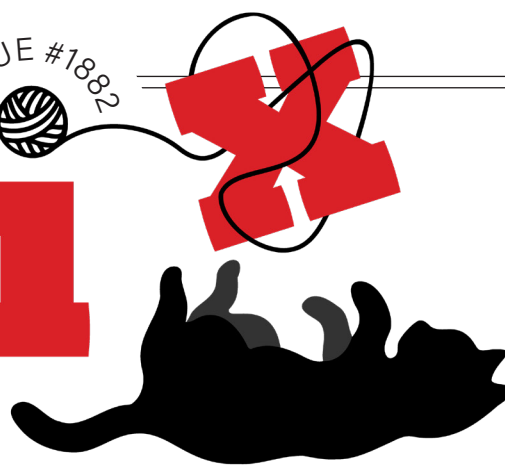




Felix

KEEP THE CAT FREE | SINCE 1949

ISSUE #1882



“A breakdown in College governance”: more hiccups in the pay dispute

Strikes continue as staff unions accuse College of discreetly doing away with recommendations from 2018 pay benchmarking working group.

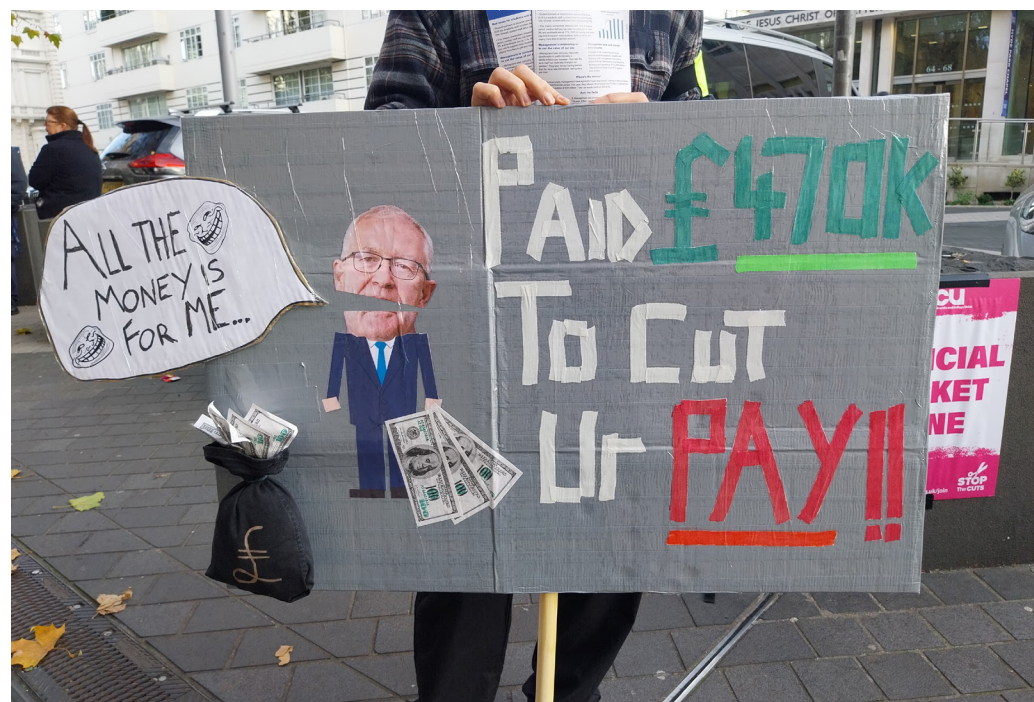
Editor-in-Chief
GUILLAUME FELIX

The Joint Trades Union (JTU) has called for an investigation after it accused the College of repeatedly failing to disclose when its decision to set aside recommendations from a working group on pay benchmarks was taken.

In 2018, a Pay Benchmarking Working Group, led by Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Professor Nigel Brandon, was set up to review Imperial's pay grades.

According to information from the JTU, which represents all three of Imperial's staff unions, then-President Alice Gast said in September 2018 that “Professor Brandon reported on the Group's progress to Provost's Board this week and we will share their final recommendations in due course.”

However, the JTU says the conclusions of this working group were never made public. According to Professor Thomas Pike, with whom a draft of the recommendations was shared, the group “recommended that pay for academic, research and teaching staff be benchmarked at the upper quartile of national comparators and the median of



A sign held by one of the picketers on 13th November, showing College President Hugh Brady. Brady was paid £375,000 in 2024, as part of remuneration package worth £461,000 in total.

international comparators”.

This differs from Imperial's stated policy, which is currently to pay “in the median-to-upper quartile” of national benchmarks, and not strictly in the upper quartile. The benchmarking strategy does not appear to include international benchmarks either.

As part of the recent pay dispute, Imperial College Management initially claimed that the benchmark used for their controversial pay offer was “consistent

with the principles established in 2018 by the Pay Benchmarking Working Group”, according to the JTU.

The JTU alleges that management subsequently rectified that “only some of their [the group's] principles” had been adopted, following a July 2021 Provost's Board decision not to implement the working group's recommendations in full. However, the JTU noted that a “July

→ READ MORE ON 5

SCIENCE

Interview: Imperial team wins gold at iGEM 2025

→ READ MORE ON 8

COMMENT

Britain's political battle royale

→ READ MORE ON 10

FILM & TV

Felix reviews alumnus-directed “Fires & Fascism”

→ READ MORE ON 13

BOOKS

When the buzzing stops: how to curb the insect apocalypse

→ READ MORE ON 15

LIFESTYLE

How much did you sleep last night?

→ READ MORE ON 17

Want to know what's going on around campus?

Sign up to our newsletter by joining the society with 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:
GUILLAUME FELIX
Editor-in-Chief

Copyeditors

Mohammad Majlisi	Tarun Nair
Anna Richardson	Nivethan Sathananthan
Isaac Hsiung	
Isabella Duchovny	
Hania Irzyk	

The Felix Team:



GUILLAUME FELIX
Editor-in-Chief,
News Editor



MOHAMMAD MAJLISI
Chair,
Editor-at-large



ADITI MEHTA
Deputy Editor-in-Chief,
Books Editor



TARUN NAIR
Chief Copyeditor



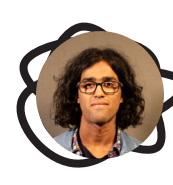
JULIETTE FLATAU
Treasurer,
Graphic Designer



ISABELLA DUCHOVNY
News Editor



SIJUNG LEE
Film & TV Editor,
Social Secretary



OSCAR MITCHAM
Environment Editor



DAVID LATIMER
Puzzles Editor



NADEEN DAKA
Comment Editor



ALIA FRIEDMAN
Business Editor



SOPHIE DEMARÉ
Business Editor



GILBERT JACKSON
Arts Editor Emeritus



HANIA IRZYK
Science Editor



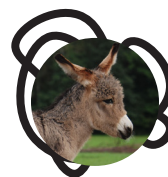
CRISTINA CARRILLO
Science Editor



LILA HARRISON
Sport Editor



BEGÜM YENER
Societies Editor



IZABELLA REA
Lifestyle Editor



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*

Print advertising

SIZE	PRICE (£)	
	Imperial CSPs	External advertiser
Quarter-Page	25	55
Half-Page	30	75
Full-Page	45	110

Contact us

News felix@ic.ac.uk
 Books books.felix@ic.ac.uk
 Film&TV film.felix@ic.ac.uk
 Societies societies.felix@ic.ac.uk
 Comment comment.felix@ic.ac.uk
 Puzzles puzzles.felix@ic.ac.uk
 Lifestyle travel.felix@ic.ac.uk
 Sport sport.felix@ic.ac.uk
 Environment environment.felix@ic.ac.uk
 Science science.felix@ic.ac.uk
 Business felix.business@ic.ac.uk

EDITORIAL

International fees: short-term manna, long-term trap.

The UK government seems determined to enact a 6% “levy” (more poli-speak to avoid the electorate-angering “tax”) on international fees, which would, according to the Imperial President Hugh Brady, cost Imperial an estimated £26 million to the College. “We have lobbied hard against this and will continue to do so,” Brady said in mid-October.

I commend him for that, because this levy is set to be a disaster not just for Imperial, but for the higher education sector as a whole. The Home Office itself estimated the policy would immediately result in a yearly reduction of around 14,000 overseas students nationwide, while the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) found that it would come at a cost of £621 million across the higher education sector.

Brady said Imperial would not raise overseas fees by an equivalent amount, for which I commend him again (although I will believe it only when I see it). But Imperial is a uniquely moneyed institution that can afford to absorb some taxation whims; across the higher education sector, however, the levy will most likely translate into a 6% fee increase.

The purpose of the levy is ostensibly to fund maintenance loans targeted to low-income students – a sensible proposal, without a doubt. Some suspect more political motives: an acquaintance speculated that with this move, Starmer was making

universities more dependent on international fees, thereby limiting a future Farage government’s room for manoeuvre when it comes to anti-immigration policies. Hum.

Whether the intentions are political or not, British universities are now financially chained to international fees. According to HEPI, the English higher education sector receives £10.3 billion a year in overseas fees, with universities like Imperial, UCL and LSE receiving more than three-quarters of their tuition income from internationals.

A dazzling sum, isn’t it? A godsent stash for universities... and a financial nightmare for internationals. For those not blessed with a “beautiful bloo” passport at birth, the price to pay for a single year of an Imperial degree currently hovers around £41,000. That’s £123,000 for a whole three-year degree (although the sum is adjusted yearly for “inflation”, mind you).

Not only is this a ridiculous amount of money to ask of anyone for ten hours of lectures a week, it creates unhealthy dynamics within the student body. Some of Imperial’s national societies increasingly look like jet-set reunion parties, where millionaires from around the world greet their high school friends.

In the long term, the British economy won’t benefit from this, because, surprise surprise, wealthier people aren’t always smarter. High fees are obviously a huge barrier to letting the sharpest minds into

the country. Rich kids dropping a hundred grands in the UK before zooming back home (it’s not like graduate visa system is particularly welcoming) is not how you overcome the *FT*’s periodical “UK economy unexpectedly contracted by X.X% in [Month]”, either.

High fees will also erode the country’s soft power. A “British education” is a sought-after label and the dream of children and parents all over the world. It is now at risk of becoming a pay-to-win tinsel.

What’s more, a dependence on foreign students is a dependence on foreign powers. Earlier this month, it was revealed that a human rights researcher from Sheffield Hallam University (SHU), Professor Laura Murphy, was unexpectedly asked by her institution to stop publishing papers on Uyghur forced labour in China.

Murphy was bewildered, until a freedom of information request revealed that Chinese security-service agents had been pressuring her colleagues in China, and – most importantly in the eyes of the university – blocked SHU’s domain in the country. No internet domain equating to no student applications, this was an open threat to severe one of the university’s most crucial sources of income... and the university folded.

Not a great look for the country that all but invented liberalism and human rights.

VACANCIES

We are looking for new contributors! Felix is a volunteer-run newspaper open to all Imperial students. Its survival depends on your enthusiasm! If you’re interested in one of the roles below, or want to contribute in any other way, get in touch with us!

Copyeditors

Illustrators, cartoonists & graphic designers

Social media managers

Webmasters

Photographers

Sound & video editors

Advertisement officers

Writers

News

Comment

Business & Finance

Arts & Culture

Environment

Science & Technology

Societies

Books

Film & TV

Lifestyle

Sports

Scan the QR code below to email us:



NEWS

OT Interviews: Anson To, Deputy President for Welfare

The former LGBTQ+ officer discusses affordability, tailored therapy and advocacy.

Editor-in-Chief
GUILLAUME FELIX

I am going on a ramble now," Anson warns me as we start discussing mental health policy, "because this is something that's always in my brain. I like thinking about it, but I don't think I ever reached a solid conclusion."

From the beginning, I can feel Anson is passionate about their work – their answers reveal the stream of consciousness of a fervent advocate. Last year, in addition to serving as the Bioengineering wellbeing representative, Anson was elected as the Union's LGBTQ+ liberation officer. "It's a 'complaining and then make an impact' kind of role," they tell me. "So I really enjoyed that."

Anson then decided to "look at the bigger picture" and eyed the role of Deputy President (Welfare). "One of the main reasons [for running] was that I wanted to make good use of the privilege I have, and work on addressing the issues I've seen affect my friends at Imperial," Anson shares after the interview. "It's something I've seen or experienced and I feel connected to these causes." Running unopposed, they won with a manifesto that focused on affordability and student support.

This starts with a unified, coordinated and responsive welfare support system, at every level. Anson emphasises the importance of communication for the role, be it through the WhatsApp groupchats they organise with reps, or through direct contact with students. "I want to be approachable. I hope I am

approachable so people can just come up to me and be like, 'Hi, this is happening – what can I do?' And I'd be more than happy to help them."

Anson campaigned on promises to lower food costs for students, with a focus on the introduction of a greater choice of affordable, filling foods at campus eateries. "I'm dedicated to talking about how they can work towards bringing value for money food while also not losing on the food quality."

This could be achieved via a food subscription, allowing the College to better estimate the number of consumers on a given day, and make economies that can translate to cost cuts.

Expanding the "savers menu" options, which encompass simple and affordable items, is another way to lower food costs.

"I'm not saying that they should take out the premium options, or bring those prices down and lose quality on those premium options," Anson explains.

"But we can have soup, or lentils, curry..."

Personally, one of my

favourite staple meals is tomato-egg stir fry." That way, students looking to save can enjoy more than "just soup and burrito for like five days in a row," the status quo.

Anson isn't convinced that the freshly arrived Pret is very "student friendly," either: "I personally believe it should be Greg's, I can't lie," they confess.

Their manifesto also pushed for improving the College's welfare support, under the beautifully alliterated slogan "Strengthen Student Support Services" (such talent could be used at Felix, but unfortunately I doubt Anson has the time.)

Anson recognises that therapy is not one-size-fits-all, and is keen on reinforcing what they call "culturally sensitive counselling." They tell

me of a scene from the Netflix TV series *Beef*, in which characters discuss how a "Western" style of therapy is less effective with members of the East-Southeast Asian (ESEA) diaspora. "That really

seemed to hit," recalls Anson.

"People seem to be more open talking about mental health as we look across the generations, but if we look at how that differs across cultures and ethnicities, I think from my observation there is definitely a difference." Anson would therefore like for cultural sensitivity to be "a requirement in the job description of people that they [ICU] are hiring."

And in spite of progress, shame and fear of judgment remain barriers to those seeking help. "I think there are layers of in which we can look at stigma. Stigma within ourselves – are we happy with thinking about mental health or looking up something about mental health? And the second layer – am I comfortable talking to my family or peers about mental health? ... And if there's also stigma and misunderstanding around, say, 'If I have this on the record, or if I take a year out from my studies for my mental health, is my employer going to know? Is my employer not going to hire me for it?'"

On the subject of employment, I ask Anson what they would see themselves doing when the year is over. "I am having an existential crisis," Anson reflects, relatably. They interned as a technician at the London International Festival of Theatre, and have "quite seriously" considered working as a lighting designer or technician. "I definitely want to make an impact in what I do," they conclude, "to keep working on advocacy-related work." What better medium than theatre?



Imperial College Union

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

2021 statement from the then Provost confirmed the use of international benchmarks for relevant roles, entirely in keeping with the 2018 principles.”

According to the J TU, the College later clarified the decision had actually been taken during an April 2021 Provost’s Board meeting, the summary of which was confidential. The J TU affirmed that this summary, which they say had previously been made public, did not explicitly rule that only some of the recommendations would be adopted.

“We don’t know if this is an official decision or if they’ve just lifted the carpet and swept [the recommendations] underneath,” a member of UCU, one of Imperial’s staff unions, told *Felix*. “Where are all the ‘College Values’?”

The J TU called for an independent investigation to determine “how and why” the working group recommendation were set aside. They said the management’s inability to provide a paper trail showed a “breakdown in College governance” and constituted a “serious failure of stewardship of staff views”.

An Imperial College London Spokesperson said: “We remain committed to ensuring that staff are appropriately recognised and rewarded for the vital role they play. In uncertain times it is important that we plan for the long-term future of our institution for the benefit of our students and staff.”

Thursday 13th November marked the fifth day of strikes for the J TU, which obtained a six-month mandate in September. “They’re not even acknowledging us,” a member of Unite, another union, told *Felix* at the picket line. “It’s not a good look for a world-class university.”

“I fully expect that if nothing comes through from management by way of flexibility, there will be another ballot,” another striker told *Felix*. “Last time, this included a marking boycott and not replacing [striking] lecturers.”

Separately, the Union Council called on Thursday for a vote on an extraordinary motion to support the strikes. The motion, which should be voted on by Sunday 16th November, aims to “support University staff and workers participating in industrial action”.

Did you miss it?

The Felix Internship Survey is open!

We want **you** to share your experience finding, applying for and working at internships. The results will be shared in a *Felix* special feature.

The quiz is anonymous, short, mostly multiple choice, and all questions are skippable. Scan the QR code on the right to get going!



SCIENCE

The need for speed and carbon neutrality: F1 2026

Redesigned energy management, fully sustainable fuel and more to be expected next season in Formula 1's most sweeping rules change to date.

Science Editor

CRISTINA CARRILLO

Formula 1 has long been recognised as one of the prime examples of engineering, in both its frantic search for technical perfection and harmonious demonstration of the power of teamwork and consistency. With only three races left in the 2025 calendar, all eyes (that are not hyper focused on the most riveting driver's championship battle since 2021) are looking at next season – and the changes it will bring for the 22 drivers, hundreds of engineers and millions of fans.

A quick look back to the past

The 2014 season introduced hybrid power units, a revolutionarily sophisticated system that combines an internal combustion

engine with an electric recovery system. The latter is formed of two motor/generator units (MGUs): one that harvests electric energy upon braking (MGU-K) and another that recovers energy from hot exhaust gases that drive the turbine (MGU-H). These parts work in unison to form an energy loop, ensuring efficient recovering, storage and deployment.

Half electric, fully transformed

2026 will see Formula 1's most sweeping overhaul in a decade, at the core of which are engine changes. The design will now honour simplicity, eliminating the MGU-H and increasing the maximum power output of the MGU-K by almost three-fold. This brings the electric system to around half of the car's total power, as opposed to the previous 80-20 split. The total output will approach 1,000 horsepower, compared to the 900 since 2014 (and the 150

horsepower found in typical road cars...we're talking speed!). Managing such energy flow brings engineering challenges in the temperature management of the batteries and controlling energy release: the car now relies entirely on braking events for harvesting, so must balance energy use carefully across a lap.

Once a modest regenerative assistance, MGU-K will now act as the brain of the car, with engineers using this opportunity to rewrite the overtaking aids.

For almost 15 years, the drag reduction system (famously known as DRS) was the only component of the car that could increase airflow mid-race and increase speeds down allowed straights by up to 30km/h, delivering countless race-determining overtakes and battles. To accompany the renewed MGU-K, this system will be substituted by mobile elements in the front and rear wings that will allow opportunistic storing and deploying of the electric energy. The car will now be in either straightline mode, operating with low air



resistance and deploying up to 350kW energy to the rear wings, or cornering mode, where the car will focus on harvesting that energy during braking, the MGU-K acting as a generator. The previous drag reduction system was only allowed to be used when a car was within one second of the car ahead: this new system is now track position-independent, which should allow for drivers to catch up to each other quicker and deliver more fights.

Aerodynamics, hybrid systems, and control electronics aren't separate tools anymore but all part of one energy management ecosystem where the MGU-K dictates how the car uses air, grip, and speed.

Racing toward net zero with 100% sustainable fuel

Another change introduced in 2014 was E10 fuel, consisting of 90% fossil gasoline and 10% renewable ethanol derived from plants. While nodding toward sustainability, its heavy reliance on crude oil was not enough to achieve the FIA's (Formula 1's governing body) objective of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.

2026 rules introduce fully sustainable fuel that can be used in any combustion energy without modification, especially relevant considering there will be a record-breaking six confirmed engine suppliers on the grid. The fuel will consist of non-food, non-fossil carbon sources, like captured carbon dioxide and farming industry or household waste. The carbon dioxide taken from the atmosphere or waste streams used for fuel production will equal the amount emitted from the tailpipe upon combustion, establishing this ecological measure under the net-zero, closed-carbon loop umbrella and not as a zero emissions solution.

The hierarchy between these top cars and the billions of road cars is interestingly reversed when it comes to fuel testing: F1 is being used as a testbed for large-scale synthetic fuel development by F1's current fuel suppliers (e.g. Shell and Aramco). Because the cars work at extreme

temperatures and engine revolutions, if a fuel works reliably under

race conditions, it will be much more obviously applicable to vehicles where electrification is harder, like heavy transport, as well as for regular road cars.

Race by race, lap by lap

Smaller, narrower, lighter cars combined will show 55% less air resistance, and their quicker acceleration will also mean a higher speed down straights. However, cars will be more constrained on corners due to energy limits, making the expected lap time for cars around one second per lap slower at the start of next season. The alleged creative freedom allowed by the FIA to the engineering teams should however bring exciting new upgrades throughout the March-November 2026 championship.

Some tracks will not produce enough energy to maximise power on all the straights, leading to a flashing warning light shown in the car known as clipping. Because the battery is now responsible for more of the power delivered to the car, clipping is a more obvious issue. For this, the FIA has implemented a case-by-case regulation of the rate at which the energy can be used from the battery in these more draining tracks e.g. the classic Monza Grand Prix.

With the FIA also limiting maximum battery charge, the qualifying sessions, which determine the order in which the cars begin the race, should be more focused on a "pure expression of aggression", as expressed in the FIA press release. With higher electrical power and deployment strategies, qualifying could see a wider range of lap times, rewarding drivers who better understand battery management and thermal limits.

What to expect on track

With drivers themselves being responsible for the switch between straightline and cornering mode and a completely redesigned MGU-K role with much more sophisticated energy management, the 2026 F1 model has received plenty of online backlash since the FIA press release in June. One of the main criticisms aligns with driver Lance Stroll's opinion, stating that such complexity is neither necessary nor wanted, as he stated he remains hopeful for "less of an energy/battery/championship science project, more of just a Formula 1 racing championship". Charles Leclerc, who drove the simulator upon tests earlier this year, described the experience as very far from simply lovely: "it's not the most enjoyable racing car I've ever driven".

So, is the future of racing really in danger?

While the only thing we can do is keep watching, it is safe to say that mastering these new drastic changes demands a racecraft that combines mental stamina with mechanical expertise from both the drivers and engineers. Starting March 2026, the new regulations, if anything, promise change. Any setbacks, learning curves, or unforgiving moments will

THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

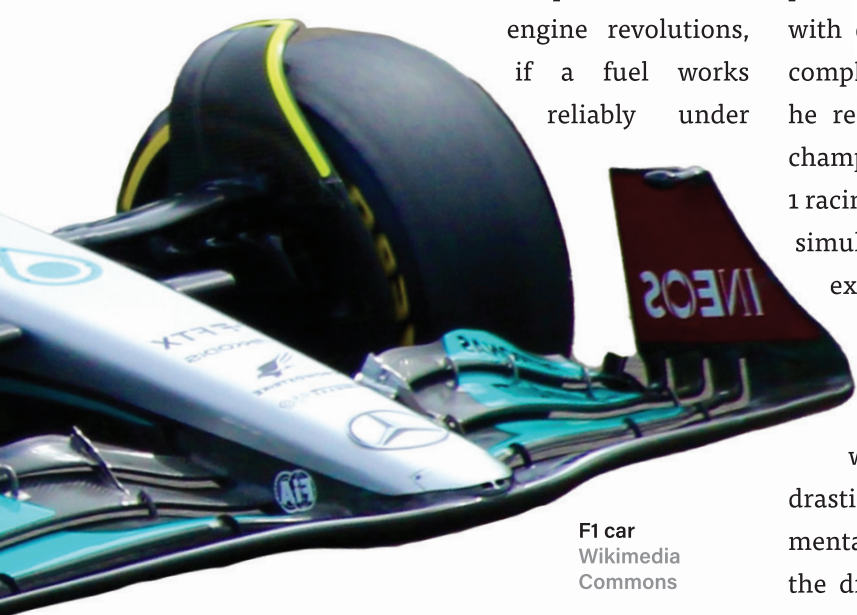
Imperial spin-out Bumblebee Power awarded project to advance wireless power transmission by UK Space Agency - Dhruv Mathur

Bumblebee Power, a spin-out from research in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering developing Inductive Wireless Power Transfer (IWPT), has been awarded a project in collaboration with space mission partner MDA Space to advance power transmission for applications in outer space.

The project originated from the work of Professor Paul Mitcheson and Dr David Yates at the Wireless Power Lab in 2021, which was founded using £5 million in research funding. They develop efficient charging for electric vehicles (EVs) and e-mobility. Bumblebee's core innovation relies on using high frequency waves to link devices much more powerfully than other contactless charging solutions: having worked with Pashley Cycles and Voi to build charging bays for the e-bike and e-scooter rental agencies respectively and NexBlue on EV chargers (of which 11,000 were installed during 2023-24), the team now focuses on space technology.

Robots in space face restricted mobility and the danger of space debris (e.g. lunar dust and sandstorms on Mars). The project's inception came from representatives of MDA Space, specializing in satellites and robotics, who recognized the potential of Mitcheson's and Yates' work to target wirelessly powering rovers and autonomous machines.

serve as testaments that even the best in the world aren't perfect, one of the longest-standing moral lessons of the pinnacle of motorsport – which should probably be more present amongst us Imperial students!



F1 car
Wikimedia
Commons

Volunteering at iGEM 2025

Felix writer Begüm Yener shares her experiences being a volunteer and interviewing the Imperial team who won the Gold Medal this year.

Science Writer
BEGÜM YENER

Imagine using genetic editing to cast problems away, to find our way through societal advancements. Synthetic biology is an avenue of science that offers this exact promise by engineering new biological systems. The term “synthetic biology” was first used in the 1910s by Stéphane Leduc, but the great advancements in biological engineering didn’t blossom until the 1980s. iGEM became the playground for novel ideas in synthetic biology in 2004, and the notion of editing the principles of life itself became more accessible. The competition is attended by undergraduate, postgraduate, and even high school students, and the Jamboree this year took place last week between 28th and 31st October.

The Jamboree started in 2004 in Boston with only 54 participants. This year, there were more than 9,000 participants from over 40 countries, and the Jamboree has been taking place in the Paris Convention Center since 2022. iGEM is not only for students but also for the greater synthetic biology community. That includes industry specialists like representatives from *Oxford Nanopore* and the journal *Frontiers*, academics from all over the world such as Professor Chris Voig from MIT and Professor Wataru Aoki from the University of Osaka, and founders of startups that began as iGEM projects. The Jamboree, besides the obvious competition, is an incredibly insightful event full of opportunities to meet like-minded and inspiring people. The event was also enhanced by BioWeek, where tangent events took place in various venues in Paris.

But... how did I get there? I’ve been interested in synthetic biology and have known about iGEM since high school – even had some hopes of starting a team then. To me it seemed like, and still seems like, the coolest application of life sciences and the closest science has come to sorcery. When the opportunity arose to take part in the Jamboree as a volunteer, for free, I applied immediately. Coincidentally, my friend Audrey applied as a volunteer as well, so we had the chance to work together. A volunteer team of approximately 140 people, we oversaw every aspect of the event, from

gifting speakers to selling merchandise. As a volunteer, I was fortunate enough to have shifts helping teams give their talks in *Plazas* which gave me insight on what the teams this year were working on.

The event was divided into *Plazas/Zones* and *Villages* within those *Plazas*, in order to categorise projects by their aims and target areas. The four main *Zones* were Environment, Fabrication, Advancement, and Healthcare, which encompassed 15 *Villages* focused on specified topics within these.

During the Jamboree, I also had a chance to meet Imperial’s iGEM team for this year and ask them some questions about their experiences in iGEM. The team, comprised of students from biochemistry, biomedical engineering, molecular bioengineering, and medical biosciences, has embarked on a project to make cultivated meat more feasible and sustainable, a goal with significant environmental implications. Team leads Szonjaa Skenderovic and Yeline Idir, alongside fellow members Frederick Steinmann and Aki Gohdo, shared how their multidisciplinary approach has shaped every stage of their project. Their efforts began with a broad idea, gradually refined through extensive research and outreach to industry professionals. Early on, the group identified growth factors as the primary bottleneck in the process of cultivated meat production. By investigating more efficient and scalable ways to produce these crucial components, the team aimed to bridge the gap between academic research and industrial application.

One standout aspect of their journey has been the team’s commitment to *human practices*, a part of each project that iGEM really cares about. Human practices aim to connect academia, business, and industry and reveal the disconnect that often exists between them. Through interviews and collaboration, the team discovered that industry trade secrets can prevent academic researchers from accessing vital knowledge, leading to duplicate efforts and missed opportunities for innovation.

As a result of their efforts, the Imperial team was once again awarded the Gold Medal, showing excellence beyond what is required for general biological engineering and chosen specializations. ‘Getting

Gold feels like the right way to end a year that pushed us to our limits and reminded us what belief and persistence can do,’ Skenderovic told *Felix*.

Their road to success was not without obstacles. The team faced strict university regulations on lab access, requiring supervision that limited their working hours and slowed their experiments. Administrative hurdles and unfamiliarity with novel yeast strains further tested their flexibility and organization. But despite the setbacks, they sparked curiosity for what is ahead for Imperial’s iGEM legacy and advancements in synthetic biology.

‘Growf was never just a university project; it will keep guiding each of our paths of growth through the opportunities it opened,’ Skenderovic said.

Attending this event and being willing to miss lectures at arguably one of the busiest times of the year was a huge leap of faith for me, and I am very glad I took it. To anyone reading this article and considering going for something that feeds their intellectual appetite, I would say go for it, as every missed recording will be worth it after all (and if it is in Paris, that is a huge plus). If you are interested in being a part of the team this year, the applications are closed, but they are managed by the SynBio Society at Imperial. Volunteering opportunities, however, open around August.



iGEM team Begüm Yener for *Felix*

BUSINESS

EU sustainability disclosure “earthquake” leaked

Leaked draft of European Commission’s Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) revamp shows reform of many of its most controversial features.

Business Editor
SOPHIE DEMARÉ

The leak, first reported by *Responsible Investor* on November 6th, came weeks before the Commission is set to formally review the regulation on November 19th.

SFDR has applied to sustainable funds managed out of the European Union since 2021. Originally intended to combat greenwashing among investment managers, many in the industry have complained that complying is confusing, expensive work.

Goodbye, PAIs?

One of the most bemoaned requirements of the current regulation is entity-level

reporting on 14 mandatory Principal Adverse Impact indicators (PAIs), which entail a hefty administrative toll on investment teams. The leak suggests this requirement might be abandoned.

However, PAI critics shouldn’t get too



Investors have had a hard time understanding what a “sustainable investment” actually is

excited. Luciano Asinelli, ESG Regulation Analyst at Impact Cubed, told *Felix* that “PAI indicators themselves are expected to remain as the quantitative backbone of SFDR 2.0.” Just how they will live on in the

new regime will be of particular interest to investors.

More labels, less confusion?

The reported reshuffle of existing sustainable fund categories has also caused a stir. Investors currently rely on the Commission’s definition of “sustainable investments” for fund classification – “dark green” Article 9 funds must ensure that 100% of holdings meet this criteria.

The problem is that investors have had a hard time understanding what a “sustainable investment” actually is. Seemingly attempting to respond to this confusion, the Commission is said to be scrapping this definition and instead mandating that 70% of holdings in sustainable funds meet more clearly articulated guidelines. A new “transition”

category is also set to be announced, where investors must demonstrate that holdings “meet a clear and measurable transition objective.”

Asinelli says that this marks “a shift from qualitative to quantitative justification” at the heart of the regulation, and that it “limits the potential for overstated environmental or social claims.” He states: “The clearer categories should reduce compliance costs while improving cross-market consistency, narrowing the gap between regulatory ambition and operational feasibility.”

What’s next?

Whilst the Commission has not commented on the leak, investors will be keen to find out if these changes will go ahead. Law firm Simmons & Simmons professed that the leaked draft represents an “earthquake” for Europe’s ESG regulation space. Many would certainly welcome the lowered administrative burden entailed by the overhaul, though questions remain about the precise details of the reforms.

Time will tell – Asinelli says investors should anticipate “a phased implementation rather than an abrupt switch.” In the meantime, he says “the prudent move for asset managers now is to start mapping their current Article 8 and 9 products to the proposed categories, identifying data gaps, and preparing to substantiate sustainability claims through transparency, indicator-level evidence once the final rules are in place.”

Jittery market sells AI stocks *Sophie Demaré*

You might be wondering why a photo of Christian Bale is featured in this week’s *Felix Business* news piece (a proud moment for him, I’m sure). The trader played by Bale in the 2015 film *The Big Short*, Michael Burry, has been blamed by media outlets for the sell-off in major tech stocks that happened last week. This comes after he announced a \$1.1 bn short position on Nvidia and Palantir, citing his worries about a growing AI bubble.

The reality is that Burry is not the only one voicing his concerns. The market has been particularly jumpy in recent times due to concerns about astronomical capital expenditures into AI growth by the tech majors - spending which has not yet been validated by significant returns on investment. The heads of Morgan Stanley and Goldman

Sachs warned investors last week that a 10-20% equity market correction is looming, and JPMorgan boss Jamie Dimon said in October that he was “far more worried than others” that markets would crash in the near future.

All of this rhetoric has caused investors to have their hand on the panic button, ready for whenever a big AI-related story makes the headlines. On November 7th the Nasdaq Composite, an index that is heavily weighted towards tech stocks, recorded its worst weekly run since Trump’s “Liberation Day” tariff announcements in April.

AI major Palantir’s CEO criticised Burry and his fellow short-sellers for “trying to call the AI revolution into question.” However, it looks like AI bosses are going to have to do more to soothe the market’s growing anxiety.



COMMENT

Britain's political Battle Royale

Comment writer Samya Banerjee takes a wry look at UK politics – eight parties, zero direction, and plenty of chaos.

Comment Writer
SAMYA BANERJEE

Here in the wet and weary lands of this United Kingdom, there is a political earthquake poised to happen.

The Conservatives, it's fair to say, have had a tumultuous decade and a half dealing with the not-at-all seismic events of Brexit and Covid. Their 14-year reign finally ended in 2024 when Labour stormed into power, winning a whopping 63% of Parliament with just 33% of the vote.

Now, in November 2025, we are in a very different world. The two main parties are in a position where they're being usurped by outsiders amid a populist wave sweeping across Europe. With as many as eight viable parties contesting a single constituency, a party may now win with only 20% of the vote.

Now, let's have a look at the amazing choices we have. It's time to choose your fighter.

Labour: sensible centrism

With their roots in the union movement of the early 1900s, Labour is the main centre-left party in the UK. Leaving behind the love-or-hate (most likely the latter) Corbynite socialism, Labour moved to the mannequin possessed by a badly made AI that is Keir Starmer. Since coming into power in the anti-Tory 2024 election, his radical centrism has made absolutely no one happy, alienating the right on immigration and the left through benefit cuts. Their choice now is either to scrap Starmer for someone more left-wing – like Manchester mayor and traitorous Everton fan Andy Burnham – or to stick behind their current unpopular centrism.



Conservatives: irrelevant conservatism

This historic centre-right party of Winston Churchill has had a tough few years. They've had an incredible PM lineup: David Cameron's resignation after losing a referendum he campaigned on; Theresa May's near-defeat to the "communist" Jeremy Corbyn; Boris Johnson's COVID parties; Liz Truss being outlasted by a literal lettuce; and Rishi Sunak's rain-drenched speeches. Led now by Kemi Badenoch, the Conservatives are desperately fighting Reform as it cannibalises their right flank. They're caught trying to be Reform enough to stay relevant but somehow maintain a distinct identity (what that is, don't ask me). Safe to say, it is not a good time to be a Tory right now.

Reform: populist nationalism

Enter our very own MAGA movement led by the maker of Brexit, Nigel Farage. Love him or hate him, you don't often see someone as charismatic as Mr. Farage. His Reform UK has a simple message: Stop the Boats (i.e. Immigrants). Reform won big in many local councils in May, however, they have now found out – to the surprise of absolutely no one – that governing is quite difficult, from picking between flags and Christmas lights to scrapping departments which don't actually exist. It seems like Farage's popularity may be hitting a plateau, as his party is finding out that delivering on promises is not as easy as it seems.



Liberal Democrats: soft liberalism

Historically moderate, the Lib Dems have now become an angry pro-EU protest vote which has managed to outflank Labour to its left. It's hard to define what a Lib Dem is, as the only common thread is a hyper focus on the most random local issues. Led by Ed Davey, who is currently campaigning for the role of stuntman as he throws himself off paddleboards, they managed to secure 72 seats in Parliament. Beware though, for however soft and cuddly they seem, we would do well to remember their 2010 tuition-fees fiasco, which led to the greatest mobilisation of millennial Britons possible without banning avocado toast and Tumblr.

Greens: eco-populism

Previously only relevant in Brighton, where even the houses identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community, the Greens are having a good time right now. Under Zack Polanski, who some say may be Britain's very own Zohran Mamdani, the Greens have taken a battering ram to the Labour left. Promising a blend of traditionally eco-friendly and newly socialist measures, polls have begun to place them level with, or even above, Labour. However, though they inspire the youth in ways not seen since 2017's "Corbynmania," these may just be more empty promises. Nevertheless, the Greens now have a serious shot at becoming the largest force on the British left.

Your Party: anti-capitalism

Consisting of Labour defectors and Independents elected on pro-Palestine messages in 2024, Corbyn and Zarah Sultana's "Your Party" aimed to be a strong voice on the left. However, their track record has been nothing short of a disaster. From jumping the gun on their inaugural announcement to members going rogue and suing each other, this party has managed to spend its entire short existence bickering. It's as if they were a right-



wing psyop trying to confirm every existing stereotype of left-wing infighting and ideological purity tests. This, coupled with the Green's momentum, has left them at risk of fading into irrelevance as fast as they entered the stage.

Scottish National Party (SNP): 'SCOOOTLAND FOREVAHHH' -ism

The SNP kicked Labour out of Scotland in the early 2000s on the promise of independence. Unfortunately for them, the 2014 independence referendum was resoundingly defeated. Now, it would be logical to think that a party which fails at its sole goal would fade into political irrelevance, but that would be underestimating the Scottish love of haggis and hatred of the English.

Though corruption scandals and government mismanagement have led to poor recent election results, they have had a resurgence due to Labour's innate ability to screw up. Under John Swinney, the SNP have tacked left to strengthen their hold on the country, likely to demolish Labour in next year's Scottish elections.

Plaid Cymru: sheepish separatism

Traditionally only popular in the parts of Wales where sheep outnumber humans 3:1, Plaid have witnessed a surge. Wales has, since the Roman empire (give or take), elected Labour MPs to represent them. However, Labour have managed to take their safest seats to a position where they'll be lucky to even stay relevant. In Caerphilly, Labour lost a seat to Plaid which has voted Labour in quite literally every election in its existence. Led by Rhun ap Iorwerth, this movement has turned into a left-wing progressive party, and next year's Welsh Senedd elections seem to be shaping up to be a two-horse race between Plaid and Reform.

So, there you have it: your magnificent menu of political chaos. The battle is on, the fighters are chosen, and the only certainty is a fragmented, and probably very confused, Parliament. Will they bring hope or will they bring destruction? It's probably the latter – but hey, at least we won't be bored. Choose wisely, because in this Battle Royale, it feels like the country – not the politicians – is the one about to be eliminated.

Images: caricatures of British Labour, Reform, and Conservative party members. Ksenia Ivanova

Watson is gone. It's time to remember Rosalind Franklin.

As tributes pour in for James Watson, science must reckon with the woman his legacy eclipsed.

Comment Editor
NADEEN DAKA

Comment Writer
ANUBHA S. BAL

James Watson's death this week has sparked tributes to a "pioneer of genetics". Much of the world is remembering him for his work uncovering the double helical structure of DNA – a dignity in death not afforded to Rosalind Franklin, the scientist whose work made that discovery possible. While Watson's name is etched into the annals of molecular biology, Franklin's remains eclipsed and hidden.

It was Franklin who produced the first clear X-ray image of DNA's structure, now known as "Photo 51." That image, with its ghostly X of diffraction, provided the decisive evidence of a helical molecule, allowing Watson and his colleague, Francis Crick, to build their model of DNA. As a result, in 1962, they shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine alongside a third contributor, Maurice Wilkins.

Decades on, the scientific community has begun restoring Franklin's name to the narrative it once denied her. Yet this feels like an uneasy act of posthumous conscience rather than justice.

Recent historical research, including a 2023 *Nature* reappraisal, suggests that Franklin was not merely a provider of data but an intellectual equal. She independently converged on the same helical conclusions through her own rigorous reasoning, discerning that DNA could adopt multiple conformations and understanding their structural implications. Although information flowed chaotically between Watson and Crick (at Cambridge) and Franklin (at King's), her data was shown to the former group without her consent. This act is emblematic of how women's scientific labour was routinely appropriated.

In 1953, alongside the better-known Cambridge paper published by Watson and Crick, two additional reports appeared in *Nature*: one by Wilkins, and one by Franklin. Together they formed the scaffolding of the discovery, though only the male-published papers were celebrated. Franklin's expertise in X-ray crystallography was often undervalued, and her ideas were excluded from the informal male networks that dominated the field.

Franklin was not simply the unwitting victim of theft, as the myth once told, but a collaborator written out of history. Watson's later memoir, *The Double Helix*, perpetuated this distortion. In it, Franklin appears not as a colleague but as "Rosy," a condescending diminutive for a woman portrayed as obstructive and obtuse. Her portrayal in the book is not just patronising; it is historically dishonest and sexist.

While Franklin was undergoing treatment for her cancer diagnosis, she continued to publish and lead research. She died at only four years before the Nobel was awarded to her male peers. Whatever posthumous recognition she has since received cannot undo the injustice of her omission. Her inspiring story is a cruel reminder of the many women throughout history whose contributions have been forgotten, the magnitude and impact of which we will never know.

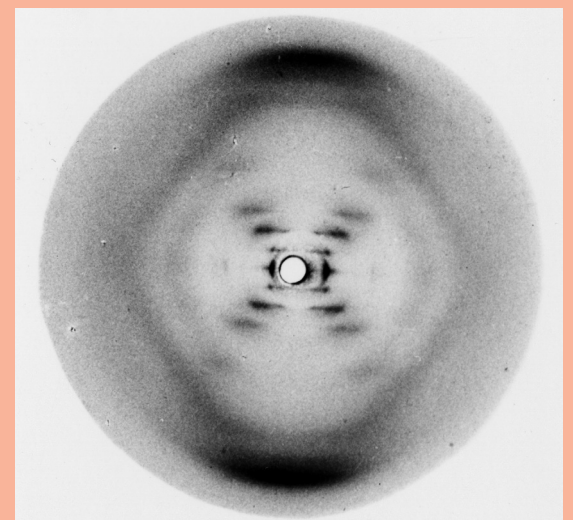


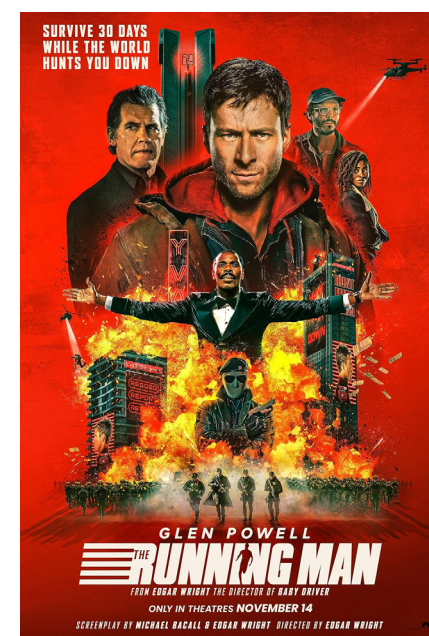
Photo 51, the first X-ray image of DNA.

FILM&TV

The Running Man

What happens when entertainment becomes indistinguishable from the truth?

RELEASE DATE:
14TH NOVEMBER
GENRE:
SCI-FI/ADVENTURE



Film Writer
ADRIEN LASSAU

In his recent adaptation of *The Running Man*, Edgar Wright turns a violent game show into a chilling reflection of our own hunger for spectacle. Beneath the action and laughter he exposes how easy manipulation masquerades as entertainment. Any Stephen King adaptation is bound to be held to a high standard following classics like Kubrick's *The Shining*, and I believe this one rises to the challenge: it establishes its own identity, trading tension for humour.

From the start, it is obvious that Ben Richards, played by Glen Powell, will end up on the *Running Man*. Thanks to Wright's not-so-subtle foreshadowing, a humorous tone is set early on. In a dystopian world where the media outlet CNG controls social, economic, and political life, this humour feels out of place, yet that is part of Wright's genius. It renders the show surreal, less about survival, and more about spectacle. This makes the audience also part of the on-screen audience, both seeking entertainment. Powell perfects the "I don't give a f*ck" attitude, with his defiant grin and witty punchlines that further the theatrical surrealism. Credit must also go to Colman Domingo, acting as Bobby Thompson, whose theatrical voice and physicality make him the perfect on-set presenter, masking the power of the CNG behind the razzle-dazzle.

This humorous action-filled first half fades into a much more serious second part as the media's control, personified through Dan Killian (Josh Brolin), is fully revealed. Events like faking recordings or even manipulating "live" footage bring forth the main theme explored by Wright: media control. The footage becomes a weapon, used to create bloodlust and hatred towards Ben. This breaks the earlier connection as the audience revolts at the lies that the on-screen audience completely eats up. This theme is central to our current world, with our ever-expanding media outlets, fake news,

precedence over human life. Even the action scenes reflect this, as Ben's mortality becomes much more important, in sharp contrast to the earlier scenes that



A violent game show turned into a chilling reflection of our own hunger for spectacle.

seemed to mock the hunters' supposed prowess.

dystopian world it works so hard to create. The ending promises to deliver the long-awaited confrontation between Ben and Dan Killian, but instead avoids resolution, opting for a dissonant return to early humour that breaks the film's atmosphere. Rather than leaving questioning society, I found myself simply wondering what had happened to Ben – a mix of relief and disappointment at the lack of climax. Wright then attempts to rekindle revolutionary bloodlust, but the shift feels hollow, isolating the audience rather than immersing us in the despair and injustice.

Audiences seeking a funny, action-packed dystopian film will find plenty to enjoy in what may be the action movie of the year. Ben Richards' strong-headed defiance recalls that of Katniss Everdeen from *The Hunger Games*, and any fans of this genre will feel right at home. For those seeking the deeper layers, the ending doesn't do the movie justice and undermines much of Wright's early world-building. The concept had a lot of potential in our modern cynical media-driven world and *The Running Man* unfortunately falls short thematically. In the end, it leaves us entertained but perhaps too comfortable.

It is a film about manipulation which ironically lets us off the hook.



Ben Richards (Glen Powell) in *The Running Man* (2025)
© 2025 Paramount Pictures

and "tailored" algorithms. Wright's shift to muted colours and sombre music brings the audience back to the reality of a world where entertainment takes

Wright's film gestures boldly towards a critique of media manipulation, but its action-heavy climax and abrupt ending drain the story of the unease at the

Film Writer KATIA ZYKOVA

After completing a PhD on indoor air pollution at Imperial, Peter Knapp immediately started the production of this film. Focusing on the increasing number and violence of wildfires across Europe, Knapp seeks to push public awareness on how not only climate change, but corruption and far-right politics, contribute to their escalation.

The film is a collection of drone footage and interviews, which together manage to push different perspectives. Both remind the viewer how large-scale the damage they cause is, and also how closely they affect the local population.

He starts in Greece, in the Evros region, where the wall which separates Greece and Turkey is shown slicing the land unnaturally. A wildfire devastated the region in 2023, burning down almost 1,000 square kilometres of the Dadia Forest. Lasting for two weeks, it is the largest wildfire ever recorded in Europe. The government laid the blame on refugees who live in the forest – they mentioned nothing of the fact that nonprofit organisations such as

the Panhellenic Federation of Volunteer Forest Protection and Firefighting Organisations in Athens tend to have more equipment than official fire fighting services. Or that climate change affecting wind patterns, temperature and humidity all compound the issue of larger, longer and deadlier wildfires. In pointing the finger of blame, they rid themselves of responsibility.

Meanwhile in Sicily, fires have been linked to the mafia, who are known to control much of the wind farm construction business. They start fires strategically so that they burn farmland belonging to local, independent owners; once their land is ruined, the farm owners are coerced into selling it to the wind farm companies – that is, the mafia.

In Portugal, the mass industrial planting of eucalyptus trees, which burn more easily than their forest predecessors,

have caused wildfires to start more often and grow much larger. Originally only used for decoration, Portugal is now Europe's biggest eucalyptus pulp and paper producer; it has the largest percentage area of eucalyptus plantations of any country in the world. The revolving door between chief positions in eucalyptus companies and government positions mean that politicians are turning a blind eye to the wildfires, once again avoiding blame.

Knapp documents all of these situations – more importantly though, he talks to people who live in the local areas. The action the people are taking to combat the fires and their effects is in-

spiringly shown through montages of protests and through footage joining them in their initiatives. In Portugal, people have started uprooting the eucalyptus mass; in Sicily, a landscape gardener explains how wearing hi-vis jackets at locations where the mafia might start a fire have prevented any fires from breaking out in those regions; and public assemblies such as the one we see held by Lisa, a citizen of Palermo, have encouraged people to make sure their voice is heard.

Overall, this was a very informative, well-researched documentary, where the real merit lies in the space the local people are given to tell their story.

Film Writer PRITHVI SHREE

What emerged from three months of director and Imperial alumnus Pete Knapp journeying across Europe, gathering testimonies from those living through recurring wildfires, followed by nine months of careful editing, is *Fires & Fascism*: a documentary shaped by necessity, empathy, and deep political awareness.

The film opens with haunting aerial shots of scorched Sicilian landscapes. Local voices echo in the background, setting a somber tone, before a sudden siren blares and the film's title flashes across the screen. Knapp appears next, standing before London's Grenfell Tower, a stark symbol of state neglect. He

mit, I once believed windmills and trees were always signs of hope. Knapp shows us how even the best intentions can be twisted when profit comes first.

Some of the most moving moments explore identity and loss. One woman shares that she is no longer allowed to gather herbs, a simple act that once connected her to the land. Another discusses young activists criticised for causing "disruption," while they simply seek to prevent disasters that later bring far greater chaos. In Greece, communities have started networks to warn each other at the first sign of smoke – a fragile but inspiring example of human resilience.

These stories are framed by a political science professor from the University of Bath, who presents data on the rise of far-right movements across Europe.

Watching *Fires & Fascism* left me with a swirl of emotions: sadness for what we've lost, anger at those who exploit it, and fear of what is still to come. Yet Knapp leaves a glimmer of hope, showing that awareness, solidarity, and truth-telling can still matter in the face of devastation.

Fires & Fascism

A documentary film on wildfires directed by Imperial alumnus Pete Knapp

shares why this story matters to him, not just as a Londoner, but as someone whose family in Canada could be affected by fires thousands of miles away. In this way, the film makes the climate crisis feel immediate and personal.

The documentary journeys through southern Europe: Soufli near the Greece-Turkey border, Spain, Portugal, and Italy. In one powerful moment, a woman at the border says the wall dividing Greece and Turkey is just a distraction, shifting blame away from those truly responsible. Governments and corporations profit while the earth burns. In Italy, locals share how the mafia took advantage of renewable energy projects, building windmills for profit rather than progress. In Portugal, paper companies planted vast eucalyptus forests, calling it reforestation, but in reality, these plantations turned the land into tinder. I'll ad-



Screened at the Imperial Union
Cinema on 3rd November

Kontinental '25

BFI London Film Festival 2025

A portrait of a city of contrasts

Film Writer
ADRIANA TIHAN

One of the lesser-known screenings from this year's BFI Film Festival, *Kontinental '25*, takes us on a tour of Cluj Napoca, Romania: one of the rising IT capitals of Europe, where the contrasts and contradictions of neoliberalism and the digital age are ever so poignant. Radu Jude takes on the issue of housing in a country in which property development is a lawless domain, in a way that should still strike a chord with many of us navigating the London rental landscape. *Kontinental '25* was filmed over a couple

ity – such as him swearing at animatronic dinosaurs, or hitting and cursing a robot dog, like he would the stray dogs which used to plague the Romanian streets just a decade ago. The story's heroine Orsolya, played by Eszter Tompa, is a bailiff tasked with evicting this man from the house, in which he had been allowed to live by a now deceased friend. The house had been bought by a German company in order to build a luxury hotel called the Kontinental, a story echoing many such cases of old buildings razed and replaced by constructions fitting neither the architectural forms of the city, nor the needs of the community. Orsolya's moral dilemma starts as the man hangs himself, sending

from the right-wing press when it is revealed that the deceased man was a former Romanian Olympic athlete. Meanwhile, her mother blames all her woes

not as bold as some of his previous films, it is still one that proves Jude a fine observer of the socio-economic climate of his country and Europe as a whole, and solidifies him as one of the emerging filmmakers to keep an eye on.



A bizarre, depressing picture of modern society and the individualism of man.

on Romanians, who stole Transylvania from Hungary, praising Viktor Orbán's Hungary. When Orsolya claims Orbán's

Hungary is a fascist state, her mother throws her out, calling her a “whore”. Another powerful image is that of her former student, a delivery driver, wearing a sign saying “I’m Romanian” on his back to separate himself from the South Asian immigrants working this job, and so protect himself from racially motivated abuses in traffic.

None of these conflicts come to a resolution by the end of the film, which concludes on a prolonged

montage of Cluj's architectural oddities. Jude leaves us with a bizarre, depressing picture of modern society and the individualism of man, who would readily apply the balm of substance abuse or a performative donation to a nameless charity to all his moral qualms. Still, Jude's humorous style and unique visual identity make for an enjoyable, if bitter-sweet experience, which could have perhaps benefited from cuts at certain points. While



Orsolya (Eszter Tompa) in *Kontinental '25*
Fetch Publicity

of days on an iPhone while Jude was working on his larger production, an adaptation of *Dracula*, and it seems to be another hit from the director, about whom Martin Scorsese recently said: “He is something else.”

The film opens with a montage of a homeless man gathering plastic bottles from around Cluj, which presents a series of hilarious images bordering on absurd-

her on a quest of seeking atonement. She also seeks understanding from various sources such as family, friends, and the local priest, meanwhile repeating the same mantra, “According to the law, I am blameless.” Consequently, the film simultaneously portrays the nationalist rhetoric and ethnic conflicts present in the region. Orsolya, as an ethnic Hungarian in Transylvania, starts receiving attacks



Comedy/Drama

Director: Radu Jude

Screenwriter: Radu Jude

Starring: Eszter Tompa, Gabriel Spahiu, Adonis Tanta

Languages: Romanian, Hungarian, German

Run time: 109 min

Release date: 31/10/25

BOOKS

When the buzzing stops

The case for saving insects, and ourselves.

Books Writer

WISDOM IGIQGBE

For Professor Dave Goulson, nature's promise every spring brings joy to his heart and soothes his soul. The brimstone butterfly adorned in golden yellow against the bare branches of trees is a sight every primavera. For his grandchildren, this promise is looking less than certain.

Silent Earth: Averting the Insect Apocalypse is a love letter to the bizarre creatures we've learned to ignore or swat away, as well as a warning that humanity is dismantling the scaffolding of life itself. This book is written in light and personal prose, with a tone as warm as a cup of tea, making the science digestible.

Professor Goulson, a renowned entomologist, opens with an observation that over his lifetime, insect populations have plummeted by as much as 75%. Multiple studies confirm this biodiversity loss as very much attributable to human action. Our environments are being stripped bare of insects: the pollinators that keep our food systems running, the recyclers that prevent us from drowning in waste, and the foundations that support agricultural systems we vehemently claim to

care about.

Insects are by far the most abundant animal species in the world. Conservative estimates put the number we have described so far at two million. Ants alone are estimated to number in the quadrillions. From the cave-dwelling book lice to the stick insects that mate for 79 consecutive days, to the giraffe weevil with a tiny head hanging on an absurdly long neck, and the Madagascan moths that drink tears from birds asleep, insects are a colourful testament to nature's creativity. Moreso, the two million species are dwarfed by another four million we haven't even named, which will probably disappear before we get to it.

Perhaps, the most unsettling concept Goulson touches on is the "shifting baseline syndrome". Each generation accepts as normal, the depleted world it inherits. Growing up, I must have seen far less insects than Goulson did growing up. My children will accept even less. Without memory, we sleepwalk towards a world where flowers will fade in colour, gardens will lose their glimmer, and the skies will seem static. This is precisely why the insect crisis remains invisible despite its scale. Gardens feel fine when you've never known them to be buzzing with life.

Over the years, campaigns appealing to the public to refrain from acts destroying nature have ran the gamut, from emphasising harmony between hu-

mans and nature, to utilising emotional tactics such as environmental guilt or eco-shaming. The common thread tying these campaigns is the constant need to assign economic worth to nature. For the slugs and the Saint Helena giant earwigs, which were declared extinct in 2014, Goulson takes a stance against utilitarianism. We should ask not what nature can do for us, but what value it is living in a world stripped of strangeness and beauty. "Why should the existences of slugs need to be justified?" he asks. Does everything require a "point" to exist? This reframing cuts through decades of conservation rhetoric.

But what can we do? Too much gloom discourages, and while insect decline data remains rocky in certain regions of the world, solutions don't have to be massive. For what it's worth, unlike many threatened species, insects can bounce back rapidly if given space. His prescriptions are practical: plant wildflowers, create habitat corridors (even in your garden), support sustainable farming, reduce meat consumption, waste less food, and teach children about the living world through direct experience – gardening, pond-dipping, fieldwork – not just textbooks.

Nonetheless, I'm left with doubts Goulson himself seems to share. Has he convinced me every single insect matters? That's beside the point!

The sheer abundance and diversity

of insects suggest many species could vanish without catastrophe. Convincing people to love mosquitoes, slugs, or wasps requires a cultural transformation the book describes but can't quite deliver alone. If you've ever been bitten by one of these, you know what I mean. Still, as the old saying goes, we shouldn't throw the baby out with the bathwater.

What has changed for me is how I see green spaces. I find myself actively hoping for insects now, reaching for my camera when I spot one. That shift from indifference to attention may be the book's real achievement. I finished *Silent Earth*, understanding not only that insects matter, but what makes them fascinating, which may be the only sustainable foundation for caring about creepy-crawlies long-term. At Imperial, the Environmental Society hosts gardening sessions, every Wednesday from 2-4pm. Come join us, get your hands dirty and maybe meet some insects while you're at it!

Will we save insects before memory fades completely? Before the silence becomes so normal we forget there was ever anything to hear in the first place? It's a modest ask, but not impossible.

Rating: 4.5/5

For anyone willing to see their garden, and the world, with newfound curiosity.



Kitty Seals for Felix

ARTS&CULTURE

Everybody Scream: a review

A look at Florence and the Machine's extraordinary new album.

Arts Writer
HANNA IRZYK

I always have high expectations for Florence and the Machine albums. They always deliver. *Everybody Scream*, released on 31st October, is no exception. The band stays true to its witchy indie rock vibes, and I enjoyed the choral chanting in many of the songs. There is a strong eldritch theme to the album and lead vocalist Florence Welch leans into the perception of an ambitious and powerful woman as a monster, a witch, with songs like "Kraken" and "Witch Dance". The album shines a light on the sacrifices involved required to be a female rockstar, from the loss of relationships to personhood.

Florence strikes a balance between belted, almost operatic moments and her trademark breathy sound. It creates an almost divine and supernatural feeling when paired with the complex choral harmonies in "Drink Deep". My

personal favorite is "Sympathy Magic" which combines a synthy bridge and punchy beat with lots of Florence's vocal experimentation.

The album is a poignant reflection on the female experience from Florence's ambitious and successful perspective. It ranges from the formidable powerful and unapologetic to the needy and vulnerable. The slow buildup of "You Can Have it All," where the limited backing track and desolate lyrics transition into a belted and climactic chorus, where Florence boldly declares that "you can have it all" listing "a piece of flesh, a million pounds," and then, as if calling out the listener, asks "am I a woman, now?". The titular track "Everybody Scream" features the singer controlling the crowd that makes up a large part of the backing track. Their screams punctuate the chorus and give the recording the feeling of a live performance.

The spoken sections within

a couple of the songs falls flat at times – like in some verses of "Witch Dance" and "One of the Greats" – less so because the poetry was uninteresting and more because they disrupt the flow and musicality of the songs.

I recommend listening to this album in order (don't let Spotify shuffle it for you!) as the arrangement of the tracks is intentional, to transition from moments of exaltation to quiet reflection. Interspersed between power ballads are quiet songs of healing like "And Love" and "Perfume and Milk." The whole album is a mythical combination of rage and optimism, and a radical acceptance of the complexity of the human experience through a female lens.

We're looking for more album reviews. If you have an LP that you love (or hate) please email us at: felart@ic.ac.uk.

Geese and Beat Poetry: a strange inversion?

Arts Writer
BARNABY HILTON-ROYCE

Rock band Geese have achieved extremely dizzy heights with their latest LP *Getting Killed*, as the record has launched the band onto the mainstream scene and received lots of critical acclaim. In particular frontman Cameron Winter, who also released his debut LP *Heavy Metal* in 2024, has received lots of favourable comparisons to Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, and Brian Malkmus of Pavement.

Whilst Geese is sonically fantastic, it's their lyricism that really sets them apart. It's opaque yet loose, but it says so much as an accompaniment to the frenetic, ecstatic music that bursts out of the record. In particular, it draws parallels to the poetry of the Beat Generation. Take the verse in "Husbands", "Yeah, there's a horse on my back/ And I may be stomped flat/ But my loneliness is gone/ All my loneliness is gone/ Oh, this horse on my back/Gives me all that I need", with the opening lines of Allen Ginsberg's 1956 poem *America* "America I've given you all and now I'm nothing./ America two dollars and twentyseven cents January

17, 1956/ I can't stand my own mind." The verse and poetry are similar in their meter, and even the tone of the pieces as a whole. This isn't the best example, but I lost my original file and I have a deadline to finish.

Winter has admitted that part of his lyrical influence for Heavy Metal was lots of beat poetry in a Reddit AMA. Whilst the discussion of this synthesis could be drawn formalistically, which I am not equipped to do, what is more interesting is the historical context of both bands. The Beat Generation were post-WW2 young men and women, rebelling against the formalism and conservatism of post-war America, rebels without a cause in a society that reduced the generation that the Beats belonged to into the 'Lost' one (Boomers were the ones influenced by the Beats), whereas Geese, a firmly Gen Z band (Winter is 23), mirrors this almost nihilistic sense because they have grown up in the post-postmodern simulacra that is the digital world. We too are lost, lost to joblessness, liberal democracy falling flat, but there's no sense of post-war civic responsibility. In a world more insular than ever, it's interesting our best artists still cry out with themes present from a past that seems more foreign than ever?

LIFESTYLE

We're all failing sleep

University students vs sleep: the eternal struggle.

Lifestyle Writer

LYNETTA WANG

Before coming to Imperial, I was familiar with stories describing the vibrance of the Abdus Salum library after the clock strikes 12. The reality might not be too far off. "Having a sleep schedule" feels more like an abstract concept than reality, even though the 9 am next morning is more real than the dream we never got to finish. Consistent 8 hours of sleep is a myth - at least I believe so - between the unfinished coursework, upcoming formative quizzes, sports night, societies and more.

Here are some statistics: according to NHS England Digital (2023), data from England show that 64.9% of young people

aged 17-23 experienced sleep problems three or more times over the previous week. The rate was even higher among young women:

74.7% compared to 55.7% for young men.

Whatever the reason is, the next morning tends to be the bane of existence with groggy brains, short tempers, and

the continuous exodus of money flowing out of bank accounts to the library café. I used to blame my laziness and poor planning, but after familiarising myself with the idea of certain gene mutations causing people to need less sleep, I had to acknowledge that genetics play a part. Some of us are wired to be night owls, and university life (stereotyped by late library hours and nights out) almost encourages this. Rather than blaming staying up late, it's inconsistency that is doing more damage. A day starting at noon is better than waking up every day to a different alarm.

The most convincing evidence of Imperial students being chronically sleep-deprived can be found on the @imperial_sleeps Instagram account. The account posts a collection of photos capturing students napping across campus, even mid-lab. This account, coupled with many other "sleep accounts" appearing at universities worldwide, serves as a strangely comforting reminder that students everywhere are united by exhaustion.

A recent Nature Mental Health (2025) study of U.S. university students found that their sleep schedules feature later bedtimes and shorter sleep during term time compared to holiday times. Inconsistent sleep



appears to be woven into university culture itself.

From personal experience, among all my attempts, incremental successes helped the most. Starting with consistent wake-up times, even on weekends (which can be hard for athletes due to late Friday training but give it a go!). Short naps can help, but beware there are risks of a one-hour nap turning into a seven-hour one, so set many alarms. Most importantly, give yourself a time limit after which no studying should be done, whether that's 8pm or 11pm. The thin line between productivity and exhaustion shouldn't be crossed unless necessary.

Maybe we don't need to chase the perfect sleep schedule after all. Finding your own consistent rhythm might just be the challenge to tackle during your uni days.

Want to write for Felix?

Felix's lifestyle section is always looking for new writers and contributors. No past experience is required! If you're interested, reach out to: travel.felix@ic.ac.uk!



CATNIP

Physics and Maths departments to sage Huxley and Blakett

Catnip Editor Editor
FELIX FELIX

Both the Departments of Mathematics and Physics will be burning sage in what insiders say is a “desperate” attempt to combat worsening student satisfaction. The use of sage burning, a practise derived from witchcraft, is seen to be a radical departure from both departments’ lack of action.

“Look, we don’t want to change anything for the better, but the IOP (Institute of Physics) and College Management threatened to remove half of our research funding if we didn’t even pretend to solve the issue,” a senior member of the Department of Physics told NegaFelix.

“It’s bad enough that we are now failing to attract everyone but the most uptight finance bros, because our own talent acquisition has fallen through the roof. Turns out that people interested in studying for Physics at such a high level would rather study somewhere where they aren’t in a sadomasochistic relationship with every lecture course they have to take. This is frankly rude, and disrespectful to all the professors who have had to do this all their life, and our research results indicate that. No one could have guessed people who want to make six figures at 25 would

form the majority of our student body. Part of a professional physicist’s career is putting up with unreasonable shit, but Generation Z can’t seem to handle that.” NegaFelix was unable to record the rest of their statement as it devolved into incoherent rambling about the vocational life of an academic and something vaguely about how a physics degree separates the wheat from the majority of chaff.

Former *Felix* mystic Mina said the move was “excellent” and a step in the right direction.

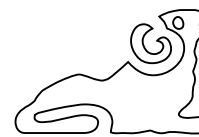
“During my time in the Blakett and Huxley buildings, I have noticed a dark energy emanating and pervading everything. I have noticed that this energy affects the chakras of students by the beginning of the spring term in their first year, through a dark ritual known as the Mechanics exam.”

It is currently unclear whether the native rat populations of Huxley and Blakett will be affected by the change. Biologists studying these rats have claimed that a new species is set to be created following mutations caused by the ominous smell. They have voiced concerns to NegaFelix that this would set back their progress, should the sage actually purge the evil spirit of the building.

Horoscopes

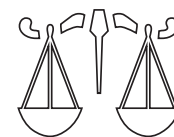
ARIES

This week you make a marble statue out of your girlfriend.



LIBRA

This week you peg your ex on the pinboard.



TAURUS

This week you wonder why the doctor did not take the monkey’s concussion seriously.



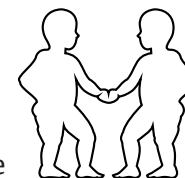
SCORPIO

This week your grades, much like the UK economy, “unexpectedly contract”.



GEMINI

This week you watch Bonnie Blue on 15-perf IMAX film as she intended.



SAGITTARIUS

This week your Circle line commute is held for so long they start charging you rent.



CANCER

This week you misread the story of Samson and bite your boyfriend’s dick off.



CAPRICORN

This week you spray your signature scent on your late council tax exemption form.



LEO

This week you watch the Spaghetti Western Cicero and Crazy Horse: Filibuster and the Custer Buster.



AQUARIUS

This week you call kicking out your other bandmembers “McCartneyism”.



VIRGO

This week you and your science obsessed date read Black Holes and Gay Porn: The Holes Behind the Gravitational Lens.



PISCES

This week you recommend your hot leftist date Suffragism and Astigmatism: Alice through the convex fishbowl looking glass ceiling.



Editor’s Note:

Happy Birthday to Nivethan, who generously donated 400 bananas to the Catnip monkeys this year. He is now 20, which means he is old and sad and worn out. Tick tock, Nivethan, you better have babies soon or your biological clock’s going to expire. Especially as a man, your lovely little spermies will die out from the obvious lack of use you get in the Physics department.

SOCIETIES

Campus'N'Culture Podcast



First Episode of Campus'N'Culture Podcast. Courtesy of African Caribbean Society

Societies Writer BABA ODUMERU

This debut episode of the *Campus N Culture Podcast* features a generation of ACS Presidents – Tani Akinmoladun, Blessings Mwanza, and Victor Ofodile, who led Imperial's African Caribbean Society in 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26, respectively. Baba Odumeru, the current Vice President of

Events, explores their journeys through Medicine, Mathematics, and student life at Imperial College London. They reflect on their paths to Imperial, from GCSEs to university, discussing challenges, misconceptions, and advice for future students. They also open up about their favourite memories, the realities of campus life, and what it's really like balancing intense studies with leading a society, being creative, and pursuing personal passions.

The conversation deepens as they explore the theme of Black History Month: "Standing Firm in Power and Pride." Everyone shares what the month means to them, their thoughts on representation, and reflections on today's cultural climate. Wrapping up with trending topics, quick-fire cultural debates, and audience questions, the episode offers an authentic, entertaining, and empowering look into the lives of Black students thriving and leading within one of the UK's top

universities.

If you want to hear more, join us each month for real conversations with Black students, professors, and industry pros about university life, STEM, and student culture. Hear personal stories, trending debates, and tips for thriving at uni – all in a relaxed, authentic space celebrating Black excellence. Subscribe, turn on notifications, and follow us to catch every episode!

This Week at Art Club

A look into Art Club's Jewellery Workshop.

Societies Writer ZAHIR THEBAULT

Jewellery is one of the oldest forms of art and pre-dates modern humans. Neanderthals made shell bead necklaces around 150,000 years ago. By the bronze age, many different stones and metals were used in making more complex jewellery which would become a major trade good by the time of the Roman Empire. In our Jewellery making workshop on 10th November, attendees made pieces out of wire decorated with charms made of metal and stone or used polymer beads to make friendship bracelets.

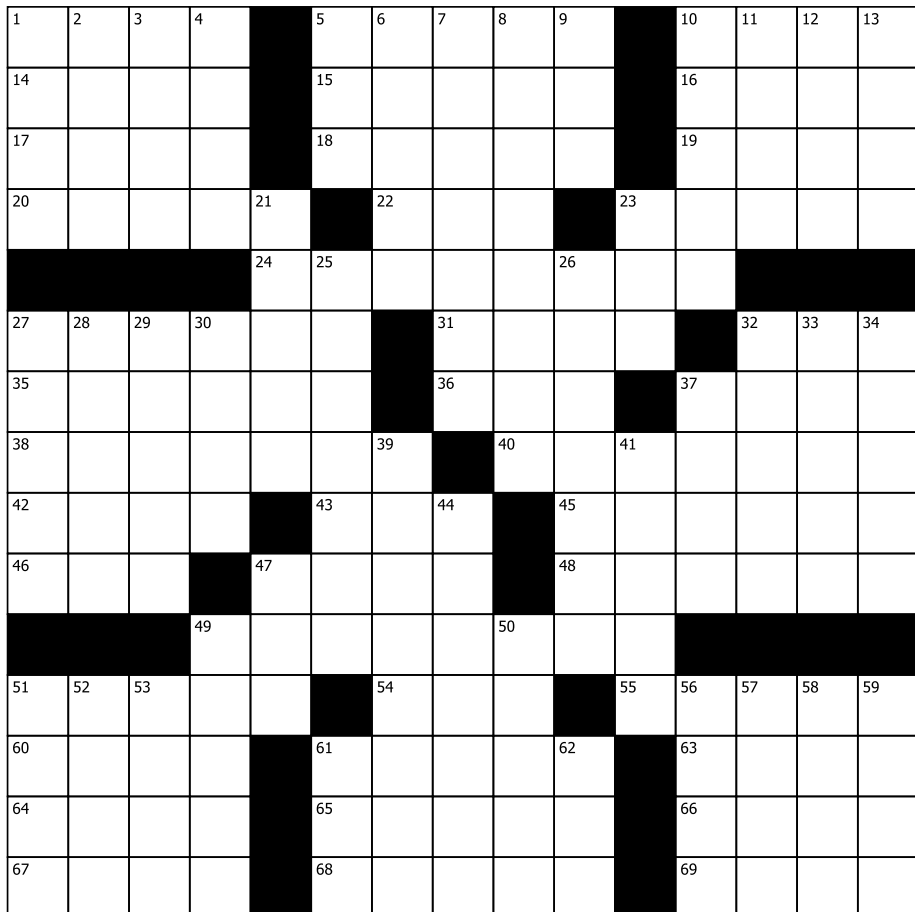


PUZZLES

U.S. CROSSWORD

Written by David Latimer (20 pts.)

Puzzles Editor
DAVID LATIMER



Across

1. Michael ____, star of *Superbad*.
5. Stairs alternatives.
10. Do.
14. Livestock.
15. "Private" U.S. state.
16. Primordial Egyptian god.
17. Chip.
18. "AC" and "Inter" follower.
19. Tunnel.
20. Storage space.
22. Possess.
23. What a baker may have.
24. Black-brown breed.
27. Cups or wands, for example.
31. Demolish.
32. What God called light.
35. Passionate speech.
36. Disabling pulse.
37. Kind of engineering or gel.
38. Forty winks.
40. Yield.
42. Where one may find 35 Across.
43. Swedish oven brand.
45. Raise.
46. Frankly, in text speak.
47. Hopper.
48. Capital of The Bahamas.

49. Talk ill of.
51. Group of three.
54. Also.
55. Boiling.
60. Goals.
61. Wedding.
63. Kind of tradition.
64. Home of Salt Lake City.
65. Manners.
66. Game played with balls.
67. Dish served folded.
68. Tyler, The Creator song alluding to slavery.
69. "That" in Brazil.

Down

1. Final section.
2. It may be on a glowing sign.
3. Tear.
4. Revision tool.
5. Edge.
6. Granadan goodbye.
7. Worm, for example.
8. Spirits.
9. Your sister's nephew.
10. Central African country.
11. Everything.
12. Bait.
13. How to end a request.
21. Lightweight boat.

23. Way to greet a pal.
25. It goes around your neck.
26. Embed.
27. How a sch. sees how you're doing.
28. Place for respite.
29. Fancy.
30. tsps., tbsps., etc.
32. Fake-outs.
33. Ring.
34. Blue skinned Marvel anti-hero.
37. Ticketed events.
39. Self-obsession.
41. Particular pint.
44. Pains.
47. Decides what's in.
49. Master of haiku.
50. Alternative to ramens.
51. Tense.
52. Woman in the chorus of *Mambo No. 5*.
53. Alternative to a PC.
56. Kind of swing.
57. People uninterested in love.
58. Two of these is 4π.
59. __ Woods, lawyer.
61. Sound of hesitation.
62. They're watching.

Across

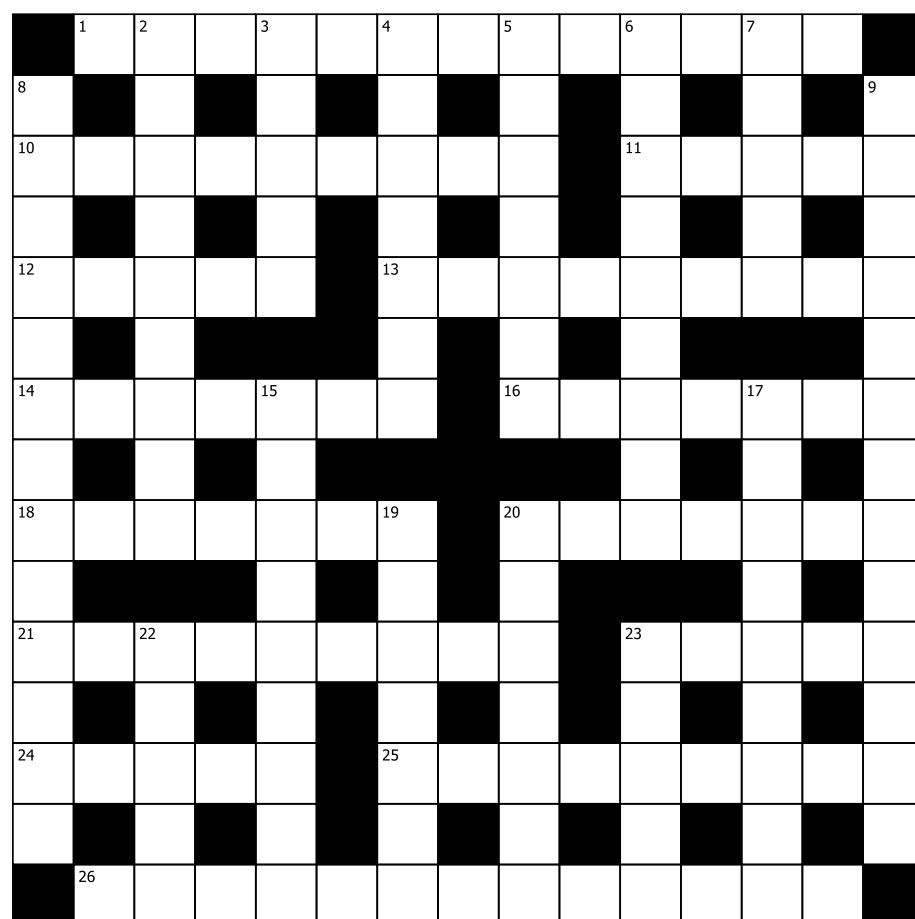
1. Dictator put before second hearing; result of institute. [3 4 6]
10. Important figure buries heart inside of pet vault. [9]
11. Space for the sick surrounded by degree of supernatural. [5]
12. Rule small piece but with eleven supplanting the leader. [5]
13. Charged one after calamity curtailed within first aggressive military operation. [9]
14. Great people take refuge inside wash and lose resistance. [7]
16. Need a start for beginning of story. [4 3]
18. Starts to game and decidedly acquires gizmos. [7]
20. Ended revolutionary friend to get shared area. [7]
21. Kind of line eluding to raunchiness. [9]
23. Dry robes when switching sides. [5]
24. Slice up inside of NASCAR vehicle. [5]
25. Hand grabbing bra before sleep - most precise! [9]
26. Referee is the type of person to snitch? [7-6]

Down

2. Mimed turn like water, flowing. [9]
3. I am accepting God! (not the literal thing). [5]
4. Destroy inside of immature, latter-half Turner. [7]
5. Good pronunciation for a stupid, little prince. [7]
6. By messing around, enrage ref on the field? [4-5]
7. Blimey! Leads generally irritate dog. [5]
8. Who to call if you don't have hands? [8 5]
9. Handle company management and bring them back together. [13]
15. Born to eat on boat; instead, poverty. [9]
17. Cut time from every muddy beaver. [4 5]
19. Spirit of bull regularly lively. [7]
20. Record on top of set of six premier desks next to empty USB. [7]
22. Direction that may also be West? [5]
23. Salvation! Struck nation that's missing leader with last of dynamo barrage. [5]

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Written by David Latimer (20 pts.)



SUDOKU

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

Medium (5 pts.)

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

Hard (8 pts.)

ELDROW

Below is somebody's attempt at a Wordle puzzle, with the words they used having been omitted. Use the clues to find the missing words, and then use your Wordle skills to figure out what the secret word below the grid is.

1					
6					
7					
8					
9					

Across

- 1. Rank.
- 6. Tons, colloquially.
- 7. Units of land.
- 8. It's 230V.
- 9. Common aquarium fish.

Down

- 1. Fix in place.
- 2. Pub.
- 3. Large rooms, or areas of the heart.
- 4. It holds something open.
- 5. Possessing an attitude.

(6 pts.)

ANAGRAMS

Theme: *Cast of Ocean's Eleven*

RIB MENACE

TOT MADMAN

GEOLOGY ENCORE

BESTIAL JUROR

LUMPIER? GEEZ...

DIG A CANARY

(6 pts.)

LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Puzzlers	Points (Last week)	
1.	Joey H. Sultanas	430	360
2.	Nicocross Wourbaki	398	398
3.	Mac Yang	348	348
4.	CRYGGTIC	321	259
5.	Granny Smiths	180	180
6.	Myley Smyley	144	73
7.	Gerald's Groupies	105	105
8.	Skrelp	54	24

Want to see yourself on the leaderboard? Send in a picture of your puzzles to puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk before next issue to secure a place on the leaderboard for you or your team. Partially completed puzzles will still get you points!

Previous Puzzles' solutions

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

Medium

S	A	E	L	E	N	H
E	A	M	U	I	I	T
E	N	T	N	Q	I	M
L	E	I	E	G	L	B
P	N	E	S	L	L	P
I	E	K	D	E	A	P

Seamline, Thimble, Applique,
Skein, Needle, Pleating

Cobwebs

"There are certain rules that one must abide by in order to successfully survive a horror movie. Number one: you can never have sex. Sex is death, okay? Number two: you can never drink or do drugs. And never, ever say 'I'll be right back!'"

Anagram: GHOSTFACE
Quote from: Scream

Cryptogram

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

Hard

H	E	T	E	R	O	S	E	X	U	A	L	I	T	Y
A	S	O	H	T	O	I								
R	E	A	M	S	A	C	E	T	Y	L	E	N	E	
M	R	S	K	E	L	L								
O	R	I	F	I	C	E	O	R	B	I	T	E	D	
N	N	N	S	V	P	L								
I	R	A	Q	I	P	N	E	U	M	O	N	I	A	
C	U	E	R	P										
A	S	P	A	R	T	A	M	E	I	S	S	U	E	
O	S	R	X	N	H	N								
O	B	L	I	Q	U	E	P	R	E	T	E	E	N	
T	M	N	O	R	L	I								
T	U	T	O	R	I	A	L	S	T	A	L	O	N	
E	D	O	E	I	A	E								
R	E	C	O	N	N	A	I	S	S	A	N	C	E	S

Cryptic

MAX TRAFFIC, TONS! -> FANTASTIC MR. FOX
WHITE CHEST -> THE WITCHES
TORTOISE -> ESIO TROT
VERILY STRONG HEM -> REVOLTING RHYMES
FETCHING MIRAGE -> THE MAGIC FINGER
LOSING GOO -> GOING SOLO

Anagrams

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

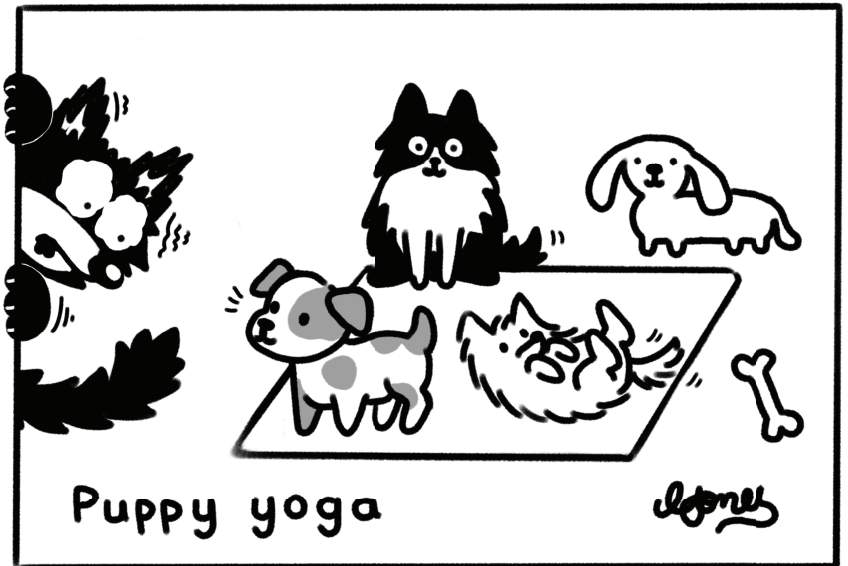
Link Crossword

Property Tiles in Monopoly

- Park Lane
- The Strand
- Coventry Street
- Regent Street
- Vine Street

COMIC

Submitted by Billie Jones



Puzzle Editor's Note

Dearest Puzzlers,

Welcome back to another week of puzzling! I think it's safe to say I dramatically underestimated the difficulty of the Cobwebs - sorry! I'm incredibly impressed by those of you who were able to submit a completed puzzle, like Joey H. Sultanas, who has shot back to first place! If it is to ever return, I can guarantee it will be a little more fair. Hope you enjoyed the new cryptic from our guest contributor, Turnip Henry, as he tried to make it a little harder this time around. Speaking of cryptic crossword contributors, we need some! If you enjoy solving them, I assure you that the leap from solving to setting is not as massive as it may initially seem. Plus, it's a wonderful exercise in problem-solving and, more importantly, fun! This week's crosswords may look a little different, by the way... I'm so happy to show you what I've been working on! Inspired by the New York Times, I might try to start putting large "U.S. Style" crosswords in the quick crossword rotation. I really want to know how you all fare and if you like it! Since there are far, far more clues, I felt it necessary to increase the point count. I'll see how this goes and might change it for future puzzles. Anyway, with that all being said, I hope you all spend the next week or so cracking away at this new batch of wonderful word games!

-David

WE NEED YOU!



Like puzzles? Help out with the section! We're happy to accept any contribution: regular or one-off. Cryptic crossword writers needed!

Email: puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

I want you to



Amelia Rose 2025

write for FELIX