

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.



Discover the candidates for Union President

Read their promises on p. 4.

Marketa Simkova



Daniel Zhuo



Comfort Oluwakoya



Anson To



Elephes Sung



Shockwave from Iran crisis felt at Imperial

Students with ties to the Middle East share their concerns.

→ READ THE FEATURE ON 6



ENVIRONMENT

How carbon intensive is your morning cup of joe?

→ READ MORE ON 8

BUSINESS

Peptides in cosmetics are the hot new thing

→ READ MORE ON 10

COMMENT

You cannot liberate women by bombing their daughters

→ READ MORE ON 11

BOOKS

Feli-terature: will our recent reads tempt you?

→ READ MORE ON 14

SOCIETIES

DramSoc stages "The Importance of Being Earnest"

→ READ MORE ON 22

Want to know what's going on around campus?

Sign up to our newsletter with the QR code below:



Instagram icon: felix_imperial

Email icon: felix@ic.ac.uk

Website icon: 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

Tarun Nair
Shashwat Sarawagi
Nivethan Sathananthan
Anna Richardson
Isabella Duchovny

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,
Vice-Chair



DAVID LATIMER
Puzzles Editor



NADEEN DAKA
Comment Editor



SOPHIE DEMARÉ
Business Editor



JAEHEE PARK
Arts & Culture Editor



GILBERT JACKSON
Arts & Culture Editor



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 © 2026 *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

What does being a woman in STEM mean to you?

Felix collects anonymous experiences from its female contributors on the eve of International Women's Day.

It means knowing that I'm capable of contributing to society in a way I wish to. I am fully aware that my opinions should be heard, purely because I can think critically based on the knowledge I have, regardless of my gender. It also means supporting other women in STEM and continuing to build an inclusive scientific community, because STEM benefits from diversity.

I feel like it is harder to find a place in STEM as a woman, especially someone hoping to be in research. Feels like there are more obstacles from the start. They are not obvious but quite discreet.

Doing things the women in my family before me never had the opportunity to do.

I am a woman in biochemistry, so one of the most female dominated degrees in the university. I think about that a lot. It's not that I chose biochemistry because I knew it was female dominated; that was a neat surprise I got when I came. I think back, though, to my highschool years. My chemistry and computing teacher who doted on my male peers and actively bullied girls out of the classroom. A maths teacher who refused to give me feedback because he didn't want to upset "such a lovely girl". Reflect on how biology never did that. Maybe I am in this degree because it's the girls' degree, the one the adults around me didn't punish me for being interested in. It rankles, then, when my degree gets called a humanity: why is it that the thing I was encouraged to do is not science enough for the scores of male engineers. I play into it too, joking

about biochemists writing and debating and being bad at maths. It's easier to deal with when I lampshade. It feels wrong to call myself a woman in STEM, because in my degree that's not a unique descriptor, in fact it could be the other way round. All the same, the point of women in STEM should be that it eventually becomes a non-issue, right? I feel conflicted saying the gender ratio in my degree is a victory, and wonder how many of us are sitting in the doorway of acceptance into "science" from childhood, rather than actually being allowed to engage with its entirety.

Being a woman in STEM means being more determined, more resilient, and working as hard as you can to prove that you can do anything a man can.

Strangely enough, my first response is "I don't know, it shouldn't really mean anything." I either grew up in a sort of "bizzarro" world or, more likely, simply was privileged enough that all my role models in school for science and most for maths were women. Also coming from a household where the woman was the breadwinner, I just grew up with the feeling that "yeah, being a woman doesn't restrict what I can and can't do in a professional sense". But at the end of the day, there is no way I believe my first response can be true. Being a woman in STEM means scrutiny and subconscious bias which will always make you wonder when and if it will smack you in the face one day. Being a woman in anything shouldn't mean something, but in essence means that you will be subjected to a different set of expectations, perceptions and stereotypes. You will question whether your behaviour will make

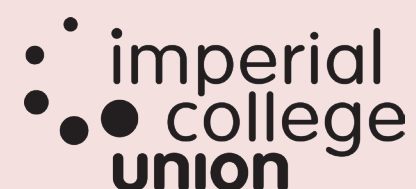
you seem "eccentric", "loud", "too much", or "brash" or some other sort of word which wouldn't likely have been used to describe a male-appearing classmate or coworker in that context. Me being a woman doesn't change my passion, my skills, and it will not change the way I present myself as a scientist. Being a woman in STEM means you're likely a bit of a nerd (if you're at Imperial, I'm sorry, you're likely a lot of a nerd), and probably spent too much time in the lab rage-quitting over why you can't see your cells in the microscope. (spoiler: if this does happen to actually apply to you, you forgot to take the flask out of the incubator, idiot)

Before starting my MSc, I worked for a STEM company where the culture towards women was incredibly toxic. Unfortunately, these are the kinds of microaggressions I've had to deal with since my A-levels. But I need to remember that I am smart enough, I am capable enough, and that being a woman in STEM makes me incredibly brave.

It means I get to have all the choice of men one could ever desire [parrot emoji].

Being a woman in STEM is an absolute privilege. It feels like standing on the shoulders of the giants that came before us and join a supportive and welcoming community.

It means I can represent my culture and community in STEM, in a way the women before me were never able to. It's a privilege to have the opportunities and access to education that has brought me here!



Representative of the Month - January

Marco Armanna:
Departmental Academic Representative for Materials (UG)

He's been active and very well organised in his capacity as academic rep.

Rohan Shenoy:
Departmental Academic Representative for Mathematics (UG)

I have really enjoyed taking part in the Directed Reading Programme (DRP), led by Rohan. He has communicated excellently to the groups and made difficult tasks seem clear and approachable. He has continuously been an inspiration for younger students such as myself and I am very grateful to have him as our academic rep!



Nominate someone here!

NEWS

Discover the seven candidates for Union President

Editor-in-Chief
GUILLAUME FELIX

The seven candidates to the office of Imperial College Union President were revealed on Thursday morning. All students can cast their votes to elect the next President, the three Deputy Presidents (for Activities, Education, and Welfare), and other holders of Union and Student Group roles from Monday 9th March at 10am until Thursday 13th March at 2pm.

We have summarised the presidential candidates' manifestos below, but we encourage you to read them in full on the eVoting platform.

Anson To (Sabbatical Officer)

Anson To is the current Deputy President for Welfare, running under the slogan: "If it matters to you, it matters to me." Holding the College and Union accountable to their actions is a key point in their manifesto. To also wishes to provide students with renting rights advice by partnering with charities, track food prices on campus to lobby for affordability, and provide financial support to international students in need.

Comfort Oluwakoya (4th year Medic)

Comfort Oluwakoya has been the Black and Minority Ethnic Officer for the past two years, and runs with a manifesto focused on funding and affordability, with

the tag #ChooseComfort. Some of her key priorities include allowing a given society to run a fully funded event each month, improving the on-campus food offer by introducing hot meals under £5, and have companies advertising at campus job fairs commit to interviews or hire a set number of Imperial students.

Daniel Zhuo (4th year Civil Engineer)

Daniel Zhuo has been the President of the City and Guilds College Union, which represents most Engineering students, for the past three years. His manifesto underlines the need for more clarity, transparency, and student involvement in ICU decisions. Zhuo's initiatives include introducing more paid initiatives within the Union for students, expanding mentorship and internship opportunities, and pushing for better timing of coursework deadlines and exams.

Elephes Sung (PhD candidate)

Elephes Sung is running under the slogan "Let's Make College a College Again." His manifesto, which is structured as an acrostic spelling out CHATGPT, denounces the prioritisation of superficial rebrands and slogans over a stronger research culture and clearer communications at Imperial. Sung looks to prioritise "science communication" across the Union, and to strengthen student voice.

Markéta Simkova (3rd year Biologist)

Markéta Simkova, a Horizons representative and part-time 568 bartender, runs on a platform of affordability and financial opportunity, process simplification, and inclusivity. Simkova looks to freeze halls rent, cut the bureaucracy facing student groups by unifying digital platforms, and expand flexible job opportunities across the College.

One candidate, Augustin Briens (a 3rd year Computer Engineer), did not provide a manifesto. Another candidate Thomas Aldrian (a 2nd year Electronic and Informatic Engineer) provided a manifesto, but it was later removed due to a breach of the election rules.



View manifestos and vote here!

Find your perfect master's course

Join London's free QS Master's Fair – 14 March

- Discover 30+ top global universities and business schools
- Expert admissions workshop and free CV review
- Exclusive QS Scholarships worth \$45k
- Prize draw to win 2x £50 Amazon vouchers



FREE VOUCHER



Strike a pose and snap a free pro headshot photo

Perfect for LinkedIn, CVs or just showing the world your best side! Bring this with you for a free professional headshot photo on-the-day



Register for free entry: bit.ly/ma-london1

What's in the pre-action letter sent to Imperial?

News Editor

ISABELLA DUCHOVNY

UCL reached a costly settlement last month with the Student Group Claim, an entity representing students and graduates that seek compensation for disruptions to teaching during the 2017 to 2021 period, which was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide strikes.

Asserson Law Offices and Harcus Parker Limited, the law firms representing the claimants, also sent a pre-action letter to Imperial College in October 2022, which was seen by *Felix*.

The pre-action letter – a formal notice to encourage a settlement before initiating court proceedings – claims that it was an “implied term” of Imperial’s enrolment contracts that the College would provide students with in-person tuition and physical access to learning facilities.

According to the letter, Imperial breached these contracts when it failed to provide teaching on a total of 43 days during the 2017-18, 2019-20, and 2021-22 academic years due to staff strikes, as well as during the COVID-19 pandemic, when it moved to online learning and severely restricted access to facilities on campus.

“Our clients’ claims are premised upon the fact that the university promised to provide them with in-person tuition and access to facilities and then failed to provide those promised services,” the letter reads. “They are



An on-campus COVID test centre in 2020. Thomas Angus, Imperial College London.

in principle entitled to compensation, which can be calculated as the difference between the market value of the promised services and the market value of the services actually provided.”

Additionally, alleged “non-pecuniary loss” suffered by students in the forms of “distress” and “disappointment” is mentioned.

The document also says Imperial “appears to have thrived financially” during the period covered by the claims, citing an increase in income from tuition fees and education contracts in 2021.

Imperial did not say if or how it responded to this letter. At the onset of the pandemic, the College put measures in place to mitigate disruptions, including sending “lab in a box” kits to students’ homes when labs closed. It was named University of the Year 2022 by *The Times* and *Sunday Times Good University Guide*, in recognition of the quality of its teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof. Omar Matar to become Dean of Engineering

Editor-in-Chief

GUILLAUME FELIX

Professor Omar Matar has been appointed as the new Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, and will start his five-year term in October 2026.

Currently the Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, Matar is specialised in fluid dynamics. He leads a research group focused on both fluid mechanics and immersive technologies for education, and is the co-founder of two Imperial spinout companies.

Matar told *Felix*, “Imperial’s Faculty of Engineering is uniquely placed to bring together engineering, science, medicine, and business to address humanity’s greatest challenges. I hope to bring inclusive leadership, shared purpose, and collaboration to ensure that Imperial remains a global powerhouse for education, discovery, and innovation. I am deeply committed to this vision and the people who will realise it, and I have an unwavering belief in Imperial’s capacity to deliver transformative impact.”

The outgoing Dean, Professor Nigel Brandon, will leave office one year before the end of his term to become Vice President for Corporate Engagement.



Professor Matar in 2022. Fergus Burnett, Imperial College London

FT employers ranking places Imperial in middle tier of universities

Editor-in-Chief

GUILLAUME FELIX

Imperial College came 216th out of the 500 companies featured in the *Financial Times* “UK’s Best Employers 2026” ranking.

A total of 20,000 employees across a range of industries were surveyed in the summer of 2025 by Statista for the survey.

The College came in 26th place out of 58 employers in the education sector, above UCL and LSE but below the University of Oxford and King’s College London. The

University of Cambridge topped the overall ranking, across all industries.

Provost Peter Haynes addressed the ranking during the March 3rd “In conversation” webinar. Remarking upon the relatively small staff sample on which the index is based, Haynes urged staff members to complete the staff survey, calling it “far more useful”.

In December, Imperial was ranked 69th on the “People & Planet’s University League,” up seven places from last year. The People & Planet ranking takes into account both environmental strategy and employee welfare metrics. The College scored 53.1% and was awarded a 2:2 class distinction.

FEATURE

The Middle East at war

For a generation that barely remembers the Iraq War, this feels like uncharted territory.

Business Editor
SOPHIE DEMARÉ

On Saturday 28th February, the United States and Israel launched a coordinated, large-scale military offensive against Iran. The country's Supreme Leader of 37 years, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed on the first day of the operation. Seeking revenge for their leader's death, the remnant decentralised military units of the Iranian regime launched retaliatory missile and drone attacks at targets across the Middle East, unleashing chaos across Israel, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Cyprus, and Lebanon.

This extent of military conflict is – for many of us – unlike anything in our living memory. I was only three years old

when the US invaded Iraq, an event that now serves as a point of comparison for the magnitude of what unfolded this weekend.

For many Iranians, the death of the country's brutal theocratic leader marks a new era in its history. Khamenei oversaw violent and deadly crackdowns on protesters taking part in nationwide demonstrations in 2022 and January this year. As many as 33,000 civilians are estimated to have died in January's massacre alone.

Following this weekend's events, I caught up with Rostam (a pseudonym), one of the Iranian students at Imperial I interviewed for my last piece on Iran.

"The overall feeling of Iranians – both inside and outside the country – is one of joy and hope," Rostam told me, reflecting on Khamenei's assassination. He said many Iranians had been waiting for the

US to strike the regime after repeated promises to do so by US President Donald Trump.

At the same time, he said that "Iranian people understand the cost of war" and that the coming weeks are likely to bring more civilian casualties. "After the January massacre, they've reached a point where they'd rather die for freedom than continue to live under oppression," Rostam said of the Iranian people.

In a statement posted to Truth Social on the day the US offensive was launched, President Trump told Iranians: "Tonight ... the hour of your freedom is at hand ... when we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take. This will be probably your only chance for generations."

I asked Rostam whether he thought this was a fair demand to make of the Iranian people, after peaceful protests

have repeatedly been met with brutal oppression by the country's militia. His response: "Yes, because that's exactly what we requested from him."

"Now, it's a waiting game where we wait until the US says 'We're done,'" Rostam explains, "Then, we can start to do something about it." Trump has indicated that the US operation will take about four to five weeks to achieve its objectives, though he stated on Monday 2nd March that the US is able to "go far longer than that."

Rostam's views contrast sharply to those of regime loyalists, who have been pictured sobbing and grieving the loss of Khamenei in Iran and abroad. He believes that these demonstrators only represent about 10 percent of the Iranian population.

As well as expressing his hope for a new future for his country, Rostam was



US President Donald Trump addressing the nation at the onset of the crisis. The White House

repeatedly apologetic about the spillover of the conflict across the region. “We are obviously very sorry to them, because this is a crazy regime who attacks whoever they want,” he said.

Other Imperial students with loved ones in the Middle East have shared their stories of this weekend’s events with us. One student from Jerusalem shared her worries about her parents and grandparents still in the region. “Maybe this is an unconventional metric, but I like to measure the magnitude of Iran’s retaliatory strikes through how worried my parents are,” she said, “Usually they don’t take shelter, but maybe for the first time in a few years, they have used our bunker.”

She continued, “My grandparents, who are in the West Bank, don’t have shelters, and a lot of the time Israel’s iron dome does not protect these Palestinian territories from missile strikes.”

Another student wrote to us: “My parents were 15km from the US base in Kuwait when it was struck. The whole car shook.”

A Lebanese student shared with *Felix*: “Now that I am in London, I feel as though I should be relieved to be safe and no longer hearing missile strikes every day. However, having my family still back home makes that impossible. I constantly find myself checking the news, and up till 3am to make sure nothing has happened near our home and that there is no evacuation notice for our neighbourhood.”

The student has a younger sibling still being schooled in Lebanon. “Like many students in Lebanon right now, he has had to attend classes online while bombs can still be heard in the background, which I’m sure is extremely stressful,” she explained.

A friend of mine moved to Dubai just two weeks ago. Over the weekend, he anxiously stayed put in his house whilst loud explosions sounded overhead. Previously considered a “safe haven” for expats, the UAE has been hit by falling shrapnel from intercepted missiles. Hugely popular hotels such as the Fairmont on The Palm and the Burj al Arab have been hit, as well as the international airport – one of the busiest in the world. The government has urged the population to remain calm and trust in its advanced air defence systems, with a sense of normality already starting to resume in the days following these initial events.

The word “unprecedented” gets thrown around in the news a lot nowadays, but even though we have observed geopolitical tensions rising over the past months and years, it feels like nothing could have prepared us for the scale that this war assumed from its very first day.

Most of us will know someone who has been impacted by the events of this weekend in some way. For some, retaining a sense of normality in the face of such change is a challenge. As it was put by one of our readers: “It just feels like we have to pretend life just goes on over here while everything is burning over there.”

ENVIRONMENT

How does recycling work?

Waste & Recycling Manager
FLORENCE HALE

Sustainability Engagement and Project Officer
STAV FRIEDMAN

Ahead of Global Recycling Day on 18th March, let’s break down what recycling is and how it even works. The Sustainability Hub and Property Team have put together our top tips (and some fun facts) so everyone can be a recycling pro!

Recycling can be defined as breaking down waste material to make a new product. For example, breaking down paper to make cardboard, glass into insulation, plastic into garden furniture. To conserve resources and protect the environment we must recycle more, but recycling alone will not save the planet – we must also generate far less waste to begin with. So how do we recycle more and waste less? To answer these questions, we must first understand what happens to our recycling.

When a lorry of recycling arrives at a recycling facility, it tips its whole load onto the floor where it is visually inspected. If it looks like more than 15–20% of the material is non-recyclable, the whole twenty-tonne load is redirected to incineration. This is because there is a limit to how much contamination the machinery in the facility can remove in the time it has available. Although, in that 20 tons, Imperial’s contribution will be a fraction of the load, the more contaminated our recycling, the more likely the load is to be rejected. As individuals and as an organisation, we can do our bit to increase the likelihood that our waste materials will go on to have another life by putting things in the right bin.

Some common contaminants in our recycling include paper hand towels, coffee cups, takeaway boxes, and plastic wrappers. These should go into general waste instead. If you are unsure if something can be recycled, remember the saying, “if in doubt, keep it out” of the recycling bin.

In this way, segregating our waste correctly can help to lessen the impacts of our discarded materials, but the only way to know for sure that we’re not contributing

to the problems caused by our linear economy is to generate less waste in the first place. Fortunately, this is something we have much more control over than the fate of our recycling!

The best way to generate less waste is through reuse. The more times something is used, the better for the planet. You can do your bit by bringing reusables with you to campus so that you do not have to buy food and drinks in single-use packaging. As an organisation, we want to make reusing as easy and rewarding as possible, which is why we invested in new and improved water fountains for refilling bottles, and why we are currently trialling a reusable coffee cup system in the Senior Common Room.

We are also moving away from ‘back-of-house’ single-use items like paper hand towels and plastic bin liners by installing air dryers and by removing excess bins, respectively.

What can you do?

- Make sure your waste is segregated properly: food waste and tea bags in food bins; plastic bottles/pot/tubs, cardboard/paper, glass and tins/cans in recycling bins; and everything else goes into the general waste bin.
- Bring your reusables: cups, cutlery, and lunch containers to minimise your single-use items.
- Help us remove excess bins! Is there a surplus of bins in your office? Are there many rubbish bins just metres apart? Reach out to the Waste & Recycling Manager who can help ensure there’s an appropriate number of bins and reduce the number of bin bags changed every day.
- Give the reusable cup scheme at the Roastery Cafe at South Kensington a try.
- Get involved in Imperial’s Sustainability Month. Throughout March, take part in a variety of free sustainability events across the themes of creativity, community and challenge.

The impact of your daily coffee

Environment Writers
JOYCELYN LEE
TARA GARLICK

Last year, Felix estimated the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions Imperial generates from its food purchases. While plant-based products are often perceived to have a lower environmental impact, coffee stood out as one of the highest-emitting foods, in terms of both total emissions and emissions per kilogram.

On average, most studies estimate that producing 1 kg of coffee beans generates 28.5 kg of carbon dioxide or equivalent amounts of other greenhouse gases (kgCO₂eq). In contrast, producing 1 kg of beef emits 99.5 kgCO₂eq and 1 kg of chicken emits 12.3 kgCO₂eq. Thankfully, individuals seldom consume this much coffee daily – a standard cup of black coffee is made with 15 g of beans, so your daily cup of coffee can be estimated to contribute 0.4 kgCO₂eq of emissions.

But given the amount of coffee we consume collectively, it still bears questioning exactly how coffee production generates emissions. The processes accounting for the majority of emissions are: land use change, the use of synthetic fertilisers, and wet processing of coffee cherries.

Land use change refers to clearing

existing habitats, often forests, to farm coffee. Trees and soil store significant amounts of carbon which is released when land is cleared. Coffee production exacerbates this as it often occurs in the tropics, threatening rainforests, which have greater biodiversity and carbon storage capability.

Synthetic fertilisers generate emissions through their manufacture, transport, and use on fields. In particular, synthetic nitrogen fertilisers are partially taken up by soil microbes which then release nitrous oxide as a byproduct. Nitrous oxide is 265 times stronger than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

Wet processing refers to the extraction of coffee beans from coffee cherries, involving stages like fermentation, pulp removal, and washing, processes which generate significant amounts of wastewater. Wastewater accounts for most of the GHG emissions generated from wet processing, in addition to drawing on large amounts of water.

However, there can be significant variations between estimates of the emission intensity of coffee from different life cycle analyses – from 4.4 to 95.7 kgCO₂eq per kg of beans. Some variations are methodological, for example in land use change modelling or the inclusion or exclusion of emissions from crop residue, but others are due to the diverse ways coffee is produced, demonstrating that changing production processes offers opportunities to reduce negative impact. Hence, these life cycle analyses highlight the impacts of different processes, allowing for better decision making.

Studies have explored the impacts of different systems, such as comparing agroforestry, where coffee is planted amongst other trees, to conventional industrial monoculture. The type of agroforestry also has important implications for environmental impact, depending on whether native trees are retained on the plantation or other tree species are introduced. Many studies have found that

agroforestry that retains native trees results in better outcomes for biodiversity and carbon storage. Post-harvest, dry processing is a lower-emission alternative to wet processing for extracting coffee beans from coffee cherries.

Beyond coffee bean production, coffee roasting, brewing, and packaging also generate different amounts of emissions. Pod coffee and canned coffee were found to produce greater impacts than other forms of packaging. Although most studies and this article focus specifically on coffee, the milk that is often consumed with coffee also generates significant emissions, especially if dairy milk is used.

To reduce the environmental impact of coffee consumption, the more impactful changes are limiting land use change and fertiliser use, and switching from wet processing to dry processing, so these should be prioritised. Roasteries and cafes

or brewers should choose to source from producers adopting lower-emitting practices and use renewable energy to reduce emissions from fossil fuels. For consumers, the Rainforest Alliance symbol certifies that deforestation has not occurred in the production process, amongst other sustainable production practices. Choosing coffee without milk or with plant-based milk also limits the additional emissions that milk contributes. Actions adopted by all players can shift the industry towards reducing its emissions and environmental impact.

Imperial's new Sustainability Strategy (2026-2031) will come into effect this spring, outlining sustainable procurement in its Sustainable Food and Drink Policy. This strategy includes a sustainability criteria which makes up 20% of the scoring on major contracts, aimed at prioritising environmentally

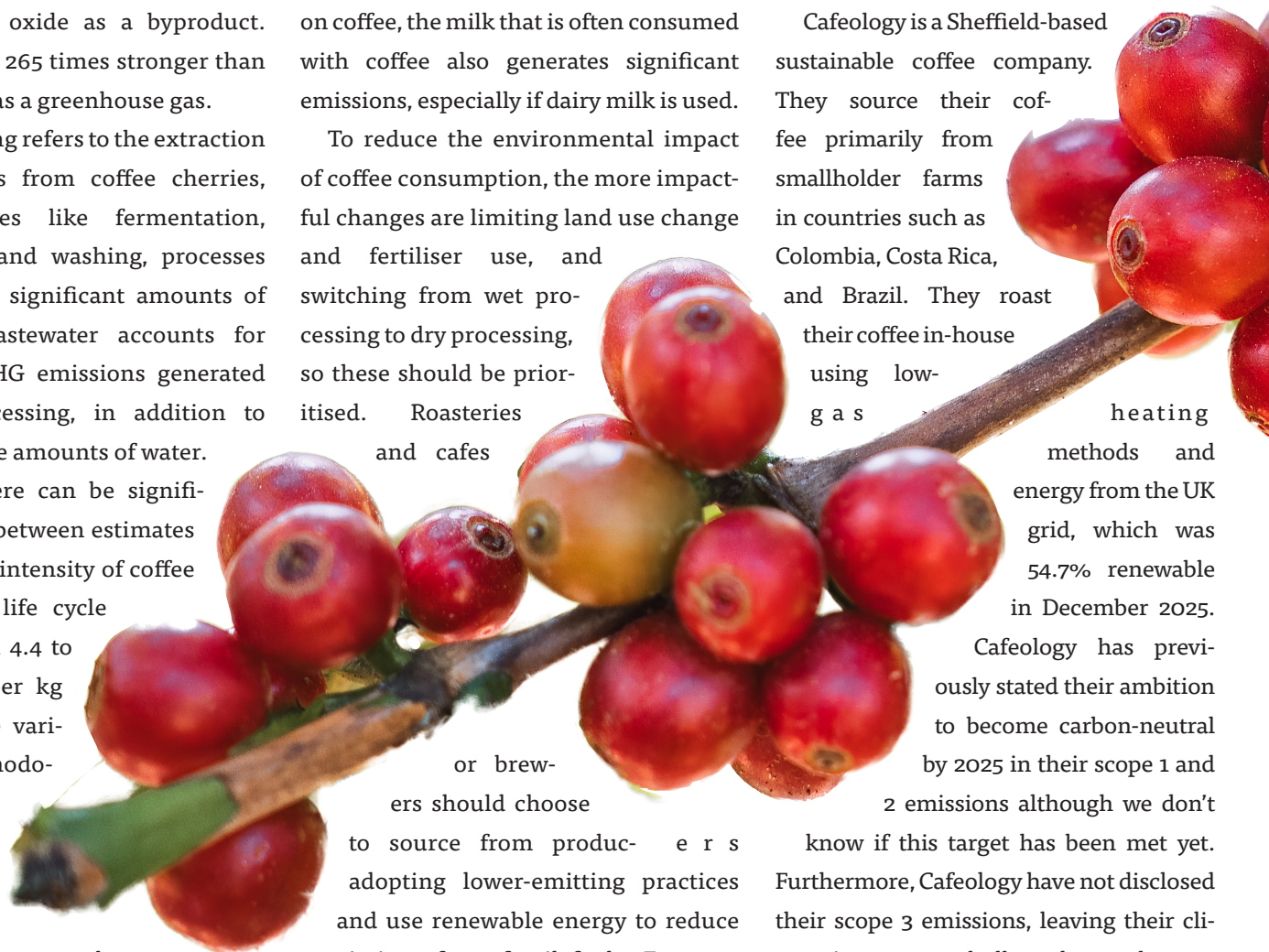
responsible suppliers.

Imperial has several coffee suppliers including Cafeology, Illy, Starbucks, and Change Please, a charitable organisation supporting people experiencing homelessness. These companies were chosen following 'ongoing reviews' with 'reasons includ[ing] ethical and sustainable practice and sourcing; quality, flexibility and range of produce; competitive pricing; staff training, and equipment provision and ongoing maintenance.'

Cafeology is a Sheffield-based sustainable coffee company. They source their coffee primarily from smallholder farms in countries such as Colombia, Costa Rica, and Brazil. They roast their coffee in-house using low-gas heating methods and energy from the UK grid, which was 54.7% renewable in December 2025.

Cafeology has previously stated their ambition to become carbon-neutral by 2025 in their scope 1 and 2 emissions although we don't know if this target has been met yet. Furthermore, Cafeology have not disclosed their scope 3 emissions, leaving their climate impact not wholly understood.

Starbucks, another one of Imperial's suppliers, was recently accused of unethical supply chain sourcing, following a 2025 lawsuit alleging 'slave-like conditions' in their Brazilian farms. In response Starbucks reaffirmed their sustainable and ethical sourcing commitments, setting out Coffee and Farmer Equity Practices developed with the support of Conservation International. However, repeated lawsuits against Starbucks over labour conditions suggest that these commitments need to be tightened and their implementation strengthened. For Imperial, having greater visibility down to the farm level where coffee is sourced may reduce risks of unethical sourcing.



SCIENCE

COVID-19 vaccine blood clotting complication explained

5 years after initial cases of VITT caused concern in the medical community, a breakthrough study has revealed the genetic basis of the complication.

Science Writer
EVELYN STRINGER

One of the few silver linings of the COVID-19 pandemic was the explosion of scientific ingenuity spurred by crisis. The crowning achievement of this development was, undoubtedly, the development of vaccines in record time through unprecedented levels of collaboration and funding, building on years of research into mRNA vaccines.

Although the COVID-19 vaccine story can be seen as one of success, it has not been without its setbacks. Rare but persistent vaccine-induced immune thrombocytopenia and thrombosis (VITT) cases were difficult to explain.

VITT is a deadly condition which combines blood clot formation and low platelet counts, respectively referred to as thrombosis and thrombocytopenia. This condition can lead to strokes or myocardial infarctions and is reported to be fatal 20-30% of the time. It is also notably more persistent in younger demographics, which was reflected in the Australian government's recommendation of an AstraZeneca alternative for people under 60, as the vaccine had been associated with VITT. One in ~200,000 recipients of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the United States experience VITT, as well three in ~100,000 AstraZeneca recipients in the UK, which has now been linked back to an adverse reaction to the modified adenovirus used to deliver the mRNA vaccine. The Janssen vaccine was withdrawn in both the EU and the US – AstraZeneca's vaccine remained in circulation as the risk-benefit ratio was deemed to be satisfactory, although some guideline modifications were made.

Rare complications like this one are tragic, but the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the benefits of vaccination, even with these vaccines, far outweighed the risk. After all, blood clotting complications are far more commonly the result of COVID-19 infection

than of vaccination. Vaccine side effects were a key contributor to people's vaccine hesitancy as they were sometimes perceived as worse than the infection. Fear and misinformation are often fuelled by uncertainty, so the VITT problem was a crucial one.

Now, three years since the Janssen vaccine was withdrawn in the US, a breakthrough study has outlined the genetic relationship between the vaccine and occurrences of VITT.

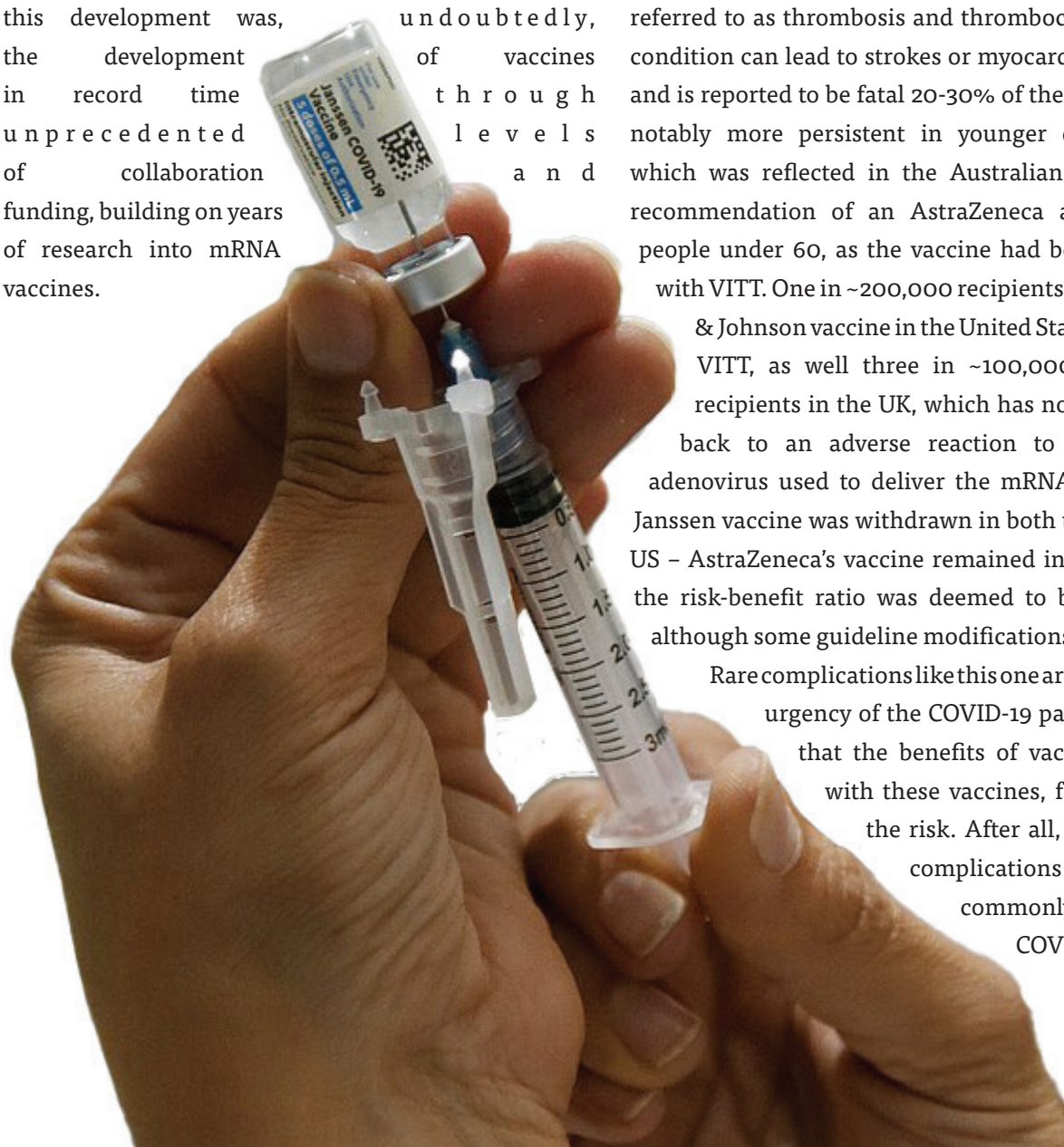
It had previously been established that the catalyst of VITT was the reaction of a unique antibody with platelet factor 4 (PF4) – a protein involved in platelet activation – resulting in clotting.

Australian researchers funded by the German Research Foundation built on this knowledge and were able to establish two prerequisites for VITT: the possession of a specific iteration of the antibody binding region, and a lysine to glutamic acid (K31E) mutation within this region.

The genetic and protein sequences of the region of the antibody which binds the PF4 were analysed in VITT patients, along with the binding patterns for binding with PF4 and adenoviral proteins.

The study suggested that the similar binding sites of PF4 and an adenoviral protein pVII were exploited by a mutation to a common immunoglobulin allele among VITT patients. This mutation results in misdirection of the antibodies from the viral protein to PF4, resulting in PF4-antibody binding and clot formation.

The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine was withdrawn in 2024 due to market-related issues, so neither of the vaccines that inspired this study are in circulation. Any suggested changes are merely theoretical, however, the logic behind this discovery may guide future vaccine discovery as well.



The Janssen vaccine. Prefeitura Campinas for Wikimedia Commons

BUSINESS

Peptides are leaving the lab

The peptide craze is spreading from pharmaceuticals, to cosmetics, to online “shadow markets,” raising environmental and safety concerns.

Business Editor
SOPHIE DEMARÉ

There’s a high chance that the word “peptide” has featured on at least one of your local Tube station’s billboards in the last month. You’ll likely have been promised benefits like anti-aging, plumping, firming, and smoothing by the peptide-infused skincare products being advertised.

Peptides – short chains of amino acids which can be engineered to impact hormonal and metabolic processes – have

long been a feature of our lives: insulin and GLP-1 are examples of widely-used peptides.

However, in recent years this growth in the pharmaceutical industry has spilled over into cosmetics. rhode, Hailey Bieber’s skincare brand, is a prime example of a brand going all-in on peptides. It has capitalised on, and arguably magnified, the “clean girl” skincare trend, which emphasises “naturally” flawless skin, minimalist beauty routines, and ingredient-led marketing. rhode’s website features peptides as their top “research-backed ingredient,” promising to “visibly plump skin and reduce the look of fine lines.”

Ties to palm oil

rhode and many of its competitors champion their products as vegan, cruelty-free, and “clean” solutions. However, few brands mention that a large portion of their peptide ingredients – called palmitoyl peptides – are typically derived from palm oil, a material notorious for its contribution to global deforestation and environmental damage.

This is no surprise for the cosmetics industry: around 70% of products contain palm oil or palm kernel oil derivatives. However, reliance on the crop also exposes brands to reputational risks linked to deforestation and labour abuses, requiring additional steps to be taken (such as verifying compliance with sustainable palm oil certification standards) to mitigate these risks.

Croda Beauty Actives, one of the leading specialty chemicals companies

that manufactures peptide ingredients for skincare companies like The Ordinary, Paula’s Choice and Medik8, states in its annual report that “palm oil derivatives form a significant volume of [its] raw materials and this trend is expected to continue.” It primarily sources its palm oil from Indonesia, a country that regularly makes headlines for widespread deforestation caused by its palm oil industry. Though UK-based Croda has a sustainable palm oil sourcing strategy, this can be a high bar for the growing peptide market to adhere to, especially in markets where sustainability regulations are less stringent.

Leaving the lab

Cosmetics brands like rhode already benefit from looser regulatory standards than their peptide-loving pharma counterparts. However, exploding demand for peptides in both markets is leading to another, more dangerous spillover: peptide solutions are now being sold through fully unregulated channels, with dangerous administration methods promoted on social media. Sports influencers have called for at-home injections of peptides to heal injuries; “looksmaxxers” are advocating the same, promising weight loss, hair growth, and bigger muscles.

The result of this exploding demand is an apparently vast “shadow market” of informal, low-cost Chinese peptide exporters, shipping their product to Western buyers in powder format. The origin of these untested peptides is often unknown to the traders, and domestic sales of the products has been banned

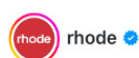


Sophie Demaré

by the Chinese government due to safety concerns.

Regulated peptide manufacturers must follow rigorous processes to remove harmful reagents and chemicals and purify their products to ensure their safety, says Nathaniel Chesworth, an Imperial researcher focused on synthetic biology and peptide therapeutics. For example, lithium can often be present in early stages of peptide synthesis, which can cause multiple organ damage if administered to the body. “You’ve got no guarantee that the powder you’ve received is the powder that they set out to make,” he tells me, “And you have no idea what these would do to the body if injected.”

Peptides aren’t going anywhere. But as their influence continues to bleed beyond the pharmaceutical industry into cosmetics and underground injections, regulators and brands may soon have to do more to back their “miracle” status.



rhode ingredients

peptide

what it is
peptides are short chains of amino acids that can help your body create elastin, a protein that keeps your skin bouncy.

when applied to the lips, they provide a visibly plump pout — and with consistent use, can help reduce the look of fine lines over time.

find them in our peptide lip treatments + tints 🌸

from our team of experts

“as we age, lips can have more visible lines and decrease in size (not to mention, get drier). peptides are small enough to penetrate the skin and send signals to your body to create more elastin. this leads to better integrity of your barrier and minimizing the appearance of wrinkles over time.”

- dr. dhaival bhanusali, resident derm at rhode

♡ 48.2K 💬 185 ↻ 1 📌 113

rhode rhode ingredients: peptides 🌸

your lips deserve just as much care as your skin and peptide are the powerhouse ingredient to keep them smooth and

find them in our peptide lip treatments + tints 🌸

Post by Rhode Skin on Instagram.

COMMENT

You cannot liberate women by bombing their daughters

On the morality and limitations of using war as a tool of liberation in the Middle East.

Comment Editor
NADEEN DAKA

International Women's Day arrives this year not with the celebratory rhetoric of progress, but to the grim thrum of regions at war. Over the past week, US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched a massive wave of coordinated strikes that have fundamentally altered the Iranian landscape. With the confirmed death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and reports of strikes hitting residential compounds in Tehran, the Western coalition has pivoted from a strategy of containment, to one of direct regime decapitation.

President Trump has framed this violence as an opportunity for the Iranian people, urging them to seize a moment born of fire: "When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take. This will probably be your only chance for generations." He claims he has cleared the path for the long-suppressed aspirations of the Iranian people to overturn their government. However, history – particularly in this corner of the world – suggests that freedom rarely survives such a violent delivery.

The Islamic Republic is a complex theocracy where power is cushioned by layers of clerical vetting and religious guardianship. For Iranian women, this system is a daily reality. They face compulsory veiling and systemic inequities in marriage, inheritance, and court testimony. In spite of this, the women have not remained silent: they have risked imprisonment, assault, and exile to challenge their government. They have called out the regime's oppressiveness, leading to their protest slogan, "Woman, Life, Freedom."

Yet, naming an oppressor should not automatically grant Western powers the legitimacy to intervene with force in whatever way they choose. The US and Israel have framed their strikes as preemptive necessities



Iran protests Taymaz Valley

to dismantle a nuclear programme and command structure. This is a massive gamble on regional stability, and we must question the moral justification for insisting that a campaign of bombardment is, at its heart, an act of emancipation.

This sheen of righteousness was somewhat similarly used in the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan, which was presented as a rescue mission for oppressed women in burqas. Two decades later, as the Taliban swept back into Kabul, the world saw how fragile a "liberation" secured by foreign weapons really was. Military force can destroy a government building, but it cannot build a stable and lasting regime change.

It is true that the international community has a duty to act when people are oppressed. What I am not sure of, however, is whether that action should arrive in the form of strikes – especially when they target residential compounds and primary schools, killing 165 female students. While it is necessary to condemn the Islamic Republic's gendered coercion, it is equally necessary to recognise that this condemnation does not confer custodianship upon Washington or Tel Aviv.

Airstrikes are effective at destroying centrifuges and command bunkers. They are notoriously poor at building accountable institutions. If the Iranian state collapses under the weight of this military campaign, the resulting power vacuum is unlikely to be filled by a liberal democracy. It is more likely to lead to civil war, increased militarisation, or a new form of dictatorship. In this kind of chaos, women's rights are usually the first casualty.

As smoke hangs over Tehran and the Middle East braces for a long conflict, the central problem remains: liberation cannot be delivered from 30,000 feet. You cannot liberate women by bombing their daughters.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Are primates really as aggressive as your feed suggests?

Punch's viral distress only shows part of the picture.

Photography Writer
SHARLEEN HU

You've definitely seen the baby macaque known as "Punch" taking the media by storm. He went viral for his heartbreaking attachment to a monkey plushie after being abandoned

by his mother. Videos of him being dragged across the floor or targeted by aggression from his housemates have triggered widespread outrage, flooding comment sections with concern and

disbelief. This is not the first time short clips of primate aggression spread like wildfire online, but are they actually representative of primate behaviour?

The answer is almost certainly not. Action-packed content thrives on social media precisely because it provokes an emotional reaction – we feel concern for Punch, we feel outrage at his aggressors, and we hit share. Meanwhile, footage of primates quietly grooming one another, playing, or lounging in the sun never make the headlines. The result deeply skews our perception of these animals.

They are painted as aggressive, territorial, and volatile, when in reality, that picture is incomplete at best, and misleading at worst.

If you take the time to observe primates in their natural habitat, a very different story emerges. These are socially complex animals, arguably the most socially sophisticated on the planet outside of humans. They spend the majority of their waking hours engaged in cooperative, peaceful behaviours: foraging together, playing with juveniles, and reinforcing social bonds through grooming. That



An adult orangutan serenely snacking on some leaves. Sharleen Hu



A juvenile baboon grooming his younger counterpart. Sharleen Hu

An adolescent orangutan swinging between the trees. Sharleen Hu

last behaviour is far more than just for hygiene. It's a social currency, one that builds trust, eases tension, and quietly holds the group together.

Even aggression, when it does occur, is rarely random or purely violent. It's rooted in social dynamics like dominance hierarchies, resource competition, and the stress of captivity, as it is with Punch, and these shape how and why conflict arises. Understanding this context matters, because without it, we risk conflating the consequences of unnatural conditions with the nature of the species itself.

So, the next time a clip of a distressed primate floods your feed, let it prompt curiosity rather than just reaction. The chaos makes the algorithm happy. But the stillness in the shared meals, the gentle play, and the quiet company, tells the truer story.



BOOKS

Felixterature: recent reads

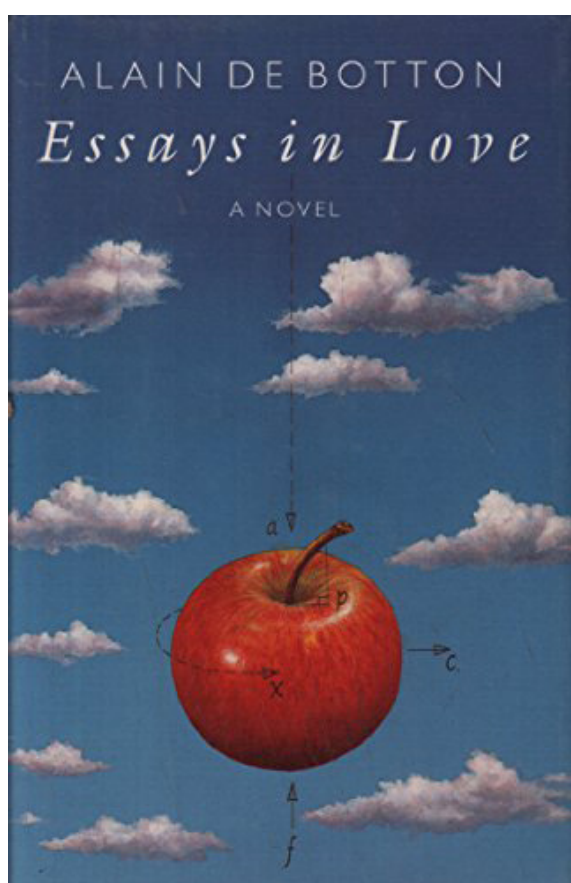
The *Felix* Books team review recent reads they have (mostly) enjoyed.

Chief Copyeditor
TARUN NAIR

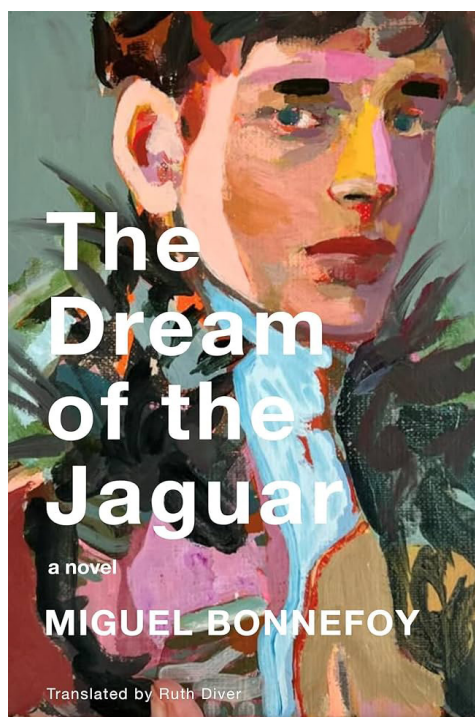
Essays in Love by Alain de Botton

A stage-by-stage analysis of a romantic relationship from beginning to end, *Essays in Love* doesn't completely lose its focus amid the passion of love, but it isn't so objective that it reads like an academic paper.

It's full of discomfiting facts for romantics everywhere: chief among them is that we have little to no control over people falling in and out of love with us – a thought obvious, yet terrifying to the uninitiated. In spite of this, de Botton observes that it's in these relationships that people are momentarily unshackled from societal expectations and mores – it's here that they're able to know their selves better than they could alone.



Books Writer
DARIGA ATAYEVA



The Dream of the Jaguar by Miguel Bonnefoy

I really enjoyed *The Dream of the Jaguar*. It follows the life of an orphan found in the street by a mute beggar woman in Maracaibo, Venezuela, who builds his life up from poverty until he becomes the most successful surgeon in the country.

This family saga is divided into four sections, each dedicated to a member of Antonio (protagonist)'s family (similar to *One Hundred Years of Solitude*). Venezuela's political environment and history are greatly influential as well, making the fate of the family inseparable from that of Venezuela.

The writing style is lyrical, almost like reading a mythical story. Each character is beautifully described, and their decisions lead them to deviate from the pack, metaphorically making them "jaguars" that find their own paths. Their resilience in facing their unstable political environment is also admirable, all while staying human and realistic.

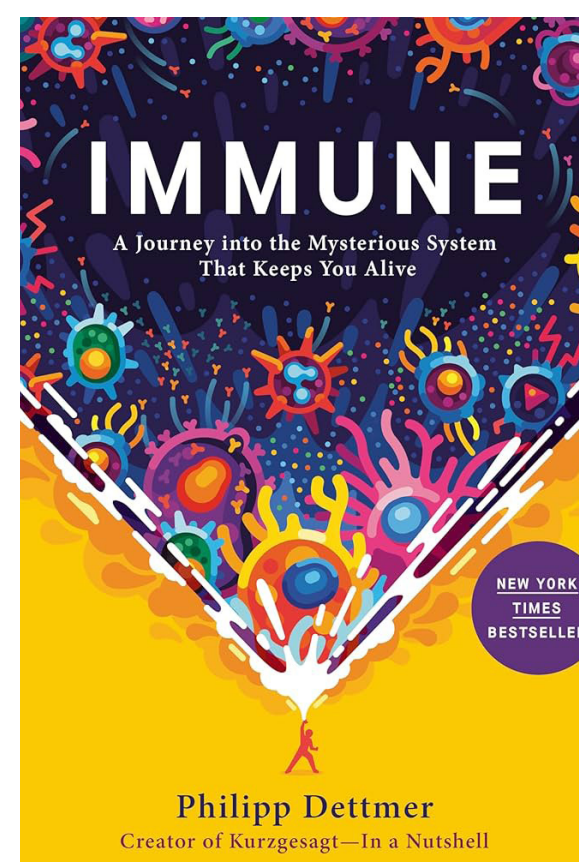
Books Writer
NAZ TOYGAR

Immune by Philipp Dettmer

I admit, I lied. I haven't actually fully finished *Immune* despite coming back to it multiple times over the years. At first glance, it felt like a public-friendly introduction to the immune system which was good and all – but seemed all exposition.

Fast-forward two years and it's now on my reading list, so I picked it up again. This time I fell in love; the book is intimidating in size, but it really succeeds in holding you by the hand and taking you through a crash course of undergraduate-level immunobiology scattered with absolutely gorgeous art. A great long-term read for the inner biology fan in you (I know you have one, don't lie).

If you didn't know, Dettmer is the guy behind the YouTube channel "Kurzgesagt", so if you don't have time, at least have a browse through his videos!



Books Writer

DAVID LOUGHLIN

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Braiding Sweetgrass is a beautiful collection of stories that, broadly, follow the life of the author, Robin Wall Kimmerer (a botanist and professor of environmental biology who is of Native American descent), and her evolving understanding of the relationship between scientific and indigenous ways of knowing, along with the implications for culture and ethics therein.

I was gifted this book as part of a Secret Santa by someone who knew that I had



a beautiful framework for tackling societal inequities using unabashed reciprocity

been struggling to reconcile my anti-hierarchy/pro-intersectional-empathy world view with the work I do as a PhD in computing, where much research is, in some way, guided by the demands of tech giants looking to seize ever more control over our culture and societal power structures. Thankfully, through *Braiding Sweetgrass's* exploration of indigenous relationships with the environment, ecology, and fellow people, coupled with science's yearning for observation, the book describes a beautiful framework for tackling societal inequities using unabashed reciprocity.

This book reminded me that one of the most radical and progressive actions you can take is to continually

and relentlessly aim for respect and empathy in all the relationships around you: from the trees that provide you with shade in the summer and conkers in the autumn to the people leaving room for you in a conversation so that you may talk together. If you want something to re-teach you what it means to appreciate the world around you, then I cannot recommend *Braiding Sweetgrass* enough.

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

A hymn of love to the world.

—ELIZABETH GILBERT

BRAIDING SWEETGRASS



Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge,
and the Teachings of Plants

ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

Books Writer

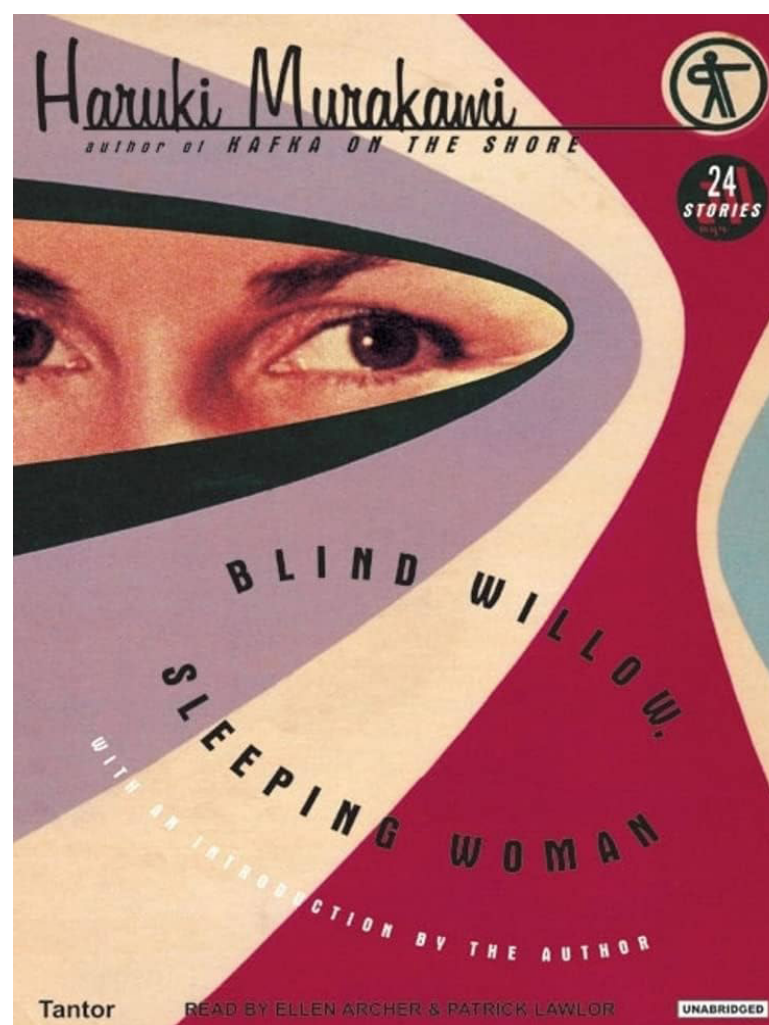
SOPHIE RECK POINTON

Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman by Haruki Murakami

A delicious collection of Murakami's unique brand of realistic weirdness in 24 short stories. Some ended

abruptly, some ended perfectly, some could only be understood in a certain frame of mind.

It's hard not to be drawn back again and again by any writing by Murakami – to dislike his writing is to dislike the strangeness of being alive. However, this is not the most satisfying and easy kind of book to read.



**FRIDAY 13TH
MARCH**

**IMPE
VAR
COME SU**



IMPERIAL COLLEGE SWI

**ERIAL
SITY**

SUPPORT US!

**ETHOS,
19:00-22:00**



SWIMMING & WATER POLO

FILM&TV

If I Had Legs I'd Kick You

Film Writer
LARA BEGÜM YENER

An underdog in the awards season that can be interpreted as birth control in movie form.

I went to see *If I Had Legs I'd Kick You* last Friday with my friends at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) in St. James's, which is an experience I can't recommend enough because it is a lovely independent cinema, with £5 tickets for those who are 25 and under. I had no expectations going in and I was pleasantly surprised with how much I enjoyed the movie; nevertheless, it's not something you'd want to rewatch. This was sort of how I felt watching *Die My Love*, but I definitely prefer *If I Had Legs I'd Kick You* more.

The movie is about Linda, a mother with an absent partner, who is navigating her daughter's puzzling illness as well as her career. The story kicks off when a huge hole opens in their ceiling, forcing Linda and her daughter to temporarily move to a hotel. As expected, everything goes haywire from there. Linda faces a confusing relationship with her co-worker therapist, the troubles of her patients, and judgment for her parenting from her husband. The doctor overseeing her daughter's illness, and even the persecution of the car park attendant at her daughter's clinic simply add to her stress. She has no one to talk to, no help to get, and has the world upon her shoulders.

As all of her problems escalate and the expectations placed upon her grow, she declines to a worse mental state – this is reflected in her appearance and it's like watching a fault line gather energy, unable to brake. The stress and anticipation that builds up through the movie is conveyed by Rosie Byrne's phenomenal acting. Her performance is a great balance of meticulous comedic

timing with a heartwrenching portrayal of the responsibilities and expectations that come from motherhood. Byrne is accompanied by other great performances from Conan O'Brien and Mary Bronstein, who is also the director and the screenwriter for the movie. There is also a surprising appearance by A\$AP Rocky, which I thought was quite unexpected (and funny).

I left the cinema thinking about

caregivers remain. We expect women to be pure, selfless mothers who give up their life for their child. Seeking leisure is disapproved, being a mother is a full time job, and even the jobs mothers already have are undermined. What else could be more important than your one destined duty? While Byrne's character admittedly has her faults, it is mostly understandable: any person would break under such pressure. Although the

motherhood and depression that Linda faces. *Uncut Gems*, which I watched over the weekend after reading comments such as this, has a completely different trajectory and annoys you to the point you are surprised why you were rooting for the main character Howard in the first place. I think a more likely comparison to *Uncut Gems* is *Marty Supreme*, in the sense that the main characters are both



Linda (Rosie Byrne) in *If I Had Legs I'd Kick You*
A24

the expectations of motherhood and parenting thrown upon women – and I couldn't help myself but wonder how scary it is to be a mother, and how terrified I would be to raise a child with such societal pressure. Even growing up, I heard mothers, dads, aunts, uncles and essentially everyone making criticisms about someone's performance as a mother. Of course, in the modern world, parenting is getting more and more equal and modernised; however, our expectations that women grow up to be "motherly" and "nurturing"

movie is described as a horror-comedy and I couldn't help but laugh at parts, to me this is a horror-thriller through and through.

As always, I had to have a look at Letterboxd to have a feel about what other people thought of the movie. I've seen comments online saying that this is like the female equivalent of *Uncut Gems*, which is a sentiment I can understand but I really don't like. The movies are similar in a way that they are both very stressful to watch, but I feel like a comment like this undermines the deeper struggles of

“

I couldn't help myself but wonder how scary it is to be a mother.

ambitious, charismatic con artists that bet on life and face hardships. All three movies are, at times, hard to watch and quite stressful.

If you are looking for an actress to root for in the Academy Awards, or if you are looking for an uncomfortable two hours, this is for you. I recommend seeing it while it's still screening at cinemas.

A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms

A *Knight of the Seven Kingdoms* concluded its first season last week, proving that George R. R. Martin's world does not require a massive CGI spectacle to capture its emotional core. Despite the absence of dragons or world-ending peril, the most striking thing about the series is how disarmingly simple it remains. And somehow, it works. At its heart, the story is modest to a fault: Ser Duncan the Tall, a hedge knight with little more than borrowed armour and good intentions, is joined by Egg – a boy whose true identity he is only beginning to understand – on a journey whose stakes are refreshingly, almost defiantly small. Instead of dragon fire or political conspiracies, the drama emerges from the quiet bond forming between the two – an unlikely partnership that gives the series a warmth rarely found in Westeros. Yet the reaction to the show online has been far less quiet.

When HBO announced its adaptation, anticipation for *A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms* was high after the scale of *Game of Thrones* and *House of the Dragons*. But in the strange ecosystem of online fandoms, success isn't simple. After the fifth episode "In the Name of the Mother" was aired on 15th February, it was praised by audiences and deemed as one of the best episodes across the entire *Game of Thrones* universe – even briefly hitting a perfect 10/10 rating on IMDb. Until then,

only the *Breaking Bad* episode "Ozymandias" (Season 5, Episode 14), which is often cited as the highest-rated television episode ever, had maintained a perfect IMDb score since its release in 2013. However, as of 3rd March 2026, "Ozymandias" has reached a rating as low as 9.5/10 – the same score as "In the Name of the Mother". What could have happened to bring down the once perfect scores from two of the most well-known television franchises?

What seems to have occurred is a review-bombing war between *Breaking Bad* fans, who had intentionally voted the fifth episode of *A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms* with 1-star ratings to preserve "Ozymandias" in its record spot, and *Game of Thrones* fans, who backlashed by doing the same to "Ozymandias". This battle has been fuelled by social media, with *Breaking Bad* fans writing IMDb reviews like "I'm a big fan of *Breaking Bad*, so I have to rate this episode one" and *Game of Thrones* fans responding with "The Lannisters send their regards" or "An eye for an eye." This somehow-hilarious but rewardless encounter with online fans has now left us with two great episodes fallen behind.

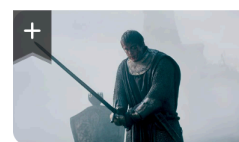
Somewhat ironically, the thing about *A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms* is that it doesn't need spectacle to survive. Dunk often thinks he is the least impressive man in the room. But his greatness isn't

The new *Game of Thrones* prequel TV series triggers a review-bombing war with *Breaking Bad* fans, causing "Ozymandias" to lose its IMDb record.

Film Writer
TOBI FALAIYE

Film Editor
SIJUNG LEE

Ser Duncan the Tall "Dunk" (Peter Claffey) in Episode 5, "In the Name of the Mother"
Steffan Hill/HBO



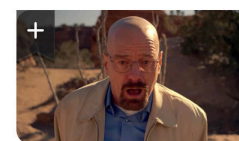
TOP-RATED

S1.E5 · In the Name of the Mother

Sun, Feb 15, 2026

Dunk's mettle is put to the test in the brutal trial of seven. Years earlier, Dunk finds himself drawn to the promise of a new future.

★ 9.5/10 (181K) ☆ Rate



S5.E14 · Ozymandias

Sun, Sep 15, 2013

After a desert standoff, Walt and Jesse face the fallout as alliances shift, family is threatened, and old choices come due.

★ 9.5/10 (489K) ☆ Rate

Screenshot of *A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms* vs. *Breaking Bad* episode ratings
IMDb (3rd March, 2026)

cinematic – it's ethical. And maybe that's why, despite rating wars and online turf battles, the story continues to resonate. Because long after algorithms settle and fanbases move on, what lingers isn't the number beside a title. It's the image of a big, uncertain knight choosing – again and again – to stand up for someone smaller than himself.



I'm a big fan of *Breaking Bad*, so I have to rate this episode 1/10.

– IMDb review for Episode 5



Ser Duncan the Tall "Dunk" (Peter Claffey) and Egg (Dexter Sol Ansell)
Steffan Hill/HBO

LIFESTYLE

Rasa Kitchen review

Felix visits Rasa Kitchen, the recently opened Malaysian restaurant tucked away in Sherfield Walkway.

Lifestyle Writer

DAVID LOUGHLIN

The exciting hustle and bustle of Kuala Lumpur's markets, lined with street food vendors, meets the surprisingly muscled and wholly Russell group crowds of the Sherfield walkway. Slotted right between the JCR and SCR on the Walkway, Rasa Kitchen is unmissable – partially because it sits at what might be the walkway's narrowest point, but mostly due to the frequently long line of people tracing the wall and eagerly awaiting Malaysian food. On a Friday, the Felix lifestyle team joined that line and were pleasantly surprised.

Unlike the disarray of the SCR, Rasa Kitchen's queuing is streamlined and easy to navigate, but your journey is likely to start outside as ours did. Inside, we were snaked towards the food bar, giving us ample time to decipher the simple and clear menu. There are two primary hot dishes to choose from: one of the staple noodle soups of Southeast Asia, laksa, or a "street food" dish that varies by day. Both choices provide a meat/fish and

a vegan option, where the principal protein source is typically tofu. The variety dish, however, adds another layer of possibility, allowing us to select either rice or noodles as the base carbohydrate. If you are still worried about not having time to decide between the ~6 possible combinations, have no fear as there is

only a single till at the end of the food bar, and the staff are kind with no stress-inducing rush to be had.

Despite the laksa being the first dish you see, and the cheaper option at around £5, most people seem to go for the variety dish, but it's no wonder why. At £6.45, roughly the same price as any other Taste Imperial main, the variety dish is bountiful. When we went, the vegan option was a coconut and chilli curry with tofu, while the meat option was a spiced chicken

already completely drained.

Once done in Rasa Kitchen itself, you are met with one of the only downsides of the spot. Finding seating is going to be a challenge. However, this is a challenge shared by most of the catering outlets in Sherfield, so it is nothing that some cunning and strategic hovering over

not out-of-this-world, was certainly out-of-this-university and passed my expectations for campus food. The tofu was firm yet spongy, making it a quick flavour-bomb when bitten into, while the sprinkle of chilli offered a welcome glow. Hiding in the curry was a combination of sweet potato and bamboo that deepened the dish with some soft and crunchy textures. In total, this coconut curry variety dish was hearty, nutritionally sound, and an uplifting lunch, even though you may find yourself wanting a nap afterwards.

Nevertheless, not all things at Imperial can be bliss. The only additional downside to the Rasa Kitchen experience was the simple salad. Comprised of lettuce, carrot, green beans, bean sprouts, and the odd lentil, the salad tasted slightly old and

oddly wet. While it is possible that this was an unfortunate batch, we couldn't help but theorise that it might have been frozen, or at least overly chilled. However, it still put no damper on my satisfaction with the main dish and certainly couldn't deprive me of the stamp on my "CHEAT ON MEAT" card, taking me one step closer to a free vegan meal.

There is a completeness to be felt when you finish your food. It's tasty and even a bit too filling, but it gives you either an excuse to extend your lunch and keep yapping with your friends, or a delightful savoury snack later in the day. Either way, the food leaves you with something to smile about. Even though I am still unsure what truly constitutes Malaysian cuisine, I am eager to keep finding out.



Top to bottom: Spicy chicken curry with rice and prawn crackers, Coconut chilli tofu curry with noodles. David Loughlin

curry. We had the tofu with noodles and the meat with rice. At the till, each of us was greeted with a small, simple salad and prawn crackers (not vegan) and on the way out, we had the option to add some free chilli oil, but by 1pm, this was

with tofu, the noodles made up the bulk of the carbohydrate. However, this was no tragedy, as the mahogany noodles alone were alluring, having been coated in a simple but flavourful oil. The curry itself only made the dish more appetising with a mix of sweetness from the coconut, and saltiness that, while

people who are already sat can't solve.

When finally sitting with our food, we were once again reminded just how plentiful the portions are. For the coconut curry

SOCIETIES

Tech For Good Challenge

Women in Electrical Engineering Society hosted their second ever Tech For Good Challenge last week in collaboration with Apple.



Year 9 students working on the challenge. Courtesy of WiEE

Societies Writer
CLAIRE HEIMGARTNER

Last Wednesday, more than 80 STEM-curious year nines gathered in the Electrical Engineering building for the Tech For Good Challenge, run by volunteers from the Women in Electrical Engineering Society, in collaboration with Apple. The student-led program was aimed to spark an early interest in engineering as an exciting application of maths and physics, with the purpose encouraging girls to see themselves as future innovators who can make change in the world.

The first floor labs were buzzing with energy as the girls were challenged to design a solution to a problem which affects their generation. This intentionally broad brief inspired teams to dream up a number of spirited ideas for apps and hardware solutions for far-reaching problems, including global warming, world hunger and environmental pollution.

Notably, the event was keenly supported by Apple's outreach team. Representatives explained that they are very focused on promoting EE within young minds. "We've seen that girls' percentages are low, we'd like to understand where the issue stems from and help them understand there is a path in these fields." This is true: although the number is steadily increasing, women only make up around 16.5% of the engineering and technology workforce in the UK. Apple engineers came in to judge the competition and give out prizes alongside Imperial Alumni, and speak directly to the students at the panel.

Apple has a number of hires from Imperial and has increasingly engaged with students over time, with representatives stating they enjoy taking opportunities to collaborate with Imperial, including guest lectures and society events such as the WiEE event. Undoubtedly, the confident and proud female Apple engineers served as role models for the young women in the audience, including the committee

themselves.

Underlying the panel was sage advice from female students, professors and professionals working in Electrical Engineering fields. The general sentiment was optimism, with many echoing that the experience for women in engineering fields is now the best it has ever been. While women are still underrepresented in these fields, they feel heard and seldom overlooked by their male coworkers. Their biggest advice for the young women in STEM was to look past their own self-doubt, and to push past imposter's syndrome, with the event strategically organised before they would be making crucial decisions about their upcoming GCSE subjects.

Why year 9?

Year 9, which many of us may remember with a little bit of cringe, is crucial but turbulent. At the ages of 13-14, many of us were both determined and completely overwhelmed with forming a sense of self-identity, and self-ability. Teachers

supervising that day emphasised that a hands-on experience like this is extremely valuable to students who are just starting to narrow down their interests and future dreams, inspiring them to avoid limiting themselves with their own assumptions.

Above all, the message of the event was to 'stay curious.' Luckily for them, the day's plan included a short activity in building a simple LED circuit, which the girls tinkered with gusto, a first taste of the enriching STEM careers ahead of them.

This was the second annual Tech For Good Challenge by the Women in Electrical Engineering society, who took the initiative to reach out to local schools themselves, inviting them to nominate students they think would be interested. The 15 volunteer-strong team is confident that the event will continue to grow in the coming years, especially with this year's promising corporate support.



Winners of the Tech for Good Challenge with the WiEE volunteers. Courtesy of WiEE

Two reviews of DramSoc's *The*



Cast and crew for DramSoc's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Courtesy of DramSoc

Societies Writer DARIGA ATAYEVA

DramSoc recently performed Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* with great success. I went to watch it on Wednesday 25th of February, which was their first public performance, and although from what I heard it was not their best one among the next three they performed, it still exceeded my expectations and was highly enjoyable. The five weeks the cast spent rehearsing were time well spent.

Firstly, the directors really did bring together a "brilliant team of people to put on." Each actor embodied their character exceptionally well, to the point where it seems hard to imagine them playing different roles.

The two main protagonists, Algernon played by Atom Lucenet and Jack played by Lex Irish, were energetic and kept the audience constantly on edge towards their next move. Especially the scene where Algernon comes on stage as Ernest, pretending to be Jack's brother, right after Jack announces Ernest's death with great melancholy.

Lady Bracknell, played by Daniel Rattner, as very snobby, and her domineering presence could be felt anytime she entered the scene, with her head held high and her pride over the roof. As for her daughter, Gwendolen, Jack's lover from Mayfair, Elana Todd Miller truly portrayed a Victorian young city woman, with utmost sophistication and confidence.

Jack's ward, Cecily Cardew, played by Jasi Withers, clearly showed a contrast to her counterpart, Gwendolen, rejecting Victorian standards and instead leaning into her witty, imaginative and kind side. Some missed lines could be noted throughout the show, but only subtly, as each actor picked up their lines back with great impromptu skills, making a few stutters just an element of realism.

Plot

As for the plot, the show followed Oscar Wilde's sequence of events, adding humour and a few modern jokes here and there. In fact, the plot was brought to life with this added modernity, making it cleverly funny and inscribing a 19th century environment in smooth harmony with the 21st. However, the beginning of

the plot seemed a bit slow, as it stayed in the same scene with both Algernon and Jack having a long dialogue about their opinions on cucumber sandwiches, marriage, women and second identities. Nevertheless, the pace picked itself up with the introduction of more characters and changes in scene, when we moved from Mayfair London to the countryside.

Props, Set and Costumes

The props made it obvious where we were located, for one, the grand aristocratic 19th century living room on stage, and a beautiful country garden with flowers at the bottom. Transitions between settings were therefore quick and obvious. The choice of real food was also interesting, with Algernon spitting some out at some point while shouting to Jack.

Whilst the props characterised the environment of each scene with detail, so did the costumes in portraying the class and personalities of each character. For instance, Lady Bracknell was dressed fully covered and in black, with long beads around her neck, symbolising her strict and wealth-focused character. Cecily was dressed in a light silver spring dress, with minimal accessories, expressing her

heart-lightness and natural personality, whereas Gwendolen wore an aristocratic long green dress with long lace sleeves and a cocktail hat. Miss Prism also wore a patterned dress with a white collar, representing her conservative character, yet also of lower social standards (as she is an unmarried woman). As for the men, Jack, Lane, Reverend Chasuble, and Merriman wore a formal suit; only Argenold differed with his colourful yellow suit and turquoise tie. This attire well represented Algernon's chaotic, comic and rebellious personality.

Light and Sound

Lights and sound effects, although unsynchronised to the action a few times, kept the audience's attention on the main actions and characters when multiple characters were on stage, helping communicate the storyline effectively.

Overall, a great show that demonstrates the talent of Imperial's Drama Society and makes us excited for what they plan on performing next!

The Importance of Being Earnest

Societies Writer

DAVID LATIMER

The most recent Imperial DramSoc adaptation of Oscar Wilde's best-known play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, is as effervescent as it is camp while remaining faithful to the original text. 97 years after the society first performed it, this production was brought together over the impressively short span of five weeks. The directing trio of Anya Chaudhary, Aaron Simpson, and Manu Greenfield managed to put on the work with a clear vision that resounded throughout the performance. As someone who has been around the block with DramSoc and their productions, it felt to me that this was the most confident and strong show they've put on in my time at Imperial. There was never a moment where the acting dragged, and audience immersion was instantaneous and seamless.

Going into this, I feared it would be played more as a pantomime, but it managed to avoid this without having to sacrifice the over-the-top production value or exaggerated acting choices. Rather, it was a totally believable version of the snobbish, domineering representative of the aristocracy, particularly in Daniel Rattner's portrayal of Lady Bracknell. Each actor was able to capture the distinctive cadence of Wilde's prose, delivering lines with clarity and excellent comedic timing, particularly displayed by Atom Lucenet (Algernon) and both butlers (played by Jack Childs and Daniel Browne), who didn't even have to open their mouths for their presence to be felt. Their body language alone transmitted more than a lot of people could dream of expressing with words.

The actors make the parts their own, with Rattner relying on a quiet, clipped delivery to exert authority, or

Societies Writer

GRACE MURRAY

Lex Irish (Jack Worthing) utilising his physical comedy abilities brilliantly without steering into farce; an incredible debut into DramSoc. Atom's performance of Algernon is reminiscent of Olly Alexander's from the National Theatre's adaptation, with his endearingly boyish charm. Elana Todd-Miller's Gwendolyn was particularly memorable, with her biting wit shining through every line but with no loss of her more gentle, girlish qualities. Conversely, Jasi Wither's portrayal of Cecily exemplified her youthfulness and innocence, while avoiding treating her as a complete fool. Both women's acting chops are particularly showcased during the scene where they both believe they are engaged to the same Earnest and have an argument through the medium of afternoon tea, which both actresses gave their entirety to with believably immature sparring.

It was difficult not to laugh at Algernon's butler, Lane's (Daniel Browne), every entrance – a figure moving with mechanical stiffness and an air of aloofness, displayed in his monosyllabic responses. The dominance of the butler as a comedic tool continues when the play moves to the Worthing's countryside estate, and Jack's butler Merriman is excellently played by Jack Childs as a totem of complete bewilderment at the aristocrats' wild behaviours. Jack's warmth was palpable and hilarious when wistfully looking on at

their budding romances.

In the countryside, the charming subplot of Miss Prism, Cecily's tutor (Anwasha Putatunda), and the reverend Dr. Chasuble's (Benet Horan), romance plays out. Their suppressed emotions, well portrayed by both actors, form a delightful counterpoint to the burning passion of the rest of the cast's romantic outbursts – with the pair's grounded performances adding a touch of sincerity to the play without losing the comedic edge.

It may have been able to avoid being a pantomime, but the production is still deliciously camp, with an impressive set, most notable in the garden scenes, and colourful costumes. The blooming bushes and antique furniture create an exuberant atmosphere. The two-tiered staging was a very effective use of space, allowing separation between stage elements. This was most well done in the scene where Algernon introduces himself to the Worthing estate on the main stage, where he is alone and singly the focus, before descending the stairs allowing the scene to shift back to normal. The verticality added a sense of expansiveness to the experience,

complimenting the outrageous nature of the characters.

Both Cecily and Gwendolyn were dressed to impress in beautiful period dresses, on loan from the National Theatre, and our leading men were also well-suited. In a particularly notable scene, Jack's dressed for mourning in an all-black suit, the centrepiece being the choice of long black gloves and a top hat, which were a brilliant decision to illustrate how insincere the faux serious moments are.

The show lives for pleasure, with the leisurely, even laborious line deliveries meaning the pace never becomes hectic, while the many side-eyes at the audience ensure it never takes itself too seriously. The entire ensemble gives a great performance whilst still allowing the lines to speak for themselves. A fine balance is struck between the relentless hamminess the script calls for without laying it on too thick. Wilde's polished oxymorons and inverted wisdom retain their satirical celebration of shallowness without becoming tired. This timeless comedy is big enough to take a joke, and this is a very good one.



Algernon, Lady Bracknell and Ms. Fairfax of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Courtesy of DramSoc

events * * * coming up *

Musical Theatre Soc: The Drowsy Chaperone

at Union Concert Hall (UCH)

Mar 4-7

- Mar 4, doors at 7:00 pm
- Mar 5, doors at 7:00 pm
- Mar 6, doors at 7:00 pm
- Mar 7, doors at 5:00 pm

Science Fiction and Fantasy Soc: Picocon

Mar 7

- From 9:30 am to 4:30 pm @RSM Lecture Theatre 228
- for more information:
 - @imperial_scifi

IDEA: Imperial Dance Showcase

UCH

Mar 12-14

- Mar 12, doors at 7:00 pm
- Mar 13, doors at 7:00 pm
- Mar 14, doors at 7:00 pm
- for more information:
 - @imperialdanceshow

Immunology Soc: Conference

Mar 14

- Times to be determined, hosted at South Ken
- for more information:
 - @icimmunosoc

advertise your event



write for societies



reach out to felix.soc@ic.ac.uk

CATNIP

Happy International Womens' Day from the Independent Revolutionary Chimp Co-operative

Ruby Lydford for *Felix*



SPORT

Imperial Fight Night was a knockout

Sport Editor

LILA HARRISON

On 5th February, Imperial's student fighters stepped into the ring at the Clapham Grand for the university's inaugural event of this kind. It turned out to be something that felt far more theatrical than a typical student event. The venue is one of the few surviving Victorian entertainment venues in London, opened in 1900, and built during the peak of Britain's music hall era. Today, it remains a Grade II listed building, recognised for its cultural significance. One could tell. The Grand's balconies and stage lighting with a full-sized raised ring gave the evening an unmistakable atmosphere that felt beyond just the modern day.

The dress code was black tie, and all of the crowd took it seriously with suits, bow ties, and dresses filling the hall. The crowd had clearly embraced the spectacle and was taking it very seriously. What struck me most was how seriously the fighters had taken the preparation, and how seriously the event was being taken. To be quite frank, I would never have expected such a seriousness toward boxing at Imperial College. Many had been training twice a week for several

weeks leading up to the event, fitting sparring sessions around lectures and other demands. By the time the first walkouts began, the mood had shifted from novelty to something real.

I ended up leaving before the event fully hit its peak later in the evening, but I have since had a chance to speak to some of the fighters, namely Jeffery, Jed, A, and Gerry, from the night.

What made you put your name down in the first place?

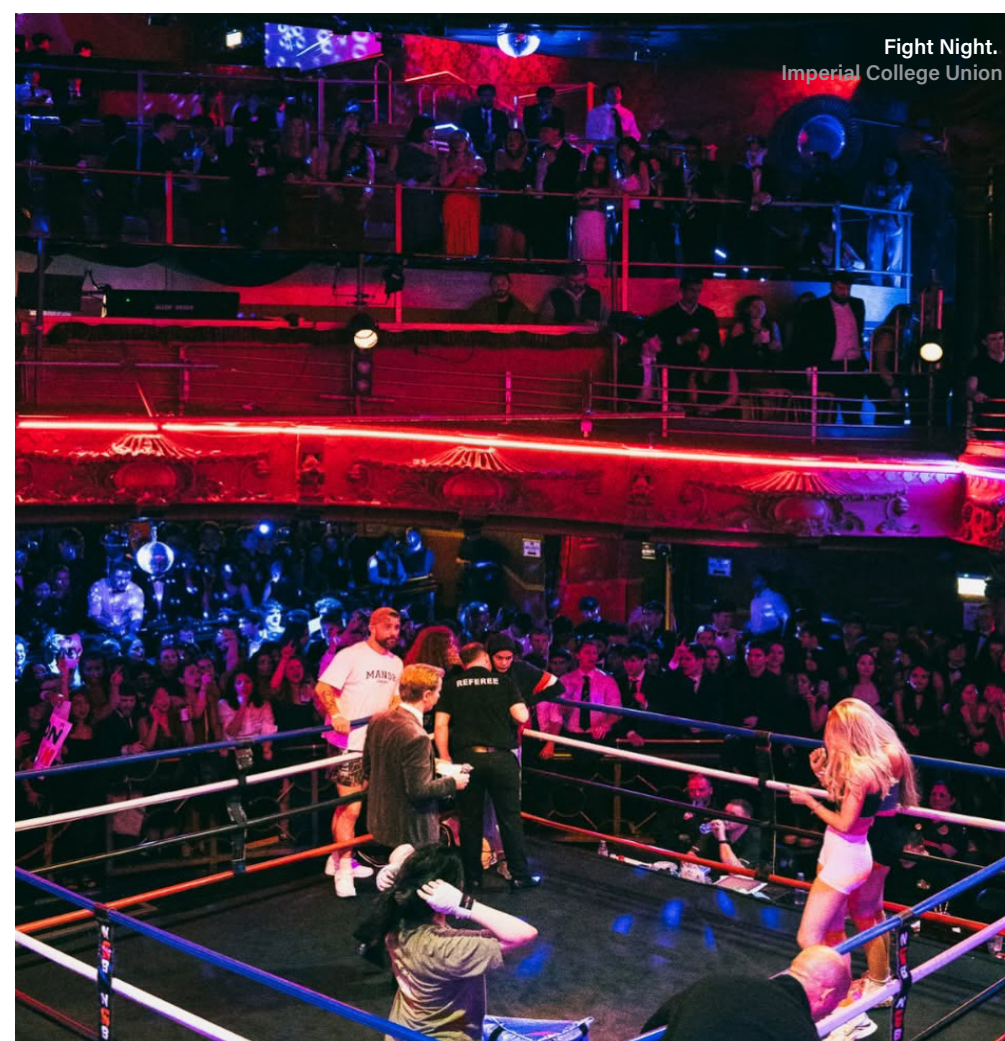
Jeffery: "It's new to me, and I like challenges."

Did you fully know what you were signing up for?

Jed: "The preparation for the event was as I expected, enjoyable and intense sessions were run twice a week to prepare fighters. The event itself was much better than I first anticipated: the venue was amazing, and the atmosphere was surreal."

Were you nervous on the day, or did it not hit you until later?

Jeffery: "Wasn't nervous – just felt it was



my preparation concluding and now was the test."

What was going through your head during the walk-on?

Jed: "The walkout was the best part of the night for me. It was incredible to hear the crowd singing along to the music, and it put me in a great mindset for the fight. However, I was also very nervous knowing I was about to step into the ring in front of a big crowd for the first time."

When the first bell went, what did it feel like?

A: "It was a one-time opportunity, and win or lose, I just wanted to try my best. I was kind of worried if I had the stamina to last the three rounds. My opponent is quite a lot taller than me, so I mentally prepared for him to throw a lot of jabs and use his range. As soon as the bell went, I remember he hit me with this huge right hook immediately. I realised this was going to be a total brawl, so I had to adjust and kind of throw my entire strategy out the window. It was such a fun experience: really glad I was able to take part. I lost on decision in the end, but it was a really great fight."

Was there a moment where you had to push through more than you expected?


Jeffery: "Was pretty tired in the third round and despite my opponent being hurt and my coach shouting 'finish him' in the corner, I didn't want to because I knew I was up by points already."

Did the fight go the way you imagined it would?

Jed: "Leading up to the event, I knew the fight would be extremely close. I landed some powerful headshots and kept my technique for the majority of the fight, but my opponent caught me off guard by throwing powerful body shots that were hard to avoid. This ultimately resulted in my loss, but the fight was enjoyable, and I have no regrets. Well done to my opponent!"

How are you feeling about it now, a few days on? Would you do it again?

Gerry: "I really enjoyed it, and it's tempted me to take up boxing in the future. I'd definitely do it again. As a master's student who just moved to London in September, I don't really have much going on outside of college here, so it was great to have something else to do. It does take up a lot of your time though, but I think it's worth it."



BATTLE OF THE BANDS
FINAL

THURS
19 MARCH
Metric |
7pm

GREEN WORKSHOPS

- Bike Repair
- Pots & Plants
- Mend & Repair
- Clothes Swap

TUE
17 MAR
Metric |
4pm

IRISH TRAD BAND

St. Patrick's Day!

LIVE MUSIC

TUES
17 MAR
568 |
7pm

Photo by @John Hartley



**TERM 2
EVENTS**

**SCAN HERE
TO FIND OUT
MORE:**

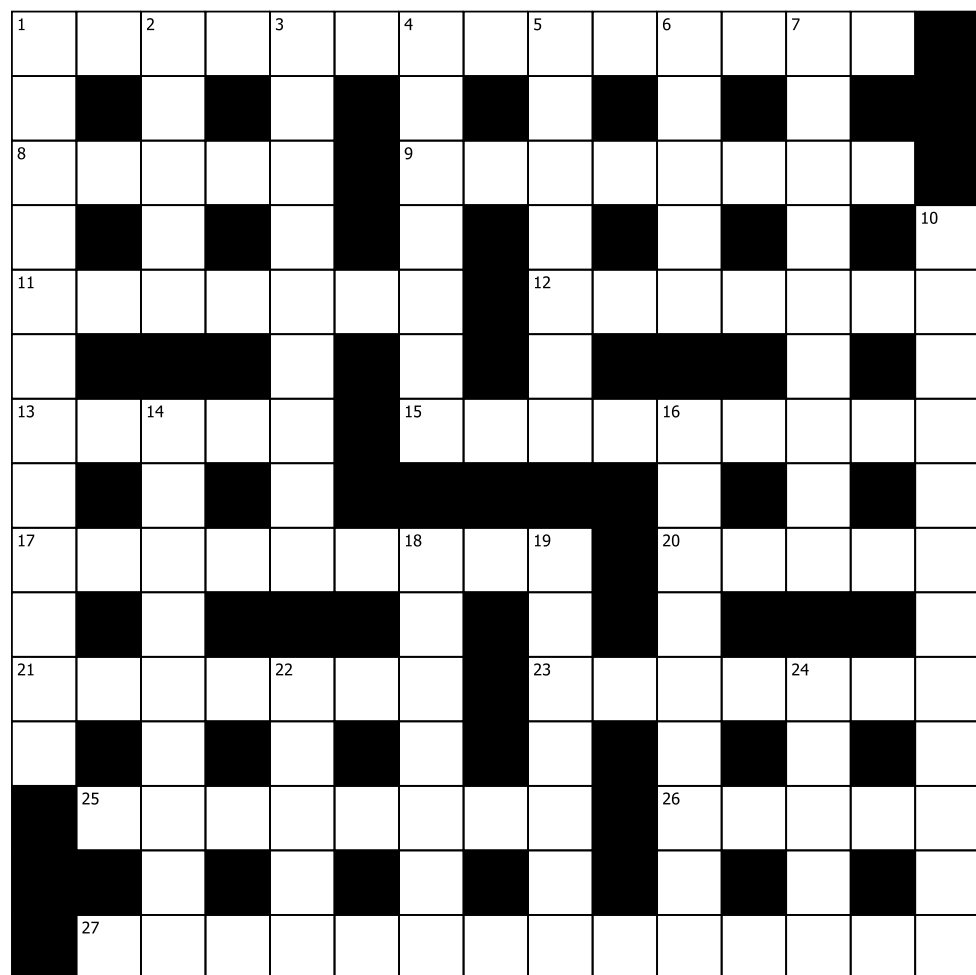


PUZZLES

LINK CROSSWORD

Written by Dyfam

(10 pts.)



Puzzles Editor
DAVID LATIMER

Across

- 1. In a fawning manner. [14]
- 8. Fruit drink. [5]
- 9. Conceptual divisions. [8]
- 11. One with experience. [7]
- 12. Vitamin A derivative. [7]
- 13. Magistrate. [5]
- 15. Observer. [9]
- 17. Method of note-taking. [9]
- 20. Fabric. [5]
- 21. Foreign things. [7]
- 23. Part of drum kit. [7]
- 25. Churches. [8]
- 26. Zeros. [5]
- 27. England flag. [2 7 5]

Down

- 1. Deprived. [12]
- 2. Civet. [5]
- 3. Detestable. [9]
- 4. Notches. [7]
- 5. Oil-bearing plant. [3 4]
- 6. Rub with oil. [5]
- 7. Australian cake. [9]
- 10. Musicians. [12]
- 14. Social scientist. [9]
- 16. Good-looking. [9]
- 18. Inept. [7]
- 19. Split. [7]
- 22. Emanate. [5]
- 24. Greeting. [5]

Five of the entries in this week's grid share a common link; work out the link and identify the clues to earn an extra 5 points!

Hint: Reading

Across

- 1. Ship encircled - they hit it, an iceberg. [7]
- 5. Swoops with quiet measures. [7]
- 9. Have obligation to be in empty river? Unlikely! [5]
- 10. Some comfort that prisoner didn't arrive on time. [9]
- 11. Reportedly vain cat is blooming. [9]
- 12. Cockney measured woman's bird. [5]
- 13. Car without chief component is unstoppable. [11]
- 17. Wet area by flag is no better than expected. [3 8]
- 20. Hum starts to deafen right over Newcastle end. [5]
- 21. Placed in choppy damp inlet. [9]
- 23. To remove? Time will tell. [9]
- 25. Getting trapped within an escape room is silly. [5]
- 26. Doctor attunes to illness. [7]
- 27. Breaks down compilations. [7]

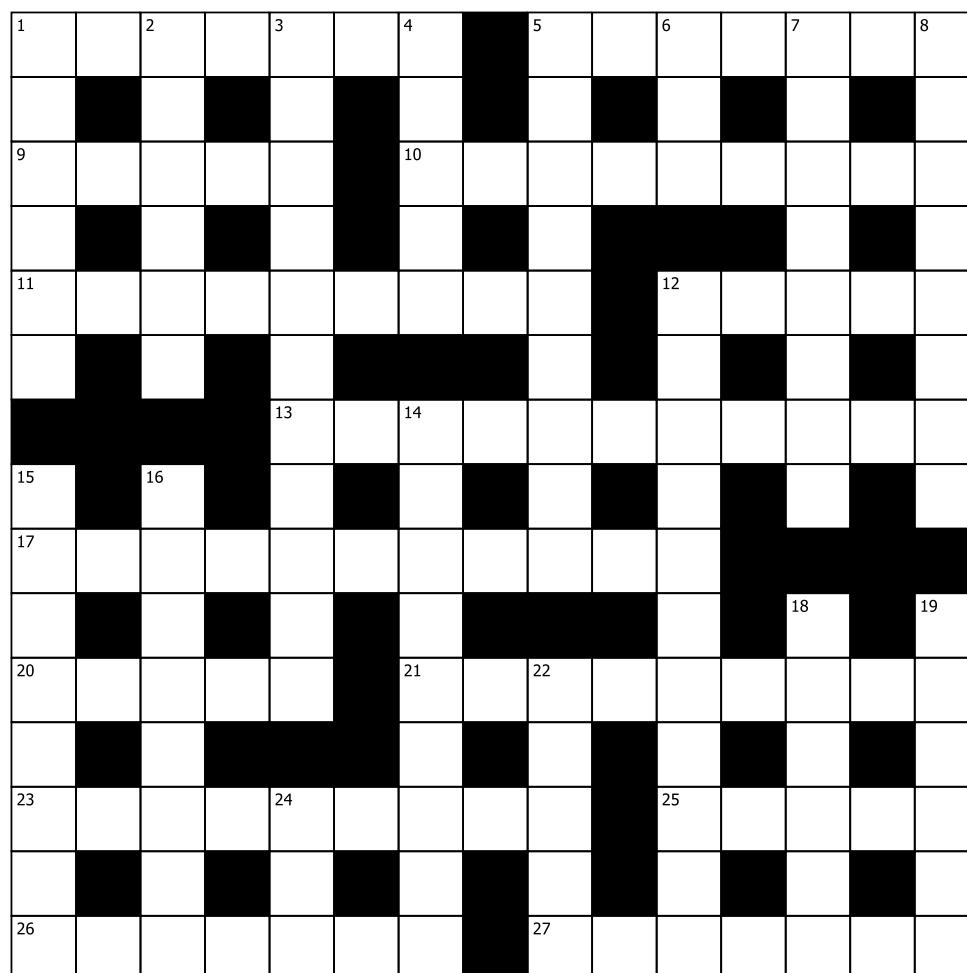
Down

- 1. Outburst after report of menswear theft. [6]
- 2. Lugging starters of tomatoes and olives with single chicken piece. [6]
- 3. Brain or heart? [5,6]
- 4. Extract of carbolic activated plants. [5]
- 5. Writer with criticism falling short has a point. [9]
- 6. Basically undergoing folding, origami is a craft. [3]
- 7. Candle-maker and erstwhile pal. [8]
- 8. Quiet mountain with five missing is the steepest. [8]
- 12. Leaving art class successfully! [11]
- 14. Convenient restrictions reportedly result in difficulties. [9]
- 15. Honour given to the German not trying initially to toe the line. [8]
- 16. Unaware of Signor Anton's attributes. [8]
- 18. Gets away with small ducks. [6]
- 19. Shakes unopened milk containers. [6]
- 22. Quietly direct to state one's case. [5]
- 24. Lover of Zeus can finally be charged. [3]

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

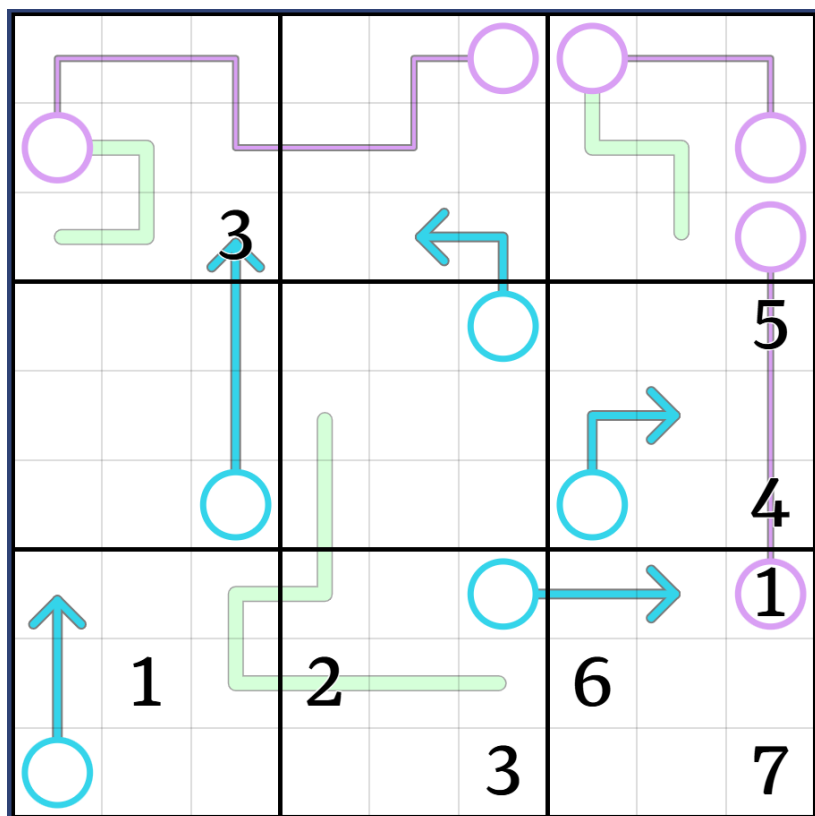
Written by Dyfam

(20 pts.)



HECTIC SUDOKU

Designed by Mara Sergienko



(15 pts.)

Hi again!

I've realised that this little mini note thing is a useful tool for explaining more complex puzzles, and that include this one! Mara has sent me a custom sudoku variant I have chosen to call the Hectic Sudoku.

The rules are as follows:

Green - Each pair of two adjacent digits on the line must have a difference of at least 5.

Blue - The digits along the arrow must add up to total the number in the circle.

Purple - The numbers on the line must be between the values in the circles. For instance, if one circle has a 3, the other has a 8, all numbers on the line must be larger than 3 and smaller than 8.

I hope you have fun with it!

ANAGRAMS

Theme: Stephen King books

TRIES RAFTER

TASTY AMPERE

CLOSETED PRO

LOST MEALS

I MANSION

HEEL REGIMENT

(6 pts.)

MISSING VOWELS

Theme: Things you may find on campus

SH R FLD W LKW Y

D JC TDS T DNT S

PHL LC MT LS T T

B LCK TTLB RTR Y

KT SCR RY

CP Y FF LX

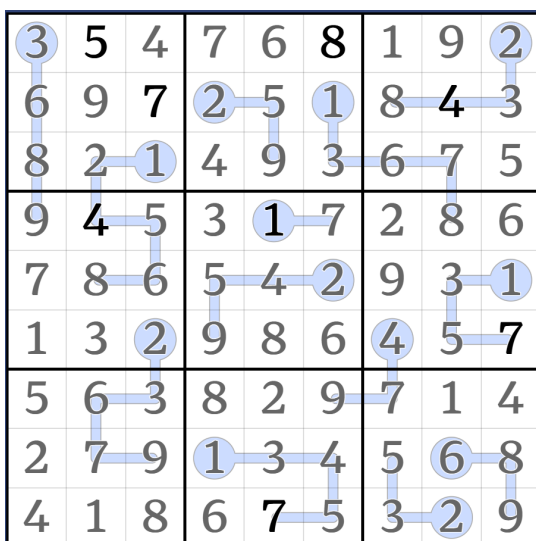
(6 pts.)

LAST WEEK

"SIBILANCE"



Cryptic #1893



Variant #1893

LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Team Name	Pts.	Gain
1	Joey H. Sultanas	487	139
2	Nicocross Wourbaki	467	119
3	Team Marsvin	433	98
4	Mac Yang	424	76
5	Skrelp	368	125
6	CRYGGTIC	334	64
7	Graslin	230	59
8	Hidden Variables	169	88

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!

COMIC

Submitted by Tengyu Zhao



Puzzle Editor's Note

Dearest Puzzlers,

Hello again! Nice to have more puzzles back, signalling the end of austerity. We have two crosswords from Dyfam this week, and a lovely custom sudoku variant from Mara! As far as I'm aware, this is something she's invented, so I'd be curious to see how you all find it. The rules are adjacent to it, and I hope it doesn't give you too much trouble.

The end of the term has really been sneaking up on me! Next issue will mark this term's final, which means you should all have an EV to sink your teeth into. The EV is still - uh - not finished yet, but don't fear! I will be working day and night to get it ready for you all! I've made the decision to not reset the scores after this term finishes, and will instead announce the winner of the leaderboard at the end of the Summer term. So the battle isn't over yet! Speaking of, lots of sparring on the leaderboard this week, with Joey just eking out onto the top spot.

Hope you all enjoy this week, and are adequately fortified for the end of term!

-David



HELP APPRECIATED

If anyone reading would like to submit puzzles of any kind to the paper for publication, it would be very appreciated. We'd love to see what you can do!

Email: puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

