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KEEP THE CAT FREE | SINCE 1949

Heaven shut for 28 days

License suspended after security guard charged with rape.

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

London's most prominent gay nightclub, Heaven, has been forced to close after a member of security was charged with rape, the Metropolitan Police said.

Westminster City Council's licensing committee ruled that Heaven's alcohol license should be suspended for 28 days after an alleged rape in the vicinity of the venue on Friday 1st November.

The 28-day suspension started on last Wednesday, and will last until the full hearing, due to take place no later than Wednesday 11th December.

A man was charged on Wednesday 13th November in relation to the crime, according to the Met.

A Westminster Council spokesperson said: "Following a request from the Metropolitan Police and considering evidence from both the police and the operator, the council's licensing committee has decided



Entrance to Heaven. Nick Cooper at English Wikipedia, CC-BY-SA 3.0

to suspend Heaven's licence for 28 days.

"We recognise this venue's cultural significance, but the committee agreed this step is necessary to and protect the public. This follows a report of an alleged rape made to police on Friday, 1 November.

"A full licensing hearing will be held in December where both the police and venue management will have the opportunity

to present new evidence.

"This case is currently subject of an ongoing police investigation, and we are unable to comment further at this stage."

Heaven's owner Jeremy Joseph said the club was considering its position with regards to an appeal, according to his Instagram page.

NEWS

Chancellor Rachel Reeves visits White City

Chancellor and Pensions Minister visited Quell Therapeutics ahead of the last week's Mansion House speech

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FILM&TV

Dorian Gray and Elisabeth Sparkle: two sides of the same coin?

Writer Shanaya Juneja discusses how modern societal beauty standards reflect the themes of Oscar Wilde's magnum opus.

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BOOKS

Apparently Indian mythology has feminists too

Books Editor Aditi reflections on Kaikeyi, a feminist retelling of one of the most important Indian epics, the Ramayana

→ [READ MORE ON 12](#)

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

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

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

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

Signed by:
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI
Editor-in-Chief

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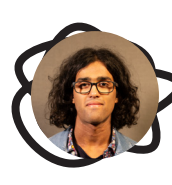
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EDITORIAL

Mo-vember

Editor-in-Chief

MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

There's a quote by David Foster Wallace that hasn't left my mind since I read it:

"The so-called 'psychotically depressed' person who tries to kill herself doesn't do so out of quote 'hopelessness' or any abstract conviction that life's assets and debits do not square. And surely not because death seems suddenly appealing. The person in whom its invisible agony reaches a certain unendurable level will kill herself the same way a trapped person will eventually jump from the window of a burning high-rise. Make no mistake about people who leap from burning windows. Their terror of falling from a great height is still just as great as it would be for you or me standing speculatively at the same window just checking out the view; i.e. the fear of falling remains a constant. The variable here is the other terror, the fire's flames: when the flames get close enough, falling to death becomes the slightly less terrible of two terrors. It's not desiring the fall; it's terror of the flames. And yet nobody down on the sidewalk, looking up and yelling 'Don't!' and 'Hang on!', can understand the jump. Not really. You'd have to have personally been trapped and felt flames to really understand a terror way beyond falling."

I've dealt with mental health issues for many years. Most of my life, now. I can pinpoint the rough outline of when it really started happening, and I have come to accept that it isn't the product of some unfortunate circumstances, and that it will probably hang around for most, if not all of my life. I've tried two types of therapy, sertraline, have journalled, smoked, and tried to weightlift my way of out of it. I'm currently on beta blockers, for the anxiety. I'm glad I don't have to use them often anymore.

One thing I've felt most poignantly is the jealousy of everyone else who can seem to hold it together. The people who take it in their stride and carry on. I can't help but feel jealous that they've managed to get through life without any knock-on effects, at least ostensibly. I suppose people might see where I am now, without knowing of the insomnia that plagues me, the days where I did nothing, and tried to wish myself away through apathy. I'm proud of where I am now, in a way, but there's always the sickly, horrible feeling that things could have gone better if I had tried things differently, worked harder. Pushed myself more in some way. I've felt, at times, that I'm not human,

because I simply couldn't measure with everyone around me. Being at Imperial certainly didn't help. In my first year, I felt extremely alienated and alone. I didn't have many friends, and the people in my life before Imperial would, in one instance, quite literally ghost me. My academic life suffered. I worked so hard to be here, and at the very pinnacle of however many years we spend in school learning, I stumbled quite badly.

It hurt to pick myself up again, and again, and again. I've learnt to be patient because of it all. But I'm aware of the hurt and pain I have caused others in my life. It hasn't easy been around me, not when I am depressed. I have caused hurt and pain, because of my own pain. Even so, I am aware, I am lucky insofar that I am a male at Imperial, and there is no gendered dimension to how I am perceived. Certainly a racial one – I actually had my first racist experience in a long time here on campus– and a class one, but in some horrible twisted way, I felt I had a voice, or that I was able to voice enough with my friends.

In other ways, I haven't. There is always the fear of judgement, of a slight glint in a man's eye if you tell them. That you will be diminished in the social order. You won't be looked on the same. At the same there is stigma and there is not. It is dependent, but the environment we have created for ourselves has done this.

As men, we thuggishly defend those who are doing better off academically. They could be the crustiest, most disgusting man you know, and they will most likely boast of their academic success and lack of trying, treating all and sundry with the most patronising manner, yet they will be whispered of in awe. If this offends you, I probably haven't met you, and if you are someone I know, I'm not the only one thinking this. Fix up. We really do it to ourselves at times. Of course it's not our fault. This hierarchical, patriarchal, thinking is beyond us all, but there are ways to change that. All of us, are capable of change for the better. If there is something years of depression have taught me, is that all things are fluid. It does get better. It does get worse, but there is a beauty in it all to carry on. To be battered by the rain, only to flourish in the sun. Life is hard, Imperial is hard, and I can't help but be full of hope at times, despite everything. The fire bays towards me, but there is always a chance for something to happen, some stroke of luck, some miraculous gust of wind to bring me down gently.

David Foster Wallace committed suicide at age 46 at his house in Claremont, California. At times, I have felt that I am also on the same path. Rather histrionically, I felt I

would die at age 19, constantly telling everyone I know that I felt it would be soon. I don't know what to say. It's all so difficult and complicated, and I wouldn't be surprised if this editorial sounds so contradictory– to quote Walt Whitman: "I am large, I contain multitudes." But, at the very least, I am trying in this awful fight to carry on. "We are not going in circles, we are going upwards. The path is a spiral; we have already climbed many steps."

Editor's Note: Democracy Review

The Union's Democracy Review closes next Tuesday. The Union exists to represent students interests and lobby for them where necessary, and currently, it is aiming to improve its democratic procedures so that more of the student body. If you want to see improvements and changes that would you believe would help the Union's democratic procedures, and thus the very bodies that represent students and lobby for them, please fill out the form by next Tuesday. In addition, if you fill out the survey you will be in for the chance to enter a prize draw to win free AirPods or a £50 Amazon gift voucher. Scan the QR code below to fill out the survey.



NEWS

Chancellor visits White City

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Chancellor Rachel Reeves and Minister for Pensions Emma Reynolds visited Quell Therapeutics, a biotechnology spinout based in Imperial's Translation and Innovation Hub (I-HUB) at White City. They were also joined by Steve Bates OBE, CEO of UK Bioindustry Association, and Kristin Macleod CBE, Chief Strategy Officer of British Business Bank.

The Chancellor toured Quell's lab facilities and spoke

on the UK Government's plans regarding pension funds ahead of her Mansion House Speech on Thursday 14th November.

Quell Therapeutics is a biotech company that aims to create treatment for immune-mediated and inflammatory diseases using Tregs (a type of regulatory white blood cell).

Earlier this year, Science Minister Dr Peter Kyle visited White City campus' I-HUB after the launch of the government's Regulatory Innovation Office, a key manifesto promise of the Labour government that aims to "reduce the burden for businesses hoping to bring new

products and services to the market in some of the UK's fastest-growing sectors through innovation," according to a government press release.



White City North Campus. Shadowssettle via Wikimedia Commons CC-BY-SA 4.0

FoNS students hold Imperial's first-ever research-a-thon

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Imperial's first ever research-a-thon was held by Physoc and Mathsoc on the weekend commencing 16th November. 100 students worked in small teams to research and present their findings in front of a panel of judges representing the four streams of natural sciences: Physics, Maths, Chemistry, and Life Sciences.

Tickets sold out in minutes as a variety of students across the Faculty of Natural Sciences competed against each other. The overall theme of the research-a-thon was "Environment", and students were given six different prompts to inspire their research. Projects included the radiation budget of the Earth, the carbon-14 ratio in the atmosphere, and "MethaMorphosis" a reduction of methane emissions. Students were judged on subject score, holisticness, innovation, and professionalism.

Elias Fink explained how students approached their prompts: "there was quite a large range" of projects "and people did all sorts of stuff. They went in different directions. Some people used machine learning."

Judging the panel were members of staff from the Department of Physics and Mathematics, as well as Physoc president Elias Fink, and Mathsoc President Victor Kojey-Merle. Initially, there were plans to have judges from all five departments, but constraints led to Fink and Kojey-Merle taking on the role of judges. In order to prepare and balance out the judging team, Fink and Kojey-Merle read up on chemistry and biology beforehand to prepare.

The idea was conceived by RCSU Vice President (Events) and Mathsoc Vice President Rehan Baig. Elias Fink hopes the success of the event will "make it a regular thing."

Call for Union Council Papers

Next Union Council Meeting:

Tuesday 10th Decembr, 6-8pm, Union Dining Hall, Beit Building

Council Paper Submission Deadline:

Monday 29th November, 5pm

What is Union Council?

Union Council is the democratic voice of students at Imperial. Every four weeks during term-time, Council meets to discuss and vote on papers submitted by students. This allows Council to enact new policy and hold the Union and its officers to account. Council Members are representatives who are

either elected to sit on Council, or who hold an elected role (e.g., a Constituent Union President) which gives them a seat on Council. Members vote on the papers brought to Council. Any student member of the Union can submit a paper to Council and come along to the meeting to share their views on any papers being discussed. If you have any questions or would like to submit a paper, please contact the Union Council Chair (chair@ic.ac.uk).

The Sophia Prize ^(£400)

will be awarded

to one outstanding,
inspiring, and
accessible article



that helps tackle
climate defeatism

and covers, or conceives
of, an economic, cultural,
or scientific innovation
that helps fight global
warming



Send your article(s) till
June 2025 to
felix@ic.ac.uk



SCIENCE

Giving cancer a taste of its own medicine

James Desmet explores Targeted Protein Degradation, a potential drug discovery strategy capable of treating previously undruggable diseases.

Science Editor
JAMES DESMET

Cancer is truly a unique disease. The genetic mutations that cause it turn our bodies against us, taking the cellular systems that keep us alive and using them to cause biological self-destruction; there is no other disease so common amongst the population that does this on such a huge physiological scale. It is one of the biggest killers globally, with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) estimating 9.7 million deaths in 2022. This number is also not moving in the right direction, with the IARC projecting new yearly cases to increase to 35 million by 2050 – a 77% increase from 2022 figures. This is in spite of prolonged, significant research efforts. Furthermore, approximately one-fifth of UK research funding goes to Cancer Research UK, and on the other side of the pond, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) allocates \$6.4 billion each year to the disease. So, why is cancer still a global health crisis?

The issue lies in the fact that cancer is not a single disease but more of a blanket term used to describe a group of conditions caused by genetic mutations which effect cell growth and division. In reality, everyone's cancer is unique due to the genetic nature of the disease. No two people – even with the same diagnosis – will have exactly the same cancer.

Everyone is genetically different, and therefore, so is everybody's cancer. So, in reality, each person's cancer is a rare genetic condition. This is what makes it such a hard nut to crack – heartbreakingly, some treatments may work for some but not for others. However, in recent years – particularly since the work of the Human Genome Project, the Protein Data Bank, and the dawn of computational protein modelling – many innovative approaches to fighting the disease are being investigated.

One such approach gaining significant traction is targeted protein degradation (TPD). This approach aims to hijack the body's natural protein degradation and recycling pathways to degrade proteins that are at the root cause of a cancer. Primarily, this approach is being investigated to exploit the Ubiquitin-Proteasome System (UPS).

The UPS comprises a series of enzymes known as E3 ligases, which catalyse the attachment of ubiquitin (Ub) to proteins. This creates a binding surface for degradation enzymes, known as proteases, to bind to the protein, resulting in the breakdown of the protein into its amino acids, which can then be reused.

TPD aims to hijack this system by exploiting the fact that many E3 ligases operate by proximity, meaning they simply need to be close to a protein to ubiquitinate it. Therefore, if a drug could cause 'induced proximity' between a cancer-causing protein and an E3 ligase,

it would result in the degradation of the troublesome protein, treating the disease.

There is precedent for molecules that do this both in nature and in the clinic, with some famous examples being Cyclosporin A, an immunosuppressant derived from soil-dwelling fungus, and Lenalidomide, a chemotherapy drug derived from Thalidomide currently used to treat conditions such as multiple myeloma. Both of these drugs are examples of molecular glues, which act by enabling or enhancing protein-protein interactions (PPIs) between the E3 ligase and the protein of interest (POI). These interactions are highly unique, given that a molecule must display 'bifunctionality' – meaning it must bind to both molecules simultaneously. This is an exceedingly rare property to have and even more difficult to screen and develop drugs for within an industry built around developing simple, singly functional molecules.

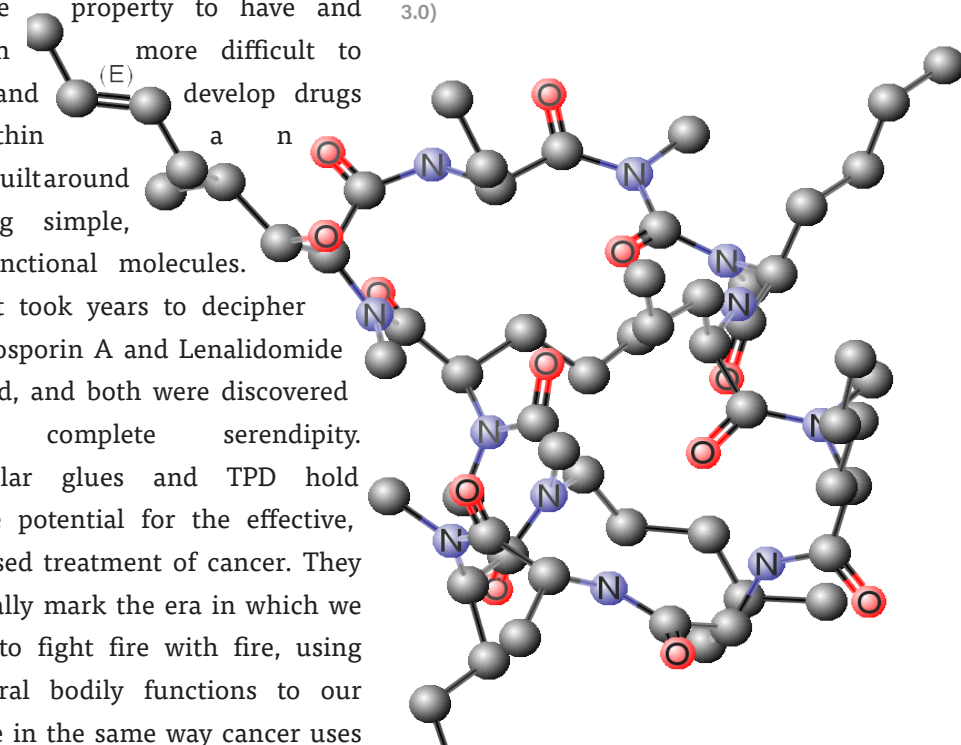
In fact, it took years to decipher how Cyclosporin A and Lenalidomide functioned, and both were discovered through complete serendipity.

Molecular glues and TPD hold incredible potential for the effective, personalised treatment of cancer. They could finally mark the era in which we are able to fight fire with fire, using our natural bodily functions to our advantage in the same way cancer uses

them against us. However, there is still significant research that needs to take place, particularly in understanding how best to discover new molecular glues and E3 ligases that can be used. Fortunately, the potential is rife, with it being estimated that the human genome encodes more than 600 E3 ligases.

Are we entering a new era of personalised cancer treatment? Or is this an example of science running before it walks, getting excited at what could be rather than what is now? Only time will tell if targeted protein degradation can overcome its substantial development and discovery issues to make its way to the clinic...

Cyclosporine.
Ph.David, via. Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 3.0)



CERN sees top quarks

The Large Hadron Collider yields another particle physics discovery.

Science Editor

TAYLOR POMFRET

Following a talk held at CERN last Tuesday by Dr Georgios Krintiras (University of Kansas) and Patrycja Anna Potepa (AGH University of Krakow), members of the ATLAS collaboration reported the observation of top quarks originating from heavy Pb-Pb ion collisions. The observed significance was 5 sigma, surpassing the standard significance level for particle physics in distinguishing the detection of a particle from a statistical fluke.

Top quarks are the heaviest elementary particle. They were first discovered in 1995 at the Fermilab particle accelerator in the CDF and DØ experiments – both originally designed to discover the identity and properties of elementary particles. With a +2/3 elementary charge, the top quark has a mass almost 3,500 times that of an electron, resulting in the quark having an extremely short lifetime – roughly 4×10^{-25} s.

Quarks may combine to form composite particles, called hadrons. Protons and neutrons are examples of hadrons, which are composite particles constructed from combinations of up and down quarks (uud and udd respectively). The top quark, however, is unable to combine with other quarks to form hadrons, due to its incredibly short lifetime. Assuming a 1 fm-thick hadron, light takes one order of magnitude longer than the top quark lifetime to cross the width of the hadron – making the top

quark unbound. Unlike the up quark and the down quark, which are bound in hadron states, the top quark being bare means it is the only quark to have been directly observed in experiment.

In the ATLAS experiment, the weak interactions of top quarks decaying into a bottom quark and the W boson were studied from data taken during Run 2 of the LHC (2015-2018). The observed cross section of the top quark was calculated to be $3.6 \pm 1.2 \pm 1.0$ micro barns, with the total uncertainty of the measurement amounting to 31% – dominated by a 26% statistical uncertainty component. These results by ATLAS show “good agreement with the theory”, claims ATLAS collaborator Patrycja Potepa. She adds that combining efforts from ATLAS and CMS observations of the quark may be useful due to high statistical uncertainties in the experiment.

These results now pave the way to study quark-gluon plasma (QGP). In QGP, the fundamental constituents of particles, quarks and gluons, are no longer bound – they instead exist in a “deconfined” state of matter – much like top quarks. It is believed that the matter in our early universe was composed mainly of QGP moments after the Big Bang.

CERN adds: “This observation represents a significant step forward in heavy-ion collision physics, paving the way for new measurements of the quark-gluon plasma (QGP) that is created in these collisions and delivering fresh insights into the nature of the strong force that binds protons, neutrons, and other composite particles together.”

THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

Is ibuprofen the solution to this rare developmental disease?

Researchers at the University of Utah have recently discovered that ibuprofen may alleviate issues caused by MAN1B1 mutations in fruit flies. MAN1B1-CDG, a rare congenital glycosylation disorder, is present in young children due to the inheritance of two faulty copies of this gene.

Less than 1 out of a million are affected by the disorder in England. Symptoms include developmental delays, hypertonia, and truncal obesity. Using drug repurposing, geneticist Chow and his team tested 1,500 drugs, finding 51 that restored normal eye structure in flies with MAN1B1 mutations, including 9 non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen.

NSAIDs reduce COX enzyme activity, which appears linked to the condition, prompting some doctor's to begin low-dose ibuprofen therapy in children with the disorder. The results are, of course, preliminary, but provide an interesting avenue for further research and treatment.

Carbon Capture

Researchers led by Prof. Jeffrey Long at U.C. Berkeley look to be making strides in high-temperature carbon capture, potentially opening up the door to more energy-efficient high-temperature carbon capture solutions. The team has developed a novel metal-organic framework (MOF), featuring porous zinc hydride sites which are able to adsorb CO₂ at temperatures up to 300 °C. This is a giant step forward from the current standard which utilises amine chemistry and is only able to adsorb efficiently between 40-60 °C.

This opens the door to carbon capture solutions for high-temperature emissions, such as those seen in cement production, to be effectively captured without the need for expensive cooling solutions. If adopted, this would substantially improve practicality, and cost-effectiveness of the process. Watch this space!

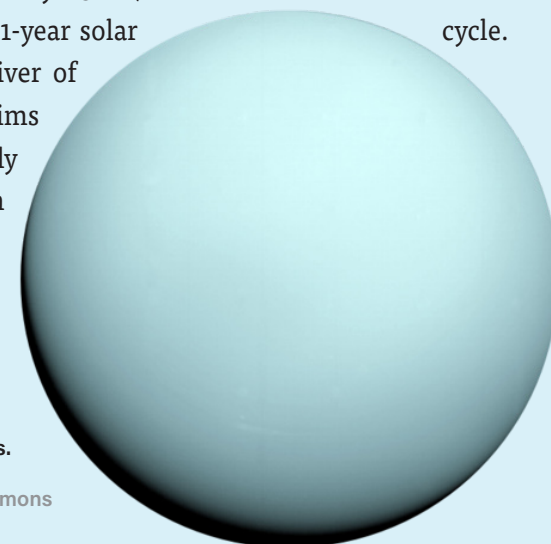
Solar wind power likely to govern Uranus' temperature

Research published by Imperial planetary scientist Adam Masters has shed new insights to Uranus' upper atmosphere. Observations of Uranus' upper atmosphere by ground-based telescopes, from 1998 to 2018, have shown its temperature has cooled from 700K to 450K. The reasons for this cooling are unclear.

The authors of the paper explain this cooling occurs as a result of the declining power of solar wind incident on Uranus' magnetic field. They state that the solar wind over this period has dropped by ~50%, because of trends seemingly longer than the usual 11-year solar cycle.

The solar wind is the main driver of energy flow in space. Masters claims it is the solar wind that is mostly responsible for the heating in the upper atmosphere of Uranus – where most of the auroras of Uranus are generated – solving a decades-long problem explaining Uranus' mysterious cooling.

Uranus.
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COMMENTS

Solo el pueblo salva al pueblo

What the recent mass flooding in Valencia reveals about the Spanish authorities, media, and people.

Comments Writer

CRISTINA CARRILLO

Tuesday October 29th 2024. The Spanish National Meteorology Agency (AEMET) posts at 7am, an alert on their social media for a DANA (Spanish acronym for “high-altitude isolated depression”), which will bring torrential rain, tornadoes, and hail. For the last six days, only warnings on their website have been posted. The flooding grows intense enough to overflow ravines in the village of Chiva, followed by those in Paiporta, Catarroja, and many others – taking cars, businesses, and most importantly, people, with them. Thousands are now fighting for their lives. Water and mud coating everything and everyone they knew and loved – but when will a official, region-wide warning be released? The local authorities (Generalitat Valenciana) only issued an alert to citizens’ devices at 8:12pm: this 12-hour gap proved critical to the number of lives lost (216 currently reported) and the speed with which thousands of citizens could have been made aware of the massive natural disaster upon them.

This overwhelming lack of organisation, communication, and efficiency has enraged the Valencian community and the Spanish people as a whole. Some blame Head of Valencia’s Emergency Department Salomé Pradas,

who only learnt to deploy this alarm system at 7:30pm on that Tuesday; some blame Carlos Mazón – President of the Generalitat Valenciana – who was seen that morning attending several unrelated events and having lunch at a hotel; some blame the general government for not deploying emergency services sooner; some blame every single party involved. In my opinion, whoever was at fault did not take the bull by the horns: this situation has revealed how the current political decentralisation in Spain crumbles under an emergency



The media comments embarrassingly little on the unity of the Spanish community

situation, by making it painfully unclear whose duty it is to act and how to do so.

The Spanish media, from newspapers to live broadcasting, is covering how this political situation unfolds in extreme detail and updating the tragic statistics of those dead and missing as the apocalyptic scene in Valencia slowly receives governmental help, weeks after the tragedy. However, the media seems to be commenting



The flooded streets of Paiporta, ground zero of the disaster, earlier this month. Darío Llopert

embarrassingly little on the other side of the coin, a side of the Spanish nation that some had deemed lost: the strong-willed, united community. While this political catastrophe stems from the natural one, thousands of volunteers from all around Spain have come together to face the music (or in this case, the mud) in a way that no authority was initially able to.

“When I got there, hundreds of people were helping: no one tells you what to do, yet everyone is always doing something.” This is how Darío, a volunteer from Madrid, described entering ground zero of Paiporta, one of the towns most affected by the DANA. This nonhierarchical setup by the volunteers involves helping wherever you can with whatever is available, from the physical work of shoving mud and dirt out of the way to delivering warm food to locals. Something that stuck out to Darío, which is not being portrayed in the news, is that a part of the donations made to Valencia (like food or hygiene and cleaning products) is actually destined to the volunteers: they are not only welcome, but embraced, appreciated, and taken care of. As tragic as it is beautiful, sharing donations is the only way the locals can thank the volunteers for their work.

The most striking yet poetic contrast in villages like Paiporta or Catarroja is how amidst this mud-filled tragedy, there is nothing but an inspiring sense of a tight-knit community reigning

these areas. “The mere presence of groups of volunteers willing to help is already therapeutic for the locals,” shares Alejandra, who volunteered at Benetússer with a newly created organisation by the Department of Medicine of her university, Autonomous University of Madrid. This massive wave of volunteering has inspired the Spanish people, especially within the younger demographic, to create and join organisations of all types to help in any way possible.

Dedicating oneself to such an extent comes with a mindset shift: “I just got home, and I have everything, and I realise what having nothing really means,” remarks Lucía, who helped in Catarroja. Like her, thousands of Spanish citizens have now seen a reality they never thought possible on this scale in their country. Volunteers were able to transform that shock and sadness into willpower and determination, putting all differences with any local or fellow helper aside – something that the Spanish authorities continuously fail to do.

The most human, purest spirit that drives this volunteering movement, vital given the inept management from the authorities, leaves the majority of citizens as proud of the Spanish people as disappointed in their government, popularising the saying “solo el pueblo salva al pueblo,” Spanish for “only the people save the people”.

CULTURE

Brutalism: the architecture of dystopias

A cry against soulless concrete buildings, and how to fix them.

Culture Editor
ELIF CIVELEKOGLU

I hate brutalism. I hate the way that it looks, I hate how soul sucking it is, and I hate the lack of colour.

Unfortunately for me, brutalism doesn't seem to be going anywhere. Architects, for some reason, are strangely attached to this style that reminds me more of evil governments in dystopias and sci-fi (the Harkonnens, anyone?) than anything else. Therefore, I did what anyone with too much free time would do and decided to write an article explaining my grievances to get it out of my system, with the hope of emerging on the other side with a lighter heart.

To fully understand why brutalism looks like *that*, we need to delve into its history. Brutalism got popular after WW2, in the fifties as post-war rebuilding efforts required quick solutions and cheap materials. Coined from the French term *béton brut*, meaning raw concrete, it was popularised by Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier – in particular, by his 1952 residential housing design *Unité d'habitation*. The philosophy behind brutalism can be summarised as “simpler is better”. Art and architecture, like all creative trends, often reflect the collective consciousness of their time, and the post-war years were marked by a unique blend of exhaustion and hope. By now, the people had gotten sick of wars – entire neighbourhoods and villages who had barely recovered from the first World War were now destroyed again. There was an overall low morale, especially given the “war to end all wars” had had a sequel not thirty years after. Moreover, there was an increasing dissent regarding the inequalities of society, particularly in the rigid class systems. Brutalism was the architectural manifestation of the desire for a more equitable society, with all being equal. Large scale projects such as public housings were meant to serve the people first and foremost – beauty was no longer the aim, instead being replaced by a desire for practicality and “honest” living.

This raw, unadorned style stood in stark contrast to the ornamental excesses of prior architectural trends, a deliberate rejection of what many saw as symbols of elitism and decadence.

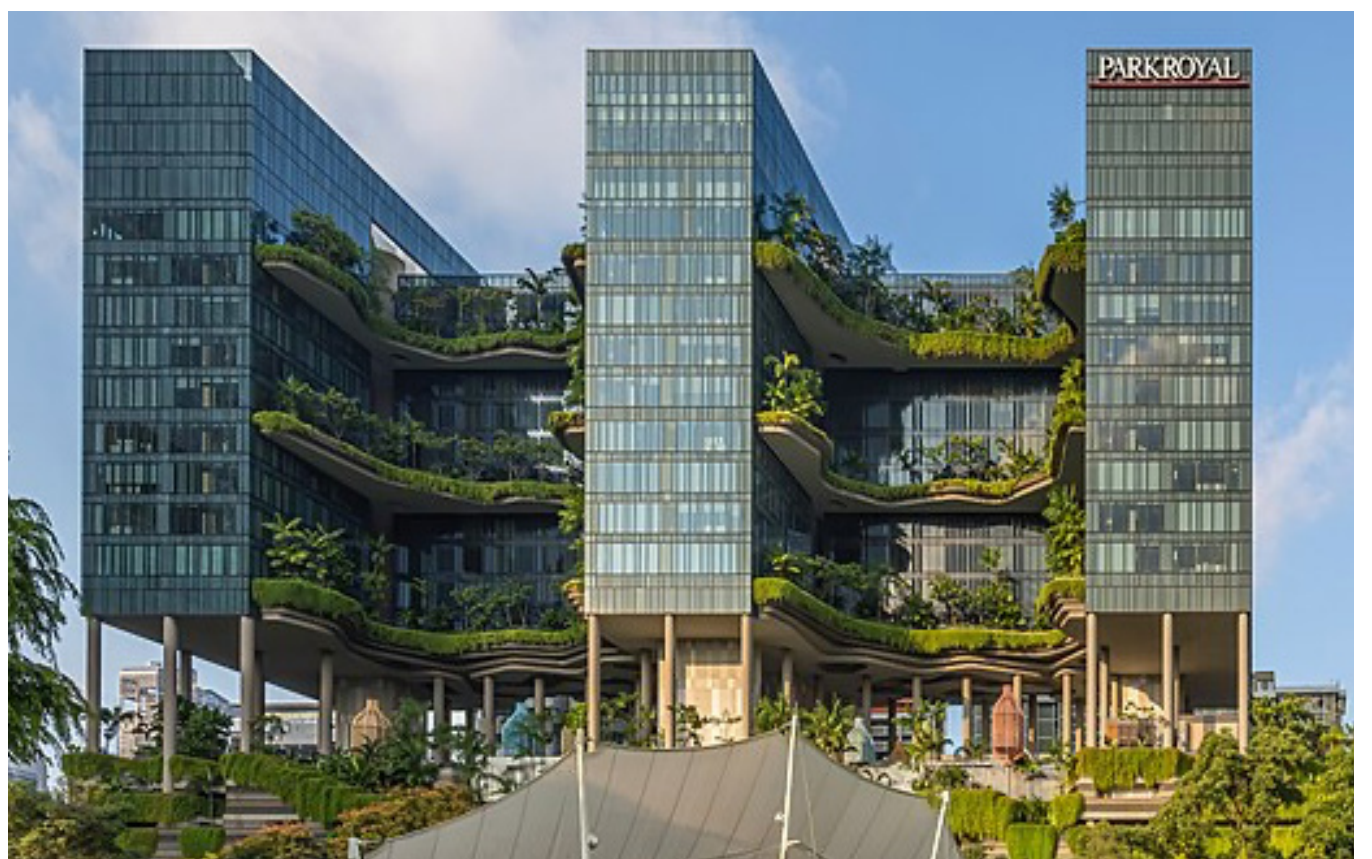
The history of brutalism is a sad one, and even its greatest fan must admit how strongly its identity is still rooted in an absence of other options. Brutalism rose from the ashes of a broken society, trying to heal from wars that were unimaginable just a few decades prior. It was born from a very human need to get by, even with the bare minimum. Of course, for many countries this simply isn't the case anymore. Brutalism is, simply put, ugly. Architecture should reflect a culture and the times it is built in, instead of being a depressing reminder of times of scarcity. Yet even surpassing the philosophical argument, the sheer bareness of the buildings creates an oppressive, joyless atmosphere when viewed.

One of the things I find most frustrating about

brutalism is how it feels untethered to any specific cultural or geographic identity. While other architectural styles—think Gothic cathedrals, Ottoman mosques, or Japanese wooden temples—are deeply influenced by the cultures that produced them, brutalism feels eerily global in the worst way. This universality might be part of its appeal to some, but to me, it strips the architecture of any soul or narrative. A building, in my opinion, should tell a story about its people and its place. Brutalism, by contrast, feels like a blank slate, a symbol of a world homogenized by utility and stripped of beauty.

However, the buildings have already been built, and I sure don't think we can just bulldoze them and start anew. We now need easy solutions to make brutalist buildings less... brutal. To do so, we need not look much further than green architecture.

Incorporating greenery into architecture offers a refreshing antidote to the oppressive sterility of traditional brutalist structures, transforming them into vibrant, breathable spaces that feel alive rather than alienating. Singapore's Parkroyal Collection Pickering Hotel is a prime example of what we should be aiming for. The structure is elevated by its use of greenery, with the imposing concrete and glass structure being softened by lush plant life. Beyond aesthetics, these adaptations create vital green spaces in densely populated cities, enhancing air quality, reducing urban heat, and fostering a sense of well-being. This marriage of brutalism's functionality with the vitality of nature could redefine urban architecture—not just as a means of survival but as a celebration of life and creativity in the spaces we inhabit.



Joining London Pride March with Imperial 600 in 2019 Abellona U

FILM&TV



The Wild Robot

Roz, Brightbill, and Fink Dreamworks Animation

A breath of fresh air in 2024 animated films, exploring the coexistence of nature and AI.

Film Writer
SIJUNG LEE

The *Wild Robot* (2024), a recent DreamWorks movie adaptation of Peter Brown's book series, has been released in UK cinemas since 18th October. Given all the highly acclaimed reviews and rumours about a potential Oscars nomination, this film certainly did not disappoint. *The Wild Robot* was directed by Chris Sanders, director of *How to Train Your Dragon*, and is said to be the last in-house production from DreamWorks Animation. While I initially expected it to be something like *WALL-E*, I quickly realised that this movie was truly unique in itself – heartfelt, rich, and deeply human.

The film introduces a robot called Rozzum Unit 7134 (or Roz), voiced by Lupita Nyong'o, who finds herself deserted on a remote island full of wildlife creatures. When she accidentally kills a geese family, she takes care of the only remaining egg and bonds with the hatched gosling, who naturally imprints on the robot as his mother. Since Roz was programmed to complete human tasks, she tries to do the same with her new task: helping the gosling grow and adapt in time for migration season. Roz names the gosling Brightbill from his yellow beak, symbolising his bright future, but he grows up isolated from the rest of his species with robot-like qualities embedded from his upbringing. Voiced by Kit Conner, Brightbill embarks on a journey of self-discovery, yearning to belong in a community that rejects him. Another character, Fink, voiced by Pedro Pascal, is introduced in the beginning and plays a significant role in helping Roz raise her Brightbill. As a fox, Fink is cunning and therefore shunned by the

rest of the forest, but we see that he is simply lonely and grows to love Brightbill as much as Roz does.

Regardless of several minor rushed climax scenes and



The graphics were spectacular, vividly expressing storybook-painted textures with lifelike CGI

the underdeveloped main villain character, the overall quality of this animation was genuinely impressive. The graphics were spectacular, vividly expressing storybook-painted textures with lifelike CGI to blend traditional and creative visual elements. The illustration of dynamic movements and capturing of natural surroundings made the characters and setting relatable yet fantastical,

which enhanced the thematic connection between nature and human technology. The voice actors also did a phenomenal job in integrating their characters into the context of the film. Nyong'o especially adapts her voice well from robotic to emotional as Roz begins to develop human characteristics in the process of constantly rewriting her code to raise Brightbill.

Despite being a children's animated film, *The Wild Robot* uses a robot and talking animals to provide something for audiences of any age. It provokes adults into thinking about the role of generative AI in our future society, and its sustainable coexistence with the environment. It teaches children about parental love and sacrifice, respect for nature, and building resilience. It painfully reminds parents about an inevitable aspect of parenting – letting your children go when the time comes. Collectively, it shows us what it is like to be alive.



Pinktail (voiced by Catherine O'Hara) holds Brightbill Dreamworks Animation

Dorian Gray and Elisabeth Sparkle: two sides of the same coin?

***The Substance* acts as an overt yet thought-provoking piece of societal criticism, drenched with the same anxieties that Oscar Wilde discussed more than a century earlier.**

Film Writer

SHANAYA JUNEJA

In the past few years, there has been a sudden influx of movies concerned with criticising societal beauty standards, with *The Substance* (2024) adding to the ranks of Greta Gerwig's *Barbie* (2023) and Joseph McGinty Nichol's *Uglies* (2024). Ironically, the female leads cast in these movies epitomise those same beauty standards, and Demi Moore is certainly no exception. *The Substance* is a body horror film, heavily lauded but equally criticised, which is loosely based off the classic novel, Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

Elisabeth Sparkle's Faustian bargain

Demi Moore portrays Elisabeth Sparkle, a fading star in the industry, who is lured into the promise of reviving her beauty, youth and fame by taking the Substance – a drug that takes away two weeks off of each month of her life, replacing her with Margaret Qualley's Sue, a younger, perfect version of Elisabeth. The catch, one that Sparkle quickly comes to lament, is that Sue is separate to her, and like Gray's portrait, cannot be controlled. Sue also abuses the Substance, ultimately leading to their collective demise. Whilst the book describes a male and potentially homoerotic view of beauty and relationships, the film offers a spotlight on the heteronormative ideals that straight women are pushed into.

Dorian Gray starts as a naïve and impressionable young man, and corrupted by his own beauty, devolves into a manipulative and tortured murderer. Elisabeth Sparkle faces a different dilemma – having been defined by her youthful beauty her whole life, she is swayed by a new wonder drug (perhaps a not so veiled reference to the weight loss drug Ozempic), and eventually finds her own body aging rapidly as her alter ego takes over her life.

Both characters are troubled by their bargains, although Dorian's actions stem from an anxiety instilled in him by the perhaps devilish Lord Henry Wotton, who proclaims, "Youth! Youth! There is absolutely nothing in the world but youth!" As satirical and superficial as that sentence may read, especially coming from a hedonistic aristocrat, there are many TikTok gurus today who would agree that anti-ageing is imperative. This influence has not been lost on Gen Z, who have coined words like "looksmaxxing", "glow-up", and "mogging", terms which focus on improving or displaying appearances. It is no question whether a Dorian Gray made flesh and bone would fit in with the society in *The Substance* – he would welcome it, and perhaps like Elisabeth Sparkle, be tempted by the promise of ageless beauty.

Are older women respected in Hollywood?

The male director of Elisabeth Sparkle's aerobics show, aptly named Harvey, has obvious parallels with the disgraced film mogul of the same name, and so the movie serves as a commentary on Hollywood's notorious sexist working environments and its differential treatment of older men and older women. Dennis Quaid portrays a boisterous and empowered misogynist, exclaiming "How the old bitch has been able to stick around for this long, that's the real mystery," which is part of the pressure that drives Elisabeth to taking the drug. If Lord Henry is Dorian's catalyst into chaos and self-destruction, then Harvey is Elisabeth's.

Qualley's Sue is an endearing and seemingly perfect charismatic dancer, with none of the seriousness or melancholy of Elisabeth Sparkle. This could be interpreted as a not-so-subtle critique on how more beautiful women are seen as more joyful, happy, and less uptight. However as the movie progresses, hints of her selfish, perhaps even evil nature, emerge – she hides Elisabeth's vulnerable and naked body in a locked compartment of her pristine white bathroom, tucked

away and alone; it is impossible to not empathise with Elisabeth's lonely, isolated character. Similarly, the portrait of Dorian Gray is hidden in a cellar, alone and static, despite being the "true" depiction of himself.

Despite numerous awards and widespread praise, many critics claim *The Substance* is too obvious in its themes and indulges in the very thing it is trying to critique – indeed, I had to question, after about the 100th close-up shot of Margaret Qualley's legs, whether Fargeat was partially missing the point by engaging in the same over-sexualisation the movie seems to oppose.

Would Gen Z take the Substance?

In the early 2020s, media discourse emphasised Gen Z's preference towards buying inclusive brands, and possessing a more individualistic, fun view of makeup, as opposed to viewing it as a mandatory ritual to attract the attention of the opposite sex. However, recent commentary suggests that there is just as much a focus on beauty as other generations – only it has shifted from makeup to skincare, particularly anti-aging products such as retinol (perhaps our own version of the Substance), and anti-wrinkle straws which are popularity.

It would be unfair to pin these trends entirely on Gen Z, as many media outlets are inclined to do. Famously, the 47-year-old venture capitalist and entrepreneur Bryan Johnson regularly injects himself with his own son's blood plasma to stay younger and "age in reverse". Perhaps someone should lend him a copy of the book.

A moral cure for physical anxiety

Clearly our own actions as both a generation and a collective emphasise the past century hasn't been enough to change our perception of beauty. In fact, with the drugs, augmentations, surgeries, makeup, and filters available now, our relationships with our body and ageing have arguably only gotten worse. The uncomfortable and gruesome ending of *The Substance* emphasises a singular take-home message – one that Sue delivers smugly – "Take care of yourself". The ending to Wilde's novel more articulately suggests the same – that the endless striving in Gray's quest for beauty is what corrupted his soul, and both mediums imply the audience should temper their anxieties with this knowledge.

BOOKS

Apparently Indian mythology has feminists too

Empowering or overpowering? Aditi comments on *Kaikeyi*, a feminist retelling of one of the most important Indian epics, the *Ramayana*.

Books Editor
ADITI MEHTA

This year, Diwali was coloured with Halloween. Not just because the two holidays fell on the same date, but because I picked up Vaishnavi Patel's *Kaikeyi: A Novel*. Though not quite terrifying, *Kaikeyi* is somewhat mystical, and its faults with the feminist lens could be interpreted as borderline scary.

As a child, my mother would send me to Balvihar classes. Every Wednesday, she would drive me to an "Aunty's" house where I would be educated on Indian mythology. The story that lasted the duration of my learnings was the *Ramayana*, a classical text full of parables associated with the morality of life and battle between good and evil.

Let me start off by saying, my comprehension of *Kaikeyi* was greatly aided by memories of my Balvihar lessons. The *Ramayana* is about Rama, a divine being born by the gift of the Gods, fated to triumph over evil. Rama's destiny is stifled (or rather set on course) by his evil stepmother Kaikeyi, who convinces his father (her husband) King Dasharatha to exile Rama to the forest for 14 years. Kaikeyi is malicious and poisonous. She wants power for her bloodline, and thus her own son Bharata to take the throne.

For those who don't know the mythology, the lack of context could prove a tool of enjoyment, as the story

can exist independently, thus can be appreciated by itself.

The premise of *Kaikeyi* is to revisit the *Ramayana*, aiming to rectify Kaikeyi's maligned image by telling her side of the story. More than challenge the 'evil stepmother' stereotype drilled into those who studied the *Ramayana* (including myself), Patel also appears to tackle general stereotypes about women that ancient mythology may have also presented. For example, weakness and submission to men: Patel wants us to know these have never, and will never, define women.

Central to the story is Kaikeyi's magical ability that allows her to enter the "binding plane", a place where she can visualise the strength of her connections with others. Depending on the magnitude of this connection, Kaikeyi is able to influence them. This power is developed throughout the book, eventually she is able to view influences and connections between others as well. The gravity of her decisions is often quantified by their effects on the binding plane.

Though the use of the binding plane is clever, I am not sure how true to the original texts the idea of Kaikeyi's magical powers are. It made the story feel overly fantastical at times, and almost took away from the extent of Kaikeyi's power as a mere mortal.

The novel begins many years before the *Ramayana* starts. In the kingdom

of Kekeya, Kaikeyi's home, Patel's exploration into Kaikeyi's childhood defines the fundamental relationships that shaped her character. Kaikeyi grows up in an environment that stifles women. Her only light comes from her twin, who sees Kaikeyi as his equal in spite of her gender, maids that tend to her like family, and her magical powers.

The novel peaks in its initial chapters. Patel does a wonderful job of illustrating Kaikeyi's grit in navigating the boundaries of young women. However, Kaikeyi is suddenly revealed as petulant and ill-tempered. Despite having the binding plane, she cannot control a blind anger that makes her indifferent to severing bonds in the binding plane.

As the novel progresses, Kaikeyi appears to lose all the ground – power and development – that she has fought to gain. This happens over, and over.

The result is a dilution of Kaikeyi's character. Although she is complex, Patel misses some fundamental nuance. Kaikeyi has many faces but no depth. She flips between facets of personality, sometimes brave and pioneering, other times obstinate and turbulent. But she is never bad – every action supposedly has a justification.

A particularly poor justification is the way in which Patel skews other characters. Male imprudence towards women is explained as the teachings of the Gods. In fact, incarnations of Gods appear malevolent, particularly towards

Kaikeyi. Rama – the hero of the *Ramayana* – is supposedly a misguided misogynist.

Despite being a feminist novel, Kaikeyi's interactions with other women are facile and largely transient. She is quick to form opinions about and dismiss people, as she does with Dasharatha's other wives, or really with anyone who has a different opinion to her. They only win favour when they agree with her.

All this made it feel as if Kaikeyi suffered a victim complex. Knowing the story of the *Ramayana* only furthered my impression that Kaikeyi's perspective was one of an unreliable narrator.

The concept of *Kaikeyi* is certainly interesting. Patel writes breezily, and it makes *Kaikeyi* a smooth read, but I feel missed she missed the chance to say something remarkable.

I suppose Patel did manage to change my opinion of Kaikeyi. She should not be scorned. My conflict, however, is in her character. In the end, all Kaikeyi fights for seems relinquished; far from the goals she promisingly begins the book with. The final picture of Kaikeyi is one of pity. And the ease with which Patel lacerates her protagonist might just be the inadvertent lesson she tries to teach us. A rather scary thought.

Submit your book review to us at

books.felix@ic.ac.uk

or

felix@ic.ac.uk

BUSINESS

Breaking barriers for women entrepreneurs

How WE Innovate at Imperial is closing the entrepreneurial gap

Business Editor
ALIA FRIEDMAN

With women-founded startups receiving less than 2% of venture capital funding in the UK and the nation trailing behind in the proportion of women-led businesses, WE Innovate at Imperial College London aims to bridge that gap. WE Innovate is a pre-accelerator delivering training and resources for women entrepreneurs to launch their businesses and attract critical investment. And it's going national.

Currently, WE Innovate accepts 25 teams and is structured in three phases. The first phase equips participants with foundational entrepreneurial skills to prepare them for building and pitching their startups. In the second phase, 10 teams are selected to carry on with a £500 equity-free grant, and lastly, in the final phase, five finalist teams are selected to pitch for a share of a £30,000 equity-free prize fund.

According to Laura Barclay, the coordinator for the programme, the programme is specifically looking for teams motivated to solve a problem and for “teams that have the relevant skills and competencies as well as a thorough understanding of the challenges they’re addressing.”

WE Innovate distinguishes itself from other pre-accelerator programmes by tackling two of the most pressing challenges faced by aspiring women entrepreneurs: pitching and networking. According to research, women are less likely to proactively reach out to venture capitalists (VCs) after an initial meeting than men and are less likely to know other entrepreneurs



WE Innovate. Imperial Enterprise Lab

or have access to support networks. WE Innovate is tackling both problems head-on. “The two key things are raising funds and networking,” Barclay explains. “If women get nothing else out of the programme, they should have the skills to go in and ask for investment and make the pitch, and also the confidence to network with people they don’t know.”

Although the programme is idea-agnostic, according to Barclay, one of the biggest trends they have observed coming out of WE Innovate is the strong focus on women’s healthcare and femtech solutions. Barclay noted, “At Imperial, we see a lot of startups applying that are in the medtech or femtech sectors, especially women-focused solutions.” While this is unsurprising given Imperial’s reputation for excellence in both medicine and engineering, it underscores the impact of empowering women-led startups to accelerate their ideas. It provides women the opportunity to design solutions that directly address their own specific challenges.

Specific examples of past success in the programme



The atmosphere at the final is incredibly empowering and supportive

and of this phenomenon include Dr. Olivia Ahn, co-founder of FLUUS and winner of WE Innovate 2017. FLUUS developed the world’s first fully flushable, microplastic-free period pad, offering a zero-waste solution for period care. Currently, FLUUS has saved the equivalent of 2,183,904 plastic bags and diverted 13,103 kg of period waste from landfills. They have also

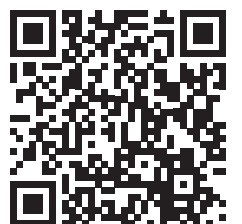
raised over £830,000.

The success of the programme is causing other universities to take note. The programme is expected to scale to six additional regional university partners across the UK and create a national network for women-led businesses and entrepreneurs. Each university will run its own WE Innovate programme, supporting 25 women-led teams per year, for a total of 175 women-led ventures annually. The programme isn’t just about empowering women – it’s about including men and creating a more collaborative ecosystem. According to Barclay, “It’s great to see male team members encouraging their women co-founders to step up and pitch at the grand final.” She added, “The atmosphere at the final is incredibly empowering and supportive.”

A critical aim of the programme is to help men understand the unique challenges women face and equip them with a broader perspective. With male participants comprising approximately 40% of WE Innovate’s membership, the programme is designed to ensure that all team members, regardless of gender, emerge as stronger and more capable entrepreneurs, while also providing the men of Imperial the opportunity to collaborate with their innovative female peers and gain valuable experience.

Over the course of its 11 years, WE Innovate has provided support to over 500 women, and its graduates have raised upwards of £37.5 million. WE Innovate stands out as an excellent opportunity for women who want to get involved in entrepreneurship and take their companies – or problems they are passionate about finding a solution for – to the next level.

Applications close on Sunday 24th November 2024. Scan here to apply!





A night with Debating Society

Roving reporter NegaFelix covers Imperial Debating Society's flagship event, West London Novices.

Catnip Reporter
NEGAFELIX

There are times on the *Felix* beat when I think I am plain in over my head. This was one of those times. This week I was told to go to West London Novices, Imperial Debating society's flagship annual event. I had done as much research as I could, spending a few hours watching Ben Shapiro, Destiny, and BBC Parliament. I even joined a menswear forum to get some firsthand practice. It became abundantly clear to me that rules of debate seemed to bear a strong resemblance to homoeotericism.

I arrived an hour early to the event, in hope of acquiring interviews with the committee, and their insight on how the night would pan out. They shepherded me into different rooms, as they ran around trying to find a displaced banner. In the lobby, or rather empty seminar room, of the event, the rest of the debaters were sat. The room was full of approximately seven men and two women. The men all looked the same, or similar enough that I did not care to tell them apart. Skinny jeans, what your grandmother would call "sensible shoes", and long winter coats (topcoats, overcoats, Chesterfield coats, they made sure to specify which to me) that did not fit their skeletal frames. Some of them had long, unbrushed hair which you could not tell whether it was greasy or not, and the sad demeanour you see in the eyes of postgraduates and gay eastern European porn models. I tried talking to the other competitors, trying to figure out what sort of person comes to debate competitions. Many of them mentioned how it was fun, and that it helped them formulate arguments. Others spoke of improving public speaking skills. All of them seemed to study the maths-heavy topics. I noticed there was only one engineer in the room. The women in debate were by far the friendliest, and easily the only ones able to hold a conversation without looking shiftily around and palpably sweating.

With a few minutes to go until the start, the debate committee hurriedly rushed me to meet a big shot de-

bater, who I assume they hoped I would interview. He was in his thirties – 35 I later confirmed – and had left Imperial after his PhD and was still working. His role as an associate researcher meant he still qualified for debating at universities, and the entire society held him in reverence. I later looked him up on LinkedIn. He had an entire section dedicated to his excellence in convening and participating in debates. I counted four different endorsements all speaking in awe of how good he had become at collegiate debate over the last 17 years.

The tournament itself was, as expected, a university debate tournament. Sweaty, flustered adults spoke like they were reading off a teleprompter. Someone got docked points for daring to ask the opposition side about their arguments in a litigious way. None of the arguments were particularly strong or interesting. The motions were less so. Typical centrist dad stuff, easily written by someone who aimed to get a job in the Labour or Conservative parties after they graduated or to use this as relevant experience for their PGDL application. "This house regrets Brexit", "This house believes that assisted suicide is humane". I proposed it would be better if they argued on the motion that physics research is ineffective but was met with glares from a room comprising of 67% physicists. Mr Big Shot did not participate, simply acting haughty and staring quite suggestively at the debaters who all seemed to eagerly, desperately want his approval. He did make a speech however, at the end, extolling debate and why debaters were upholding an ancient Greek tradition that formed the foundation of Western liberalism. It was British Parliamentary debate on a Friday night in November.

After the event, I managed to speak to a member of the committee, albeit on the condition of anonymity. He explained how some of the debaters would now complete "hard crashes": competitors would sleep on the floors of home debaters as they didn't have anywhere else to go, despite all the competitors being from within Zone 4 of West London. It was also an excuse to sleep with each other, a very common occurrence. They themselves had met their partner after a night of debauchery in Cambridge. They had also met their debate partner

after a night of debauchery in Cambridge. It was common knowledge in debate circles that everyone tended to sleep with each other. I asked if that was because they could not find partners outside of debate and was met with no comment.

There was one final question on my notepad. I asked the debaters why only 12 people bothered to show up. They told me it was the biggest crowd in years, and usually people were intimidated due to the high-level of intellectual competition.

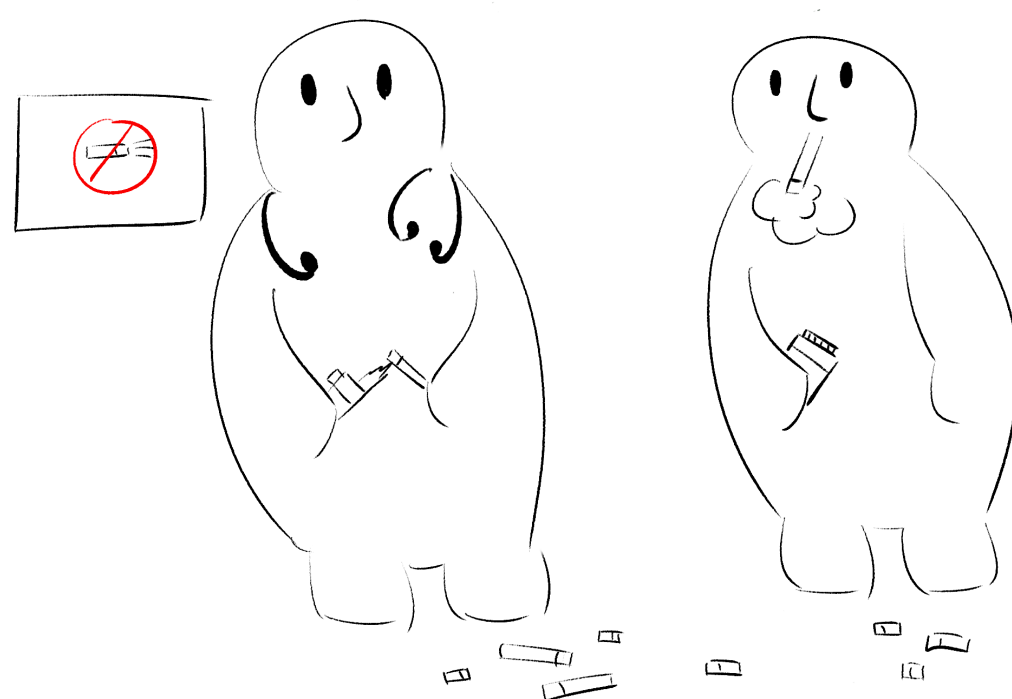
Special thanks this week

Every week I am grateful to Leith Ross for writing "Too Much Time in My House Alone". Not thank you to my parents for leaving me in my house alone for three weeks. Thank you to my ex-flatmate for ordering Honi Poke twice a day and making me come to terms with the consumerism of our generation, and the Earth's masses of plastic. And, lastly, on an optimistic note a special mention to my ex-girlfriend from when I was fifteen years old for helping me realise that life isn't too bad after all, because nothing can be as bad as my time with her. Thank you to the monkeys in the *Felix* Office once again: you don't complain like the writers do, you all just have an Olivetti Lettera 32 and a dream. Thank you again to St. Blaise patron saint of sore throats, I always have you in mind when I'm on my knees. Special thanks to the village of Six-Mile-Bottom, I would walk six miles for you.

THANK YOU TO ZAYN MALIK.
THANK YOU TO ZAYN MALIK.
THANK YOU TO ZAYN MALIK.

I will not be thanking the Sport writer's because they keep stealing my pages for their objectively worse content. The people want Catnip and Catnip is for the people. Take a step back.

after the lung health lecture



the medics decided they needed a smoke

Ruby Lydford, *An Ode to Woven Ilkinson*, 2024.



ARIES

This week you've taken so much time off nicotine you inhale incorrectly and lose your vape veterancy.



TAURUS

This week you develop a weird relationship with eating because it shows more willpower than Ozempic.



GEMINI

This week your Tory friend from a village posts an infographic about what's going on with farmers.



CANCER

This week you surprise your partner with a contagious ingredient in the viral cucumber salad.



LEO

This week you swap out your toothpaste for menthol filters.



VIRGO

This week you and your lab partner develop a codependent relationship after you lose two stone together.



LIBRA

This week to avoid being caught starting a book on the tube, you read manga instead.



SCORPIO

This week you high-key post about how you're low-key a chill guy.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you complain that you didn't celebrate International Men's Day hard enough because you forgot to reinstall Grindr for the 47th time this year.



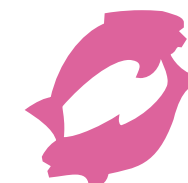
CAPRICORN

This week you stay environmentally friendly by recycling microtrends (getting a tunacado).



AQUARIUS

This week you're the best dressed guy at the function (the funeral).



PISCES

This week you learn to multitask by eating your kebab with a snus in your mouth.

UNION & SOCIETIES

Announcements

November

This Weekend (22nd-24th Nov.)22ND & 23RD
Friday & SaturdayWyrd Sisters Play
DramSocAn amateur production of Terry Pratchett's
Wyrd Sisters: a Discworld®.
Time: 19:00 (Fri), 17:00 (Sat.). 2.5 hours.Where: Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
SW7 2BB
Tickets: £6/8/12 (member, student, gen.)

TICKETS

24TH
SundayAnnual Conference
ICSM RadiologyPioneering research talks, AI in Radiology
discussion, anatomy quiz & more.
Time: 9:00 - 17:00Where: King's College London Guy's
Campus
Tickets: £5.50 (general), £7.50 (late)

TICKETS

Next Week (25th Nov.-1st Dec.)25TH
MondayChoir Concert
ICSM Music SocFeaturing Toto's Africa, Vaughn Williams'
Turtle Dove & so much more!
Time: 19:00 (doors open 18:30)Where: St. Stephens Church, Gloucester
Road, SW/ 4RL
Tickets: Free (students), £10 (general)

TICKETS

25TH
MondayCurry Night
Electrical Engineering SocEESoc booked an entire restaurant for
attendees to enjoy.
Time: 19:00 - 22:00Where: 4 Arches Ln, Nine Elms,
SW11 8AB
Tickets: £15 (early) £17 (general)

TICKETS

27TH - 30TH
Wed. - Sat.Peter Pan & Wendy
ICSM DramaA decolonial and feminist interpretation of
Peter Pan and Wendy.
Time: 19:30 (doors open 19:00) - 22:00Where: University Concert Hall (UCH),
Beit Quad, SW7 2BB
Tickets: £8 (Wed., Thu., Sat.), £10 (Fri.)

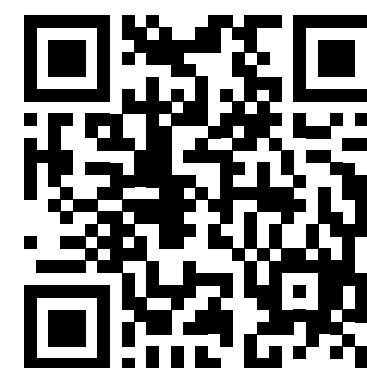
TICKETS

27TH
WednesdayClara Ali Ghalib
FemTechCo-founder of 'Girl You Need to Know This',
Clara will share insights from her career
journey in pharmacy & entrepreneurship.Time: 18:30 - 20:00
Where: Royal School of Mines G20.
Tickets: None (Free)

INSTAGRAM

30TH
SaturdayBeyond the Stethoscope
ICSM CodingAnnual conference with speakers, work-
shops and abstract presentations (Submit
your abstract by the 23rd November).Time: 8:45 - 16:20
Where: Sir Alexander Fleming Building
Tickets: £4.99 / £9.99

TICKETS

Want to join the
board above?Scan QR and fill out form by Sunday evening

PMS, meet Neurotech

Imperials' FemTech and NeuroTech hosted Emilè Radyte, a fascinating researcher and entrepreneur, who gave an inspiring lecture on the interdependence of the brain and the female menstrual cycle, and showcased her company's pioneering innovation.

Societies Editor

CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

I realise I am teaching a neuroscience 101 in five minutes", Radyte casually claims ten minutes into her lecture on women's neurological health and the current solutions available to the public to help monitor and predict a woman's menstrual cycle. Standing in front of 50 students in RSM 131 on Tuesday at 6.30 pm, Radyte captured her audience instantly, preparing them for the most educational hour on women's health.

Her lecture split into three main chapters: the brain, the two menstrual phases, follicular and luteal, and the current wearable solutions, ending the lecture with her company, Samphire Neuroscience's, at-home wearable

headpiece "Nettle", the world's first medical-grade, drug and hormone-free solution for managing PMS and menstrual pain. After each chapter, she opened the floor to the audience's firing questions, answering each confidently with an eloquent explanation backed by a range of previous research papers, clinical studies, and innovations from other companies. The lecture ended in a 30-minute Q&A that could have



Audience Dhanvanth Srinivasan / Publicity Officer

easily continued well into the next hour. Afterward, students amassed around Radyte for further questions.

A trained neuroscientist and mental health professional, Radyte explained



Dr. Emilè Radyte Dhanvanth Srinivasan

the complex topics intuitively and seamlessly, providing commentative personal experiences to help bridge the gap between her and the female audience. With a comedic charm,

Radyte explained the female cycle from a scientific and a social perspective, highlighting differences in measurable parameters, especially basal temperature, that explain women's fluctuating mental and physical perceptions. Most currently available technologies, such as the Apple Watch and Natural Cycles, use the basal temperature change as a quantitative measure to signal the start of each phase, a technique superior to AI-backed tracking apps that do not monitor the individual's cycle and unique body.

As her tone of voice reflected the unfortunate lack of understanding of women's neural health and connection to their menstrual cycle, it becomes clear that her insights and knowledge of the current industry and research in academics make lectures such an excellent opportunity to learn from experts outside of academia.

At last, Radyte emphasised for inspiring scientists and engineers in the crowd, that her "path is not the only right path" and it is possible to "pursue both academia and business simultaneously," despite many Imperial students feeling the choice of one or the other.

Mo' Modulate

Societies Editor

CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

Last Friday night's Modulate, ICRadio's termly DJ Night at Metric, proved to be an unmissable event and proof of talent

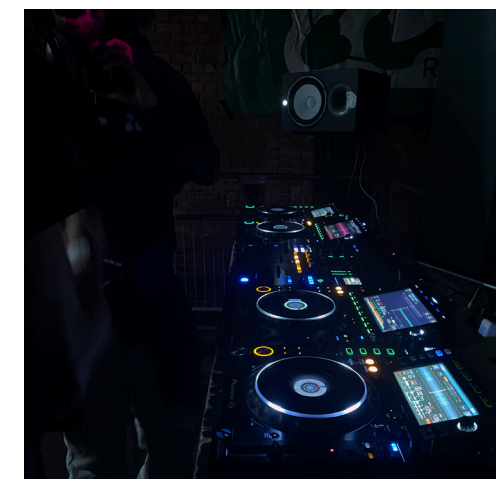
at Imperial. The event played six hours of continuous music - DJs playing half-hour sets - invited 400 ticket-holders to dance out their desires and also provided ample Caribbean food on Beit Quad and drinks from ICU's own Bar Staff.

From 8pm onwards, ICRadio was

selling £7 tickets at the entrance for avid attendees who missed the three digital sales the week prior.

At 10pm, the venue began to fill with students ready to hear what ICRadio's team of DJs had to offer. House, Jungle, Garage, Techno, and more genres played that evening to which even non-electronic music fans could enjoy.

Felix highly recommends attending the next two Modulates with your friends in the Spring and Summer terms.



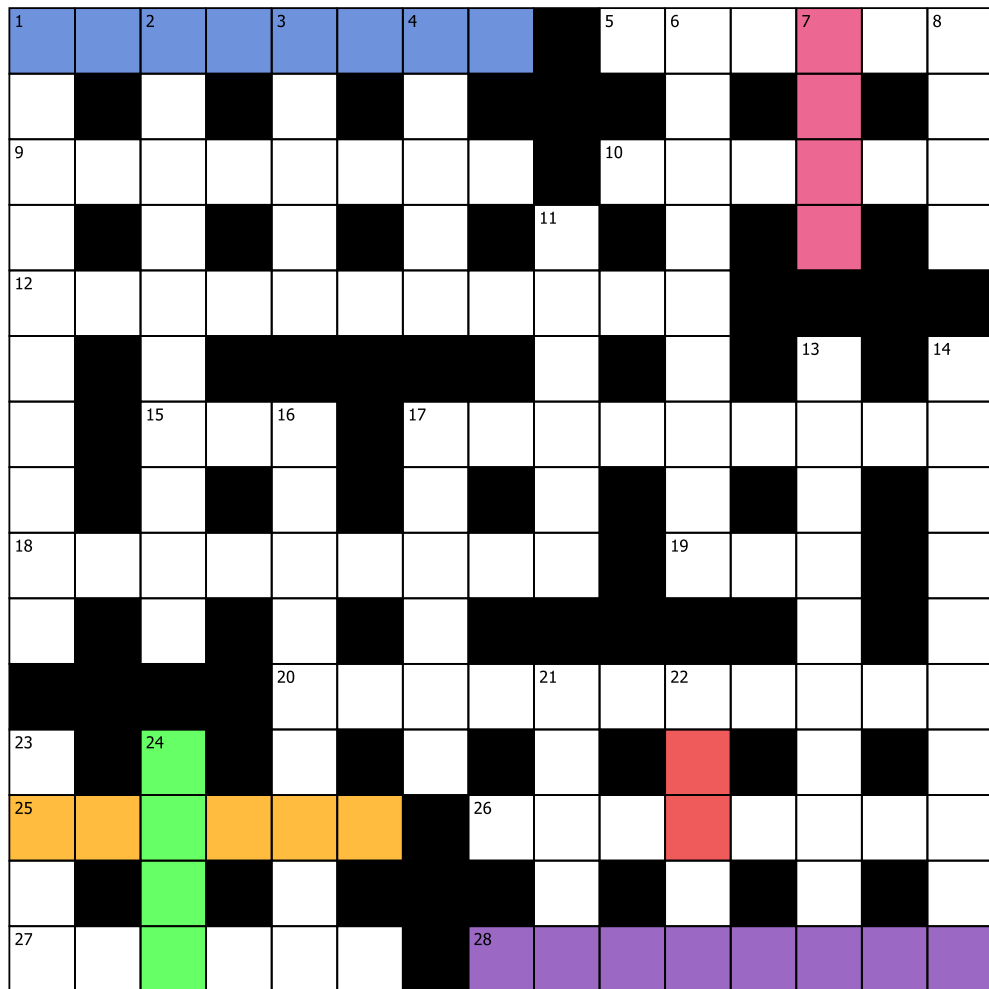
DJ Stage Charlotte Probstel

PUZZLES

Puzzles Editor
IVIN JOSE

CROSSWORD

"So here's to the new us." (3 pts.)



Across

- 1. A councillor and a mother. [8]
- 5. There are 4 of these turtles. [6]
- 9. Thin pieces of material that are worn below the head but above the chest. [8]
- 10. A young swan. [6]
- 12. An instrument used for observing the internal structure of an opaque object by means of X-rays. [11]
- 13. He plays the Norse god of mischief. [3]
- 17. The signs you see in public buildings of the running green man. [9]
- 18. You have to complete this form every year of your course on MyImperial. [9]
- 19. A genre of music. [3]
- 20. An information barrier protocol meant to prevent conflict of interest. [7 4]
- 25. A scientist and a friend. [6]
- 26. 2012 supernatural horror film about a haunted house, a crime writer and his family. [8]
- 27. The oldest F1 driver in the 2024 Formula 1 season. [6]
- 28. The French animation studio that produced this week's theme. [8]

Down

- 1. Beautiful, brightly coloured bird found usually found on the riverside. [10]
- 2. People whose job it is to enlist others into their organisation. [10]
- 3. ___ cycle, ___ boat, ___ way. [5]
- 4. Regions, parts or sections, for example. [5]
- 6. Harvard, Yale and Princeton, for example. [3 6]
- 7. A victim and a preparator. [4]
- 8. Canadian actor and comedian, appears in *Knocked Up*. [4]
- 11. Epping, Hainault, New and Dean, for example. [6]
- 13. Standing someone up on your first date, for example. [10]
- 14. Mostly but not entirely true. [2 3 5]
- 16. 26a but rhymes with delicious. [9]
- 17. The curtain of your eye. [3 3]
- 21. Japanese detective movie starring Hiromi Kitagawa. [5]
- 22. Force someone out of a property, but legally. [5]
- 23. The middle layer of the eye. [4]
- 24. A survivor and a leader. [4]

Across

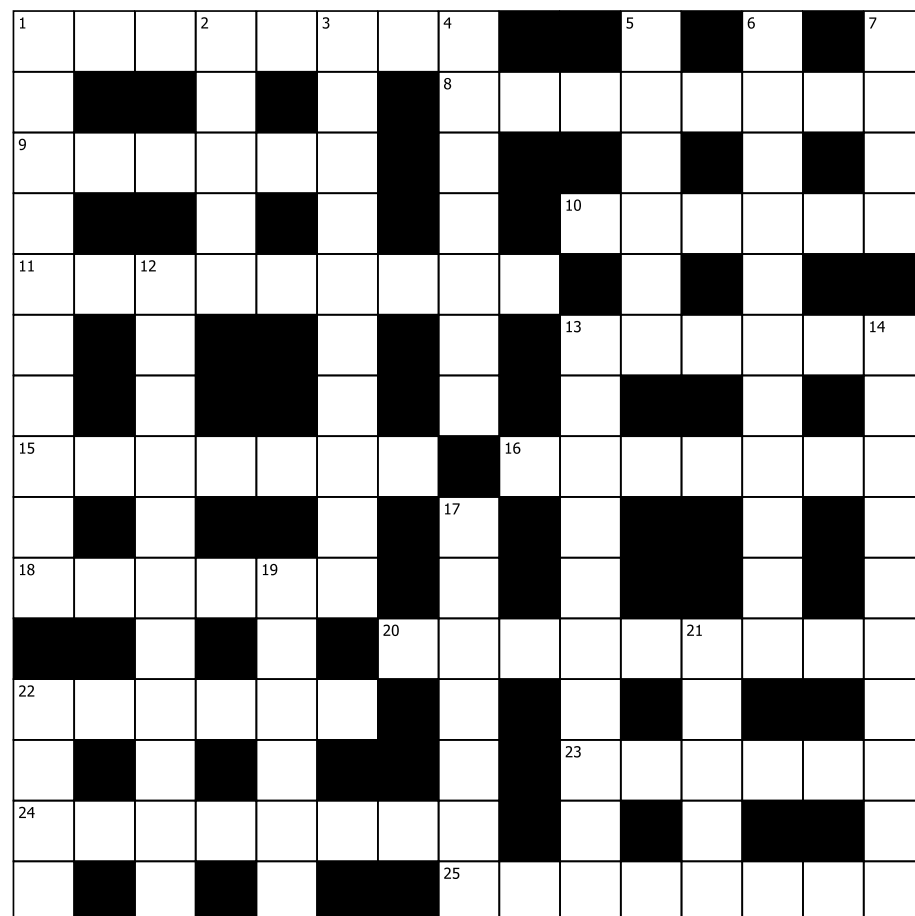
- 1. Space place has no space for disgrace! [8]
- 8. One needs to make this to be drunk and eaten - we heard its's born backwards. [8]
- 9. Do in order: take top off and put at end of letter. [6]
- 10. Tempers to destroy a beast. [6]
- 11. Not enough rest for someone in field. [9]
- 13. Sign of serious illness. [6]
- 15. Goes somewhere nice - meat so utterly in! [4 3]
- 16. As of now, turning back and getting a bun from the cart. [7]
- 18. Pass aimlessly, please. [6]
- 20. Apparently, the focus of the dance quit for this northern country's figure. [5 4]
- 22. Skilfully go against backward lieutenant in containment. [6]
- 23. Kept inside coffins, it understandably is unmoved. [2 4]
- 24. Nocturnal mammal digs near accommodation with no roof. [8]
- 25. Messy throw after small, normal thing coming back. [8]
- 5. Fear of soup before buffet is absorbed first. [6]
- 6. Signal to carry - I cull the last bit off inside. [11]
- 7. An American end point. [4]
- 12. Ground ancient judge nearly has enough money for. [3 8]
- 13. Penning purpose around limitless worry. [10]
- 14. King cleans toilet using his best hand? [5 5]
- 17. Token two pints before hospital ward. [7]
- 19. South African bird at watering hole. [6]
- 21. Girl with love is ensnared by rope. [5]
- 22. Dead like this thing - take note, and take note again! [4]

Down

- 1. Feel for messed up particle ball. [10]
- 2. Red rot came back and destroyed first command. [5]
- 3. Beaten up about outliers not having come to a decision. [10]
- 4. Shout cries of pain for

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Submitted by David Latimer (5 pts.)



SUDOKU

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

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

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

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

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

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

Medium (1 pt. each)

Hard (2 pts. each)

Extra hard (3 pts. each)

GROUPING GRIDS

Submitted by William West & Vittoria Dessi

Bird	Sling	Rat	Grass
Chase	Fish	Hunt	Snake
Keep	Probe	Seek	Mug
Search	Beat	Snitch	Long

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.

King	Banner	Hut	Four
Jack	Visit	Bye	Guys
Circus	Fox	Bell	Two
Threw	Ace	Colours	Flag

Medium (3 pts.)

Hard (4 pts.)

				Connections
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

				Connections
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

COMIC

Submitted by Tengyu Zhao



Felix in SAF

Cobwebs Solutions

- Coffee shop
- Barista
- Mocha
- Iced
- Chai
- Syrup
- Cappuccino
- Espresso
- Tea

Knight's Move Solutions

- Lemon
- Lime
- Kumquat
- Yuzu
- Bergamot
- Orange

Puzzle Editor's Note

Dearest Puzzlers,

Hello, we're back! After a brief interlude, your regular themed crossword has finally returned! Your humble Puzzles Editor has (temporarily, of course) emerged from the clutches of coursework deadlines to bring you a *magical* crossword alongside our much-loved sudokus. I hope you're all keeping well, and that these puzzles offer a welcome break from any looming deadlines. A quick correction for last week's Cobwebs: the "V" in the second row was indeed meant to be a "U." Thank you to our sharp-eyed puzzlers for catching that!

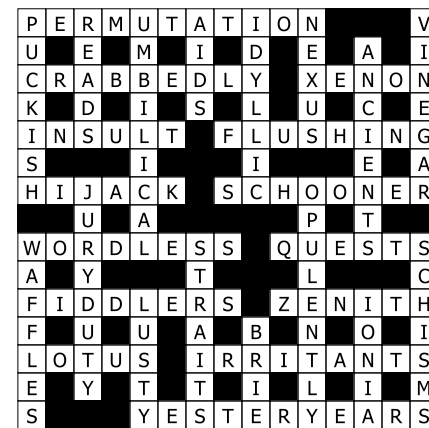
In the leaderboard this week, The Menu have extended their lead over the competition, breaking yet another record as the first team to surpass 200 points. But remember, every point counts—so keep sending in those solutions!

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

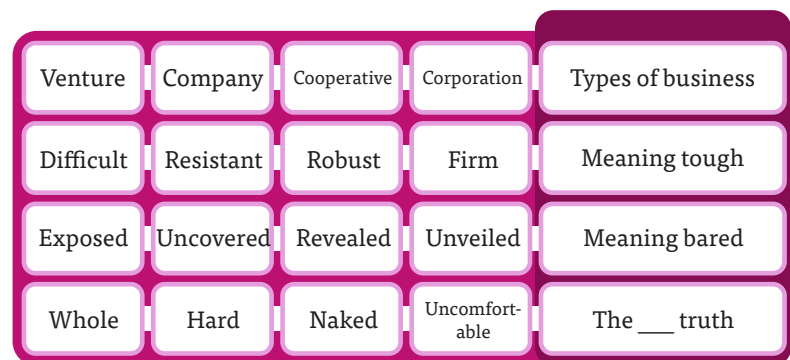
That leaves me with nothing more to say, other than have a fantastic week of crossing, connecting, completing, code-cracking, comic-consuming and competing!

- Ivin

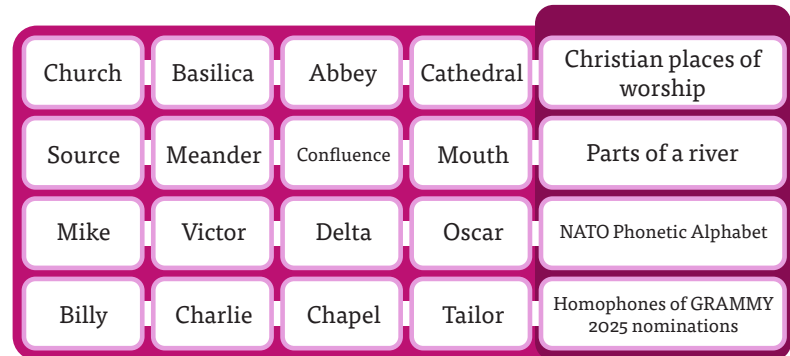
Previous Puzzles' solutions



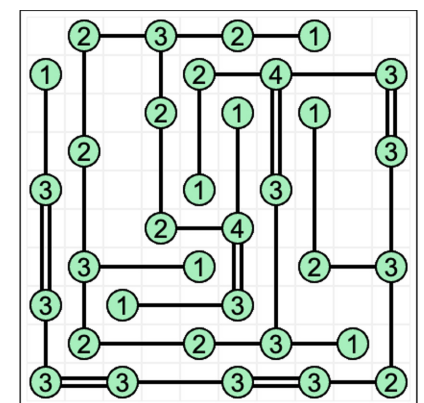
Cryptic



Medium grouping grid



Hard grouping grid



Maze

Bridges

"Here's to the ones that we got. Cheers to the wish you were here, but you're not, because the drinks bring back all the memories and memories bring back, memories bring back you."

Anagram: Fiona Mover = Maroon Five

Quote from: Memories by Maroon Five

Cryptogram

SPORT

Can you Baleba it?

City lose four on the bounce. Let's discuss how their latest loss came to be.

Sport Writer

LILA HARRISON

Sat 9 Nov 2024,
Premier League GW11:

Brighton 2 : 1 Manchester City
Erling Haaland 23'
Joao Pedro 78'
Matt O'Riley 83'

The first half was mostly in Manchester City's control. Guardiola's side set up in a characteristic 4-1-4-1 formation, allowed them to dominate the midfield. Brighton, on the other hand, started in a 4-4-2 shape, which caused them issues. Brighton's Hinshelwood and Ayari's pivot was overcome by Manchester City Kovacic, Gundogan, and Foden's midfield three, with the extra midfielder consistently causing a numerical advantage in the middle of the pitch, creating overloads that Brighton struggled to cope with. This led to Haaland's goal.

One of the standout performers in this phase was City's Phil Foden. Though normally playing as a wide midfielder, Foden frequently drifted inside, further stretching Brighton's midfield pivot. This movement created space for City's full-backs to push forward, so Brighton found themselves pinned back for long stretches of the first half.

The game transformed in the second half with the introduction of Brighton's Carlos Baleba, a young Cameroonian defensive midfielder coveted by top European clubs. His impact was immediate.

Baleba provided a series of key contributions:

1. Winning ground duels: Despite playing only 45 minutes, he won more ground duels than anyone else on the pitch. His physicality allowed Brighton to compete effectively in central areas. With an injured Rodri, who I have written about too much in the Sports section of this newspaper, this was even easier.

2. Resisting City's pressure: City's pressing traps, usually devastating, were neutralised by Baleba's composure. In multiple instances, he turned right through a well-structured press. Additionally, City's own counter-pressing was very poor.

3. Foden and Gundogan: Unlike the first half, where Foden and Gundogan found space to operate between the lines, Baleba's athleticism mitigated this.

Upon winning the ball back, Baleba delivered a perfectly weighted pass that cut through City's line. This led to Brighton's second, winning goal.

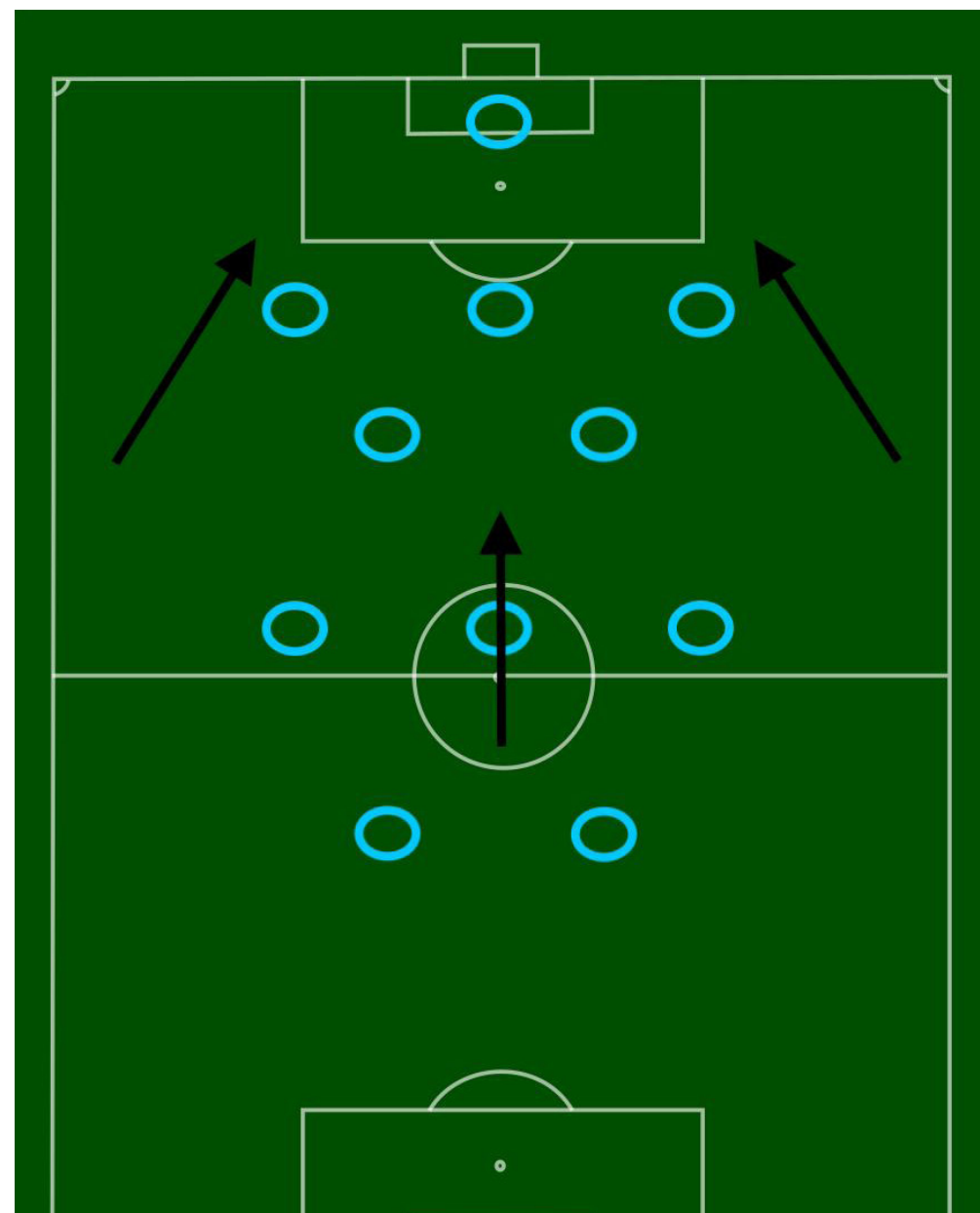
Despite Brighton's brilliance, City created problems of their own – present in all their four losses. Much of their struggles in the second half stemmed from the absence of Rodri. Without him, City lacked physicality and positional awareness. In this instance, Kovacic and Gundogan were overrun. As their hold on the game lessened, Ederson's worsening distribution compounded their problems.

In the first half, Ederson's passing was as precise as he is famed for, finding progressive positions. However, as Brighton wrestled back control, his passing became erratic. Without Rodri to provide reliable cover, these passes frequently resulted in turnovers. Baleba capitalised on this repeatedly, winning second balls and driving Brighton forward.

Shape is proving to be a problem for City as well. Guardiola's side has been playing in a 3-2 buildup shape when in possession, and this is proving to be an issue in transition. Injuries and inexperience of players coming in have resulted in a lack of reorganisation upon loss of possession. The Seagulls consistently bypassed City's midfield and targeted their inexperienced backline, forcing errors under pressure. Their first goal was the result of an advanced

passing network to target this 3-2 shape.

This is a concerning trend for City. Opponents are beginning to find ways to counter their 3-2 in-possession shape during transitions. Teams like Brighton have shown the courage to press high and engage in physical battles, disrupting rhythm. Dynamic, box-to-box, brave midfield play has been exploiting City's vulnerabilities. Brighton had Baleba, Sporting had Hjulmand, Bournemouth had Cook, and Spurs had Sarr.



Shape is proving to be a problem for City. Guardiola's side have been playing in a 3-2 buildup shape when in possession, which the Seagulls used to put City under lots of pressure – forcing lots of errors. Lila Harrison

Match Report - Men's Rugby

1st XV vs RUMS 1st XV

Rugby Publications Officer CHAY BAILEY

Our opponents last week were the 1st XV from The Royal Free, University College and Middlesex Medical School (RUMS), the medical school of UCL.

Last year, RUMS competed in the league above – their current ambitions are set to return back to the highest level of regional rugby available to university sides. However, having previously met RUMS earlier this season in a 28-3 win, we were confident to outscore our opponents once again.

The Imperial side saw many regular players return this week, but with a notable absence from current 1st XV vice-captain James McDermott, injured during training, and a notable return

from 1st XV Captain Luke Butland, returning from an injury sustained earlier in the season. Butland took up his position in the second row.

RUMS kicked off and seconds later had conceded the first of many penalties. Both teams traded possession through kicks up field and penalties, but interspersed this with running rugby. Eventually the Imperial backs broke through to the RUMS line and short successive carries from the forwards resulted in Leon Christie carrying the ball over the line.

Conversion missed, 5-0.

Following a period where Imperial and RUMS equally shared the ball, a poor kick chase from RUMS led to a broken defensive line allowing Max Wang to break through and offload to Sami Brown, who ran the ball under the sticks.

Conversion by Sam Waters, 12-0.

Almost straight from kick off, the

Imperial defence was caught sleeping, allowing the RUMS centre to run through unopposed.

Conversion scored 12-7.

After the kick off play was shared between Imperial and RUMS, within the Imperial 22, the referee believed that an Imperial player went off feet in a ruck.

A penalty was given, which then scored. 12-10.

This was to be the last of RUMS points. Imperial dominated the game for the rest of the first half. With the RUMS tighthead prop being taken off due to an injury, the scrum was marched forward several times by Imperial. The Imperial forwards were clinical at the line out, allowing the backs to play some lovely running rugby. The constant pressure from Imperial was not rewarded until the last play of the half where an almost identical try to his first was scored by Leon Christie.

Conversion by Sam Waters, 19-10.

The Imperial dominance continued into the second half with RUMS showing signs of fatigue from the constant pressure. Luke Parry scored after several off-loads from a weak RUMS defence. Max Wang ran through a gap in the RUMS centres. The Imperial forwards drove over a maul from a lineout. Finally, following a scrum from 10 meters out, Leon Christie picked from the base and went over for his third of the day.

Conversion by Sam Waters, 43-10. The game ends.

Some special mentions to Walter Taylor and Max Evrard, who together won the player of the match award. As well a mention to Leon Christie, who scored a hat trick of tries, putting him on top of the league's top try scorers list.

1st XV Table

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	For	Against	PD	Points
1	Imperial Men's 1	4	4	0	0	98	20	78	20
2	Queen Mary Men's 1 (Barts)	3	2	1	0	80	57	23	10
3	King's College Men's 2 (GKT)	3	1	2	0	91	104	-13	5
4	UCL Men's 1 (RUMS)	3	1	2	0	51	103	-52	4
5	City St George's Men's 1	2	0	2	0	14	82	-68	0
6	Brunel Men's 3	3	1	2	0	49	17	32	-5*

* Brunel faced a 10-point deduction over incomplete games.

2nd XV Table

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	For	Against	PD	Points
1	Imperial Men's 3	3	3	0	0	139	54	85	15
2	UCL Men's 2	2	2	0	0	179	17	162	10
3	Hertfordshire Men's 1	2	1	1	0	44	53	-9	5
4	Kingston Men's 1	3	0	3	0	42	191	-149	1
5	UCL Men's 3 (RUMS)	2	0	2	0	21	110	-89	0

3rd XV Table

Position	Team	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	For	Against	PD	Points
1	Royal Holloway Men's 2	4	4	0	0	115	36	79	17
2	Imperial Men's 5	3	2	1	0	102	29	73	9
3	Sussex Men's 3	2	1	1	0	31	43	-12	4
4	Surrey Men's 4	2	0	2	0	27	61	-34	2
5	Anglia Ruskin Men's 2	1	0	1	0	19	24	-5	1
6	Middlesex Men's 1	2	0	2	0	12	113	-101	0

Scores & Fixtures

Gameweeks 6 and 7

1st XV team:

GW6 – Imperial 1st XV 43 - 10
RUMS (League)
GW7 – Given a walk over
against Brunel (Cup)

2nd XV team:

GW6 – Imperial 2nd XV 60 - 10
RUMS 1st XV (League)
GW7 – Imperial 2nd XV vs
Reading 2nd XV (Cup)

3rd XV team:

GW6 – Imperial 3rd XV 35 - 0
Surrey 4th XV (League)
GW7 – No cup game scheduled.

