

ΨΦ IMPERIAL COLLEGE
SCIENCE FICTION &
FANTASY SOCIETY

From the Editor



Jean Lo
Editor

THE days are getting shorter, and you've put your summer clothes away. You take a stroll on campus, and soon find yourself in possession of a large pile of paper.

Page 3. You head to the West Basement at lunchtime. (There is someone — there is always someone in the West Basement at lunchtime.) There is also a television screen, and the moving images temporarily remove you from worldly ills.

Page 4. The Librarian suggests that you put the title on the request list, or grab it on the Book Crawl, but soon you realise that the story you want to read is not in the Library because it does not yet exist. Left without a choice, you sit down with your favourite writing implement.

Page 6. You are presented with a provisional map of the near future. It includes a Halloween Party.

Page 7. The manuscript is completed, and you electronic-mail it to icsfwyrmtongue@gmail.com. Later, on a lovely day in February with a very memorable date, you sit in a lecture theatre and listen intently to a talk about a fantastic topic. You watch some miscellanea get obliterated with a sledgehammer. Your writing appears in the *Picocon Fanzine*, becoming part of its mythical, forty-year history of artwork and poetry and short stories and essays. At sunset, no-one challenges you to a duel.

Page 1. The College welcomes you (back) into the beginning of a(nother) new academic year, and the editor thanks you for picking up this issue of *Wyrmtongue*, the newsletter brought to you by ICSF, the Imperial College Science Fiction and Fantasy Society.

You're going to have a splendid time. ΨΦ

Captain's Log

HELLO all, and welcome to the 43rd year of the Imperial College Science Fiction and Fantasy Society! I'm Matthew, this year's Chair-Entity, and as such it falls to me to provide a snapshot of what we get up to.

Firstly, Books! Over 10,000 of them! ICSF has an entire library full of fantastic fiction situated in the not-so-secretive West Basement of Beit halls, a mere pint glass' throw[†] from the Union Bar. Our collection comprises great reads from all across the sci-fi and fantasy spectrum, all of which can be loaned out to our members. We have an entire wall full of DVDs for your viewing pleasure, and we keep our shelves regularly topped up with all the new releases.

Secondly, Events! Whether it's movie marathons, bar nights, or the odd excursion out to bookshops and cinemas, there is plenty to enjoy with your fellow bookworms and movie nerds. Soon approaching include our annual freshers' welcome event, Theme Fridays to celebrate the end of the week, and our Halloween and Christmas parties. We even have our own convention, Picocon: a day full of talks from published authors, silly games, and the odd bit of merchandise destruction.

Lastly, People! The library is a lovely social space where you can go and enjoy a relaxed lunchtime. Every weekday from 12—2pm you are welcome to join us as we watch some of our extensive collection of TV shows and films. Moreover, the society is full of friendly faces ready to chat and hold lively discussions about their favourite works of fiction. The society is very welcoming and inclusive — a fact I have known ever since I accidentally walked in on an EGM back when I was a fresher.

So, if you want to watch, read or discuss Pratchett, Potter, Trek, Who, Sanderson or more, come and find our shelves! You may find a few new favourites in the process. ΨΦ



Matthew Last
Chair Entity

[†]please do not actually throw pint glasses at the library.

Welcome to the Library!



**Sintija
Raudonyte**
Head Librarian

HELLO, reader! My name is Sintija, and I'm the Head Librarian this year. Unquestionably, the essence of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Society is our library in the West Basement of Beit Quad.

Now, whether you're new to Imperial, or a seasoned veteran, you will undoubtedly experience the dread of seeking an uncrowded, cosy space to have your lunch throughout the year. We offer a unique social space open from 12 to 2 in the afternoon every weekday where you can relax during your lunch break and bring your friends to discuss movies, books and anything even remotely related to science fiction or fantasy – or better yet, you can watch something from our collection of 2000+ DVDs on our TV screen. The library is often open late into the evening and some of our smaller events happen there, with the comfy darkness enveloping the room and friends chatting to each other, illuminated by the screen and fairy lights.

Even if you're not a huge sci-fi fan, you should consider dropping by: at the start of my first year, I had not yet seen a single Star Wars movie (blasphemy, I know) and by the end, I have not only seen the original trilogy and the prequels, but I was also roped into a roleplaying game happening in the Star Wars Universe. Some of my most treasured memories from my time at Imperial were made at the library.

I love not having to worry about buying books to read, as the library contains over 10,000 books and 600 graphic novels, all there for you to borrow the moment you join the society. We have a lot to offer and in the unlikely case of you not finding what you were looking for – you can always talk to me or put your suggestion on the request list, and we'll try to acquire it as soon as possible.

I hope to see you very soon! ΨΦ

Recommendations

If you're looking to dive into the library's collection but are having trouble deciding where to start, here are some recommendations from the committee:

Matthew Last

— **Mort** by Terry Pratchett

Death decides he needs an apprentice.

Sequoia Trevorrow

— **One Way** by S.J. Morden

Redemption on Mars? At what cost?

Michael Figni

— **Futurama**

Making great future predictions since 1999.

Sintija Raudonyte

— **The Stranger** by Max Frei

The book that taught me sarcasm.

Harry Black

— **Jessica Jones Season 1**

Near-perfect adaptaiton of Alias comics run.

Jean Lo

— **Kraken** by China Miéville

Absurd occult London in magical ink.

Matthew Legg

— **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** by Douglas Adams

Don't forget to bring your towel.

Timothy Davison

— **Foundation** by Isaac Asimov

The empire crumbles. Fight the chaos.

Events Timetable



Matthew Legg
Acting Publicity
& Events Officer

GREETINGS to all living things at Imperial: I'm Matt, ICSF's acting publicity and events officer, and I'm here to tell you about all of the events we have lined up in the coming weeks for you to enjoy.

Expect a torrent of events for the first few weeks of this term, with plenty of opportunities to meet fellow fans of sci-fi, fantasy, horror, and who-knows-what-else. Here are some of the regular events you can expect from ICSF:

Lunchtime Showings — From noon to 2pm nearly every weekday, the library can be found filled with people watching various TV shows and movies in our collection. Perfect if you have an hour to spare in-between lectures!

Cinema Trips — Come along as we go out as a group to see the latest fantasy and sci-fi hits in cinema, with tickets often discounted for members. This term's films of note include: *Joker*, *Zombieland: Double Tap*, *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*, and *Jumanji: The Next Level*.

Literary Lucky Dip — Grab a free book! But with a catch: the mystery books will be wrapped up, with only a cryptic phrase written on the package to hint at what's inside.

Bar Nights — First round's on us as we discuss all things sci fi and fantasy with the refreshing taste of your favourite (alcoholic or otherwise) beverage on your lips.

Book Crawl — Where some societies have pub crawls, ICSF has book crawls! We'll be embarking on a journey around some of the best book and comic stores in London to find out what hidden gems they have on offer.

Halloween Party — On the eve of Friday November 1st, come as you are or dressed as your favourite character to our Halloween party! With showings of spooky(?) singalong classics like *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Dr Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*, come along for a night of singing, snacks, and even a fancy dress competition.

That should give you a taste of what kind of things we have in store this term. For more information about upcoming events this freshers, see the calendar on the opposite page. ΨΦ

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30 Literary Lucky Dip[†] ICSF Library	1	2 Wanna-Go Wednesday 12:00-20:00 ICSF Library	3 Meet and Greet 18:00-24:30 Blackett 1004	4 Themed Friday <i>Blockbuster Night</i>	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Themed Friday <i>Infinity War / Endgame</i>	12
13	14	15	16 EGM[‡]	17	18 Cinema Trip <i>Zombieland: Double Tap</i>	19
20	21	22	23	24 Bar Night	25	26 Book Crawl

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	1 Halloween Party 18:00-23:00 Dyson Library	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Themed Friday <i>Doctor Who</i>	23

Regular lunchtime showings (every weekday!) continue throughout term-time. Unofficial events not listed.

More to be announced as we go! Subscribe to our mailing lists to receive the latest updates.

[†]Continues into the week — drop by the library whenever and pick up a mystery book.

[‡]Extraordinary General Meeting. Run for a committee position!

Picocon



Harry Black
Picocon Sofa[†]

WELOCOME to the first of what is likely to be many of the Sofa Ramblings™ this year. (Many subsequent ramblings are likely to occur, exclusively within the Sci Fi Library, especially as February arrives).

I am this year's Picocon Sofa! The Picocon Sofa is the committee member most responsible for the Picocon, the annual convention we run to celebrate Science Fiction and Fantasy in all its forms, and also to raise money for charity and for the society. This year's Picocon will be the 37th, and I am thrilled to be able to confirm the date: Saturday 22nd February 2020.

I plan to run this year's convention a little differently from normal. For starters, the theme this year will be *Pride*. I will be using this Picocon as a way to celebrate LGBTQ+ stories and creators, as I myself am asexual, and I have found quite the overlap between LGBTQ+ stories and science fiction/fantasy stories. Of course, we will have a number of Guests of Honour to give speeches and presentations. In previous years, we have hosted such fabulous names as Terry Pratchett and Iain M. Banks.

While the rest of the committee will be assisting me this year as they have done in every previous year, the position of Picocon Beanbag — my second in command — is currently unfilled. If everything I've said so far interests you and you would like to be involved, please consider running for Picocon Beanbag at our EGM this term! For all announcements + useful information after this point please do follow the Picocon Twitter account: @picocon.

Hope to see you all there! ΨΦ

[†]Like a chair, but comfier™

Whispers from the Basement

Imperial College Science Fiction and Fantasy Society brings their weird and wonderful conversations directly to your auditory organs! Tune in for an hour of terrible banter, mysterious music, and life-changing revelations in dialogue.

Whispers from the Basement airs every Wednesday afternoon 14:00–15:00 on IC Radio. Find updates about the show and listen to previous broadcasts on the IC Radio website at icradio.com/shows/1016/.

Getting Involved

Mailing Lists

ICSF maintains two mailing lists, to which all members are welcome to subscribe:

- `icsf-list` is the society's core mailing list, which communicates announcements of ICSF events and important news about the society. This list does not generate an overwhelming amount of traffic, and subscription is a must if you would like to hear about film trips and other activities.
- `icsf-committee` is our 'management' list — but it gets used a lot more widely than that. Here you'll be able to contribute your opinion to the running of the society.

Manage your subscriptions at mailman.imperial.ac.uk/mailman.

Social Media

For those who welcome our social network overlords, behold continuations of the library into the realms of cyberspace:



facebook.com/groups/ICSF.imperial
Sci-fi talk, news and events, amusing links.



@Picocon
Announcements and excitement for our annual convention.

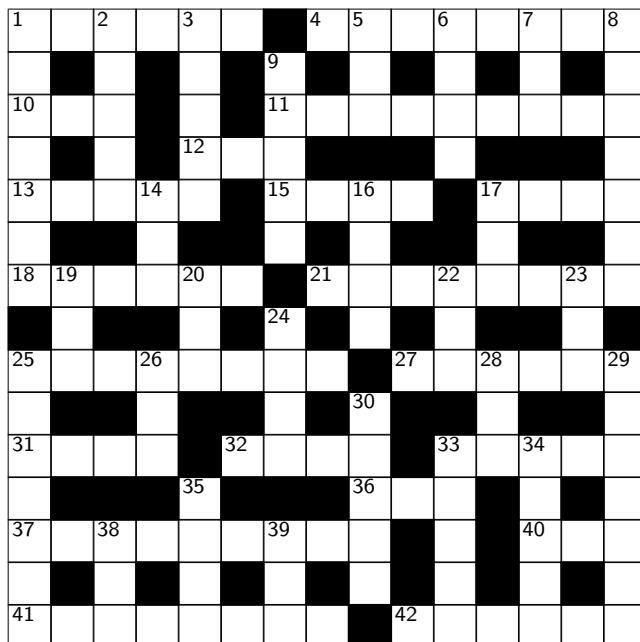


@Imperial_SciFi
Sci-fi and fantasy, 280 characters at a time.



@Imperial_SciFi
Visions from the library.

Crossword



Across

- 1 Mal Reynolds, Han Solo, Robin Hood (6)
- 4 The Spaceship in *Alien* (8)
- 10 Pointy Vulcan feature (3)
- 11 Rogues, thieves, conmen (9)
- 12 Giant robot in *Neon Genesis Evangelion* (3)
- 13 Asimov, author of *Foundation* (5)
- 15 Fantasy's favourite alcoholic beverage (4)
- 17 McCaffrey, author for *Dragonriders of Pern* (4)
- 18 Release the sea monster! (6)
- 21 Giant skull home of The Collector (8)
- 25 Home of Aquaman (8)
- 27 Home of Jules Verne (6)
- 31 Anastrophic green mentor (4)
- 32 Looking for aliens (4)
- 33 Werewolf magic teacher (5)
- 36 Mister Anderson (3)

- 37 *E.T., A.I., Jurassic Park* (9)

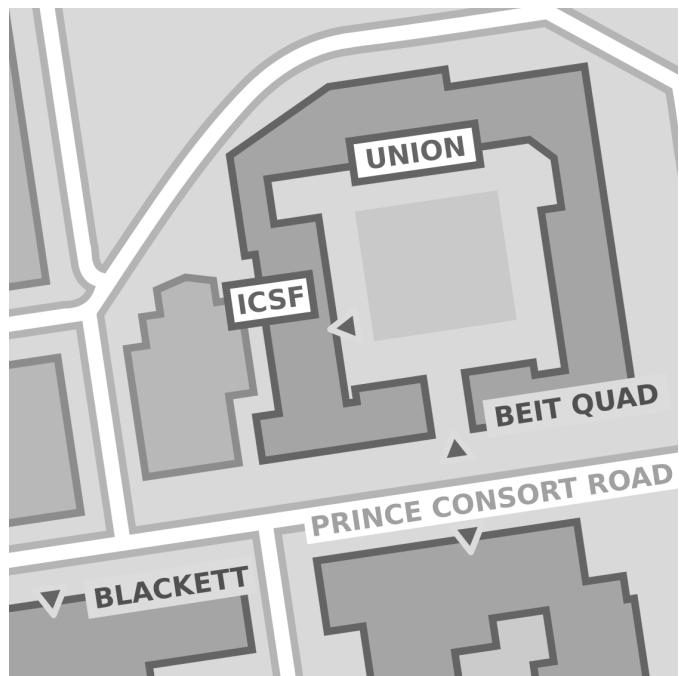
- 40 Lyrical stanza (3)
- 41 Knight of the Round Table (8)
- 42 Wesley Crusher's Starfleet rank (6)

Down

- 1 Egyptian monument (7)
- 2 Latin name for Earth (5)
- 3 Origin culture of the Quetzalcoatl (5)
- 5 Stock fantasy race (3)
- 6 Cersei Lannister to Jaime Lannister (4)
- 7 Ring to rule them all (3)
- 8 Zhar and Lloigor (7)
- 9 Douglas, author of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (5)
- 14 *Raiders of the Lost* ____ (3)
- 16 May, Petunia, Josephine (4)
- 17 ____ Ketchum from Pallet Town (3)

- 19 Peter Pettigrew (3)
- 20 Forever and a day (3)
- 22 Horseman of the Apocalypse (3)
- 23 Giant mythological bird (3)
- 24 ___, the universe, and everything (4)
- 25 Language of the demons (7)
- 26 Alias (3)
- 28 And my ____! (3)
- 29 ____ Air Temple, residence of the Guru Pathik (7)
- 30 The best way to consume media (5)
- 33 Gondor calls for aid! And ____ will answer (5)
- 34 Origin culture of the hero Māui (6)
- 35 Important to detective stories (4)
- 38 Starting point of many adventures (3)
- 39 The Living Planet (3)

crossword created by Henry Wild & the Sci-Fi Library.



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