



THURSDAY 3RD MARCH

KEEP THE CAT FREE



ANONYMOUS

In the Technology Pullout: It's boredom that drives these armchair warriors, not noble ideals of freedom

Recriminations as Bo' gets cut

Computer error contributes to heavy cuts during budgeting

Sophia David

The Clubs and Societies Board (CSB) have allocated their funding for the next academic year, with the City and Guilds College Union (CGCU) taking a 30% cut whilst the Royal Society of Science Union (RSCU) allocation is to rise by 95%.

The CGCU's 30% reduction was the largest cut suffered by any of the groups represented at the meeting. CGCU President, Victor du Mesnil du Buisson commented that next year is going to be "painful" for the CGCU and doubts that their allocated funding of £6720 will be enough.

In particular, there has been a substantial cut in funding to the Veteran Vehicle Motor Club (VVMC) that maintain and use Bo, the 1902 James and Browne car, and Derrick, the 1926 Ner-a-Car motorcycle, both motorised mascots of the CGCU. The club only received £415 which will provide funding for insurance but no funding for equipment and repair, travel costs such as the congestion charge and fuel or funding for entrance into the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run.

Robert Carter, Bo Driver for 2010-11, told Felix that "the current outcomes of the budgeting meeting will have detrimental effects on the operation of the club. It effectively puts an end to a 75 year tradition of Bo's entry in the historic

Ian Gillett



The team say that the cuts put an end to their involvement in the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run

London to Brighton Veteran Car Run."

He-in Cheong, former President of the CGCU, also commented that "it is extremely sad that traditions are slowly getting forgotten and precious things

are not taken care of. However because of a computer error that provided the wrong number of members of Team Bo, its budget was massively cut."

Deputy President (Clubs & Societ-

ies) Heather Jones admitted that there had been an ICT problem, which has now been fixed. It is believed that the club has approximately eight members.

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POLITICS



Does Fairtrade actually work: [Page 5](#)

TRAVEL



The joys of Thailand: [Page 10](#)

HANGMAN



The BK Man hates the horoscopes: [Page 36](#)

Break-ins reported in EEE building

College urges vigilance after spate of thefts on campus

Kadhim Shubber

Lockers in the Electronic and Electrical Engineering (EEE) building were

broken into on Tuesday night. The theft is the second in the building in as many weeks. The College is calling on

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HIGHLIGHTS

felix@imperial.ac.uk

On campus today

Cake Sale!

More Hummingbird cupcakes! It's almost as if other bakeries don't exist...

RCSU Office, Walkway
12:00-14:00

RAG Ball

Tickets are almost sold out and even if you manage to chance one on the door, you won't receive your free shot. But in either case, never fear as all shots are only £2 and its two cocktails for £6.20 until 11pm. It's a black tie event so dust off your dinner jacket and dresses and get ready to party your socks off in the name of charity. Search "Imperial RAG Ball" on Facebook for links and info.

Chateau 6 (Fulham Road)
21:00-03:00

@feliximperial



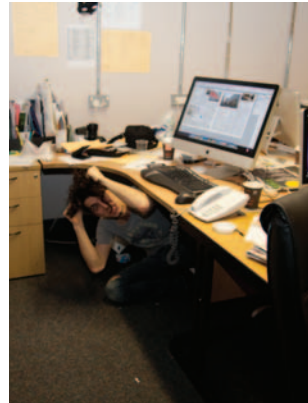
Lolcat of teh day



Natural Remedy for Hypertension

From Beneath the Editor's Desk

Lizzy Griffiths



I must be frank. I am truly not enjoying today. I foolishly decided to have a lie in (5:30am doesn't feel in anyway different to 5am it seems) and the excitement of the beginning of the week has entirely drained away.

I am sorry to be writing these enthusiastic words. I would rather regale you with hilarious stories of office antics but today is not that kind of day. However, I will try to be positive.

Although we have not yet reached the end of the week, I have been told that the Daily has been received well on campus (dare I say that it has been a success? *touch wood). On the few occasions that I have ventured out of this basement I have spotted people reading the paper and a nice fellow tweeted at me yesterday that he had missed his stop because he was so engrossed in the paper. There is then, some cause for happiness. As my life is almost entirely taken up by producing this paper, I would have no *raison d'être* if it simply lay unexamined in the distribution bins and ignored by students and staff.

Ah, it's no good. Try as I might, I can't seem to lift my spirits. Someone said to me today that they think The Daily Felix should become a yearly tradition. Perhaps that would be a good idea. Perhaps next year's Editor and his team will be foolhardy enough to follow in these dispirited footsteps. Perhaps. What I know for sure is this, if it does happen again, I shall ask no more than to simply read it. (Friday's issue has ballooned to 40 pages. 40 pages in one day – the end of this week could not come quickly enough.)

shape our future

We need to talk to you about the services and facilities we offer. Do you have some time next week? We will provide snacks and refreshments and a £20 Union Shop Voucher for each attendee. Go online for more info.



imperialcollegeunion.org

Imperial College
Union Strategic
Review 2011

Spate of thefts on campus

James Simpson



Does the exciting angle make this sign any more interesting?

...Continued from Front Page
students and staff to remain vigilant to reduce opportunities for "walk-in thieves".

A laptop was stolen during the break-in, which occurred between 19:15 and 21:00. It is not yet clear whether the padlocks were broken off or unlocked, nor is it known if the thief was a member of the College or a member of the public. On the 24th of February, a similar incident occurred when a necklace was stolen from a locker.

College security is reviewing CCTV footage but, as the only camera is at the entrance of the EEE building, it is not yet known if this will yield any clues.

Nick Roalfe, Director of Facilities and Property Management, told Felix that Imperial had a considerably lower rate of crime than other universities. He added that they take all incidents of theft extremely seriously and investigate them accordingly. He urged students and staff to be aware of "opportunistic" thieves and to avoid being tailgated into buildings or swiping in strangers. He advised members of the College to be wary of leaving belongings unattended, adding that "individuals have a part to

play" in ensuring security on campus.

College is investigating further steps to help improve security on campus, including the possibility of additional CCTV, and looking again at ensuring that there are appropriate locks on doors. Many buildings on campus only have CCTV at the entrances. Nick Roalfe admitted that some people would be opposed to increased surveillance within departments. In the case of persistent break-ins and thefts, however, he said that they would consider the use of "appropriate forms of surveillance". This may include CCTV within buildings and, in rare cases, working with the police to install covert cameras. Similarly, if a situation arose where a number of computers were stolen, it is possible that they would work with the police to install tracking devices in one or more computers.

The incidents in the EEE building follow a spate of thefts in January and February. In an email sent on February 11th, Peter Schreiber, Building Manager for the Huxley, Blackett, Roderic Hill and Bone buildings, warned of a "rise in criminal activity" in the South Kensington area, revealing that laptops, iPods, cash and mobile phones had been stolen.

THE DAILY FELIX

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NEWS

£6,800 well spent?

Physics struggles with 3rd year options form

James Simpson



The headline sort of implies that the building cost £7,000, which judging by the design, might well be true...

Haralambos Dayantis

In March 2010, the Physics department spent £6,800 outsourcing a software contract to an ex-member of staff, to enable students to choose their 3rd year options online.

At first glance, this may look like rather a suspect arrangement; why was the Faculty awarding a contract, to the value of 2 years' tuition fees for a home student, to an ex-employee? Moreover, why did a seemingly simple assignment cost quite so much? Any third year Physics student will know that there were numerous problems with the forms, where Derryck Stewart, Data Manager, had to manually amend many students' options.

Angus MacKinnon, Director of Undergraduate Studies in Physics, leads the Teaching Committee who made the decision to outsource this work. He says that before the online system, "the office staff had to check each submitted form carefully to make sure the choices conformed to the rules, whereas it should be relatively easy to build these rules into a computer based procedure. We therefore chose this as the project we would put to Lighthouse."

"Lighthouse London" is a web development group run by Tom Johnson, who used to work at Imperial. He took voluntary redundancy in late 2009, leaving the role of Multimedia Manager for Natural Sciences vacant. Since Tom had knowledge of Imperial's systems, it was seen as pragmatic to employ his company. For example, integrating the system with Imperial's central login

"Why did a seemingly simple assignment cost so much? There's more to it than meets the eye"

server would be far easier for him than for another external contractor. The decision not to put the contract out to tender was not technically improper, since Imperial's rules dictate that only contracts of £10,000 or more must be tendered.

As to the cost of the development, there are many factors that one must take into account. Lighthouse were only given about two weeks in which to write and test the software, a very demanding deadline. The program is also much more flexible and complex than is immediately obvious. John Conway, Learning Technologist for Physical Sciences, demonstrated the back end of the system to Felix, and showed how seamlessly it integrates with the Imperial system. The system is not merely an interface, but a fully functioning database, which takes into account such factors as maximum student numbers per course.

The software's flexibility is such that it was able to be adapted for use by the Chemistry department, who paid a portion of the fee. Moreover, parameters can be changed without having to go

into the source code. This means that in future, it could be used for allocating such things as research placements and lab projects.

As for the errors with the software, they stemmed from the conflict between the desire to allow students to change their options, and the need to keep student numbers below lecture theatre safety limits. Solutions to the problem are still being implemented, and Angus MacKinnon feels "confident that all this will be ironed out before we have to go live again after the Easter break."

Meanwhile, Lighthouse have been working with Imperial staff to improve the software, something one would never expect from a private firm without taking further fees. Moreover, the source code belongs to the Faculty of Natural Sciences and when all of the issues have been resolved, the Faculty will be able to charge other departments, even other universities, for use of the software.

John Conway believes that far from being an overpriced solution, the options forms were actually a fantastic investment for the department, which might even turn a profit in the long run if they are able to sell it too. Additionally, he feels the selection of Lighthouse for the project was perfectly legitimate, and indeed astute. Whilst Derryck Stewart did need to amend some students' options, this still took less time than would have been spent on assigning the options manually in the first place. By the next options cycle, the software ought to be the efficient, labour-saving program that was always intended.

Rob Bishop



Budgeting, it's like the UN but with more genocidal tyrants...

RCSU in 95% rise

Confusion about allocations

...Continued from Front Page

It has been suggested that the club look for funding from alumni.

£353,676.59 was shared out among Imperial's clubs and societies in a gruelling eight-hour debate at the CSB's annual budgeting meeting on Monday. This is an increase from £321,247.25 allocated for the current academic year. Management groups are responsible for different types of societies – for example, all sports clubs are managed by the Athletics Clubs Committee. Faculty Unions are responsible for faculty societies. Each society had previously submitted a breakdown of their finances, including how much they proposed spending on specific activities in the coming year and the amount of subsidy requested from the CSB for each. The total amount of funding requested was approximately £85,000 more than the amount of money available, leading to fierce debates described as "unpleasant" by Victor du Mesnil du Buisson.

There was initial confusion surrounding the final budget allocations from the CSB, which were displayed as also including funding from the Representation and Welfare Board (RWB) and the Executive Committee. This meant that Faculty Union allocation cuts or increases were disguised; most members believed that the RCSU had been cut.

However, the RCSU's funding from the CSB is set to increase from £1,729 to £3,370. Scott Heath told Felix that he is very happy that his clubs now have a "representative level of funding" after being under-funded in the past. Despite the rise, he added that the amount still "pales in comparison to the actual running costs of any Faculty Union and their Departmental Societies."

Heath also said that he felt bad for BioMed Society, who received no funding at all, and suggests that they move from the ICSMSU (Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union) to the RCSU, where they will receive more support, he claimed. Medic President

David Smith ICSMSU would redistribute some of their allocation to ensure that BioMed Society receive.

Also to receive large increases in funding are The Royal School of Mines with a 75% rise and Silwood Park with an 80% rise. CSB funding to the Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union (ICSMSU) is also to increase by 3%. ICSMSU President, David Smith, told Felix that he agreed to take a blanket cut from his initial allocation because he felt it was right for Medics to share the pain. He said that it won't be easy to distribute the £500 cut, but it should not have an adverse impact on Medic's activities. However, Smith also warned that they wouldn't be able to survive with any less.

There has been some criticism of the large spending on expensive activities such as those undertaken by the Gliding Society, which has received £13,850, and the Underwater Society, which has received £10,564; both more than the £6720 allocated to the CGCU. However Nathaniel Bottrell, Recreational Clubs Committee Chair, argues that the "Union grant is there to help students participate in activities that they wouldn't normally be able to."

Some of those present at the meeting also criticised the way in which it was run. Scott Heath pointed out that the smaller clubs tended to lose out to bigger clubs because people think in amounts rather than percentages; whereas £50 makes a substantial difference to a small Arts and Entertainment society, it has little effect on an Athletics Clubs Committee club, for example. Another person present at the meeting told Felix that in addition to people defending their own clubs, there were "personal arguments"; however, this claim is rejected by Heath. Nathaniel Bottrell also commented that Management groups have a responsibility to be clued-up, adding that no one was at the meeting to sabotage other people's clubs.

BUSINESS

Business Editors: **Sina Ataherian**
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The economy and small businesses

Part one of Sina Ataherian's two part interview with James King about Find Invest Grow, the student-focus venture capital firm he founded in late 2009

The third business in our week on start-ups is Find Investment Grow (FIG). James King, its founder and CEO, gave his first Felix interview in October 2009, when he had just started his student-focused venture capital firm. In the year and a half since, his family of start-up businesses has grown rapidly to include fifteen members, all of them showing strong results so far, as well as great promise for the future.

In tomorrow's Felix, James shares the driving factors behind his success, advice for student entrepreneurs, and general business gossip. In this article, the focus will be on James's views of broader economic issues. As an entrepreneur involved in fifteen businesses in various fields, James offers a unique practical perspective on many of these issues that are often dealt with in more theoretical terms.

There are complaints that regulations prevent small businesses from hiring. Have you found this to be the case?

It is really hard to offer contracts straight up. There are ways around it: expenses-paid internships for a few months, trial probation periods for three months. It depends how far you want to push it, but the bottom line is that it is very hard for companies to commit, which makes it very hard for employees to commit. If it was a case of, as long as you were reasonable in your actions then it is fine to fire someone after two weeks and pay them two weeks salary, it would be a lot easier. But when you have to shell out for a month or in some cases 6 weeks, or longer, then it is really difficult for a small business.

"The average freelancer nowadays will charge £300 to £600 per day"

And all of this means you can pay your staff less. I've done this myself. I've thought I have X amount to spend, but if I need to fire them that is £4000, and I'll need to pay a recruiter £2000 to £3000, that is £6000 out of their salary, just gone. If I did not have to worry about maybe having to fire someone, I would be able to offer them £4,000 to £10,000 more, and if I did fire them it would only cost £1,000.

When you set up FIG in 2009, how did you think the ongoing recession would affect the business?

When the recession started, I thought people's wages were going to drop and it would be a more exciting time to start a business.

Have wages not gone down at all?

Nowhere near enough to reflect changes in house prices, which I think is partly why house prices have gone back up. The biggest surprise for me has been software developer salaries. The average freelancer nowadays will charge £300 to £600 per day. It is not worth it. You can outsource to India, spend maybe two thirds of that price, and get more work done.

I do not understand why certain job markets have not corrected themselves. At these salaries, it makes it very difficult to attract the top talent to your business. It still is possible to get people on £60k or £70k and ask them to halve it. You have to give them shares and really sell them on the business, but that becomes more and more difficult as salaries go higher and higher.

When at the top end, the banks are paying more and more, as a start-up you cannot offer infinitely more shares. If you turn around to someone who is 27 or 28 and earning £80k or £90k in a bank, and tell them to come work for your start up and earn £36k, it becomes a much more difficult decision to sell to the top talent.

The Bank of England argues that this problem of wage stickiness is dealt with through the continual inflation of the monetary base. Do you think a decline in the value of Sterling in any way helps small businesses keep wages low? No because the top end would just increase their salaries, and they can always do that faster than the bottom end.

Would you say that for real businesses on the ground, price instability and inflation really factors in to their business calculations or not?

I would say it factors in. Certainly when you're starting out, there are so many things to deal with that rising prices do not help. I think for a start-up it is easier to deal with than for 30 person to 250 person businesses.

How can small businesses such as those that your firm funds be encouraged to hire more employees?

I really liked the idea the Tories had to knock national insurance for the first ten employees. If that happened, it would be



Four of FIG's successful brands. Clockwise from top: SpineStrength, 42run, GaBoom and Beautiful Bottoms.

"I want to grab them and say, 'Why should I trust you with my tax money?' It is shocking how short sighted they are."

great. That would be a game changer. It would mean small businesses could compete.

Do you ever look at bank lending as a funding source for any of your businesses?

Yes, we look at it all the time. There is only one bank that I would recommend, that is Metro Bank. The guys who run Metro Bank have really got the right idea.

It is a customer-centric bank, which is what it should be. Most big banks are useless. The staff who work there say, "why should I trust you with my money." I want to grab them and say, "Why should I trust you with my tax money?" It is quite shocking how short sighted they are.

I have come across a lot of good guys at NatWest, HSBC, Lloyds, and RBS. But I have come across shockers too. There are these guys who they call business advisors, and I do not understand how they can call them that. They have never run their own businesses. That is another thing I like about Metro, the guy who runs it has run his own businesses. It gives them a good perspective.

Have you any thoughts on the EFG?

The EFG is the Enterprise Finance Guarantee. It is a scheme to help small businesses without assets get access to bank loans through government guarantees. There is a clause that says if the business would not get the loan under ordinary circumstances, they should not be given the loan. So this is their get-out. The banks say, 'under normal circumstances you would not get a loan because you have no assets.' But that is the whole point. The scheme is supposed to be for businesses that do not have any assets.

I recently discovered through some investors and some friendly bank managers, that a lot of the loans were given to property companies that the banks had already lent to but were worried about their solvency.

"In a lot of larger businesses, not a lot has changed in the last couple of years"

Do you think this will come out as a scandal?

Yes, I think so. If there is another crash in house prices, which may or may not happen, this will come out. Then the government will have to bail them out twice, it will have to bail out the banks and it will have to pay the EFG.

Has there been a recovery?

No. I think economic recovery means increasing liquidity in the stock market. Liquidity has come back because confidence has come back. But in a lot of larger businesses, not a lot has changed in the last couple of years."

Last year you said that you felt starting up a business in the middle of a recession was an exciting thing to do. After a year and a half, would you still hold to that?

Yes, I'll stick by that.

Politics Editors: **Rory Fenton**
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POLITICS

Rory Fenton



A Fairtrade event in Sherfield yesterday

With Fairtrade gaining an ever greater presence in Britain, Felix asks:

DOES FAIRTRADE ACTUALLY WORK?



Yes – Jill Humphries

Tucked into a comforting chocolatey tub of Ben & Jerry's recently? Needed a morning caffeine kick and grabbed a Starbucks mocha? Munched on a banana at lunch? Odds are, you've accidentally or purposefully purchased and enjoyed one of the many Fairtrade products currently on the shelves. In fact, one could argue that it is increasingly difficult to avoid the mark, with familiar home-brands such as Dairy Milk, Kit Kat, Chocolate buttons and Tate & Lyle also moving from the "dark side".

Instead of chucking money at the situation, Fairtrade empowers the producers, providing an opportunity for them to earn a fair wage for their work. It guarantees a minimum fair price and removes the unpredictability that goes hand in hand with being a third world producer. As consumers we have the power to ensure that a fair price is guaranteed, for, upon purchasing a certified product, we demonstrate our support for a fairer world. With our growing consumer power we are showing governments and corporations that we don't just care about the price of the product, we care about its source, its producers and how it is made. The success of this is demonstrated through big corporations, such as Nestle, Tesco, Cadbury and Unilever, taking note and moving to the certification scheme. This should continue to expand, leading to more and more products being sustainably and ethically sourced.

Increasingly, the focus within the Western World is about providing the developing world with choice;

"Upon purchasing a certified product, we demonstrate our support for a fairer world"

creating options as opposed to dictating policy. Fairtrade nurtures choice since, with the premium gained, communities can direct their money to where it is needed, for example to education, healthcare, water supplies, roads, the environment and crop quality. To democratically decide where the money is targeted, many communities form growers' co-operatives, such as the Kuapa Kokoo Union in Ghana, which was set up in 1993. Through joint decisions, communities are transformed. The cycle of poverty is broken as children are educated and move up the social ladder. As well as transforming the producers' communities, it can positively impact British towns, businesses and schools by creating a campaign over which people can unite. Thus, Fairtrade fosters the community spirit within Britain and abroad, also uniting the consumer and the producer in a common cause – JUSTICE.

My only qualm with Fairtrade is that it should be the status quo; every farmer, producer and factory worker should already be guaranteed a living wage and much more. Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work". I believe that buying Fairtrade will pave the way towards this better, brighter, future for everyone.

No – Rory Fenton

That so many of the world's farmers live in dire poverty while those of us who consume their products live in relative luxury is a fact that will leave few consciences unmoved; it seems self evidently wrong that a farmer in Ethiopia be paid 5p for a cup of coffee that sells for £2 in London. The most natural answer to this apparent wrong is Fairtrade; simply pay farmers a bit more for their products and protect them from market fluctuations by guaranteeing a minimum price. But this simple and understandable logic only makes it more shocking when the actual facts of Fairtrade are laid bare.

But first, a word about where Fairtrade has been successful: marketing. There are now more than 4,500 Fairtrade products available. UK sales boosted by 43% in 2008 (in spite of the recession) and the British government have announced a four-year £15m funding package for the organisation. So the Fairtrade brigade should certainly feel good about how they have advanced as an organisation; but have they earned that smugness as they look disapprovingly at us mere mortals over their steaming and oh-so-moral Fairtrade branded lattes? Please.

Out of the 'Fairtrade premium' paid for a product (how much more it costs than an equivalent non FT product), a measly 10% actually goes to the producer it claims to help. The remaining 90% is creamed off by the shop (which, remember, has already profited from your coffee) and the grotesquely inefficient Fairtrade organisation itself,

"A measly 10% actually goes to the producer"

which spends it on bureaucracy and its feel good advertising. This makes it, quite possibly, the least efficient form of donation possible, other than actually flying yourself out there to hand over the premium in person.

But that just tells us how little of the premium actually makes it to producers. Surely the people receiving the money are the poorest of the poor? Nope. It's actually very expensive and difficult to become a Fairtrade farmer. Certification costs 5 times as much as going certified organic.

Fairtrade also serves to enforce global trade quotas and tariffs that keep the poor in their place. Mexico is the largest single Fairtrade coffee producer, despite the country having free access to US markets and enjoying average wages eighteen times those of its coffee rival Ethiopia, which loses out as a result. Then you have to consider the impact of the Fairtrade premium on those who don't receive it. By encouraging consumers to buy fair trade, non Fairtrade prices (the vast majority) are artificially forced down, hurting the world's poorest farmers.

In conclusion, Fairtrade is merely a shameless feel-good operation that does nothing to help the world's poor, gives big profits to big companies and actually depresses prices for the poorest farmers. It was a nice idea. It is a truly awful reality that keeps the world's poor 'in their place' and serves an affluent minority. Don't even consider buying into it.

Breaking News

As of about midday... yesterday.

The Pakistani minorities minister Shahbaz Bhatti has been assassinated. Bhatti, the only Christian member of the Pakistani government, had been calling for reforms to the nation's blasphemy laws. Currently the law calls for the death sentence to any who insult Islam. Bhatti was shot on the way to work.

Theresa May proclaimed that pay cuts for police officers were to be an inevitable part of budget cuts. Of the current £11bn police budget, roughly 75% goes on pay. This has made pay reductions likely if police numbers are to be maintained while taking a 20% budget cut. The police are legally not allowed to go on strike.

Libyan forces loyal to Gaddafi began to move into rebel controlled areas. An oil installation near the town of Brega was taken without fighting, although later in the day rebels claimed to have retaken control. The rebels in Brega are braced for a conflict. Pro-Gaddafi forces aerielly bombarded an arms dump in the city of Ajdabiya.

Westminster council confiscated Baby Gaga breast milk ice cream sold at a Covent Garden restaurant. Westminster council had recieved several (2) complaints from members of the public, and decided to confiscate the pasteurised breast milk dessert, to see if the milk "was fit for human consumption."

COMMENT

Comment Editors: **Anna Perman**
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Need sleep... OK, just one more website



DISCLAIMER : I am in no way to be held responsible for any loss of productivity, social life, or ability to graduate caused by this article.

I can't sleep at night. Shadows dance around my room, lit by an eerie, diffuse glow. Sometimes I catch sight of my pale, haggard reflection looking back at me; I am a sight for sore eyes. I blearily focus on the time: it's half past three in the morning. I have to be up in five hours. Why can't I just put my head on the pillow and drift off?

A small rectangle enters my field of vision for the umpteenth time that night. Within it, an arcane, circular symbol, followed by some glyphs that are becoming difficult to make out. Seemingly unbidden, an arrow moves up to meet it. As much as I try to tear myself away, I can't.

Click.

A man in a panda suit proceeds to trash someone's office because he refused a cheese sandwich of a certain brand.

Click.

47 facts about Nicolas Cage enter my brain.

Click.

A bunch of guys cook, and then eat, a bird inside a bird inside a bird inside a pig.

Click. Click. Click. Click....Click.

As the pixels holding my eyelids up finally give way, I curse myself. It seems like I'm going to miss a couple of lectures tomorrow. You see, I'm an addict. My drug of choice? StumbleUpon.

If you haven't heard of this nifty little toolbar yet, you probably use the internet for healthy things, such as keeping in touch with friends or ordering your groceries. When you download the add-on (available for most popular browsers), it'll ask you to specify your fields of interest amongst a very complete list of possibilities.

Once that's done, just click the button in the toolbar, and you will Stumble onto a random website that the program thinks you'll like. Press "thumbs up" if you do, and "thumbs down" if you don't. This refines the choices made by the toolbar for your next page. And so on, and so forth...*ad infinitum*. Simple, but deadly effective at killing time. Procrastination is but a click away.

Having introduced you to this black hole of productivity, I could go on to comment about the way modern society has accustomed us to rapid bursts of information, thus creating a generation of people with short attention spans. Unfortunately, I haven't got enough space.

Go read the next article already.

Indy Leclercq

Cynical practice

Smug skeptics and rationalists get on my tits. We're not going to change public perceptions by feeling superior



Angry Geek

John Wayne once mumbled, in the five spare minutes he had between starring in every Western movie ever, that "You can get more with a kind word and gun, than you can with just a kind word." I know he said that, because I read it in a videogame once. And we read that and we think, "Eh, sounds about right." That quote sounds nice because it's about superiority and getting your way, and if there's one thing we absolutely fucking love in this world, after honey-flavored cereals and Deal or No Deal, it's feeling superior.

Maybe that's why beating down on psychics and homeopaths and those people who try to rub things in your face in department stores is so satisfying – because we, as scientists, are so obviously better than them, and particularly as students we're looking for a fight to prove that those really boring and overspecific lectures were actually worth something. Which is why you get Richard Dawkins, most of the Internet and comment pieces like we had last week from Jack Garnham.

The piece wasn't really that unusual – a fairly mindless tour of psychics and mediums containing all the expected ingredients; a few jokes from Charlie Brooker, a dash of Guardian science columnists and some general pub banter. We, the reader, are presented with an example of one of these lunatic charlatans and their wicked yet hilarious methods of medicine, science or self-improvement which all amount to some kind of trickery designed to take money away from poor Joe Public. Poor little Joe, we chuckle, tousling his metaphorical hair and pinching his cheek. We're all encouraged to give a deep belly laugh at the obvious scientific holes in what they're peddling and then, with one final pat on the head for the average working man, we trot off to work on important things like curing cancer and beer pong.

You know what? Poor Joe Public doesn't need you looking out for him if you're



Don't get statistics? Never mind you ignorant moron, Uncle Ben will sneer at you until you do.

going to do it with a sneer on your face. This recent spate of quack-hating came about because people like Ben Goldacre wanted to improve the public's relation with science and scientists. Now what do we have? The second coming of Charles Darwin grunting his way through arguments with fundamentalist Christians. We stopped communicating with the public the second we pointed our collective penis in their direction and began jettisoning our finest vintage piss all over their parade.

Because that parade, it turns out, is quite important to them. It's **their** parade, after all, and while it might be a bunch of lies tied together with the string of deceit and the decorative ribbon of misdirection, it's still a belief system that they've become used to living within. People regularly, quite happily, believe in crazy things. It turns out that your job is not to pull the rug out from underneath them and forcefeed it to them. I'm declaring a moratorium on this bullshit from now on. No more articles about how ker-rasy the world of alternative medicine is. No more pretending you give a shit about the common man. Because there's an unfortunate irony here – the public would rather accept shortcuts and magic solutions to their problems than tackle them head on, and similarly our scientists would rather take the easy way out and moan and whine about these liars and cheats rather than

Poor Joe Public doesn't need you looking out for him if you're going to do it with a sneer on your face

tackle the problem at its root.

The public don't give a shit about science. Why? Because for too long it's been full of people like you, like Jack Garnham. People who are right, who are different, who are better. People who have been in too many lectures and are too obsessed about having the right answer. So from now on, if this is you, consider this a formal invitation to leave the debate. We need more people for outreach, more people to blog constructively and be creative in their communication of the amazing world we inhabit at Imperial. Everyone else can go back to reading internet message boards and making notes on the latest QI episode. Let me know when you've found another misconception about Pluto to shit out.

Have you, or someone you know, been affected by someone who reads **Bad Science** and thinks this qualifies them as a representative of academia? I won't care, but have a go anyway at:
anangrygeek@gmail.com

Have your say on this article at
felixonline.co.uk

TELEVISION

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Best in Class: Comedy

Lucia Podhorksa tells us about Friends, geeks and talk-show psychiatrists

I am known in my group of friends as being somewhat obsessed with television and the film industry in general. I spend countless hours in front of my computer watching episode after episode of a favorite series and often find myself forgetting about the world outside and absorbing myself in the characters of a show. Most people who know me would probably say that I have an unhealthy fascination with fantasy, i.e. vampires and witches, so it might come as a bit of a surprise that I have chosen to write about comedy shows. While all of the shows that I watch have comedic moments, I confess to currently only following one purely comedy show, namely *The Big Bang Theory*. But let me first take a step back and try to analyze what I think makes for a successful comedy show.

It's pretty obvious that different people have different senses of humor and will therefore find different things or situations funny. It is so easy to go completely over the top in an attempt to be funny and fail miserably, leaving people uncomfortable. So the first important ingredient is to find that balance between appropriateness and funniness. One must then also find an actor or actress capable of being believable and bringing a character to life. Finally, these ingredients need to be maintained over a long period of time, otherwise an audience will simply tune out.

As a child, the comedy shows that I would watch all centered around family life. Watching *Full House*, *Step-By-Step* or *The Cosby Show* became a sort of ritual in our household and contributed greatly to my learning of the English language.

All three shows were hugely successful and consisted of a large core cast of characters all trying to coexist. The situations were ones I could relate to growing up, delivered with humor and still managing to teach lessons episode by



Would you?

episode for several seasons.

It's difficult to review comedy and not mention *Friends*. Without a doubt, this show will go down in history as one of the most popular in its genre. Following the lives of six friends living in New York, it took the world by storm and became a cultural phenomenon (the Rachel haircut, anyone?). When it wrapped after ten years on the air, 52.5 million American viewers tuned in to watch the finale, making it the 4th most watched television show finale in history. Even now, six years after its end, one can watch re-runs every day. Having seen all ten seasons (and owning them on DVD) I find myself wondering, however, if *Friends* really is the best comedy show? True, there is something in every character that I can relate to and the series is definitely funny, but after a while, it gets a bit...monotonous. There are only so many Chandler jokes I can take! *Friends* is simply not a television show that I would sit through again and again and I find it a bit tiring that E4+1 shows it all the time. There are other, better, comedies available.

Which brings me nicely to *Frasier*. Dr. Frasier Crane first appeared as a recurring character on the popular sitcom *Cheers*, before getting his own spin-off series. Portrayed by Kelsey Grammer, Frasier is a psychiatrist who moves back to his hometown of Seattle after the end of his marriage. His father Martin, a retired detective, is forced to move in with him as he is no longer able to live by himself after being shot. As a result, Frasier is further obliged to hire a physical therapist, Daphne. Also in Seattle is Niles, Frasier's younger brother, who also works as a psychiatrist and who ends up falling in love with Daphne when they first meet, despite being married to Maris – a character who is described in great detail, but whom we never meet. Frasier hosts a radio show, bringing in the character of Roz, his sassy producer.



Imperial College in a nutshell: four 'cool' guys trying to get it on with one hot girl...

It would be easy to be put off by the first few episodes, as most of the characters are at first bitter and plain rude to each other, as personalities clash. Frasier and Niles are both intellectuals who consider themselves to be better than most people around them, whilst their father is more laid back and much simpler in his tastes. However, while these character traits never go away, they are toned down as the first season progresses and the show is very enjoyable. The humor is intelligent and the cast is simply wonderful. Niles, played by David Hyde Pierce, steals the show for me. His delivery of the lines, as well

"I find myself wondering, however, if *Friends* really is the best comedy show?"

as his pure physical comedy, is genius. In many ways I feel this show is for an older audience, but it is one that I love and, unlike with *Friends*, can watch repeatedly.

For a long time I thought that it simply was not possible to create a character funnier than Niles Crane...and then a friend recommended *The Big Bang Theory* to me and I met Dr. Sheldon Cooper. With a combined IQ of 360, Leonard and Sheldon are roommates who work at Caltech. Together with their equally socially awkward friends Howard and Raj, their lives are turned upside down when hot blonde Penny, an aspiring actress working as a waitress at the Cheesecake Factory, moves in across the hall. Again, the humor is intelligent and the ensemble cast have great chemistry together. Of course, one can't talk about BBT and not wax poetic about the comedic genius that is Jim Parsons. As an actor in this category he is, in my opinion, simply in a league of his own

and I think it's a travesty that it took four years before he was finally awarded an Emmy and Golden Globe. Despite being a bit slow this season, the show has been renewed for three more years and I can't wait to see what they'll have the OCD Sheldon doing next.

Finally, I would like to finish off by mentioning one last series that I have recently rediscovered. *3rd Rock from the Sun* is about four aliens sent to Earth to observe humans and our way of life. I remember seeing a few episode years ago and only started watching it again because of my newfound love for Joseph Gordon-Levitt, who plays one of the aliens – an intelligence officer forced into the body of a teenager.

I think with comedy it's difficult to pick a favorite or best show. All of the series described above have given me hours of viewing pleasure and have, through laughter, no doubt added valuable minutes to my life. In the end, isn't that the whole point?

On the Box tonight

7pm

The Simpsons – Sky 1

The Michael Moore guest episode, where Lisa becomes class president and goes on strike. Hilarious.

8pm

Jaws: The True Story – C5

Aaah, programmes on Channel 5. With titles like these who needs to watch the programme. Me that's who.

9pm

The Spice Trail – BBC2

That one from Animal park (awesome) presents a documentray about the most important ancient trade route

10pm

Skins – E4

The new series continues. Something about being angst and not liking teenage life happens.

11pm

This Week – BBC1

Actually starts at 11.35pm. Political panel show consisting of a sleep deprived Portillo and Andrew Neil

FILM

Film Editors: **Jade Hoffman**
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A missed opportunity

You will meet a disappointing film in Woody Allen's fortieth feature length rom-com

You Will Meet A Tall, Dark Stranger

Director Woody Allen
Screenwriter Woody Allen
Cast Anthony Hopkins, Naomi Watts, Josh Brolin

John Park

So, here it is: Woody Allen's 40th feature-length film – a director/writer so gifted that he can somehow manage to churn out one film every year. With *You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger*, Allen once again finds himself in London, and is surrounded by sad, unfulfilled characters going through their own versions of an existential crisis. Though all this sounds like the common, perhaps over-used themes central to Woody Allen films, he introduces something new here – juggling with the idea of faith and the supernatural.

Helena (Gemma Jones) is a fidgety, insecure divorcee who is struggling to cope with the fact that her husband Alfie (Anthony Hopkins) left her for a much younger, hotter blonde, Charmaine (Lucy Punch). She finds consolation in a psychic, Cristal (Pauline Collins), who is quite obviously a fraud. Though oddly sympathetic at times, Cristal only says



No! No hugs for you, Anthony Hopkins. Not until you stop eating people

what Helena wants to hear, most probably to hold on to her client. Helena's daughter Sally and her husband Roy (Josh Brolin) have tension of their own: Roy, a one-hit author, has the writer's block and Sally is finding it hard to make ends meet. She takes up a job as the assistant of a handsome gallery owner, Greg (Antonio Banderas) and, as her attentions start to be drawn towards her boss, so too does Roy begin to look else-

where. Opposite their flat, young musicologist Dia (Freida Pinto) sparks his interest. What starts off as an innocent flirtation soon develops with the growing strain in Roy's marriage driving him more and more towards Dia's direction.

Allen's later works have not been met with the rave critical interest that his earlier, sharper efforts were. He disappoints again with this film, because what his latest lacks is the outstanding humour

that made the made his previous works unique and charming. The name Woody Allen on a poster promises a quirky romantic comedy so when the script comes up short, there is bound to be disappointment. It's not completely devoid of humour – whenever Jones is on screen she is delightful but, with characters set out as thoroughly miserable and a lack of development to push them quite beyond that point, the film falls rather flat.

Case in point: Alfie is taken by Charmaine, most possibly for her looks, but her one-dimensional personality does little else but prompt disbelief that anyone could be stupid enough to be attracted to this exaggerated, selfish bimbo. Absolutely no effort seems to have been put in to widening the range of her emotions – she's just a slut. Their little "affair" becomes hard to believe and means hardly anything.

Allen has once again assembled a star-packed ensemble that any director would die to work with. Banderas is one smooth-talking foreign boss; Brolin and Watts do long-standing resentment well; Hopkins cannot be faulted as the old man with the absurd wish to take back his youth; and Punch provides some off-beat, albeit slightly repetitive comedy. The one stand-out here, however, is Jones, and it comes as no surprise

that there were talks of getting an Oscar campaign going for the Brit actress.

Despite the potential in its impeccable cast, nothing startlingly new is explored here – even the themes of the human psyche and afterlife remain deeply uninteresting and, although necessary for some of his characters, the film suffers from a scattered focus. It's an ensemble piece for sure, with different characters interlinking into each other's lives; they do collide, but to with underwhelming results. The cast may be incredible in general, but even they cannot bring to life the unsure, uneven script without turning some of its content into a series of uninvolved sequences.

It's a missed opportunity, but not a complete waste of time. The many wordy scenes that rely purely on the talent of its cast work to its best possible standard, and we should be grateful that everyone is capable of handling the dialogue with no awkward moments. *You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger* is not one of his more engaging late works, and certainly doesn't measure up to some of his past classics. But thanks to Allen's uncanny eye for casting and his ability to get some of the best actors in the industry to sign up for his films, this London-based rom-com is worth a look for any Woody Allen fans.

This ain't just any hood... its *Anuvahood*

Kidulthood's Adam Deacon writes, directs and stars in this long-awaited British ghetto comedy.

Anuvahood

Director Adam Deacon, Daniel Toland
Screenwriter Adam Deacon, Michael Vu
Cast Adam Deacon, Femi Oyeniran, Ollie Barbieri, Jaime Winstone

Vishnu Aggarwal

So den, mans tinks he's a top boi MC yeh? Well, despite the common perception that the youth of today all aspire to be the next 'Nappy' from N-Dubz, it appears the message from latest urban offering – *Anuvahood* – is that it's perfectly acceptable to be ordinary. In a genre where almost every scene involves someone being shanked or whacked in the wedding vegetables with a baseball bat, this film stands out in stark contrast.

Anuvahood is the UK's latest big urban

comedy and delivers a satirical spoof of the 'hoodie movie.' Following the recent conveyor belt of gritty and dramatic urban films, *Anuvahood* is a comedic coming of age story which turns the themes that ran through *Kidulthood* and *Adulthood* on their head. It chronicles the desperate yet determined attempts of hapless hero Kenneth or 'K' (Adam Deacon of *Kidulthood/Shank* fame) to become a respected gangster and urban music artist – or, to put it another way, get rich or cry trying.

Kenneth has just packed in his job at Laimsbury's (witty!) and in true wannabe gangster style thinks he's on 'bigger tings.' But, when his attempts at drug dealing attract the attention of the resident bad boy Tyrone, K and his crew are in bare trouble. K is forced to decide who he wants to be and what he's prepared to do to turn his fortunes around.

Set in London's concrete jungle, the film has a US-style ghetto comedy feel to it and is Britain's long-awaited answer to the classic that was *Ice Cube* and Chris Tucker's 1995 classic, *Friday*. For *Anuvahood*, writer, director and star Adam Deacon brings with him an ensemble of familiar British rising stars: Ollie Barbieri (*Skins*), Femi Oyeniran (*Adulthood*) and Jaime Winstone (*Made in Dagenham*) to name a few, as well as cameo appearances from Richard Blackwood, Ashley Walters and Aisleyne Horgan-Wallace.

The young cast holds together a refreshing comedy and, complete with a soundtrack from the likes of Tinie Tempah, Dizzie Rascal and Kano it's certainly worth checking out. *Anuvahood* is out on March 18th. My advice: check if your cinema stocks Fruitellas – you'll be wanting a pack...



You can tell he's street from his super-styled eyebrows...



ANONYMOUS

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With Windows 7 out and Mac OS X Lion
on the way, how does one choose?
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Real bamboo and a quad-core processor to boot:
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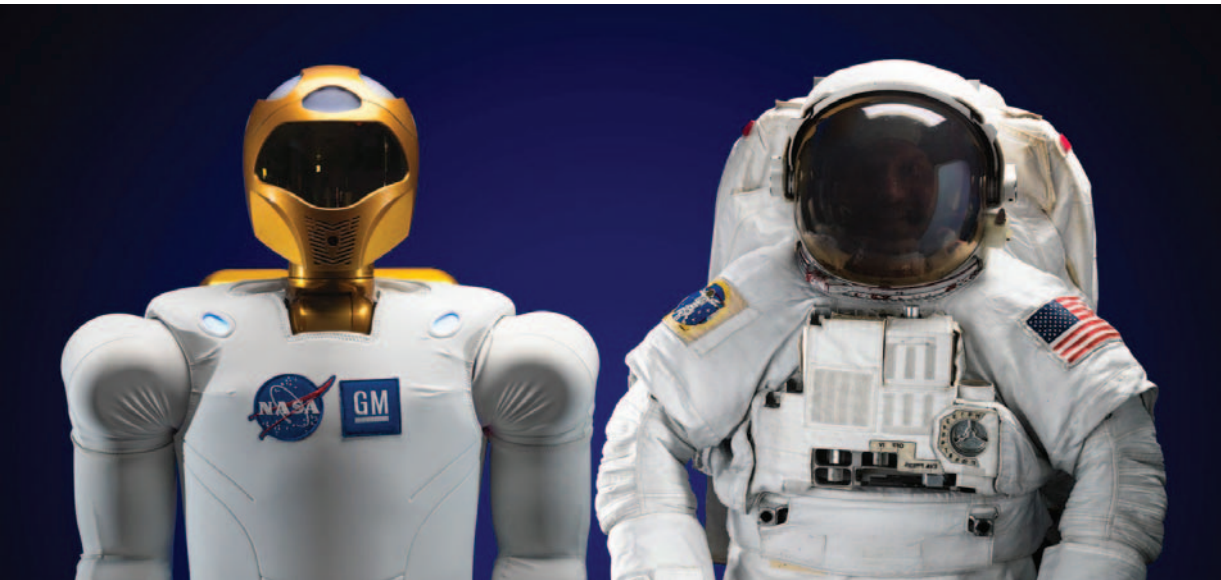
TECHNOLOGY

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NEWS

Humanoid Heads to ISS

NASA's Robonaut 2 to assist astronauts



Last week's Discovery launch to the ISS took a pricey electronic manservant to the astronauts stationed on board in the form of Robonaut 2.

The robot, which will eventually accompany the astronauts on their spacewalks and assist in repairs, is the culmination of nearly 11 years of planning, and should free the astronauts from having to complete menial chores when they could be working on the scientific experiments that make up the bulk of productive work at the station.

For a glorified personal assistant, Robonaut is a meaty beast. Weighing in at 130kgs, he's powered by 38 processors working together to give him a 5-finger dexterity that hasn't been seen on many robots before. Unfortunately, that's

all Robonaut will be good for over the next few months - his legs couldn't be designed and tested in time to make the flight, and will join him on a future mission.

In the meantime, Robonaut won't be wasting his time pondering the cruelties of inflexible spaceflight schedules; the next few months will be spent calibrating his limbs to the subtleties of zero gravity space. Despite his humble job title (for now), Robonaut has to take care not to break any of the multi-million dollar equipment on the station, including his \$2.5 million dollar aluminium self.

Once he's ready, he'll begin working on cleaning the station, taking over some of the routine work that the astronauts

have had to handle themselves. This is where the investment in Robonaut will really begin to pay off; with no need for food or oxygen, he's an extra hand on the station who's very resource efficient.

The future looks bright for Robonaut. Providing he survives the trip intact and performs to expectations, engineers are planning to fit him with legs and a battery pack so that he can venture outside with his human colleagues and assist in spacewalks. Highly tentative, this depends on the other astronauts on the station developing some 'trust' that he's smart and dexterous enough not to mess up the delicate operations required. Reassuringly, electronic engineer Kris Verdeyen told ComputerWorld "It's not a cylon or whatever". Cheers Kris.

Libyan revolutionaries using dating site to evade authorities, plan protests

Libyan revolutionaries have been reported as using dating networks to avoid the attention of authorities more intent on cracking down on Twitter and Facebook. Opposition leader Omar Shibli Mahmoudi claims to have used the dating site Mawada, catered towards a Muslim audience, to send coded messages to other revolutionaries under the guise of searching for a partner.

Their methods are remarkably simple and effective. Mahmoudi himself created an account pretending to be a man searching for a Libyan wife. Other revolutionaries would respond as women seeking suitors, using coded messages to arrange protest times and other meetings while the secret police directed their attention towards more obvious channels.

Mahmoudi claims he was a hit on the website, garnering nearly 200,000 'admirers'. Since then, Libyan authorities afraid of a situation spiralling well out of their control have turned towards completely switching off internet access to the country.

Remarkable stories like this have become the norm from Libya, with citizens deprived of any method of sharing stories of armed brutality against them doing anything to get their pictures and videos across the border.

These include the story of a Libyan 'video smuggler' who makes a daily 95-mile trip to Egypt armed with nothing but a collection of mobile phone videos. Once he's across the border, he uploads them and returns to Libya to pick up the next batch. The work is arduous and

very dangerous, but forms a vital part of the resistance.

In Benzaghi, now a revolutionary stronghold, protestors have established a *de facto* 'revolution HQ', replete with satellite internet. In the building, the revolutionaries collect, edit and upload media. The work is painfully slow; Gaddafi's internet blackout means their connection is weak and even suffers in bad weather.

Despite this, there are many differences between Libya and Egypt. Egypt's

“Mahmoudi claims he was a hit on the website, garnering nearly 200,000 ‘admirers’”

revolution was very much televised; driven by a well educated, tech savvy population using the internet to gain the backing of the rest of the world.

In Libya, Gaddafi has been able to maintain control for much longer partly due to his control over information - by shutting down the internet and refusing entry to journalists, he's been able to refute reports of horrific brutality by simply denying they ever happened. There has never been a stronger case for information freedom.

Apple staffing issues focus of new rumours

A week after Apple was forced to swat away questions about Steve Jobs' potential successors, new rumours have begun to emerge regarding the possible resignation of their chief designer, Jonathan Ive. While the company has predictably refused to respond on the issue, the prospect of Apple losing the man behind practically all their best-selling products is sure to worry already jittery shareholders.

The rumours regarding Ive's departure, published first in the *Sunday Times*, are reported to come from an unnamed family friend, who says that Ive would like to move back to England to raise his family. Apple's board has made it clear that they wouldn't support his relocation, however, and the issue looks

to be one that doesn't have any easy resolution. Ive has another incentive besides homesickness that could explain a departure from the firm where he made his name - \$30 million dollars worth of stock options that he was given to keep him at the firm.

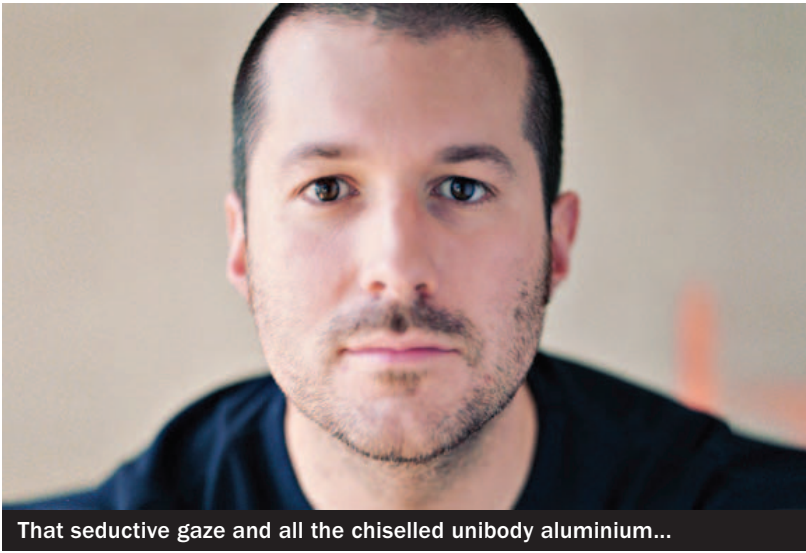
Ive's possible resignation would be a huge blow in itself but is a much bigger issue with Steve Jobs going on medical leave a few weeks prior. With Ive and Jobs perceived as the pioneering hands behind Apple's revival, there is very good reason for investors to be nervous.

Apple seems determined to protect its privacy, and recently had to fight off an attempt to force them to disclose potential successors to Jobs at their annual general meeting, a sign of growing wor-

ry about whether they have a plan for a time when Jobs is no longer available to micromanage the everyday running of the firm.

Apple's response to any direct questions regarding Jobs' successor have tended to revolve around the fact that Apple isn't just one man, but a large team of skilled designers and programmers. While this is definitely true, if Jobs is the most significant person in the team, Jonathan Ive isn't very far behind.

There is no suggestion yet that Ive is about to leave any time soon, merely that he's in talks with an opposing board about a possible relocation to England. If the worst case scenario does play out, however, Apple might find itself ailing without two of its brightest lights.



That seductive gaze and all the chiselled unibody aluminium...

FEATURE



ANONYMOUS

BORED
MIDDLE-CLASS
TEENAGERS?

Feroz Salam

It's been a big year for internet activism. Opening with the Wikileaks scandals in early January and moving swiftly onto the revolts occurring in Libya and Egypt, journalists have been eager to emphasise the important role played by social media and the web in organising and promoting demonstrations without restrictions of time, space, or even identity.

From the chaos of the internet, 'Anonymous' has come forth as the media darling du jour. The group poses a unique challenge to news outlets: despite it's far reach, it has no structure or leadership whatsoever. In describing it, reporters have had to return to vaguely communist terminology, with the BBC's best effort describing them as a 'hacktivist collective', despite the fact that they aren't hackers, activists or even a collective.

Yet with it's grandiose, self-important slogans ('If the government shuts down the internet, shut down your government') making for delectable soundbites, a group of young internet users who would normally spend their Saturdays captioning photos of cats have been thrust on an international arena and asked to represent the 21st century online resistance, making for an all too familiar muddle as old media attempts to understand new media and fails.

You're an Anon too!

In all fairness, attempting to define Anonymous is probably an exercise in futility. They don't have a website, membership lists, structure or even a defined goal. Wikipedia manages to describe them best by detailing how they work - 'Actions credited to "Anonymous" are undertaken by unidentified individuals who apply the Anonymous label to themselves as attribution'. In other words, you can be part of Anonymous simply by deciding that you are.

“Any efforts to
control the freedom
they enjoy are
met with instant
backlash”

Going to the shop to buy a tin of baked beans? Anonymous in action. Nap time? Another Anon getting some well earned rest. This fact has managed to elude most news organisations. The Guardian have been interviewing a self-styled 'spokesperson' for Anonymous for a few weeks now, eager for a soundbite despite his dearth of credentials.

So who then does this mysterious group consist of? Another commonly held misunderstanding has seen Anonymous frequently described as a 'community of hackers', a grossly incorrect description. Made up of the members of various internet forums and anyone who has taken the least interest in the culture that surrounds them, Anonymous' members are more tech savvy than the general population only by virtue of being young and middle class, growing up

in a society surrounded by the effects of computers and the internet. Police watching over the landmark Scientology protests described them quite frankly as a "quirky bunch of middle class kids". Most of their 'hacking' efforts have exploited little more than basic, widely known attacks. The fact that these have worked owes more to their sheer numbers rather than any particular skill on their part.

Armchair warriors

Yet there's no denying that Anonymous has made a remarkable transition into the mainstream with their campaign for information freedom - crashing the sites of the likes of Visa and MasterCard on one hand while faxing Wikileaks cables to an internet starved Egypt on the other.

The issue is one very close to their hearts, with the internet being their modus operandi, any efforts to control the freedom they enjoy are met with instant backlash. Their wish to preserve the freedom of the web is possibly the only common thread in their actions, and also helps in explaining why their efforts against anything they perceive

as a threat to it are so concerted and effective.

To take heart in this vociferous defence of free speech might be a mistake, however. Anonymous' selling point is definitely not as a defender of free speech and human values, and anything more than a cursory examination of their actions throw up some serious questions about their methods, and why the BBC is portraying them as cyber-freedom vigilantes when (by their own admission) they are nothing close.

Some of the group's infamous 'operations' have included a 'YouTube porn day' and an attack on a support group for epileptics which involved posting flashing computer imagery on the forums in an apparent attempt to induce seizures in members. Anonymous defended the former as an attempt to protect free speech and blames the latter as a defamation attempt by the church of Scientology.

Their fight for information freedom on the internet will probably go down as a landmark moment in their history, but it's worth keeping in mind that the 'group' will be back to persuading teen girls to take their tops off on message boards within a week of Libyan internet access being restored.

The Home Counties
massive

There's plenty of indication that Anonymous members who participated in the pro-Wikileaks attacks on PayPal, Mastercard and Visa bit off more than they could chew, at least here in the UK. In the first arrests relating to the attacks, 5 men were arrested from residential neighbourhoods in Hertfordshire, Surrey, London and the West Midlands. Three of them teenagers, it is likely that they had no conception that they would be cooling their heels in jail merely weeks after the attacks.

The events clearly demarcate the crossroads that Anonymous is at. Legislation regarding fair internet usage is finally maturing, and remaining 'Anonymous' isn't as easy as not using your name on a message board. For the first time arrests are being made and members are being unmasked, both here in the UK and across the pond in America.

The big question is whether Anonymous will see it worth their while to continue in their battle against the capitalist/corporate hegemony that they perceive is quashing free speech. The thought of racking up a criminal record (or even the possibility of upsetting their parents) could well drive them back to the more familiar and inoffensive territories of lolcats and message board chatter.

Attempting to define the role that Anonymous plays in an era defined by perpetual connectivity and the growing cultural influence of internet-based communities is unsurprisingly difficult. In attempting to find some method in their endlessly see-sawing quests to rid the world of wrong and frame the next big meme, it would be a mistake to read anything more into their actions than the workings of boredom and righteous self-interest. It may be revolutionary, but it certainly isn't noble.



THE DEBATE

WINDOWS FOR VERSATILITY

Chris Bowers argues that Windows can do everything a Mac can, and more

I'm a Windows user, and always have been. I've used Mac OS X and various Linux distributions over the last few years, so why do I stick with Windows? The answer is obvious - because it's better. Of course, most of you know that. With all the nay-saying and insults directed at Windows and Microsoft at Imperial (or maybe that's just Computing...), you'd think everyone was a Mac or Linux convert. But the fact is that most of you go home and log on to Windows.

Maybe many of you do so just "because nobody else in my house can use Linux". Or perhaps "because my computer came with it and I can't be bothered to change it". Don't be embarrassed, it's because you love it. But why is it that the vast majority of computers sold come pre-installed with Windows? We all know this, and find it far easier to criticise Microsoft for having a 'near-monopoly', instead of thinking about why the Operating System is so popular.

One of the main factors is the abundance of software available for the platform - both free and paid-for. This is an advantage of the platform that is self-perpetuating: the more popular it gets, the more developers will want to create software for it, and the more software is available for the platform, the greater the attraction to the consumers. You may argue that the various Linux distributions have huge repositories of free software, and while this is true, it is often easier to install and set up on Windows.

Talking of software, it's impossible to ignore the huge gaming community that still exists, even with the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 for competition. Yes, Mac OS X (finally) has Steam, but no serious gamer is going to spend over £1000 on a system that has a fraction of the games of a Windows machine. With regards to customisation of hardware, both at time of purchase and in the future, you either need to spend twice the previous amount on a Mac Pro or...well it's the obvious choice really. You could get a games console and a Mac, but why pay more for less?

So what does Windows have over what is almost certainly its main competitor? Although Macs may still be seen as the system of choice for image/video editing, and similar purposes, it is unrealistic to think that they outperform similarly kitted-out

computers running Windows. Of course, the reverse is also false.

The other main aspect that Macs are supposed to be superior in is ease of use. All I can say is that Windows doesn't hold 80-90% of the Operating System market for no reason. Naturally some of this comes down to what people are used to, but if Mac OS was that much easier to use, today's efficiency-seeking consumers would be flocking to Apple Stores. Personally I see nothing that makes Mac OS X more usable than equivalent Windows builds.

Linux probably deserves a mention here, although with approximately only one percent of market share, unknown to millions and "too techni-

"Personally I see nothing that makes Mac OS X more usable than equivalent Windows builds."

cal" for many of those who are aware of it, it seems to be a non-competitor. Even the sizeable cost advantage isn't persuading any significant number of people to jump ship. Fear of the command line and the unknown keep the people where they belong.

Of course, the commercial side of things makes up a huge slice of Windows' pie - even though you can run an entire office, server and all, for free on Linux. Companies sticking to what they know is a major factor as to why Windows XP may still hold 50% of the Operating System market. The integration of various Microsoft products (e.g. Exchange Server) is rather beautiful, and works exceptionally well. Naturally not everyone who uses Windows is a businessperson, but this just further exemplifies how Windows caters for all.

This is perhaps the most appealing aspect of all that Windows has. Those who want to just use their computer to occasionally access the internet and check their emails can do so. Those who want to play games, tinker with the specifics, the so-called 'power user', can do that. And those who need to run commercial software to go about their daily job, that's fine. It's a hugely versatile platform - it can do almost anything the others can do, and more besides.

So why do I use Windows? Because I do all of those things. I am a gamer, and a power user. I'm a programmer, and a surfer. Windows lets me do all of these things, with ease, and without fuss. It truly is a superb operating system.



MAC PERFECTION

Chris Fonseka gives Apple the hard sell

When it comes to buying clothes, there's no better feeling than that of a tailor-made suit. The gentle caress of the soft material, that you chose; the idea that each stitch and every measurement was designed specifically for your contours; and the final satisfying embrace, as every single part of it moulds itself perfectly around your figure. However, unless your bank account can accommodate an adequately performing football club, wearing a suit of this kind is either a dream or an event saved for a very special occasion. The piece of clothing that, quite literally, has your name on it is safely stowed away in a cupboard, waiting for the day when formality calls.

When asked, as I often am, about Apple, Macs and OSX, I like to call upon the metaphor of a tailor made suit. Apple selects the hardware they wish to use and then builds software optimised to their selection, complimenting the configuration perfectly to maximise the performance of the whole design. There's no excess material, no impeded movement

at the joints and no need for your mother to hem the trouser legs until you grow into them. The metaphor ends when it comes to usage. While a suit is not something you'd generally wear to 9 o'clock lecture, a computer is a device used from dawn till the ridiculous hours of the night. Meaning it's a feeling that we can enjoy every single day.

There's no avoiding computers nowadays. We use them for play, to socialise, to research, to organise and to write documents that will lead to Ph.D's, first class honours degrees and glorious Felix articles. With that in mind, why make such a recurring experience a bad one, or at least, one of no significance? Apple are a company of artists, a principle that shines through in OSX. The user interface of every element of it's design has been researched, refined and enhanced to ensure that it works as best, and as simply, as it possibly could. There is a standard layout for every single application, so no learning curve for the user when they

"...well it's the obvious choice really. You could get a games console and a Mac, but why pay more for less?"

THE DEBATE

LET'S NOT FORGET LINUX

Anthony Bryant says it's not just the lack of a price tag, it's all about freedom



discover something new. To install or uninstall an application, you do exactly what you expect to do, drag an icon into your applications folder, or drag the icon to the trash. When uploading photos to Facebook, rather than navigating through folders for a list of .jpgs from last night, you see the exact same interface that you are presented with in iPhoto, where each picture is automatically organised by event, by face, by location, or however you have previously specified, represented by it's image instead of it's filename.

“Apple revolutionise any market they touch”

When Steve Jobs is up on stage, he uses words like “Magical”, “Amazing” and “Wonderful”. It's very easy to criticise these events because of the hordes of Apple-fanatics and the tearing eyes of the fan-boys as they read the live streams, but you have to admit that Apple deliver on that vocabulary. From iPods to Macs, to the iPad, to iPhones, Apple revolutionise any market they touch by putting real thought into every product. Remember, Apple design the hardware and software together, so every bit of effort put into the shiny aluminium and glass enclosure is present in their operating systems. No-

body recommends Windows, and very few long-time Mac users move to PCs. While I agree that the Apple evangelists can be incredibly annoying, nobody builds such a rapport with product if not for good reason.

Microsoft have a good operating system, that works on almost everything, but that impedes how successful their system can be. On any Windows machine is redundant drivers and other bits of code to enable old, mysterious hardware that you've never even heard of to work with your machine. This bloats the software and slows down your PC. On top of that, every Windows machine requires cumbersome anti-virus software; third party media players and multimedia tools; third party drivers for any missing hardware compatibility; and a weekly updates for security patches and bugs, that takes up space and rapidly degrades system performance. Microsoft have done a great job considering the constraints they have imposed on themselves, but for a device that I use every single day, I don't want to deal with any of that.

I want great software that works from the first time I press the on button. I want a machine that will last me years without having to re-install operating systems, or defragmenting hard drives. I want a machine that “just works”; a made-to-measure suit that I can wear every single day. I want a machine running Mac OSX 10.6 Snow Leopard, the best operating system in the world.

There are many reasons to use Linux rather than Windows or Mac OS, and not just that it is completely free.

First, I must explain that Linux is actually just the most basic part of an OS, the Kernel. What you actually install is a Linux distribution, like Ubuntu, Fedora, openSUSE or any of a very long list of others. These distributions are just the Linux kernel bundled with a load of programs which you'll probably want to have installed (things like free office tools, web browsers, music players, etc. - none of the crapware that you get with a new Windows PC).

One of the best things about Linux is that all major distributions have a package manager. This lets you to search for and download free software from the internet. Installing a program in Windows would involve starting a web browser, searching for the installer, downloading it, running it, and at the end of the process you still have an installer sitting in your downloads folder. But in Linux you would just start the package manager, search for the program, and press install.

The package manager also makes updating your system much easier: you can update every part of your system with it at the same time, not just the OS itself but all of your programs as well! No more popup dialogs from random programs telling you to update them, just one subtle notification telling you that there are updates if you want to download them. Another advantage is the fact that with Linux you don't need to restart your system after every update, only when you've updated critical components.

Security is taken very seriously in Linux. Every time you install/upgrade packages you must enter a password, this ensures that no system-wide changes can be made without your consent. This is part of the reason that viruses are not a problem for Linux, any programs you download cannot take over the whole system. In fact, nothing you download is executable until you set it to be, so a virus would have to convince you to run it voluntarily!

Installing Linux (depending on your choice of distribution) can be very streamlined. You can easily install it on any part of your hard drive that you're willing to format, put it on a USB drive, or even install it within Windows. The rest of the process is usually just picking your time zone, user name, password, etc. If you choose a distribution which has a Live CD, you can try it out by just starting the CD, and even go online while you install it. Once it has installed, you will get a list of operating systems to choose from whenever you turn on your computer, so you can switch between Linux and another OS.

If you are looking for Hardware Support, Linux can be a good choice. There are official drivers from NVidia and AMD/ATI for their respective graphics

cards, and several more open source graphics card drivers. It's hard to keep up with hardware advances when you're not the most popular OS around, so there might be some drivers missing. However, Linux handles a lot of hardware very well (in particular, support for older hardware is good). It is usually a good idea to try the Live CD before you install it, so that you can make sure everything works beforehand.

The way that the OS is developed is part of the reason for this hardware support: anyone can join the community and help write the software if they are willing and able. That is the real meaning of “Open Source” or “Free” software, not just that it costs nothing to download (although the vast majority of programs do cost nothing).

The desktop on Linux is also extremely customizable. There are many choices you can make, for

“none of the crapware that you get with a new Windows PC”

example you can choose between several desktop environments, which provide your workspace and some applications. The most popular of these are KDE's Plasma Desktop and GNOME (Ubuntu chooses GNOME for you, if you want Plasma Desktop you might like Kubuntu). In whichever desktop environment you choose, you can customize the theme and color scheme of your windows and desktop as much as you like (even down to things like the placement of buttons in window title-bars), and you can add desktop widgets to them. If you use Plasma Desktop or a program called Compiz, there are also desktop effects which can do things like the Exposé effect from Mac OS.

Another very useful feature of these desktop environments is virtual desktops. This lets you set up multiple desktops which can each contain different windows, and then move your windows around them however you like. This gives you much more space to deal with windows, so you could have GIMP's windows arranged nicely on one desktop, Inkscape open on another and then Firefox/Chrome on a third. Then you can simply use the pager or keyboard shortcuts to switch between them.

Overall, Linux is a very useful desktop operating system. Windows and Macs may be satisfactory if you're happy with sticking with a look and feel someone else has decided for you; if you want real control, your only real option is Linux. It can handle most of the things you want it to, and many that others cannot.

REVIEW

Green and powerful, but what a missed opportunity

Samuel Gibbs goes hands-on with the Asus Bamboo U33JC

This week we've had one of Asus' latest and greatest Bamboo clad laptops the U33JC on the Felix test bench. The Bamboo series featuring the 13" U33 and the 15" U53 are an attempt to blend a premium notebook with green credentials. Using the fastest growing resource on the planet and packing some power-saving features, is the U33 just another green joke, or is it something we should be paying attention to? Read on and find out.

Features

On paper, the U33JC packs quite a punch. Equipped with Intel's latest Core i5 quad-core chip spinning along at 2.4GHz, with Turbo Boost cranking it up to 2.67GHz when needed thanks to the 'Super Hybrid Engine', 4GB of DDR3 RAM and a 500GB hard disk, it's certainly no slouch.

In the graphics department we've got Nvidia's Optimus system for automatic switching between an integrated Intel GMA 4500MHD chip and a dedicated GeForce 310M, allowing for both decent graphics performance and minimal power usage. Truth be told, Intel's integrated chip can take care of most of the multimedia duties you might call on the U33 for, but when 1080p output is required or you fancy a bit of gaming, the 310M will kick into play and provide the needed power. Of course we're not talking full desktop quality gaming here, but if you fancy a bit of Bioshock, COD4 or Battlefield: Bad Company, you'll find the U33 up to the task.

Asus boasts about SRS Premium speakers on the U series Bamboo collection, however in our listening tests they certainly don't sound like anything special. OK, they're pretty loud and they have decent high-end range, but forget about any sort of low-end or bass.

The machine ships with the usual array of connectivity options, WiFi N,

Bluetooth, Gbit ethernet, headphone and microphone ports, a 5-in-1 flash card reader, VGA and HDMI out, two USB2 ports and the nice addition of a single USB3 port for that super-fast external hard disk you just bought.

Of course glaring omissions here are FireWire and the lack of an ExpressCard slot, although you could argue that not many devices use FireWire or require ExpressCard support these days, and any form of optical drive. Now on a day to day basis you might not need an optical drive, what with flash drives, memory cards and cloud storage being so pervasive, but if you were looking at the U33 as your primary machine, something you could arguably do based on the rest of the specs, then not having an optical drive could be a real issue.

On the battery front, Asus ships the U33 with an 8-cell beast, which can power it through 10 hours of standard usage, or so claims Asus. In our testing we found the battery life to be pretty good getting into the 7 hour range for general usage and about 5 hours for video playback. Of course if you can hold off switching on the GeForce 310M then you get considerably more longevity. The battery however, adds significant weight to the rear of the machine leaving the laptop feeling a little unbalanced when used on an actual lap.

Express Gate

The U33 has another rather surprising addition to the standard laptop loadout, in the form of an Instant-on OS. Once the computer is switched off, pressing a second power button brings up a derivative of the Splashtop rapid-boot OS that Asus calls Express Gate. The idea is that you don't need to boot into a full-blown desktop OS to do simple tasks such as web browsing and email.

In practice we found that there's a fatal flaw in the solution Asus provides and that's the inability to use a question mark in passwords. Now for some that's a trivial matter, but if you happen to use a question mark in your WiFi password for instance, that essentially prevents you from connecting to the Internet at home. If we're honest, these days with iPhones, iPads and rapid wake-up-from-sleep on laptops and desktops, the instant-on OS is rather redundant. A nice value add, but it's certainly not a must have feature.



Pah, who needs glass and aluminium when you've got walnut-like grass...

The Build

Bamboo isn't just in the name, the lid and palm-rest are clad in the stuff. Admittedly it looks more like walnut in its dark 'smoky' brown appearance, but you can still see the grain of the grass giving it a nice premium look. In fact, it's certainly a selling point with a smooth, silky texture and warm feel; it's truly a nice piece of hardware to touch.

The trackpad is seamlessly integrated into the palm rest with only a faint outline marking the touch sensitive area, and a single bamboo mouse button pointed in chrome.

Using the trackpad feels fantastic, and frankly it's the best feeling mousing device we've had the pleasure to get our

fingers on. But, and unfortunately it's quite a large but, it's let down by the lack of multi-touch, leaving scrolling down to the antiquated edge-scrolling method. Not something we're fans of, especially when there is no physical edge to denote where the trackpad begins and ends.

If we're honest, general mousing is something you're going to have to get used to on the U33, as without looking down at the button beneath the trackpad, it's difficult to work out where the trackpad actually is as there's no feelable edging.

The rest of the laptop is also edged in chrome and black, with a dark brushed-metal surround for the keyboard. The front edge of the laptop base hides the four activity indicators, whilst the ports dot the left and right edges.

The rear of the laptop takes the battery and is therefore lacking any ports. The body of the U33 takes the fairly familiar wedge-shaped approach, being thicker at the rear, tapering to a chromed edge at the front.

It has to be said that the U33 isn't a slim notebook. Its base is decidedly chunky, especially when you consider it's lacking any kind of optical drive or ExpressCard slot.

The Screen

One of the most important parts of the modern laptop has to be the screen, after all you're going to be staring at it for quite a bit of time.

The screen on the U33 is of the 13.3"

"If you fancy a bit of Call of Duty 4, you'll find the U33 up to the task"

REVIEW



Warm to touch, silky-smooth with just the right amount of friction — the touch pad is exquisite. Shame about the lack of multi-touch

glossy LED-backlit variety with a 1366 x 768, 720p plus, HD resolution. The screen is held in a thick glossy black fingerprint and dust magnet surround, which visibly rounds off the corners of the screen resulting in the corner of windows being clipped.

Mounted in the top of the screen is a 2-megapixel webcam with an inbuilt privacy iris that covers the lens when you slide the switch to off, a nice addition knowing that you can stop creeps turning on your webcam and watching you remotely if, God forbid, you're PC ever gets compromised.

The lid of the laptop is hinged to drop down round the back of the battery a lot like the current generation of Apple MacBook Pros, and feels solid enough. We didn't have any issues getting a decent angle for viewing the screen either, which is a plus.

On the whole the screen is vibrant with decently rich colours and fairly good horizontal viewing angles. Vertical viewing angles on the other hand aren't all that stellar, with colour saturation quickly diminishing when moving out of the optimum viewing range. A bit of a shame, given the quality of screens on similarly priced machines currently available.

The Keyboard

Equally important to the screen has to be your main point of input with the laptop — the keyboard. Here we have a mixed bag. The keyboard is of the isolated chiclet-style, with fully separated keys and a metal surround mounting them into the deck of the laptop. They're a decent size, as allowed by the rather wide body of the U33, and are well laid out with your usual multi-function 'F-keys' doubling up as a sleep button, WiFi switch, brightness and volume control, as well as a presentation function, and a button to turn the trackpad off. The U33 is a little light on media keys however, as only the arrow keys, providing play/pause, stop and skip track, alternate functionally. There's no dedicated media play-

“A built-in privacy iris covers the webcam lens, stopping creepy hackers being able to turn on your webcam and watch you remotely”

er button or the like, which we would definitely have liked to have seen.

The keys themselves are, however, a bit of a let-down. They function fine with a decent amount of travel and response, and are mounted well into the deck of the laptop, but they feel incredibly cheap and plasticky. On first impressions they felt horrible, but as we wrote this review, we got used to the feel and didn't require any typing adaptation on our side.

Getting over the feel of the keys, we have another gripe and that's the lack of a backlight. OK, not every computer these days comes with a backlit keyboard, but one with a premium feel and decent heft should certainly have included it. It's not really until you start

using the U33 in the dark that you start to notice it, but the brightness of the screen is not sufficient for those times when you need to hunt for that specialty key.

The Verdict

So when all is said and done, what do we really think of the Asus U33JC Bamboo edition? Frankly, it's a missed opportunity to create something really quite special.

Don't get us wrong, it's a nice machine and as Windows laptops go, it's well equipped and well built. But the U33 begs to be more than that.

The few gripes we have about the lack

of optical drive, the lack of a backlit keyboard, and the missing multi-touch on the trackpad, really let the rest of the package down.

The whole machine needs to lose a bit of weight being wider than it needs to be, leaving a rather large bezel around the screen. It's not silent either, and the sounds of fans are constantly there, leading us to think the extra chunk doesn't help the cooling.

If you're looking for a machine with a decent combination of power and battery life that's a little bit different, then the Bamboo clad U33JC should be in your sights; it's the machine for you. But we can't whole-heartedly recommend it because of a few niggles, and honestly, that's a shame.

Vital statistics

13.3-inch
1366x768
screen

2.4GHz Core
i5

4Gb DDR3

500Gb HDD

Nvidia Opti-
mus

GMA
4500MHD

GeForce
310M

802.11 n

Bluetooth

2 USB2
ports

1 USB3 port

5-in-1 flash
card reader



Chrome, bamboo and black — It'll look right at home in the Jag... or bring a touch of class to your crappy student desk.

I, SCIENCE

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OUT FRIDAY, 11TH MARCH

Games Editor: **Simon Worthington**

GAMES

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Infinite levels for free? Sweet!

Michael Cook talks procedural generation, and how it makes level creation easy

So we're over halfway now. Yesterday we worked on the meat of the game, pushing in art assets, user interface and controls. Now we've got a pretty full game in front of us – not an award winner, but something that could be played around with for a few minutes or demonstrated to a friend. Today we solve the content problem, in what is probably one of the more technical of this week's posts.

Procedural generation is what we'll look at today, as a way of generating lots of levels for our game without having to do much coding ourselves. The phrase is often used to describe what is basically random generation, but true procedural generation has a method for creating things, a procedure. For weeks I'd been looking for a good map generator for dungeon-based games, and I finally found one researching today's piece. So without further ado, let's step through the process and see how it works for real.

Our dungeons are tile-based, as you can see when you play the game from the blockiness of the walls. So imagine an Excel spreadsheet; a grid of tiles that's a hundred tiles squared. The first step is to throw wall blocks randomly onto this grid, so that roughly 40% of the map is wall. This is quite literally random – we don't care where they go at this point.

Lots of procedures for generating things in this way start off like this, because the randomness is what makes the

outcomes distinct. The rest of the method is precisely deterministic, so randomising the start is how we get variety in our outcomes. Now the clever bit – we're going to cluster the walls together by doing the following: for each tile, if it has more than four walls next to it, we mark it as a wall in the next generation of the map. Otherwise we leave it blank.

Try and visualise that – it's eroding the walls that are on their own, and thickening the walls that are close together. What you get, as you'll see when you fire up today's version, are maps with clusters of wall and twisty corridors – it's sufficiently complex, but still identifiably dungeon-y. We actually do this a few times, and tweak the method to do a few extra things, but the basic algorithm is just those two steps – random scatter, and cluster together.

Of course, unless you're planning to build a 'roguelike' game (replayable, tile-based RPGs) yourself, that algorithm isn't going to help you. But whether you're procedurally generating levels, weapons or stories the idea is often very similar; start with randomness and then use some heuristic (which might take a while to come up with) to slowly change the object into something you can actually use. It often takes experimentation – I run the algorithm four times to get our maps, but running it three times or five times produces too many useless maps, as I discovered. Practice makes perfect, but once you've cracked it the result is an infinite (for all intents and purposes) supply of maps. Which, for an

indie game with no linear narrative, is exactly what we need.

Content generation is underexplored, but it's becoming a bigger deal even in the world of academia, because the desire for bigger and better video games is outstripping developers' abilities to supply it. Map packs and campaigns are getting smaller and smaller, and expectation is rising higher and higher. Even for a platformer, procedural generation gives people an incentive to come back to it, and better still it leaves you free to polish other areas.

For a contemporary example, *Minecraft* is the success story of the decade for procedural generation. Like us, Notch uses randomness to create an initial area (a special kind of randomness called Perlin Noise, which creates a kind of 3D plane that he samples). Then the second step, he uses heuristics to apply a global sea level, then add biomes, and tweak things that are too crazy (players may remember early maps included huge amounts of floating islands, which are now less common).

Minecraft's world generation has been described as a game in itself, because the worlds are so captivating to explore and journey through. *IC.HACK* isn't quite there yet, but like *Minecraft* it's provided our players with plenty to do, and only taken a few hours. Thanks must go to Roguebasin, a wiki full of articles about playing and creating roguelikes, for the map generation algorithm.

Be sure to download the latest build, as it's getting closer to a fully-fledged



If you squint at this for long enough, it starts to look like Elvis's face

game. Tomorrow is, predictably, about finishing. We add three new characters, more special moves and objectives, and reflect on the future. Tune in tomorrow, and email us at imperialgamedev@gmail.com – we want your feedback and ideas to add to a final edition of the game next week!

DOWNLOAD IC.HACK:

sn.im/ichack

Discuss: felixonline.co.uk
Game Maker: sn.im/25gndv

Games That Never Made It #3: *Starcraft: Ghost*

Some of the people who read this with a further interest in gaming (i.e. you've been on the internet and googled 'video games') will be aware that *Starcraft 2* in South Korea is like cocaine on Wall Street – it's really addictive and everyone is doing it. This game is so huge over there that you can register as a professional gamer with a professional organisation to play in professional tournaments at it. I've said professional so many times to try and convince you it's a serious profession, not like an artist or something (take that, universities who offer creative courses!)

And it is serious business. \$300,000 a

year of serious business in some cases and single tournaments can have over \$75,000 as a first prize. However, the game also boasts an often skipped over story line which for my money is one of the better in Blizzard's repertoire.

Starcraft: Ghost offered us the chance to explore this storyline in depth, and it's now widely accepted that it was set to explore what has become the driving force for all three games in the *Starcraft 2* franchise. A bonus mission is included for those who can find it, as an homage to this cancelled gem.

Not only that, but this was to be Blizzard's toe in the water when it comes to third person shooters. You can't imagine how that would probably have been, unless you do crystal meth and play *Half Life 2* – even then it's probably not the same. As for why it was cancelled, I can't entirely say. Blizzard bought the company who made it and seemingly it was too close to the end of the

Gamecube's under appreciated lifespan to ever be viable. But please, don't get so upset you do crystal meth and play *Half Life 2*.



Also cancelled: this pretty lady :(

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TRAVEL

Travel Editor: **Chris Richardson**
Dylan Lowe

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Thailand's essentials uncovered

Chris Richardson

The lowdown: The track is well beaten, but this certainly doesn't detract from its charm. From the plush northern hills, down through the urban centre through to the islands of paradise, Thailand has something for all.

Culture: Thais are very friendly, laid back but energetic people. Always be polite and respectful, as the concept of 'saving face' is paramount here. Try and pick up a few local phrases, but expect most in the tourist industry to speak reasonable English.

Costs: Costs can be as little as £10 per day in the north, if you are willing to haggle for good prices and eat as the locals do (see our basic backpacking guide from the Felix Daily Issue 1). As you migrate south, expect prices to rise, and eventually double on Koh Phangan's infamous Haad Rin beach.

Cuisine: A jamboree of flavours awaits you in the form of noodles, curries, and exotic fruit and vegetables. Stay true to the local food as much as you can: street vendors are recommended more than rival restaurants.



Must see: Haad Rin beach lit up on the night of the full moon – arrive a few days early and savour a few crazy nights of this

Charming Chiang Mai

Crammed with scenic temples and great eateries, this quaint city is your gateway to Thailand's northern hills. Ambient by day, the city becomes vibrant at night with its young crowds and nightlife.

Accommodation: Many opt for the old quarter, where countless hostels await you. Surrounded by several Buddhist temples for your hopping pleasure, this is a great base camp to explore the city and has an abundance of taxis to take you near and afar.

Food: Worth noting is the food court at the city's night market, which hinges on a token system: stock up on some cheap tokens, redeem them at various vendors, and dabble with as many things as possible. It's easy to miss so be sure to ask around when you're there.

Transport: Grab a map and explore the city by bicycle: you're much more likely to stumble upon some hidden gems this way than if you're crammed into the back of a tuk-tuk. That's not to say that the occasional tuk-tuk won't come in handy on those late nights!

Activities: Arrange some trekking through your hostel or a travel company, get off the track for a few days as you venture up the hills and stay with hill tribes, stopping to revitalise at cooling waterfalls along the way, and consider twinning the trekking with elephant training at an elephant sanctuary. Unwind with a well-deserved Thai massage once you make it back to town.



Bustling Bangkok

Cleverly described as "the decompression chamber between the east and the west" in 'The Beach', the city is both bizarre and lovable. It's a great place to start or end a trip, and a great hub for any direction you could wish to venture.

Accommodation: The Khao San Road will probably be where you end up, though if you're willing to walk two minutes into a side street you're likely to stumble on a bargain. The rooms are rarely five star and never soundproof from the insane nightlife, but this is definitely the place you want to be to swap stories and recommendations with similar other people.

Food: The street food is simply unmissable, and hopelessly outmatches rival restaurant food. Get a bowl of pad thai (fried noodles) with all of the finishings, and grab yourself a frosty Chang beer from a supermarket. Sit yourself down and inhale the chaos around you.

Transport: Metered taxis are your best bet for longer distance journeys across the city, but make sure that the taxi uses a meter before you get in. Tuk-tuks are fine for short distances, but avoid scams of 'free' trips where you won't be taken to your destination.

Activities: Check out the tigers and floating market out of town, admire Wat Pho and the royal palace's outstanding architecture. Delve into the city's huge markets, sight-spot while you cruise along the river. For the bold: go and check out 'Patpong' at night.



The Full Moon Party

The ultimate beach party: nothing you witness will match the scale or madness of Haad Rin beach when the moon is full. Party until way after sunrise as music blares, drinks flow, and fire-based acrobatics surround you.

Accommodation: Staying on Haad Rin has the advantage that you don't have to pay extortionate taxi fees to get to and from the nightlife. The extra accommodation costs to stay here are nothing compared to the taxi fees. Accommodation is almost always under heavy surveillance, and the police are harsh on troublemakers.

Food: Resist the urge to submit to the standard drunken student food on offer, and go for some street food. Have a Thai green curry cooked up and wash it down with some lao cao (local whiskey). Or stick to falafel and super-strength alcoholic mixers, served in buckets.

Activities: Attend the 'Same Same Cookery School' and learn how to cook the Thai way while you nurse your hangover. Head over to the national park to the west, the set of the mythical island in Garland's 'The Beach'. Get on the island a few days early to make friends on the build up to the monthly big event. Then cover yourself in paint and dance the night away.

Annoyances: Spiked drinks are common, so look out for yourself and your friends. Equally, theft is more prominent here as people take advantage of drunk tourists. Stay safe and stay together in a group if possible.



Paradise on Phi Phi

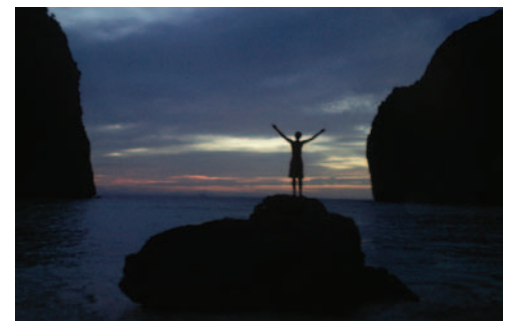
In the humble opinion of far too many, the turquoise waters and sandy white beaches of Phi Phi take the prize for paradise spot. With its resident cats, fruit shake vendors and all round good vibes it certainly feels like home.

Accommodation: Beach huts aren't much cheaper than hotel rooms, and also have the annoying habit of being susceptible to the bass from nearby speakers. Unless you're prepared to pop valium every night, go for a quieter hotel room where you'll actually be able to rest. As the island is so tiny, location is irrelevant.

Food: You should take advantage of the fact that this is an island and eat some fresh fish. The restaurants here are worth investing in and are highly competitive, always offering you good deals. A restaurant serving shisha is never a bad call: many have rooftop smoking areas that are a great way to enjoy the sunset after an evening meal.

Activities: Track down 'Spider Monkey Travel' and get yourself on the Maya Bay camping trip: the pristine set of 'The Beach' will be yours for the evening, following some cliff diving and shark snorkelling. Immerse yourself in the phosphorescent water and crash out on the sand to watch the sun rise. Hunt for a good deal on some diving. You should consider becoming qualified if you're not already, as the diving here is world class and incredibly cheap. Take the climb to the island's mighty viewpoint.

Annoyances: None. Now sit back in the sun and enjoy paradise.



Food Editors: **Vicky Jeyaprakash**
Dana Li
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FOOD

Exploring the alternative of Japan

An expat's secret food indulgences unveiled courtesy of Aki Matsushima

We're all familiar with sushi and tempura, courtesy of Yo! Sushi, but there's a whole lot more that Japanese cuisine has to offer and is awaiting diners like you to take the first step to explore. Here's some fresh ideas you might want to try out :

Yakitori

One of the small pleasures in life for a busy Tokyo office worker might be visiting a cramped, smoke-filled yakitori joint at the end of a tiresome day. The chef wears traditional attire and grills skewers of chicken over charcoal, crackling in its own fat and juices. The skewers are then devoured with a much-awaited glass of ice-cold Japanese lager. In true South-East Asian spirit, all parts of the chicken including the heart, gizzards, intestine and skin are put on the grill alongside the more familiar cuts. Everything is cooked in the same, simple manner – seasoned with salt or a soy sauce marinade then barbequed over charcoal to bring out their sublime, varied flavours. You can experience these very flavours yourself, albeit in a more spacious, clean and slick setting. **Tosa** in Hammersmith is one of few London-based yakitori restaurants.

Ramen Noodles

Ramen is the Japanese answer to post-drinking junk food. Therefore Japanese expats are puzzled by the 250 calorie healthy chicken miso ramen lunch pots sold for £3 at Waitrose and M&S. Real ramen noodles come in soup that is more oil and lard than stock, contains a few times more salt than your RDA and is gooey with the pork gelatine that's boiled out of its bones and skin. It can be topped with stewed, fat belly pork. The noodles themselves are mainly flour with some egg, made very thin and dry to soak up as much of the grease as possible. **Nagomi** is a cute little restaurant off Oxford Street that replicates *tonkotsu ramen* (literally meaning 'pork bone ramen') vaguely accurately. Although, considering that you're going to be drunk anyway, I don't think instant tonkotsu ramen sold at Japanese food shops are a bad substitute.

“Ramen is the Japanese answer to post-drinking junk food.”

Udon Noodles

Contrary to ramen, udon noodles are very healthy noodles. The thick, white, slippery noodles are made of flour and water then served with a piquant dashi stock-based soup or dipping sauce. The elasticity of the udon is very important, and the traditional way of kneading it is by foot. **Koya** in Soho might just be the only restaurant in London that adheres to this tradition. We are assured that, like in any modern Japanese udon restaurant kitchen, layers of thick vinyl sheet separate the udon makers' feet and the udon dough. The noodles can be eaten hot or cold and are served with wholesome toppings like spring onion, poached egg, chicken and even *natto* (fermented soy bean) if you're willing to rise to that challenge.

Okonomiyaki

Okonomiyaki is an extremely peculiar-sounding dish, but everyone I know who's tried it has fallen over heels with it. It's a savoury pancake made with a dashi stock, flour and yam potato-based batter, filled with vegetables, meat, seafood and sometimes even noodles. It's usually topped with mayonnaise, Japanese barbeque sauce, dried fish flakes, pickled ginger and powdered dried seaweed. Mmm.

Okonomiyaki is usually sold at traditional festivals in Japan from rows of street stalls adorned with red lanterns. When it's made at home, you sit around a hot plate (portable iron griddle) in the centre of the dining table; cooking, eating and chatting at the same time. Okonomiyaki restaurants like **Abeno**, near Holborn, and **Abeno Too** in Covent Garden have griddles embedded into the tables to make sure you soak up the aromas as the okonomiyaki cooks in front of you. You can choose to make the pancake yourself or ask a member of staff to do it for you to make sure it merely looks like cooked sick and doesn't taste like it (an age-old Japanese joke). **Abeno** allows okonomiyaki to be had in an authentic setting, complete with embedded griddles and Japanese pop music in the background. It's usually bursting with Japanese expats – which is always a good sign when you're out to find a restaurant that serves authentic Japanese food. The only catch about this all is that okonomiyaki, unlike in Japan, comes at a hefty price.

Wagashi

These Japanese sweets, traditionally enjoyed at formal tea ceremonies, are works of art. Wagashi artisans train for many years to make these delicate, colourful seasonal creations that are

KBTimages.co.uk



What do you have under there, lady? Oh, an okonomiyaki... for me?



The Felix cat is chilling in Japan with lots of Sake, wishing you were here!

just as pleasing to the eye, as they are to the palate. These high-end Japanese desserts are mainly made with rice and sweetened red beans ('azuki' in Japanese). However, a wide range of other ingredients are employed too. With Zen and nature in mind, agar jelly is used to represent dew or spring water and tinted white bean paste for flower petals. You can find these in one place, the **Mina-moto Kitchoan**, a specialist wagashi store located at 44 Piccadilly W1J 0DS.

Tomorrow's section is imported from...

ITALY

The home of pizza, pasta and grappa!

RECIPES

There's a common misconception that Japanese food is hard to cook. The truth is, as long as you can get hold of the right ingredients, most of it is easy peasy, lemon squeezy. Cook a *Katsu* and curry like a busy, modern Japanese person.

Japanese Curry

The key ingredient for this is the Japanese curry stock cubes – don't skimp – it's what we all use at home. Ask the staff at the Japanese food shop to show you where the "curry roux" is – they come in boxes of about 20 x 10 x 2cm and will truly be the magic ingredient for your curry.

Ingredients (serves 4):

100g Curry roux
 200g Beef, diced or minced
 ½ onion, chopped finely
 1 small carrot, diced
 1 potato, diced
 2tbsp oil
 700ml water
 Rice

Heat the oil in a pan and fry the vegetables and meat.

Add the water, bring to the boil and simmer for 20 minutes. Dissolve the roux cubes and simmer for a few minutes longer.

Add the cooked vegetables and meat to the curry sauce. Serve with rice.

Katsu

If you're not afraid of deep-fat frying, why not go that extra length to make yourself a katsu curry?

Ingredients (serves 4):

4 Pork fillet slices
 1 egg, beaten
 A few tbsp of flour
 A few tbsp of breadcrumbs (Japanese panko ideally, avail at Japanese shops)
 Salt and pepper
 Oil for deep-fat frying

Beat the pork with a meat-mallet, if you have one. If not, just use the back of a knife to beat down on the meat.

Season the fillets with salt and pepper. Coat the fillets with flour, then dip in the egg, then the breadcrumbs.

Heat the oil to 170 degrees and deep fry until the coating is golden-brown. You will know when the oil is 170 degrees, as the breadcrumbs dropped in should rise back up.

Serve hot with curry and rice and enjoy the marvels of Japanese food!

Places to check out:

Tosa 332 King St, W6 0RR.
 Nearest tube: Stamford Brook

Abeno 47 Museum St, WC1A 1LY. Nearest tube: Holborn

Nagomi 4 Blenheim St, W1S 1LB. Nearest tube: Bond St

Koya 49 Frith St, W1D 4SG.
 Nearest tube: Leicester Sq

Japan Centre Food Shop
 14-16 Regent St, SW1Y 4PH.

Rice Wine Shop 82 Brewer St, W1F 9UA Nearest tube: Piccadilly Circus

Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**
James Hook
Aman Nahar
puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

PUZZLES

Codeword - The Kidnapper Revealed?

11	22	19	9	26	12		18	1	3	19	17	16
16		3			21			14		25		14
23	20	10	16		16	5	26	19	1	19	3	16
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5	16	26	20	9	3		14	16	17	17	16	22
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I had all but given up on ever finding the fiend who did this. I guessed that all I could do now was call the police and hope for the best. So in the meantime, I decided to help out the only way I knew how. By writing next week's codeword.

A few minutes later, the puzzle was nearly complete and I had started to write a fun coded message, as you can see below. And then, I heard a voice behind me...

"Smile, pal! Start studying scrupulously to pleasantly avenge him instantly!"

I turned round to hear the voice's recipient, yet he had already scarpered. Why did this person think I knew what that meant? Could it possibly lead me to the last innocent person, thus revealing the guilty party? Don't be silly, I told myself. Not all of life's problems can be solved with puzzles, despite how awesome they are. But then I looked at my puzzle once more and grew suspicious that, in fact, my puzzle could give me the solution...

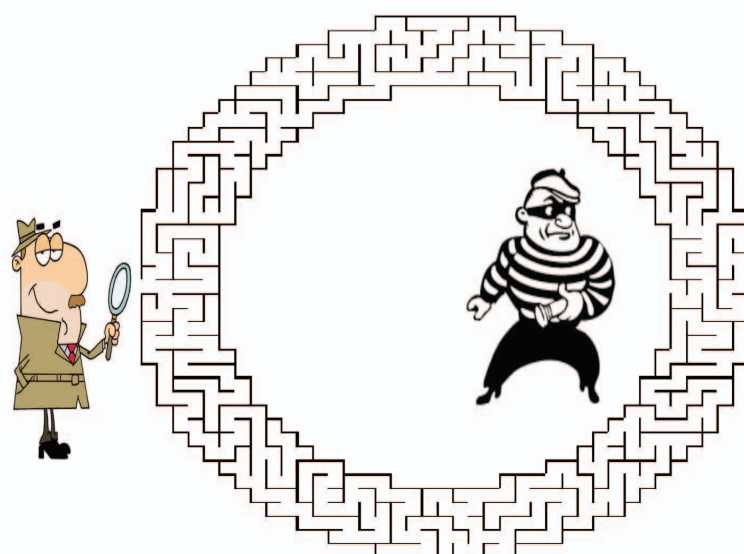
Yesterday's Solutions

Nonogram

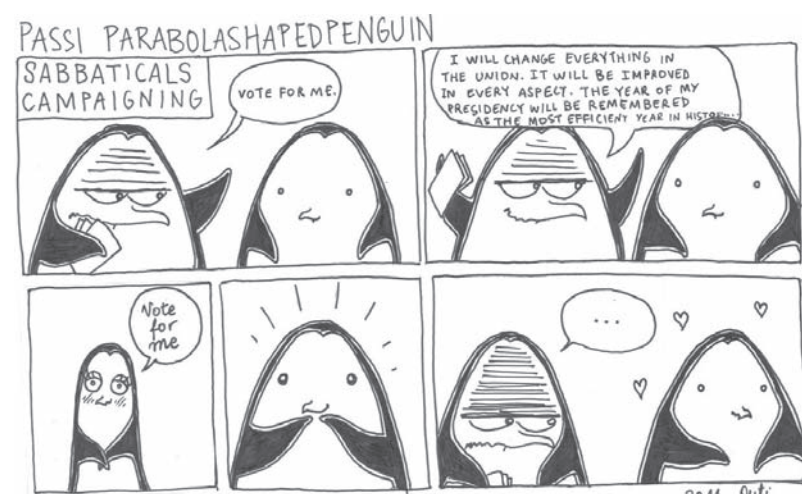
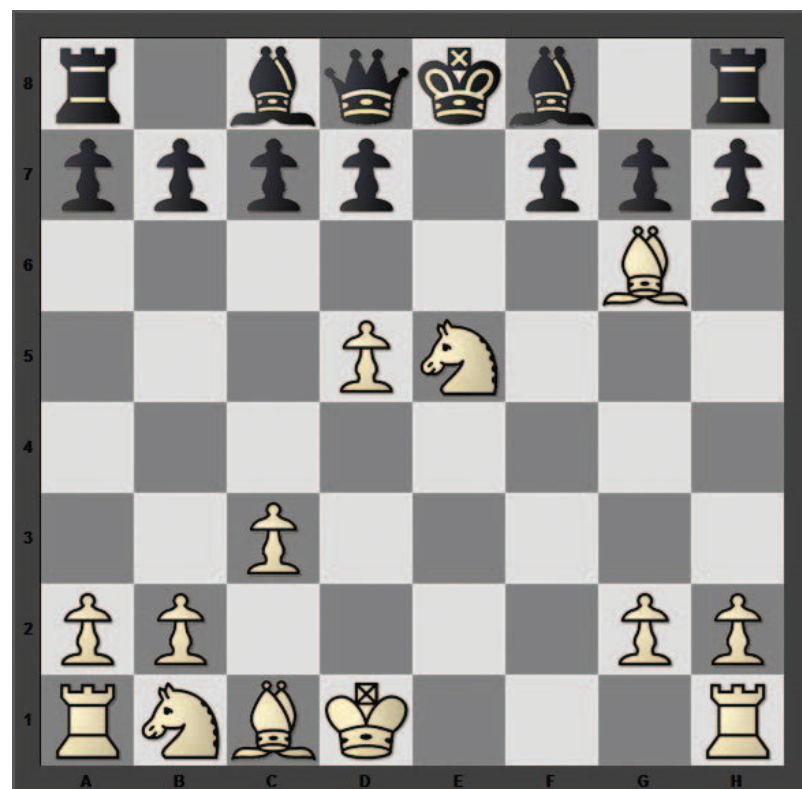
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Pictogram - 1. Benjamin Kennedy
 2. Greg Power 3. James Hook 4.
 Charles Betts 5. Veronika McQuade-
 ova 6. Ed Knock Ans: Anna Perman

Mentalist Maze



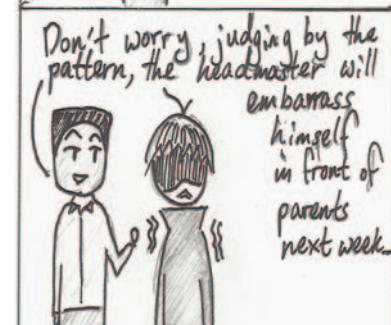
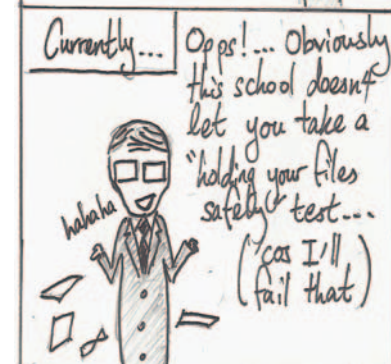
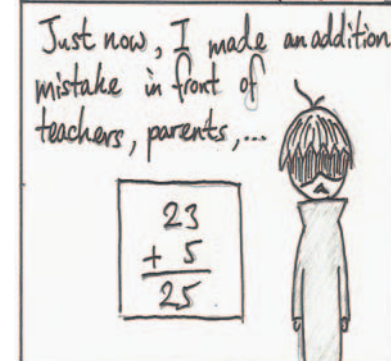
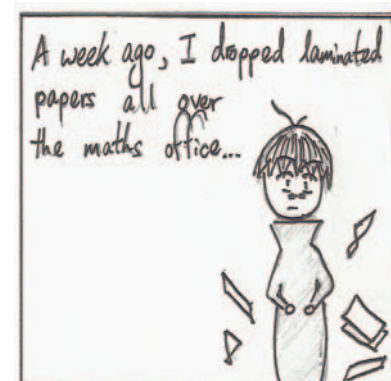
ChessSoc Chess - White to play and win



Wordoku

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A					T	
Y			O	T	L	I
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		O				

What fun you're all having with puzzles every day... Just take a moment to think how hard we're all working to distract you from lectures... Once again, every row, column and 3x3 box contains each symbol. One of the rows or columns spells out a word or phrase!



Apple Higher Education Store

apple.com/uk/go/save

The Hangman Guide to...

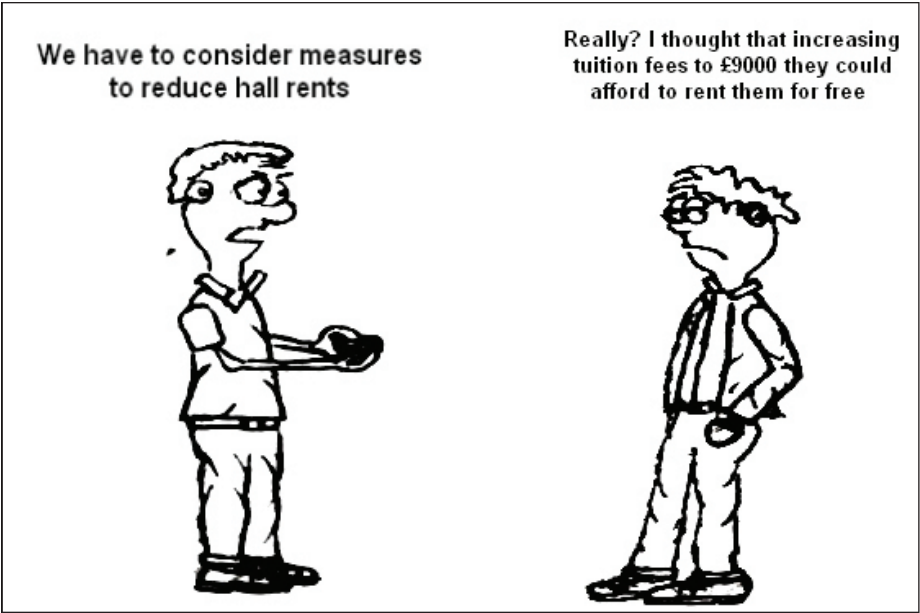
Being a Professor

You probably have a PhD. Yeah, that's a pretty HUGE determination to acquire knowledge

- 1. You already made the powerpoint and lecture notes. Well, stole them from a textbook and the loser who used to do the course. That's enough work. During the lectures you can just chill and read the slides out word for word.
- 2. Speak entirely in scientific jargon and convoluted metaphors. Your speech will be similar to a panda playing squash with an alligator, confusing and ending with a charge for animal cruelty.
- 3. "Recommended texts: 'Physics' by Resnick and Halliday" is just such an archaic way to say that. Go street on their asses "Yo, big up my fucking dawgs tearing it up in this bitch with their hit 'Physics'. Hallidizzle and Resno be runnin' shit."
- 4. "I AM FUCKING ABOVE THIS. I AM ROUGHLY 1000 TIMES SMARTER THAN YOU ALL. YOU ARE ALL NOTHING." This should be shouted at the start of every lecture, not just communicated via body language. That stunned silence. That's respect that's what that is.
- 5. Leave gaps in the lecture notes for the students to fill them in. They all hate it but everyone's into some S&M and



- 6. Start dealing "memory stimulants" and "something that will help you concentrate." Don't look so alarmed they're actually just tic tacs. Don't worry, management will never find out - they're all too busy getting rid of people like it's Libya.
- 7. All students can officially fill in any blanks in less than 10 seconds. Move on faster than R. Kelly changes the subject when asked if he minds you seeing his photo album.
- 8. Who reads peoples lab reports/lit reports/ problem sheets/ clit reports? Rank students by hotness and willingness to perform felatio.
- 9. If the first two rows are not 90% for-
- causing them pain really gets you off. Ohhh yeah, draw that graph bitches.
- eign students you have clearly gone to UCL by mistake. You're also not wearing any trousers, but that's normal.
- 10. Change your last name to Hottie. You are now Professor Hottie. With a name like that how can students NOT secretly fancy to you.
- 11. Modern technology is great. Teleconference in. Then you can lecture naked, and not get fired for it this time.
- 12. Being facebook friends with students does not make you the cool, lad lecturer. Great wank bank deposits though.
- 13. When someone is talking loudly don't say "If you know this already, maybe you want to give the lecture." Just in case they actually do, and end up doing a stellar job (or normal job if not an astrophysics lecture HAHahaha).



Luca De Benedetti

HANGMAN

Horoscopes

Aries

Today, you wrap up a little hamster in a bit of tin foil and stick him in the oven. You turn the heat up all the way. Three hours later you open the oven. The hamster has turned into the Burger King Man, he rips your face off with an electric pencil sharpener...

Gemini

Today, you go for a swim in the Serpentine. It's cold, but refreshing and you feel alive. Something nibbles at your feet. You ignore. You're pulled under. It's the Burger King Man, he's wearing your mother as a speedo. She fits quite well... You trade speedos...

Leo

Today, you're taking a jog in the park. Pump those legs, take them breaths, itch that crotch! You hear frantic steps behind you. A crazed man sprints up past you, quickly followed by the Burger King Man. He tears the man's head off with his costumed hands.

Libra

Today, you find that you're able to separate fact from fiction, dreams from reality and Charlie Sheen from cocaine. Unfortunately the Burger King Man also realises that he's able to separate your balls from your body. So I guess it sort of cancels out...

Sagittarius

Today, you nibble this cute guy's ear in lectures. He loves it. The lecturer walks in. It's NOT the Burger King Man. You sigh, relieved. The Burger King Man rappels from the ceiling and shits in your mouth. It's laced it with cyanide. You die, the cute guy marries the BK Man.

Aquarius

Today, you can't wait for the day to end. The Burger King Man has other ideas. He makes the day stretch into the future, never-ending. Never-ending. Never, ever. Ever. Ever. Ever. Ever. Ever. Ever. Ever. Ever. Man, that guy is such a dick.

Taurus

Today, you sneak into the Royal Albert Hall and take a piss off one of the higher levels. It feels so liberating. Suddenly you feel this sharp jabbing pain in your back. You turn around. It's the Burger King Man. He's stabbing you to death with an electric toenail buffer.

Cancer

Today, you're getting a massage from a hot Thai chick. It's so so good. All of the knots in your back are being released. Suddenly she starts screaming, you roll over. The Burger King Man has just disembowled her with a frozen turkey. You make love...

Virgo

Today, you decide to run for election. You win! On results night you're having a celebratory cigarette when someone taps your shoulder. You turn around, no-one's there. You turn back to your friends. They're dead. The Burger King Man has knifed them with a spoon.

Scorpio

Today, you try to start up a conversation with a girl in the library cafe. Unfortunately she's read your horoscopes and is freaked out by you. Just when you think things can't get worse, the Burger King Man sticks hot needles under your fingernails.

Capricorn

Today, you are floating on a wave of Radiohead music. Suddenly it stops. The lights turn off. It's deathly dark. You can hear heavy breathing. That's all you remember. You wake up 1000 years later in a hospital. The world has changed. It's nothing like Futurama.

Pisces

Today, you smile. Your friend invites you to bake with him. You go. It's homely, it's fun. The brownies are delicious. You sit on the sofa and watch some tv. How relaxing. There's a Burger King Man-sized knock on the door. You ignore it... Bliss.

SPORT



Guido's 60 Second Pit Stop

Men's Hockey



Ewan Quince

>> Sum up how your progress over the season has gone so far?

After a patchy start with a very new look team, we are now in a strong position for promotion in our BUCS league.

>> How do you prepare for a match?

The best way possible, smashing balls at a keeper.

>> Favourite pre and post match meal?

Pre match – Jaffa Cakes. Post match – Port!

>> What tune do you listen to get psyched before a game?

Any sort of German rap that our German contingent put on!

>> How have you built up good team spirit amongst your players?

We have all bonded in the discussion and ridicule of our club captain's cringe-worthy Wednesday antics.

>> Favourite sporting motto?

Any of our coach's comments, most recently; "Watching you lot play hockey is like trying to eat soup with a fork!"

>> Who's your sporting idol?

Shippo.

>> How important is Varsity to you? Could it be described as being season defining?

Not season defining, but it's something you definitely want to win!

>> Prediction for the result?

5-1, like our last medic encounter.

>> Is there more pressure to achieve a result at Varsity than any of your other games?

A bit, not particularly because of the match itself but more due to the large amount of support.

>> Do you feel that the rugby match overshadows the other sports?

Silly question, rugby is obviously the highlight of Varsity and always will be. For me personally, a successful varsity would be five hockey wins for IC.

>> Thoughts on 'grazing' becoming an international sport?

Very keen, I would like to nominate our fresher, Gilles, as the Dutch representative.

Have you ever wondered what the sports team get up to before, during and after a game – well the after bit is a bit obvious, but the rest isn't. What about their thoughts on grazing? Well luckily for you, we've gone and asked a few captains to find out!

David Robertson



Volleyball: Southampton fall by the way side

David Robertson

Men's Volleyball

IC 1st 3-0 Southampton 1st

Hot on the heels of the Imperial Women's Volleyball team steamrolling Nottingham 3-0, the Men's team have floored Southampton 3-0 to advance to the final 8 of the BUCS tournament.

Imperial's 12-man squad was in the mood for a win, having just seen the basketball team beat City at Ethos. The tone was set early in the game as Imperial jumped out to an early first set lead, though some serving errors crept in to keep the scoreboard ticking over on both sides. Imperial stabilised from a brief Southampton comeback, taking the set 25-11.

The second set was a demolition. A 9-0 ini-

tial lead, served by setter Marc, ensured Southampton never stood a chance. Strong blocking from middle hitter Alessandro took the wind out of the visitor's sails and Marc teamed up with Paulus for some spectacular, undefendable short hits.

The last set was much more even, and Southampton maintained a narrow lead for much of the time. Imperial drew level at 20-20 and then, after one particularly sensational rally, took the win 25-22.

It was a solid all-round performance from each of the seven players who took to the court, especially considering one, Bruno, was injured in the warm-up. Despite a few mistakes in the last set, there wasn't a weak link, with both attacking and defensive combinations booking

Sports Editors: **Jovan Nedic**
David Wilson

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Badminton: Bath end ladies BUCS Cup run

Laura Bethke

Women's Badminton

IC 1st 2 - 6 Bath 1st

We arrived in Bath to lovely sunshine and the picturesque view the city is famous for.

We didn't have much time to enjoy the scenery before we had to head to the enormous sports village that Bath University have. When you get assigned your own changing room and enter a sports hall with a sign saying "High Performance Badminton Facility", you do feel a bit of pressure not to embarrass yourself. And, although we lost 6-2 in the end, I do think we gave it a good shot.

Bath's two doubles pairs were both of a similar, very solid standard and were probably helped by the fact that their coach gave them useful tactical tips in between sets.

Unfortunately, we didn't manage to win any of the doubles games, but they were all enjoyable and on average we only lost each set by a respectable score of 21-15.

Our second singles competitor didn't manage to win her games but it was a very impressive performance considering it was only her second singles match for us this season.

As usual, our first singles player saved us from losing and won both of her games, which prompted Bath's coach to try and poach her to do a Master's there (hands off, she only loves us!).

When we left the sports hall, feeling like we tried hard, we saw a sign on the wall saying: "Whoever said there is no difference between winning and losing, probably lost."

That's all well and good Bath, but at least we'll be leaving university with an Imperial degree.

Imperial a slot at Sheffield and the BUCS top 8.

"Most of the players in the Men's team play at the top level, so it is no surprise we won today." Imperial Coach Ercument Karakoc commented after the game. "We wanted to make it to the top eight and we did. We expect to face tougher competition at Sheffield. Now that we have made it, we are going to drink and have fun."

The win is just another part of the excellent season being enjoyed by the Imperial Volleyball squads in BUCS. So far, the Men's team have won 10 games from 11, and both the Men's and Women's are off to the BUCS top eight. They have fierce competition, with some highly professional teams to beat, but if they have a good game, they stand a real chance.

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Quality In Everything We Do

SPORT

Hockey: Women beat Southampton convincingly after thrashing Chichester on previous outing

Teddy Middlebrook
Men's Volleyball
IC 1st 5-0 Chichester 1st

Having pounded Chichester at the last meet the ladies went into this match full of confidence, sure of a good performance and a certain victory.

Our opposition put us back in place however, coming out strong and holding us back within the opening exchanges of the match. Ten minutes in skipper Teddy Middlebrook finally broke deadlock putting a carefully placed shot past Chichester's keeper with a sharp strike following a neat short corner.

The frustration set back in though as we continuously pressured their defence with strikes from all angles pounding through the D. Unfortunately of the efforts which Imperial produced were all wide of the target.

Flawless defence from Jess Poore and

Celia Hayes kept play in the attacking half but eventually the halftime whistle blew on this somewhat disappointing scoreline.

An arousing team talk later and we were determined to push straight for it in the second half, which quickly paid off as good teamwork allowed Kirstin Hay to knock it past the keeper scoring Imperial's second soon after the restart.

Imperial's next three goals followed in quick succession: Harriet Stevenson taking on and beating the keeper one on one while Gigi Fateh took full advantage of another short corner before Jill Tombs rounded off the rout by taking taking on half the opposition and whacking it into the net, standard.

Although we rectified the score in the second half, resulting in a convincing victory, the highlight of the match remained Harry's skillful blotch of a aerial ball by catching it with her armpit.

In Tomorrow's Issue...

Fencing

Both men's and women's 1st team were at home for their BUCS Championship Trophy matches on Wednesday. The men's team were up against Bath whilst the women's team were playing host to Manchester. The club has had some great success in recent years, can they continue with it this year?

Ice Hockey

After a spectacular performance against Oxford, the Devil's B Team are in high spirits. This week, they are up against Warwick and are hoping to continue their recent run of form. Find out how they got on in tomorrow's, and this week's final, issue.

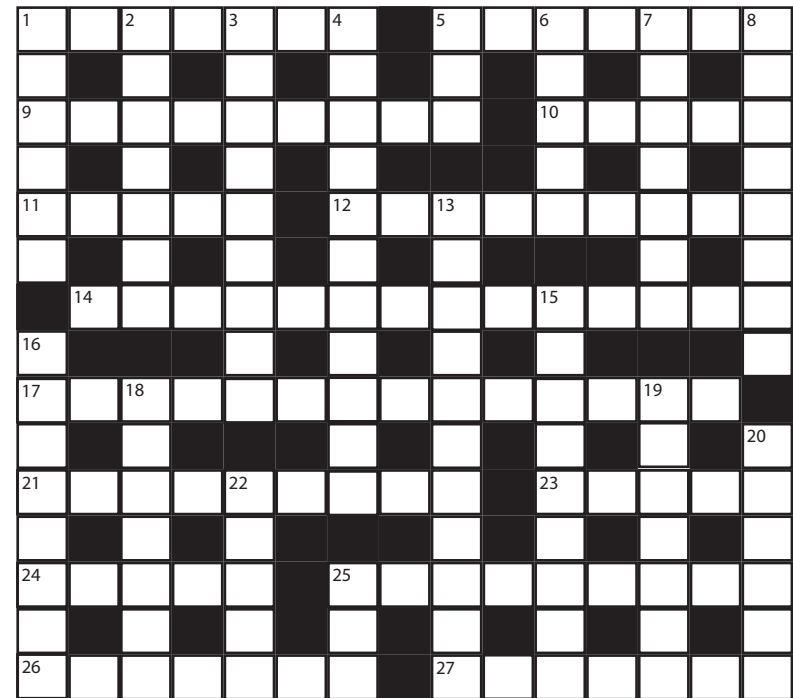
Baseball

The Falcons have reached the end of a very succesful season. Their final game was against the Southampton Mustangs and would determine who would be crowned Southern League Champions. All I can say is that it was a very close fought game and you'll have to come back tomorrow!

Medics Netball

Would you beleive it, we've got a Medic story... ish. Not so much a story as it is a chat, with Lindsay Hennah, who is the Medics Netball captain. Let's see if you can guess which songs the girls prepare for a game with, and why they are so bad that they have to be good!

Cryptic Crossword



- | | |
|--|---|
| Across | Down |
| 1. Refine boat on overturning waves (7) | 1. Likeness of one breaking into grin (6) |
| 5. Tune power snaring device (7) | 2. Insect stinging upset Norwegian bison (7) |
| 9. Whirlpool destroying Mars motel (9) | 3. The Daily is covering ruin (9) |
| 10. Forward thinker of a man finished (5) | 4. Scaring, he's nattering about, lacking sense initially (11) |
| 11. Animal retreating from a store collection (5) | 5. Mark with stuttering speech for parent (3) |
| 12. Your hands deformed, lacking water (9) | 6. War editor characterized (5) |
| 14. Ask to be together on part of Never Mind the Buzzcocks, perhaps? (3,3,8) | 7. Food instrument with end moving up in Ireland (7) |
| 17. Howard, perhaps, to spin fireworks (9,5) | 8. Scrutinising country chant (8) |
| 21. One who ruins chic haircut request (9) | 13. Reheats sour cooking, not allowed outside with this (5,6) |
| 23. Child after degree is manufacturer (5) | 15. Simplified chemistry introduced, sat at Imperial (9) |
| 24. True or false claim to General Electric (5) | 16. One with key weakness has several high cards containing bluff (8) |
| 25. Ability to use ten spades in disguise (9) | 18. Lustrous fabric going over fat cheese (7) |
| 26. Deep red colouring suffered after blister (7) | 19. Exams abstract initially for cruel Asian (7) |
| 27. Swiss among number for Imperial art performance method (7) | 20. Liquorice-based one is in charge (6) |
| | 22. Ultimate standard of perfection when I give you a hand! (5) |
| | 25. Sculpture missing wing parts (3) |

Rugby: second half Reading fightback leaves Imperial in second place

...Continued from Back Page

chances weren't converted. Reading took advantage of Imperial's missed opportunities and scored their first try after stealing Imperial's ball at the line-out before spreading the ball out wide to their backs, who scored in the corner, yet they were unable to convert their try. Similarly, Reading's second try resulted from a quickly taken penalty and the exploitation of an overlap in the backs this time Reading's fly-half added the extras. Imperial briefly regained the lead after Hayward scored a penalty however, with three minutes to go, Reading managed to break the Imperial defence once again.

Despite a valiant effort within the remaining minutes of the game, Reading held on to secure victory over their closest league rivals.



Reading stun lacklustre Imperial at the death

David Wilson
 Rugby

IC 1st 17 - 20 Reading 1st

Reading staged a second half fightback to stun Imperial and dash their hopes of topping their league table this season.

Reading started the match playing with the wind in their favour and used it to their advantage, pinning Imperial within their half for the first few stages of the game. With the wind against them, Imperial struggled to get out of their 22 with clearance kicks only making little ground. Reading failed to take the lead from a penalty and subsequent poorly taken tactical kicking attempts by Reading led to repeated 22 drop outs by Imperial. Reading's failure to take the lead spurred Imperial on and they soon took the lead with Charlie Esberger touching down from a driving maul which was set up from a well won line out within Reading's 22. Es-

berger's try was converted by fly-half James Hayward from a wide right position. Imperial stuck to their pattern well, particularly using pick and goes to good effect, wearing out the Reading pack and sucking in numerous defenders. Imperial's good work paid off and they were rewarded with another try, almost identical to the first, this time scored by captain, Caloan Cotter. Again, Hayward added the extras from an almost identical position to his first. Reading offered little in response with Imperial defending well against their limited attacks. Reading added a solitary penalty to the score line to give Imperial a healthy 14-3 lead at half time.

Following the break, Imperial appeared to sit back and let Reading attack at will. Despite this, good breaks by Chris McGeough and Toby Spittle looked like try scoring opportunities but a lack of support meant that these

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David Robertson



Volleyball destroy Southampton

Men's volleyball ease past Southampton to make it through to the last eight. Page 14

COMMENT



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FOOD



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