



Imperial College Union. Mohammad Majlisi for Felix

Union introduces security for Friday prayers as Muslim students struggle to find places to pray

Students struggle to find prayer rooms as student numbers grow and spaces fill

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

News Writer
NADEEN DAKA

Muslim students and staff are now required to present their Imperial IDs to attend Friday prayers in the Beit building from Friday, the 25th of October. Security was stationed at the doors of Beit due to overcrowding concerns, as Muslim members of Imperial gathered for Jumū'ah, the Friday congregational prayer.

Approximately 331 men and 21 women joined the prayer, while 31 external visitors were turned away at the doors because of security concerns. A member of Islamic Society (ISoc), familiar with the situation, commented, "The Union has definitely raised that they struggle to host us for Friday prayers. We use that space, and it's booked by us, but it's not ideal really." Another ISoc member familiar added, "With Friday prayers in particular, the biggest issue is capacity. People come, and if there's no space, then they'll have to end up praying slightly outside the room in the corridor, which is a health and safety concern. And we don't want our students to be just praying in the corridor."

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

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Signed by:
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI
Editor-in-Chief

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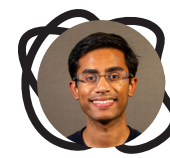
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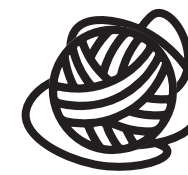
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EDITORIAL

Was that it?

Editor-in-Chief

MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

This week's election result is probably what most people on this side of the Atlantic were not hoping for, with a Republican majority in both the House of Representatives, the Senate, and Donald Trump as 47th President Elect. Only the second non-consecutive president in the history of America, Mr Trump is most emblematic of a country moving away from cartelised political structures back into populist appeal.

The Democrat party is a prime example of a cartel party – monopolising Political Action Committees (PACs) and heavily partisan media not to appeal to the masses, but rather to establish itself as the second political party in a two-party system. Biden's presidency failed to capitulate voters because it did not address their concerns about inflation and increases in cost-of-living. Harris, who seemed to offer a breath of fresh air, alienated her base by trying to appeal to the centre-right, seeking to ingratiate herself for no real material gain. Her policies were lacklustre, and the pitch of not being Trump does not cut it for people who want tangible change in their lives. Not to mention the fact that the Democratic Party seek to patronise their voters, aiming to shame them into voting. Instead of providing policies to vote for, the Democrats have continually relied on the idea that only by voting will your concerns as a demographic be considered – a gross inversion of true representative democracy. As Olivia Julianna, a pro-Democrat influencer, said at the Democratic National Convention earlier this year: "If you are not at the table, you are on the menu." And for many voters, the Democrat Party's failure to prevent them from being eaten by the economy compelled them to turn towards Trump.

Mr Trump, on the other hand, ran a good campaign. Despite getting shot at twice, and losing steam in the polls after, he experienced an upturn with his appointment of J.D. Vance, whose eloquence, policy focus and youthfulness played well with voters, even with his general antisocial behaviour and lack of charisma (see the video of him at the donut shop in Pennsylvania, or any of his interviews where he discusses his wife and children), in a way few politicians have. Compare and contrast with Tim Walz, the Democratic Vice-Presidential nominee, who performed well but was muzzled for no apparent reason. Trump's populist charm as a disruptor and someone who planned to make huge, sweeping reforms to the US political landscape ultimately won him an election; clearly, America is fed up with the neoliberal status quo.

It's important not to forget, that even if the Harris campaign was bad, there is a huge element of sexism that played into the campaigns. Unpleasant or not, Ms Harris is a woman, and her performance as both Vice President and future President was put to much higher scrutiny than Mr Trump's. With Republicans planning to restrict women's access to healthcare and abortion – despite several pro-choice referendums winning in red states, no doubt because women are also allowed to vote – the simple fact is that American men, and men across the West seek to reduce the rights that women have fought for across the past century. It's an ugly truth, but it is the truth. The Republican candidates have both been able to make incredibly disparaging and sexist remarks about women with impunity. Women in power are still seen as aberrations, viewed by men as intruders into a landscape they do not belong in, regardless of affiliation or their views, and Ms Harris, who was subject to claims of sexual impropriety in the opening days of her campaign, was no different. Viewed purely as sexual beings, her loss will always have

the subtext that she was a woman campaigning against a group of misogynists who had no qualms to fight against her because of her sex.

Whilst the UK might seem like a stalwart holding onto liberal values as the rest of the West leans further and further right, our own right-wing parties are beginning to turn towards more Trumpian antics. Reform, which came second in 98 constituencies, and the Conservatives with Kemi Badenoch as leader, are capitalising on a bubble of rising resentment caused by austerity and other fiscal policies. Starmer would do well to realise that he could very well be the next calamity of the populist right.

Correction to print edition

Last week's letter to the Editor (Issue #1855) was not accredited to its author, Steve Connolly, Undergraduate Education Coordinator, Department of Life Sciences, Imperial College.

NEWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

Jumu'ah prayers hold deep significance in Muslim practice. Idrees Mahmood, President of ISoc, emphasised, "Stopping Jumu'ah, stopping Friday prayers completely, is not an option, because it's a compulsory requirement for us Muslims, and we see it as that."

A spokesperson for the Union has stated, "Imperial College Union understands the profound importance of Friday prayers to the Muslim community at Imperial. As a result, we are taking appropriate measures to ensure it is managed safely."

"Currently, ICU provides ISoc with several, non-specialist spaces for students and staff to pray on Fridays during term time. All usage of Union spaces must comply with the law, our charitable objectives, health and safety legislation, and fire safety regulations. This means that only Imperial students and staff are allowed to access the prayer."

"Unfortunately, overcrowding and the presence of the general public has led to health, safety, and building compliance concerns during this necessary period of worship. The required measure of security enables all students and staff to pray safely in the Union building. We are also looking into other space-saving initiatives."

"In the longer term we are working with the University to ensure there is appropriate facilities for the Imperial Muslim community at all campuses."

Prayer rooms: a long-term issue

For Muslim students, the lack of adequate prayer spaces on campus isn't a new problem. While Imperial's chaplaincy provides a space for daily prayers in the basements of 14 and 15 Princes Gardens, members of the Muslim community report that the facilities are far from ideal. There is also a new prayer space due to open at 88 Wood Lane

The chaplaincy basements

are a 10- to 20-minute walk from the main South Kensington campus, with the Huxley and Blakett buildings situated the furthest distance from the prayer rooms. This distance becomes increasingly problematic during winter, when compressed prayer times leave students rushing between their classes and the prayer room, making it difficult to observe their religious practices without disrupting their academic schedules.

As ISoc Vice-President Zaynab Choudhury explains, students end up

"having to go to some staircase or find random places in the corridor to pray."

Mahmood also stated students "feel like they have eyes on them. They constantly feel a bit uncomfortable."

Choudhury flagged additional concerns, noting that the lack of elevator access makes the prayer rooms inaccessible to "people who have mobility issues". she explains that "it just means that they would never be able to use the prayer room".

While the basement is adequate

for daily prayers, as they have a time interval in which they can be prayed in, it is too small to accommodate the larger number of students and staff attending Friday prayers. With approximately 300 attendees regularly gathering for Jumu'ah each week, the basement's limited capacity poses significant concerns regarding time management and safety.

Choudhury points out, "The problem with this is that you have 100 people at once packed into the basement. When something happens, it takes them 10 minutes

to get in, and 10 minutes to get out. So, if something like a fire happens, someone will get injured."

Beyond logistical issues, persistent maintenance problems such as leaks, dampness, and limited ventilation add to the safety hazards in the basements. This can be especially inconvenient for things like "wudu", the religious ablution that must be completed before each prayer. Last November, a water leak in 15B Princes Gardens led to several months of work due to the location of a services

pipe that affected other buildings.

The Union has attempted to address these challenges by accommodating Friday prayers in Beit. Renovation plans for the Great Hall include a dedicated washing area and provisions for Friday prayer, but this change is unlikely to be put in place before 2026, leaving two more years of struggling with inadequate facilities.

The ISoc committee and its members believe that the best solution would involve directly engaging with the Imperial College administration to establish dedicated prayer spaces across campus. Until now, communication around prayer spaces has only taken place through the Union.

An Imperial College London spokesperson said: "Prayer spaces are a fundamental service for our staff and student community and providing appropriate spaces to meet demand is a priority as we continue to develop our campuses."

"As part of the renovation of the Great Hall, we have been working with Imperial's Islamic Society, the Prayer Spaces Working Group and Imperial College Union to support the hall's use for Friday Prayers."

"There is also work ongoing to identify further opportunities for multi-faith spaces on the South Kensington and White City campuses, so we can continue to support the needs of our community in the coming years - with a new space for Islamic Prayer set to open on the White City Campus this term."

When asked why prayers are so important for Muslims, Choudhury explained: "It's a part of our life, just like living and breathing. And we only want to be able to kind of reconcile the spiritual obligations with our educational obligations."

"And if college were able to acknowledge that would make the lives and the well-being of Muslim students improve drastically."



A leaky roof in 15B Princes Gardens. Idrees Mahmood



This suspicious liquid isn't urine, but instead the water collected from a leak in 14B Princes Gardens. Idrees Mahmood

Students watch as striking museum security guards march through South Kensington

Striking guards marched with placards and music through Imperial College Road

Editor-in-Chief

MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Members of the United Voices of the World (UVW) union marched through Imperial College Road at 6pm on Thursday 31st October. The strikers carried placards, banners and played music as student onlookers took videos of the procession.

Security guards are striking due to a pay dispute with their employer, Wilson James. Wilson James is contracted by both the Natural History and Science Museums to provide security services.

The UVW claims that they are facing a real term pay cut. Between October 2011 and October 2024, the cost of goods and services has risen by 64.7% according to calculations done by the UVW, compared to a cumulative pay increase of 30.2%. The security guards are also seeking statutory sick pay from day one of calling off sick. Across the UK, statutory sick pay is only offered after three days of illness.

“I’m here at the picket line today because in the last three years everything’s changed. Travel’s gone up, living costs have gone up, food prices, rent... everything’s gone up but our wages have stayed the same. I’m also striking for sick pay because we don’t get it for the first three days and it makes it very difficult to pay our bills if we get ill,” said a secu-

rity guard at the picket, in a UVW press release.

A Wilson James Spokesperson said: “At Wilson James, we place the highest value on our colleagues’ contributions to protecting and enhancing visitor experiences at the Natural History and Science Museums. The safety of both our team members and the public are our top priority, and we are committed to maintaining a respectful and fair working environment. We offer competitive compensation to our employees and remain dedicated to fair and transparent negotiations. Throughout the year, we have been in negotiations with our recognised unions at the museums and are currently seeking to engage with UVW through a formal recognition agreement, to facilitate dialogue with their members about pay and working conditions.”

The strike action on 31st October was the fourth, and final strike that UVW workers will be enacting. Members of the union voted almost unanimously to strike between 25–27 October and 30 October – 1 November, with 96% in favour of a strike, with a turnout of 95%.



Striking security guards walking through South Kensington campus. Mohammad Majlisi for Felix

Home fees to rise for the first time in eight years

News Writer

NADEEN DAKA

Undergraduate tuition fees for students in England will increase from £9,250 to £9,535 for the 2025/26 academic year, marking the first rise since they were capped in 2017. Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson confirmed this change in Parliament on Monday 4th November through an announcement on “higher education reforms”.

Phillipson announced that maintenance loans will also be adjusted to support students facing the rise in the cost of living. Maintenance loan caps for students living in London will rise from £13,348 to £13,762, while students outside London will see a change from £10,227 to £10,544. Despite these changes, Phillipson assured that student loan repayments for graduates would not increase. This rise in prices is tied to inflation adjustments based on the Retail Price Index (RPIX), which is currently at 3.1%.

The recent announcement has been met with mixed reactions, given Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s 2020 Labour party leadership campaign promised to eliminate tuition fees altogether. Conservative Shadow Education Secretary Laura Trott commented that students will “suffer” from increased tuition. Vivienne Stern, Chief Executive of Universities UK, the organisation which represents 141 universities and higher education providers in Britain, has welcomed the changes as “the right thing to do.” She also described the previous price freeze as “completely unsustainable for both students and universities.” The increase in fees comes after growing concern for universities finances after the Office for Students warned that 40% of universities have predicted a deficit for the 2024/25 academic year. A long-term plan detailing the future of tuition fees after April 2026 is yet to be outlined by the government.

One in five manifestos written using AI for Autumn elections

AI use rampant as students turn to large language models to write their manifestos.

News Writer
TAYLOR POMFRET

News Writer
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Analysis on manifestos submitted for the Autumn election completed by Felix shows that 20% of candidates that supplied manifestos were significantly likely to have been written using large language model AI tools.

The data was checked using online AI checking tool GPTZero, which suggested out of 962 candidates, 132 used a significant amount of AI, classed as anything over a 0.66 probability of AI usage, while 37 moderately used AI, defined as a 0.33 to 0.66 probability of AI usage. This amounted to 17.6% of candidates to have likely been using AI to partially or completely write their manifestos, which is cumulatively 28.6% of manifestos, as 297 candidates did not submit a manifesto.

Approximately half of the candidates who significantly used AI were elected for the roles they applied for (48.9%), implying they often beat out RON or other candidates who wrote their own manifestos. This was negligibly larger than the percentage of candidates who moderately used AI, 48.6%, suggesting using AI to entirely generate a manifesto offered the same, if not more chance of success as using it to edit or brainstorm a manifesto. The proportion of candidates who were elected using little to no AI was only slightly larger at 57.2%, indicating that use of AI, while obvious in majority of cases, did not significantly disadvantage candidates. As the figures show, around two-fifths of the elected candidates used AI to assist their campaign partially or totally.

The use of AI varied depending on the type of role applied for. The majority of candidates for both CSPs (Clubs, Societies and Projects) and Representatives had little-to-no AI use in their manifestos. However, the data for Liberation and Community Networks showed a slightly different story. The Liberation and Com-

munity Networks (LCNs) candidates were a smaller group, given the lesser number of roles to apply for and comprising of only 65 candidates out of a total 962; despite the lower number of roles, the AI usage in this group of individuals was

Writer's Society. Applications to become representatives were not excluded from such cases with one individual applying to seven roles with AI-generated manifestos. As many of these manifestos were either the only entry or the singular entry

How many of those that were elected used AI?

From those who provided a manifesto, 325 were elected, while 268 were not. Focussing on those who were elected, it is shown that 20% of these manifestos were significantly likely to have used AI.

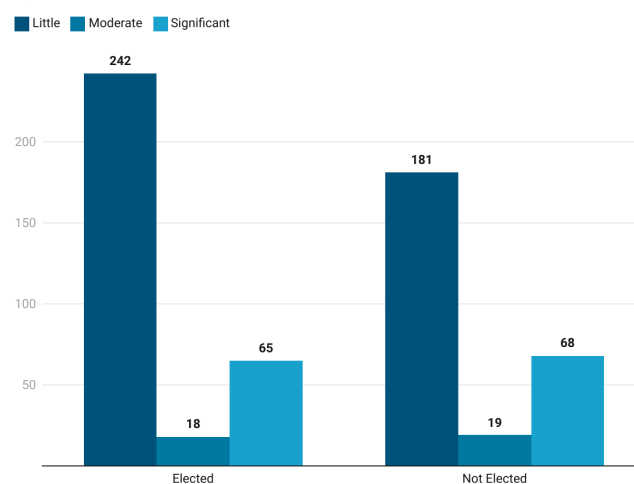


Chart: Felix • Source: Imperial College Union Autumn Elections 2024 (Data), GPTZero (AI Detector) • Created with Datawrapper

much more significant than either of the other two categories. Almost half of the entries for LCNs were created with a significant use of AI.

There were several cases of candidates applying to multiple positions using AI-generated manifestos. Notably, in the case of the LCNs roles having a higher proportion of significant AI use, one candidate applied to nine roles using AI-generated manifestos, which amounted to 13.8% of total applications within the LCNs category. In addition, two candidates in the CSPs group submitted 15 AI-generated applications each, which included several applications to literary oriented societies such as Felix and

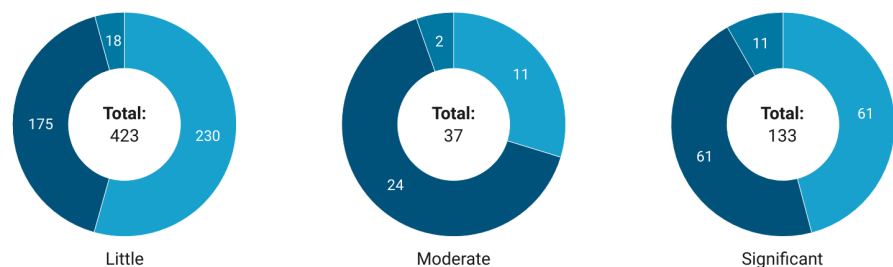
with a manifesto for a role, these individuals were elected to several posts each.

Felix also identified five unique authors of manifestos who each submitted 10 or more manifestos for roles. In total, the five authors submitted 70 applications, with the most submitted by a single author being 19 applications. Of the 70 applications, 44 had written manifestos. 31 of these were flagged as being significantly likely to have been written by AI, corresponding to 70% of the total written manifesto count in this sample— notably higher than the typical rate of around 20% significant chance of usage of AI for the full dataset.

AI usage of amongst candidates

Count of candidates' predicted AI usage bands, from those who provided a manifesto (n = 593).

■ Representatives ■ CSPs ■ Liberation and Community Networks



Little chance of AI corresponds to $0 < p < 0.33$, moderate chance corresponds to $0.33 < p < 0.66$, significant chance corresponds to $0.67 < p < 1$.
Chart: Felix • Source: Imperial College Union Autumn Elections 2024 (Data), GPTZero (AI Detector) • Created with Datawrapper

SCIENCE

A future with decentralised science

Promoting equity and transparency in scientific research and healthcare data storage.

Science Writer

ELDRIAN JIAT YANG THO

Science Writer

ANGELA MEILAN FARESE

Decentralised Autonomous Organisations (DAOs) are entities operating through smart contracts on a blockchain, enabling members to participate in governance and decision-making without a central authority. DAOs are built on the principle of decentralisation, granting equal decision-making power to all members, and relying on transparent, community-driven voting processes.

This democratic structure eliminates hierarchical control ensuring every member has an equal voice. The blockchain's transparency and traceability foster trust among participants, with the automation of operations enhancing efficiency by removing intermediaries and enabling real-time decision implementation.

DAOs use decentralised blockchain technologies for funding and data sharing. In a DeSci framework, DAOs manage research funding, ensuring transparent and democratic resource allocation. Researchers, institutions, and independent scientists can propose projects following which DAO members vote on which projects receive funding, thereby democratising resource allocation. Additionally, DeSci promotes

open access to research data and findings. By storing and sharing data on a blockchain, the information becomes publicly accessible and immutable, reducing the risk of data manipulation or concealment. The concept of a DAO has been recognised in major journals like *Nature Biotechnology* and recently in *Frontiers in Blockchain*.

VitaDAO and AthenaDAO are prominent examples of DeSci in research funding. VitaDAO focuses on longevity research, currently raising funds to launch two start-ups, Matrix Bio and Artan Bio. AthenaDAO funds women's health research. On the other hand, ValleyDAO, partnering with Imperial College London, advocates for sustainability research projects. This is just the tip of the iceberg and there are many more examples shown below.

Genomes.io is a genomic cybersecurity company co-founded by Aldo de Pape (CEO) and Imperial College London alumnus, Dr Mark Hahnel (CSO). Genomes.io uses DeSci to ensure security of their users' genomic and healthcare data.

Eldrian talked to the CEO of Genomes.io about the importance of DeSci to the company's mission. "At Genomes.io, we have a clear mission: to build the world's largest user-owned genomics database. We believe that individuals should have complete control over their genomic data, addressing critical issues that often get overlooked; privacy, security, and ownership concerns related to DNA anal-

ysis and sharing.

The DeSci narrative helps us to find other organisations who have a similar mission and allows us to start advantageous partnerships that can grow our offerings and communities."

The end of 2024 has seen a record number of cybersecurity hacks, mirroring trends from 2023. This includes the November 2023 hack on genetic testing company 23andMe, where 7 million users' healthcare data were leaked, reported alarmingly to have been orchestrated against users of Ashkenazi Jewish and Chinese descent.

Similarly in June 2024, a Russian cyber-criminal group hacked the NHS, resulting in 400 GB of private patient data being shared on the dark net. Two NHS Trusts greatly affected by the hack was King's College and St Thomas' Hospital.

These incidents highlight the sensitivity of genomic and healthcare data, which can reveal genetic ancestry and predispositions to diseases.

Genomes.io's use of decentralised blockchain technologies allow users to take full ownership of their health data. Those users who invest in their health by generating ancestry and health reports are rewarded for their time with cryptocurrency tokens.

Decentralised science is a new avenue integrating blockchain technology and science to solve some of the most challenging problems underlying life science research in both academia and

industry. The DeSci movement has been explosive and has seen the formation of dedicated communities like DeSci London, DeSci Scotland and DeSci Seoul. Effective science communication and education is key to growing these initiatives!

Aldo de Pape commented: "As the DeSci narrative grows - through conferences, events, and alliances organised all over the world - it will allow us to better position ourselves assuring a vast uptake of people and companies who share the same ethos of data sovereignty".

DAOs promote values such as generosity, intellectual rigour, critical thinking, and honesty. If you would like to get involved, ImperialDAO's activities consist of several verticals and serve as the governing body of the Blockchain Society at Imperial, which currently unites over 600 members. It consists of projects including the Angel Syndicate, developer hubs, research, and networking events.

For those interested in an inclusive and transparent system, DAOs present a compelling choice.

Competing Interests: Eldrian Jiat Yang Tho is a former employee at Genomes.io and holds memberships in major DeSci organisations, including Genomes.io, VitaDAO, AthenaDAO and ValleyDAO. Angela Meilan Farese is a member of ImperialDAO.

New Alzheimer's drug rejected by NICE

Despite setbacks, the quest for groundbreaking Alzheimer's treatments continue.

Science Writer
AMELIE BURFORD

On the 23rd of October, NICE made headlines for its decision to reject donanemab - a new Alzheimer's drug - for use in NHS England, citing budget constraints. This comes after a similar pioneering Alzheimer's drug, lecanemab, was also rejected by NICE despite being approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Both drugs have been viewed by researchers as a potentially big step forward in the fight against Alzheimer's, as they target known causes of the disease rather than just tackling symptoms like most drugs currently available on the market. Donanemab works by binding to amyloid — one of the proteins, along with tau, that is associated with Alzheimer's disease — to clear buildup in

the brain. Although not a cure, the drug has been shown to slow the progression of cognitive decline in patients with Alzheimer's disease.

However, this comes at a steep cost, both due to the price of the drug itself and the labour and equipment required to monitor patients for dangerous side effects. It is this cost that led NICE to reject donanemab for use on the NHS. Helen Knight, director of medicines evaluation

at NICE, stated that the potential benefits of donanemab are “just not enough to justify the additional cost to the NHS.”

This decision to reject both drugs for use in the NHS has been met with frustration and disappointment by charities. “While these drugs are not cures and come with the risk of side-effects, trials show they are the first treatments to slow the decline in memory and thinking skills linked to Alzheimer's, rather than just alleviating symptoms,” stated Hilary Evans-Newton, chief executive at Alzheimer's Research UK, following the

standing of the decision, particularly in the context of an NHS that is already at a financial breaking point. For example, Professor Paul Morgan at the UK Dementia Research Institute Cardiff labelled the drugs as “eye-wateringly expensive, difficult to administer and potentially harmful”.

Another major concern of some charities is that this decision by NICE may dissuade scientists from carrying out pioneering research into Alzheimer's in the UK. As a spokesperson for Alzheimer's Research UK stated, the announcement

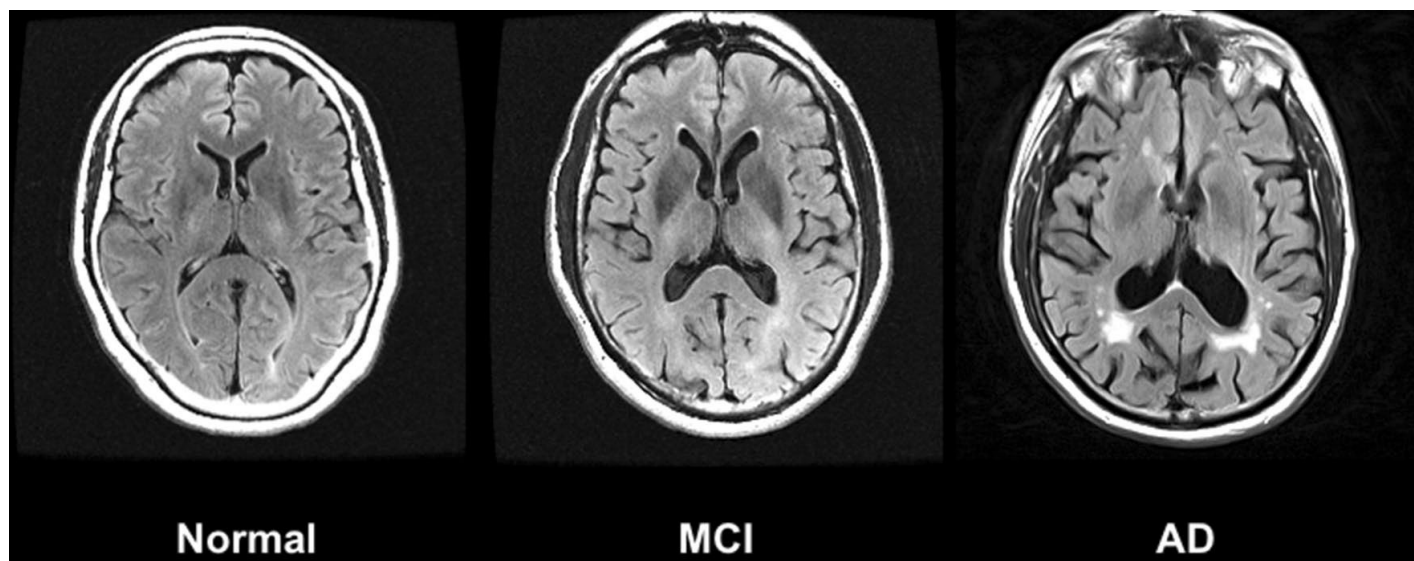
low rate of participation in clinical trials in 2021-2022, with just 61 patients participating. Although this initiative has been in the making long before NICE's announcement, it is impossible to not view it as a reaction to the rejection of the two potentially revolutionary drugs.

Earlier in the month, a research team here at Imperial College London received funding from Gates Ventures for a three-year research programme into the risk factors and markers of Alzheimer's. Headed by Professor Lefkos Middleton at the AGE research unit in the School

of Public Health, the programme will explore the cognitive trajectories of individuals with differing levels of beta-amyloid (the protein targeted by donanemab) and tau. It will act as a continuation of the CHARIOT PRO sub-study, which is among the largest and most comprehensive studies to explore the changes in cognitive

health in older adults over time. Thanks to the funds, the follow-up will expand to 12 years.

Although NICE's decision to reject the provision of donanemab and lecanemab on the NHS is undoubtedly disappointing to both researchers of Alzheimer's and those affected by the condition, these two new developments disprove the idea that the UK is not a hub for innovative research into Alzheimer's.



Magnetic resonance imaging in Alzheimer's disease highlighting white matter hyperintensities Username: MalingeRange (CC BY-SA 4.0)

decision. There are also concerns that this decision may only widen the pre-existing disparities in healthcare access in the UK; since donanemab has been approved by the MHRA it will be available for use in England, just not on the NHS, and therefore some are worried that it may create a two-class system comprised of those who can afford private healthcare and those who cannot.

However, others are more under-

“risks signalling that the UK is no longer a good place to launch new dementia treatments.”

However, this was seemingly instantly proven incorrect on the 24th of October, when the Dementia Trials Accelerator was launched by the UK Dementia Research Institute and Health Data Research UK, which aims to enrol tens of thousands of dementia patients in clinical trials. This comes after a historically

ENVIRONMENT

"Anti-capitalism: I'm all for it" says Caroline Lucas at Imperial lecture



The Great Hall was packed for the event. Oscar Mitcham

Grantham Institute's annual lecture cut through the noise with former Green Party co-leader and panelists.

Environment Editor
OSCAR MITCHAM

This year's Grantham Institute Annual Lecture was given by Caroline Lucas. The former MP and Green Party co-leader spoke about the links between the growth of the far-right and of the planetary crises.

Last week, according to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretary General, even if every country delivers on their promises, we will still fall far short of what's needed. He relayed that this is a human and economic train wreck, Lucas explained.

Alongside this, Lucas laid out how "climate has become the new front line in culture wars" with the far-right on the rise and weaponising climate action a major feature of their playbook. Lucas' approach to addressing these twin crises is extremely intersectional: "the case I want to make tonight is that tackling climate breakdown and challenging populism are the same battle." She explained that "nationwide investment, democratic renewal, community resilience, and active hope" are not only essential solutions to the climate crisis but are also the strongest antidotes to the rise of populism.

The Reform party manifesto for example, Lucas pointed out, contains all five flavours of climate denial: "it's not

real, it's not us, it's not bad, we can't fix it, [and] it's too late." However, proponents of climate action don't do themselves any favours by focusing on deadlines and taking such a technocratic approach. We lend the far-right strength by letting them set themselves in opposition to that, Lucas continued. They can portray themselves as community-focused, free-choice advocates that are essential parts of climate policymaking.

Messaging is something the Left have been terrible at for as long as I've



Being denied hope is a political and a moral failure.

paid attention to politics, and this really points to why. The far right can spew as much mis- and disinformation as they want, so long as they are the main group asking voters "What are you angry about?" and "What do you want?". They can then direct that energy at whatever out-group they wish.

Lucas stressed, "[We] have to be certain that no one on lower incomes loses out, period." because failing to do this again hands ammunition to the right. See the backlash to the ULEZ in London, for example. Our investments

must, therefore, always be genuinely progressive.

Climate finance for adaptation and resilience continues to fall way short of what's needed. Lucas pointed out that adaptation has a special power that mitigation does not, in that it is incredibly local. Getting involved in local adaptation is essential to community resilience. Separate to the talk, leaflets from Community Energy England, that were distributed in the reception, explained, "Community energy is people getting together in their communities to work on energy solutions to the climate crisis ... all the while increasing community cohesion and resilience and delivering huge social benefits to local people."

Humans are natural cooperators, but the neoliberal narrative of people as individuals always competing with one another prevents us from realising this, Lucas explained. With her PhD in 16th century literary romance, Lucas made it clear that the arts are required to change these kinds of stories. She made the point that this narrative is crucial to a democratic renewal.

Lucas quoted Czech writer and dramatist Václav Havel saying, "hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but that it is worth doing no matter how it turns out." As much as adults take so much hope from young people, Lucas reminded us, they must give something back, and not only

protect young people, but centre them in decision making. She concluded, "Being denied hope is a political and a moral failure."

Lucas joined Prof Tahseen Jafry, Founding Director at the Mary Robinson Centre for Climate Justice, Jon Alexander, Co-founder of the New Citizen Project, and Zamzam Ibrahim, former president of the National Union of Students for a panel and Q&A.

The panel weaved from climate justice, to storytelling, global development, to problems with politics in the UK and anti-capitalism. Jon Alexander explained how talking about anti-capitalism might not be enough, because it focuses on the thing we aim not to be. He emphasised that we cannot solve the problem from within a system that frames us as individuals.

Zamzam Ibrahim spoke eloquently about justice and how not working through a justice lens only ends up exacerbating those problems. She used an analogy from Malcolm X when talking about the need for climate adaptation and mitigation: "if you stab me nine inches and pull out the knife six inches, then you haven't solved the problem. If you pull it out all the way you still haven't solved the problem. Solving the problem is in healing. How do we heal our communities?" She explained the need to focus on how we can "unfuck ourselves and the systems and rebuild systems of justice" to a round of applause.

After the event, the energy was palpable. Ideas from such exciting speakers set a high bar for climate action at Imperial and beyond, while clearly laying out what needs to be done.

COMMENT

DEI and Women in Physics: does DEI work?

Beyond the superficiality of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion frameworks, action must be taken for women and minorities to prosper in the sciences

Comments Writer

ANUBHA SUKHADA BAL

I believe it is necessary to establish a dedicated union for women in academia, rather than relying on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) strategies, to facilitate campaigning for our interests. I won't discuss specific union structures, but rather defend the concept of unionisation for women in the workplace as the way forward. My points are mostly relevant to fields where women are largely outnumbered, such as my field – theoretical physics, but my beliefs extend to any minority group in any workplace. I was inspired to write after celebrating graduation and reflecting on my own experience so far at Imperial.

Each year, while International Women's Day and Women at Imperial week roll around, the reality remains bleak: in Physics, the number of women stays low, leaving me ever more uninspired.

Firstly, I will discuss my general distrust of DEI initiatives. It appears universities and workplaces invent lip-service strategies so they can appear to be aiding change. It appears the focus of DEI initiatives is "raising awareness" rather than doing anything. Crucially, these initiatives do not focus on retention (ensuring minorities are not pushed out of academia over time). The first point which makes me skeptical about DEI strategies is how easily they blend into capitalist structures, which unfortunately include education, and the corporate world.

DEI is a recent trend, but I have not seen historical examples of organisations which demanded better conditions

for workers be supported by those at the top. In general, movements which were successful in changing working conditions usually had to campaign against management. Socially changing any environment usually comes with some kind of pushback or opposition and should require campaigning if the changes are to be substantial. We see that relevant organisations, like trade unions, tend to consistently be at odds with management. We also see that, if allowed to operate properly, they are very effective in protecting workers. Organisation and unionisation are crucial to achieve social advancement in the workplace. Effective movements certainly don't blend easily into management structures. DEI does, which is the first red flag. If it were doing something, those changes would be apparent, not just directly (e.g., substantially increased numbers of women in academia and better retention), but we would see substantially more opposition, as we have come to expect with any impactful social change. Additionally, senior management level departments generally have an interest in the reputation of the company or institution.

There is a reasonable question to ask: can DEI strategies even solve the issues? For this, we need to ask firstly why women don't enter fields like physics, and secondly, why so many quit.

The answer to the former is a complicated blend of socialisation and misogyny, with boys still dominating school classes. These problems are far

too extensive: the socialisation pushing women away from academics starts almost from birth and can't be solved by compulsory empathy courses for students when they arrive at university. One thing universities can do, however, is attempt to investigate their own biases in admissions processes. This would demand thorough, transparent investigations into whether there are links between, for instance, male-majority admissions committees, and lower female admission rates, and strategies to change this. I believe measures like this, which would threaten



The rights of workers aren't just given from employer goodwill

the reputation of universities, are things that university heads would be unwilling to implement fully without significant campaigning.

The latter point, resulting in a female proportion of approximately 10% at professor level in physics, is again complicated by social issues including uncompensated and disproportionate domestic labour requirements for women. There is another question as to what universities can do about these issues, and I honestly think that they cannot do much to fix the root causes without radical social change. Yet, there are ways that they can contribute, for example by designing more flexible work schedules for women specifically. Overall, the rights of workers need to be lobbied and campaigned for; they are not just given from employer goodwill. I cannot fathom why social change for women is not viewed in the same way,

and why we trust DEI schemes to help us.

There is another obvious reason women leave academics: routine misogyny by their male majority cohort or colleagues. Things will not change until men in academia treat women better, and they will not do this willingly for the most part. It certainly helps to have strong communities like departmental women's societies, but until we are treated with dignity by the majority, nothing will change. Solving this will have to involve some form of enforcement as a matter of policy, as it is extremely unlikely that men who enter academia as undergraduates after two decades of patriarchal socialisation will change so easily. For example, easier mechanisms to report experiences, however minor, and swift investigation and disciplinary action, could be instated even at undergraduate level. Calling to implement harsher policies will require protest, and then negotiation for which we must organise.

This culminates in the crux of my point: there is no point relying on the goodwill of those in charge of universities to aid radical change to the status quo. Trade unions focus on improving pay and conditions, a cause for which they are important. The treatment of women in academia, and specifically in fields like physics, warrants organised action too. This could be done by establishing a new type of trade union altogether, or ensuring existing unions implement new departments or divisions to lobby for systematic change for both women and minorities. The work environment will not change instantly, but it will never change at all if we continue to rely on false promises.

CULTURE

Allegri's Misery

How a terrible mistake led to one of choral music's most iconic pieces

Arts Editor Emeritus
GILBERT JACKSON

Allegri's *Miserere* is perhaps one of the most iconic pieces of choral music in the world, and that isn't gross hyperbole on my account. If you ask anyone without a choral background if they knew any choral works, most of them would probably mention the anachronistic *Miserere*; famous, of course, for its ludicrously high "top C" in the soprano part, which means it is often a choral showstopper

for many around the world. However, I don't use the word "ludicrously" lightly: compared to the rest of the piece it is incredibly out of place within the score (which possibly lends to its iconic status) and harmonically it is a gear-shift compared with the rest of the piece – in other words, something is not quite right.

To tell the truth, it isn't correct at all: if Allegri were here now to listen to his piece, he would probably scream and shout at whomever was responsible for such gross abuse of conventional 17th century practices. So how did this come

about, who is responsible for this error, and – to quote a famous Claymation contractor – can we fix it?

Allegri was a prominent 17th century composer in the employ of the Sistine Chapel when he wrote his famous *Miserere* in "the old style" of composition. He used structure and harmony more conventional for the renaissance rather than the baroque period of which he was actually associated with. The Sistine choirs at that time were notable for their flamboyant and rich vocal techniques, often using ornamentation that was said to be found nowhere else in the world. This idea that you could only hear such expert music in Rome led to the idea that the *Miserere* could not be taken out of the Sistine chapel (it is more likely that you could perform the music anywhere, but, rather poetically, it would never be the same as hearing it in the Sistine chapel itself).

The other famous, now believed to be apocryphal, story is that the young Mozart heard the piece once and transcribed it perfectly from memory later after the service. In reality, many famous composers and musicologists went to great lengths to transcribe not only the outline of the *Miserere* but also to capture the various ornaments and embellishments for which the Sistine choir were famous. One such composer was Felix Mendelssohn who wrote a

brief excerpt of the score in his journal.

It is at this point that things began to go awry: Mendelssohn had transcribed the first part of the *Miserere*, except it was four whole tones higher than usual and in a different key, leading to the soprano having to sing the famous top C. However, when musicologist William Rockstro decided to compile the *Miserere* based on existing excerpts (including Mendelssohn's), he made two mistakes: first he put Mendelssohn's extract in the second half of the score, and second he left Mendelssohn's excerpt in C minor despite using the original extract in G minor. He erased Allegri's original harmonic progression in the second half, and also allowed for the bass to leap a diminished 5th out of the blue; the diminished 5th is a highly frowned upon in harmonic progression, particularly for music in the time of Allegri. In essence, Rockstro had fitted together the wrong pieces of the puzzle.

As such, the harmonic progression that we know today is, quite literally, out of place and quite plainly incorrect. But does it matter? If you're a die hard traditionalist musician, you may think that this is erasure of the original piece, and no longer resembles Allegri's *Miserere* – if you replace all the music to Allegri's *Miserere*, is it still Allegri's *Miserere*? But perhaps this 'mistake' is quite fortuitous, after all; the piece is famous among the general public for its out-of-place top C, and the strangeness of its harmonic progression imbues a haunting quality which lends itself to the time of year when this piece is usually performed. Whatever your point

of view, the thing about music is that musicians are allowed to have their interpretations – have the top C, don't have the top C. At the end of the day, it should be something people are allowed to play around with; and if anything it keeps music fresh and alive, as is this 17th century motet which is still performed to this day.

Mendelssohn Extract in Cminor

Mendelssohn Excerpt (19th Century) Gilbert Jackson

Original Excerpt in Gminor

The Original Excerpt (17th Century) Gilbert Jackson

Original Excerpt Transposed to Cminor

Mendelssohn Transcription

The Corrected Version Gilbert Jackson

Rockstro's Version (now usually performed) Gilbert Jackson

FILM&TV

Money made me do it

How *The Conjuring* franchise is the best example of dilution through mass appeal.

Film Writer

BARNABY HILTON-ROYCE

To preface this, I must admit that while I am a big horror fan, I'm not necessarily a fan of supernatural or religiously inspired horror unless it's done in a genuinely clever way, like Paul W. S. Anderson's *Event Horizon*. I would even class the first two *Hellraiser* movies as those that get the supernatural right. I am not the target audience of *The Conjuring*, but when one sees that *The Conjuring* franchise is the highest-grossing horror franchise of all time, one does begin to wonder if they are actually any good.

And, to my honest surprise, the first two movies in the main franchise are decent. *The Conjuring* is a lovely, if slightly conventional flick that does some genuinely clever things. I appreciate how at times the camera work is presented in documentary fashion, as well as the sub-

version of jump scares into scares that are genuinely terrifying; one scene that comes to mind is when the mother in the first film (the family is clichéd and mostly rather forgettable, apart from Joey King's character who is great as a scream queen) is locked in the basement with just matches, only for hands to appear and clap behind her – a much better effect than some makeup caked oddity jumping out into the camera.

The second movie is set in Enfield and is much scarier, again due to the fact it utilises more of these subversions. Things never seem to happen the way they think, and you're edged onwards in a constant state of tension, waiting for something to happen. However, the mass market appeal plays more into the second outing, since it not only does have more scares, but also more jump scares. And the god damn nun.

The Nun, and the Nun in it are not that scary. Yes, they do cool things with her in *The Conjuring 2*, but *The Nun* is a schlock fest. It's an idea purely borne by the fact that

everything to do with Catholicism is now spooky and scary. The subtext – though I doubt the writers planned on it happening – is of course based on the Catholic Church having been beset by scandals over the past few years and is no longer the same hallowed institution in a secular and sceptical world. But that is boring. It's the same shtick played out again, and since it's a cash grab spin-off designed because the Nun was scary, they use the movie as an excuse to get the masses into seats, throw in a bunch of medieval looking imagery, which isn't even close to any real magic – compare it to the actual *Ars Goetia* for the real Valak who is a demon that finds treasures. It's certainly not a scary nun whose screams can launch people into the sky, like they do several times consecutively in the climax of the movie.

You can see such degradation over time, as this promising horror franchise slowly replaces the thoughtfulness its scares had with cheap, gimmicky, and trope-laden movies. I haven't seen any of *The Conjuring* movies beyond *The Nun*, but if it's anything to indicate the direction of this franchise, I am not interested. Horror is evergreen, and has had a particularly good few years in the late 2010s and early 2020s. There's plenty more out there – watch a Robert Eggers flick instead.



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BOOKS

The demise of good books

Aditi criticises the way BookTok has and continues to mould the literary world.

Books Editor
ADITI MEHTA

Open BookTok – or any book-themed corner or social media – next to a friend. Chances are, you’ll see videos promoting the exact same books, differing only by influencer flair or corny hook – a rotation of “Books that altered my worldview”, “You have to read this” or “Novels that left me in pieces”. It’s repetitive and yet undeniably hypnotising.

I acknowledge the good BookTok has done. The promotion of reading on social media has helped revitalise young people to rediscover their love for reading. It has created communities to encourage reading, share recommendations, and foster discussion. These are all things we want in the world of literature. However, there is a deeper issue at the root of this phenomenon that makes me reconsider BookTok’s ‘positive’ impacts.

My qualm with BookTok is twofold. First, the stagnation beyond shallow level excitement and engagement with books. A reader picks up a book by, let’s say, Colleen Hoover. It’s gripping. It’s a quick and easy read. They want to read more. So they reach for another book that fits the mould, this time by by Ali Hazelwood.

On paper, the plot is different. But upon closer inspection, the style and the tropes – enemies-to-lovers, friends-to-lovers, accidental romance – are the same. A different font for the same brainrot.

While reading should no doubt be for enjoyment, it should also function to challenge our perspectives and expand our understanding of the world. The fundamental nature of TikTok is to create an algo-



Printerval

rithm that magnifies what we already know. How do we go beyond the trappings of our knowledge echo chambers if we are being fed the same predictable content?

My second problem with BookTok is its reshaping of the literary landscape towards hyper-consumption, much like the fast-fashion industry. Books are being turned into addictive commodities, loaded with repetitive ideas. They no longer imbibe a profound social truth,

instead stimulating us with the instant gratification of either finishing a book or mass consuming media.

As author Leigh Stein pointed out in her LitHub piece ‘BookTok is Good, Actually’, BookTok has a captive audience that makes it an ideal place for new authors to break into. What remains implicit in the article, however, is that BookTok is only a good platform if you conform to its gimmicks. The platform rewards a specific formula to gain readers’ attention, and authors who attempt to gain traction

publishing industry.

While the commodification of books may not seem so dire, it coincides with a worrying trend in education: literature is being pushed out from classrooms. Classic novels such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* are being banned, and while this isn’t directly related to BookTok, it reflects a wider cultural shift. When we take away the demands of patience, analysis, and a search for deeper meaning in art, we remain firmly within our intellectual comfort zone. Without these qualities, we are even more likely to fall victim to the mind-numbing, shallow algorithms of BookTok.

I don’t say this from a place of moral superiority or to criticise anyone who genuinely enjoys BookTok recommendations. Rather, I want to reflect on how social media and broader society is destroying our attention spans, interests, and the way we consume all forms of media.

BookTok is fun and easy and enjoyable. But that, in itself, is my problem with it. The increase in reading means nothing to me if what’s being read is, in essence, literary fast food. It feels we have reached a crossroad. It’s time to question whether we are using literature to open our minds or stay entertained in an endless loop of forgettable stories.

WRITE FOR BOOKS



WE WANT YOU

BUSINESS

The Core Values Driving Citadel's Success

Drew Gillanders shows how leadership, risk, and collaboration shape Citadel's success

Business Editor
ALIA FRIEDMAN

With over two decades of investment experience across the U.S. and Europe, Drew Gillanders, Head of International Equities, Europe at Citadel, has a strong background working at various financial institutions. You can therefore trust his insights when he describes the qualities that set Citadel apart. Founded in 1990 by Kenneth C. Griffin, Citadel is a global financial institution specializing in investment management.

At a recent event hosted by the Finance Society at Imperial College, Gillanders spoke with Felix about his career journey and Citadel's unique approach to risk management, leadership, and talent development. He began by emphasizing the significant impact of Ken Griffin's leadership on Citadel's sustained success. "His ability to go both broad and deep... sets the ethos," he stated. Gillanders highlighted that Griffin's vision permeates the firm's culture and drives Citadel's balance between calculated risk-taking and long-term growth. "Solving a problem today earns yourself the right to solve the next problem tomorrow." The overarching goal is to foster an environment where teams are empowered to innovate within a disciplined framework.

Gillanders elaborated on Citadel's core strengths, emphasizing meritocracy, a culture centered on problem-solving and collaboration, and a robust infrastructure that supports scalable investment strategies. He stated that at Citadel, meritocracy is not just a buzzword; it

is a fundamental aspect of the culture. By focusing on problem-solving and teamwork within a flat organizational structure, everyone – from portfolio managers to associates – is committed to addressing challenges and contributing solutions. The best ideas can emerge from any level. "It's quite frequent where you're getting the best answers from the associate, which... creates a great environment but also creates a great learning experience," Gillanders noted.

He also stressed the importance of staying vigilant and continuously evolving: "We're always trying to guard against complacency... always trying to evolve and find better ways of doing things." The strong culture of meritocracy and collaboration is bolstered by Citadel's world-class infrastructure and technology. "One of the things that Citadel does incredibly well is... having all that infrastructure around you to support your investment process," he noted. "Being furnished with KPIs and stats that allow you to make better decisions" is integral to their approach.

When asked why he returned to Citadel after a break, Gillanders pointed to the quality of its people and culture. "I missed the quality of the people, I missed the quality of the dialogue... that problem-solving culture, the collaborative nature of it," he shared. Citadel zealously seeks out the best talent, and Gillanders mentioned that, like much of the senior leadership, he personally seeks out and interviews candidates across all levels of seniority.

When hiring, Gillanders seeks individuals from diverse educational backgrounds who share a passion for

stocks, problem-solving, and resilience. "The first thing that I look for is evidence of passion about stocks," he explained. He places a high value on curiosity and a strong inclination toward problem-solving, which he views as essential for success. "A degree of curiosity and a problem-solving bias," he emphasized, are crucial traits for navigating the demanding environment at Citadel.

Equally important to Gillanders is resilience. Candidates need to be able to handle being wrong on a stock approximately half the time while demonstrating the ability to bounce back and learn from failures. "You have to be able to contextualize and put those mistakes in context, learn from them, retool and go again," he explained. For him, the ability to recover, adapt, and push forward after challenges is a key indicator of future success at Citadel.

Lastly, Gillanders values self-awareness and a structured approach to problem-solving. He stressed the significance of "understanding how an individual thinks about risk-reward and how they handle loss." He seeks individuals who can methodically break down complex challenges to thrive in Citadel's dynamic environment.

Gillanders also mentioned Citadel's shift toward college campus recruitment through the Citadel Associate Program (CAP). This comprehensive ten-week program aims to attract and develop early-career investment professionals by allowing participants to gain hands-on experience through coding, stock pitch evaluations, and desk rotations that simulate real-world investment processes.



L-R: Jamie M., Alia F., Drew G., William C., Aaron E.

"We're going direct to campus," Gillanders stated. "We believe that the mentorship that we provide, and the success of capturing people earlier in our organization actually has a profound impact on their success." Bringing in young talent allows the firm to mold future leaders who share its passion for problem-solving and innovation. With approximately half of Citadel's fundamental equities portfolio managers developed in-house, the effectiveness of this approach is evident.

He concluded by emphasizing that Citadel's recruitment reflects the firm's thorough approach to investment. They focus on identifying individuals with strong potential who will excel within Citadel's dynamic environment. "We hire very carefully. We seek to understand how they'll work in good markets and bad," Gillanders stated, highlighting the importance of strategic, long-term talent development at Citadel.

With a reputation for strategic excellence in both market investments and talent development, Citadel stands out as a place to build a career—if you can successfully make your case to their recruiters. Fortunately, Gillanders provided Felix and Imperial students with key insights on what it takes to succeed.

If you wish to upload your resume to Citadel, please scan the QR Code.



CATNIP



Your letters, our love

Agony Aunt
AUNTY FELICIA

Dear Aunty Felicia,

I'm recently divorced and not coping well. Last week I was invited to a couples-costume-only Halloween party, but I was the 37th guest. I went as the male lead in most Christopher Nolan films, with my own traumatic visions of my ex-wife taunting me. I stuck out like a sore thumb, a fifth wheel, a 37th person at a couples-only Halloween party. Being alone, out there, with no one to try and flirt with either so I could at least bury my sorrows with some top-notch chat about if they read the latest edition of *Felix* and if they like news, I tried reaching out to reconcile with her, but apparently that violates the terms of our separation.

Help me I'm confused,
M

I miss you baby

Dear M,

I am so sorry to hear that you are not coping well. 37 is a prime number, so you don't have any factors dragging you down apart from yourself and your loneliness. It seems like you and Nolan have a similar issue: a complete inability to understand and write women. I do not recommend writing to your wife, but instead taking some time to heal. Do you think you could contact me with your exact date, time, and location of birth, as well as your ex-wife's? I think this would give me some great insight. I think you should try investing into some clear quartz as this is the master healer, and maybe lay rest on the rose quartz for a while. Mindfulness journaling is a great technique, and if you go to my Amazon Storefront via the affiliate link we can get you started with a Moleskine journal and some Zebra mildliners.

Lots of love,
Aunty Felicia

I ♥ Catnip

Dear Aunty Felicia,

Recently I found the love of my life and after our first date at the JCR I knew she was, dare I say, the one? However, I recently discovered at our last anniversary that she is a not only "the one" but "one of many" and member of a polycule; a "congregation of the flesh" if you will. I've been dating her for another year now, and our anniversary is coming up again, but I'm having trouble with the gift giving. Do I just get her a gift or should I bring gifts for everyone else? I'm in my overdraft right now, and I don't want to look broke in front of the mutual partners for fear that they won't invite me to the next communal orgy. I don't want to ask her either in case she thinks I am having dissident thoughts against the executive polycule committee?

Please help!
Yours in a group of many others,
G

Dear G,

Have you considered buying a gift that could suit the needs of all parties? I would recommend purchasing either a wand or a rabbit, women love these. I would advise against roses or bullets though, as these are clichéd, unoriginal gifts, and a tad boring. You want to seem thoughtful. You should prioritise your finances rather than buying multiple gifts, but choose something considerate – perhaps a Hitachi massage wand (every one has back pain). Polycules are sometimes into peculiar activities though, so maybe you could get your girlfriend a nice string of beads (a bead for each member) and call it day. I am certain your gift will leave you quite the womaniser.

Contact me for some personal Storefront links for gifts that I've had great reactions to from partners.

Love to you and your peers,
Aunty Felicia

Dear Aunty Felicia,

Do you think there is a chance we could get a Larry appearance at L's funeral? Believe in their love. As a veteran Larrie, I've seen more than enough proof over the years to be certain of it. L is more cryptic beyond belief, and H - well - the flags speak for themselves. We have ALL read the lyrics of No Control. Do you think we could get a moment or two of affection at the event?

- Delularry89

XOXO

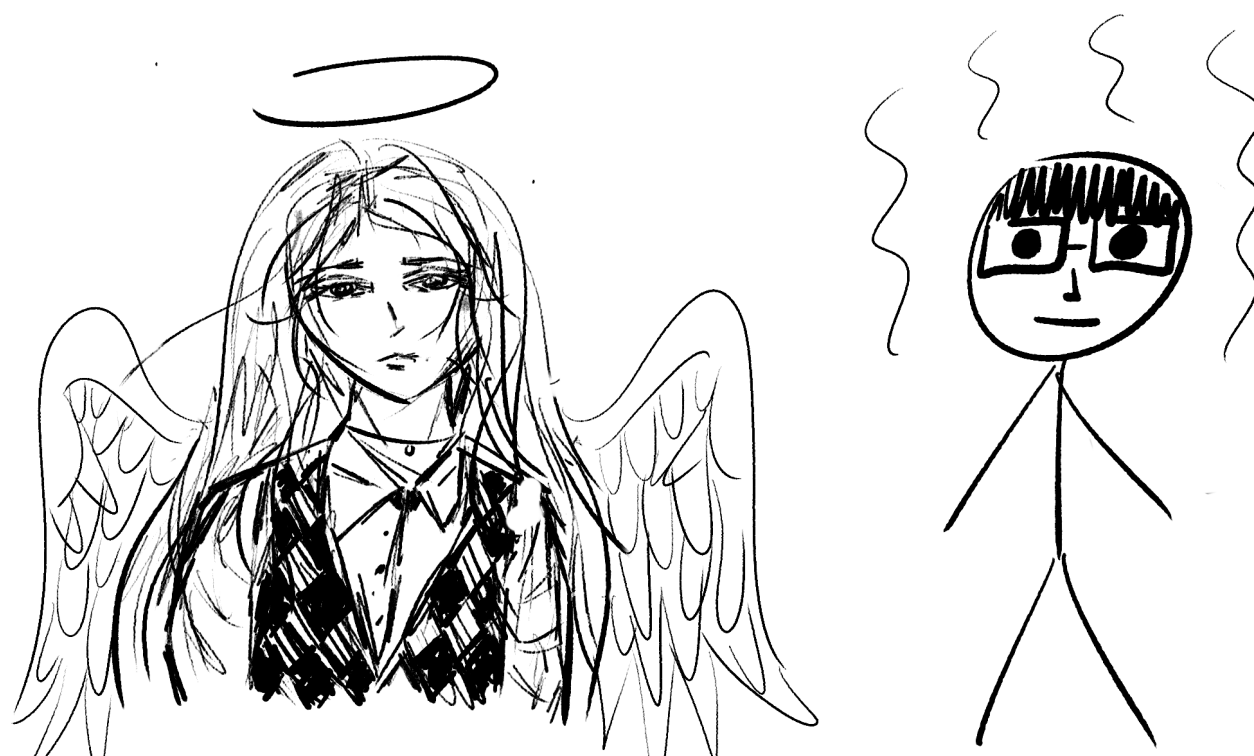
Dear Del,

In the past I was very infatuated with two young British vlogger lads residing between Manchester and London; some may have referred to me as demonic. Over my life, I have learned to let go and be respectful. These two young males you seem to regard most highly likely have a strong bond, but they do not owe you any access to their private lives. In my case, I was lucky, as I received a one hour video with some mild closure. I would recommend you channel this energy into your own romantic endeavours. While fan art is creepy, a painting for the partner is dotting and dedicated. Narrative work online is neurotic, but a poem to the partner is deeply romantic.

Always here,
Aunty Felicia

Aunty Felicia

Imperial men and women



ARIES

This week the election result means you mix your Plan B into your MDMA baggy to avoid being caught with illicit substances.



TAURUS

This week you get your old job back even though you got the sack.



GEMINI

This week you use the Fusion pager as a vibrator while waiting for your curly fries.



CANCER

This week you are convinced that Trump winning the election is an easter egg for Reputation TV.



LEO

This week you lose all seven of your swingers.



VIRGO

This week you boldly declare A\$AP Rocky isn't that hot (you wish you were shagging Rihanna).



LIBRA

This week you find your perfect 6'5", blue eyes boyfriend. It is Gary Barlow's massive son.



SCORPIO

This week you get barricade for 50% off Itsu sushi.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you explain to your childhood best friend you can no longer wear their 10-year-old friendship bracelet because it's too much of a political statement.



CAPRICORN

This week you relapse on stan Twitter after Pop Base tweets that Trump blocked Harris' chart placement because the Penn fans didn't stream Kamala=brat.



AQUARIUS

This week you aim to re-establish the endangered status of hippos after Moo Deng accurately predicts yet another tragedy.



PISCES

This week you promise your lab partner that 'neo-Nazi sympathising sociopath' is just an affectionate pet name for them.

Society Announcements

Next week (8th - 17th Nov.)

<p>12TH NOV. Tuesday</p> 	<p>Circque du Slay IQ (Imperial LGBTQ+)</p>	<p>WHERE: Heaven Nightclub TIME: 9pm - Late TICKETS: £6</p>	<p>HIGHLIGHT: £3.50 drinks all night, performer "Ember", acts, DJ's and more...</p>	 <p>TICKETS</p>
<p>13TH NOV. Wednesday</p> 	<p>Bungee Jump RAG</p>	<p>WHERE: Queen's Lawn TIME: 11am - 4pm TICKETS: £130 per jump</p>	<p>HIGHLIGHT: Students bungee jump off Queen's Tower. Donations go to 3 charities.</p>	 <p>TICKETS/INFO</p>
<p>15TH NOV. Friday</p> 	<p>ImpactTech Kickoff Climate Entrepreneurs Club</p>	<p>WHERE: Royal Institution 21 Albemarle Street, W1S 4BS TIME: 6pm - 9pm</p>	<p>TICKETS: Free HIGHLIGHT: Meet climate-tech founders and network.</p>	 <p>INFO</p>
<p>15 - 17TH NOV. Weekend</p> 	<p>Refresher's Surfing Trip SurfSoc</p>	<p>WHERE: Newquay, Cornwall TIME: 5pm Friday - 8pm Sunday TICKETS: £80 per member (members-only)</p>	<p>HIGHLIGHT: The ultimate surf getaway. The perfect opportunity to try out a new sport if you've never surfed or enjoy pro wave chasing around the coast of Cornwall!</p>	 <p>LINKTREE</p>

In 1 week (18th - 24th Nov.)

<p>24TH NOV. Sunday</p>	<p>Annual Conference ICSM Radiology</p>	<p>WHERE: King's College London Guy's Campus TIME: 9am - 5pm</p>	<p>TICKETS: From £5 HIGHLIGHT: Discussions, activities (quizzes) & competitions.</p>	 <p>TICKETS</p>
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In 2 weeks (25th Nov. - 1st Dec.)

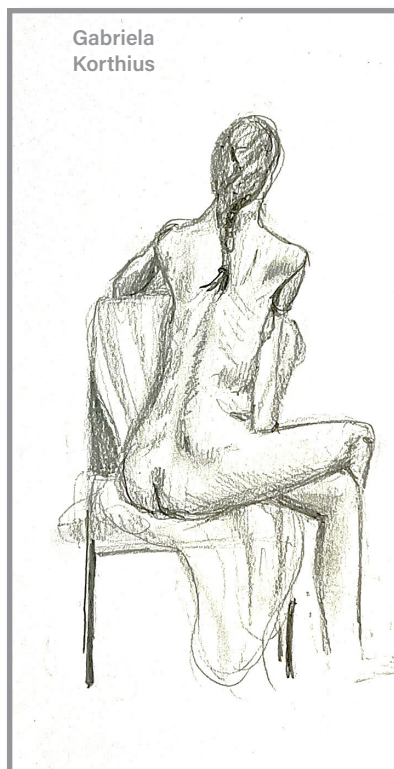
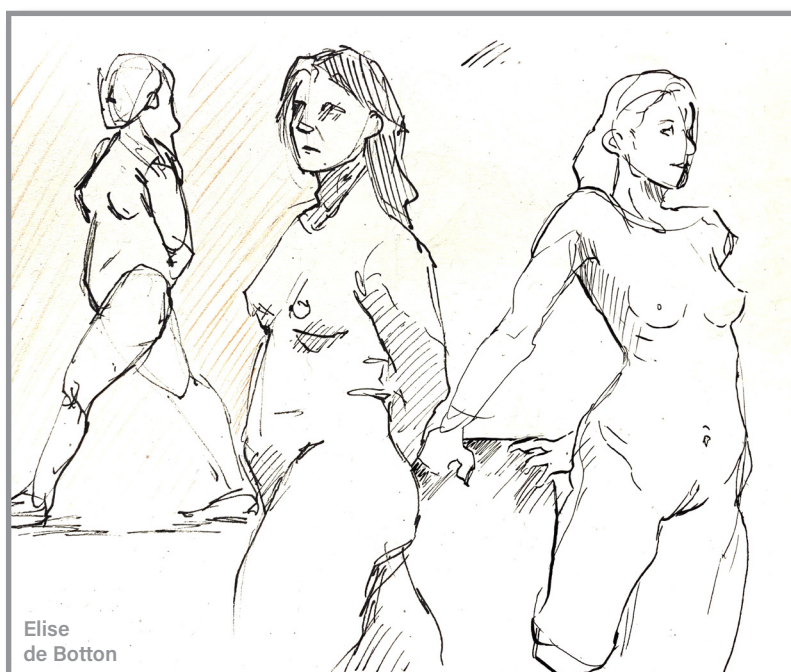
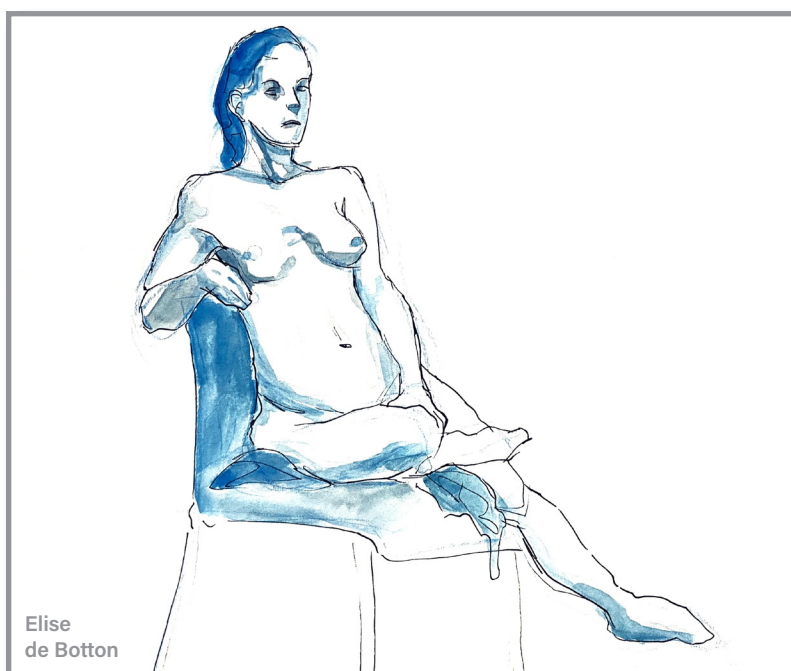
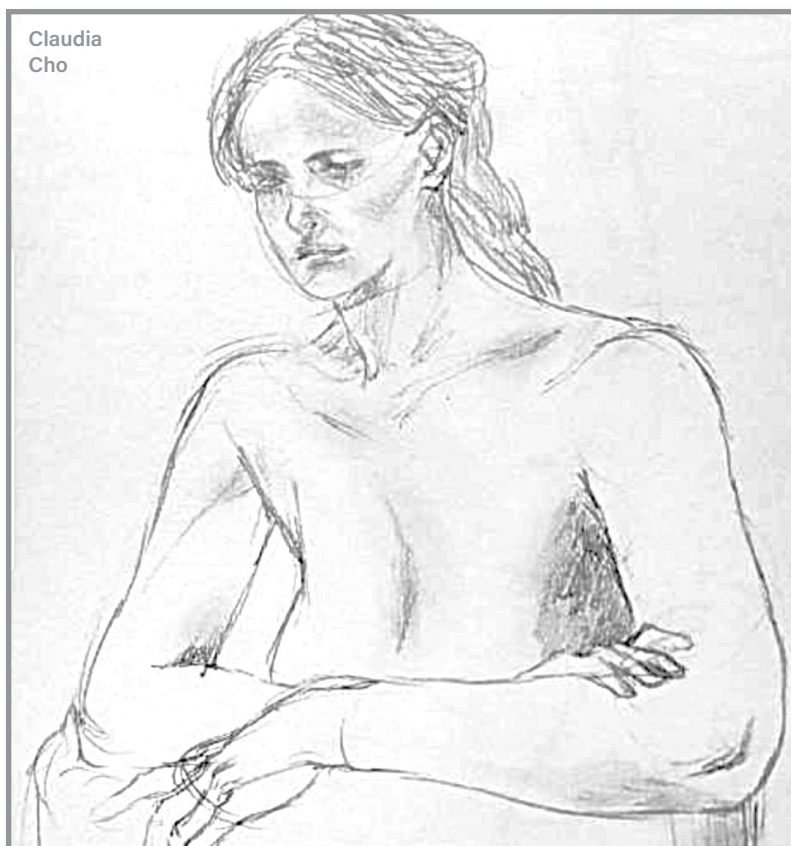
<p>27TH NOV. Wednesday</p>	<p>Peter Pan & Wendy ICSM Drama</p>	<p>WHERE: University Concert Hall (UCH), Beit Quad, SW7 2BB TIME: 7pm (doors open) - 10 pm</p>	<p>TICKETS: Not yet available HIGHLIGHT: A decolonial and feminist interpretation of Peter Pan and Wendy!</p>	
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Want to join the board above?

Scan QR and fill out form by Sunday evening



UNION & SOCIETIES



ArtClub hosts

ArtClub's Life Drawing sessions are a rare

Societies Writer
ZAIN FLETCHER

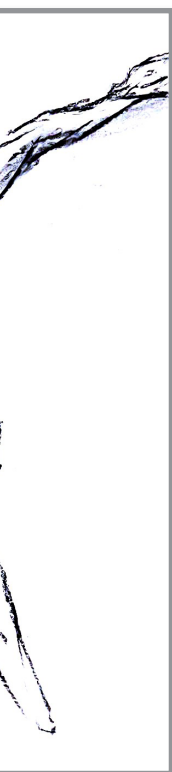
On the night before Halloween, Imperial's resident ArtClub hosted the second of the society's biweekly life art session in RSM 1.47, a lecture theatre that can be described as one of the most comfortable in the university. Focusing on the life drawing, this session lasted two hours and involved making a variety of sketches and drawings of a nude model in a variety of poses, the complexity of the subject making this one of the more challenging activities the club hosts. The organisers, materials postgraduate and society president Zahir Thebault in addition to the secretary, the biochemistry third year Elsa Phillipon, welcomed the attendees in the first 15 minutes of the event, ensuring everyone had a seat and materials. The event was ticketed at £2 for members and £5 for non-members - a significant reduction from last year's £10.

As the event started, the room filled up with over forty seated participants circling a large, empty

Societies Editor
CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

space in the center, offering everyone ample space and a good view to study the model. Participants were given a choice of pencils, charcoal and coloured crayons in addition to a rubber and some A2 pages to work on. Zahir kickstarted the event with a lesson to help everyone get a bearing for what they were about to draw with a short video he had made. In this video, Zahir pointed out how starting off with straight lines could let an artist get a better grasp of the details in a face before progressing to finer details. He went on to note that the easily recognisable nature of the human face and body makes life drawing 'probably one of the hardest things in art'.

After the short lesson, a nude model entered the circle with a chair, posing in a variety of ways, with and without the chair, for times that ranged from one-minute sketches to five, ten, and fifteen minutes



Life Drawing

opportunity to study the human shape.

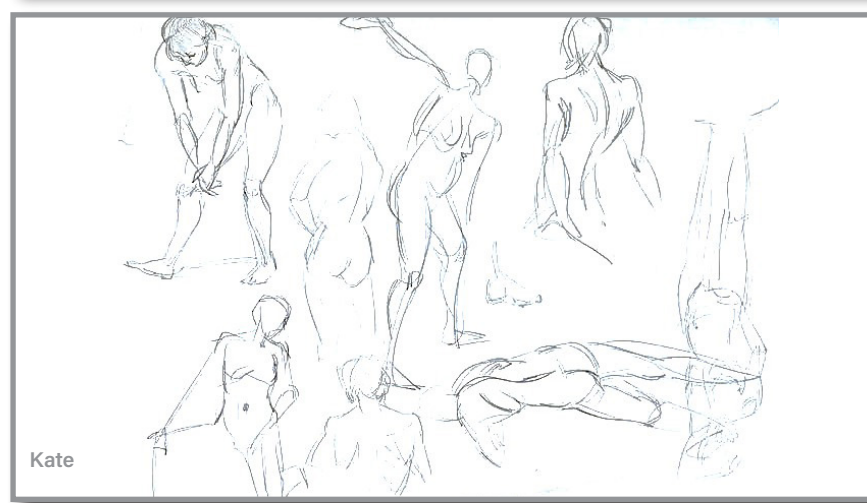
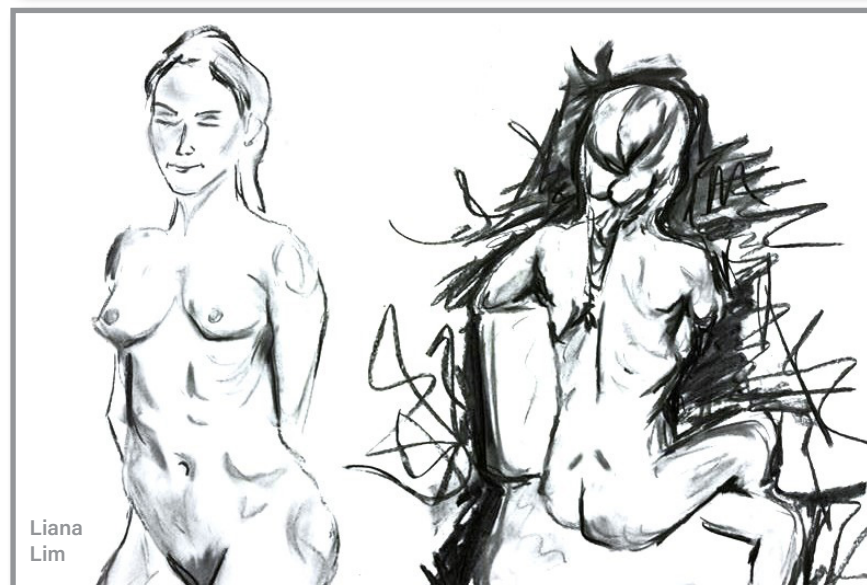
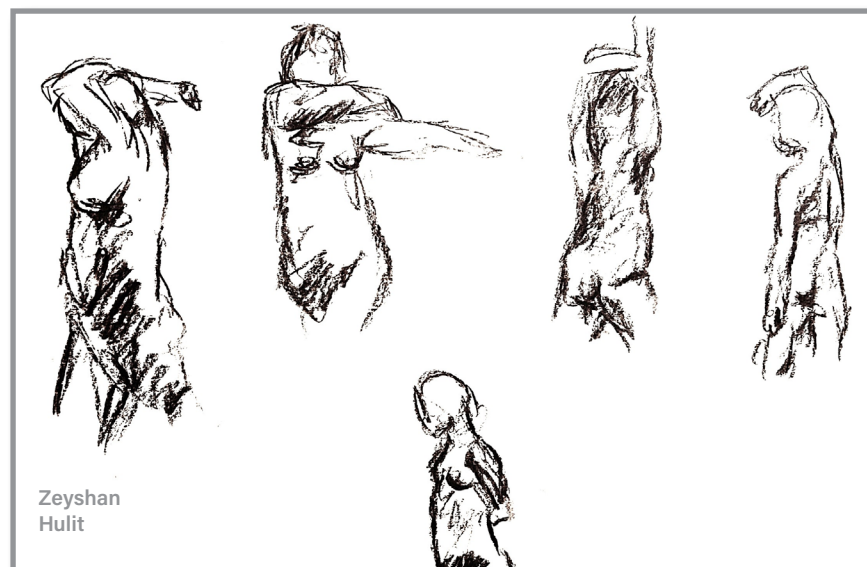
to allow for more detailed images. The model, a woman from outside the college, was no stranger to posing for life art, having assisted in events like this many times in the past. After all, posing for life art not only requires enough patience and stamina to stay perfectly still for up to 15 minutes at a time, but also a significant amount of courage with exposing the entirety of their body for a crowd of unknown people to study.

The participants of the event varied greatly, ranging from those who were completely new to the world of art to those who already had great experience in the subject. There were a variety of reasons for the new people joining; some wanted to 'try something new' while others heard about the society through friends and decided to join after looking at previous events. One member commented 'I was quite nervous because I've never done life drawing before, but it wasn't so scary'. Others were rather surprised that the subject of the art

would be nude (our editors included) although by the half-way point everyone had managed to settle in. Another, more experienced, artist would go on to tell me their reason for joining: 'for me, art is my biggest passion'. Generally, it seems that while virtually all the artists there were very talented, there was still a welcoming and relaxing atmosphere for everybody involved.

The Art Club has successfully run two of these sessions and does not plan to stop. The first session, part of the Union's 'Give It A Go' scheme, on 16th October and this one were 'well attended and went really well', according to Zahir. 'It looks like our experiment of running them ourselves is working.' Zahir continued, as these sessions are the first taught by the ArtClub, not by an external tutor. 'We're looking forward to running more throughout the term and next year. We have seen some really nice work done by some very talented members and amazing attempts by complete beginners so we're very happy'.

Interested readers are encouraged to check out ArtClub's Instagram page @ImperialArtClub for news about the next life drawing session.



PUZZLES

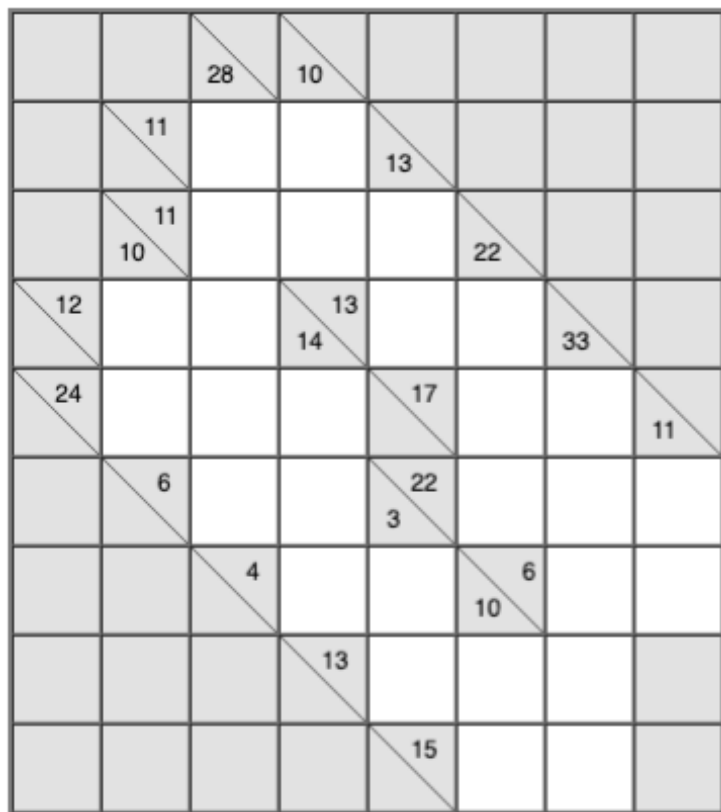
Puzzles Editor
IVIN JOSE

KAKURO

(3 pts.)

How-to:

Kakuro is, in a way, the number version of a crossword. You need to fill in the board's white squares with digits (from 1 to 9) in order to sum up to the specified totals in grey. You are not allowed to use the same digit more than once to obtain a given sum.



Across

- 1. "Birds are headless!", she weeps in distress! [4]
- 4. Permit to enter empty house at the delta which is sacred. [8]
- 10. A bee might leave suddenly. [4 3]
- 11. Enticed Cajun to lose a French light. [7]
- 12. Move, cover the traitor! [8]
- 13. Wrong start to a couplet; I hear a rhyme. [5]
- 15. Overthrow Juliett, causing her to leave tournament. [4]
- 16. Without following girl through final small alley in cold blood. [10]
- 19. Ferrari-coloured blankets are walked on by stars. [3,7]
- 21. Pound a sea creature, removing its head. [4]
- 23. Suggest with my lip, crookedly. [5]

- 24. Unexpected for Abal to be accepting a standard. [8]
- 27. Hoists Yank, losing some of keys. [7]
- 28. Performer broke the hollow sitar. [7]
- 29. Descend a confused way, how Jesus did to get to heaven. [8]
- 30. Blush losing final lisp, trying to speak plainly. [4]

Down

- 2. Lizards swapped their length for width due to magicians. [7]
- 3. Enduring soda sip with tonic, losing heart. [5]
- 4. Winnie the Pooh tries to entrap them with disorderly ample huffs. [10]
- 5. Splash of dog's slobbery greeting. [4]
- 6. Protested article ending lease discord. [8]

- 7. Short Claire got involved in external eating rounds of fancy pastries. [7]
- 8. A truncheon at uplifting riot, causing shambles. [8]
- 9. Starting to ineptly delay laborious exercises due to being lazy. [4]
- 14. Ashen plank can be drawn on and erased! [10]
- 17. Eel oddly contorted, while it sung its heart out! [8]
- 18. Satellite game captures New York- Germany too! [8]
- 20. Blotches on fruit placed in external dishes. [7]
- 22. Blows the whistle on United Nations grouping pretences. [7]
- 23. Game where I work for the secret service. [1 3]
- 25. An armpit is a part of a fox terrier. [5]
- 26. Exploited a United States education. [4]

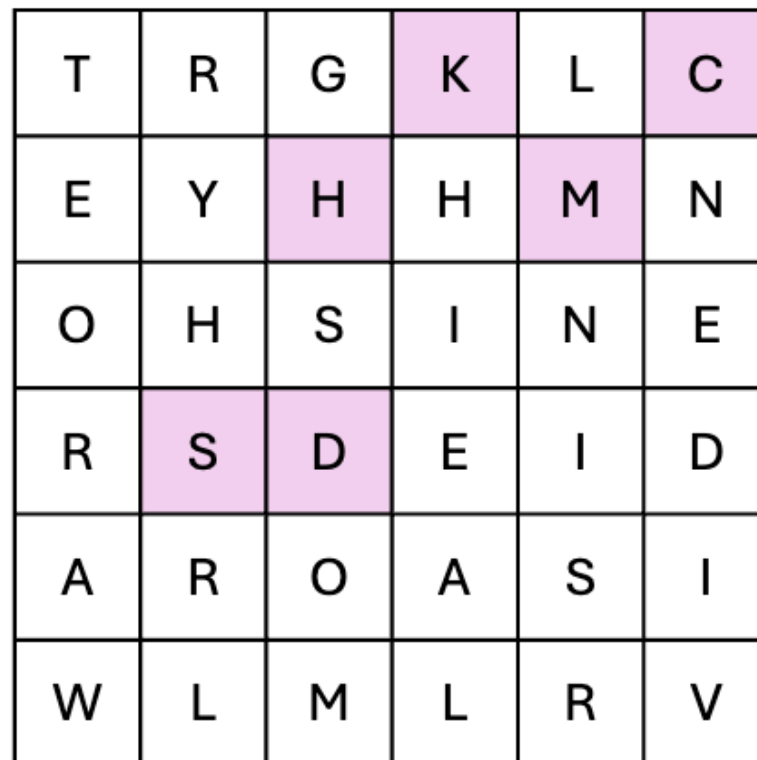
KNIGHT'S MOVE

(3 pts.)

How-to:

For fans of Chess and Word puzzles! The aim of Knight's move is find the words on the board. The first letter of each word is coloured. To find subsequent letters you must move 2 squares in one direction and then 1 square in a perpendicular direction.

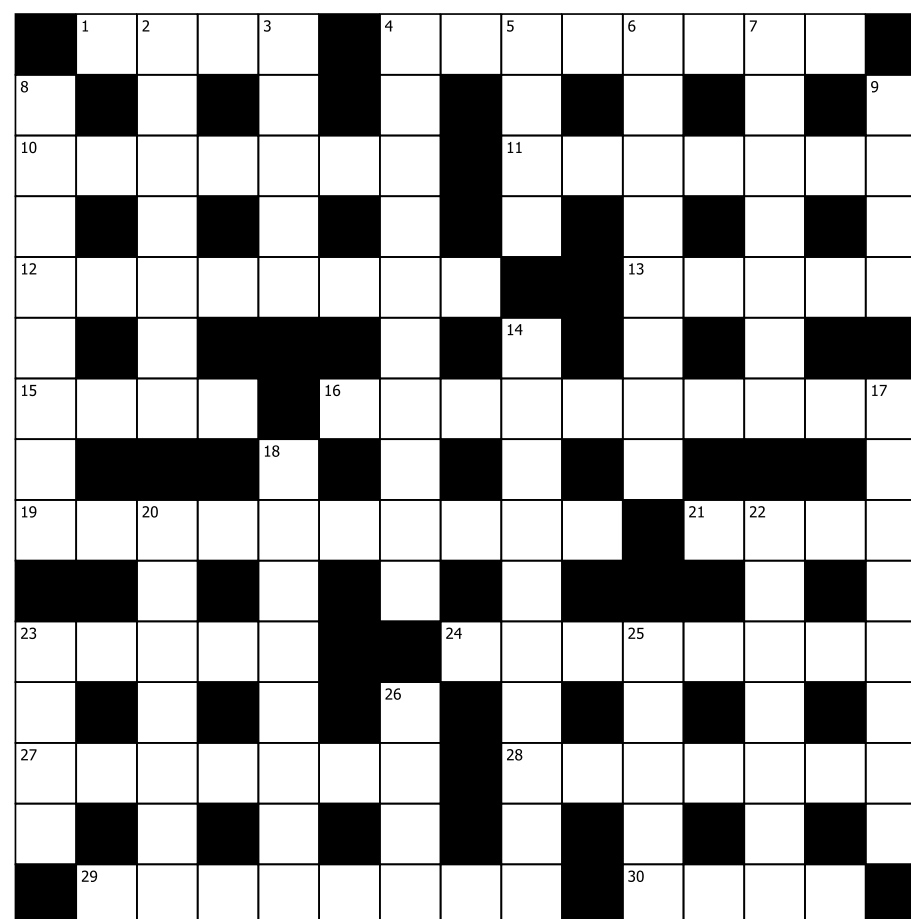
Hint: "Knight in shining armour"



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Submitted by Ester K. Mirra

(5 pts.)



BRIDGES

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

FELIX QUIZ TREE

(15 pts.)

Round 1 - Guess the Character

1. Blue eyed vision turned lover, then betrayed and abandoned for a Princess. [1 point]

Round 2 - Guess the Movie

- 2. Karen Gillan, Horror thriller, Alabama, "I've met my demons and they are many. I've seen the devil, and he is me." [1 point]
- 3. Adrien Brody, Historical Drama, Warsaw, "I'm cold." [1 point]
- 4. Octavia Spencer, Horror Romance, Baltimore, "When is a man done? Proving himself, Sir? A good man. A decent man." [1 point]
- 5. Harry Lloyd, Animation, "In the pursuit of great, we failed to do good." [1 point]

Round 3 - General Knowledge

- 6. **Odd one out**
Which of the following words is the odd one out?
CHAT, COMMENT, DIRE, ELE, FORT, MANGER, PAIN, POUR. [2 points]
- 7. **For the ears**
What links the following, and where might you find them all together?
Ear, Champagne, Shoe, Bermuda and Super. [3 points]
- 8. **Literature**
Whose words include:
(a) OT, ACC, TOCS, ATOTC
(b) ASIS, TSOE, THOTB, TVOF
(c) S, VB, DAF, AHOD [3 Points]
- 9. **Game scores**
If Monopoly scores 15 and Cluedo scores 9, which board game scores 14? [2 points]

GROUPING GRIDS

Submitted by William West & Vittoria Dessi

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.

Reserve	Chamomile	Fishing	Unfamiliar
Recent	Thyme	Basil	Point
Mint	Pristine	Novel	Head
Sage	Fresh	Ledger	Engage

Medium (3 pts.)

				Connections
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

Shadow	Soft	Power	Extended
Potential	Resistance	Fro	Lego
Present	Sam	Topical	Charge
Stage	Current	Fair	Contemporary

Hard (4 pts.)

				Connections
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

CRYPTOGRAM

Clue: *Mine Rehinged* (anagram, 1 words)

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!

C Y Z K N K D T K T N X U R L Q K F S X B D

F X D Q N K Z Q L B L S C T Q L S D X

F X D Q N K Z Q A X D D L A K N S X E

B R K D C F R K Z K N R K D L Z K L V

F X D Q N K Z Q R X B K T E Y L D T C

M E Q N Z L D L B L S

(3 pts.)

Anagram: _____

(1 pt.)

Quote from: _____

(1 pt.)

LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Puzzlers	Points (Last week)	
1.	Team GuineaPig	151	94
2.	The Menu	150	150
3.	Team Experial	83	33
4.	Team Jasmine&Hursh	26	26
5.	Tactless Tony	22	22
6.	Team X-Sharon	6	6
7.	Enigma	4	4
8.	Team Alike	4	4

Send a picture of your solved puzzles to **puzzles.felix@ic.ac.uk** by **Thursday** to get yourself or your team on the leaderboard!

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 at the bakery

Cobwebs Solution

- Frankenstein
- Dracula
- Gargoyle
- Witch
- Dentist
- Ghoul
- Nurse
- Pumpkin

Quiz Tree Solutions

1. Pennywise
2. Midsommar
3. A Nightmare on Elm Street
4. Get Out
5. The Haunting of Hill House
6. Scorpion. Zodiac sign determines food.
7. Cormorant. Hidden in the double letters.
8. Names of One Direction Members.
9. Ten. lONely, neTWOrk, threaTENing.

Puzzle Editor's Note

Dearest Puzzlers,

Hope you've all recovered from the Halloween jump-scares and are settling nicely into November! Your humble Puzzles Editor is trying something new this issue by replacing the regular crossword with Felix's first Kakuro and a fun new puzzle called Knight's Move. But fear not, crossword lovers — your weekly themed crossword will be back soon!

Speaking of themes, to celebrate the upcoming release of season 2 of a much-loved animated series, the Cryptogram and the Felix Quiz Tree might just be linked... *wink wink*.

The hotly contested pole position on our Puzzles Leaderboard continues, as Team GuineaPig reclaims their throne from The Menu by a single point! But Team Experial is quickly closing in and waiting for an opening.

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, calculating, knight-moving, connecting, completing, code-cracking, comic-consuming, quizzing, bridge-building and competing!

- Ivin

Previous Puzzles' solutions



Regular



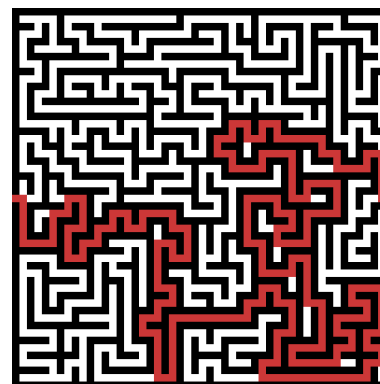
Cryptic



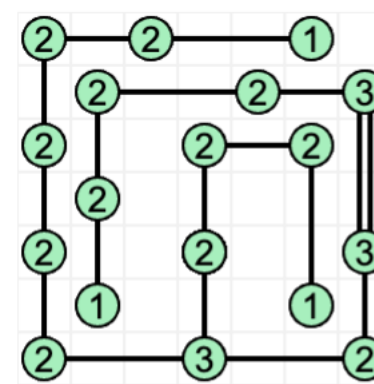
Medium grouping grid



Hard grouping grid



Maze



Bridges

"The world's a hard place, Danny. It don't hate you but it don't love us either. Good people die in bad ways and leave the folks that love them all alone."

Anagram: Knights Peen = Stephen King
Quote from: The Shining by Stephen King

Cryptogram

SPORT

No tricks, just target practice

Sport Writer
SAFIYYA AHMED

Imperial College Archery Club (ICAC) taught the third week of the beginners' course in dress-up, with two Robin Hoods, an Assassin and even Batman gracing the Ethos gym hall on Sunday, October 27th.

The 5-week course aims to teach anyone interested the fundamentals of shooting safely and shooting well. With over 200 taster session sign-ups on Welcome Fair day and the course selling out within minutes, the 60 places are fairly coveted, for good reason. "My instructor gives really considerate and helpful advice," shares beginner Salma about her volunteer instructor.

The competitions for the South East Archery League (SEAL) begin this Autumn against other universities in the South East of England, with novice and experienced categories for men and women. Imperial's experienced team

came third, first and second in the three legs of the 2023-24 competition and is hoping for similar (ideally better) success this year.

"This year is our year," Chaoyi, an experienced archer on the Women's team and course instructor for this year, remarks. Johnny, another instructor, is less hopeful, claiming that "we are so cooked." Similar comments of "it's coming home" vs "I want to go home" are also shared between the archers.

ICAC also prides itself on having a social and welcoming community. "It has been a great chance to learn a new skill, and it is a really good group of people," expresses Miles, a learner on the beginner's course. The club has weekly breakfast in the Library Café following their Thursday morning training, and a KFC dinner after their Sunday training. They hope to organise more events over the year, following the success of last year's hotpots, painting socials and games nights.



Rugby teams tour Paris

Sport Editor
TAYLOR POMFRET

Last month, Imperial's rugby team ventured to France to take part in a weekend-long rugby tournament: the HEC-Natixis Mixed Rugby Nations Cup. The competition, hosted at the HEC Paris Business School Campus, ran from the 11th to 13th October and featured over 150 students from five universities (Imperial, University of Madrid, EPFL Lausanne, École Polytechnique and CentraleSupélec).

Imperial's men and women

rugby teams combined forces in the mixed touch rugby tournament to take home the winning trophy.

The tournament celebrated both gender parity and team spirit – two values the tournament believes are core to both sport and business. This is the third time HEC have hosted the tournament.

Felix congratulates all teams involved, and especially Imperial for winning the mixed touch cup.

Following their return from Paris, Imperial's rugby team focussed on their first round of cup games, which began this week. The 1st team had a bye week in the cup, while the 2nd and 3rd teams were

in action. Both successfully advanced to the next round of the cup, with 2nd team winning 26–0 against Surrey, while the 3rd team took an easy win against Middlesex, 65–5.

All teams will feature in the league, with the 1st team playing away against Royal Free, University College and Middlesex Medical Students (RMS) – UCL Medical school's rugby club.

The 1st team currently tops the league with three wins. 2nd team is playing away against Kingston – they currently remain unbeaten in the league, with 2 wins. 3rd team will be at home against Surrey.

Rugby scores and fixtures – Gameweeks 5 and 6:

1st XV team:

GW5 – Bye week
GW6 – RUMS 1st XV vs Imperial 1st XV (League)

2nd XV team:

GW5 – Imperial 2nd XV 26 - 0 Surrey 2nd XV (Cup)
GW6 – Kingston 2nd XV vs Imperial 2nd XV (League)

3rd XV team:

GW5 – Middlesex 1st 5 - 65 Imperial 3rd XV (Cup)
GW6 – Imperial 3rd XV vs Surrey 4th XV (League)