

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.



KEEP THE CAT FREE | SINCE 1949

Imperial Zero Index to be released by end of academic year

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

A Freedom of Information request by Felix has revealed that Imperial has said the Imperial Zero Index is “not a policy and has no impact on the state of the elements of the environment.”

In February 2024 Imperial College London launched the Zero Index, a new framework to assess their engagement with energy companies. The Zero Index annually assesses the environmental sustainability of Imperial's energy industry partners and the College “expects to disengage from academic and research collaborations with companies that score poorly against its criteria. The Index will also be used to inform [their] investment decisions.” Imperial plans to release the first findings from the Zero Index by the end of the academic year.

This statement that the Index will have no impact on the environment is seemingly in contradiction with the goals of the Index.

The Zero Index aims to annually assess energy industry partners and could impact research collaborations as well as investments if well implemented. It does not directly look at the actions of the College's partners, but rather the College's engagement with them. However, the College has also delayed sharing the assessments or criteria of the Index from last academic year to this summer.

Imperial Professor and peer failed to declare shares in health firms to House of Lords



Houses of Parliament. Thomas Dahlstrøm Nielsen, CC BY-SA 4.0

Guardian investigation reveals Lord Ara Darzi, Paul Hamlyn Chair of Surgery held undisclosed shares and share options in US-based healthcare company.

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

An investigation undertaken by *The Guardian* has revealed that Lord Ara Darzi, Honorary Consultant Surgeon at Imperial College Hospital NHS Trust, and the Paul Hamlyn Chair of Surgery held undeclared shares and share options on his House of Lords register of interests.

The House of Lords requires all peers, as lifelong members of Parliament, to maintain transparency regarding

their commercial interests. A separate Freedom of Information Request by Felix revealed that Lord Darzi had revealed his interests to Imperial College London.

Lord Darzi's share options were above the registerable amount of £50,000 (later changed to £100,000 in September 2023) for the duration of his directorship of Evelo Biosciences between 2018 and 2022, and until June 2023 when his interest in the company ended.

Darzi's lawyers told *The Guardian*

→ **READ MORE ON 4**

NEWS

Police spotted in North Acton

→ **READ MORE ON 4**

DPE and DPW at House of Lords for RGSU event

→ **READ MORE ON 5**

How the Supreme Court ruling on gender has impacted Imperial's queer communities

→ **READ MORE ON 6**

COMMENT

Changing horizons? An exploration into language learning at the College

→ **READ MORE ON 9**

BOOKS

Hunchback: a candid, raw exploration of disability

→ **READ MORE ON 13**

Want to know what's going on around campus?

Sign up to our newsletter by scanning the QR code below:



📷 felix_imperial

✉ felix@ic.ac.uk

🌐 felixonline.co.uk

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

- Hania Irzyk

Samantha Chow

Nadeen Daka

Isa Duchovny

Lila Harrison
- Charlotte Probstel

Guillaume Felix

Taylor Pomfret

The Felix Team:



MOHAMMAD MAJLISI
Editor-in-Chief,
News Editor



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



CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL
Chair,
Societies Editor



TARUN NAIR
Chief Copyeditor
Film & TV Editor



RUBY LYDFORD
Publicity Officer,
Catnip Editor



ELIF CIVELEKOGLU
Social Secretary,
Arts & Culture Editor



IVIN JOSE
Treasurer
Puzzles Editor



OSCAR MITCHAM
Environment Editor



GUILLAUME FELIX
Comments Editor



ADITI MEHTA
Books Editor



ALIA FRIEDMAN
Business Editor



GILBERT JACKSON
Arts Editor Emeritus



ROLANDO CHARLES
Photography Editor



AMBER DUNMORE
Science Editor



JAMES DESMET
Science Editor



LILA HARRISON
Sport Editor



TIMOTHY LANGER
Senior Webmaster



JULIETTE FLATAU
Graphic Designer



WALT GAO
Head Photographer



**AND OUR NUMEROUS
CONTRIBUTORS ...**

Located at Beit Quad,
Prince Consort Road
London, SW7 2BB

Printed by Iliffe Media
Winship Road,
Milton, Cambridge
CB24 6PP

Registered Newspaper
ISSN 1040-0711
Copyright © 2025 *Felix*

Advertising

MEDIA	SIZE	PRICE (£)
Print	Quarter-Page	25
	Half-Page	30
	Full-Page	45

Contact us

- News felix@ic.ac.uk
- Books books.felix@ic.ac.uk
- Film&Tv film.felix@ic.ac.uk
- Catnip catnip.felix@ic.ac.uk
- Comment comment.felix@ic.ac.uk
- Puzzle puzzle.felix@ic.ac.uk
- Food&Travel food.felix@ic.ac.uk
- Sport&Society sport.felix@ic.ac.uk
- Environment environment.felix@ic.ac.uk
- Science science.felix@ic.ac.uk

EDITORIAL

Never go full Reform

Editor-in-Chief
MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Labour has shat the bed. Falling approval ratings, a bad budget, and a lack of clear vision have all led them to target that bugbear of the British public, immigration. In a speech following on from an embarrassing performance in local election, the Labour leader and UK premier took a turn rightwards, aiming to bring down immigration numbers, lest “we risk becoming an island of strangers”, an uns subtle nod to Enoch Powell’s infamous “Rivers of Blood” speech, where Powell claimed in a hypothetical future white British “found themselves made strangers in their own country”. All allusions to the most famous speech regarding immigration were completely incidental and not at all on purpose, of course.

People are concerned about low skilled immigration staying long term in Britain— caused in part due to the end of seasonal migration that was a benefit of the European Union— given new immigrants are coming from further away, typically India and Nigeria. This wave of immigrants, dubbed the Boriswave, is used to supplement blue collar and gig industries. Ever wondered why your Uber Eats drivers are all from the subcontinent, or why your coworkers at your weekend job were Indian, whilst the managers or long-term stickers tend to be from Eastern Europe? The shift in immigration demographics is why.

It’s unfair to malign these people, living in levels slightly better than

squalor, many of them just trying their best to escape poverty, living on the edge, barely noticed by the rest of us. We have wholesale imported an invisible class of punkawallahs who we treat as barely human. Sure, they may not have adjusted to life in Britain, but how can they when they live in bunks in zone 6, barely making enough to live. They just happen to be non-white, more easily identifiable foreign, and thus they are made out to be the devil because unfortunately the poverty wages in the UK are still better than a life of poverty in the global South. Not to mention the fact our social care sector is run on terrible wages given the responsibilities carers have, resulting in immigrants plugging this essential sector as our population ages. The Labour government’s attempt to paint care work as unskilled is a far cry from the National Care Service proposed in their winning electoral manifesto.

The accompanying white paper has garnered mixed opinions. The biggest changes that will affect Imperial students and graduates are the increase in time before one can reach settled status from 5 to 10 years, which will be unattractive for highly skilled graduates who seek to resettle, plus an increase in the Immigration Skills Charge by 32%, its first increase since its introduction in 2017. Top jobs,

particularly in research —, and I believe AI — will be exempt, so international Imperial students may gain better job prospects, but we shall see. The government also promises to streamline the visa system for global talent, again working to the strength of top institutions that help produce these workers.

Ultimately, the paper does sound promising and seeks to address the concerns of the populace in certain aspects. But the real question now is, can the government, one of many that has tried to use immigration as a last-ditch attempt to regain popularity, similar to the prior Conservative governments who did fail and exacerbated the rise in net migration, be trusted to complete this task?

Correction

The article “Business School rebrands, aligning “more closely with the wider university” published in Felix #1871 erroneously cited Imperial Business School’s new strapline. We have amended the strapline to its correct form “where science means business”.

Letters to the Editor

Re: Editorial #1871

Dear Ed,

I liked your article in Felix this week for the editorial but i did want to add a little bit of nuance.

You take aim at the Business School international cohort (fair) but a significant minority are on fully funded scholarships from developing countries like Indonesia or Botswana with the idea they will go back to their home countries and implement what they learned. I just wanted to add a little more to the complete picture of the business school and of its internal students. There are people there doing good work now and hopefully in the future.

Anon.

Dear Reader,

Thank you! My aim wasn’t to include these kinds of students within the common understanding of what I called “bought into” students. It isn’t solely the fault of the Business School, a culture of atomisation exists across all faculties apart from the Faculty of Medicine, but there must be an effort to bridge the gaps and humanise students across departments and faculties.

Best, Ed.

Appled Scholarship

Like matchsticks with the wood scraped off, he joked.

Still shocked they’d failed—my paradoxically slighted legs—, bemused that they’d provoked such riddling wit while pathologically felled by mists—my lungs inflamed with phlegm, the reaper coiling through his choking prey: in our damp vale pale trees had sighed my requiem, our GP stumped—I sensed this was his way to voice relief, and parsed his apophthegm as care: he’d braved bombardment on the waves while, safe in labs, some puzzled how to stem infection in men’s battle wounds. My grave’s still empty: Fleming, Florey, Chain changed fate through Doctor Thompson’s keeping up to date.

Paul Rapley, 2025

Ed. note: Paul sent this sonnet as a tribute to Sir Ernst Chain et al., whose research into penicillin saved his life after a bout of pneumonia in 1950.

NEWS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

he had not realised peers were required to register share options, and that his failure to do so was “an oversight”. He acknowledged that he should have declared them.

“Lord Darzi has devoted his life to the advancement of medicine and scientific discovery, and over the course of this he has worked both with government and industry to improve the health system and support the life sciences sectors in this country. He has gone to great lengths to ensure that there have not been conflicts of interests, perceived or otherwise,” the lawyers said.

“It has recently been brought to Lord Darzi’s attention that the share options he was granted as part of his role as director of Evelo, Montai Therapeutics, Harbinger Health and YourBio Health and his subsequent personal investment to support Evelo and Montai Therapeutics’s scientific research exceeded the reportable threshold for the House of Lords register. He has acted immediately to rectify this oversight and update the entry on the register. Lord Darzi is very grateful to the Guardian for helping bring this oversight to light.”

Lord Darzi, who recently made Time magazine's 100 list this year, has several roles across Imperial and beyond the College. He most recently led a government review into the NHS, but has previously worked in the Department of Health, as well as the UK's Global Ambassador for Health and Life Sciences. Lord Darzi is also a member of the Privy Council.

At Imperial, he has led the Fleming Initiative, a joint venture between Imperial College and Imperial College NHS Trust, seeking to combat anti-microbial resistance across the globe. According to Lord Darzi's Imperial about page he has published "over 800 peer-reviewed research papers to date" in the fields of surgical practise "through innovation in surgery" as well as "enhancing patient safety and the quality of healthcare".

Evelo Biosciences, a start-up formed in 2014 by US venture capital firm, Flagship Pioneering, researched the interface with microbes and the immune system. Lord Darzi held a role as chair of the “health security initiative” of its UK operations. However, disappointing clinical trials led to the dissolution of the company in November 2023.

Police and fire services spotted in North Acton

Editor-in-Chief

MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

A large police presence and “at least” one fire engine were spotted outside Woodward Halls on Friday 9th May. Students attested to seeing canine units within the area, as well as diverted traffic on Victoria Road.

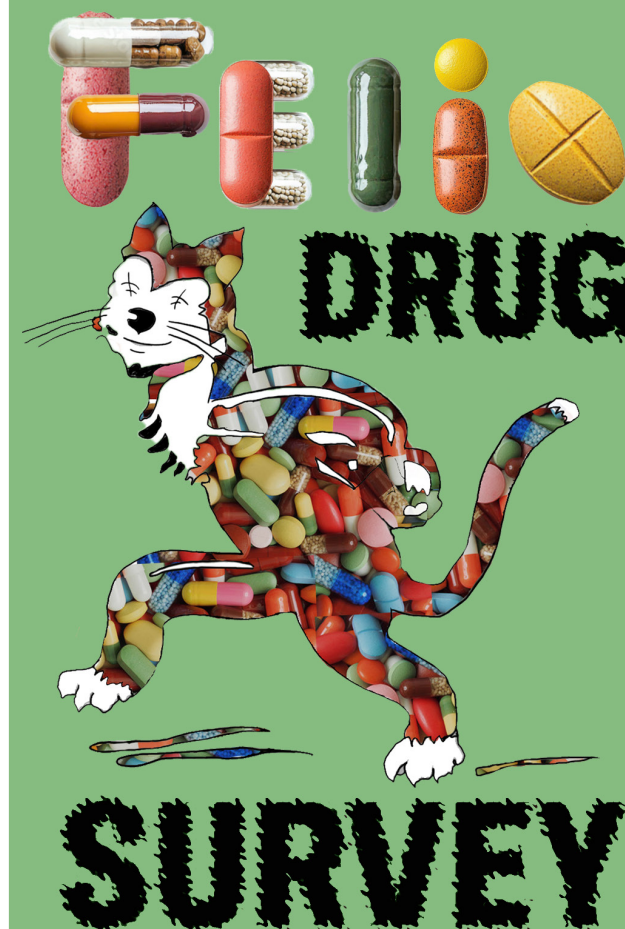
Police and fire services blocking off Victoria Road on Friday.
Anonymous for Felix



Activity in the area did not end until “around 8pm”.

It is unclear why the police were in the area. The Metropolitan Police did not comment, citing that “the Met’s newsdesk does not have the resource to work on stories from student outlets at the moment.”

The incident was not related to Woodward or Imperial College. Woodward Halls declined to comment.



DPE and DPW at House of Lords for RGSU event

Editor-in-Chief

MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

The Deputy Presidents for Education and Welfare (DPE & DPW), Emina Hogas and Nico Henry, visited the House of Lords for a Russell Group Student Union (RGSU) event on Wednesday 14th May. The event, facilitated by UCL Student Union, was hosted to launch the RGSU's international student paper.

Both the DPE and DPW met with members of Parliament and attended a lunch with MPs to highlight the experiences of international students. The report found that international students had both positive and negative experiences during their time at university. Students found themselves to face difficulties due to cultural and language differences, and the graduate visa route made it difficult to retain students in the country.

Henry and Hogas said: "We are excited to have represented Imperial College Union at the Russell

Group Students' Union's (RGSU's) International Student Survey Launch last Wednesday at the House of Lords, an event supported by the UK Council for International Student Affairs.

The report presented the main challenges encountered by international students from Russell Group Universities across the UK, reflecting national trends as well as issues we know our Imperial international student community isn't a stranger to. "Many of the report's recommendations align closely with the Union's ongoing work over the past year, specifically around accommodation and increasing UKRI's London allowance. With the recent White Paper release just last week, proposing, among other changes, a six-month reduction to the graduate visa, this report is a timely call to action for institutions to better support their international students.

"We believe that supporting international student mobility and access to accommodation through governmental and university-wide policies is essential not just for the wellbeing of International students' experience, but for our entire student body. We are keen to work with the University on practical measures such as an accredited good landlords scheme to achieve this. There are also broader, long-term proposals, such as freezing tuition fees at the point of entry for international students, which while challenging to implement, would bring much-needed stability."



Imperial opens Imperial Global India in Bengaluru

Editor-in-Chief

MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Imperial College London has launched its fourth global hub in Bengaluru.

The hub will host research programmes with Indian partners, focusing on some of "the world's most pressing challenges in areas such as climate change and sustainability, food and water security, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)."

Launched at the Science Gallery Bengaluru, the event was hosted by Professor Hugh Brady, Vindi Banga, Chair



Imperial Global India launch event. Imperial College London

of Imperial College Council, and the institutes academic co-directors Professor Sanjeev Gupta and Dr Elene Dieckmann.

Foreign Secretary David Lammy MP said: "Education lies at the heart of the UK's relationship with India. It forms the core of the living bridge between our nations and unlocks opportunities that benefit both coun-

tries. I'm delighted that Imperial College London, one of the world's best and most international universities, is strengthening its partnerships in science, technology and innovation with India."

How the Supreme Court ruling on gender has impacted Imperial's queer communities

News Writer

OSCAR MITCHAM

Last month, the UK Supreme Court (UKSC) ruled that for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 (EA 2010), the definition of a woman is based on biological sex.

The case brought before the court, *For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers*, asked if transgender women should be included in quotas regarding gender balance in public sector boards.

For Women Scotland was arguing that sex-based protections should only apply to those born female. On the other hand, the Scottish government argued that transgender people with a Gender Recognition Certificate should be granted sex-based protections.

The EA 2010 recognises the protected characteristic of women as sex, and the protected characteristic of “transsexuals” as gender reassignment. The court clarified that the “concept of sex is binary” under the EA 2010 and thus those protections on the matter of sex only apply to those born biologically female.

The court repeatedly emphasised the limited scope of its ruling, writing “It is not the role of the court to adjudicate on the arguments in the public domain on the meaning of gender or sex, nor is it to define the meaning of the word “woman” other than when it is used in the provisions of the EA 2010.”

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) issued a statement on the practical implications of the judgement. Imperial 600 (I600), Imperial's LGBTQ+ network for staff and postgraduates, called the EHRC statement “unscientific and medically flawed.” The statement says that in workspaces and services that are open to the public (like universities) “trans women (biological men) should not be permitted to use the women's facilities and trans men (biological women) should not be permitted to use the men's facilities.” This excludes trans people from using single-sex facilities according to their gender. However, they add “in

News Writer

ISABELLA DUCHOVNY

some circumstances the law also allows trans women (biological men) not to be permitted to use the men's facilities, and trans men (biological woman) not to be permitted to use the women's facilities” which would exclude trans people from using services according to their birth sex. The EHRC is a non-departmental public body established by the Equality Act 2006.

Associate Provosts for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion at Imperial, Wayne Mitchell and Lesley Cohen, told *Felix* that the guidance did not reflect the scope of the ruling, and that they felt “no response to the guidance is required at this stage”. Imperial 600 (I600) added “[The guidance] is seen as encouraging broader use of exemptions under the Equality Act to lawfully exclude trans people from single sex spaces. The tone and emphasis of the EHRC guidance seems to shift the focus towards justifying exclusion, which was not explicitly endorsed by the supreme court ruling. The EHRC guidance extrapolates beyond legal principles, particularly in how it frames ‘lawful exclusion’ of trans people from services or spaces. Several legal experts have stated that such guidance would be in violation of the European Convention of Human Rights”.

I600 is currently in talks with the University Management Board to discuss how the university should react to the guidance. To help with these talks, I600 took a survey of Imperial on how the university should respond to the ruling and EHRC guidance. They found “a resounding 76% of respondents said that the ruling was harmful and scientifically illiterate, and that Imperial should adopt this similar position. A vast majority of respondents (79%) expressed dismay or disagreement with the Supreme Court ruling and EHRC guidelines, and hoped to hear a message of support for the trans+ community from Imperial's leadership.”

I600 is worried about the state of women's rights in

the UK, but they frame trans rights and women's rights as aligned rather than opposed. They told *Felix* “While there have been notable advancements in women's rights in the UK, significant challenges persist, particularly for LGBTQIA+ women and non-binary individuals. Sadly, a small but vocal and well-funded minority of self-proclaimed feminists have been pushing for a mode of womanhood that's inherently linked to biological essentialism. This trend can only lead to a return of regressive gender stereotypes, threats to reproductive rights and exclusion of many groups of women – cis and trans alike – that don't adhere to “traditional” gender expressions. In contrast to that narrative, growing rates of gender-based violence highlight the need for strong, continued advocacy and inclusive policymaking.”

Similarly Imperial's feminist society (FemSoc) thinks we should be taking an intersectional approach and told *Felix* “Bodily autonomy is a cornerstone of feminist liberation. We should always reject the idea that women are defined by our biology; this very notion has been used for centuries to excuse the exploitation of women's bodies and labour. There is no singular experience of womanhood, and narrowing the definition of ‘woman’ is a dangerous decision which reinforces the gender stereotypes that have long driven women's oppression.” “Anti-trans rhetoric directly affects the state of women's rights in the UK, and letting trans-exclusionary groups define what woman means means accepting the scrutiny and policing of every woman's appearance and body, ultimately justifying misogynistic violence. Make no mistake: misogyny is still pervasive in UK society – perhaps more so at university, with 58% of girls aged 14-21 having been publicly sexually harassed in their learning environment (Plan International UK).”

Imperial's LGBTQ+ Society (IQ), LGBTQ+ Network, and FemSoc weighed in together on the ruling in a joint statement on 13th May saying “We are devastated by the UK Supreme Court Ruling on Wednesday, 16 April 2025, regarding the definition of ‘women’ and ‘sex’ in the Equality Act 2010. [...] We want to reiterate that we stand with the trans+ community. All trans, intersex and non-binary members, and all members are welcome in ICU LGBTQ+ Network, IQ and FemSoc events.

“While as student groups, we cannot speak on behalf of the Union or the College about their policies, we will continue advocating for trans+ students by working with the Union to engage the university in reaffirming our values of inclusivity, ensuring that all students feel safe, supported, have access to appropriate spaces on campus, and can use all college facilities in a dignified ways.”

SCIENCE

CRISPR therapy saves infant with rare metabolic disorder

CRISPR-based gene editing therapy has been used for the first time to treat CPS1 deficiency, which promises a new era for precision medicine.

Science Writer

ELDRIAN JIAT YANG THO

In a grand achievement for genetic medicine, a 10-month-old baby named KJ Muldoon has become the first person to receive personalised CRISPR-based therapy designed specifically to correct his carbamoyl phosphate synthetase 1 (CPS1) deficiency. This rare and life-threatening metabolic disorder makes KJ's case a significant milestone, with the team of researchers at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) highlighting the potential of bespoke gene-editing treatments for ultra-rare diseases.

CPS1 deficiency severely impairs the body's ability to metabolise ammonia. An abnormal buildup of ammonia in the blood, which may result from a lack of the CPS1 enzyme, can be toxic at high levels, with the nervous system being particularly sensitive to this imbalance. Standard treatments typically involve restrictive low-protein diets, ammonia-scavenging drugs, or, in severe cases, liver transplants. KJ's condition, however, had progressed so rapidly that these

measures proved insufficient.

The team from CHOP and Penn developed a customised gene therapy through the CRISPR gene editing platform. This technique uses base editing, which allows for precise, single-base changes in DNA without breaking the double helix, making it safer and more accurate than earlier CRISPR methods. This personalised therapy was delivered intravenously in three doses,

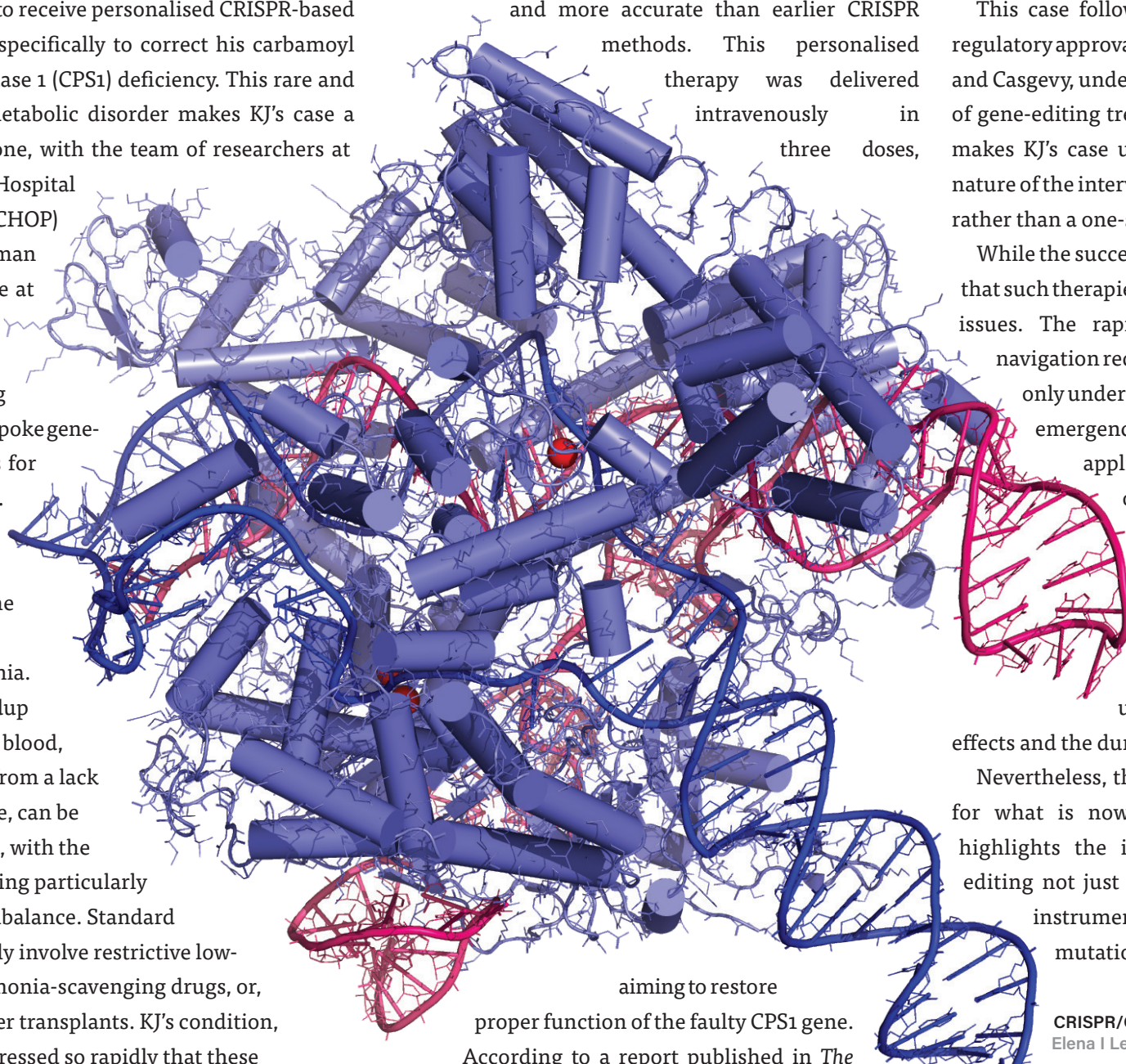
New England Journal of Medicine by Frangoul et al. (2025), early clinical outcomes are highly encouraging. KJ has shown signs of improved metabolic stability and normal ammonia levels. This provides hope that he may avoid the devastating consequences, typically associated with CPS1 deficiency.

This case follows closely on the heels of the 2023 regulatory approvals of CRISPR-based therapies Lyfgenia and Casgevy, underscoring the accelerating momentum of gene-editing treatments reaching clinical use. What makes KJ's case unique, however, is the personalised nature of the intervention – a mutation-specific solution rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

While the success is groundbreaking, experts caution that such therapies currently face significant scalability issues. The rapid design, testing, and regulatory navigation required for KJ's treatment were possible only under exceptional circumstances, including emergency FDA clearance. Widespread application of similar therapies for other rare conditions would require substantial infrastructure, regulatory innovation, and cost reductions. Long-term monitoring is also critical. As with all gene-editing therapies, there remain unknowns about potential off-target effects and the durability of the treatment.

Nevertheless, this pioneering case sets a benchmark for what is now possible in genetic medicine. It highlights the immense promise of CRISPR base editing not just as a general tool, but as a precision instrument capable of saving lives – one mutation, one patient at a time.

aiming to restore proper function of the faulty CPS1 gene. According to a report published in *The*



CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing technology.
Elena I Leonova (CC BY-SA 4.0)

ENVIRONMENT

Stopping climate change is impossible without first stopping rising inequality

A focus on stopping rising inequality is the economic and cultural innovation needed to fight climate change.

Environment Writer
BRIAN TAM

It is widely accepted that climate change is caused by greenhouse gases, which are primarily emitted by the burning of fossil fuels. However, it would be unreasonable to assume that polluters are burning fossil fuels because they wish to destroy the planet. They do so because it is profitable. These profits drive the growth of companies, stock markets, and the fortunes of the rich. This connection is why I believe that atmospheric carbon concentrations continue to rise despite the long-held knowledge of climate change and its potential solutions.

Since the 1970s, income and wealth inequality has been rising in the UK. It will likely continue to rise while policies still favour neoliberal, trickle-down economics. As the rich accumulate wealth, everyone else will be “squeezed” out. The governments of the world have already lost their assets, with the UK public wealth dropping from 60% of national income in 1970 to -106% in 2020.

As a thought experiment, consider that inflation-adjusted annual returns for the S&P 500 largest companies in the U.S. is 6-7% over the last 60 years. Wealthy households with their assets invested in a passive S&P index tracking exchange traded fund would then be expected to grow their wealth by this amount each year. How would this scenario simultaneously be true, whilst the growth in real gross domestic product



has barely surpassed 2% in advanced economies over the last 45 years? The answer lies in rising inequality — the wealthy outcompete everyone else for resources such as housing, education, and healthcare, resulting in asset inflation and deteriorating quality of life for everyone who is not already rich. Stopping climate change is a low priority when people are fighting for economic survival.

An excellent blog post by Tom Murphy concludes that growth cannot go on forever. The reason why is simple: economics tells us the ultimate shape of the world economy over all time must be S-shaped. A forever-growing economy would require infinite energy inputs, which is impossible — an economy that shrinks over time would lead to the collapse of human society. So, the only

realistic long-term trajectory is one in which the size of the world economy plateaus. The question is then, where are we on the curve? Are we still in the early exponential rise, or are we near the plateau?

I think the growing negative effects of climate change are indicating we are near the plateau of the ultimate trajectory of the economy. Climate change increases the frequency and severity of natural disasters, evidenced by increases in global insured losses over the last 50 years due to weather-related incidents.

In game theory, The Prisoner's Dilemma seems to explain why rational people are selfish. The Nash equilibrium solution presents that the rational choice for both players is to look out for their own interests. Acting selfishly is, however, the only optimal solution where everyone

else is acting selfishly too. In a high-trust society where the norm is cooperation, not individualism, the winning strategy becomes acting unselfishly. Herein lies a solution to climate change apathy.

We need economically progressive policies that reverse inequality. We need cultural shifts away from a profit and growth mindset towards one of sustainability. Lowering inequality enables the public and governments to have the bandwidth to choose actions that fight climate change.

The solution is to: (1) Convince the public that inequality is obviously the problem, (2) Lead policymakers to implement economically progressive policies, (3) Convince the public that sustainability is obviously the next step, and (4) Lead policymakers to implement climate change mitigation.

COMMENT

Imperial, Impérial or Imperiale: where STEM meets languages

Comment Editor
GUILLAUME FELIX

Mathematics is known as the language of science – and Imperial has a reputable department to explore that – but who’s in charge of the science of languages? Enter the Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication. Their flagship Horizons program allows undergraduates to discover and practise languages, in addition to a breadth of other humanities and soft skills classes.

Imperial is well-known among STEM universities for its commitment to language teaching, yet the enrolment data obtained by *Felix* reveals changing dynamics (see graph). In spite of high enrolment in absolute terms – which have hovered around 2000 students in the past few years – the numbers peaked in 2021, as the Covid pandemic subsided. French, Japanese, Spanish and German – by far the most popular languages, representing among them 74% of all registrations over the past 6 years – have faced a steeper decline than less demanded languages like Arabic or Russian. By contrast, British Sign Language (BSL) has steadily gained in popularity since its introduction a few years, albeit from a low base. Doctor Iria Gonzalez-Becerra, Languages Field Leader and Senior Teaching Fellow at Imperial Horizons, says the course is especially popular among medical students, and hopes they will be able to expand its reach.

What factors in the language choice of CV-oriented Imperial students? Perhaps unsurprisingly, the popularity a language broadly aligns with the size of the population that speaks it globally and its economic output. There are outliers: Mandarin, despite being spoken

by more than a billion people which produce roughly a quarter of the world’s wealth (depending on the precise metric considered) was studied this year by less undergraduates than Korean. Doctor Gonzalez-Becerra notes that cultural affinities are a major determiner in one’s language choice.

Outside of Imperial, academic language learning is also taking a toll. Speaking at a panel hosted by the delegation of the European Union to the United Kingdom earlier this month, Bernadette Holmes (MBE) lamented the steep decline in language electives since they were made optional by the government. Ms Holmes considers the traditionalist approach to languages – with a disproportionate emphasis on the “Big Three” languages that are French, German and Spanish – as out-of-touch with the current demographics of the country, as many young British pupils with a non-European immigrant background might be more motivated to reconnect with their heritage languages instead.

This might also explain why these lacklustre numbers are in such contrast with the dashing rise of language apps like Duolingo in the UK, which offer a much greater diversity of dialects. In the discussion that followed that panel, I overheard an old joke that still rings true, “Bilingualism is like day-drinking: it’s classy if you’re rich, but trashy if you’re poor”. As highlighted by Ms Holmes, a shift in the perception of multilingualism is also in order: street-bound diglossia should not be a source of fear but be recognised for its potential contributions to individual adaptability and professional opportunities.

Yet from an employment perspective, the use of foreign languages for native English speakers is debatable. Today, English the world’s hypercentral language, as coined by Dutch sociologist Abram de Swaan – it is steadily dislodging other global languages from their historical niches, such as French in the North African business sector – and it might be the single most useful professional

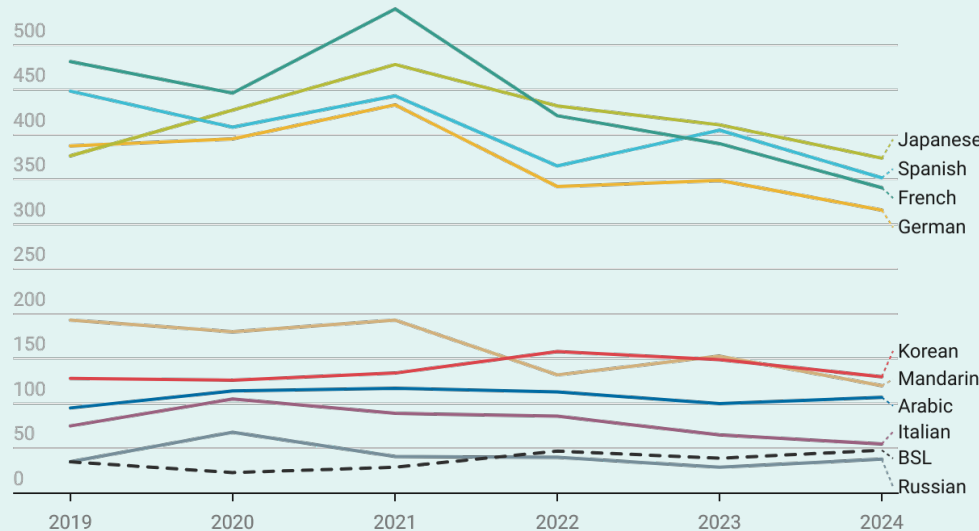
skill for non-native speakers. On the other hand, for a British student with no particular desire to live or work abroad, Python might be the most economically valuable language to learn. The rise of AI-based translators, which now rival diplomatic and professional translators in terms of accuracy and style, will further damage the attractiveness of languages.

“If you consider [language] education as a means to a unique end, which is get a job,” agrees Doctor Gonzalez-Becerra, “it has a low return on investment” for neophytes. She notes the discrepancy between employers’ claims to seek multilingual candidates, and the reality of the skills that make the difference during interviews. Therefore, the true motivation to start a new language should come from the enjoyment one gets from it: “For me, that’s a sufficient justification, and actually that is the correct justification”. Furthermore, a knowledge of multiple languages has well-established benefits on cognition, and remains perhaps the only way to bridge the gap between the cross-cultural “us” and “them”.

Although picture is bleak on a greater scale, Imperial is making sure students can give their grey matter some exercise and impress their friends by ordering their takeaway noodles in Mandarin (homophonous orders might sometimes arrive, which spices up the dinner). “If you think about it, Imperial actually is investing heavily in languages because our languages classes only have around 20 students,” points out Doctor Gonzalez-Becerra, who reminds me of my 6-student-strong Russian course. But I need no convincing; I wouldn’t be an Imperial student had I skipped my English as a Foreign Language class, and I most certainly would not have had the pleasure of writing for *Felix*.

The fall of the titans

Enrolment into Horizons language programs, normalised for yearly total student population



Source: Imperial College • Created with Datawrapper

CULTURE

Art is the Curia of all ills

Post-conclave thoughts on episcopal art.

Editor Emeritus
GILBERT JACKSON

As soon as I started writing this piece, I was surprised to see the news that Pope Leo XIV has been crowned and seated in the chair of St Peter. Very few could’ve predicted the emergence of the USA’s first Pope, but as far as historical popery goes, this is by far the least surprising, scandalous or outrageous investiture. One thing that everyone knows about the Catholic church is its exquisite sense of style, panache, and artistry exemplified particularly by its leaders. In this article we will make a deep dive into the art depicting cardinals, bishops and popes throughout the centuries.

Gregory the Great

Gregory is known throughout Christian world, not only for his day-to-day work but also his work on the day-to-day, instituting the Gregorian calendar as well as kick-starting the “Gregorian Mission” of converting the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms to Christianity. Here we have a piece of illuminated manuscript from the 12th century from Gregory’s *Dialogues* detailing the apparently ambidextrous Gregory composing said dialogues, receiving the message of the Holy Spirit, all from the comfort of his chair. This multitasking, mitre-toting figure is depicted bare-foot, symbolising his humility in his role. But for the keen eye, his posture, his outstretched arms and

his bare feet are such that he is posed in the likeness of the crucified Christ; even his writing implements are exaggerated to look like nails in his hands. This miniature is chock full of religious symbolism that even a cursory glance is enough to give you a sense of not just who Greogry was as a pope, but also what the role of the Pope symbolises.



Gregory the Great Dialogues Manuscript 12th Century

Pope Innocent X

Skip ahead a few generations and we have this portrait of Pope Innocent X painted by Velazquez. One of Velazquez’ masterpieces, he was commissioned to paint Innocent during a visit to Rome. Here, Velazquez paints the Pope as a man of serious intent, papal Bull in hand, stern look, and impressive linen mozzetta (clearly indicating that it may

have been particularly warm when this portrait was commissioned). By this point in history, the actions of Popes Urban II and Innocent III had solidified papal supremacy in the western world; Innocent X sat in full papal regalia exemplifies this wonderfully, and upon completion of the portrait he was said to have exclaimed “It’s too true!”. Whether this legend is true or not, it certainly bolsters Velazquez’ reputation as a master of portraiture.



Innocent X Diego Velazquez

Cardinal Richelieu

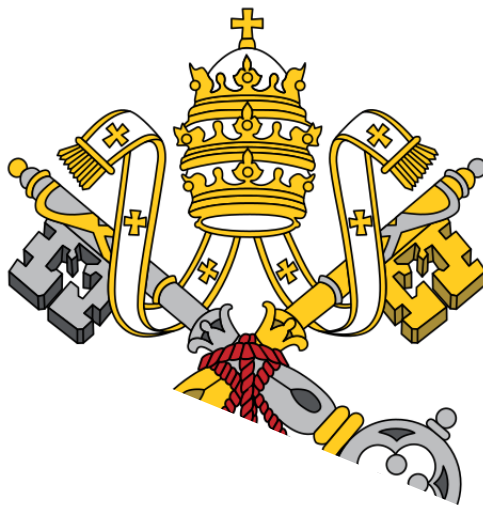
This master work by French artist Philippe de Champaigne is a departure from the usual norms of episcopal portraits. Conventionally, religious figures are always depicted seated in their episcopal chairs as a sign of their religious authority. Here, the titanic figure of Cardinal Richelieu is shown standing, and it’s worth noting that famously Richelieu was not only a religious figure, but a shrewd diplomat



Cardinal Richelieu Philippe de Champaigne

Cardinal St. J. H. Newman

This fabulous portrait by Millais



depicts the figure of Cardinal Newman, one of the fathers of both Anglo-Catholicism and the Catholic Restoration of the UK. Despite his legendary work in the restoration of traditional practices to the British Isles, this portrait seems quite bare in comparison, but only a cursory glance at this portrait gives one a sense of paternalism and tranquillity. Millais was one of the members of the pre-Raphaelite brotherhood, and his use of colour is exemplary, choosing to depict the cardinal in a profound shade of red, with extraordinary detailing in the fabric work. In contrast to Velazquez’ stern portrayal of Pope Innocent X, here we see the peaceful cardinal sat directly in front of us, staring at the viewer with wisdom in his facial features. It is little surprise that Newman is also known for his tracts and poems, particularly his magnum opus *The Dream of Gerontius*, and his eyes convey that sense of poeticism to the viewer, rather than overwhelming us with religious authority or stately presence.



Cardinal Newman John E. Millais

Pope Innocent X (again)

Bacon is known for his studies into the masochistic and grotesque side of the human form, and in true Bacon fashion it is once again filled with symbolism. The heavy brush strokes across the portrait resemble a set of satin curtains, obscuring the screaming, disfigured pope from the viewer. This curtain effect emphasises the figures isolation from the viewer while Bacon himself said that the meaning of the portrait “slides slowly and gently across”. This idea of isolation is modified by the transformation of the papal see into a golden cage, turning isolation into entrapment within gold bars; despite the pope’s evident status, his place in society is separate and elevated to the point of isolation. The haunting scream coming from the skeletal pope is just the cherry on top for this exercise in existentialism.



Study on Pope Innocent X Francis Bacon

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Once again, I have been called back from retirement for the 2nd time to revive a section in dire need of contributions. To appreciate culture is to appreciate humanity in its finest form. If you, like me, have always desired that Imperial students be known for their wit, charm, and love of the arts then why not write for the Arts Section! Plus, every other university is saying you guys look like uncultured dorks and can’t spell your names, why not change that!

Lots of Love,
Gilbert

F E L I X DRUG SURVEY

QR Code

Art is the world’s best stimulant. However, if you’re someone who likes to smoke cigarettes outside art galleries to seem interesting, or you are one of those ‘art-enjoyers’ who takes LSD and shrooms before heading in to the Tate modern and tells everyone that ‘they finally get the meaning now’, or perhaps your bedroom was inspired by Tracy Emin, then perhaps take a few minutes to fill in the Felix Drug survey. As always all entries are anonymous, and there is no obligation to fill in all the answers on the form if you would prefer not to.

CULTURE

Marathon of the Valkyries

A review of ROH's latest offering in Wagnerian Epics.

Editor Emeritus
GILBERT JACKSON

When one thinks of “opera”, the first image that comes to mind is the gushing tones of the Italian masters like Puccini and Verdi. However, many of the famous opera tropes that we’ve come to associate with the medium (such as any opera not being over till the fat lady sings) has come from the works of Wagner. If you will take time to separate art from artist, you may have to concede that Wagner is one of the greatest composers to have lived. Not only are his operas titanic in size and structure, but his instrumentation and tonality has been a staple in inspiring Hollywood film scores.

Die Walküre is a marathon of an opera, and ROH made it more so; clocking in at 5 hours and 40 minutes of total run time (including intervals) this performance was not for the faint of heart. I am reminded of ENO's *Rheingold* production which, while lacking in profound staging, had managed to condense the opera to a manageable 2 hours and 50 minutes by simply removing the intervals. In retrospect, I feel ROH could’ve applied a similar tactic to this opera – without intervals one can maintain the momentum of the work more easily, preventing burn out towards the third act (something I was beginning to feel myself).

To kick off the performance was the announcement that the lead tenor Stanislas de Barbeyrac had fallen ill due to allergies, but his Spartan courage had pulled through as he desired to continue despite this, and it must be said the audience were thankful he did, for even in the incredibly demanding 1st act, he shone on stage and his full bodied voice carried across sublimely. Elisabeth Strid, playing Brünnhilde, provided a manic interpretation for the stalwart psychopomp, but unlike her co-singers, her voice lacked a certain power that would’ve allowed her to be heard over the orchestra. Natalya Romaniw and Christopher Maltman were two eye-catching stars that night playing Sieglinde and Wotan respectively. They provided a tour de force in Wagnerian singing – all the more potent when considering this was Maltman’s first Wagner debut, but his sheer character persona and awesome voice made it almost seem like he had been touring with Wagner for years.

Once again a huge hand was given to Anthony Pappano for his mastery on the baton; conducting an orchestra of immense size is an enormous feat of strength and stamina, and the orchestra were, as always, on top form throughout. Staging, while simple, provided a truly stark dynamic to the opera, and Rufus Didwizsus is to be commended for his mastery of space and colour. Director Barrie Kosky should be proud of the



Valyries in chorus Monika Rittershaus

immense performance he has built, and while this opera ran for a short run of 2 weeks, it has been a joy to see such hard

work pay off. I eagerly look forward to the anticipated run of Siegfried that will continue the saga.



Promotional Poster

Royal Opera House

BOOKS

Hunchback by Saou Ichikawa

A stark reminder of our biases. This review contains spoilers.

Books Writer
LILA HARRISON

I first came across this book while lingering in the Booker Prize Library at Waterstones Piccadilly. With this year's International Booker Prize winner yet to be announced, the library had stocked all the longlisted titles; *Hunchback* was one of them. The uniqueness of the plot, very abruptly outlined in the blurb, drew me to the novel.

Hunchback by Saou Ichikawa follows Shaka, a woman with a severe degenerative muscular condition who lives in a care home and writes provocative erotica under a pseudonym. When a new caregiver confronts her about her writing, Shaka reckons with her own desires. Bound by power dynamics, *Hunchback* ultimately provides an important portrayal of the societal boundaries imposed on people with disabilities.

From the very beginning of the novel, I was forced to confront my own shock at the level of rawness of Shaka's, and by extension Ichikawa's, erotica. Shaka's unapologetic and lewd expressions of desire, unfiltered and explicit, challenged my preconceptions of what a disabled woman should or could portray.

I was surprised, and candidly, embarrassed, by her self-sexualisation, down to the descriptions of her arousal in her underwear. It prompted self-

examination of my biases. My discomfort persisted as I read on: I could not shake the sense of inappropriateness.

In one instance, Shaka discusses her desire to get pregnant with the purpose to have an abortion. For most women, abortion is not a decision made lightly, but a necessary option that allows them to maintain control over their lives, free from external judgement or coercion.

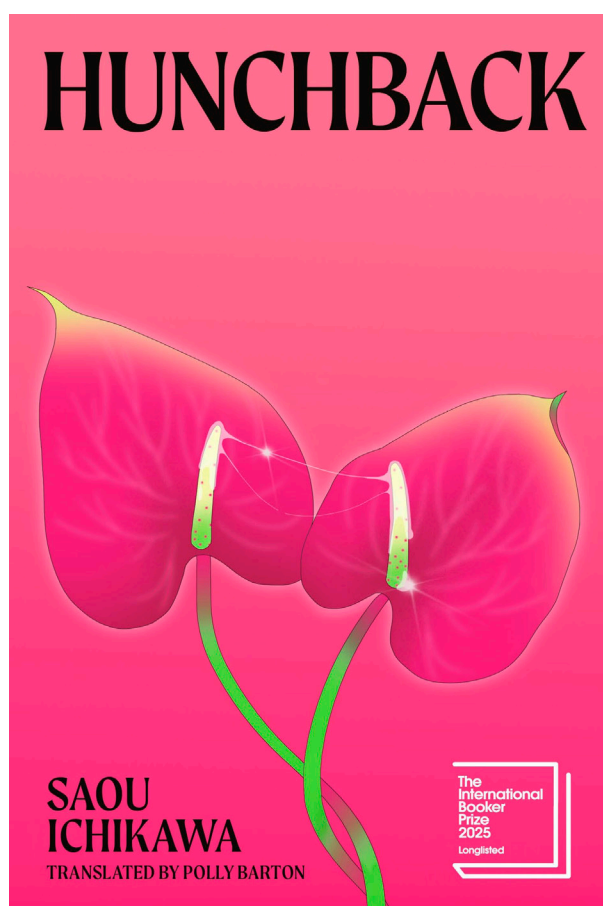
The denial of Shaka's fundamental rights to her own body – a denial of physical agency – drive her to the most radical forms of self-expression, to the point where she yearns for self-affliction. While it may seem extreme, Ichikawa draws on our discomfort to convince us of the wider lack of autonomy felt by those with disabilities in the modern world.

This tension is not isolated to the experiences of Shaka in the novel. Ichikawa, who shares the same condition as her protagonist, provided a broader cultural and political backdrop.

She considers Richard Wagner for his complex views on height, disability activist Tomoko Yonezu, who famously sprayed paint at the Mona Lisa during its loan to Tokyo in protest against its poor access for those with disabilities, as well as references to David Lynch.

These references are not ornamental; she situates her protagonist within a group of transgressive figures who have refused to be silenced, challenging politics of representation. The eroticism, then, to me, is not merely personal but political: a confrontation with the routine infantilisation that people with disabilities face.

Hunchback is witty, nihilistic, and idiosyncratic. It challenges our preconceived ideas of disability, autonomy, and desire. I would implore everyone to read it: at 112 pages, you should be more than capable.



The Moustache: a review

Books Writer
GEORGE PASTONS

Emmanuel Carrère's *The Moustache* is dizzyingly, chaotically, and beautifully twisted. Also a feature film directed by the author, the novel tells of a successful architect's descent into madness and uncertainty after he shaves his moustache.

His life, lulled into a serene mundanity, shifts into a mad sixth gear as his wife, friends, family, and coworkers tell him that his long-established moustache never existed: he has always been clean shaven despite material reality proving otherwise. Another short read, this novel is less tour de force, and more insane bender.

Translator Lanie Goodman does an excellent job transposing the prose. Originally written in French, she excels at capturing the frantic nature of the novel. It is pure, absurd, psychodrama, and the language flows like blood out of a wound. It captures the readers mind, pooling into the crevices, gushing out with such intense ferocity one feels they are in the midst of the unnamed protagonist's thoughts themselves. It is Kafkaesque without his austere language, instead utilising a more fluid approach to demonstrate what has been described by others as psychological horror.

Carrère's work can be read through many lenses, and its richness is formed by the sparsity of having an objective view. Nothing is as it seems, even the novella itself: it can be a meditation on the loss of normality, grief, the pain of relationships and intimacy a la Żuławski's "Possession", and just like "Possession", it's haunting and abrupt ending leaves more than a lasting effect on the reader.

FOOD & TRAVEL

XOXO, From New York

From Central Park to Korean barbeque and The MET, Felix writer Sijung tells her experience of New York.

Food & Travel Writer
SIJUNG LEE

There’s no city quite like New York. Compared to London’s reserved hustle with a dose of British politeness and dry humour, Manhattan is bold and loud. New York is a vertical city, dominated by skyscrapers and a grid system that is easy to navigate. It has been the backdrop for hundreds of classic films: Taxi Driver (1976), Breakfast at Tiffany’s (1961), American Psycho (2000), and The Devil Wears Prada (2006), to name a few. Each element of the city has become a character in itself, each neighbourhood with its own unique set of people, and each New Yorker with a different story to tell. Here’s my story of visiting New York City over the Easter holiday in April.

Central Park

If you enjoy strolling around Hyde Park next to our campus like I do, the iconic Central Park is the perfect place to be. With cherry blossoms in full bloom, Central Park offers a serene escape from the city’s hustle and bustle. Alongside the beautiful white-and-pink cherry blossom trees, anyone can enjoy a peaceful walk, row a boat on the lake, or simply relax in Sheep Meadow – a 15-acre lawn with astonishing views of the city. Lying down in the middle of the lawn feels overwhelming yet peaceful at the same time, allowing one to enjoy the scenery and company of others.

The twisted paths around Central Park can be hard to navigate at first, but nothing is impossible with the help of



The New York Public Library Sijung Lee

Google Maps. On some turns, parents are taking pictures of their children climbing on top of giant rocks, and on others, people are having a picnic with their friends, walking their dogs, or discussing politics and the economy. What truly stands out are the hot dog

wand pretzel carts, souvenir vendors, musicians singing and playing the violin, and vendors selling cups of fruit and bottles of cold water, in and around the park. Somehow, Central Park can blend the chaotic city with its undisturbed green space.

Broadway, Shopping, and the New York Public Library

Besides walking around Central Park, there is still so much of the city left to explore. Times Square is known for its bright billboards and signs, always filled with tourists and people dressed in hilarious costumes, even when most of the other streets are dark. If one were to overlook its crowded haze, the area offers a fantastic chance to experience a Broadway show in one of the many theatres. I went to see Hadestown, one of the most successful shows at the Walter Kerr Theatre between Seventh and Eighth Avenue.

There is also the historic New York Public Library, especially the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building next to Bryant Park, that is worth visiting. This public library in midtown Manhattan has stunning architecture, both inside and out, with painted ceilings, high pillars ,and reading rooms so aesthetic that it makes you want to be productive. A short walk away from the library and you enter Fifth Avenue, New York’s shopping street, where you can find any major brand stores, as well as the iconic department store Macy’s, which was established in 1858.

The MET

My favourite place, however, must be The Metropolitan Museum of Art (The MET). Amongst all the famous museums in the city, such as the American Museum of Natural History, Museum of Modern Art, Cooper Hewitt, or The Morgan Library, The MET provides something more breathtaking. It is located along Fifth Avenue on the east edge of Central



Central Park Sijung Lee



The Metropolitan Museum of Art Sijung Lee



Yoon Haeundae Galbi Sijung Lee

Park. There are always people sitting on the well-known stairs leading up to the building, and it feels like you’ve entered the world of Blair Waldorf from the TV series Gossip Girl. Inside, The MET houses over two million works of art spanning 5,000 years of human history. Like the British Museum, visitors can wander through galleries filled with ancient Egyptian artifacts, European masterpieces by Van Gogh and Monet, and stunning pieces from Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Once you go in, who knows how long you might spend trying to see every part of the museum? The most enchanting aspect about The MET is under the evening light; every Friday and Saturday, the museum hosts “Date Night at The MET” where drinks and live music are accompanied by the endless statues and pieces of art. The MET stunningly encapsulates the beauty and culture of New York City, and is my favourite museum to this day.

Food in NYC

Manhattan, the most popular island of New York City, is known to have some of the best food in the world, perhaps even more so than London. During my visit, I had the chance to try out different cuisines in various parts of the city, from street halal carts, to Chinese, Mexican,

Thai, to New American. Here, I share one of my most memorable meals during the visit.

Yoon Haeundae Galbi, a restaurant located in Koreatown, delivers a deeply rooted Korean barbecue experience with an unmistakably modern edge. I tried their Prime Package, which is a curated feast showcasing some of the most luxurious cuts and comfort dishes in the house. First off: the brisket, shaved nearly paper-thin and grilled by the flame for mere seconds. The marbling melts fast, leaving behind a layer of fat that coats the tongue like warm butter. Next, the fresh short ribs are lightly marinated and grilled into smoky, juicy strips that accentuated its natural richness. If the brisket is delicate and the short ribs hearty, then the wagyu boneless short ribs are pure decadence. These marbled gems are soft and practically dissolve upon chewing. Since they’re not too salty, dipping them in ssamjang, a spicy dipping sauce, and wrapping in a lettuce leaf with garlic and scallion provides the full Korean BBQ experience – it is the perfect bite. Finally, the dry-aged ribeye had a charred crust that locks in a concentrated umami flavour, while the interior remains tender and chewy.



Hadestown Musical at the Walter Kerr Theatre Sijung Lee



CREATIVE SPACE



15:00

Union Dining Hall

27
MAY



COLOUR RUN

WITH **MOVE**

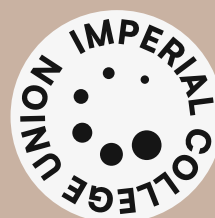


12:00

South Ken Campus
Secret Garden

28
MAY

TERM THREE EVENTS



SCAN ME




CULTURAL TAKEOVER

×

29 MAY 2025
Beit | From 2pm




EMO NIGHT

×

30 MAY 2025
Metric | 8pm



UNION AWARDS 2025

We're celebrating you!

6 JUNE
Metric | 5pm

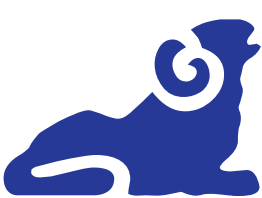





**TERM THREE
EVENTS**



Image via Akshay Chauhan on Unsplash



ARIES

This week you 610169 with the British Transport Police.



TAURUS

This week you comme ci, comme ça yourself out of the comme ci commeçanquences of your actions.



GEMINI

This week you finally quit your rock climbing hobby and take up social climbing instead.



CANCER

This week your lesbian friend introduces you to her new, mid, white boyfriend off Love Island.



LEO

This week the bartender writes you a fit note.



VIRGO

This week you drunkenly text your ex internship saying that you’ve changed for the better.



LIBRA

This week you spend all your train ticket money on the drinks train.



SCORPIO

This week your missing group partner is announced to be playing one of the dead District 3 engineering tributes.



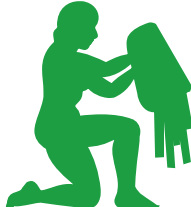
SAGITTARIUS

This week you drunk text your dad at the club only to be left on read.



CAPRICORN

This week you finally do it and shag her in your second season, mate. Seventeen years of hurt are over.



AQUARIUS

This week your newly single friend discovers his “roster” is actually rostering him.



PISCES

This week you perform frat-boy level fraternisation in the flat’s fraternity with your situationship.



UNION & SOCIETIES

Announcements

— May

30TH
Friday

ICon: Imperial’s Nerdy Convention


Pokémon, Anime, K-Pop, Gaming & Esports, Game-Dev, Sci-Fi & Fantasy, Robotics, Composing & Songwriting and more!

ICon is Imperial’s very-own nerdy convention - for all lovers of anime, gaming, art, music and more! Shop ‘til you shop at independent student vendors, take part in activities run by societies, and watch incredible performances by students!

Time: 11:00 - 19:00

Where: Metric, Beit Quad

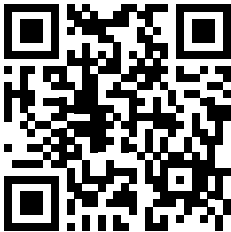
Tickets: £6 for Convention. No ticket required for sellers’ area.

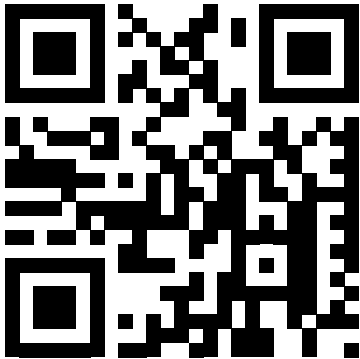


TICKETS


Submit your event here

Scan QR and fill out form by June 3rd, 2025





www.felixonline.co.uk

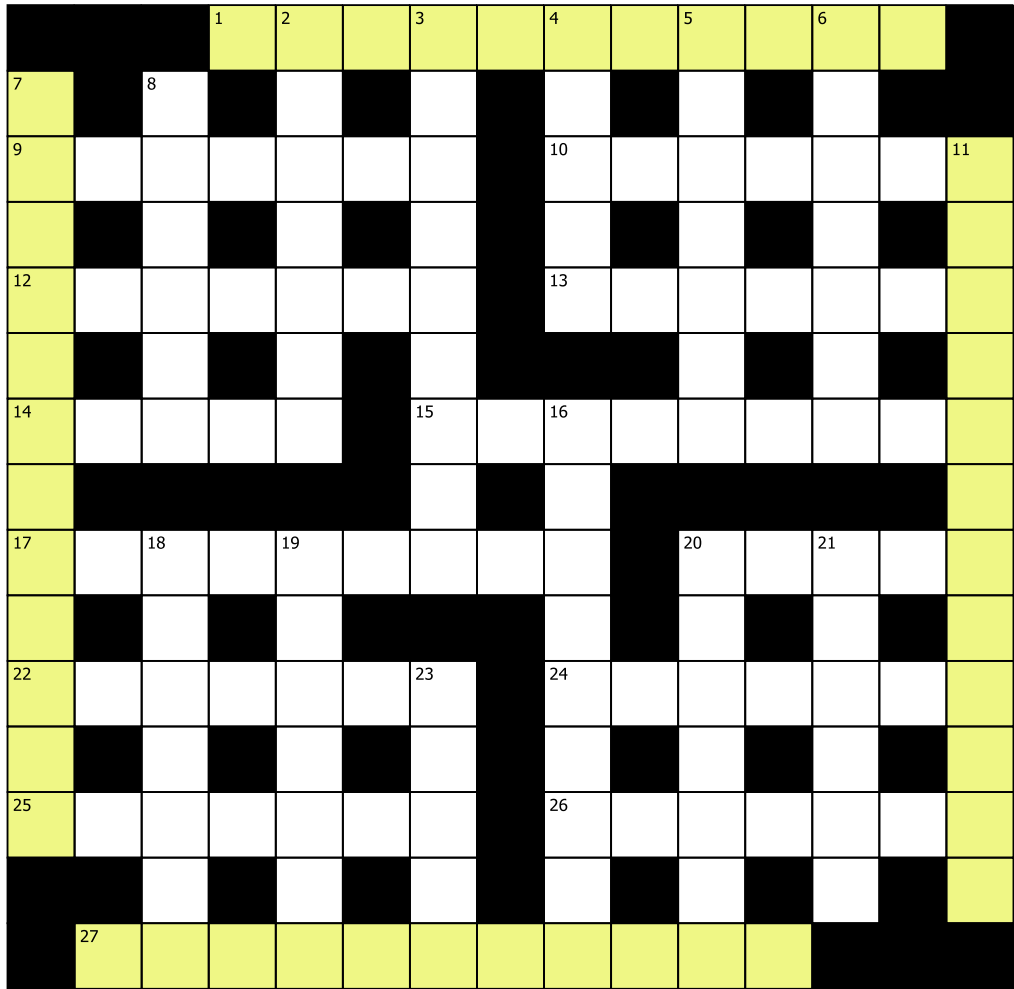


PUZZLES

Puzzles Editor
IVIN JOSE

CROSSWORD

"Ice cream, You scream" (5 pts.)



Across

- 4. He doesn't need much to be wildly ecstatic - just get rid of small things. [7]
- 7. Gloomy skies above actors. [8]
- 8. Love Mark's chic, keystone extract. [7]
- 9. Meddle with sweet. [5]
- 11. Well, now time to write a memo. [6]
- 13. Bring both parts back together? [6]
- 14. Cloaked but familiar - it takes flight! [6,4]
- 19. End times bells scattered youth first; could be today? [4,2,4]
- 22. Stellar karaoke equipment for after the function. [6]
- 23. Cursing unknown thing in wobbly hinge. [6]
- 24. Figure out how to take time on wearer of a fur coat? [5]
- 25. Acquire perfect, caged big bird. [7]
- 27. Charming lady is live. [8]
- 28. Rustled deformed treat. [7]

Down

- 1. Edward finally fixing fog light without loosening first - don't bet on it! [8]
- 2. It makes you hungry with ultimate vigour... remove the skin. [7]
- 3. Poke inside abandoned abbeys. [3]
- 5. It's said that you spotted a mesh on structure in home. [6,3]
- 6. Perfect license you love to read first before short slap. [7]
- 10. Look in the mirror; every coin's heads! [4]
- 12. Chose to co-opt editor's inclusion. [5]
- 15. Unwavering belief upset God and Mary. [5]
- 16. Release CD with massive removal of tops - put Henry inside! [8]
- 17. Final Destination stalks me and the lead - replaced with awful finale. [8]
- 18. Extra core put in step of dance. [7]
- 20. Certain follower of cyborg bit odd. [4]
- 21. Jagged lung destroyed inside lieutenant's carved-out altar. [7]
- 26. Honest man had MDMA after topless gab. [3]

Across

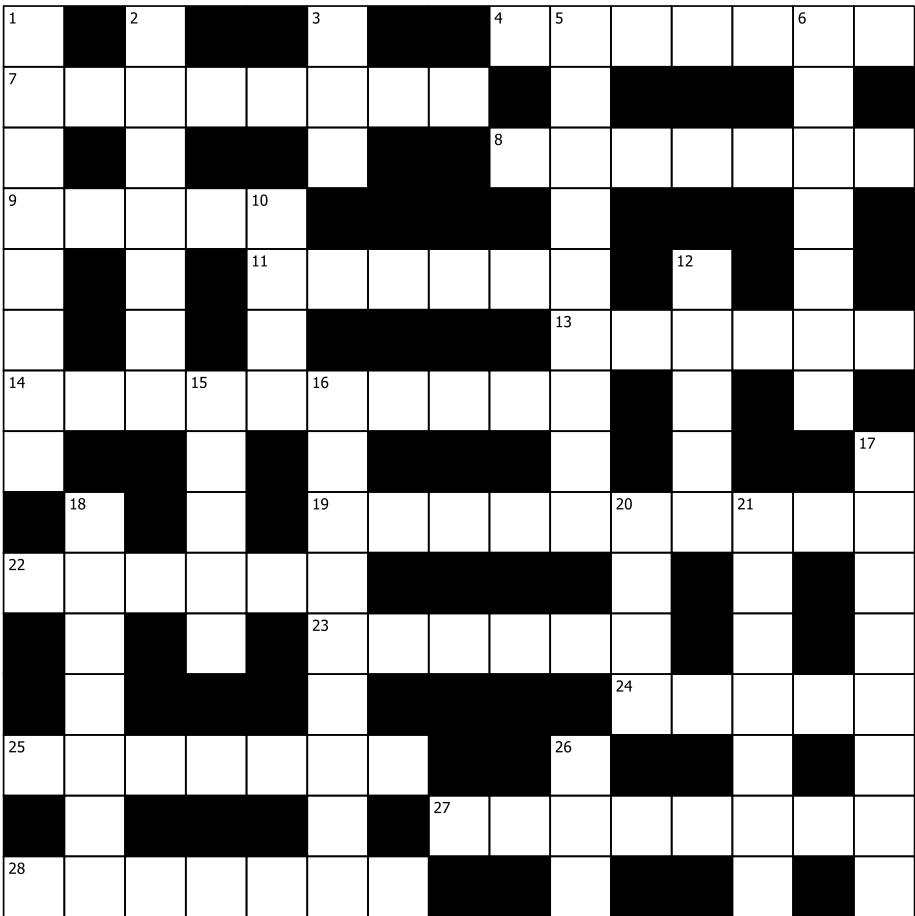
- 1. Fluffy fairground treat flavour ice-cream. [11]
- 9. A good-for-nothing layabout or flat heeled leather footwear. [7]
- 10. The picture of Dorian Grey, Pride and Prejudice, The Great Gatsby, for example. [7]
- 12. Thin Indian bread eaten with curry. [7]
- 13. Cats or twins for example. [7]
- 14. 2009 Game Show hosted by Bradley Walsh. [5]
- 15. Provide warm hugs, hot soup, a listening ear and kind words. [4,5]
- 17. Surveys and questionnaires never have enough of these. [9]
- 20. Buttercream, fondant, ganache and meringue, for example. [5]
- 22. What happens to the pulmonary veins in catheter-based treatment for refractory atrial fibrillation. [7]
- 24. minute multicellular aquatic animal sometimes called wheel animals. [7]
- 25. Uncontrolled childish anger, often accompanied by foot-stamping, shouting and crying. [7]
- 26. The effect where fluid speeds up in a narrowing. [7]
- 27. Perfectly refreshing, citrus flavour ice-cream. [5,6]

Down

- 2. Control machinery. [7]
- 3. Dangly-bits. [9]
- 4. Superficial cuts. [5]
- 5. US state whose state animal is the black bear. [7]
- 6. This week's theme. [7]
- 7. Rich, fruity, Ribena like flavour ice-cream. [12]
- 8. Third largest desert in the world. [6]
- 11. Ben & Jerry's flavour ice-cream tributed to a fan-suggested Rock legend. [6,6]
- 16. River in North Yorkshire that is the continuation of River Ure. [4,5]
- 18. " _____ will fall when The Question is asked" the overarching plot line of season 6 Doctor Who. [7]
- 19. Canadian state whose state bird is the Common Loon. [7]
- 20. Strong and passionate. [7]
- 21. Sudden arrival of large numbers. [6]
- 23. Unloads trash. [5]

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Submitted by David Latimer (10 pts.)



SUDOKU

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

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

Medium (2 pt. each)

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

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

Hard (3 pts. each)

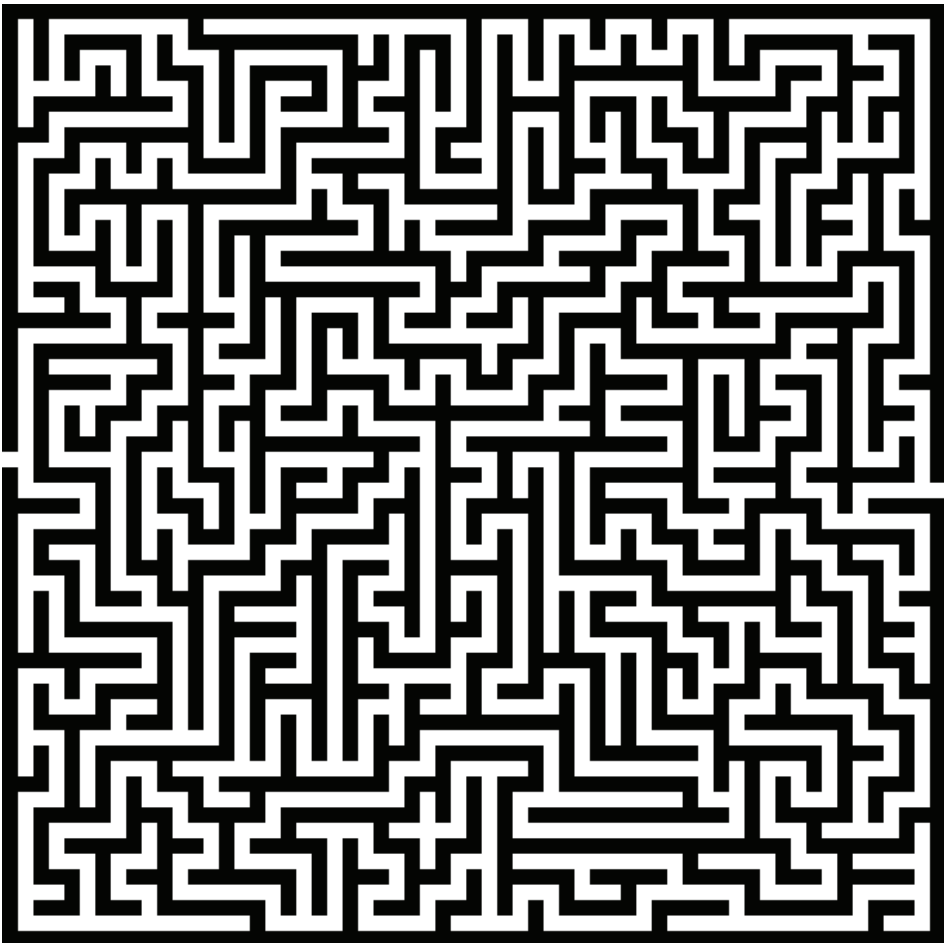
					8			3
	6	1						9
4			6					2
					6		2	
		5						
	2	3			4	8		
	7		3	6				
1								
		8	9	1			6	

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

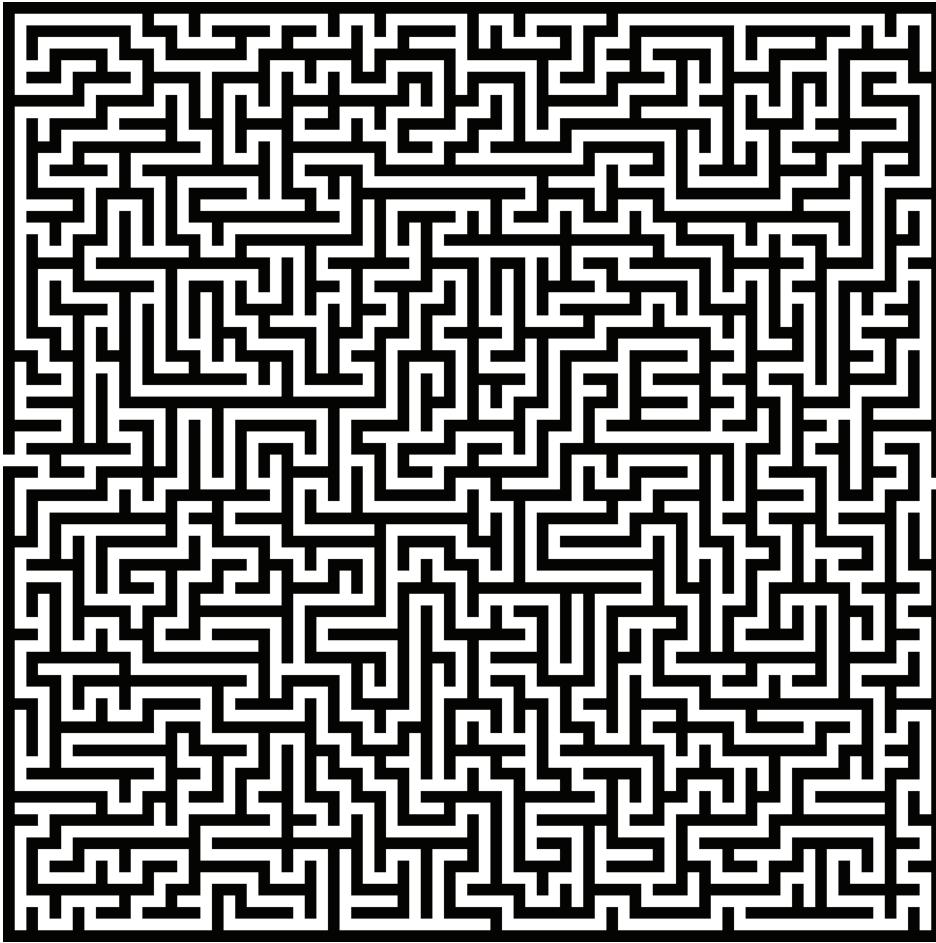
Extra hard (4 pts. each)

MAZE

Medium (4 pts)



Hard (5 pts)





Puzzle Editor's Note

Dearest Puzzlers,

I hope everyone’s exams or coursework are going brilliantly! This week’s theme is about the one of my favourite desserts of the season: ice-cream!

Now, a little note from David, our resident Cryptic Crossword Master:

Hope you're all enjoying summer term, or as much as you can if you're still swamped with exams. The deadline for the Enigmatic Variations has passed, and you can see the solution on the right. Massive congratulations to Team GuineaPig for the only solve, very well done. This edition may have been more difficult to understand the rule set; if you were scared away I do not blame you! The next, and final of the year, should be more straightforward (not to be say it will be easier). See you then.

The all-important Puzzles Leaderboard has been updated! Team GuineaPig, buoyed by their fantastic Enigmatic Variations result, have surpassed what your humble Puzzles Editor ever thought possible, achieving a phenomenal high score of 701!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who sends in their solutions and kind words via email — I promise I read each and every one of them, and I'll get back to you as soon as these pesky deadlines are out of the way!

As always, a huge thank you to David Latimer for the Cryptic Crossword and Tengyu for the Comic.

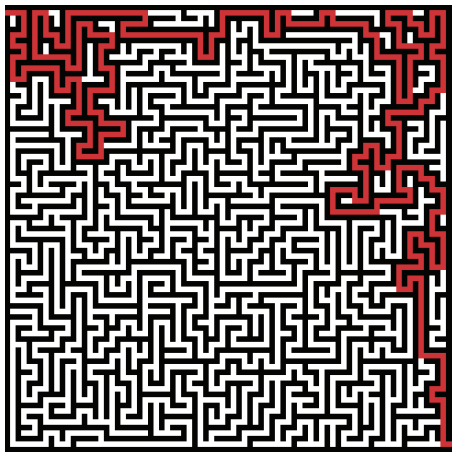
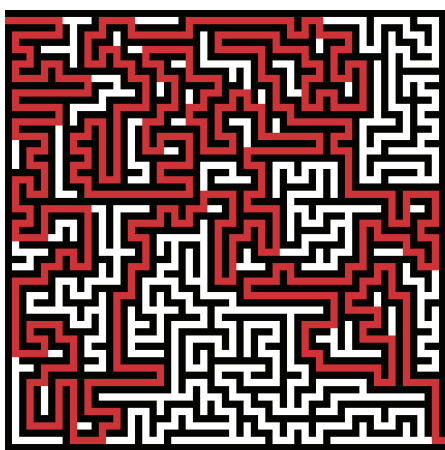
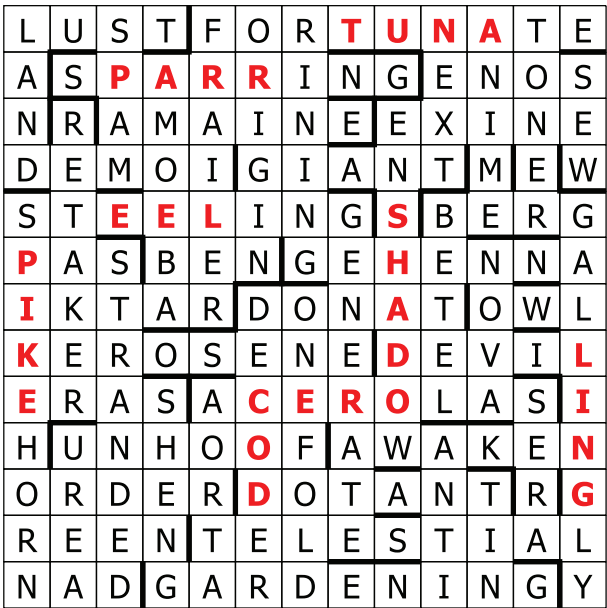
That leaves me with nothing more to say, other than have a fantastic week of crossing, connecting, completing, code-cracking, comic-consuming and competing!

- Ivin

LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Puzzlers	Points (Last week)	
1.	Team GuineaPig	701	512
2.	Team Experial	318	282
3.	Bobby Tables	299	186
4.	The Menu	288	288
5.	Tactless Tony	116	116
6.	Team Doors Doors	99	85
7.	Hidden Variables	81	51
8.	The Northerners of Acton	74	66

Previous Puzzles' solutions



Cryptogram

“My old grandmother always used to say, ‘summer friends will melt away like summer snows, but winter friends are friends forever’”

Anagram: Internals = Lannister

A Feast for Crows by George R.R. Martin

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.

SPORT

Crystal Palace FA Cup Triumph: History Makers

The win marks Palace’s first major honour in their 119 year club history.

Sport Editor
LILA HARRISON

Eberechi Eze made a late run into the box to knock home a Daniel Munoz cut-back cross in the 16th minute of the FA Cup final last Saturday. Ultimately, it would win Crystal Palace their first major honour.

As I graced across London on a pub crawl that same day, peering at pub televisions to check the score, or glancing at BBC iPlayer with a fellow football fan, I got the sense that all of London was behind Palace. They had not conceded a goal since the round of 16. They had accomplished convincing victories over Stockport, Doncaster Rovers, local rivals Millwall, fellow mid-table club Fulham, and Champion’s League-positioned Aston Villa. They had been brave in possession when they needed to be, with frontman Mateta proving to be clutch throughout the campaign.

Ultimately, their performance was a win for the sport. It was a win against the football monopolies, it was a win for South London, and it was a win for the hearts and minds of football’s most beloved followers.

Oliver Glasner spoke at full-time to say: “I don’t know. I don’t feel it’s a legacy. I’m just part of an amazing group and we achieved everything together, so I don’t think that it’s a legacy”.

“We’re all defined by our character. Everyone. The players as well, of course. Everybody of us has different talents. These people, they have a great talent.

They can play football quite well”.

“But we are defined not by what we are doing. We are defined by our character. This is what they are: they are outstanding. I mention it so often. And this is what they showed. The togetherness. Always supporting the group. Always having the team on the top”.

Brighton fans may have something to say about that potential red card, however. The importance of the Palace goalkeeper, Dean Henderson, cannot be understated.

He was the player of the match, making multiple outstanding interventions as well as saving Omar Marmoush’s penalty. However, a promising counter-attacking opportunity from Erling Haaland had a controversial ending. Dean Henderson appeared to have left his goalkeeping area, intervening with his hands: purely against the laws of the game. VAR did not send the referee, Stuart Attwell, to the screen.

Henderson admitted: “I didn’t know it was for me in all honesty. I knew it came

into the box. I wasn’t sure what they were doing it for. I asked Chilly (Ben Chillwell) down the side who they were doing it for and he said yeah but who cares? It doesn’t matter. I’m not bothered.”

Maybe it was fated that Henderson would be rewarded for his outstanding performances. In an emotional statement to BBC Sport, he shared: “I lost my dad at the start of the season, but he was with me today. He was with me every kick of the game. I dedicate that win to him.



Line-ups for the FA Cup 2025 Final. The game finished 1-0, with Eze scoring a counter-attacking goal after 16 minutes. S.A. Julio, Carlos Yo

