

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.



SLUG FOR SALE

Former nightclub listed on RightMove.

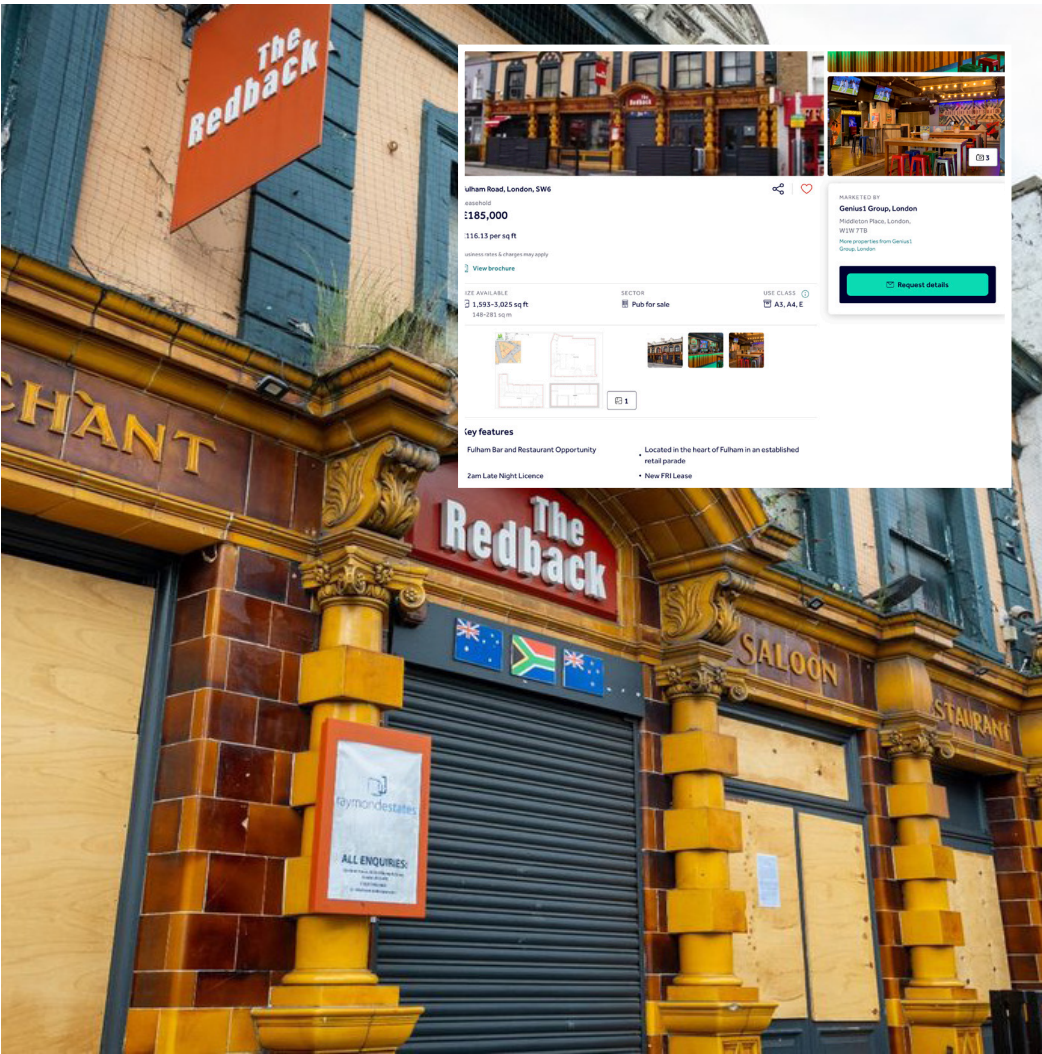
Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

The former location of popular nightclub The Redback, known to Imperial students as Slug, has been listed on Rightmove. The nightclub closed down in March 2024 when its operating company, RedCat Leased Pubs Limited (RCPL), was placed under administration.

According to the listing, the property features a Late Night License until 2am, and is available as a leasehold for £185,000. The terms of the lease will be agreed upon once a deal is made. The club is being advertised by Genius1 Group, a company which focuses on commercial real estate.

Genius1 Group refused a request for comment.

Slug, an Imperial hotspot, was known for its sports nights. It was one of five pubs closed by Interpath Advisory, the adminis-



The Redback. Rolando Charles for Felix

trator for RCPL, upon their appointment. A spokesperson for Interpath Advisory said RCPL had been “impacted by the wider challenges facing the pub sector,” includ-

ing a slow recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, changing consumer habits, and the cost-of-living crisis.

NO FELIX NEXT WEEK!

SOMETHING BIG IS COMING
14/02/2025



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CATNIP

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DECLARATION

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

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

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

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

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

Signed by:
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI
Editor-in-Chief

Copyeditors

Nikesh Chawala
Tarun Nair
Charlotte Probstel
Taylor Pomfret

The Felix Team:



MOHAMMAD MAJLISI
Editor-in-Chief,
News Editor



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



CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL
Chair,
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Science Editor



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Sport Editor



TIMOTHY LANGER
Senior Webmaster



ELSON THO
Webmaster



WALT GAO
Head Photographer



**AND OUR NUMEROUS
CONTRIBUTORS ...**

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EDITORIAL

Thank you, David Lynch

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

For many people, David Lynch was not just a visionary filmmaker and visual artist. He was someone who could capture transcendence and place it within the tangible media of film and television. His oeuvre, of which I have experienced precious little, but have enjoyed, is complex yet evocative. The blend of surrealism and Americana works so well, and what made Lynch so good was that all of it was sincere, every single weird, uncanny moment and frame. I often find myself comparing his work to the modernists – James Joyce in particular. The subtext in a Lynch flick is like the very fabric of the film, the real meat and bones. It breathes through the plot, and like a Joyce novel (I’m thinking *Ulysses*) that’s what makes it special. Lynch’s refusal to elaborate, often the butt of jokes about the auteur’s style of film-making, made it special. By killing the author off so definitively, Lynch’s movies are even more special because every screening is not tainted by trying to “figure it out” but rather embracing the weirdness and letting it speak to you in its own personal way.

Americana is ever so intoxicating. Lynch, born in 1946, and raised in the golden age of the post-war boom, reflected this in his work. His ability to critically analyse the blind optimism of Americana and show the darkness underneath the veneer was evidence of his depth and genius. There is a sense of Jung about his work, that the light cannot exist without the darkness.

Beyond the screen, Lynch himself was special. His sincerity, wild hair, and idiosyncratic way of speaking, as well as his conscious efforts to treat his crews well, often making friends is, and was different. He was beyond nice – there are so many anecdotes scattered around the internet of how well he treated people ostensibly below him in the Hollywood food chain. David Lynch cared, regardless.

It’s hard to state what a big hole Lynch will make. There are plenty of younger, modern film makers, but none that had a vision as singular as him. It was disheartening to hear that Lynch was stuck in production limbo as Netflix refused to finance his projects. As cinema becomes more and more data- and money-driven, as well as nepotistic, it really is tough to imagine a new Lynch coming from the

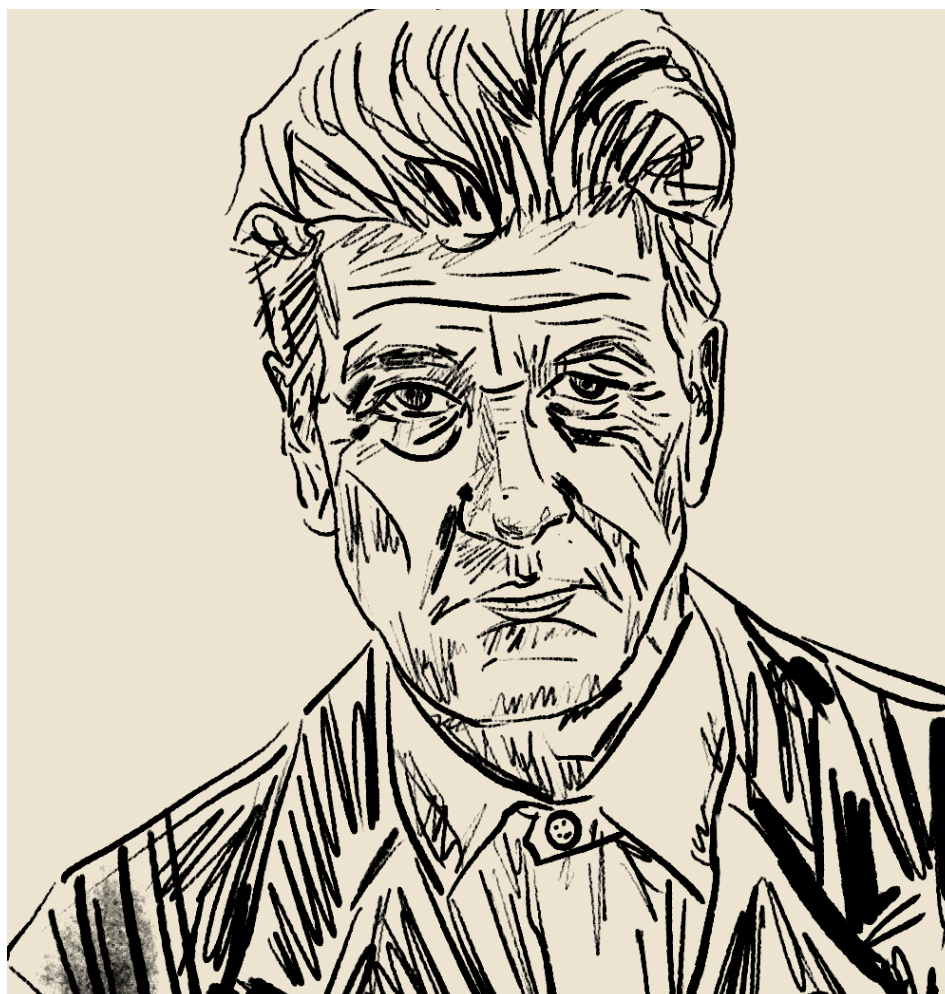
that we should “let people enjoy things”. I don’t believe in that. The best art is not a commercial work aiming to maximise shareholder value and sell the greatest number of tickets/ copies/ streams (delete as necessary).

It’s a common point of discussion in the *Felix* office. We as a collective are always wondering about what the typical Imperial student likes. The societies who operate

within the West Basement care about the arts, we’re discerning. We try to culminate a sense of taste. It’s odd because I always assumed university would be different. Instead you meet variations of people who don’t care strongly about anything but careers. They just consume uncritically. I don’t want this to feel like an attack on anyone – that’s far from my intention. It’s just sad. We’re always thinking about how Imperial students are nowadays less engaged politically, socially, and culturally. This wasn’t the case around 15 years ago – the circulation of *Felix* then was 4,000 copies a week; now it is just 800. What died? What changed? I suppose part of my apathy towards STEM is due to this – the lack of well-rounded individuals. Whilst Imperial students take pride in our *University Challenge* record, that’s a small subset of people. Most people here aren’t really like that. In fact, it’s the opposite – I’ve been asked why I didn’t apply for an English degree because I am extremely (zealously) passionate about books and literature. It’s like Imperial students can’t imagine something beyond a single subject: they’ve pushed away their interests to become focused on their degrees and careers.

It’s hard to imagine someone who could take a liking to literature, as an example, while doing a physics degree.

And, perhaps, that’s why David Lynch’s death hit me particularly hard. Not just because he was a genius, not just because he went above and beyond to be a nice genius, and not just because cinema lost one of its greats. It’s because Lynch’s passing represents a major shift in our culture. He is now a symbol of a past we cannot return to. But, boy do we miss it.



Ruby Lydford

same background and doing so well. Across the West the arts are in disarray. Funding losses, corporatisation, and a loss of social mobility threaten to reduce our artistic output to “slop,” endless arrays of franchise films algorithmically optimised to make the most money and placate the masses, but devoid of all meaning. I’ve seen it happen in literature, as vaguely disguised smut takes over BookTok; or television, where Netflix churns out garbage with bloated budgets and sprawling production times. I don’t care

NEWS

Biggest shakeup in 50 years to clubs and societies budgeting proposed

Juliette Flatau for Felix

Changes to annual budgeting aim to streamline the process and improve equity met with concerns from students.

Editor-in-Chief

MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Imperial College Union is planning to make changes to the annual budgeting process in an effort to decrease workloads for students in management groups and modernise the process. The proposed changes mean members of the Clubs, Societies, and Projects Board (CSPB) will establish a set of principles for grant allocation, with staff at the Union taking part in the operational process of allocating grants to societies.

The reforms are the most significant in 50 years of the Union allocating grants. Previously, management groups, the executive bodies that represent societies with similar themes and activities, would help approve the budgets of clubs and societies. Two management groups would look over a society's application and if the amount was disputed, the budget would be reviewed in a CSPB meeting, a process that could take up to "40 hours".

The planned changes, due to come into effect from this academic year onwards, will bring ICU's budgeting process in line with that of other Russell Group student unions. The new timeline will move the annual budgeting deadline to the end of March. The new legislation will inform the new Annual Budgeting Committee (ABC), comprised of the Deputy President for Clubs and Societies (DPCS), and senior members of the Unions Activities team, on budgeting. Current DPCS Christian Cooper described the process as "letting CSPs design the black box, the intricacies, and grant allocation principles" whilst shifting the operational duties to the ABC. Members of the CSPB can also submit supporting statements for the ABC's consideration during their grant allocation meetings. "We're giving CSPB more time to focus on the representation and governance side," Cooper explained. "We're really going to try and capitalise on them being an advocate for their CSPs."

In addition, the way grants are given will change. "We [will] only allocate grant for core activity," said Cooper, "but we're not going to ask for an annual budget for non-

core activity, like a Christmas dinner, or a social event ... that will basically reduce the amount of time that CSPs themselves need to input into the budget." Fundraising targets will also be reported by CSPs but will not "negatively impact grant allocation."

Appeals can be made, but only on the grounds of an operational dispute – "an unjust process or administrative error" – rather than on the basis that a group deserves more. Members of the CSPB can act as a "barrister", advocating for their societies. Similarly, the appeals panel will be chaired by a Union senior manager who was not involved in the budgeting stages.

Some students familiar with the matter agree to the changes in principle but are concerned about the new ABC. They believe that the change will show a lack of transparency towards budgeting as the DPCS is the only student voice on the committee. Given that the DPCS is an elected role, concerns have been voiced that the standard of student voice will vary dependent on who is in the role.

New carbon calculator launched by College

Public carbon calculator based on Imperial's data helps model pathways to net zero.

Editor-in-Chief

MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

The Imperial Transition Pathways Explorer has been launched by the College to help organisations explore how to reduce their carbon emissions. The tool is being used internally to inform Imperial's Sustainability Strategy Committee, as well as in teaching programmes across the College.

Based on more than a decade of development, including the 2050 Calculator – a family of models designed in collaboration between the UK government, think tanks, and the Centre for Environment Policy – the Explorer

works by taking an organisation's current carbon footprint and allowing users to adjust the levels of different technologies and behaviours. The four levels of exploration, ranging from level one, or "business as usual," to level four, where the most ambitious possible action is taken within feasibility, allowing organisations to model different permutations of the action they can take.

Harriet Wallace, Director of Sustainability at Imperial, said: "Imperial's Transition Pathways Explorer is helping us focus our sustainability efforts where we can make the biggest reductions to our carbon footprint. For example, getting off gas for heating and taking more sustainable approaches to travel and procurement offer much greater potential than more visible areas like recycling or commuting where Imperial's footprint is small."

Professor Jem Woods, Professor of Sustainable Development, from Imperial's Centre for Environmental Policy, added: "The Calculators allow experts and implementers to dynamically interact on complex, so-called 'wicked' sustainability problems, co-producing viable, consensus-based solutions at scales and times that are achievable and meaningful to the problem. This approach has been tested at national and international scales but to our knowledge, this is the first time it has been applied to an organisation."

The tool is available online and is free to use.

Increasing class inequality around internships report finds

Editor-in-Chief

MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

A new report by educational charity the Sutton Trust has revealed a widening gap between working- and middle-class graduates in applying to and securing internships. The gap between working class and middle-class students undertaking internships has increased from 12 percentage points to 20 between 2018 and 2024.

Internships are increasingly seen as a route into careers with 51% of graduates completing at least a single internship in 2024. Similarly, employers have increased the number of internships available to target early careers, with 80% of London employers offering internship schemes, compared to 48% in the UK as a whole.

Despite opportunities increasing, a significant number of internships pay very little, or do not offer compensation. The number of internships offering less than the national minimum wage has increased from 9% to 23% between 2018 and 2024. However, the number of internships offering no financial in-

come decreased by 20 percentage points to 21% in the same time period. Only 11% of internships were found through open advertisement, according to the report.

Although the proportion of both working- and middle-class students participating in underpaid or unpaid internships has decreased, middle class interns were more likely to obtain a paid position. 20% of internships were found through family members or friends who had contacts with companies or organisations running internship schemes. However, working-class graduates were more likely to proactively seek employers for an internship.

The report also called for unpaid internships lasting over four weeks to be "outright" banned, and any work that was "more" than shadowing a role to receive at least the national minimum wage. It also called for employers to publicly advertise their internship opportunities and to base recruitment processes on fairness, transparency and merit.

The Labour government has planned to ban unpaid internships under its "New Deal for Working People", however action on internships was not included in the recent Employment Rights Bill 2024.

SCIENCE

Nuclear naïveté

Science writer Daniel Hesk argues against the case for nuclear power.

Science Writer
DANIEL HESK

It has been made clear that much of the public is afraid of nuclear power. Four or five high-profile disasters over the last century – not to mention the constant spectre of atomic weapons – weigh heavily on the global conscience. Nuclear energy has a grim reputation. There is a growing opinion, however, that these fears are entirely unfounded. Many of those in STEM fields, as well as Big-Tech investors and futurists, believe that the public is simply ignorant about the topic, that all the risks of nuclear power have been mitigated and societal perception of it should change. It is often touted as the “obvious” solution to the climate crisis as well. More reliable than renewables, less damaging than fossil fuels. What’s not to like?

I don’t condemn nuclear power. It is absolutely better than coal, oil, and gas; and yes, there is a degree of cartoonish devilry associated with it that does not reflect reality. Still, it seems a little naïve to suggest that all the risks of atomic energy have evaporated, or that it doesn’t come with many other drawbacks. Furthermore, the fact that historical disasters can all be ascribed to human error is not quite as reassuring as some make it out to be.

There have been catastrophes at nuclear power plants, obviously. There was Three Mile Island in the US and Sellafield in the UK. There was Fukushima in Japan. The Soviets had Kyshtym and later, of course, Chernobyl. These disasters were all eminently preventable. They were the result of design problems and human error. Take Chernobyl as the prime (and certainly most infamous) example: awful decisions were made by the operators, who seemed to care more about efficiency than safety; the staff on shift were new, and dangerously untrained and incompetent; most of all a major design flaw in RBMK reactors had been kept secret by the Soviet government as part of its obsession with appearing strong on the international stage.

Chernobyl was caused by incompetence, bureaucracy, mismanagement, and lies; when this became clear, the RBMK reactors were fixed. In fact, the causes of



Chooz Nuclear Power Plant, operated by EDF, located in the Ardennes department in France. Raimond Spekking

every nuclear disaster in history are known. They have been corrected for: it is nearly impossible that the exact same disasters could ever be repeated, anywhere. This fact has led many to assume, wrongly, that nuclear power has been made safe. Sure, a correctly-managed plant is nearly failure-proof. But Fukushima was as recent as 2011. Are we ready to flood the globe with nuclear power plants, on the assumption that they’ll be correctly managed by every country into the far future? These incidents have occurred under communism and capitalism, across decades of safety improvement. Human error is universal, and this is not an area to be playing games. The cost of a poorly designed wind turbine is a localised problem. The cost of a poorly designed nuclear plant could be the lives of millions.

And what about the rise in global conflict? The Zaporizhzhia plant in Ukraine was the site of intense fighting in 2022. A year ago, the Sellafield complex in Cumbria (already a disaster zone in 1957) came under a successful cyberattack by China, the scale of which is not yet clear. Not every nuclear incident is an accident. When the potential for harm of an energy source is this high, concerns about its vulnerability can never be called frivolous.

It’s absurd to suggest that the risks have gone away. Do we really think there are no longer companies or governments that would cover up dangers to save face? Do we really think that safety has now taken priority over efficiency? We have not moved on from the age of industrial recklessness: if anything, we are at its peak. The human error that caused Chernobyl is the same human error that is causing the climate crisis now threatening the planet. The ideal of nuclear power can easily be thrown off-course by greed and myopia, and that’s as true now as it ever was.

I don’t mean to fearmonger. Nuclear power has its place, and safety measures really have got better over the years. Incidents remain exceedingly rare. Nuclear can be an excellent stepping stone from fossil fuels to renewables, and fusion energy may prove functional twenty (or fifty) years down the line. But don’t be convinced that a rifle isn’t dangerous just because it needs a human to point it the wrong way. There’s always going to be short-sighted humans with terrible aim, and there’s always going to be someone standing at the ready to sell them guns.



**TERM TWO
EVENTS**



SCAN ME



**TERM TWO
EVENTS**

ENVIRONMENT

Student views on carbon foodprints

Environment Writer
UGO LEGENDRE
Environment Writer
ZUZANNA RYDZ
Environment Writer
ALY-JOY ULUSOY

As part of the college’s community-led sustainability efforts, the Earth Science and Engineering and Civil and Environmental Engineering sustainability committees are exploring students’ perspectives on climate change, their carbon footprints, and their willingness to reduce them. To achieve this, we conducted a three-part “Climate Action Survey” (CAS) assessing students’ views on climate change, calculating their carbon footprints, and evaluating shifts in perception afterward.

The first survey tells a story many of us might relate to: most respondents are very aware of climate change’s causes and effects, feel moderately anxious about it, and are only slightly hopeful we can mitigate it. While 88% felt motivated to act, only 41% knew what steps they could take to reduce their carbon footprints.

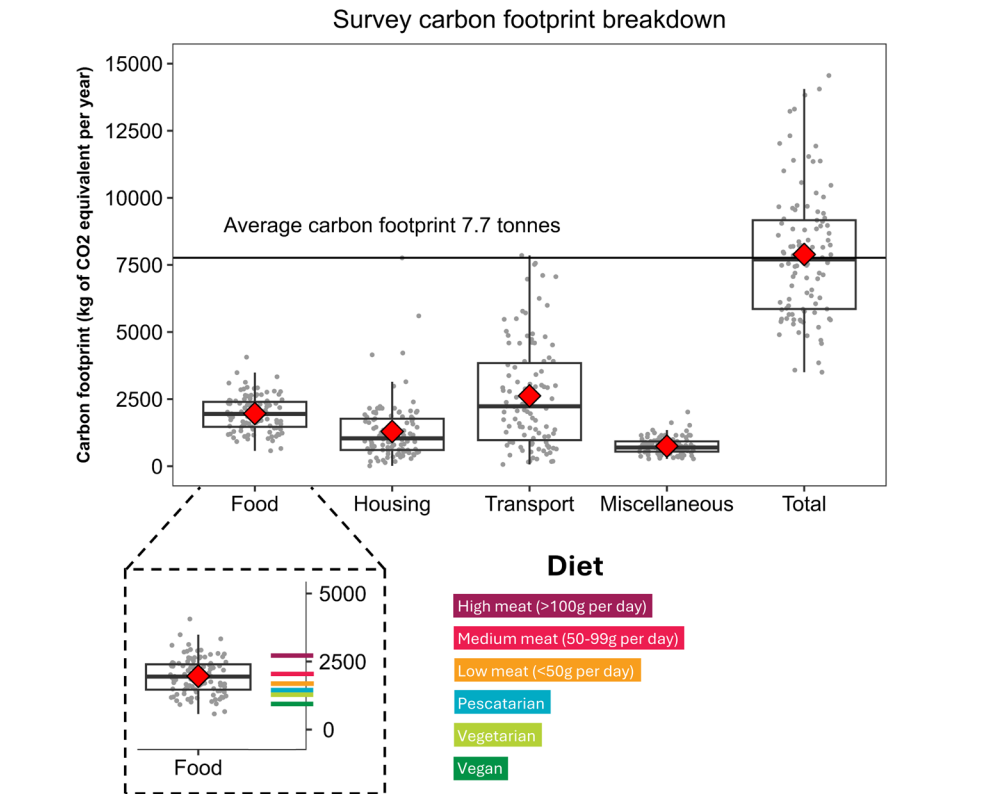
The CAS shows that students have a carbon footprint of 7.8 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent per person per year – below national average estimates of about 10 tonnes. Close behind transport, food was our biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions, with an average of 1.9 tonnes per person per year – that’s 25% of our total footprint! Our average food carbon footprint resembles that of a medium meat consumption diet, as shown in the figure. If we shifted to a low meat, vegetarian, or vegan diet, we would emit 250,



There are lots of vegan proteins to choose from. Country Life (countrylifefoods.com)

600, or 1000 kgCO₂ less per year on average, respectively. Encouragingly, after completing the calculator, two thirds of students reported being more aware of what they can do

to decrease their carbon footprint, and more than half said they became more motivated to do so. (You might want to give it a go if you feel it would help!) Regarding food, two thirds of respondents



Results of the climate action survey, and zoom on food.

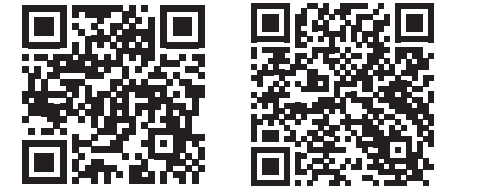
said they were likely to start reducing their meat consumption. Clearly, we can and want to mitigate climate change in the ways we can, and that’s a great start, but we also need institutions – governments, companies, and even Imperial – to do their share.



When we reached out to Imperial’s catering team, we were pleasantly surprised to find out that, behind the scenes, they were busy reducing the carbon footprint of our meals. Some changes are more obvious, for example: beef was eliminated from all Taste Imperial menus in October 2024 (some of which was replaced with wild-culled venison, which has 75% less CO₂ emissions); non-dairy milks are available free of charge; and Meat-free Mondays were introduced during Veganuary and warm plant-based meal options are now available at every outlet.

But other changes often go unnoticed, and this is partly by design. As a dizzying reminder: Imperial is home to over 21,000 students and 8,000 staff. Depending on who you ask, the college is either moving too fast or frustratingly slowly. Mindful of the delicate balance required to introduce change in our large and diverse organisation, the catering team often prefers to focus on less controversial actions. Fortunately, something as simple as expanding the range of available vegan sandwiches can do a lot to ‘nudge’ people in the right direction! However, the catering team also has to be mindful of our limited student budgets, as high-quality vegan options can be more expensive.

If you’re interested, here is the link to the CAS and to a feedback form for Imperial catering:



BOOKS

Where to start with Russian Literature

I’m no expert, but I could be soon. And so could you.

Books Editor
ADITI MEHTA

Before university, I started *Crime and Punishment*. It was enticing but laborious, and difficult to devote time to during the rush of freshers. This break, I read a collection of Anton Chekov’s short stories, *The Lady and the Case*, which I borrowed from the Abdus Salam Library. Now, I am reading *The Little Trilogy*, a collection of his three

most celebrated short stories. Chekov makes a great starting point for three reasons. First, length. No more than five to 30 pages, both quippy and relatable, they are enjoyable and take little time to breeze through. Secondly, simplicity. Chekov began his career writing funny but realistic vignettes for newspapers. They were accessible to the common Russian person in the 1880s, and continue to be for everyone. While *Anna Karenina* is saturated with an endless number of

characters who in turn have an endless roster of names, Chekov’s short stories are more streamlined. They have less capacity to confuse you; if they do, it requires minimal effort to rectify that. Lastly, his language and style are a gateway. Despite being concise, Chekov creates similar insight into characters’ minds. Although prose relies on translation quality, there is a similarity to many Russian authors’ brief, straightforward, but yet profoundly nuanced writing.

Anton Chekov VanMeetin (Wikimedia Commons)



After I finish *The Little Trilogy*, I plan to commit my time to *The Master and Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov which my father gifted me for Christmas.

As I read more of Chekov’s work, I find myself increasingly eager to tackle both his plays and the Russian novels that define the literary canon. After starting, I can’t get enough; and I can’t continue to miss out on quintessential Russian literature any longer.

On Annotating Books

The sweet intimacy of reading someone else’s thoughts.

Books Writer
KATEY KONTENT

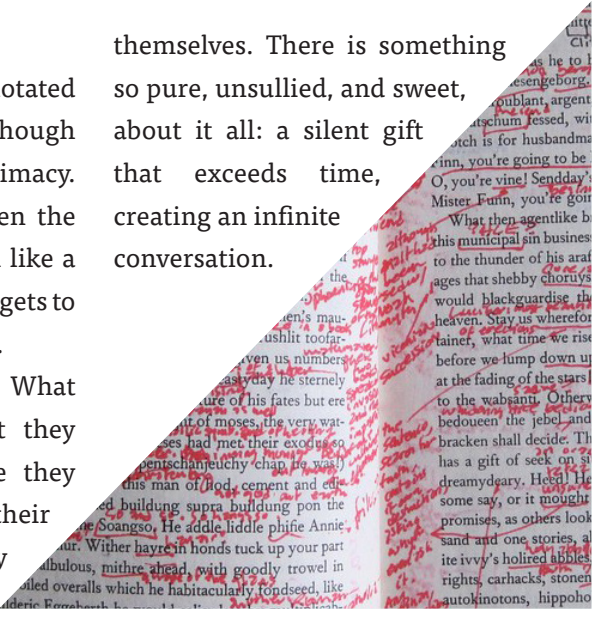
There’s a fundamental struggle when reading a clawingly good book you can’t put down: the desire to preserve moments of epiphany versus allowing them to flow, whole and untarnished by the act of remembering.

When a line or paragraph resonates deeply with me, I’m often moved to capture it. Scribble my fragment of thought; the flash of insight; a reflection

of my emotional state at a particular instant. It’s an attempt to seize the profound meaning that words somehow create, in the fleeting moment the letters suddenly come together to make sense. There are also times when I am too absorbed in the book to even consider making an annotation. In a trance-like state, reaching for a pen fractures the serenity of reading during a sprint to consume as much as you can, as fast as you can. Other times, the act of extracting meaning from the book can feel contrived, almost diminishing the

joy of the moment. I’m currently reading an annotated book. The notes and markups – though not written for me – create a real intimacy. A second lens; a dialogue between the reader, text, and annotator. Much like a story within a story. The annotator gets to leave their own voice on the pages. It’s my meaning against theirs. What I deem important against what they deem important. I pause where they paused, I ponder and interpret their thoughts, and I imagine who they annotated the book for, if not

themselves. There is something so pure, unsullied, and sweet, about it all: a silent gift that exceeds time, creating an infinite conversation.



Karl Steele (Flickr)

COMMENT

Organic, not, or... something else?

An intermediate label for food cheaper than organic but more naturally grown than non-organic would give consumers more choice.

Comments Writer
WILL RICHARDS

My dad has this great bit, which I've tried to carry on as best I can in front of friends (and whoever else I'd like to think that I'm funny).

I'll walk past the organic section at the grocery shops, where products with little comic-sans-esque green fonts and leaves growing out the i's are stocked, screw up my face in disgust and say "Eugh, organic food. How awful! I need the insecticide-laced stuff, it adds more flavour," or something equally childish. And when I cook, the closest person around will hear me say "By the way, all of this is certified non-organic," and that person will ask me why. My answer is that I don't buy organic food because it's a cult that puts hard-working agrochemical salesmen like my dad under hard times. The truth, however, is a bit more complex.

While my dad has worked for agrochemical companies for most of his life, and while I largely don't buy organic food, it is not because I think that the heavy metals add flavour, or because I hate the bees. It's because I believe that organic food is an extreme reaction to sensible warnings over environmental impacts and health repercussions, and is a form of fearmongering by activist groups and supplement-peddlers.

Organic food has been around since the 1940s, yet its popularity only started markedly increasing at the turn of the century. In 1995, 0.6% of European agricultural land was used for organic food, rising to 3.6% in 2005 and 6.2% in 2015. It's believed that this is the consumer response to various stories,

scandals and cultural beliefs about Big Agro. I'm sure you've heard plenty about these scandals and beliefs from your turmeric-and-black-pepper-fortified cousin over Christmas. Big Agro has come under increasing fire for a wide range of issues in the modern era: Genetic Modification (GM), pesticide exposure, depletion of the soil, low animal welfare, suboptimal nutritional value, and of course, environmental impact.

As a response, shoppers have started to buy organic produce because of different farming practices. Organic farmers do not use artificial fertilisers, GM crops, prophylactic antibiotics or hormones, and must meet various criteria for animal welfare. Most will agree that ideally, all our food should be produced organically, however the low yields of organic farms mean that we simply cannot feed the world this way. We need to compromise somewhere.

But where? Do we sacrifice animal welfare for efficiency? Do we give over more land to natural habitats while intensifying agriculture on the land that is too far gone? Do we need a complete overhaul? Or can we find a more elegant solution?

The scandals and stereotypes that make people distrustful of Big Agro are all rooted in consumer behaviour. Companies compete to produce the cheapest option because that's what people buy. Meaning that if we change how we shop, they will change how they act. We live in a democratic society, and it's not because of our politics, it's because we vote three times a day. Every item you scan at the supermarket sends a message straight to the desk of a Fortune-500 CEO saying "produce more of this".

We are, however, constricted by what we can buy. And by the choice we're given: Cheap or Organic? Thinking about the vast complexities of the agricultural industry, this question seems simplistic, but it's very logical.

What supermarkets have done to give us this choice is called bundling, and you see it everywhere. When you buy a package from a TV company, you don't purchase each channel you want to watch individually from a cast of hundreds. Instead, you get the basic, normal or premium package. It saves time and effort and lets the company get more money from those who want to splash out to watch sky sports, without losing customers who are happy with ITV.

And so, it's happened in the supermarkets. To avoid losing the hippies to Holland&Barrett and the mindful middle class to Waitrose, chains like



We need a middle ground.

Tesco's have the standard non-organic and the premium organic produce at a higher price.

This is all well and good, but what if I don't really care about potential loss of nutritional density from artificial fertilisers, or if Monsanto has fiddled with my sweetcorn's gene pool? I just don't want hormones in my chicken and I'm willing to pay a few pence more, but not double. Of course, we'll never be able to choose from all the options. It'd be counter-productive to have 50 choices of agricultural practice to pick from, but I don't believe the perfect number is two.

I'll admit that I'm being hyperbolic; there are plenty of options out there. Especially if you live rurally and have access to farm shops and local businesses. You can find grass-fed, non-GM, pesticide-free, but not herbicide-free produce. The choices and bits of information are limitless. But that's the issue.

If we really care about where our food comes from, we can shop exactly how we want, but we have to really care. The choice of supermarket is too arbitrary and generally – other than between organic and not – is the only choice available to most people.

The effective granularity of choice is far too coarse: it's organic or nothing. Or, if you're lucky enough to be able to choose where you shop, it's whether you spend more money, with no feedback on whether it's actually making an impact or just lining more pockets.

When we hear opinions on changing the agricultural industry for our health and the environment, it often involves massive grassroots or institutional change.

But there's already a system to check whether farms are fulfilling dozens of conditions: the green stamp. What if we take the higher-impact half of those conditions, or a watered down version, and slap a blue stamp on those. This would allow consumers to have greater choice and potentially putting ethical shopping within the reach of lower-income families.

Organic labelling is a great system, it lets people be sure that their money is going towards more sustainable practices. But it's too extreme. We need a middle ground. We need another bundle.

FOOD & TRAVEL

Imperial's Food-print

Imperial College's reports on the food items purchased in 2022-24 reveal their environmental and food footprint, and the changes they've initiated.

Environment Editor
OSCAR MITCHAM

Back in November 2024, Felix asked Imperial to share what Taste Imperial has been buying between 2022 to 2024. In December, Felix received the data encompassing each item purchased and its quantity. Since then, 18,000 rows of data were

Food & Travel Editor
CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

the packaging weight. As quantity was not a good indication of the volume purchased, 76% of all items' masses were successfully computed. Hence, take the analysis with a pinch of salt... or maybe take it without any salt at all – we see what you've been eating!

recommended to be a minor sliver of the optimal diet, yet still essential to avoid nutrient deficiencies and maintain bodily functions. Added sugar and starchy vegetables are recommended to be eaten sparingly. The lancet-diet does not restrict any foods, a theme common to most diets, however, highly processed foods such as energy bars or snacks, which harm the body more than fuel it, can be omitted.

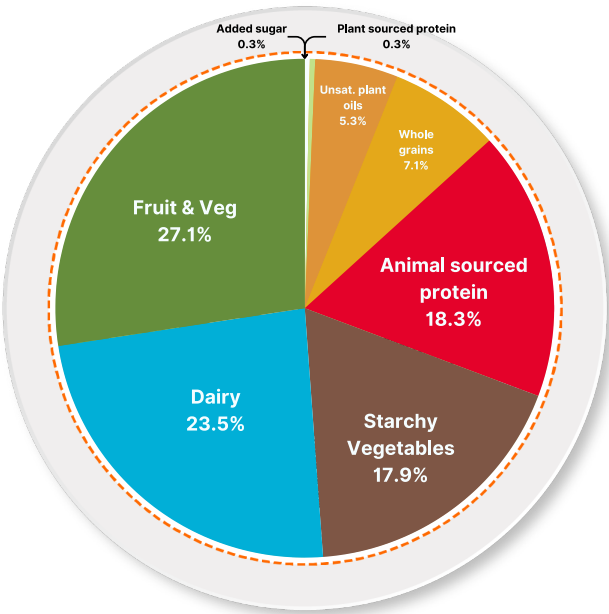
campus. While there is more than the recommended supply of dairy, starchy vegetables and animal sourced protein, the plant sourced protein lays at 0.3% of the supply, as 450kg of tofu and 130kg of soy milk were purchased. In comparison, 9,570kg of farmed fish, 3,820kg of lamb and mutton, 6,000kg of beef, 18,990kg of pig meat and 42,880kg of poultry were supplied to the university. Though



The EAT-Lancet ingredients ratio EAT-Lancet

categorised into food groups and used to conduct the analyses below. To simplify the outcomes, many items were grouped into generic names such as “Other fruit” and “Animal-sourced protein,” thereby limiting the depth of the analysis. Ready meals particularly could not be excavated for their ingredients and thereby are only considered as non-ingredient items. Further limitations to the data analysis involved the automation of calculating the weight of the item, not taking into account

The food perspective The optimal diet to maximise the health of the individual focuses on quality whole and unprocessed foods, which, in our current state of society, are not found in ready meals or mass-produced dishes. This diet, presented by the EAT-lancet commission, can be qualitatively described as 50% vegetables, 15% whole grains, 12.5% plant-sourced protein, and about 12.5% unsaturated plant oils such as rapeseed oil or olive oil. Dairy and animal sourced protein are



Taste Imperial's ingredients ratio in 2023-2024 Charlotte Probstel

Imperial College London's purchases of ingredients and ready meals from 2023-2024 show that roughly a quarter of ingredients purchased were fruit & vegetables, half of the recommendation by the Lancet-commission. This calls for a push for more fruit & vegetables, especially to buy free-hand adjacent to the apples, bananas and pears. Less than 1% of ingredients are added sugar, however this excludes the sugar in ready meals and ready made pastries commonly found in cafés around

plant-sourced protein grew by 47% from the previous year, animal sourced protein grew by 41%, suggesting no shift to plant-sourced protein, only an increase of supply.



The Sophia Prize

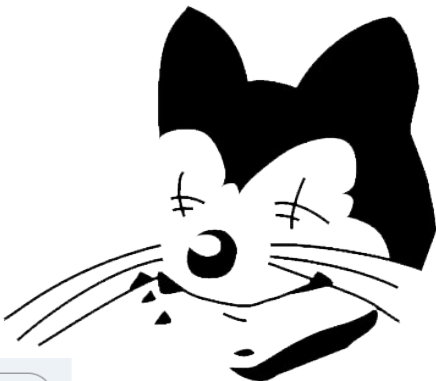
*Write an article that covers and innovation
that benefits the environment.*

The best article wins £400.

Email: felix@ic.ac.uk

Societies Calendar

To get your event published in the calendar below, please fill out this form:
<https://forms.gle/hCi5dKz1r6cUS8MUA>



Today

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Schedule

28 JAN, TUE

7 FEB, FRI

19:00 Arts Night - Arts & Entertainment (Day 1/2) Metric, Beit Quadrangle, Prince Consort R...

8 FEB, SAT

19:00 Arts Night - Arts & Entertainment (Day 2/2) Metric, Beit Quadrangle, Prince Consort R...

12 FEB, WED

19:30 A Very Vocal Evening - Musical Theatre Society (MTSoc) Union Concert Hall, Imperial ...

15 FEB, SAT

09:00 Cheerleading Legacy Competition - ICTitans OVO Arena Wembley, Arena Square, Engi...

21 FEB, FRI

19:00 Take me out x LSE - IC RAG Saw Swee Hock Centre, 1 Sheffield St, London WC2A 2AP, ...

1 MAR, SAT

18:00 Cheerleading Showcase - ICTitans King's College London Guy's Campus, Guy's Camp...

What's going on at Imperial?

A real-time events calendar for students and staff looking for fun events to join and try out. The calendar provides location, time, prices and links to tickets and more information.





FELIXONLINE.CO.UK



PHOTOGRAPHY

Game Theory

How to win at life and how to win the next photography competition

Photography Editor
ROLANDO CHARLES

Themes in a photography competition can be, more often than not, a little boring and uninspired. I have always thought that 'light', 'black and white' or 'urban landscapes' are trite prompts which neither yield original pictures nor foster creativity. As a result, I always strived to give this section some glamour with fan-favourite themes such as 'Limerence', 'City Silence', 'A Sensory Experience' or this week's theme: 'Game Theory'.

But first, a little backstory. Surprisingly, a lot of my friends from back home study Economics at university. Less surprisingly so, their friends also study Economics. I recently had the pleasure of visiting them, and had a few heartening conversations, and listened to non-engineering points of view on politeness, moving abroad, the future, and, of course, game theory. I was told about a course called 'Behavioural Decision Making' which tackles topics at the intersection of psychology and economics. Naturally, I was inspired to continue the conversation with this week's theme.

Game theory models the mathematical and logical aspects of strategy. Its two fundamental concepts are competition and cooperation. The former simply emphasises some configuration of conflict in the game: when one player gains an advantage, the other player loses it. Cooperation, on the other hand, shows that actions performed jointly by the players can be advantageous – or disadvantageous – for both.

Another definition used in game theory is a 'zero-sum game', in which you cannot have multiple winners or losers, since summing one's advantages to the others' losses always gets you zero. Chess is an example of a zero-sum game and hence is fundamentally competitive.

Usually, I am happily surprised by the originality of the submissions and the angle these pictures take on a theme, an angle that I hadn't considered at all. This week, I received a few chess-related pictures – perfectly suited in the context of 'game theory' – yet that failed to grasp the divergent ideas I had for this theme.

In a pretentious but expected turn of events, I had originally thought to discuss game theory as applied to life, or on a larger, philosophical scale. I wanted to answer questions like 'is life a game?',

'is it possible to win or lose at life?', or 'how much luck or skill do you need?' through photography.

While the many chess-related submissions are technically great pictures, they seemed to suggest that life itself is also a zero-sum game, implying the impossibility of multiple people 'winning' at life. This, in its common interpretation, would mean only a few people could be fully happy and content.

On an admittedly philosophically unrigorous personal basis, I refuse to view life as inherently competitive and would have instead liked to see more nuanced and representative pictures of the fundamental diversity of the strategies of life around us. Movies such as *Perfect Days* (2023) by Wim Wenders, and *Animal* (2023) by Sofia Exarchou discuss happiness and life's struggles in distinct contexts while capturing a range of emotions, unlike the black-and-white, hyper-rational view chess tries to push.

I am sure this article might have been a disappointing read for some, so I propose this picture by Thomas Hoepker (1936-2024) as an example of the possibilities I had envisioned for 'game theory'. *Two boys in rural Portugal* (1964) depicts boys from different walks of life, yet both

sporting a common smile towards the photographer: a true portrayal of the cooperative, and not competitive, nature of life. Hoepker was a photographer and photojournalist, best known for his infamous picture of 9/11 and portraits of Muhammad Ali. He captured the ups and downs of life through a humanist lens, reporting on the smallpox epidemic in Bihar, India, East Berlin throughout the '70s, and the social landscape of New York in the '80s. Who better to show the multifaceted game of life – which rarely gives out wins or losses – but more often is a complex concoction of struggle, cooperation, despair, and joy?

I hope this has been a motivator to explore, experiment with your camera, and look for meaning beyond what we are told and what we already believe.

Scan the QR code to submit
for the next theme
'Natural Harmony'



Two boys in rural Portugal Thomas Hoepker/Magnum Photos

CATNIP

Imperial and Palantir start Mentat academy

College and tech giant plan to train students as young as 11 for Computing access scheme

Catnip Writer

BARNABY HILTON-ROYCE

Users of LinkedIn may have noticed the age of proactive career-orientated individuals posting on the website decreasing as the years go by, with many feeds inundated by sixth-formers and GCSE students posting about the various open days, extracurricular activities and internships they have secured before reaching the legal age of maturity. Recent estimates by Felix indicate that around 7% of LinkedIn posts are made by precocious teenagers hoping to gain the edge on the job market, and this hasn't gone unnoticed by world-leading institutions and companies. To help ensure that prospective applicants are the best of the best, Imperial and Palantir have developed a careers accelerator aimed at students finishing primary school.

In a joint statement on Wednesday, 29th January, College President Bugh Hradý and Palantir co-founder

Teter Phiel, said: "To quote Nietzsche: *ubermensche*. We need the overman, not in the modern sense of supermen, but in the true Nietzschean post-Christian tradition. We need people to sell their souls and morals to us before they really understand what those are, let alone what their own morals are. This is a febrile time, for us, and politically, as a great unveiling occurs. We need the best of the best and we need to mould these people who will do the unveiling without ideals such as "morals" or "doing the right thing". For humanity to progress and excel, we need to raise these children beyond that, and ensure we give the most talented, the most enterprising, and the most intellectual children that chance to really excel, and become, essentially the mentats, a vision from Herbert's *Dune*."

President Hradý added: "I'm in his thrall... I'm in his thrall! His lordship likes the hyperborean ones best."

The Imperial-Palantir Mentat Lyceum, named after the school founded by Aristotle, will be built on a remote island 60 miles off the coast of Scotland. The school aims to use the Socratic method in its teaching, as well

as a Hellenistic lifestyle, but was also keen to stress "no pederasty". In promotional documentation the complex will feature: "a world-beating gymnasium, state of the art technological facilities, and a cutting-edge raw meat diet canteen." Students will be taught about "the Classics, develop a solid epistemological understanding of why maximising profits matters the most, and delve deep into the teachings of Mencius Moldbug." Students will become proficient in computing skills, as well "surviving" in the "gruelling life on the Outer Hebrides". According to people familiar with the matter, internal predictions of the school's success indicate that at least 70% of students will "outright die or be oneshotted by the ayahuasca graduation ritual". Students who do survive will be guaranteed a place on Imperial's coveted Computing degree course.

Students will be picked based on the results of a new 11+ test designed by top scientists at Imperial. The test will determine how good prospective candidates are at taking abuse from their line managers, using stimulants, and "being a 10x coder".



Need more Catnip?

Want to read more from our advice column?

Wish you were as funny as the Catnip writers?

Check out felixonline.co.uk under "Catnip".

Advice from Catnip

Fresher Therapist MISS DIAGNOSED

I’ve never had my first kiss. But I’m in a talking stage with a guy and I know he won’t do anything I’m not comfy with. But I’m scared. What if I don’t like it or it’s awkward. Should I just try kiss him anyways?

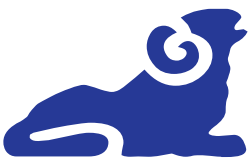
The answer is yes and no. Chances are if this is your first time kissing someone it will not be a trip to paradise. In fact, if this is either of your first kiss in some time, it’s likely that you are going to have a fumbled, overly-wet experience and find yourself contemplating the purpose of the weak organ that we call the tongue. You may have to wipe the drying saliva on your chin and wonder how your chin got involved in the first place. Regardless of whether you kiss him or not, you’ll realise it’s... not that

romantic. Yes, it is awkward. But, I must admit, it is can be nice to share that awkwardness. I couldn’t stop giggling after my first kiss. It’s fun, it’s intimate, silly and human. What floats my boat (and a lot of other people’s boats or yachts) is the time that leads up to the kiss, the hand placement, the rush of blood, the “not-knowing”. You know what, I changed my mind. If the chance presents itself, kiss him. Go on. There is nothing to be scared of, but you’ll only know that once you do it. He’s just a guy, he’ll want to kiss you too.

I tricked ChatGPT into saying “you eat burgers with the wrapper” and then I forgot and ate a burger with a wrapper and now I feel like paper and awful. Is it because of the paper or because it was Mcdonald’s?

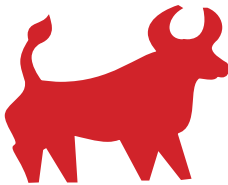
Do you realise that by tricking ChatGPT into saying you eat burgers with the wrapper you used an unnecessary

amount of energy and contributed to carbon emissions and thus climate change? What does paper feel like and why is it awful? How does it feel any different than what you normally feel after eating a burger? Well, paper is made of trees and trees are plants and we eat plants as omnivores so, I guess, it’s organic. Except the dyes they use on the paper, but if we are going to be upset over that we should be upset over the processed food we eat all the time. A little paper every once in a while never hurt any one (I assume), so I think as the paper leaves your system, you’ll feel less like paper. As for your question, I would suggest you gather a random group of people from diverse backgrounds, divide them into two, have half just eat the McDonald’s burger and have half of them eat another burger with the wrapper on. Create objective criteria to define each and collect data. Then compare. I feel like the way to go with this is an experiment. And do let me know because I’m quite curious about it as well.



ARIES

This week you are permanently banned from FiveSixEight for explaining that there are 568 ml in a pint.



TAURUS

This week your friends post photos of their country manors in opposition to HS2.



GEMINI

This week you keep a glass by your bedside for your lychee juice punch.



CANCER

This week your internship Excel spreadsheet reaches line 997.



LEO

This week your lifetime membership for the Princes Charles Cinema becomes a six-month membership.



VIRGO

This week you respond on Hinge with “listen hear you little piece of shit”.



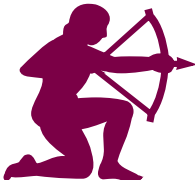
LIBRA

This week your UROP plans turn into eurosummer plans.



SCORPIO

This week you gamble your societies budget away in a bid to make double.



SAGITTARIUS

This week you are thrilled to announce that you are still unemployed.



CAPRICORN

This week your night out goes so poorly you write to the Catnip advice column.



AQUARIUS

This week your birthday plans are scuppered after you have to negotiate work from home requirements with the basement monkeys.



PISCES

This week you realise the new Heathrow runway might be finished before the Queen’s Tower.



UNION & SOCIETIES

Announcements

February

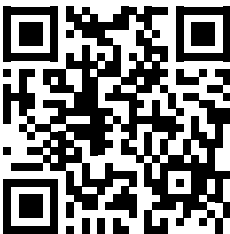
7 TH Friday	Arts Night Arts & Entertainment	A night full of live music from student groups within Arts & Entertainments. Expect a cappella, heavy metal, and everything in between!	Time: 19:00 - 01:00 Where: Metric, Beit Quad Tickets: £6	 INSTAGRAM
12 TH Wednesday	A Very Vocal Evening Musical Theatre Society (MTSoc)	Come to this annual collaboration and see all your favourite aca groups, some fantastic MT acts and of course the iconic VVE Collab number!	Time: 19:30 - 21:30 Where: Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad Tickets: FREE	 TICKETS
15 TH Saturday	Cheerleading Competition IC Cheerleading	In the Legacy Cheerleading Competition, our level 2 and level 3 team will be competing against other university cheerleading teams!	Time: 9:00 - 15:00 Where: OVO Wembley Arena, London Tickets: £26	 TICKETS
21 ST Friday	Take me out x LSE IC RAG	Over the Imperial dating pool? Come to our dating event in collab with LSE! Sign up to participate or just come enjoy the fun :)	Time: 19:00 - 21:30 Where: LSE Saw Swee Hock Centre, WC2A 2AP Tickets: £4 Early Bird, £6 General	 INSTAGRAM

March

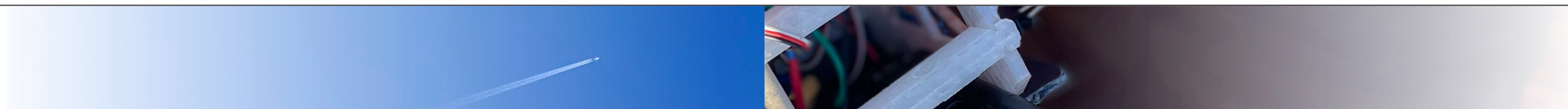
1 ST Saturday	Cheerleading Showcase IC Cheerleading	A series of cool dance classes taught by our dance team + random play dance with prizes!	Time: 18:00 - 22:00 Where: King's College London Guy's Campus Tickets: Early bird tickets at £8.	 INSTAGRAM
2 ND Sunday	Major Event IC Singapore	Our annual musical with a live orchestra, singing and acting. This is a story of Elizabeth Choy, one of Singapore's World War II heroes.	Time: 18:30 - 22:15 Where: Great Hall Tickets: Tickets not yet released	 INSTAGRAM

Submit your event here

Scan QR and fill out form by February 4th, 2025



and view all the events here



An airplane and the model plane in the air Charlotte Probstel

Aerial underdogs triumph in auto-pilot test flight

Imperial College Aerial Vehicle's Solar Plane Initiative tested their autopilot system as a stepping stone to beat ETH Zurich's 81-hour record.

Union & Societies Editor

CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

Imperial College Aerial Vehicle's (ICAV) newest solar team tested their lightweight airplane's autonomous piloting system last Saturday the 25th January in Wormwood Scrubs. The plane autonomously navigated a waypoint mission, a task completed without electrical or mechanical failure, demonstrating the

This test flight made use of a testbed model aeroplane, which was built using components recycled from other aircraft from ICAV's past. The team, a subset of the ICAV, consists of 20 engineering students from the EEE, Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering Departments, who meet two to four hours a week to work on designing, simulating, testing, and eventually manufacturing a solar-powered plane.

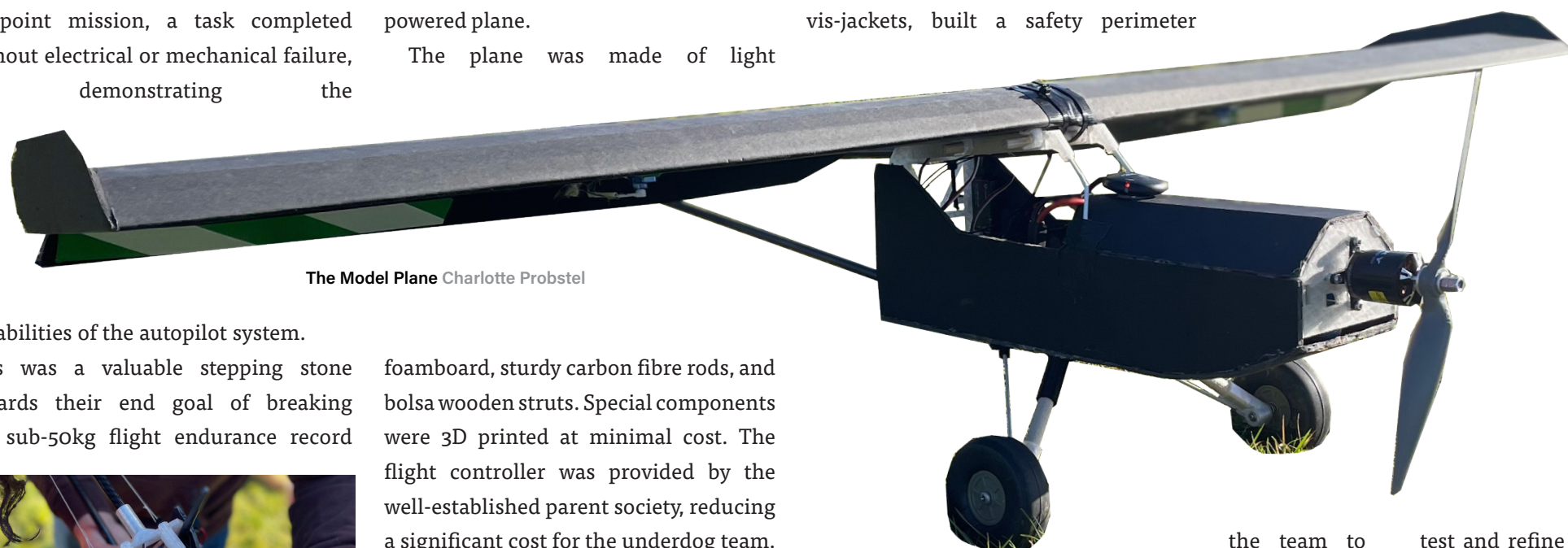
The plane was made of light

the plane with every other team member huddled around and ready to provide aid. The batteries and camera were placed and connected, the 1.5m wide wing was ziptied to the ceiling of the structure, and the propellor was bolted onto the front motor.

The plane was ready to fly. "Get up to attitude and start off the mission", Suhail reported. Team members, wearing high vis-jackets, built a safety perimeter

conditions. Next up for the team will be manufacturing a similarly size solar-powered aircraft, as to investigate the viability of the powertrain system that they're developing.

Suhail is hopeful for the team's next venture. This test flight was the second of four planned tests, a significant uptake to the usual once-a-year test flight, allowing



The Model Plane Charlotte Probstel

capabilities of the autopilot system.

This was a valuable stepping stone towards their end goal of breaking the sub-50kg flight endurance record



Building up on-site Charlotte Probstel

currently held by a similar student society at ETH Zurich. This record currently stands at 81.5 hours.

foamboard, sturdy carbon fibre rods, and bolsa wooden struts. Special components were 3D printed at minimal cost. The flight controller was provided by the well-established parent society, reducing a significant cost for the underdog team. CAD Simulations of the structure and frame endurance were completed by Oscar Coret, a second-year Aeronautical engineering student, on multiple software sysems to provide a robust analysis.

At the site in Wormwood scrubs, London's only drone and plane flight site for hobbies, Hisham Khatib, a second year EEE engineering student and electronics lead, began constructing

before the plane lifted off. Once the plane successfully circled on auto-pilot for a few minutes and the team was satisfied, yelling out "Success!" and cheering, a rough landing on the heavy mud opened up discussions.

During the deconstruction, the team reflected on the successful flight, noticing that the plane flew well despite a twisted tail, slight winds and bad launching

the team to test and refine their airframes frequently.

However, the team is limited to compact funds, which Suhail is currently expanding by reaching out to external sponsors, such as component manufacturers.

The team shared that as they push the boundaries of their teams potential, they find satisfaction in applying their education in power systems, stability and modelling software to their cause.

PUZZLES

Puzzles Editor
IVIN JOSE

Across

1. Dessert with main forms translucent blob.
[9]
5. Finally wiser if I just add a short line. [5]
8. Butter up and then add spice mix to
improve flavour without lentil starter. [5,6]
9. Profanity taking place in the boathouse.
[4]
11. Ecstasy causes frazzled Julian to think he
is embracing his Spanish uncle with a bee
inside him. [10]
13. Small insect left one pole and headed for
the other. [6]
14. Was split apart and filled with eleven
nice, easy slugs; primary cause of greasy
quality. [8]
16. Languid despite losing identity card- get
older in style. [8]
17. Naïve boy has lost part of his ingenuity. [6]
19. I hear ship went down without Langley,
without thinking. [10]
20. Carelessly strip and remove last wrap,
leading to commotion. [4]
22. Intense game went awry with iron horse.
[5,6]

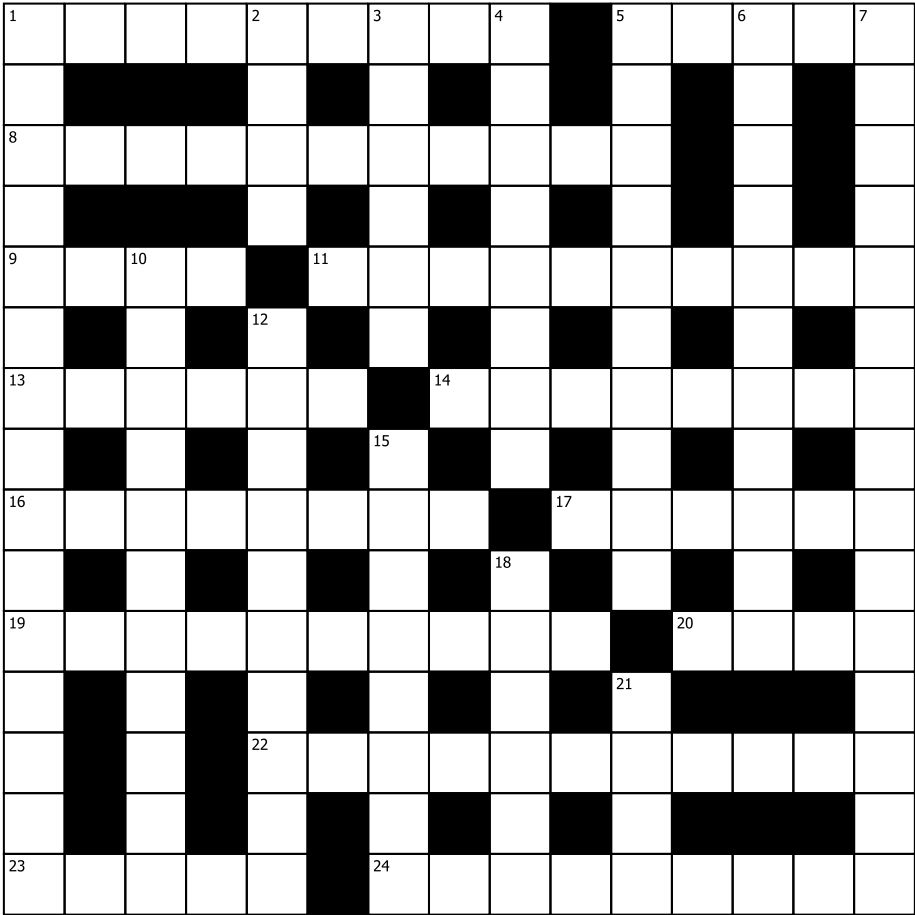
23. In emergency room after first silly
outing results in more pain. [5]
24. He leaves tollhouses in confusion with
sinners. [4,5]

Down

1. Chap runs into hole, takes a tumble and
swaps with a polymath! [4,2,3,6]
2. Say hello twice but still must return to
where it came from. [4]
3. He went too close to a heat source in the
basilica rushlights. [6]
4. Ruffian hears who left most of substrate. [8]
5. Saints riot recklessly, leaving slashes. [10]
6. Hogwarts' room is a non-negotiable. [11]
7. Gliders see short squire overcome by selling
fry mix. [6,9]
10. Chronicle to revolutionise vivid cinema.
[11]
12. Classroom equipment at University of
the Arts London is contained within half an
improviser. [10]
15. Frying pan seems off white in colour. [3,1,4]
18. Picks out large size in shoes. [6]
21. Stains cover part of hyperlinks. [4]

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Submitted by Ester K Mirra (10 pts.)



GROUPING GRIDS

Submitted by William West & Vittoria Dessi

Pedro	Hungry	Distant	Giorgia
Unsympathetic	Olaf	Abominable	Frosty
Donald	Grease	Jack Frost	Francois
Chilly	Whales	Detached	Cool

Medium (4 pts.)

1.					Connections
2.					
3.					
4.					

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.

Cache	Wax	Supply	Wood
Baking	Stock	Magic	Tissue
Sand	Store	Wrapping	Reserve
Ice	Gas	Sugar	Tobacco

Hard (5 pts.)

1.					Connections
2.					
3.					
4.					

CRYPTOGRAM

Clue: Anchorperson Hilt (anagram, 2 words)

How-to:

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

Z N , U Z E W N B Q F V M P F Q D T T B T

U Z E P M J J U X E W U Z E R D P D J U

M V Z O W D V W N D V M P F B H M T

X Z P Q B Q B W R Z J V D V X U B W

B V B V Q W T D D W N D J B L N W

E Q W B J B H M T M J P D M V U M R M Q

X U W N D Q B W H M T Q Z W N B Q L

W Z R D X E W X J B Q V B Q L W N D

T N M V Z H T X D W P M U U Z E

X D A M E T D W N D U X D J Z Q L W Z R D

(3 pts.)

Anagram: _____

(1 pt.)

Quote from: _____

(1 pt.)

LEADERBOARD


Pos.	Puzzlers	Points (Last week)	
1.	Team GuineaPig	423	423
2.	The Menu	288	288
3.	Team Experial	236	223
4.	Tactless Tony	116	116
5.	Team Doors Doors	72	57
6.	Bobby Tables	57	57
7.	Team Jasmine&Hursh	33	33
8.	Team CIVE	30	30

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

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

COMIC

Submitted by Tengyu Zhao



Felix meeting pigeons

Puzzles Editor's Note

Dearest Puzzlers,

As January draws to a close, so do your humble Puzzles Editor's deadlines. So, all being well, (fingers crossed!) this will be the last truncated Puzzles section, with it returning to its usual glory for the start of February! Wishing everyone all the best for any coursework deadlines or exams, and to all those who have been freed from such burdens, I hope you enjoy our offering of Puzzles this week!

I'd like to give a huge thanks to Ester K Mirra 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, code-cracking, comic-consuming and competing!

- Ivin

Previous Puzzles' solutions

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

Cryptic

Garlic	Tulip	Light	Onion	Types of Bulb
Wound	Beat	Belly	Knock	Expressions: __ Up
Thump	Fizz	Growl	Rattle	Onomatopoeic words
Ginger	Bitter	Mild	Pale	Types of beer

Medium grouping grid

Western	Gulf	Micro	Baltic	Describe states
Mega	Cool	Epic	Sweet	Slang for nice
Mini	Transit	Remval	Camper	Types of van
Kilo	India	November	Golf	NATO phonetic alphabet

Hard grouping grid

“And that's how you go on. You lay laughter over the dark parts. The more dark parts, the more you have to laugh. With defiance, with abandon, with hysteria, any way you can.”

Anagram: Agnes mirth = Nightmares
Quote from: Strange the Dreamer by Laini Taylor

Cryptogram

SPORT

Coote Comes Out

Sport Editor
LILA HARRISON

Former Premier League referee David Coote has revealed that years of hiding his sexuality and struggling with shame contributed to the behaviour that ended his officiating career. Speaking publicly for the first time since his dismissal in December 2024, Coote came out as gay.

Coote came under scrutiny late last year after videos surfaced showing him making damning remarks towards former Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp and using a white powder in a UEFA-booked hotel room. The videos led to an investigation by the PGMOL, resulting in his contract being terminated.

In the interview Coote remarked how his inner struggle affected his behaviour. “My sexuality isn’t the only reason that led me to that position, but I’m not telling the full story if I don’t say that I’m gay and that I’ve had real struggles dealing with hiding that.”

He added that concealing his true self and emotions became a pattern in both his personal and professional life. “I hid my emotions as a young referee, and I hid my sexuality as well — a good quality as a referee but a terrible quality as a human being.”

Coote shared that he has “had issues around [his] self-esteem – and that relates to my sexuality. I’m gay, and I’ve struggled with feeling proud of being ‘me’ over a long period of time.”

He acknowledged that the hostility referees face in football, combined with the broader attitudes toward the LGBTQ+ community within the sport, made the prospect of coming out difficult.

“I’ve received deeply unpleasant abuse during my career as a referee, and to add my sexuality to that would have been really difficult. There’s still a lot to be done in football and society more broadly when it comes to discrimination.”

IC Barbell Society gear up for upcoming BUCS competition

IC Barbell PR Manager
SUKORNO ASAD

We have some exhilarating times coming up at IC Barbell! Last term we held our two novice competitions, one for each of our specialised branches (Olympic Weightlifting and Powerlifting) which were both huge successes! Our newcomers hit some incredible lifts and dominated the stage.

Before we move onto upcoming events, a quick overview of our club, for those who may have missed our term one review. We cover two branches of strength sports: Olympic Weightlifting, and Powerlifting. Weightlifting involves two lifts, the snatch (the bar is propelled from the floor above the head in one movement) and the clean & jerk (the bar is first pulled up to your shoulders, before pressing overhead). Pow-

erlifting involves three lifts (the squat, bench-press, and deadlift). For both sports, you have three attempts per lift, increasing the weight for each attempt. Your total is the sum of your individual lifts.

The powerlifters, both fresh faces and seasoned veterans, have spent the past few months working hard during training season to prepare for upcoming Nationals qualifiers. Many of us are striving to hit the qualifying totals to move onto compete in the British National Series events, most notably BUCS.

There are two flagship qualifying competitions coming up, with the first being our London University Qualifiers! This weekend (Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd Feb) will see London’s strongest university powerlifting teams going head to head. Collaborating with LSE, UCL,

KCL, QMUL and BUL, this weekend is going to be absolutely packed with talent, adrenaline, and mind-blowing feats of strength.

Secondly, we have our Super Training Qualifiers the following weekend (Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th Feb). This is a yearly highlight; over the span of two days, 100 lifters (this year, 16 will be representing IC Barbell!) travel to Super Training Gym in Cheltenham and battle to qualify for nationals. As always, with many lifters staying the night and spectating across both days to hype each other up – the atmosphere will be electric.

Whether just for fun or to qualify for BUCS, we’re all extremely hyped to compete. For many, these will be their first official IPF-sanctioned competitions! It’s a time of major tension, nerves, and most importantly, excitement, as we enter competition season.

Sinner storms Zverev at Rod Laver

Sport Editor
LILA HARRISON

Jannik Sinner successfully defended his title at the 2025 Australian Open with a dominant 6-3, 7-6(7-4), 6-3 victory over Alexander Zverev in the men’s final. The world number 1 and top seed previously defeated Holger Rune, Alex de Minaur, Ben Shelton, and Zverev. His consistency was on full display as he dominated the match, particularly in the key moments, like the second-set tiebreak, where he maintained composure under pressure.

Zverev, aiming for his first Grand Slam title, struggled with unforced errors and couldn’t convert any break points.

Despite his strong serving and some key moments of brilliance, Zverev was

unable to break down Sinner’s resilience.

The match, however, was marred by controversy during Zverev’s runner-up speech, which was interrupted by a spectator shouting, “Australia believes Olya and Brenda,” referencing abuse allegations against him. Zverev has denied these accusations, but have always marked his career.

The allegations, which first came to light in 2020, were made by Zverev’s former girlfriend Olga Sharypova, who accused him of physical and emotional abuse.

Sharypova alleged that Zverev had punched her in the face during an argument in 2019. Zverev denied these accusations, and the ATP later concluded there was insufficient evidence to take disciplinary action. However, it must be stated Sharypova was never interest-

ed in pursuing legal action. In 2023, a second abuse allegation from Zverev’s ex-girlfriend Brenda Patea became public, claiming Zverev had physically harmed her in 2020, including choking her during an argument. A Berlin court issued a penalty order against Zverev, but he appealed the decision. The legal proceedings continued to unfold in 2024, with the charges eventually being dropped after an out-of-court settlement.

Sinner’s victory not only marked another significant achievement in his career but also solidified his status as one of the most promising talents in men’s tennis. With his second consecutive Australian Open title, he looks set to continue his rise as a dominant force in the sport, and adding to the exciting new rivalry between himself and Carlos Alcaraz.