandy	Black	Bilge	Thread
Cable	Port	Sherry	Wire

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.

Transfer	Invalid	Day	Calculator
Card	Calendar	Recycling	Present
Crypto	Envy	Newbie	Phone
Island	Spirit	Camera	Cash

Medium (3 pts.)

Hard (4 pts.)

				Connections
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

				Connections
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

CRYPTOGRAM

Clue: Ariel Otis (anagram, 1 word)

How-to:

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

Y G H Y T T Z I H A M E Q M V B N N M Q M L H

S A M L E T G S C H P A C N M O F

E T G Q M I T Q H T N C L T G H I B V M Q

O T T Z B L R B L S B H A C Y T T Z

E T G Q M Q B R A H H A M Q M E T G C Q M

B L I B V M E T G C Q M H A M F C B L

P A C Q C P H M Q

(3 pts.)

Anagram: _____

(1 pt.)

Quote from: _____

(1 pt.)

LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Puzzlers	Points (Last week)	
1.	Team GuineaPig	82	52
2.	The Menu	73	35
3.	Tactless Tony	22	22
4.	Team Experial	22	8
5.	Team Jasmine&Hursh	12	-
6.	Team X-Sharon	6	-
6.	-
7.	-

Send a picture of your solved puzzles to **puzzles.felix@ic.ac.uk** by **Thursday** to get yourself or your team on the leaderboard! Partially completed Puzzles can still get you points!

Send them in by **Tuesday** if you want to see your points for this week in next week's issue.

COMIC

Submitted by Tengyu Zhao



Felix in autumn *to*

Puzzle Editor's Note

Dearest Puzzlers,

Hello again! Your humble Puzzles Editor has been busy submitting coursework this week, and as a reward for getting it done, he decided to give a small, really niche, and little-known doughnut chain a chance—hence the tasty theme for this week (we're not sponsored, I promise). So, have fun completing this week's offering, and if you find yourself feeling a bit peckish, go treat yourself!

Speaking of treats, of the more quizzical kind, we've got a whole new freshly-baked page of puzzles for you to consume this week (we like to keep you well-fed here at the Puzzles Section). We've got a mouthwatering Maze, a nutritious Nonogram, a bursting-with-flavour Bridges, and even a new Quiz Corner for a delicious 15 points!

On to the leaderboard: Team GuineaPig retain their pole position, but The Menu is chasing their lead. Tactless Tony and Team Experial are tied for 3rd, with Team Jasmine&Hursh and Team X-Sharon just joining the race. But with the buffet of points available this issue, everything could change, so keep those solutions coming everyone!

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

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

- Ivin

Previous Puzzles' solutions



Regular



Cryptic

Sleeping	Snow	Little	Beauty	First word of fairtales
Welsh	Carrot	Pan	Sponge	Cake type
[L]eave	[S]cat	[B]eat it	[S]cram	"Go away" missing first letter
Horse	Cucumber	Snail	Lion	Sea-creatures

Medium grouping grid

Muse	Ponder	Dwell	Contemplate	Synonyms for thinking
Minatour	Happy	Cockatrice	Griffin	Mythological creatures
Bird	Siren	Sing	Even	_____ song
Level	Fixed	Flush	Apartment	Synonyms for flat

Hard grouping grid

"You don't know about real loss, because it only occurs when you've loved something more than you love yourself and I doubt you've ever dared to love anybody that much."

Anagram: Madman Tot = Matt Damon
Quote from: Good Will Hunting

Cryptogram

SPORT

IC Barbell Society

This week, IC Barbell's PR manager Sukorno and team break down Olympic weightlifting techniques and share upcoming events.

IC Barbell PR manager SUKORNO ASAD

Our two main focuses as a club are powerlifting and olympic weightlifting. Powerlifting involves performing three lifts: the squat, benchpress, and deadlift. You might have performed some of these in your regular gym routine, which makes this an attractive route for beginners. You have three attempts at each lift, progressively increasing the weight on the bar if you complete them, and your final score is the total of your highest successful attempt for each lift. For example, a typical score card might look like "S 2/3, B 3/3, D 3/3". This means you failed your final squat attempt, but you nailed all 3 of your bench and deadlift attempts!

Ever seen those insanely strong people on the olympics throwing weights over their heads like it's nothing? That's olym-

pic weightlifting! It's made up of two lifts: the clean & jerk, and the snatch. Again, you have three attempts per lift. The clean and jerk involves pulling the bar up onto your shoulders (clean) before pushing it up past your head (jerk). The snatch involves pulling the bar up straight over your head starting from the ground. Both require some technical skill, but there's nothing practice can't teach.

Like any society, what makes Barbell is the people; the feeling of pushing yourself in a tough workout with your friends while hyping each other up, is like no other. Whenever someone goes for a personal record, screams fill the room and the energy is transcendental - it gives you chills.

Jai Hindocha, Mr President, adds: "Our members range from complete gym beginners to international competitors - there's space for absolutely everyone! We have weekly sessions with amazing professional coaches who design club

programmes for our members, and it's an incredibly welcoming environment. Our give-it-a-go sessions were a huge success, seeing a bunch of new members for both powerlifting and weightlifting!"

Inspired by French philosopher Albert Camus, Treasurer Aditya Jain uses this metaphor to describe the Barbell experience, "in the midst of winter, I found, within me, an invincible summer."

Our secretary, Carlotta Giacchero, shares: "I joined last year as I found a community of like-minded people to share my passion for lifting with, while getting support from world-class coaches! Barbell has seen great success this year, with many freshers deciding to join the strongest club at Imperial! Our give-it-a-go sessions were fully booked, but luckily those on a waitlist now get the chance to make up for it by joining our weekly Wednesday (powerlifting) and Saturday (Olympic weightlifting) sessions. With the help of our expert coaches, we

aim to proudly represent Imperial at the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) competitions once again, hopefully following in the footsteps of our very own Leonard Lai and Omar Abdelmajeed by setting new records! With socials, competitions and more trial sessions coming up it sure is looking like a great year."

Upcoming events

1. 30th Nov: Novice competition, aimed at those who've never competed before. You don't even need any International Powerlifting Federation (IPF)-approved equipment. It's very casual and very fun.

2. 1st-2nd Feb: London university varsity competition, an IPF-approved powerlifting competition, in collaboration with LSE, UCL, KCL and QMUL. It's very exciting, and can be used to qualify for nationals!



Group picture following Olympic weightlifting taster session Sukorno Asad



Powerlifting taster session Sukorno Asad