

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

Felix

KEEP THE CAT FREE | SINCE 1949



Temporary ban on overnight guests frustrates Beit residents

Students were not told reason for ban, leading to rising resentment.



Beit Hall residences. Mohammad Majlisi for Felix

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

News Writer
NADEEN DAKA

News writer
RUJULA PAWAROVA

A temporary pause on overnight guests at Beit Hall has caused frustration among freshers. The pause, put into effect from Monday 4th November after an announcement to residents through the hall's WhatsApp chat, is due to repair works on some of the doors within the residence.

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At *Felix*, we believe that it is always in the interest of the students to be in the know. Transparency in the workings of the College and the work of your student representatives is key. Therefore we, the *Felix* Editors, on behalf of the team promise that:

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

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

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

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

Signed by:
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Editor-in-Chief

Copyeditors

Nikesh Chavala
Guillaume Felix
Cloe Zhong
David Latimer

The Felix Team:



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News Editor



TAYLOR POMFRET
Deputy Editor-in-Chief,
Sport & Science Editor



CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL
Chair,
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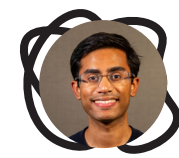
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Senior Webmaster



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Webmaster



ELSON THO
Webmaster



WALT GAO
Head Photographer



**AND OUR NUMEROUS
CONTRIBUTORS ...**

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London, SW7 2BB

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EDITORIAL

Rent rises are risible

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Following on from the Union Council meeting, where a paper against rent increases averaging 30%, was voted nigh-unanimously for, I fail to see how the College can justify this cost. Even taking inflationary measures into account, surely the operational costs of running halls, as well as paying off credit would not amount to some number of rooms having their rents raised by more than half (58%). Even if the rooms affected are those in Southside and Eastside, typically hosting wealthier, international students, surely even they would have questions as to why their rents are ballooning. If we apply these calculations to the halls in North Acton, it is impossible to justify raising rents from £177 to £280 per week, on top of the required railcard one will need to actually travel to campus. North Acton is not a vibrant student village, I've lived there, albeit a few years ago now. The most exciting thing going on in North Acton is the drug dealer who lives above the Tesco's (not an endorsement of taking drugs) and the trek to Asda through the graveyard. Should rents increase to £280 per week, this would put the vast majority of rooms in North Acton at presumably market rate with a total cost of £10,906.74 on a 39-week lease, almost £3,340 greater than the cost of an "affordable" room— set by the Mayor of London, this is valued as 55% of the maximum maintenance loan afforded to students in London.

Perhaps the basis of at Imperial College has seen a little statistic reported in The Times, where on average, Imperial students are given £31,700 by their parents – the highest in the UK. I've been unable to find the dataset for this, or the methodology of the survey, which was done by High Fliers, a consultancy firm. There are obvious problems taking this value prima facie. Imperial has a higher percentage of international students, who – if surveyed – will most likely have taken at least £12,006 (the minimum maintenance threshold) from their parents, very much bringing up the average from those of home students. There's also the problem of taking the mean, rather than the median value.

It's no secret that the maintenance loan system is not fit for purpose. Even with the generous Imperial bursary, it seems to me that many people are still struggling to make ends meet and are having to encumber themselves with part-time work. It's one thing to work part-time reading history where you only have eight contact hours, but at Imperial where most students have eight hours of lectures alone, not including labs, seminars, problem classes, and tutorials, which is expected to be coupled with the equivalent hours independently working, its beyond unmanageable. Pursuing these punitive rent increases and helping price out lower income students who don't have the resources to prevent them from working in London, one of the most expensive cities in Europe, is going to negatively impact both incoming students, and the diversity of the student body. Students will be put off if they have to pay more than 79% of their maintenance loan towards rent in halls, particularly if their peers at UCL, who can spend £268.60 a week (£10,478.91 for a 39 week lease) to live in the worst room in Astor Hall in zone one— bearing in mind that Astor Hall is the equivalent to Southside or Eastside in terms of location and proximity to the main campus. Sorry White City. Who would want to spend more to live in North Acton, which is a glorified industrial estate on the border of zone two and three?

The reality is, higher education is a service, then the amenities that Imperial must provide have to be competitively priced. Students are no longer just students but also consumers. Raising rents in such a way, for whatever reason, are just going to turn away the "the most talented, the most enterprising and the most diverse".

Retraction

Our recent article "One in five manifestos written using AI for Autumn elections" (*Felix* #1857) did not meet our editorial standards.

As a result, we will be removing the article from our website and Instagram page.

The article will be amended and further work will be done to ensure that it upholds the standards of *Felix*.

Mohammad Majlisi
Editor-in-Chief

NEWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

The measure is temporary, preventing guests from staying to ensure security standards are met across the hall. However, students were caught unawares, with students speaking to *Felix* pointing out that the change was not publicly discussed beforehand and was not announced via email or through the warden team. One resident commented that “there has been zero official communication... this is all through the grapevine”.

Students were only told that the ban was enforced due to “safety and security”, with another student describing the reasoning as “very vague and quite

unreasonable”. Discontent with the change, with residents launching a petition on their WhatsApp group chat titled “Petition against this decision,” which amassed 101 “yes” votes and no dissenters, revealing widespread dissatisfaction. “That was our petition, basically,” one resident said, noting that each vote represented a signature against the policy.

According to Imperial College’s license agreement for student halls, overnight guests are not permitted in accommodation unless expressly allowed by the Residential Support/Services team for individual halls or residences.

The minimal notice has left Beit residence upset – some confirming that friends and family abroad have had to cancel pre-booked flights because they cannot seek alternative accommodation.

Students have not been told when the pause will end. Frustration among residents is palpable. One student described the ban as a “gross overreach of power,” while another likened it to “putting us in a cage.”

“We are all adults,” they told *Felix*, noting the rule is applied to residents but not to wardens. Another student said that the decision felt like they “were [going] back to boarding school”.

Imperial Global Ghana opens in Accra

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Imperial College London has become the first UK university to open a permanent science and technology base in Accra following the opening of Imperial Global Ghana. The hub was opened by College President Hugh Brady on Wednesday 13th November.

Two new scholarships were also launched: the Imperial-Schmidt AI Fellows Programme will begin with support for early career researchers from the University of Ghana and the African Institute of Mathematical Science (AIMS) to collaborate with Imperial’s IX Centre for Artificial Intelligence, and the AIMS-Imperial Global Fellows Programme will see 40 doctoral researchers working together in Accra to develop professional, research, and collaborative skills to tackle climate change and the challenges

associated with rapid urbanisation.

Speaking at the event, President Brady said: “Imperial’s new Ghana Hub builds on a strong foundation of collaboration between Imperial and the University of Ghana in medical diagnostics, vaccine research, future cities and entrepreneurship training.

It will further strengthen and scale up our research and innovation partnerships in West Africa.

“The focus on AI, enabled by generous funding from the Eric and Wendy Schmidt AI for Science Programme, is especially exciting and will see Imperial collaborate with the University of Ghana and African Institute of Mathematical Sciences to develop new tools and applications to drive key economic growth sectors, better healthcare outcomes and more efficient and responsive public services.”



Imperial College London

TMUA results to be used with “full confidence” despite “security incident”

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

An investigation by Pearson VUE and University Admissions Tests UK (UAT-UK) has not found any evidence of suspicious results among Test for Mathematics University Applications (TMUA) candidates, despite earlier reports of a “security incident” after its first sitting on 16th and 17th October. Imperial College will use the results the October sitting “with full confidence” for 2025 entry.

Rumours that there had been unauthorised sharing of test content in China were confirmed in an official statement by Imperial College, however the scope of this misconduct “has been limited”. Imperial have also confirmed that “appropriate action will be taken by any offending parties” following the investigation undertaken by Pearson VUE and UAT-UK.

The TMUA is a two-and-a-half-hour multiple choice test testing applicants on their “Application of Mathematical Knowledge” and “Mathematical Reasoning”.

This was the first year Imperial has used the test as part of the application process for Mathematics, Computing and Economics, Finance and Data Science undergraduate courses. The TMUA replaces the Sixth Term Examination Papers (STEP) previously required for application onto Mathematics and Computing courses. The TMUA is also used by Cambridge, LSE, Warwick, and Durham as part of their application processes for Maths, Computing, and Economics degree programs.

Union Council calls for hall rents to remain affordable

Paper calls for College to be transparent about operational costs for halls, release operational costs, and to introduce rents for wardens

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Imperial College Union Council has voted 37-1 on a paper that calls for Imperial College to be “transparent about costs associated with student halls”, as well as lobbying to prevent the cost of decarbonisation being “paid for by students”. There was only a single abstention. The paper also supports hall seniors receiving fair compensation for “their time and contributions” and introducing discounted rents for hall wardens and sub-wardens.

Additionally, the paper calls for the Union:

- “To take the stance that all profits from student hall summer rentals should be reinvested into stu-

dent accommodation, and subsidising rents in the event there are surpluses.”

- “To take the stance that no Imperial halls should make a profit from student rental income (i.e. students should only be charged the cost to run and maintain the halls).”

The motion was brought forward by Union President Camille Boutrolle, and Deputy President (Welfare) Nico Henry, and was seconded by the three other Officer Trustees. According to the paper, Imperial’s initial proposal for rent featured an average rent increase of 30%. People familiar with the matter have said Imperial has already amended the increase to 25%. However, 35% of rooms are facing a proposed increase of 58%.

Rents are organised under three

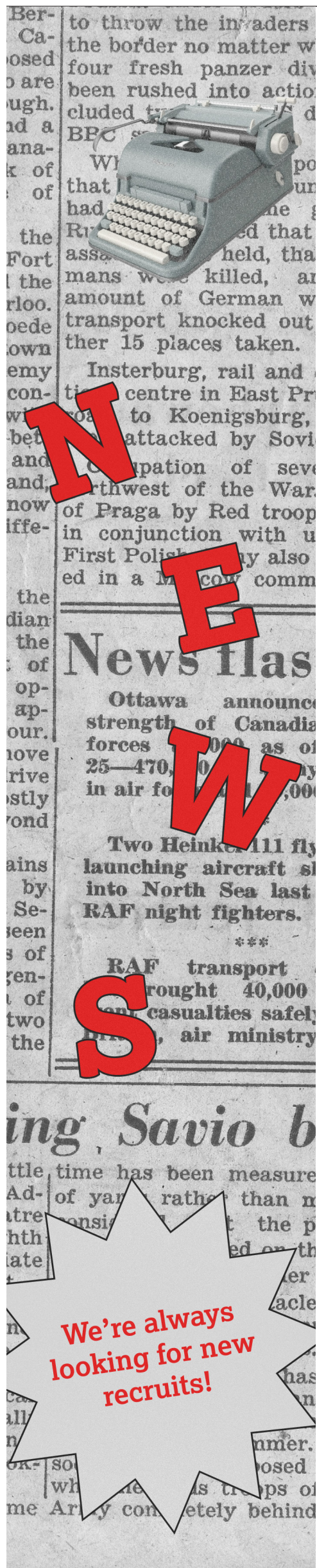
categories: affordable pricing, which is 55% of the maximum maintenance loan students can currently receive and is set by the Mayor of London; peer, which are rents below the rents offered by competing London universities, and market, which are rents set 10% below market rate. Currently, 71% of affordable rooms are twin rooms. Only 15% of single rooms within Imperial’s portfolio are classed as affordable.

Imperial’s decarbonisation plan, produced as part of their “Our journey to a net zero estate”, was released earlier this year.

The plan, a joint venture between Imperial’s Property and Major Projects team and consultancy firm ARUP, aims for all buildings including residential buildings to fall in line with net zero legal requirements by 2040.



Entrance to Beit, facing Prince Consort Road. Mohammad Majlisi for Felix



We're always looking for new recruits!

OT Interviews: Nico Henry, Deputy President (Welfare)

Felix interviews Nico about his ambitious year full of promises and what it's like to work as an Officer Trustee as someone who hasn't historically engaged with IC Union

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Nico Henry was never someone who was engaged with the Union during his time as an undergrad, he “didn’t have any roles” on a Club or Society Committee, and he “wasn’t involved in any societies”. But during third year, as he wrote his dissertation, Nico decided to run for Deputy President (Welfare). “I realized I chose physics because I wanted to kind of create an impact with the work I do,” he says on our call. “But then I realized I was doing my dissertation on calibrating neutrino detectors, and by the end of it by after spending hours—many, many days in a dark lab with no lights. I thought you know what? I might as well work somewhere else doing something else, and I thought what would be the job that would give me that I’d have the most positive impact with.”

I started my undergraduate studies in the same cohort as Nico, however, we didn’t interact much during our studies, if at all. I understood the feeling he described.

Nico ran a very grassroots campaign: “I walked around campus, and I spoke with absolutely everyone I saw.” He wanted to lead a campaign focussed on what students wanted, and he would ask students “Is there anything that you’d like to see? And what do you think of my ideas?”

Nico spent time on the different campuses, trying to gain a broad understanding of the different needs of students by

“just speaking with absolutely everyone.”

This year Nico intends to get a lot done. He has seven manifesto promises, and work is underway on all the projects he intends to do. His aims include:

- Continue working on fostering a welcoming environment, facilitate more recreational spaces, and enhance communication between students and the union.
- Implement the mental health strategy, continuing the work done by my predecessor and the Mental Health Officer.
- Develop a platform to redistribute surplus food across campus, addressing both the cost-of-living crisis and food waste.
- Expand mentorship programs connecting underrepresented students with alumni.
- Host more inclusive activities with societies, making it easier for students to meet people and participate in union-hosted events.
- Be an accessible and supportive representative, keeping my ears open to student feedback and new initiatives.
- Improving cycling accessibility.

This is a lot. I ask him how he can manage doing everything, or as much as he can in the year he has. “So I first prioritized ones that depended on other people. So the food one

the events one, the mental health strategy one. Basically, I prioritise those because I know that right now if it was around to me, I would have published

the app already. I do the task that will require someone else to complete and then I work on my other projects.” He also stays “late” at times. It ties into his goal of “being an accessible and supportive representative”: “The way I see it is this job is a job of service.

A lot of people will see a pyramid, I see upside down and I see as everyone keeps everything going and then if issues happen, they funnel down and then they end up on me.

I got voted in, I should be held accountable, and I love the fact that many students are coming up to me and asking me about my personal projects.”

On the projects, there is progress being made. On the topic of more recreational spaces Nico said “The university does seem quite keen on creating more spaces. We’re doing quite a lot on biodiversity spaces, so we’re looking at spaces that aren’t being used.

The students don’t really know about and kind of trying to make that more public and letting students have a say on what goes on.” His goal ties in with IC Union President Camille’s goal of more green spaces across Imperial’s campuses.

On mental health, Nico is also working on implemented the mental health strategy. Part of this is the introduction of wellbeing advisors “in every department.” He is also involved in working on “the report and support tool, my role in the Union is to hold the university accountable and make sure that they are doing this.”

One of Nico’s most interesting goals is his work on reducing food waste on campus. “I kind of got inspired by Too Good to Go.” Too Good to Go is an app that allows customers to buy food from shops that would otherwise be thrown out or wasted. He continues “I was at an event once and there were 20 pizzas that were left. I’ve worked at a restaurant, and I’ve seen food go to waste and I just hate seeing food go to waste. So, I’m walking around campus, and I thought, you know what, I’m just going to give these pizzas away. Students are super happy, and I thought wait, why aren’t we doing this on a like a proper platform?”

“Some of the private food outlets have said they’re happy to do it, so it’s slowly progressing. Obviously, nothing set in stone and there’s no minimum viable product yet.

But I think it is still possible.”



Nico Henry Imperial College Union

SCIENCE

Felix x Women in SET interview Professor Pizza

Imperial professor of microbiology and new co-director of Centre of Bacterial Resistance Biology (CBRB) gives an insight into her journey in vaccine research and development.

Science Writer
SIJUNG LEE

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the world has been focused on preparing for the next viral pandemic. Meanwhile, people tend to overlook another equally important threat to human existence: antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The problem of AMR arises when microbes like bacteria and fungi develop resistance through natural selection against antimicrobial medicines, causing them to spread. In this new collaboration between *Felix* and Women in SET, we had a chance to interview Professor Mariagrazia Pizza to talk about her background and efforts to fight AMR using vaccines. Prior to joining Imperial, she was Senior Scientific Director Bacterial Vaccines at GSK and Head of Research at GVGH, the GSK Vaccine Institute for Global Health.

Q. What did you enjoy most about studying at university? Were there any specific topics, projects, or activities that sparked your interest to pursue pharmaceutical design?

I went to the University of Naples, Italy, to study Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Technologies. For me, I liked that the system in Italy treated university as a new phase of your life and I really felt like I'd entered a completely new world of academia.

I knew I wanted to work on drugs and something that was going to help people. I was told that this was the way to go, and fortunately, I came to the realisation that I really liked it. I was particularly fascinated by the lab work, and the idea that you can see results in a very short time. I enjoyed the theoretical part, but I fell in love with the practical aspect.

In Italy, we were required to spend at least one year in the lab to work on our final thesis, in which I looked at peptide folding using nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). Studying pharmaceutical chemistry and working in many different

labs at university, I employed my skills in working on structural molecules. However, after completing my thesis successfully, I wanted to move on and delve into the developing world of molecular biology and genetic engineering. This is why I then went to the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany.

Q. Your work was instrumental in the development of the meningococcal B vaccine using “reverse vaccinology”. Could you walk us through the challenges and breakthroughs of that project?

This project in particular had many breakthroughs, the main one being that before “reverse vaccinology”, we were looking at one protein at a time. Each person in the lab had their own project. With this new technology using genome screening, we discovered 600 new antigens. When working with such a high number of proteins, you can't just sit and study each of them on a molecular level. This was challenging as it completely changed the way we approached science in our lab.

Hence, we needed to solve a lot of questions from an antigenic perspective, understanding what antigens do since they were selected from the genome. These new antigens brought regulatory challenges, in terms of expression in different strains, immunogenicity, and

function – you don't want toxic molecules used as vaccines.

As a lab, it took some time for us to appreciate this technology but we soon realised that it could bring something special into the world of vaccines. Most



The more people are educated and willing to collaborate, the better prepared we are as a society.

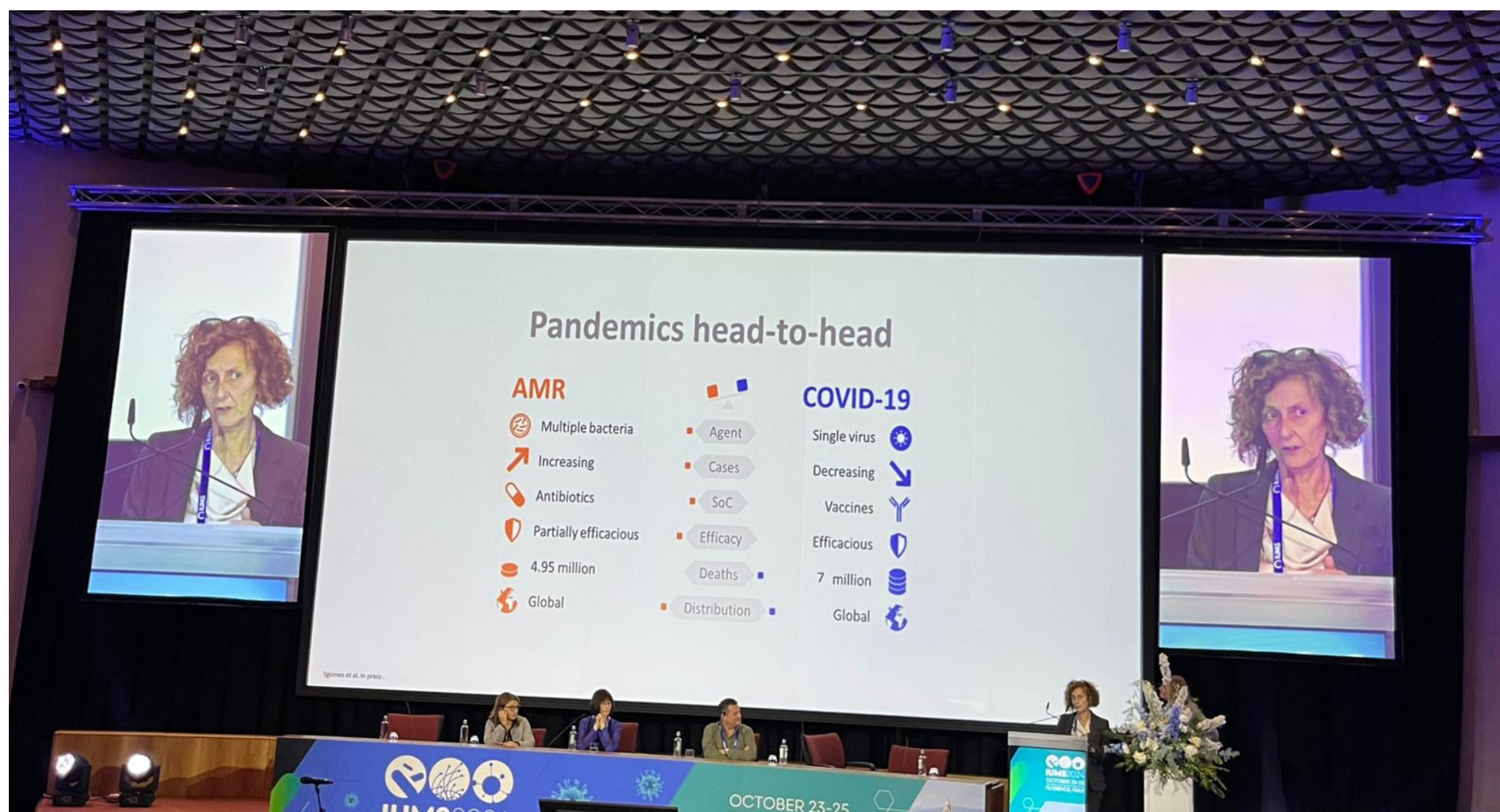
importantly, I always gained motivation from the fact that we had been working as a team, trusting each other.

Q. What are your thoughts on antimicrobial resistance and the impact of bacterial infections in our modern world? How can vaccines help reduce our reliance on antibiotics?

AMR is a very challenging issue because bacteria can evolve and acquire antibiotic resistance genes very quickly. Currently, the pharmaceutical industry is going through a crisis in terms of handling countless failures of new drug discoveries. One of the main reasons why there's not much investment in novel antibiotic drugs is because of its low economic benefit for companies; most of them last only a couple years once re-



Professor Mariagrazia Pizza Mariagrazia Pizza



Professor Pizza giving a talk at the 18th Congress of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS) this October in Florence, Italy Mariagrazia Pizza

leased into the market.

Vaccines have never been seen as a solution to AMR, but now the perception has changed. Vaccines prevent the acquisition of antibacterial resistance because they prevent infection itself. Recent data on pneumococcal, influenza, and salmonella vaccines show that by vaccinating you reduce antibiotic use and slow down AMR. At this stage, however, only one remedy isn't enough – we need a combination of vaccines with phages, new drugs, or monoclonal antibodies. This is why coordinated effort is crucial. While every country is investing in viral pandemic preparedness, we also need this effort for AMR.

Q. What are your current plans and research aimed at as the new co-director of CBRB, Centre of Bacterial Resistance Biology at Imperial?

As co-director of CBRB, I hope that we will be able to build cross-disciplinary interest. I was amazed at first to see how many interesting projects there were and I think now is the opportunity. AMR, as I mentioned before, can only be solved by multidisciplinary approaches and this is exactly what CBRB and Imperial have in place. We have scientists working on vaccines, phages, animal models, clinical models, and immune response analysis.

My interest at the moment is *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. Over the years after the meningococcal B vaccine development, I have been learning how to reduce the number

of antigens to consider. So now, I've already identified a few proteins that have the potential to be interesting antigens and we are starting the characterisation process.

Q. What are some effective ways that academic researchers can engage with policymakers to drive vaccine access and education?

The aspects of access and education are fundamental. Education is the starting point – you people should be taught from a young age the importance of vaccination



Vaccines prevent the acquisition of antibacterial resistance because they prevent infection itself... by vaccinating, you reduce antibiotic use and slow down antimicrobial resistance.

and the damage of infectious disease. There are infectious diseases you don't see anymore, like polio, and we forget that this is because we have been vaccinated. I think that a few things need to be highlighted to the new generation who haven't seen these kinds of diseases. We also need to ensure that vaccines are distributed equally to all countries, and the government should reinforce

collaborative ideas and coordination.

Recently, I helped organise an interesting conference about bad microbes and good microbes. With climate change, we are in a situation where a lot of diseases are on the rise. Fungi that weren't virulent before are becoming virulent due to optimal temperatures. Diseases transmitted by insects, like Japanese encephalitis from mosquitoes, are increasing due to higher humidity levels. Some strains of cholera are starting to become pathogenic to humans and no longer just in water. On the other hand, there are a lot of good microbes that need to be preserved. Our human microbiome, microbes in soil and water, and those that can be used as alternative energy sources are beneficial. The more people are educated and willing to collaborate, the better prepared we are as a society.

Q. Do you have any general advice for students pursuing science? What would you say to women in STEM at Imperial?

Try to learn as much as possible during these years. What you're building now can lead you to think about where you want to be in the future. I got really passionate about vaccines coming from pharmaceutical chemistry, and I still apply what I learned intellectually.

For women, I think it's important to positively change our attitude. Obviously, society doesn't help often in that aspect, but women should know and believe that they can truly succeed in anything they want to achieve.

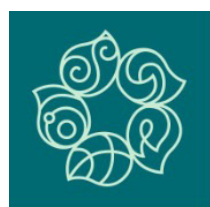
ENVIRONMENT

COP29 in Azerbaijan

Can this summit help shape a sustainable future?

Environment Writer
ELDAR ALIYEV

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) is a climate summit where interested parties negotiate critical issues and environmental improvements. Since 1995, these annual COPs have brought together representatives from nearly every country, alongside NGOs, businesses, and scientists to discuss and negotiate global strategies for addressing the climate crisis.



COP29 logo.

One of the COP's major milestones was COP21 in 2015, where countries adopted the Paris Agreement, a historic global accord to limit warming. The agreement set two ambitious targets: to keep global temperature rise "well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels" and to make every effort to limit the increase to 1.5°C; and to reach these targets, to peak greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2025 and decrease by 43% by 2030.

The Paris Agreement established a 5-year cycle of climate action. Every five years, countries must reassess and strengthen their climate commitments in what is known as 'ratcheting up' ambitions. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are mandatory climate action plans submitted by each country to demonstrate their goals and the steps they'll take to meet them. Countries start-

ed submitting NDCs in 2020, and they will submit updated plans in 2025 at COP30. Additionally, countries can submit optional Long-Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) for broader, long-term planning, though these are not mandatory.

Each COP builds on the outcomes of previous sessions. In 2023, ahead of COP28, the first ever global stocktake was published. It is a comprehensive report assessing the collective progress of all nations under the Paris Agreement. This progress report set the stage for COP29, where countries will review their financing needs before the submission of new NDCs at COP30 in 2025. As a result, COP29 holds a critical position in evaluating whether our current ambitions align with global targets for emissions reductions.

As COP29 approaches, hosted this year in Baku, Azerbaijan, the world is watching to see how what actionable policies will emerge. With increasing climate disasters and economic pressures, COP29 will play a critical role in addressing gaps in previous agreements and pushing forward bolder, measurable commitments to reduce emissions and support vulnerable nations.

What are the main themes and expectations for COP29?

With the motto "In Solidarity for a Green World", COP29 aims to bring global cooperation and urgency to Baku. The COP29 Presidency's plan revolves around two main pillars: to enhance ambition, it emphasises the need for countries to increase their climate targets and transparency; and to enable action, it focuses on mobilising finance to convert these ambitions into concrete steps for emissions reduction, adaptation, and addressing loss and

damage.

Within those statements, three key themes of climate summit can be highlighted:

(1) To align with the Paris Agreement's temperature targets, COP29 will call for stronger national commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This year's discussions will explore how sustainable development, like adopting circular economic models, can support mitigation efforts. Increasing the availability of global capital for adaptation and mitigation is also essential. Talks will emphasise removing barriers in public funding and sending clearer signals to investors, encouraging an international approach to low-cost, effective mitigation options to keep the 1.5°C target within reach.

(2) One of the most anticipated topics at COP29, or the 'money COP', is finance. Finance is central to negotiations as countries push for the establishment of a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate funding before 2025. This new goal will likely replace the unmet \$100 billion annual climate finance commitment from developed economies. COP29 will also look to increase the recently established Loss and Damage Fund to support nations experiencing severe climate impacts. Progress on the goal to double climate finance by 2025, a target set at COP26, will be reviewed, with a new Climate Finance Action Fund proposed to support developing countries as main resources in

food and agriculture.

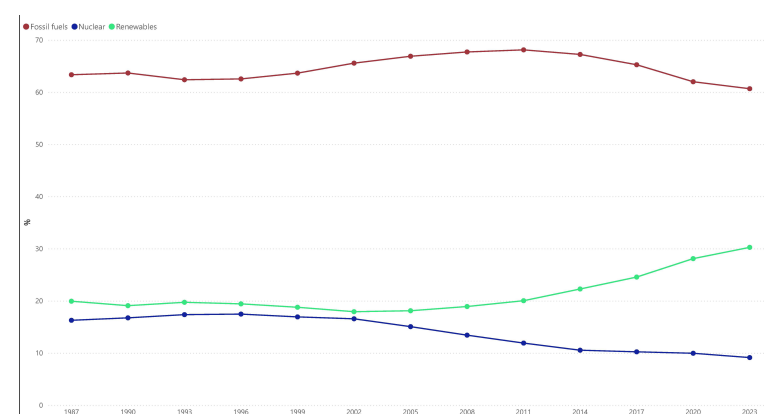
(3) COP29 will focus on advancing renewable energy, increasing efficiency, and phasing down fossil fuel use. Commitments made at previous COPs include tripling renewable energy use by 2030, doubling energy efficiency improvements, and reducing fossil fuel dependence. However, the shift away from hydrocarbons is currently made more difficult by high demand, economic reliance on fossil fuels, and energy security.

Bolstered by significant growth in renewable energy, environmental activists will likely push for a more accelerated fossil fuel phase-out.

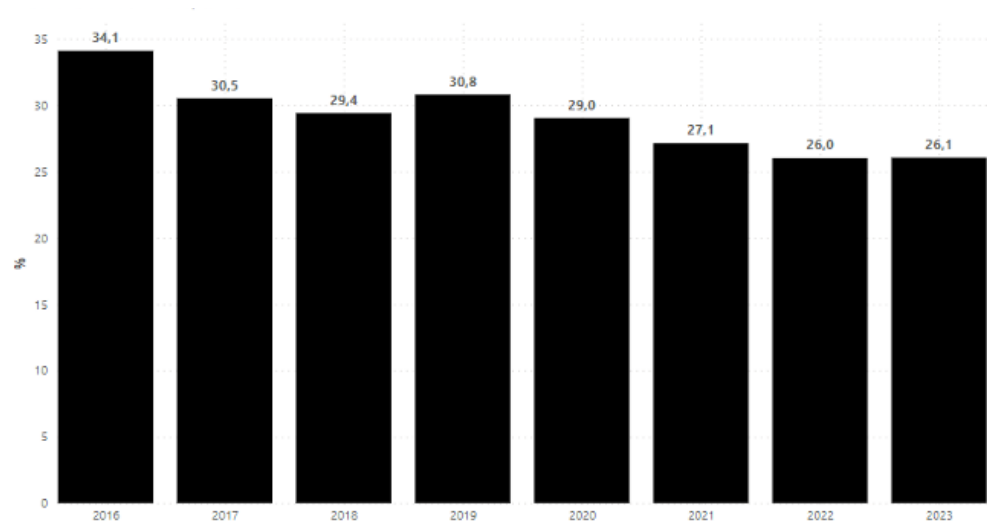
Azerbaijan has proposed a Climate Action Finance Fund to raise \$1 billion from fossil fuel producers to support the energy transition, aiming to tie fossil fuel financing with sustainable change. The outcomes of these discussions have the possibility to shape the pace and equity of the global energy transition.

What could COP29 mean for key players?

COP29 brings together diverse stakeholders. For Azerbaijan, hosting COP29 is a chance to advocate for climate finance that supports energy transitions in de-



Share of electricity generation from fossil fuels, renewables, and nuclear globally. Data from Our World in Data Eldar Alijev



Volume of crude oil exported (in million metric tons of oil equivalent) from Azerbaijan. Data from Statista Eldar Aliyev

veloping, fossil-fuel-based economies. The UK seeks to lead developed nations in accelerating climate action, focusing on renewables and transparent climate finance. Imperial College London has the chance to contribute to research and innovation, showcasing climate solutions. Together, these players reflect the wide-reaching impact and collaborative potential of COP29.

How does Azerbaijan balance fossil fuels and climate goals?

Azerbaijan is at a pivotal moment as it seeks to balance its fossil-fuel-driven economy with clean sources. Despite committing to a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050, Azerbaijan continues to serve as a major oil and gas exporter. Meeting European demand, Azerbaijan plans to double its gas exports to the EU: a shift that aligns with energy security goals but underscores its reliance on fossil fuels even as oil exports have gradually decreased over the past seven years.

Azerbaijan's renewable energy initiatives are gaining traction, particularly through projects with foreign investors, such as solar, offshore and onshore wind projects with the Masdar and ACWA Power. Yet, this transition is hampered by infrastructure and supply chain limitations. The country's renewable sector is constrained by logistical costs and limited domestic experience, making solar projects more feasible than wind due to simpler transportation and setup. However, the country has a plan to establish a green interconnector linking Azerbaijan to Hungary via the Black Sea for renewable electricity.

Azerbaijan recognizes the need for significant legislative and economic adjustments to address these challenges. For example, laws are under review to allow third-party access to the national grid, a crucial step in opening the renewable energy market. Alongside these changes, the government has introduced tax and customs incentives to encourage renewable projects, signalling its dedication to fostering sustainable energy infrastructure.

During COP29, Azerbaijan will advocate for accessible climate finance to help energy-producing nations like itself transition to cleaner energy. This crucial role highlights both the challenges and opportunities faced by resource-rich countries striving to align their economies with a sustainable, low-carbon future.

Will the UK step up its climate commitments?

For the UK, COP29 comes at a critical time for global political security. As the world faces intensifying geopolitical tensions, the UK is prioritising its own security by ramping up renewable energy and decarbonisation to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. This shift aligns with the UK's 2050 net-zero target.

Amid a wave of absences among global leaders – Ursula von der Leyen of the EU Commission, Germany's Olaf Scholz, and France's Emmanuel Macron – PM Keir Starmer is one of a dwindling number of leaders of major industrialized economies attending COP29. Starmer's presence reinforces the UK's commitment and positions it to lead negotiations on behalf of developed nations. Starmer is expected to announce ambitious new climate targets

for the UK and renew the country's £11.6 billion pledge in climate finance for poorer countries. The UK will also push for establishing the NCQG to ensure transparency and accountability in global climate financing, underscoring its leadership role in pursuing equitable, actionable climate commitments at COP29.

What role does Imperial play in the summit?

Imperial College London will have a delegation at COP29, showcasing its leadership in climate change, sustainable innovation, and youth-led action. Alongside its 2040 net-zero target, Imperial has a chance to highlight its Zero Index framework, which tracks if companies it's invested in are Paris-aligned. Imperial will also spotlight the role of the insurance industry in unlocking capital for climate and financing the energy transition in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). Additionally, Imperial will focus on the impacts of climate change on mental health, advocating for more youth-driven, interdisciplinary approaches to climate action. These contributions will underscore Imperial's commitment to both global and local collaboration and science-based actionable solutions for the climate crisis.

Will COP29 pave the way for a truly sustainable future?

As COP29 progresses, all eyes will be on the critical financial conversations that will shape the future of climate action. At the heart of this year's summit is the NCQG, which aims to bring greater transparency and accessibility to climate finance, with a focus on the needs of the world's most vulnerable nations. The expansion of the Loss and Damage Fund, established at COP28, will also take centre stage for countries hit hardest by climate-induced disasters. However, these financial commitments need to be more than promises: they must be backed by real support, particularly as the scale of climate impacts grows.

The urgency for decisive action has never been clearer. Scientists report unprecedented warming, with record surface and ocean temperatures, dangerously high levels of carbon dioxide and methane, and

a continued rise in fossil fuel production. Just six months after COP28, the world suffered \$41 billion in damages from extreme weather events. As COP29 begins, the international community must take real steps to reverse these destructive trends, or risk deepening global instability.

Azerbaijan's presidency of COP29 offers a unique opportunity to lead the global shift from fossil fuel dependence to a sustainable future. Yet, the country faces its own dilemma: its economy remains deeply reliant on oil and gas, a challenge faced by other recent petro-state COP hosts, such as the UAE and Egypt. This tension will likely rise as debates continue over how quickly, and to what extent, fossil fuels should be phased out. With a shift in energy priorities, COP29 will likely recharge the discussions surrounding fossil fuel transitions, potentially sparking controversy over the pace of change.

In addition to the climate debate, ongoing global conflicts, from the Middle East to Ukraine, pose significant challenges for international cooperation. Trust between nations is essential to achieving meaningful progress at COP29, and the summit's proposal for a global ceasefire, or 'Truce COP,' reflects the growing recognition that peace and climate action must go hand in hand. This unprecedented call for a unified pause in conflict highlights how closely climate issues are intertwined with geopolitical stability.

Finally, COP29 could solve long-standing issues with Article 6, which has held back progress on international carbon markets for nearly a decade. A breakthrough here could lead to more investment in carbon trading by creating a better system for reducing emissions and tackling greenwashing. If successful, this could become a vital tool in the global effort to fight climate change.

As COP29 comes to an end, the world will be watching to see if this summit can provide the financial support, political will, and global cooperation needed for a sustainable future. The decisions made in Baku could determine whether we move toward a more resilient and fairer world or risk losing the narrative needed to prevent the worst impacts of climate change.

This article was written before COP29 began.

BFI

**London
Film
Festival**

2024

FILM&TV

Grand Theft Hamlet

Cult classics from theatre and gaming combine in an unlikely partnership. The result is a genuinely sidesplitting comedy – and a sobering documentary about socialisation during lockdown.

A household name revered by overzealous English teachers and literary patriots alike, and deplored by schoolchildren everywhere, Shakespeare's works have had an undeniable impact on the entirety of the Western canon. His continuing influence on British theatre alone is superlative – since 1996, there have been 778 UK productions of *Romeo and Juliet*, 1,010 of *Macbeth*, 472 of *Hamlet*, not counting the plethora of opera, ballet, films, and other plays derived from these. However this raises a potential problem. The challenge for the theatre director leading the production of an existing play is to find a new interpretation to explore and emphasise, oftentimes the characters and the relationships between them. Yet there are only so many novel interpretations that one can come up with; the audience of today probably won't find productions faithful to the source material terribly engaging anyway.

Some newer productions

address this by updating the play's sets and characters. *Grand Theft Hamlet* (2024) addresses this by throwing out the sets, the stage, and the entire theatre altogether. The movie, directed by Sam Crane and Pinny Grylls during the 2021 COVID-19 lockdown, captures the preparation and rehearsal of a rendition of *Hamlet*, performed completely



The prospect of losing precious social connections is nothing short of terrifying

inside the titular game. Here, the more urgent challenge for “theatre” directors Crane and Mark Oosterveen was the logistics of performing a play in a medium where most players act like crazed domestic terrorists; they would rather mow down in cold blood than join a virtual acting troupe.

While on the run from the

cops following an execution in broad daylight – which I gather isn't too uncommon an occurrence in GTA – their in-game avatars encounter an open-air theatre, where they take turns performing Shakespearean soliloquies to rows of empty seats. In this moment an idea is born: the pandemic might have put their day jobs as actors on hiatus, but it couldn't hope to infiltrate virtual, violence-afflicted Los Santos – a perfect place, then, for a lockdown play. The audition brings a host of other personas, some belonging to other real-life actors facing similar career problems. With each successive rehearsal, what at first seemed absurd and gimmicky begins to look more and more like a serious production.

But the real world, ever the enemy of escapism, rears its ugly head. As most of their cast become preoccupied elsewhere and are thus less available, the tight-knit social network begins disintegrating. For Oosterveen, who earlier dropped the heartbreaking bombshell that

he has recently been bereaved and has no one in person he can get through lockdown with, the prospect of losing these precious social connections is nothing short of terrifying. Crane's own obsession with the project – online into the wee hours of the morning – drives a wedge in his relationship with Grylls, whose resentment creeps into the documentary. When their lead actor gets a job and can no longer commit to the main role, Crane and Oosterveen introspect about the utility of their acting careers in contrast with “real jobs”. To make things gloomier, pitching their show to several theatre companies yields exactly zero replies in return. These interjections of the documentary makers' own struggles, indicative of the contextual background of the movie, allow *GTH* to transcend merely being 90 minutes of two blokes messing around on a livestream.

As H-Hour approaches and the pressure continues to pile on, Crane – the stand-in actor for Hamlet – begins contemplating the fundamental question

posed in the play's, perhaps even Shakespeare's most famous soliloquy. Existing means to go on suffering “the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune”: a play not getting the attention it deserves; actors dropping major roles; not being there for a loved one, or having no loved ones there for you; strafe-bombed by “xXx_epicgamer69_xXx” while the prepubescent runt screams racial slurs at you. In that case, does non-existence, ending “the heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks/That flesh is heir to”, not seem more preferable?

I don't have an answer to this. I suspect Crane doesn't either. Instead, he commits to the role, and to the job to which he has devoted his life, breaking out of his solipsistic self-confinement and re-connecting with the rest of the cast ahead of the final performance. Organising a play in a medium as limited as a video game is certainly a miracle, but *Grand Theft Hamlet* is really a celebration of social connections enduring in times when they are hardest to maintain – yet are needed the most.

What we are looking forward to



Three Kilometres to the End of the World

Director: Emanuel Pârnu (*Better This Way*)

Runtime: 105 min

A tale all too depressingly common. If being the victim of a homophobic attack wasn't bad enough for Romanian teenager Adi, the assault reveals his sexuality to the rest of the community. Cue the usual victim-blaming, police cover-ups, and a bizarre attempt to exorcise the gay out of him, courtesy of his own mother.

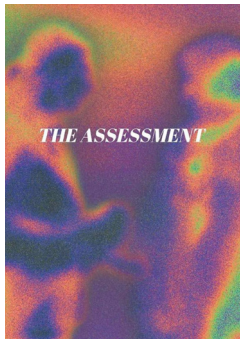


A Fidai Film

Director: Kamal Aljafari (*Port of Memory, An Unusual Summer*)

Runtime: 78 min

Aljafari transforms fragments of footage, seized from the Palestine Research Centre in Beirut by the IDF in 1982, into a cinematic collage telling the story of the life and struggles of the people of the “Land of Sad Oranges”. Not merely a film to be so much as an experience, heartrending from start to finish.

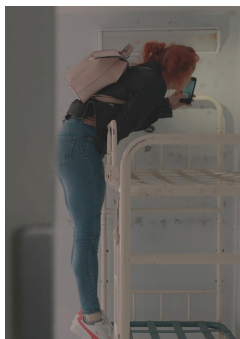


The Assessment

Director: Fleur Fortuné

Runtime: 114 min

The anti-government-overreach movie. Elizabeth Olsen and Himesh Patel play a couple living in the post-apocalyptic future and looking to start a family – but they must first pass a state-mandated, week-long evaluation directed by a very scrutinising assessor (Alicia Vikander).



Holloway

Directors: Sophie Compton (*Another Body*), Daisy-May Hudson (*Good Luck to You, Leo Grande*) **Runtime:** 86 min

Six women, former inmates at HMP Holloway, return to the now-closed prison and reflect on their time there, as well as their lives post-release.



The Room Next Door

Why The Hell Has Euthanasia Not Been Legalised Yet: The Movie

Martha is dying of stomach cancer. None of the treatment regimes she has undergone have stopped it from metastasising. She feels her mental acuity slipping away but is powerless to do anything, and she is tired of being a “fighter”, abhorring the battle rhetoric used by cancer support groups. At least Ingrid (Julianne Moore) – a friend and ex-colleague – is there for her, patiently listening to Martha talk about her relationship with her estranged daughter and her time as a war correspondent.

As the inevitability of her death sinks in, Martha (Tilda Swinton) makes the difficult decision to end her life on her own terms – but she needs some help, someone to be in “the room next door” when she passes on. However, when she asks her closest friends, they express qualms about the role, moral but also legal: assisted dying is illegal in 40 US states, including the movie’s setting in New York, while in this country it is a crime which carries a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison. She manages to persuade an initially reluctant Ingrid, and we wait in suspense for her moment of action.

On second thought, “in suspense” might be an oversell. The script is a revolt against “show don’t tell” at times: although Swinton and Moore

excel in their non-verbal expressivity, their dialogue comes off as incredibly passionless and through-the-motions, more so when the characters attempt to relate painful or sentimental



The script is a revolt against “show don’t tell” at times

anecdotes. Ingrid recalls that her then-boyfriend came back from Vietnam “a broken man” and that he would work in a hospital to bring himself inner peace (his words, not hers); meanwhile Martha clinically notes that her daughter “carved out quite an abyss between us” during her teenage years, which sounds like the kind of thing Emily Gilmore would say. Then again, it is hard to say how much of this is down to director Pedro Almodóvar. An adaptation of Sigrid Nunez’s 2020 novel *What You Are Going Through*, *The Room Next Door* is Almodóvar’s first English-language feature-length release, and the stiltedness of the lines is perhaps a consequence of his inexperience in writing organically sounding dialogue for an English production.

It’s a shame, too, as this is

primarily a character-driven movie. Despite the subject matter, *The Room Next Door* isn’t a cinematic opinion piece on the dire legal minefield of the euthanasia question, with only two scenes in its runtime really addressing it. That isn’t to say that he isn’t trying to make a statement whatsoever – one of the scenes in question follows Martha’s death, when Ingrid is called down to the precinct to answer some questions. There she is interrogated about her involvement by an obnoxious cop, who states in a neat syllogism that, one, criminals must be punished, and two, assisting in a suicide is a crime, with the conclusion acting as a veiled threat towards her. Though it feels shoe-horned into the story, it nonetheless hints at Almodóvar’s strong opinion on the topic: when he received the Venice Film Festival’s best film award last month, he said that “saying goodbye to this world cleanly and with dignity is a fundamental right of every human being.” If *The Room* drops marks for its passionless lines, it at least gains some for refusing to brush under the rug a complicated yet critical issue of our time, instead putting it right in front of the camera.

Credits

**Writer
Designer**

Tarun Nair
Benjamin Liu

FOOD&TRAVEL

Hao-Chi: Is it worth it?

Logo
Ridhi Tanwar

JCR's newest chinese food Hao Chi offers delicious spiced meals.

Food Writer
RIDHI TANWAR

Hao-Chi is one of JCR's most affordable spots, with a solid reputation for flavor-packed Chinese food, a diverse menu and decent-sized portions. The *Felix* Food Team headed to Hao Chi last week to give their take on the food.

As one enters the JCR from the gate farther from the Sherfield building, NeoPizza is on the immediate left, Kimiko on the right and a short walk from either brings you to Hao Chi. The first thing that catches one's eye is a bright screen displaying the day's vegetarian and non-vegetarian options, along with an extensive selection of sides to complement each meal. On Wednesday in particular Hao Chi serves 5 Spiced Chicken Drumsticks, and Tofu and Vegetable Stir Fry with the option of rice or noodles. Free Asian slaw and prawn crackers are also offered on the side. The entire meal cost students 6.27 pounds, with the option of two spring rolls for only an extra 40 pence.

As one stands in the line to place their order, it's hard not to be tempted by the variety of snack options on display, including millet crisps, seaweed chips, pudding, and more. After one pays for their food, there's also a counter, with the option to top the meal off with extra sweet and sour sauce and crispy fried onions.

The noodles were a standout; thick and perfectly cooked with a chewy texture. No wonder they ran out, and there was a five minute wait for those! The sweet and sour sauce coating added a bright, tangy flavour to each bite. The portion



Five Spice Chicken Drumsticks (Halal) and Fried Beans Charlotte Probstel



Snacks Charlotte Probstel



Dessert Charlotte Probstel



Fried onions and sweet-sour sauce Ridhi Tanwar



Chicken with noodles and prawn chips & Fried beans with slaw Ridhi Tanwar

of chicken drumsticks was good for the price – adding the all-essential protein to the meal. They were well-cooked and tender, with crispy skin for those who enjoy it.

For the vegetarian option, the stir-fry was said to be nice, with a slight umami flavour that went well with soft, well-



Thick and perfectly cooked with a chewy texture

cooked and aromatic rice. The green beans and the sprouts in the stir-fry were crunchy, adding a plethora of textures to the meal. The tender tofu was the source of protein in the meal.

As for the sides, the Asian slaw added a nice crunch and a refreshing contrast to the warm dishes, though it would've tasted better served even colder. The prawn chips also went well with the food – adding an additional layer of crunch with a subtle sweetness that complemented the meal. The spring rolls were wonderfully crisp. A member of the *Felix* Food team found them to be the highlight of the meal.

Overall, Hao Chi keeps the JCR buzzing with its mix of bold sauces, crunchy sides, and well-cooked mains. This spot offers a satisfying, budget-friendly escape into Chinese-inspired flavors. Just remember to grab those spring rolls – they might just steal the show! For a tasty, hearty and wallet-friendly meal that doesn't skimp on variety, Hao Chi is definitely worth a visit, or two.

BUSINESS

UK's largest student finance event launches

Career26 brings industry insights to students exploring finance careers

Business Writer
GUILLAUME FELIX

Monday 8th November marked the inaugural UK Student Finance Summit organised by Career26, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping UK students build their career.

With over 800 students in attendance and over 20 speakers from across the financial industry, the summit is the UK's largest student event for those interested in finance. Included in the price of a ticket – starting at £50 – was lunch and unlimited coffee, with an opportunity between breaks to speak to fellow students. Although participants

Business Editor
ALIA FRIEDMAN

may have been disappointed with the lack of direct contact with the majority of speakers, there were some smaller group discussions included in the event. For most sessions, students could ask speakers questions via Mentimeter, which were then relayed to the moderator. One of the students described his experience as “very informative for undergrads to get some insights,” and related that he had met “interesting dudes”.

While the event was billed as a way for students to learn more about different career opportunities, where it truly



L-to-R: Raluca Rusu (UCL Student), Rui Zhong (BNP Paribas CIB), Platini Kamdem (Adams Street Partners), Aravindh Suresh (Macquarie Asset Management)

excelled was teaching students about early career management. The attendees emphasised that the trait most sought across all financial companies and units remained passion and enthusiasm for the given role, which they said should also help applicants decide what is most suited to them. John Madgwick, the early careers manager of the Saïd Business School, suggested that being unable to convincingly answer the classic “Why this company?” was an early sign that

humble way.

“The students who perform best at the beginning and at the end of an internship often aren’t the same,” noted Sophie Warrick from JP Morgan. While hard work, willingness and commitment to staying long hours were repeatedly cited as the basis to a good attitude in an internship, curiosity seemed to stand out as the trait differentiating trainees. Issie Armstrong from DWS Group also suggested that, in internships and in full-



The students who perform best at the beginning and at the end of an internship often aren't the same

applicants were misdirected. To get a more holistic view of a given career, attendees were also urged to read the biographies of the bigwigs that rose through it, and research aspects such as the typical work-life balance in addition to technical specifics.

The panels insisted that applicants should underline any experience – no matter how distantly related to the role – that demonstrates a commitment to hard work and personal ethics. Regarding interviews, they reminded the audience that employers are looking for a human being and not the voiceover of a spreadsheet: Rui Zhong from BNP Paribas emphasises that a logical answer is always better than a memorized one, especially if it is delivered in a warm and

time jobs alike, promotions went to the best networkers and those who “shout the loudest” than to the hardest workers, heightening the importance of facetime with managers in the office.

Artificial intelligence was discussed at length during the panel. Both Armstrong and Mathieu Marc from Atomico agreed in warning that many laborious tasks previously given to young analysts, such as the analysis of long documents, slides, and even models could soon be outsourced to AI at a cheaper cost, and for similar results. According to them, those who dream of breaking into finance will benefit from excelling where AI can't – namely in networking and persuasion.

European banks head to consolidation

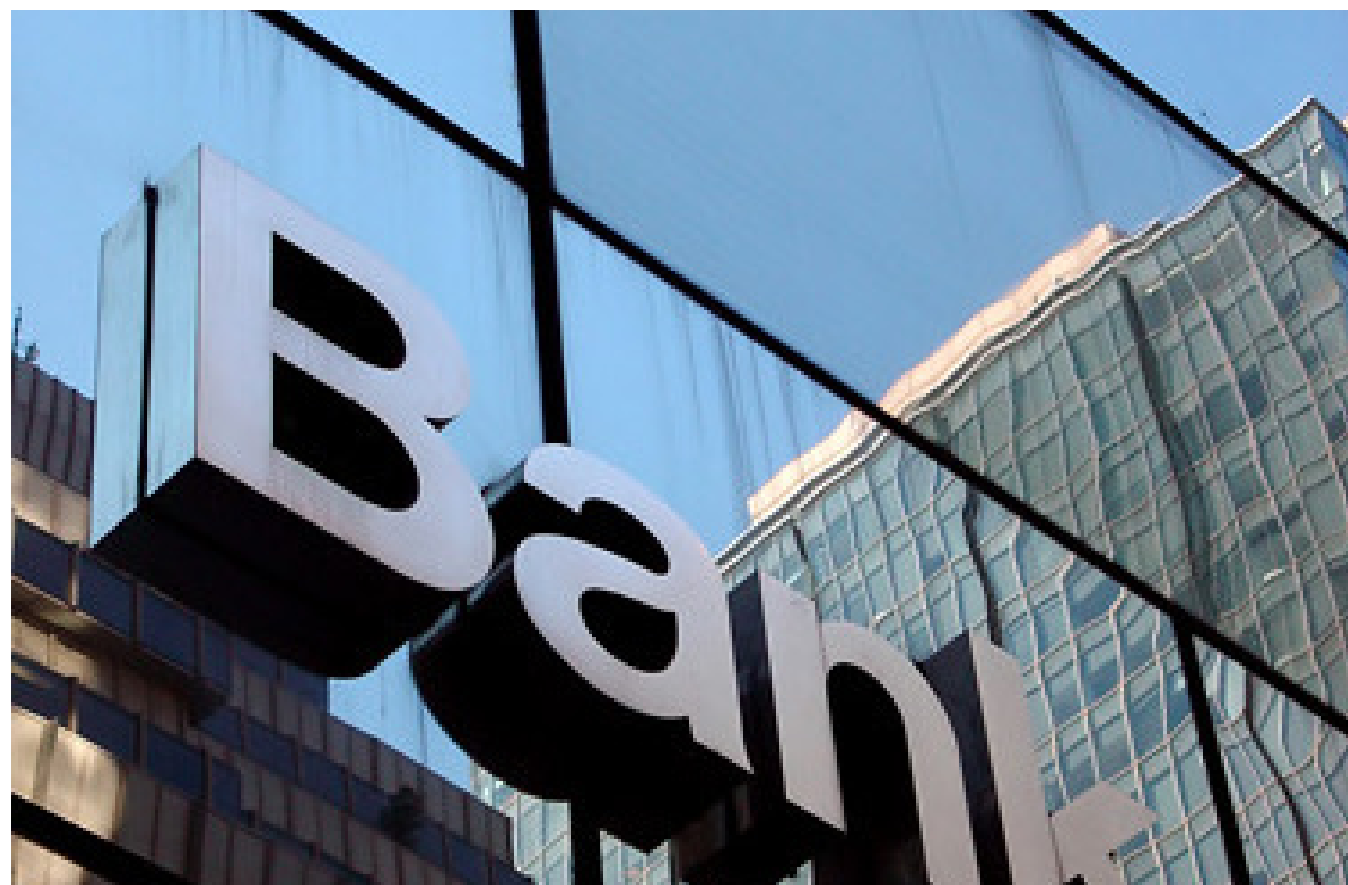
Why European commercial and investment banks are consolidating and its impact on global markets

Business Writer
NIKITA KARRI

With the current economic climate moving towards a less fragmented and more responsive financial landscape, a question arises about the future of European banks and a possible consolidation between them. Earlier this year we saw the acquisition of Credit Suisse by UBS, and Nationwide's acquisition of Virgin Money this October. This article looks into the driving forces and obstacles behind commercial and investment bank consolidation in Europe, and possible implications for consumers. As Hyder Jumabhoy of White & Case states, "We are more bullish on bank M&A than we have been in the last 5 years ... European lenders which had shelved transformational deals will need to act quickly, albeit carefully."

The fundamental drive for possible consolidation in the European banking sector is benefits from scale. Larger institutions tend to be more efficient than their smaller peers. This sort of efficiency may outweigh the increased risk a larger bank may take on. Considering that the role of a commercial bank is to match savers with excess savings to borrowers that seek loans means larger banks can match them more efficiently, leveraging upon their wider geographic reach.

According to the ECB Banking Supervision there are longstanding issues such as low profitability and capacity in the European Banking Sector. The case of consolidation, be it cross-border or within the EU, would help ease the burden of a costly regulatory system for each bank. By achieving greater economies of scale, European banks could rival US and Chinese



Bank. Attribution-NonCommercial 2.0 Generic

counterparts in terms of lending capacity, profitability, and technology. In terms of investment banks, recently, we have also seen a trend toward faster settlement windows for securities, already adopted by markets like the US and Canada which further underscores the need for European banks to consolidate and modernise.



We are more bullish on bank M&A than we have been in the last 5 years

However, cross-border bank consolidation in Europe remains a contentious issue, mainly due to the region's fragmented regulatory landscape. Different countries have different tax regimes, labour laws, and financial regulations, which complicate mergers that span national borders. "Hurdles to deals include banking regulations and broader fragmentation of rules across Europe such as lack of tax and product harmonisation,"

Nicolas Charnay, managing director at S&P Global Ratings illustrates. "This makes it hard to generate economies of scale and therefore find economic sense in cross-border deals."

It is important to note that the topic of consolidation and whether bigger banks may benefit consumers as much as they benefit the banks still falls under debate. It is also possible that as banks grow large, they become more complicated to run in practice due to the cultural and operational integration of the merged entities that need to be addressed. There are real costs to increases in bank size, and they may not be able to attract more deposits as would be hoped. As a result, we could witness increased costs for both consumers and enterprises. Perhaps without the political will to break down regulatory barriers and create a unified financial framework, cross-border mergers may continue to face obstacles, limiting the full potential of consolidation in Europe.



Learn more by connecting with the Investment Society

BOOKS

Art, morality, and hollow reflections

A critical review of *Monsters* – not the hit Netflix series, but Claire Dederer’s book about what we should do with great art by bad people.

Books Writer
NADEEN DAKA

In *Monsters: A Fan’s Dilemma*, Claire Dederer tackles the ethical dilemma of engaging with art made by morally flawed artists, or – as she terms them – “monsters”. Dederer initially explored this idea seven years ago in an essay for the *Paris Review* titled “What Do We Do with the Art of Monstrous Men?”, where she recounted her conflicting experience watching Woody Allen’s *Manhattan* amid allegations that he abused his adoptive daughter. The rise of the #MeToo movement gained Dederer’s article considerable traction, prompting her to expound on her ideas.

The themes in *Monsters* are pertinent to the ethical and cultural dilemmas of modern society, specifically contemporary concerns about ‘cancel culture’. They aim to confront the question, ‘how should we engage with works produced by people who have done bad things?’ Yet, rather than offering discerning and substantive insights, Dederer presents a disjointed series of unwarranted introspections and hollow reflections.

In the first half of *Monsters*, Dederer unfolds her experience as an admirer of “genius monsters” like Ernest Hemingway, Roman Polanski, and Pablo Picasso. She explores the difficulty she faces in separating their works from their biographies, each of which is marred by reports of abuse and mistreatment of women.

While Dederer acknowledges that our appreciation of art is inevitably shaped by what we know about the artist’s life, she ultimately stops short of concluding that they merit any less acclaim. In fact, she hesitates to make any definitive claims throughout the entire book – possibly to appease all her readers. She desperately wants to be liked, and we can feel it.

In the second half of the book, Dederer diverts her focus to women like Sylvia Plath and Doris Lessing, who are examined as “monstrous” for having poor mental health or choosing their careers

over their children. Though an honorable attempt at producing a feminist critique of double standards in art, Dederer’s comparisons dilute the strength of her arguments. By what standard does a mother’s choice to prioritize her career possibly compare to acts of abuse?

The book’s lack of cogency left me with more questions than I started with. New arguments and themes are constantly introduced but rarely fully addressed. To Dederer’s credit, this topic lends itself to a vast array of routes to explore. However, her arguments fluctuate without a clear sense of direction and are explored with inconsistent depth. It is evident Dederer

Monsters



What Do We Do
With Great Art
By Bad People?

Claire Dederer

'A VITAL BOOK
FOR OUR TIMES'
INDEPENDENT

'EXCELLENT'
NEW YORKER

'PLAYFUL'
THE TIMES

'EXHILARATING'
GUARDIAN

'EXTRAORDINARY'
ANN PATCHETT

herself can't quite formulate a homogenous opinion.

Finally, Dederer’s conclusion takes a nihilistic turn. She suggests that our choice to boycott art made by “monsters” holds no ethical significance beyond an empty gesture. Since it makes no difference, she argues, we might as well continue to engage with such art in any way we want. Here, I do not agree with Dederer (though I don’t think she’d mind – she continually disagrees with herself).

Instead, I believe we should approach art with caution, trying to seek out sources that do not contribute to the profit or legacy of the “monsters” behind the work. Although achieving perfect consistency might be impossible, our efforts to consume both judiciously and responsibly send a message that art is not just a commodity. Art is a reflection of our values and the people we choose to uplift. In the end, it’s not just about what we consume, but what we stand for when we do.

CATNIP

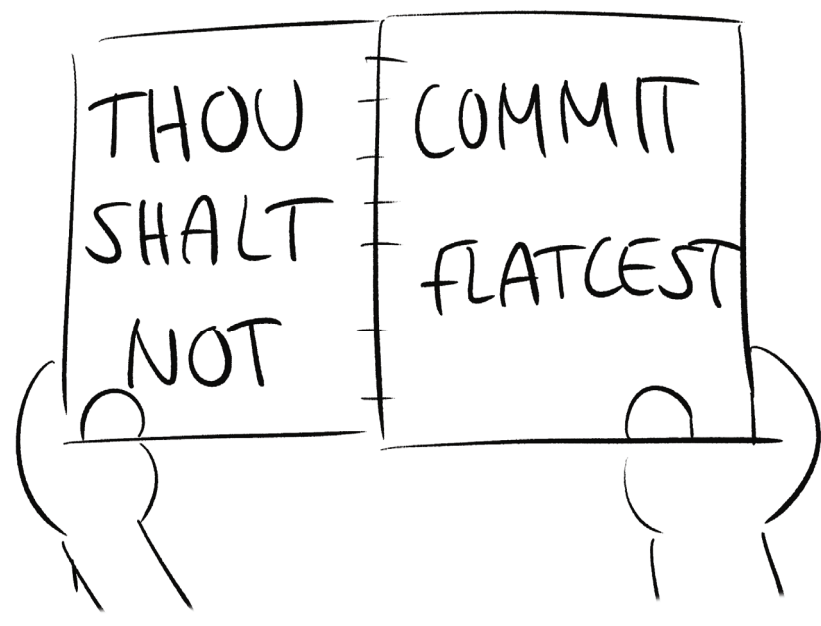
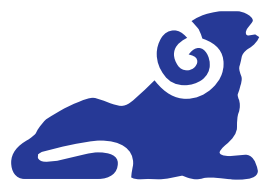


Illustration by Ruby Lydford



ARIES

This week your landlord explains that the green and pink mould in your shower is part of the *Wicked* movie campaign.



TAURUS

This week you offer to sponsor DoCSoc if they give you a People's Sexiest Man in Computing award tier.



GEMINI

This week your flatmate's girlfriend takes the 1920s theme too far when you catch her flappers out in the kitchen.



CANCER

This week your approaching essay deadline accelerates your impending Twink Death.



LEO

This week you put your backlog of 1000 tweeted slurs behind you and become a SJW on Bluesky.



VIRGO

This week you create an exhibit label for your high art project, "Kitchen Sink Biohazard".



LIBRA

This week you are snubbed by the Dean's List despite your lab report "Eternal Photosynthesis" being highly acclaimed by your peers.



SCORPIO

This week you get in trouble with your department for slagging off your supervisor and misdrawing the lines. You get in trouble with your groupmates for doing the lines.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you sign up to be the Art Club life drawing model. You ask that you being a grower be taken into account,



CAPRICORN

This week you can't believe that a furry red muppet has outperformed you in the dating scene.



AQUARIUS

This week you contact Mark Zuckerberg and beg him to collaborate with you at MODULATE.



PISCES

This week as newly-appointed society president you select your favourite bossman to be treasurer, and your podcast co-host to be your deputy.

Societies Announcements

This weekend (15th - 17th Nov.)

15TH NOV.
Friday

ImpactTech Kickoff
Climate Entrepreneurs Club

WHERE: Royal Institution
21 Albemarle Street, London W1S 4BS
TIME: 6pm - 9pm

TICKETS: Free
HIGHLIGHT: Meet climate-tech founders and network.



INFO

Next week (18th - 24th Nov.)

19TH NOV.
Tuesday

Sip Drag and Paint
IQ and Imperial LGBTQ+ Network

WHERE: Metrix, Beit Quad
TIME: 7pm
TICKETS: £2-£4

HIGHLIGHT: Sip (non)-alcoholic drinks while life painting drag performer Mild Peril.



TICKETS

24TH NOV.
Sunday

Annual Conference
ICSM Radiology

WHERE: King's College London
Guy's Campus
TIME: 9am - 5pm

TICKETS: £5-£7
HIGHLIGHT: Discussions, quizzes & competitions.



TICKETS

Week after (25th Nov. - 1st Dec.)

27-30TH NOV.
Wed - Sat.

Peter Pan & Wendy
ICSM Drama

WHERE: University Concert Hall (UCH), Beit Quad, SW7 2BB
TIME: 7pm (doors open) - 10 pm
TICKETS: £8 - £10

HIGHLIGHT: A decolonial and feminist interpretation of Peter Pan and Wendy!



TICKETS

30TH NOV.
Saturday

Beyond the Stethoscope
ICSM Coding

WHERE: Sir Alexander Fleming Building, SK Campus
TIME: 8.45am - 4.20pm

TICKETS: £4.99 - £9.99
HIGHLIGHT: Speakers, workshops, & abstract discussion.



INFO

2nd Dec. - 8th Dec.

2ND DEC.
Monday

Winter Fair
IC Big Band

WHERE: Metric, Beit Quad
TIME: 7.30pm - 9pm
TICKETS: None

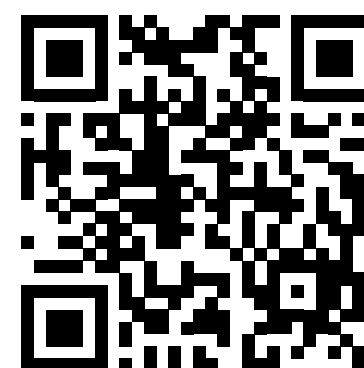
HIGHLIGHT: Holiday spirit, swing classics, festive favorites, timeless big band, and Jazz.



INFO

Want to join the board above?

Scan QR and fill out form by Sunday evening



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.

			4	42			
	14	11				8	5
22					4		
9			12				
			9				
	9	16				12	7
20					6		
6			23				
			6				

KNIGHT'S MOVE

(3 pts.)

How-to:

For fans of Chess and Word puzzles! The aim of Knight's Move is to 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: "The Sour Taste of Victory"

U	U	G	G	L	T
A	N	M	A	R	H
Q	K	N	E	E	O
O	M	L	R	A	E
T	A	M	Z	E	Y
O	S	O	I	B	E
E	W	U	E	U	M

Across

- 1. Alternative arrangement for each anomaly. [11]
- 9. Angrily, as though a crustacean. [9]
- 10. Does not react to French denial after use of neopronoun. [5]
- 11. Scorn short Sultan after starting Imperial Newspaper [6]
- 12. The battered lung fish is turning pink! [8]
- 13. Hello, Jill's brother is a steal! [6]
- 15. Vessel previously sheltering Swiss. [8]
- 17. Nonverbal New York Times puzzle for two shillings! [8]
- 19. Seeks short queue at street side entrance. [6]
- 21. Disruptive people criminally doctor self-ID. [8]
- 23. The greatest Buddhist

- school begins in the home [6]
- 26. Allotment bordering United States yields flower[5]
- 27. Mirrored infrared ends fight with ants which are pests. [9]
- 28. My teary, oddly sore eyes blur, thinking of times gone by. [11]

Down

- 1. Sprite is initially helpful but then mischievous. [7]
- 2. Peruses concerning advertisements. [5]
- 3. The University of Michigan bachelor is missing biblical type of connection to child. [9]
- 4. Assists in a pandemic. [4]
- 5. Excepting the States, suicidally, absurdly scenic. [7]
- 6. Hub of crooked United Nations joins with congress. [5]
- 7. Sour liquid from ivy is

- wiped up with rag. [7]
- 8. Ants devour part of French dog and those of antiquity! [8]
- 14. Trudy justly, listlessly organised compulsory judgement. [4 4]
- 16. Operation for one of us over Christian fast ends medical query luxuriously[9]
- 17. Prattles on about Belgian treats. [7]
- 18. Sounds like properties are falling below final prices. [7]
- 20. Fracture leaves messy part of chisel in message. [7]
- 22. Passionate learner makes dramatic turn towards pig pen. [5]
- 24. Ancient region home to unbalanced particle borders Ithaca. [5]
- 25. Fizzy German beer with side of cheese. [4]

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Submitted by Ester K. Mirra

(5 pts.)

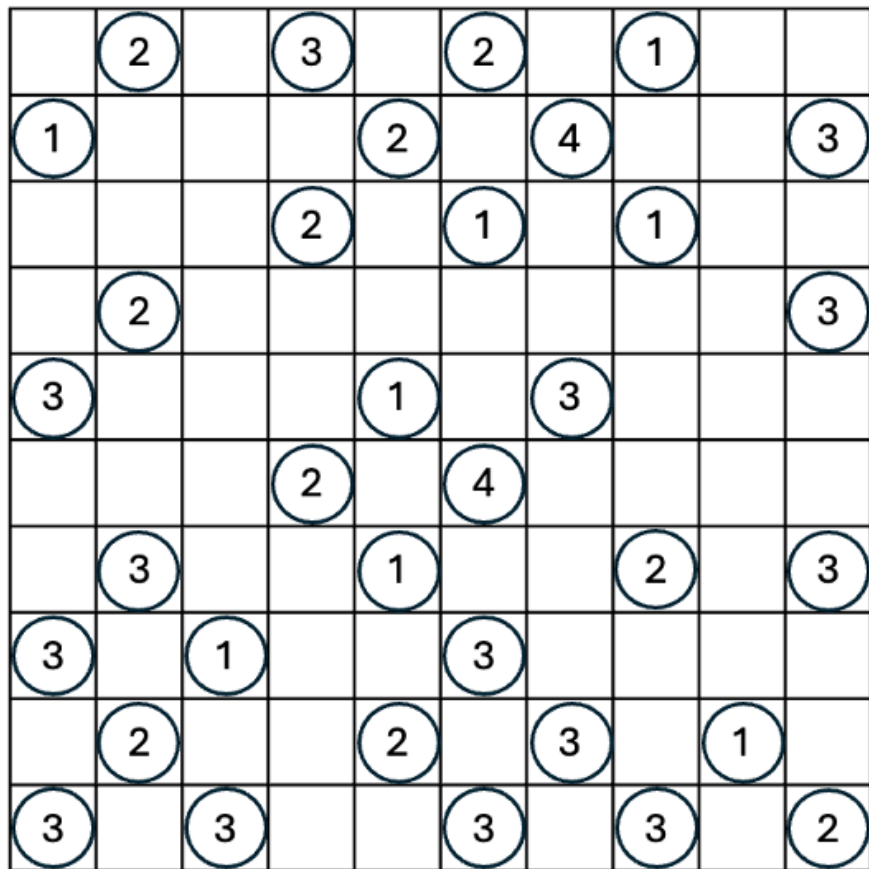
1		2		3		4		5		6		7
											8	
9										10		
11						12						
13		14				15			16			
17						18			19			20
21				22					23		24	
								25				
26						27						
				28								

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



COBWEBS

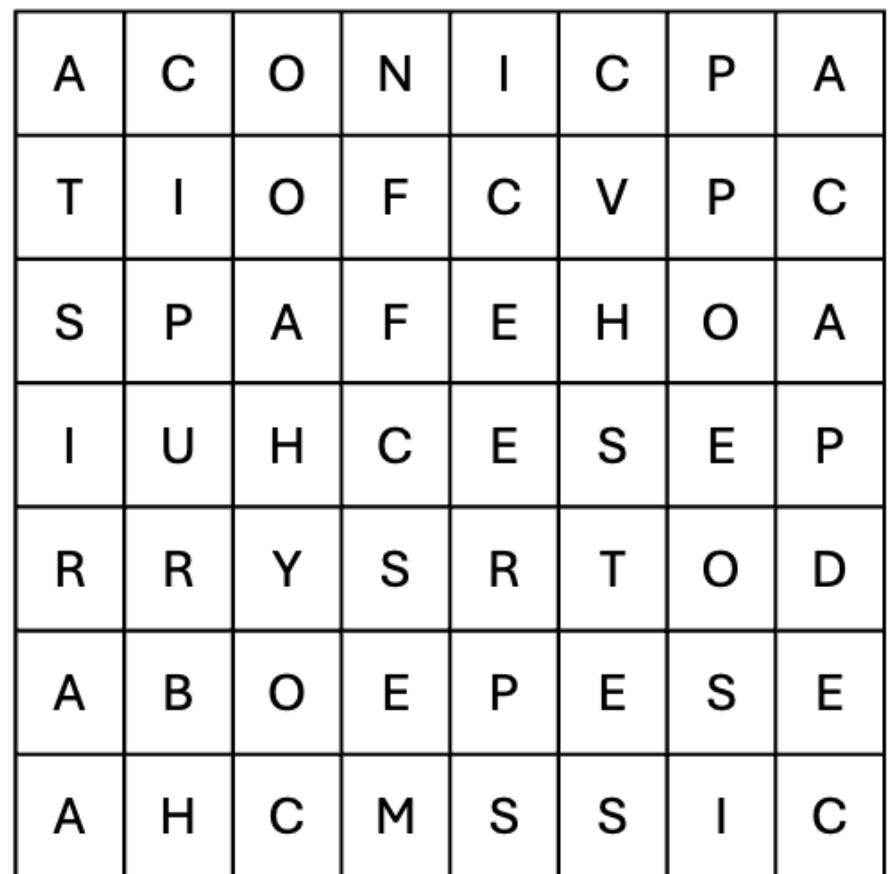
(3 pts.)

Submitted by Shevitha Segar

How-to:

Find the hidden themed words! Theme words fill the board entirely. No theme words overlap. Once all the theme words have been found, all the letters will have been used.

Hint: "Can I take your order?"



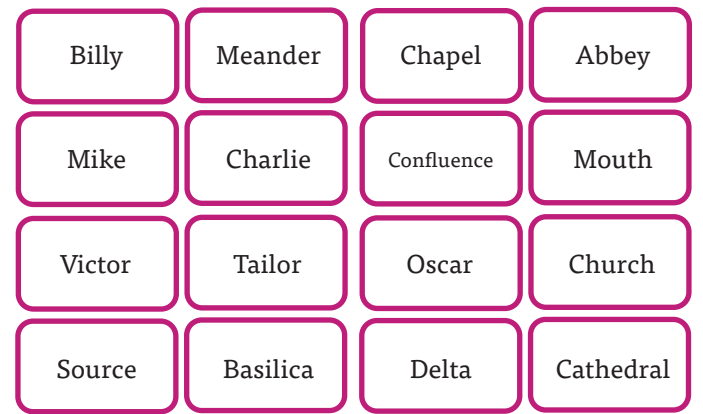
GROUPING GRIDS

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.



Medium (3 pts.)

	Connections			
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

Hard (4 pts.)

	Connections			
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

COMIC

Submitted by Tengyu Zhao



Felix at the movies

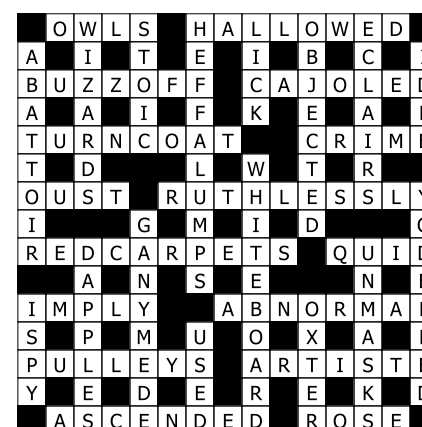
Knight's Move Solutions

- Knight
- Horse
- Sword
- Merlin
- Damsel
- Chivalry

Quiz Tree Solutions

1. Chani in Dune
2. Oculus
3. The Pianist
4. The Shape of Water
5. Arcane
6. Elf. This is German, the rest are French.
7. They precede things in an Orchestra.
8. (a) Charles Dickens, (b) Arthur Conan Doyle, (c) Evelyn Waugh
9. Scrabble.

Previous Puzzles' solutions



Cryptic

Novel	Ledger	Reserve	Engage	Meaning "book"
Fresh	Recent	Pristine	Unfamiliar	Meaning "new"
Sage	Basil	Thyme	Chamomile	Herbs
Head	Mint	Point	Fishing	Spear ---

Medium grouping grid

Charge	Power	Potential	Resistance	Electrical Quantities
Current	Contemporary	Topical	Present	Here 'n' now
Stage	Soft	Fair	Extended	--- Play
Shadow[fax]	Sam[wise]	Fro[do]	Lego[las]	Start of Lord of Rings characters

Hard grouping grid

Puzzle Editor's Note

Dearest Puzzlers,

We are keeping it short and sweet (or should I say tangy) this week!

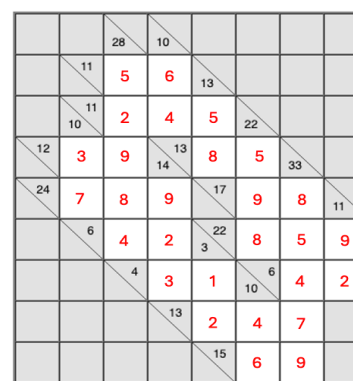
Cobwebs and Knight's Move are back for your puzzling pleasure, and we've upped the difficulty on Bridges to keep you on your toes. We're also trialling something new with the Cryptogram to mix things up a bit - hopefully, that'll tide you over until next week!

The competition at the top of the leaderboard remains nail-bitingly close. The Menu just pulls ahead of Team GuineaPig this week, with Team Experial chasing their tailwinds. A warm welcome back to our dear Tactless Tony and greetings to our newest contestants: ATGPIE and D18 & Felix.

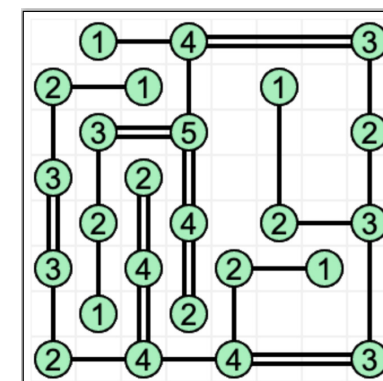
Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to the puzzles section: Ester K Mirra for their Cryptic Crossword, William and Vittoria for their Connections, Shevitha for the Cobwebs and Tengyu for the Comic.

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



Kakuro



Bridges

"I pretended to chase my own monsters away. I'd say... 'No monster's gonna get you when I'm here.' Then a real monster showed up. And I just ran away."

Anagram: Mine Rehinged = Heimerdinger

Quote from: Arcane Season 1 Episode 8

Cryptogram

SPORT

Not Coote, David...

Recent video depicts referee David Coote calling former Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp a “German c*nt,” claiming he was “arrogant” after officiating a 1-1 draw in the 2019–20 season.

Sport Writer

LILA HARRISON

On Monday afternoon, a video has emerged from X, formerly Twitter, user “Josh97LFC” which has put long term Premier League referee David Coote under immense scrutiny and immediate suspension by PGMOL (Professional Game Match Officials Limited), the governing body for English football.

What did Coote say?

Coote stated: “Aside from having a right pop at me when I refed them against Burnley in lockdown, he accused me of lying ... I’ve got no interest in speaking to someone who’s f*cking arrogant. So, I do my best not to speak to him ... My God, German c*nt, f*ck me.”

He then goes on to criticise Liverpool fans as a whole: “Liverpool are all f*cking b*llends and we hate scousers.” In a second video he then emphasises that the prior one “cannot f*cking get anywhere.”

The Liverpool vs Burnley draw of 2019–20 ended a 24 game win streak at Anfield for the Reds. They were aiming to become the first club since Sunderland in

1891–92 season to have a flawless season at home. After Jay Rodriguez cancelled out an LFC opener, the referee seemed to disregard multiple poor challenges against Liverpool.

“This does not look good for the PGMOL”

This was not the only poor set of decisions made by Coote that influenced Liverpool’s seasons. In the following season he did not give a red card to Everton’s Jordan Pickford following a serious challenge resulting in a torn ACL for Liverpool’s Virgil Van Dijk. In 2021–22 he did not give an obvious handball against Manchester City’s Rodri which would have resulted in a penalty and possible dropped points for the team – a title-deciding decision – as City finished only a point above Liverpool that year. The season after that, he was officiating Liverpool’s 2-2 draw with Arsenal where linesman Constantine Hatzidakis elbowed Liverpool left back Andy Robertson. He recently refereed Liverpool’s 2-0 win against Aston Villa, where Leon Bailey should have been sent off for pulling down forward Mo Salah in a goalscoring position.

As usual, and as we have come to expect, this does not look good for the PGMOL. They are losing their ability



Premier League referee David Coote FMT

to convince the league they are reliable, honest, and unbiased. Not just for LFC – for all teams.

After initial denial, Coote acknowledged the reality of the video, making no further comment. The PGMOL have made no comment aside from announcing Coote’s suspension and pending investigation.

At least one player escaped criticism. As Coote remarked, “James Milner is alright.”

American Football standings

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	Points
1	Kingston Cougars	2	2	0	0	4
2	City Wolfpack	2	1	0	1	3
3	Imperial Immortals	1	0	0	1	1
4	QM Vipers	2	1	1	0	0
5	Greenwich Mariners	1	0	1	0	0
6	Canterbury Chargers	2	0	2	0	-2*

* Canterbury Chargers faced a 2-point deduction over an incomplete game.

Immortals Scores and fixtures - Gameweeks 1 and 2:

Gameweek 1 (10/11):

Imperial Immortals 0 - 0 City Wolfpack

Gameweek 2 (17/11):

Imperial Immortals vs Kingston Cougars,
13:30 kickoff

Taster sessions:

Tuesday 19th November, 20:00–22:00 at Harlington.