



# felix

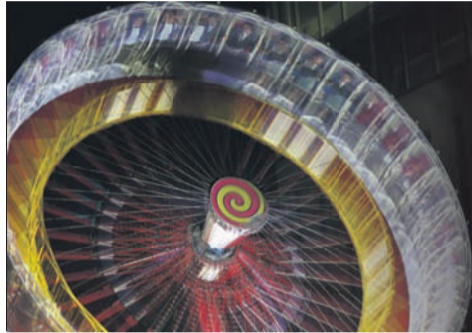
The award-winning student newspaper of Imperial College

"Keep The Cat Free"

Issue 1,459

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## How much?

Students criticise this year's Summer Ball ticket prices. See page 3



## This week...

Ganeshadevan resigns as DPE before she begins



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Sand, sun, but no sea: Tripping across the Sahara



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# Taking your pick

56% of Imperial students are voting Lib Dem at the General Election, but who should you be voting for? See page 6 - 9



# dB's: You've had the last dance



Ahh, those sweet memories of queuing up for half an hour just for a pint at the world's tiniest bar

**Dan Wan** Editor-in-Chief

The Union's much-maligned night-club, dB's, played out its final tunes at the Easter Carnival on the last day of Spring term.

dB's, now undergoing a major restoration project which will see it re-named Metric, was host to T4's Jameela Jamil and Emma Harkness as the students said their goodbyes to a venue that has served them for 12 years. There was a loud roar of approval as Dizzee Rascal's Bonkers was played as dB's' final song.

It was business as usual despite the occasion on the Union's traditional end-of-term party. It was poignant that the club operated at near to full capacity for most of the night; it has come up against much criticism by students in its lifetime and has seen many a DJ perform to a sparse and stolid crowd over the years.

As part of the Union's Phase 3 project that cost them £2.4million, renovation of the venue started almost immedi-

ately after the Easter Carnival. da Vinci's bar will now only be available for use until the end of the summer term. Beyond that, temporary replacement bars outside and in Activity Space 1 will open for the summer period.

Visitors to Beit Quad will see the entrances to dB's boarded up, and in its current state, all furnishings have been removed and the walls and ceiling have been stripped down. The prominent structure left is a pillar positioned directly in front of the proposed position of the new stage. The pillar has been the subject of much debate over the past few months; Union officials deliberated whether or not to take on the costly removal of the potentially stage-obstructing beam. Being weight-bearing, the procedure is risky and hence dB's was closed off earlier than normal to take this into account. The foot-wide beam is now due to be extracted from the building structure.

An entirely revamped ground floor is expected to be in full flow for Freshers' Week 2010.



It's weird, because dB's above looks in a better state than before it closed

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30:04:10

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# The world beyond College walls



Ukraine

**U**krainian lawmakers engaged in a sports day of sorts in their parliamentary chamber on Tuesday.

Activities included egg throwing, boxing, smoke bomb dispersal, and tug-of-war. Members of parliament filled the chamber's voting machines with glue. The speaker oversaw the festivities from beneath umbrellas held by his aides in order to protect from themselves from aerial attack.

Members of the public engaged in demonstrations outside parliament but the intensity did not reach the levels found inside. The cause for concern was a deal to extend Russia's lease of the Sevastopol naval base. Sevastopol has hosted the Russian military since 1778, was under siege by the allies during the Crimean War, and is still the home of Russia's Black Sea fleet. Ukraine and Russia reached a deal to extend the lease for twenty-five years in return for discounted gas supplies from Russia. Relations between the two countries have improved drastically since the election of a pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovich, last month. The parliament ultimately approved the agreement with a small majority.



Greece

**G**reece formally asked for a bailout from the EU and the IMF last Friday. EU ministers, both before and after the announcement by Greek president Karolos Papoulias, have stated that the EU would potentially be willing to lend 30 billion Euros to Greece at an interest rate of 5% per year.

Greek ten-year government bonds are currently trading at over 11% on the news of an S&P downgrade to junk status on Wednesday. Greek two-year bonds had a yield of 38% on Wednesday. The IMF is reportedly willing to lend Greece a further 15 billion Euros at what would probably be a lower rate than the EU loan. Adding to doubts over the success of the package is speculation by analysts of whether 45 billion Euros will be enough to fix Greece's problems. German support, where 57% of the population is against a Greek bailout, is crucial for the success of the package. Dominique Strauss-Kahn, head of the IMF, was set to meet with German chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin this week to discuss possible options at the time of writing.



China

**C**hina reformed its laws regarding leaks of state secrets, especially on the Internet, this week. The reform was prompted by last year's conviction of four employees of Rio Tinto, a mining conglomerate, on charges of bribery and stealing state commercial secrets.

That trial had created much concern in the international business committee because the twenty-year old existing laws on the subject were vague about what information constituted state secrets, especially with regards to commercial activity. The government moved to clarify what commercial information could be considered a state secret. The new law also places new responsibilities on communications providers to monitor their channels for leaks. According to Xinhua, "information transmissions should be immediately stopped if they are found to contain state secrets." Privacy advocates are concerned about the measures, though exactly how they will be implemented is still unclear. Official reports have not mentioned to what degree communications providers will be responsible in the monitoring of internet traffic, phone calls, etc. for the initial detection of leaks.

By Tom Greany

# Summer Ball 2010 price hike criticised

Matt Colvin reports on students' reaction to this year's increased prices, and how the Union have justified them

As this year's sabbatical team prepare to hand over the reins to those newly elected, the hotly anticipated Summer Ball is one of the final opportunities for the current team to oversee the running of a major Union event. However, a crisis is brewing on campus after the ticket prices for the event were officially revealed online – prices that have been seen by many as “extortionate”.

## Freshers have been taken aback by pricing...

Touted as the centrepiece of the Summer Term, this year's Summer Ball is promised by organisers to “build on the success of previous balls that have cemented the event's reputation as the best night of the year at Imperial”, featuring performances from The Noisettes, Tinie Tempah and Plan B. However, the pricing of the event has left many disgruntled, with a significant increase in ticket costs compared with last year. Tickets for entertainments only are being sold for £45, while for an additional four-course dinner the price rises to £90. Entertainments tickets for the 2009 Summer Ball, featuring headline act Athlete, were sold at points for as low as £35 alongside dinner and en-

tertainments tickets for £70.

Freshers have been taken aback by the pricing, despite many having little prior knowledge of previous ticket prices, with one noting that, “it's pretty expensive despite the acts going.”

Another commented that, “the dinner tickets are too much really, considering the price of the entertainments only tickets,” before adding, “but people would feel cheated if they didn't have a ridiculously overpriced Summer Ball.”

The sudden increase in price is only likely to bring further disappointment to those who still find themselves in an examination period on 19th June. In previous years, biologists and biochemists have been subjected to this, and this summer is unlikely to prove any different.

Even those previously restricted by exams have been less than enthusiastic over developments, as the following student states, “I'm a 3rd year Biologist and hence I've missed every Summer Ball the last two years due to exams. Finally I'm free to attend, and I can't really afford it. £90 is several weeks' food bill. Looks like I'm not going!”

Organisers have responded to critics with the following statement, “This year we are offering a much-improved line-up and so if you purchase your ticket at the first-day discounted rate you will be paying no more than last year's price of £40. For dinner tickets we took the decision to no longer subsidise the cost of the meal. This was



We'd love to see how his photo turned out too. Alas, we won't.

a difficult decision but one that was taken so that all students attending the ball could benefit from any reduced costs, not just the diners. The Summer Ball is a non-profit making event and is currently budgeted to break-even. If we find ourselves in a position of having sold more tickets than budgeted our intention is to divert that profit back into making the event even better through free drinks or more acts. Comparing our ball's prices to other London and equivalent Students' Unions £45 represents great value compared to the line-up we have. I look forward to seeing you all there!”

Despite this, there appears to be a general consensus across college that while the line-up is of a good quality, the pricing is just too high, as summarised by this comment from another 3rd year, “The acts are OK, but I'm not sure how different the Summer Ball will be from last year. It's got to justify the price hike, and I'm not sure I want to gamble my money to find out if it does!”

It seems that the most expensive question Imperial students will be answering during this exam period is whether the Summer Ball will be worth it or not.

Worth seeing for £90?

The Noisettes

Tinie Tempah

Plan B

Jo Whaley

Scratch Perverts

Breakage

Stamina MC

and more TBC...

For more information go to [www.union.ic.ac.uk/summerball](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/summerball)

## Imperial wins BP Challenge

Alex Karapetian

Imperial's “Meltdown” team has emerged victorious in BP's Ultimate Field Trip Challenge. Teams were asked in the Grand Final, held at the Natural History Museum, to come up with innovative, scientific ideas to address the Carbon Dioxide emitted from a typical gas fired power station.

Meltdown, consisting of Chris Hunter, Ben Said and Lizzy Riley, presented an approach using photosynthetic single cell micro-organisms which have the ability to produce components that can either be sold or burnt to produce green electricity. The team competed against fifty-two entries in the UK in total and will now complete a six to eight week paid internship with BP North Sea this Summer.

Ben Said, who was “delighted to have won the Ultimate Field Trip”, commented that they had “worked exceptionally hard since the Autumn of last year” and that they are “looking forward to starting the BP internship where [they] hope to learn even more about the energy industry and the challenges it faces.”

Alongside Meltdown, Hot Carbon from Imperial also made it to the Grand Finals and were another team to receive job interviews.



“Meltdown” receive their awards

David Eyton, Group Head of Research and Technology, BP, commented: “We were really impressed with the way Meltdown approached the brief and their consistent performance throughout the competition. Their concept has considered both the economic and scientific challenges we face, whilst the entry was technically advanced and well thought through – our industry is crying out for these bright young minds. I'm sure we'll be hearing about Lizzie Riley, Chris Hunter and Ben Said in the future.”

BP was so impressed with the level of talent at the Grand Final that they decided to grant all fifteen finalists, as an unexpected bonus, an automatic interview with BP upon graduation.

## Faculty Union election results

Charlotte Morris Assistant Editor

The end of last term saw many opportunities to vote for your say in the way things are run around here, finishing with elections for Faculty Union positions within the RCSU, ICSMSU and CGCU.

The RCSU elections showed many fresh faces willing to get involved in the faculty union next year, including some first years running for positions. After a successful year under the presidential control of Katya-Yani Vyas, the RCSU have held many popular events, including the Science Challenge, comedy nights, and the first-ever faculty union Welfare Week.

After Vyas finishes her presidency at the end of the year, she will be replaced by Scott Heath, currently a third year Chemist. According to Scott, he has “a great deal of energy and excitement about becoming next years RCSU President and can safely say all of this enthusiasm will be well directed into providing a bigger and more noticed RCSU.”

The ICSMSU elections saw the biggest turn-out of voters ever, with over 1,100 students participating. David Smith will take over from Anil Cho-



pra in the running of the faculty union which represents the medical students of Imperial. Currently a third year student, Dave will be taking a sabbatical year in order to fulfil his (extensive) manifesto points. Progressing from Entertainment Chair in the ICSMSU to President will no doubt be a challenge, he hopes to encourage social events for medics, continue the high standard of teaching within the faculty and maintain the “family environment” present on the Charing Cross Hospital Campus.

After a turbulent year in the CGCU office with the resignation of Kirsty Patterson and swift take-over from Dan Lundy, Engineers will hope to see a more stable committee for the

CGCU this year.

He-in Cheung, currently a second year Mechanical Engineering student, is to take over as Guilds President. The election was a close one, with He-in narrowly beating Amaury (Frank) Fastenakels in the third round of the single-transferable vote style of elections. Unfortunately, RON (Re-Open Nominations) had the most number of votes for the position of Web Officer, but the position will be taken over by current Live! Editor, Lawrence Weetman.

Each of the incoming presidents, along with their committees will officially take over from this year's representatives on 1st August 2010.

# Imperial students rise to the Challenge

Charlotte Morris reports on the Science Challenge Grand Final at the Institute of Directors on Pall Mall



Simon Singh delivers his speech to a rapt audience at the Grand Final

This year's RCSU Science Challenge has been a huge success. There were over 200 entries into this year's essay competition, and as always they were of an excellent standard. This year's competition also saw the first year of allowing video entries into the competition, which also showed a large amount of enthusiasm and effort put into science-related media.

The Science Challenge Grand Final was held at the Institute of Directors on Pall Mall and was a very formal affair. With a reception and dinner attended by Imperial students, the winners and runners up from the schools competition and the prestigious list of judges from the competition, comprising of Sir Keith O'Nions, Rector of Imperial College, Mark Henderson, Science Editor of the Times, and Athene Donald FRS, UNESCO 2009 Woman Scientist of the Year, a distinguished physicist at the University of Cambridge. Despite Andrew Harrison, Fuel Innovations Manager at Shell, having put forward a question for the competition, he was unable to attend the presentation evening, and so another representative from Shell took his place, as Shell

were the main sponsor of the event and helped to provide some of the prizes.

Alongside the judges, guest speaker Simon Singh was present at the dinner, and gave a very entertaining yet thought-provoking speech about his current libel case. He spoke about the importance of science being communicated to the public, and gave an example of a scientific inaccuracy in a Katie Melua song which he corrected and re-recorded with her. He also spoke about his views on libel reform, which he is (not surprisingly) very passionate about, and encouraged future science writers to campaign alongside him to change UK libel law. Luckily for him, the news came earlier this month that the British Chiropractic Association, who were suing him for libel, have now dropped their case against him.

After an excellent four-course meal, the winners and runners up were presented with their prizes. The winners were congratulated on their efforts and awarded with an all-expenses paid trip to CERN, £4000 cash prize, guided tour of Shell, ITV/BBC behind the scenes tour and a VIP ticket to the summer ball; and most importantly pride in the knowledge that they have won one of the most prestigious student awards in science.

## Imperial College Winner: Matt Silver

How will genetic advances change medicine and society by 2020?

*"Following recent press speculation MyFace wishes to re-iterate that in line with UK government legislation, the uploading and sharing of personal genomes is strictly forbidden.*

*'Stuff that!' Anna dismisses the alert. She knows about the offshore social networking sites offering new genomic services like full life prediction. Of course there are ethical issues. As a med student she's sat through countless lectures highlighting the dangers of genome disclosure. The long-term depression arising from an untreatable future diagnosis; families torn apart by the discovery of a deadly heritable disease; discrimination in the workplace (only last month she'd read some crazy story about a company pre-selecting candidates on the basis of mandatory, genetic, cognitive skill-scoring)... And of course any privacy guarantees for an offshore site are going to be next to useless. But a saliva swab in the post, a small payment and she has a file containing her 3 billion-letter genome sitting in her inbox. Now she can establish the truth?"*



Mark Henderson presents Matt Silver with his award

## Schools Winner: Ellen Yueqi Ge

What are the prospects for finding life on other planets?

*"It crash-landed a spaceship on Earth, crawled on all fours across a hot desert, and thirsted after ammonia. The brainchild of Robert Grossman, The New Yorker cartoonist of 1962, could in fact be closer to reality than we think. Up till now, our largely pre-pubescent knowledge base of extraterrestrial science has surrendered itself to the whims of human imagination, with the likes of E.T. ever popular as our alien icon. But the search for life outside our bountiful planet is now stepping forward into the 21st century, and proves to be among the most enigmatic challenges to modern science. With the constant innovations of novel techniques, the answer may not be far out of our reach. And who knows? Maybe one day, our scientists will indeed run face-to-face into E.T.*

*Life, as we know it, has long been defined by two basic ingredients: carbon and water. From the simplest amoeba to a fully-fledged adult whale, the lack of either essential would result in an unthinkable, lifeless bulk.*



Ellen Yueqi Ge, 17, collects her award from Sir Keith O'Nions

The extracts above make up the first paragraphs of each of the winning essays. To read the full essays, or to look at the runners-up essays, visit [www.rcsu.org.uk/sciencechallenge](http://www.rcsu.org.uk/sciencechallenge)

# Meera Ganeshadevan abandons Union DPE position

Rox Middleton

Despite an active campaign and eventual victory (against RON) in the Union elections, Meera Ganeshadevan has had to throw in her job as Deputy President (Education), more than two months before assuming responsibility. Ganeshadevan accepted a summer internship with Credit Suisse at the beginning of the Easter holidays, and will be unable to fulfil the role over the summer.

Of her decision the Returning Officer Daniel Hill said "It is very disappointing for a candidate to step down at this late stage – the Union puts a lot of time, effort and money in running sabbatical elections."

She is the second DPE candidate to give up after her sole competitor, Benjamin Stubbens, pulled out of the race the day before the poll closed, when he found out that he too had won an enviable internship with Rolls Royce.

Ganeshadevan said she was "truly sorry" and thanks everyone who took time out to vote for her.

"I hope people can understand why I am accepting the internship" and no doubt they can.

More difficult must be for the student population to understand why even the best sabbatical candidates see the job of running the Union as no better than a fall-back plan.

Although she was asked to come in and talk about the situation with

Ashley Brown and the returning officers, Ganeshadevan refused, claiming there was no point because she had made up her mind.

Ganeshadevan admitted that although she did not receive the internship offer until after her election, she had attended the interview "well before the campaign started".

She has explained her decision with the hope that her earnings from the internship will allow her to "do what I really want and that is to go travelling" She said that it was a hard decision to make but she hopes that "Imperial students can understand why I felt I should stand down and I hope they can put themselves in my position".

Indeed, it must be hoped that some-

body feels they can put themselves in Ms Ganeshadevan's position as Union President Ashley Brown has confirmed that nominations for DPE will be reopened alongside the elections for Council Chair, RAG chair and other officer positions in the summer term elections.

Current DPE Jon Silver welcomes inquiries from any full member of the Union wanting to know more about standing. If you want to make a difference, you've got confidence and initiative and can represent the student voice at the very highest level, you should definitely consider the role. Also, perhaps, if you've failed to secure the internship you were looking for, and haven't made any fall-back plans.



Meera Ganeshadevan: Truly sorry.

# Ash cloud forces Civ. Engineers to sit weekend exams

**Dan Wan** Editor-in-Chief

Exam season has already been disrupted before it has even begun.

Heavy ash from Iceland's Eyjafjalajokull volcano has forced departments in College to reschedule exams as students struggle to return from the Easter holidays on time. Civil Engineering have even had to make a decision to set exams on a Saturday afternoon.

Air space over North-western Europe had been deemed unsafe to enter on April the 14th for several days; students returning to College from abroad have struggled to reschedule flights before the 26th of April, College's official start of term.

In response to the natural phenomenon, Physics and Civil Engineering have delayed the start of exams whilst many other departments are giving stranded students a later chance to take exams they miss.

3rd and 4th Year Civil Engineering students will even find themselves taking their 'Coastal Engineering' and 'Advanced Hydrodynamics' module exams on a Saturday. Their exam period was due to start on Monday 26th April but have been pushed back by nearly two weeks; exams will now commence on Tuesday 4th May. The rescheduling of these exams will mean some students will suffer the hell of having four exams in four days.

The department of Physics, based in the Blackett Laboratory, have also announced that 1st, 3rd and 4th year exams will take place later than scheduled.

1st year Physicists normally have a five week break between their first set of three exams and final five exams later on in the Summer Term, but the time between exam periods, when a group project is generally set, will be shortened.

3rd year comprehensive exams were due to take place on the 27th and 29th of April, but will now take place on the 11th and 13th of May. Final year MSci students' exams have suffered a similar fate.

Many other departments have decided to carry on as initially scheduled despite student protests. 3rd year Biologist and Biochemists have taken their finals this past week.

Computing students were reassured by email that despite exams going ahead in the first week of term that anyone missing these exams due to travel issues will be allowed to take the exam at a later date. Final year students will be notified of a date later this term whilst younger year students missing their exams will be offered the exam full-mark assessed in September.

"I wish them Icelandic types would stop pissing off their volcano gods so much. Don't they know we have exams?" exclaimed an unhappy student.



If you look really closely in the distance, you'll see some Civil Engineers scowling and cursing

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Email [lorena.lazaro@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:lorena.lazaro@imperial.ac.uk) for queries

# WHO SHOULD YOU BE VOTING FOR?

AS THE GENERAL ELECTION APPROACHES, **FELIX** OUTLINES HOW THE PARTIES PLAN TO MAKE LIFE EASIER, OR INDEED MORE DIFFICULT, FOR AN IMPERIAL STUDENT IN THE COMING YEARS. BY **DAN WAN**

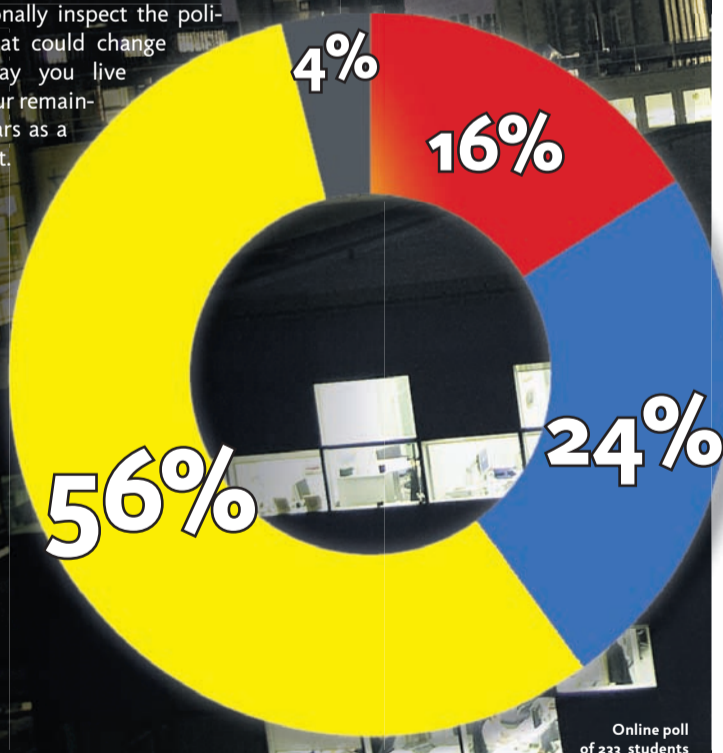
If it hadn't quite clicked already, this General Election is important; not just for the country as a whole, but for you too. As Imperial students, under- or postgraduate, you are the next generation of scientists, engineers, doctors and businessmen of the UK (if not the world). Graduating from a 'world-class' university certainly sets your bar high for career aspirations, and the fields of academia or business you'll be leading will either suffer or prosper under the new Government to be formed on May 7th.

Hence, this General Election may have a significant bearing on all Imperial students graduating in the coming years.

As much as you protest, your days as a student will come to an end. Finding yourself knee-deep in the mire that is the job market may come as a shock to the system, but at least this General Election will allow you to have some say in how painful or delightful this shock may be.

Moving away from a generic comparison of the three main parties' manifesto pledges, *felix* is looking into the policies and issues being discussed that will directly affect a fledgling workforce entering the industries of science (academic or otherwise) and City business. *felix* will additionally inspect the policies that could change the way you live out your remaining years as a student.

## HOW ARE IMPERIAL STUDENTS' VOTING?



Online poll of 233 students

## IMPERIAL STUDENTS BACK LIB DEMS

Despite over half of students intending to vote Lib Dem, the overwhelming majority predict a Conservative win or a hung parliament. This echoes the recent YouGov poll that showed 49% of people would vote Lib Dem if they realistically thought Nick Clegg's party could actually take power.

# 87%

Percentage of students that think the Election will result in a Conservative win or hung parliament

## A student scientist's vote

The manifesto launches from the three main parties, Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrats, yielded some good news for all with an occupational interest in science. Unlike the two previous elections in '01 and '05, Labour and the Conservatives have pushed scientific policies onto the forefront by featuring them in a section, albeit limited, of their 2010 manifestos.

The UK's scientific industries certainly stake a claim that much more attention should be paid to policies directly affecting them. Businesses using elements of physics alone contribute 6.4% of the UK's national economic output; this is as much as the finance, banking and insurance sectors combined. This figure doesn't include the business sector based on biological, medical, engineering or chemical principles either. In stark comparison, one only has to look how much public debate arises when the financial services sector is under scrutiny. To take it from another angle, The Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE) claims that there are about three million people in the UK with a scientific background, or 7% of the electorate; that's more than enough to win or lose such a tight election as this.

To put it simply, the better corporate science and engineering is allowed to perform by the Government, the more jobs available to those qualified, i.e. students graduating from in-

stitutions like Imperial.

CaSE have lobbied the importance of science and its related disciplines to the leading political parties in the run up to the General Election, and even wrote to the leaders of the three main parties asking them to set out their policies on science. Dr. Hilary Leever, Assistant Director of CaSE told *felix* that "CaSE and others have worked to show that there is a science vote to be won."

"The need for the parties to respond to the coherent demands of scientists and engineers has ensured that all the main party manifestos covered these areas, and they even form the basis of the newly born Science Party."

Dr. Leever stressed the fact there was a very important decision to be made by scientists and engineers.

"Many *felix* readers will want to know how the different parties intend to support education in science, engineering, technology and mathematics, and the careers in the academic and private sector that follow on from it."

It is up to voters to decide how they take this information into account; they may choose to vote for the party they believe has the best policies or the candidate they believe will work the hardest for science and engineering.

Help decide who will be working on policies affecting science and engineering in the next Parliament."

## CaSE's invitation to elaborate

The Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE) is a leading political advocate for science and engineering in the UK. Director Nick Dusic and Chair Professor Hugh Griffiths formally sent a letter to Gordon Brown, David Cameron and Nick Clegg requesting they clearly and comprehensively outlined their parties' proposed policies regarding science, technology and engineering. The letter, also printed in *The Times*, can be seen online on CaSE's website ([www.sciencecampaign.org.uk](http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk)).

It effectively gave the leaders and

their science spokespeople more of a chance to release a more detailed and specialised manifesto for anyone who cares to read. Gordon Brown is the latest of the three to respond, but detailed analysis of the situation was accompanied with an impressive specialised Science Manifesto.

David Cameron's response expands on his manifesto pledges and veers towards a much wider vision of advancement in British science and associated industries. It is considerably shorter than Nick Clegg's response however. The Lib Dem leader's return letter demonstrates an intricate

knowledge of the workings behind both academic and corporate science, mentioning issues surrounding post-doctoral opportunities, gender imbalances in the industry and the importance of peer-, and not governmental, review.



## Academically speaking...

Academically, the British institutions' research output comfortably sits in the 'world-class' bracket. However, there are growing fears that without the right investment into academic science from the next Government, the UK are at risk of falling behind international competition.

Earmarked as the next international powerhouse, China's spending on research funding has increased 20% every year since 1999, and has overtaken the UK's equivalent spending. South Korea's "U-Korea" programme has seen a surge in funding in the nanotechnology industry, and overall spending on private and public research that ex-

ceeds £35 billion. The USA already produces globally-leading research, but President Barack Obama last year pledged a multi-billion stimulus package into science research funding, hoping to achieve levels of scientific output "at the height of the space race" in the 1960s.

Needless to say, the way the UK's academic output rises or falls in the coming years, the currently prestigious reputation of Imperial College, as a specialist institute for science, engineering, technology and medicine, will follow suit.

The overall budget for science and its associated research fields is set out by the Government and divided up between the UK's seven Research Councils according to their relative

size and importance. With their portion of the overall budget, each council then goes about setting a general direction of research in their respective field. This is done by allocating funding to projects proposed to them by research groups and departments from universities across the UK. Imperial College, as an institution, has a strong standing in the British scientific community, but access to funding is likely to follow any national trends when budget cuts are concerned.

Effectively, the larger the cuts a new Government makes to overall science and research budgets, the less PhD opportunities there will be for those looking for postgraduate study in science.

# The leading parties' policies looking to win an Imperial student's vote

## Labour The damage done?

The Labour government have already pencilled in public spending cuts, and that is unlikely to change whoever takes power after this General Election. £600million is to be saved on higher education, science and research budgets, and universities across the country are now being forced to offer around 25% fewer PhD student grants come the next academic year. The announcement made via Chancellor of Exchequer Alistair Darling's pre-budget report is seemingly a U-turn on Gordon Brown's earlier promise, in which he pledged a ten-year commitment from 2004 in maintaining scientific funding and the continuation of ring-fenced budgets.

"Some say that now is not the time to invest but the bottom line is that the downturn is no time to slow down our investment in science. We will not allow science to become a victim of the recession but, rather, focus on developing it as a key element of our path to recovery," he said. Despite the funding cuts attracting criticism from those within the scientific community, Labour are keen to point out that they have doubled investment in research since 1997, the year they came into power. However, the specifics of this statistic have openly disputed by the Liberal Democrats. However, no one can rest on past laurels and it is the future funding commitments that the scientifically-motivated voter will be looking at come May 6th.

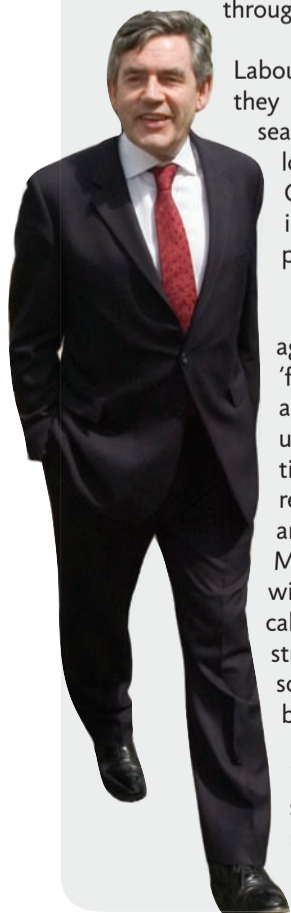
### So what can Labour bring to the table now?

Labour claim they are "committed to a ring-fenced science budget in the next spending review," and this echoes Labour's science spokesperson Lord Drayon's call to hold onto current science budgeting levels. For a party with its hands already on the steering wheel, there is a distinct lack of figures and detail to their pledges. There is no written reassurance that their own 10-year commitment will be seen through to any extent.

Labour's separate Science Manifesto states they are keen to support "excellent research" by "excellent individuals" through long-term fellowships from Research Councils. "Maintaining world leading research at our universities is a priority."

'Innovation' is big on Labour's agenda. They promise to provide 'focused investment for Technology and Innovation Centres', and to also utilise the Higher Education Innovation Fund to help support university research projects that have social and economic impacts. The Science Manifesto states: "Our future prosperity will demand excellent science. It is critical in securing the recovery and delivering strong economic growth. We are clear: science will be placed at the heart of Labour's economic growth strategy."

Despite this, no science policies or issues make it into their definitive '50 steps for a fairer Britain' featured in the main manifesto.



## Tories: A careful hypothesis

Adam Afriyie MP, Conservative's science spokesperson, has publically promised a multi-year ring-fenced budget for science, should the Conservatives come to power. This ring-fence will only come into action once the new Government has set a new Budget immediately after coming into power. There was no assurance of maintaining current levels of research funding, and hence a Conservative government could be ring-fencing a decreased level of funding.

Despite this, David Cameron's recently published manifesto, *An Invitation to join the Government of Britain*, mentions future funding budgets in even less detail, promising "a multi-year Science and Research Budget to provide a stable investment climate for Research Councils". The more eagle-eyed critics have noted that there is no mention of 'ring-fencing' specifically; whether this omission is extremely careful wording or unfortunate phrasing for the Conservatives is still under debate. A science budget set for multiple years will provide the Research Councils with a lot more stability and will allow them to undertake more beneficial, longer-term strategies than they could on single-year budgets provided to them by a Government. A multi-year budget would definitely affect current undergraduates, from 1st year to 4th year, looking to a career in academic research.

In an overlap of academic and corporate science, the Tories also plan to get universities and businesses to work together with the establishment of a focused research and development institute. Future PhD students may find themselves with much more comfortable financial backing if this plan comes to full fruition, and will also allow a go-between for students unsure whether to stay in academic science at university or to enter the science-based employment at for example, a pharmaceutical company.

In response to CaSE's letter inviting him to fully put forward his policies of scientific importance, Cameron called science and engineering in the UK "an absolutely critical issue". He gave hints that the Conservatives would look to advance in corporate science able to underpin a currently flailing economy.

"We need to translate more of our world-class research into world-beating British products. And we need to secure the right economic conditions for businesses to create more well-paid jobs," he stated. There is a feeling that a young scientific workforce, i.e. Imperial students, would be preferred to enter innovative business than blue-sky academic research.



## Lib Dems: Strength in science

Compared to the other two parties, the Liberal Democrats have placed science-based issues quite firmly on their election agenda, claiming they want to move to a "knowledge-based economy" if they find themselves as the next Government.

Just for starters, their manifesto has a visibly larger section dedicated to policies based around science policies.

Science is one of the fronts that the Lib Dems have attempted to capitalise on during this General Election, and their science spokesperson, Dr. Evan Harris is a popular figure in scientific circles and has undoubtedly championed many of the ideas that have already turned many scientists' heads. Nick Clegg was the only party leader to accept an invitation by the prestigious Royal Society to speak on scientific issues.

Speaking to *felix*, Dr. Harris said that the Lib Dem's "have repeatedly stated that we think the economy needs to be based on high-tech, green foundations, and not just on the financial services." Though, much like the Labour and Tory manifesto, the Lib Dems write that "in the current economic climate it is not possible to commit to growth in spending."



Liberal Democrats science spokesperson, Dr. Evan Harris has said that "Liberal Democrats recognise that Science, Technology, and Engineering have to be key drivers of our economy as we move out of recession. A knowledge-intensive economy is not only more reliable, but also more rewarding and a better strategic base in the long-term."

Dr. Harris also spelled out how the Lib Dem's policies would benefit Imperial students.

"Imperial College is one of the country's and the world's top universities, and the Liberal Democrats want to keep it that way. Unlike the Conservatives, we've already committed to not cutting the science budget in the first year of the new Parliament."

However leader Clegg conceded in a response to the CaSE letter that "it would be wrong in the current economic climate to pledge that any single departmental budget will be protected."

The Lib Dems have laid out some good news for students looking to go beyond PhD level. Clegg noted that "there are simply not enough post-doctoral positions available to provide adequate job security for young researchers" and would look to resolve this by several methods including the encouragement of "industry-friendly" PhDs.

On a more basic level, The Lib Dems are looking to take a step back from a target-driven ethos. They claim to recognise that the best way to use funding to its maximum potential is "to enable scientists get on with their work, based on peer review, rather than using clumsy mechanistic ways to try to direct research into areas of high economic impact."



## Reforming laws that will allow scientists the freedom of speech

Largely thanks to an ongoing high-profile campaign led by lobbying group Sense about Science, all three parties have made libel reform an issue worthy of their manifestos. The loud call for a change in English libel laws came when famous science author and Imperial College alumnus Simon Singh was sued by the British Chiropractic Association (BCA) for what they claimed were “defamatory” comments made by Singh in *The Guardian*.

Despite the recent news that the BCA have backed down from the case, effectively handing Singh the victory, he is still several thousands of pounds in debt. Current libel laws in England are stifling fair debate and effective freedom of speech in scientific issues; it is the almost guaranteed financial burden that scares writers defending themselves in court.

The issue has seen much media attention in recent times thanks to Singh. The fact all three leading parties are now using libel reform as campaign ammunition “is a great tribute to grassroots pressure on politicians” said Singh.

Speaking to *felix*, he further emphasised the importance of libel reform to Imperial’s students.

“This is an issue that should be close to hearts of Imperial College staff and students for a whole host of reasons. For example, science can only progress

**“[Libel reform] is an issue that should be close to hearts of Imperial College staff and students”**

Simon Singh

through open and frank discussion, but English libel law can chill and crush such debate. Also, unless scientists and journalists can discuss ideas freely and fairly, then the public will not hear the whole truth on matters of serious public interest,” he said.

Labour’s manifesto promises that reform will occur to “protect the right of defendants to speak freely.” The Conservatives follow suit with an outline explanation of their proposed plans to tackle the troublesome libel laws: “We will review and reform libel laws to protect freedom of speech, reduce costs and discourage libel tourism.”

The Lib Dems have given a more detailed description of changes to be made in libel laws. They will protect scientists in open forums of debate against unfair libel action by “requiring corporations to show damage and prove malice or recklessness, and by providing a robust responsible journalism defence.”

Despite party promises, Singh is not content with what his court battles have helped yield. He will continue to campaign for the greater good of science in the mainstream media.

“In short, it is generally acknowledged that we have the most oppressive, one-sided and anti-free speech libel laws in the democratic world,” he said. “The challenge will be to make sure that the next government acts on its manifesto pledge.”



Simon Singh, holding the scarf, after a court battle against the BCA

## Around the corner

### Candidates running for Imperial’s local constituency, Kensington, speak to *felix*

Serving a region of communities that span right across the spectrum is no easy job. Whoever takes up the parliamentary seat for Kensington will have to contend with just that.

The Kensington constituency, previously Kensington & Chelsea under the old constituency boundaries, has been a Conservative stronghold for many years now. This is thanks to the large numbers of affluent residents living around South Kensington, Notting Hall and King’s Road. Amongst them however, sits North Kensington’s more deprived areas and also hubs of student residences.

MP for Kensington & Chelsea, Sir Malcolm Rifkind, is a backbencher with an illustrious political history with the Tories. He served under Margaret Thatcher as Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Secretary of State for Defence, and even contested the leadership with her successor, John Major in the early nineties.

Rifkind is looking to scrap the Western Extension Zone by the end of this year.

“Extending Congestion Charging to Kensington was always about raising money, as opposed to easing traffic flows,” he said.

Addressing the student body so important to Kensington’s locale was

seemingly not a priority, failing to respond to *felix*’s questions.

In comparison, Sam Gurney, Labour’s PPC for Kensington was more in tune with Imperial students’ strife.

“If elected I will seek to represent all Kensington residents to the best of my ability, but my focus will be making Kensington a fairer place for all, including Imperial students. One of the central focuses of our campaign is the need for more affordable housing in the area, many local students are forced to move away on completion of their studies and many other Imperial students have to commute long distances just to get to college.”

Lib Dem PPC, Robin Meltzer, looked to draw on wider policies his party stood for: to address the financial burden all university students are saddled with.

“The first thing to say is that the Liberal Democrats are the only party committed to scrapping university tuition fees. University education should be free and admissions based on ability not bank balance. We will scrap unfair tuition fees for all students taking their first degrees saving them nearly £10,000 each.

“We have a financially responsible plan to phase fees out over six years, so that the change is affordable in these difficult economic times,” he said to *felix*.

## POOR, POOR STUDENTS

As well as their future careers beyond university, there’s also another concern for students: the not-so-small number in red ink on their student loan statements.

An average Imperial student on a three-year course will graduate with approximately £24,000 of debt, a sum likely to be more than a graduate scheme’s starting salary.

So, who’s promising what about the imminent dilemma that could see tuition fees rise once again for students?

### Labour

Labour will stand their ground on the basic policy their then Education Minister David Blunkett introduced. The party is likely to favour a lift of the cap that means students can only pay a maximum of £3,500 a year for tuition.

Saying that, a third of Labour candidates including several prominent members have signed a pledge organised by the National Union of Students (NUS) to oppose the lift on tuition fees. They could hold their weight in any future debates and keep any fee hikes in check.

### Conservatives

The Conservatives appear to be taking the unpopular decision to not only keep, but also oversee a rise in tuition fees to a reported £7,000 a year.

Remarkably coy on their position on the matter, the fact is that only thirteen Tory candidates have signed the NUS’s petition opposing the lift on tuition fee caps; this may be telling evidence on their official party line.

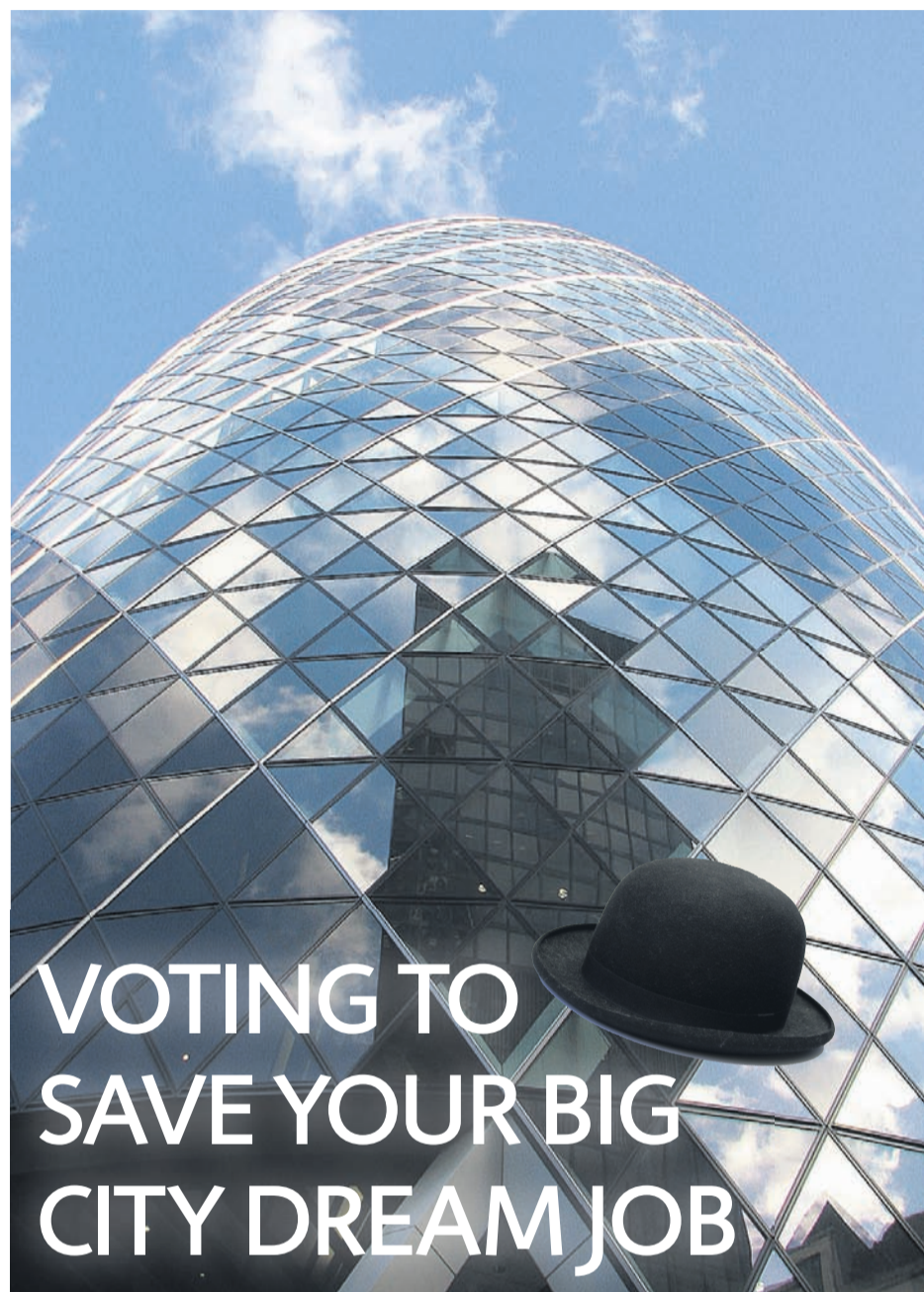
They follow Labour’s lead in awaiting the outcomes that will be derived from Lord Browne’s Higher Education review before making any commitments to those in higher education. The review, which commenced in November 2009, is likely to suggest that an increase in tuition fees is necessary.

### Liberal Democrats

Nick Clegg has reaffirmed his position to scrap all tuition fees this General Election. Though a party divide has seemingly arisen over the matter, the Lib Dem manifesto promises to phase out tuition fees for students by 2015. Under this radical plan, final year students will be alleviated of their debts first.

“Students want to be treated like grown-ups; they know money doesn’t grow on trees. That’s why we have agreed together to lay out a financially responsible timetable to scrap fees, step by step, after the general election,” said Clegg.





## BUSINESS EDITOR SINA ATAHERIAN LOOKS INTO WHAT MAY COME OF THE CITY AND ITS JOBS

For every Imperial student continuing in science after graduation, there's an Imperial student looking for a lucrative job or internship in the City.

But what will come of the City under a new Government? What will happen to the City's graduate job market? Will there even be a City to look for employment in?

Government policies are a major factor in business location – and relocation – decisions for financial firms. With strong bank-bashing rhetoric coming from all major UK political parties, concerns are being raised that they may flood out of London as regulations against them tighten.

A central idea for New Labour was to limit penalisation of the financial sector to taxation, so that their loss would at least be Treasury's gain. At their peak, taxes from the City accounted fully for one seventh of all Government revenues. But that plan now clearly lies in ruins – with hundreds of billions in bailout money going to the banks. All the parties now agree on a "consumer-protection" agency, higher capital holding requirements, and tighter overall regulations, both domestically and internationally.

The Conservatives are promising to give extra powers to the Bank of England to supervise financial companies, ensuring that they take on less risk. Labour

wants to keep the current "Tripartite" arrangement for financial regulation, consisting of Treasury, the Bank of England, and the Financial Services Authority. In addition, they will create a new body with the power to tell banks what they are allowed to include in their employment contracts. The Liberal Democrats are swinging heavily towards the latter half of their name by demanding the toughest rules of all. They would break up banks – even ones not owned by the Government that performed well during the crisis – and then force the smaller banks to lend substantially more than they have been doing so far.

The question that many students in particular have been asking is whether this will drive leading financial firms away from London. There are a few relevant points to consider. First of all, regulations are tightening almost everywhere, not just in the UK. For example, this is true of Switzerland, which is the most common suggested destination for financial firms currently based in London. Secondly, no one expects the Government to be as tough as its talk, especially when it is itself such a big shareholder in leading banks. Thirdly, the last time similar concerns were raised about a major financial centre losing its influence was New York in the late '70s. It did lose out slightly in relative terms, but not in terms of absolute numbers of employees,

profits, revenue and so on. And it took well over a decade to recover.

It is natural for Imperial students considering a future profession in finance to factor in the parties' view on the industry into their voting decision. There are two prevailing views on this. Some may feel that more regulation will ensure greater long term success for the City, and would favour Labour and the Lib Dems over the Conservatives. In particular, if they feel the main problem is excessive risk taking they may prefer Labour, whereas if they are concerned that banks are undermining their own position by not lending enough then they will find themselves in agreement with the Lib Dems.

Alternatively, would-be financiers may consider the banks and other financial firms as the best-placed to be making the sort of decisions that regulators would prefer to make instead. They will feel that fewer regulations will mean greater success for those looking to start a career in the field. They may therefore be disheartened to see the Conservatives often matching the other two parties' bank-bashing. However, even if the Conservatives keep regulations as tight as they are, they are unlikely to tighten them further as zealously as the other two parties likely will. They are therefore still the best choice for advocates of *laissez faire*, albeit with a massive pinch of salt.

### What are the students saying?

felix did a little scouting to find out what the people voting actually thought about the General Election in respect to their current endeavours and future careers.

#### The PhD student

Marcus Shephard, Epidemiology

Previously a mildly-apathetic Tory, the progressive improvements in the Liberal Democrat manifesto and manner have gradually won me over. Employing ideas beyond rhetoric, with a message that actively supports my livelihood as a student and scientist, the party under the stalwart leadership of Nick Clegg has come a long way from its period of wandering in the wilderness during the 90's and 00's. I feel content that the Liberal Democrats offer an authentic opportunity for me to do more and live more happily, both as a scientist starting out in life, and as a Briton who cares about our collective wellbeing.



Do these Freshers actually care about the Election?

#### The Medic

Jaimie Henry, 3rd Year

When I graduate they will have changed the NHS for better or worse, and I'll have to work in it. The Liberal Democrats' policies seem to be showy without any substance - lots of talk about patient contracts and choice without addressing the big financial concerns we'll face. There's not much between Labour and Conservative health policies, but the Tories haven't done enough to convince me that their one off £8000 for lifetime elderly care adds up - and their refusal to back cancer targets means I'm voting Labour (tactically, at least).



#### The Aspiring Businessman

Brad Jones, IC Finance Society President

So much for Conservatives being the most pro-City party; I think that their policy to go ahead with a banks tax without international cooperation would be detrimental to London's City status – Labour has the right idea on this one. Having said that, after the recent fraud charges against Goldman Sachs, international cooperation is probably not a mile off. The most important factor is the recovery of our own economy and Gordon's 'tax on jobs' doesn't help here, so a Conservative vote for me! Oh, and Lib Dems – what are you thinking about. wiping out our defence system...?



#### The International Student

Fernando Revilla, 3rd year, Maths

This election could potentially decide the most important five years of my life, but as a foreigner, I don't even have a say in the matter. I can't vote. I hope to stay here after I graduate, to work as a teacher. However, it'd be unfair for me to just expect to be allowed to stay. I just hope whoever's voted in gives skilled migrants a chance to prove ourselves in shortage occupations that no-one wants, like teaching or nursing, just as I'd like to as a maths teacher. Everyone loves a maths teacher.



#### The Fresher

Lillie Baines, Biochemistry

Although this General Election won't affect me too much for a few years now, it is also my first time voting in one. I really do want to make sure I come out of university with available jobs on offer, but I also don't particularly fancy looking at the sum of my student loans debts either. The Liberal Democrats are obviously trying to tap into the student vote, and with Cleggmania aside for just one moment, they are the only party of the three to announce their plans to phase out student loans. This might include current undergraduates too, so I'm in. David Cameron's right though, we can't go on like this, with suspicious minds.





# Jaimie Henry on televised election debates



"If I wanted to see three middle aged, men coming to blows... I'd go to a Soho brothel."



Imagine you're probably sick to death of hearing about the election by now. So I'm going to do what I always do when I'm hungover and discover something people dislike: I'm going to go on about it even more.

Firstly, let me declare my intent. I don't think any one of the parties are particularly amazing; yes, I hate David Cameron as much as the next person, and the day I vote for him will be the day I get to sleep with Katy Perry. Actually, if you're listening Dave- set it up and my vote is yours (apparently saying I would "cut off my left bollock to sleep with you" just doesn't seem to cut it with the ladies any more). Now that would be a fair future for everyone.

But I digress. Aside from the obvious points that everyone always moans about with elections (such as "all politicians are wankers" and "I didn't know I actually had to register to vote") my main problem is with these infernal debates that are on at the moment. I was genuinely surprised that the blasted things even went ahead; all three of the main parties managed to resist the cries for so long, and then having realised that people weren't looking for an

election so much as they were looking for Obama-esque election sexytimes rather than dependable democracy, they caved in.

So what is my problem? The debates just don't work. In the UK we follow a "first past the post" voting system. In the States, televised debates work a little better because the voters do (albeit in a slightly convoluted way) vote for a President rather than a party, and it's the votes for that politician that gets them elected as the President. Contrast that to here, where it's the leader of the party with the most votes who becomes the de facto Prime Minister. Whilst an election will always have some focus on the party leaders, the importance of policies and local candidates I fear has been lost. When we combine this with our tri-partisan system compared this to the USA's predominantly bi-partisan structure, we're in big trouble. Because the winning party is decided by simple majority rather than an absolute number, a party who technically wins still might not have enough power to pass legislation without help from across the floor. So what we end up with is a debate encouraging us to vote for the personali-

ties and flair of a man, given we all have a natural preference for certain styles of speaking and none of them are so different or mad to be sufficiently polarising, the debates have just compounded this lack of a decisive vote. I'm not saying this would be any better under a Proportional Representation system, but at least we'd know what we're signing up for.

So, instead we now have a giant personality contest, but with none of the personality, contest, or giants.

Even if this wasn't true, the debates are so painfully boring, rehearsed and dowdy that they become politically irrelevant. Cameron, without fail (or indeed any sense of irony whatsoever) cracks out these incredulous anecdotes where he met an [insert ethnicity, gender and occupation] at a [insert location] who told him that [insert key voting issue] was very important to [insert key demographic], whilst Brown is positively falling over himself to fallate Clegg- who in turn is more interested in fallating himself for trying to do what everyone else wants to do now a few months before. In the two debates I have watched at the time of writing, I struggled to find a single concise, in-

genuous policy; seeing as we're voting for a party and not a person it might be considerate of their dear leaders to actually tell us what those policies are. Meanwhile, all three of them squabble over who said what and when to a point where it is no longer funny but tiresome; if I wanted to see three middle aged, balding men almost come to blows over economic policy I'd go to a Soho brothel and watch the punters discuss who was going to pay for the orgy. Perhaps that's just me. A mute, and by appearance clinically depressed audience reading questions from cards like they're on day release into the community really doesn't inflame the passion for democracy either.

Perhaps the most dangerous problem, however, is that now we have an election that has lost its focus. It makes sense on paper to have these televised debates in order to reduce voter apathy, and I concede that despite this being one of the less polarising elections in history it does appear that it may well have one of the biggest voter turnouts for a fair while. For a reason I can't fathom people seem to be inexplicably tired of Brown, and Cameron comes across as very sleazy; both of

them have come across as old school politicians in these debates and certainly haven't come out of the whole thing very well. The Liberal Democrats, seemingly buoyed by the power they hold over the major two parties, appear a real alternative, with a worrying lack of perspective on the real world. Despite that, I'll be voting Lib-Dem because my MP is pretty good (and not Tory). I'm more Labour, if I'm honest, but let's not start on Tactical voting...

It is a worrying precedent; if we carry on like this I can easily imagine that we'll end up in an American system anyway (brought to you courtesy of Pepsi and McDonalds). My prediction this time round is a hung parliament- and the only way any of you can stop it is by ignoring these fruitless debates and reading up on the policies of the parties and your local candidate. If I'm completely honest, however, I'm holding out for a "Total Wipeout" version of the debates hosted by Richard Hammond, with me sitting in my pants on a Saturday evening eating Doritos as David Cameron is catapulted from a giant red balloon in the middle of Argentina. Now that's voting for change.

# Jehan Pasangha ponders election campaigns



"...no party appeals to me personally, I have decided to vote for a party based on its policies"



We all know that there is a general election in Britain, on the 6th of May. (if you didn't know that, you know it now) And, I'm another of those floating voters. According to the London Evening Standard, more than 40% of students in London universities are like me (as of last week), still not sure whom to vote for.

I asked my Dad whom he thinks I should vote for, and he told me to "vote the party which will devalue the pound,

so that I will have to spend fewer rupees for your studies". What selfless advice, I thought sarcastically.

Now, I asked his cousin who lives here in Britain, and she said she'll vote conservatives because apparently Maggie Thatcher had increased her salary by many pounds, many decades ago. Fair enough.

I then asked my dad's friend, who said he'll vote Labour. Reason- "We've always voted Labour", he said. Which means there is no reason. I asked my room mate and once again "Labour". "Why?";

I asked. "My uncle is a Labour Councillor". I asked at least five more friends, and all their reasons were extremely personal, that is if they even had any reason to vote for a party.

Since no party appeals to me personally, I have decided to vote for a party based on its policies, for the benefit of all. After all, its my first vote in any election (general or council or whatever) and I am not gonna "waste" it. I arranged my preference in the order Con, Lib Dems and Lab, Conservatives being

the most preferred and Labour being the least (I think because of Gordon Brown).

In this backdrop came the much anticipated first ever Prime-ministerial debate on ITV. Less interesting than the American debates, but, believe it or not, it has had the biggest effect on my opinion about the main British parties and their leaders. Cameron simply did not rise to my expectations; he sucked. Brown was less grumpy, but still boring (better than what I expected from him). The star was of course Nick Clegg - that

dude is a professional. He knew what to say, and was very calm even when he criticised the other two parties. At the end of 94 minutes, there was a huge shift in my political preference. Nick is now first, Brown next and Cameron needs to be kept in the opposition.

But, wait a second, there is one more debate left and my opinion is not yet sealed, it is always open for modification (if needed).

Now, I wonder if debates are going to be the most decisive factor in this year's UK election? Only time will tell.

# Rhys Davies reviews the art of complaining



"Some people say that suffrage is an essential human right..."



On Thursday, the nation goes to the polls to decide its collective fate for the next four years, more or less. Will we rally together and oust the incumbent, incompetent collection of crooks, clowns and codswallopers and sweep in to power...a pitiful party of pedants, pissants and penny-pilferers? Oh dear. Will this be a case of out of the frying pan and onto the griddle?

Over the years, in an effort to appeal to more and more voters, the two main parties have moved ever closer to the political centre with each passing election. If they were to continue on their paths until Labour were conservative and Conservatives were democratically socialist in some Mad Hatter's Boston Tea Party, I'd be fine with that. But no, instead they both gravitate in the unhappy middle such that any real choice is rendered illu-

sionary. Or maybe you could vote for Rage Against The Machine. Sorry, I mean the Liberal Democrats.

But this isn't a diatribe on the woes of modern government. Goodness knows I'm not up to offering piquant critique on the probable outcomes of Thursday's voting – without a swinometer, I wouldn't know where to begin! And far be it from me to suggest, advise or command you who should vote for. However, I do strongly suggest, earnestly advise and imperiously command that, whatever your political leaning, you do vote.

Some people may say that suffrage is an essential human right and to exercise it is imperative. Some people may say that, for all its faults, democracy is the best form of governance that we have in this modern age and should be supported. Some people just have an unhealthy obsession with signing little crosses in boxes. But as for me, I say you should vote for the

visceral thrill of having a good moan.

Complaining is one of the great universal past-times and one we can all relate to. How often has a friend from another university asked after your well-being at Imperial and, instead of enthusing about the plethora of clubs and societies, the scintillating social life and the world-class education, do you instead squeeze the pathos out of the mounting coursework, the minuscule free time and the suspiciously lecherous lecturers? It is perverse but we only feel good when we feel awful.

It borders on masochism, the way we derive pleasure from our own pain. On any given topic, it is certain that someone can, and will, find something wrong. Their criticisms don't even have to be logically or factually correct. If whinging was an Olympic Event, we'd send a clutch of Daily Mail columnists and come home with gold, silver and bronze.

Most of the time, we choose to

moan about the things we can't change. Sport, the weather and public transport are all popular favourites. And there's nothing wrong with this. A good gripe tends to stimulate conversation far better than a pleasant observation that everything's fine. Even if we disagree, we are spurred on to talk, to communicate, to engage and the collective human experience gets just that little bit richer.

But when we start to complain about things we can change, or could have changed, things are not so productive. Dialogue is generated but it quickly turns sharp and accusatory. If we feel so passionately, and if change or choice is possible, our opponents cry, why are we complaining over a pint when we could be pursuing something better. Why indeed? The answer is simple; action, any action, is difficult and vulnerable to failure. But if we don't try then we can't fail. Moaning about our problems is infi-

nately safer than trying to solve them. But that doesn't mean we won't be blow-hards and hypocrites.

That is why your vote is so important. It safeguards your unalienable and fundamental right to complain and the true satisfaction that only comes from dissatisfaction. If you stand up and make a choice and it falls flat, then oh well. At least you tried, and then any gripes, groans or grievances that you may bear can be vented with impunity. No-one can resent you for complaining when you've ostensibly tried to change your world for the better.

Really, it is a win-win situation. If the election goes against you, you can rant to your heart's content in the Union and if it goes for you then, hey, you picked a winner! Personally, I'm expecting a hung parliament which will mean, politically speaking, no-one will be happy.

So really everyone can be happy!

# Angry Geek on Exhi-f\*cking-bition Road



"You may as well just switch the traffic lights off...let the cars find their own equilibrium"



Are the local Council out to get me? Are they deliberately reordering the layout of Kensington's roads in order to flummox me as I move around the city? I stepped out into Exhibition Road last week and found myself in a Tex Avery cartoon, being run over by an endless stream of buses driving in both directions down what had previously been a one-way road. Taking the time to dust myself down before having a piano dropped on me from a great height, I noticed that this will be going on until cocking May 2011. What in Christ's name for! No-one looks at road markings anyway, you may as well just switch the traffic lights off for a week and let the cars find their own equilibrium. It's how nature intended.

I could really give a toss how Exhi-

bition Road is laid out, because I'm about as likely to find myself careering down it in a Lamborghini next week as I am to replace David Beckham as captain at the World Cup. If they want to reverse the road markings, or make indicating optional on 'casual Fridays' or whatever, then that's fine, but actually directing cars the wrong way down a road so that they flank me like they're Boris Johnson's 3rd Motorised Division is just screwed up.

And I know that won't matter soon because it's revision period and so most of us won't be seeing any cars for two months as we return to The Library, the anti-Cheers where no-one knows your name or gives a flying wazoo. And yeah, that's a little sad because the sun is out now, the clouds are bubbling up and the Wild Marquees are coming out of hiding to make their nest on Queen's

Lawn like a gigantic circus of blandness, but on the plus side it means I'm less likely to be involved in a road traffic accident, and that's probably a proverb or something. It's definitely good, anyway.

The plan for this revision season is to hollow out part of the wall in the Science Museum library so that I can create a makeshift cocoon during the night using old Richard Dawkins books and saliva as a sort of improvised papier maché. Then in the morning I can gnaw my way out, disgruntled at the sensation of awakening with my face three inches from a copy of The God Delusion, ready to begin a new life as a fresh-faced student who is already dying inside.

This year will be particularly interesting, though, given that it's my first year revising alongside my good friend

Caffeine. Caffeine and I had been casual, meet-up-once-a-week friends for the most of my degree, but the last six months have turned us into crazy Olsen-Twins-film-style best friends, and we now meet up several times a day to discuss earrings, makeup and why my life is now a pitiful drug-addled shadow of what it was when I started at Imperial. Oh, and boys.

Since most people seem to make light of the fact that they can't function without caffeine, I suppose I should be making hilarious jokes about how completely incapable of thought or self-powered action I am without a cup of oily despair every morning, but in reality it's actually a sad tale of dependency and having to sneak away to the burly men and women dealing the drink down the shady alleyways of the JCR. I'm fairly sure it's going to cripple me

over the course of the next six weeks. Me and my stomach lining are playing Russian roulette to see which one of us caves in first from overconsumption of espresso.

In light of all this, don't be surprised if you find yourself outside the Business School in three weeks time playing chicken with the cars and the road markings while screaming fundamental theories to yourself, because after a few days of solid note-reading you're probably going to crave a bit of excitement in your life and nothing perks me up like making taxi drivers think they're about to regret the last quip they made about pedestrians.

On the offchance I don't make it to the Comment pages in the coming weeks, remember - if they can't read your handwriting, they can't mark you down.

# Adam Falk recommends voting for policies



"My main gripe is the Liberal Democrats' current campaign strategy..."



I've been at home now for a few weeks; naturally I've spent a disproportionately large amount of my time on the Internet. You have the few standard sites you check when you come online. If you really have nothing else to do, you might go through them a second time, just in case you missed something. If you really don't want to revise, you might resort to opening them all in separate tabs and just refreshing them. As a result of this, I've been able to keep alarmingly up-to-date with current affairs. During term I wouldn't know if a comet hit Scotland, but over the last four weeks if a priest molested a child half way around the world I'd have known in minutes.

Naturally, I can't have failed to miss the only two stories for the last two weeks, Icelandic Volcano and ELECTION FEVER!!!!11eleven. I'm now going to fall into the trap of making a joke about the two. They could have just had the one headline for two weeks: Things eject hot gas. My mum thought

it was funny... Anyway, as I have no real opinions regarding the Volcano (except its name, is there anyone at Imperial who can tell me how to pronounce it?) I'll rant about the election.

I want it to be clear that I don't care which way you vote. All I want to do is espouse my opinions on what I've seen; by all means ignore them/write a response telling me why I'm an idiot. I'm the first to admit I'm not normally abreast of politics. I don't even really understand how our Parliament works, but that doesn't mean I can't scream opinions from the rooftops like everyone else.

My main gripe is the Liberal Democrats' current campaign strategy. Fair play to them, they've done very well to make themselves a serious contender in the election. However, I saw Nick Clegg on the news a few days ago appealing to the "Young people/First time voters" portion of the electorate. He said repeatedly that young people could shape the future of this country.

So by voting Lib Dem can we have the country as we want it? They're going to abolish tuition fees and make all student loans into free grants instead? Strange, I didn't find that in their manifesto. Not that I looked.

He went on to lambast the "Old Parties" for telling young people that their votes don't count and that they're wasted if they don't vote Tory or Labour. I don't recall either Dave or Gordon telling me my vote didn't count. I think they both just said "Vote for me". From my point of view, it seems that Nick Clegg is campaigning entirely on the fact that his party isn't "Old". Does that mean they'll be any different? I suppose we can't really know unless they get into power, but as much as they ensure me that they're different, they all look the same to me. Just because they haven't had a chance to mess up yet doesn't mean they won't if we give them that chance.

I dislike this method of campaigning. Without actually mentioning any poli-

cies, Nick Clegg is manipulating people into thinking that he will genuinely bring change. I realise that this is essentially what all political campaigning is, but his way of making very vague promises but assuring us that his party is different really grates on me.

All of the parties are as guilty as each other though. David Cameron is being particularly lazy; he looked at America, saw that promising change worked there and has just adopted that. Of course the Lib Dems scuppered his plans by doing the same thing and becoming serious contenders. The Tories still say that their change is the better one. To determine the difference would actually require looking at their policies, which I'm trying to avoid at all costs.

I don't really know what Labour are saying. I watched the first debate though and David Cameron made a good point. After Gordon Brown promised some sort of reform (the house of Lords?) Dave pointed out

that they've had 13 years to do that, any promises now just feel hollow after that. Of course, all of the parties promises are just as much bollocks, but we know that Labour are just saying theirs because of the election.

Anyway, enough ranting. We are scientists so we should try to vote in a scientific way. Some sort of blind test where you just see policies and not whose they are, that would be good. Chances are you've heard some policies by now so you might recognise them, but it's better than nothing. I recommend everyone interested should go to <http://voteforpolicies.org.uk>, which provides just that service. It includes the policies of six parties: Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Green, UKIP and BNP. It gives you 9 issues, of which you can choose which are most important to you and those are the areas where you compare the policies. The results are quite interesting, what have you got to lose? Revision time?

## College Hardship Fund 2009

### Money worries affecting your studies?

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We understand that despite careful planning some students may face higher than expected costs or a financial emergency. In such cases we may be able to assist with a small award from the College Hardship Fund which could provide the additional support you need to continue with your studies.

Summer term application deadline: **7<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

#### FURTHER INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS:

Web: <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/registry/studentfinancialsupport/hardshiptfund>

Email: [student.funding@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:student.funding@imperial.ac.uk)

Telephone: 020 7594 8122





# Libel case against Simon Singh dropped

Singh has won his battle against the BCA, but the war for libel reform is far from over, says Courtney Williams

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of April Simon Singh, science writer and Imperial alumnus, received the long overdue news that the British Chiropractic Association were bringing to an end the libel case they had brought against him. His crime? Writing an article, originally published in the Guardian in 2008 and now back online, which questioned claims made by chiropractors.

Chiropractors claim to treat illnesses by manipulating the spine and neck. In his article, Singh criticised chiropractors, and the British Chiropractic Association (BCA), for saying they could treat childhood conditions such as colic, asthma and ear infections, despite there being “not a jot of evidence”. He also discussed the use of chiropractic techniques in curing back and neck problems, and the dangers involved. He cited the high incidence of adverse side effects and even fatalities associated with them in addition to the relative low rates of success. He had recently published a book on the topic with a former chiropractor, so should have been considered to be in a good position to criticise the BCA. In his article, he referred to their claims as “bogus”, backing this up with refer-

ences to studies and statistics. However, despite these credentials and the scientific basis of the article, the BCA launched a libel case against Singh, citing the damage he had caused to their reputation.

In May 2009 it was ruled that the wording of Singh’s article implied the BCA were being knowingly dishonest. Having launched an appeal, on the 1st of April this year the Court of Appeal ruled that his article counted as comment, not fact, so he could use the fair comment defence. If this hadn’t been the case, it would have had great implications for others questioning the claims of companies and organisations. A precedent could have been set, making many more scientists and science journalists vulnerable to financially and emotionally draining libel cases.

Although this case has cost Singh dearly, both in terms of the time it has taken up and the amount it has cost him personally (two years and over £100,000), some good has come from it. Over 50,000 people have now signed a petition asking for libel reform, and the issues surrounding libel law in this country have been brought to the forefront of discussion. Current British libel laws consider a defendant guilty until proven innocent, in direct op-

position to the rest of the legal system. Cases can be long and costly, as Singh’s was, and incredibly difficult to win. There are few alternatives to a full trial. The laws don’t appear to have moved with the times, either, and do not reflect the presence of the Internet as a source of comment and discussion. In addition, there is the phenomenon of “libel tourism” - where foreign defendants use British libel laws to silence those who criticise them.

It is important to remember that the case was won not through libel reform, but in spite of the libel laws still in place, which Singh described in his statement on the Libel Reform Campaign website as “the most notoriously anti-free speech libel laws in the free world”. Currently, the system almost encourages cases such as the one brought against Singh, and thus discourages free speech and stifles science, which is by its nature a system dependent on criticism. This is why, despite this victory, a great deal still needs to be done before we can say that our legal system truly allows free speech.

For more information visit [www.libelreform.org](http://www.libelreform.org).

## Closer to home

The recent spotlight on several libel cases brought against scientists has generated pressure for libel reform. In light of the increased number of such cases and bearing in mind Imperial conducts research which may call to question the actions of others, Imperial College Union is submitting a paper to Council regarding the action the Union should take in response to the demand for libel reform.

The paper, available through the Union website, was proposed by the president and outlines the Union’s view on the current state of UK libel laws, their possible effect on students of the college and the action the Union is proposing to take. In particular the paper notes the libel cases brought against Simon Singh and Ben Goldacre (The Guardian’s ‘Bad Science’ columnist) and also expresses concern that “[current libel law] has a chilling effect on scientific debate” and the costs involved for anyone defending their work in a libel case. The Union even feels some students may fall foul of these laws due to publications released from research courses they are on.

The Union proposes action be taken including the lobbying for the support of MPs and College to support libel reform and making students more aware of the issues surrounding UK libel law.

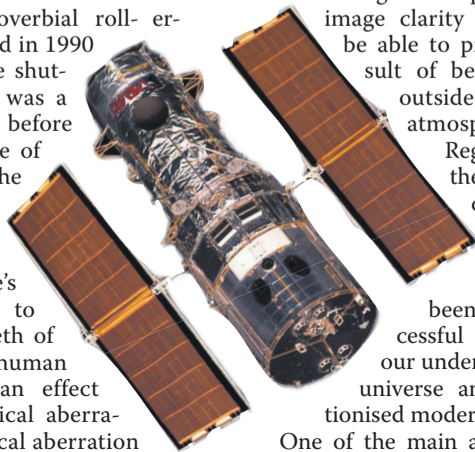


# Image released in celebration of Hubble’s 20th year

Brigette Atkins Science Editor

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April saw NASA celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) with the release of a picture taken by the telescope of the Carina nebula. The image shows a small part of one of the main regions of star birth in our galaxy. The section of the nebula pictured stands three light years tall and is set to become one of Hubble’s more influential images, placing it alongside the ‘Pillars of Creation’ in the Eagle nebula imaged by the telescope in 1995. To date Hubble’s mission of discovery has seen it aim itself towards 30,000 celestial objects and produce over half a million images for its archive.

The history of Hubble however is akin to the proverbial roller-coaster. Launched in 1990 aboard the space shuttle *Discovery*, it was a matter of weeks before the first in a line of problems for the telescope realised itself. An error in the shape of Hubble’s primary mirror to the order of a fiftieth of the width of a human hair produced an effect known as spherical aberration. This spherical aberration



caused significant image blurring and had to be corrected in 1993 during the first of five servicing missions to the telescope so far. In 1994 the entire apparatus was shut down due to the failure of four out of six gyroscopes which allow Hubble to aim and 2003 saw the space shuttle *Columbia* (one in a fleet of shuttles which carried out servicing on the telescope) break up upon re-entry through the Earth’s atmosphere. As a result, future servicing missions were cancelled; being viewed as too risky with the aging shuttle fleet. Even before its launch, the HST caused controversy. Robert O’Dell, founding project scientist explained many astronomers at the time thought it better to build 20 larger ground based scopes than have one less powerful orbiting telescope, despite the image clarity Hubble would be able to provide as a result of being positioned outside the Earth’s atmosphere.

Regardless of these and various other blips in Hubble’s history, the project has been largely successful at increasing our understanding of the universe and has revolutionised modern astronomy. One of the main aims of Hubble

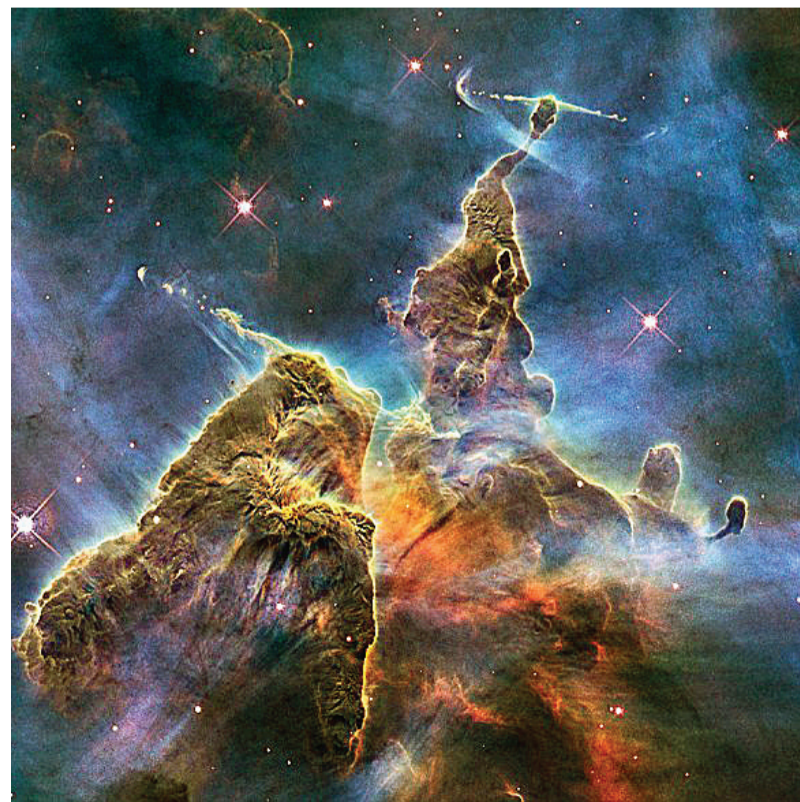
175,000  
mph

The speed at which Hubble orbits above the Earth’s atmosphere.

8700

Papers have been published by astronomers using Hubble making it one of the most productive instruments in science

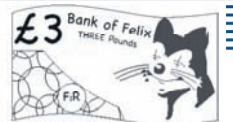
at the time of its launch was to accurately measure the age of the universe. Not only did it achieve this but Hubble has also collected data for investigating galaxy formation and found evidence supporting the existence of dark matter, dark energy, black holes within galaxies and exoplanets – before, other planets orbiting other stars were a purely theoretical idea.



The image of the Carina nebular was taken earlier this year

The HST was named after astronomer Edwin Hubble who in the 1920’s investigated the motion of galaxies leading to the conclusion of an expanding universe. It cost over \$10billion to

build and stands at 43ft long. Having already had its runtime increased, the HST is set to be in operation until 2014 when it is likely to be replaced by the James Webb Space Telescope.



# What's next for Britain's economy?

In *felix's* last business section before the Election, the Parties' economic and business policies are reviewed

## The Business Vote

The Conservatives' recently diminished lead may not be enough to overcome Labour's advantages in the current electoral system. A key swing vote in recent elections has been that of small business owners. In 2010 they are a particularly important constituency because of the likely closeness of the race. The Economist reported last week that "about 6,000 voters in each constituency are sole traders or own small businesses." In marginal seats, that can make all the difference.

Labour will need to recoup ground lost with these voters by their proposed increase in national insurance tax. It is predicted to raise £6 billion for The Treasury, but the Federation of Small Business predicts it will destroy 57,000 jobs.

It came as little surprise then, that Shadow Chancellor George Osborne's promise last month to ditch the hike was warmly greeted by business leaders. In fact, 23 heads of major UK companies, later joined by another 45, had already written to the Daily Mail asking the Government to reconsider.

The Tories will still keep the tax hike for those earning above a certain threshold. This limits the appeal of their counter-proposal. But at least they avoided patronising business leaders as Gordon Brown did two weeks ago by asserting that if only they understood national insurance tax, they would support the hike. Labour

has however won some support by offering to cut business rates (a tax on premises) for some businesses as part of the 2011 budget.

**"...none of this happened by accident. It was because of deliberate choices made by this Labour Government" -**

Alistair Darling

With voters likely to take strong anti-political feelings into the polls with them on May 6th, Labour has been struggling to use its incumbency to its advantage on the experience argument.

It has been trying to argue that since it has greater recent executive experience, it is better suited to pull the country out of its current economic situation.

In a speech in Edinburgh last Wednesday, Chancellor Alistair Dar-

ling tried that narrative for one last time before Election Day. He started by painting the scene, talking of "the deepest recession for over 60 years." Then came the expected importance of experience pitch, "Gordon and I made, the decisions taken, would have a direct impact on businesses, on families, on jobs and incomes. Get them right and we had the chance of stopping the economy, here at home and internationally, sliding to disaster. Get them wrong and the cost would be paid by businesses and families right across our country."

Not one to leave his audience on a cliff-hanger, they were soon told how it all ended: "I was right." Mr Darling put almost every major debate in modern political economy to rest, declaring that he had been proven right by "the record." He accused the Tories of being motivated by "ideology," holding "embarrassing" views and advocating "policies which will put at risk the recovery the country has worked so hard to deliver. Policies which will threaten your job, your living standards and the public services on which millions of families depend."

But some of his comments will prove less controversial, claiming, "none of this happened by accident. It was because of deliberate choices made by this Labour Government." You would not have known it, but he was – with a perfectly straight face – referring to the strength of the Labour economy.



Brown, Clegg (above) and Cameron (below) are going head-to-head

## Big Society

The Conservatives' Big Idea for this election has come to be what they call the "Big Society." It is difficult to know what to make of it, for several reasons. Firstly, it is odd that they are taking such a risk by trying to introduce voters to unusual thinking when they have a clear lead in the polls. Also, this seems a distinctively un-Conservative vision. The Big Society idea comes after years of internal disputes over core philosophy, and seems aimed at the contemporary middle classes – a firmly Statist demographic according to polls, unlike say twenty years ago.

Some of the more bizarre parts of the Tories' Big Society include using "the latest insights from behavioural economics to encourage people to donate more time and money to charity" and setting up a "Big Society Bank" and celebrating "Big Society Day." But most of this plan is about the State taxing citizens, but then letting charities and "social enterprises" spend the money.

There are two main reasons offered against State interference in general: the motivations of the interfering bureaucrat and the impossibility of rational decision making in the absence of price information. The Big Society may be interpreted as the Tories understanding the former point but still being unconvinced of the latter.



## At a glance - comparing the three major political parties

### Labour

- Increase income tax to 50% on earnings over £150,000
- Pledge not to increase income tax
- One-off tax on bankers' bonuses
- Work internationally to introduce a "global levy" on financial services
- Break up banks in which the Government currently has a controlling stake
- Set up a fund to channel £4bn of public and private investment into firms
- Raise threshold of support for company takeovers to two-thirds of shareholders

### Conservatives

- Raise Inheritance Tax threshold to £1m
- Scrap Labour's planned 1% national insurance rise for people earning less than £35,000
- Scrap Stamp Duty for first-time buyers on homes up to £250,000
- Two-year council tax freeze
- Freeze public sector pay for one year in 2011

### Liberal Democrats

- Raise the threshold income at which people start paying income tax to £10,000 per year
- Impose "mansion tax" on the value of properties over £2m
- Increase capital gains tax to bring it into line with income tax
- Set a £400 pay rise cap for all public sector workers
- Introduce a banking levy until banks' retail and investment arms are separated
- Limit the length of "non-domiciled" status to seven years
- Force regulators to consider the "public interest" when assessing takeover bids



# MUSIC

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## A glorious London summer for music lovers

### Field Day

This one dayer in the heart of London's East End should definitely be on your radar if your looking for a suitable festival for your indie or electro needs. This will be the fourth annual event, and by now the logistical issues that

clouded over the festivals debut should be completely ironed out. Aside from the music, the festival aims to have some sort of village fete vibe offering 'rural fayre,' which is all very quaint although one can hope that it won't smell of manure. It's reasonably priced at £33.33, which I guess is also nice if you've got a fetish for thirds.

### When & Where:

Victoria Park E3  
 31st July  
 £33.33  
 More Info and Full Lineup  
<http://fielddayfestivals.com/>

### Who:

Headlining the main stage is french synth poppers **Phoenix** along with veteran post-punk act **The Fall**. Further down the bill is Imperial Alumnus **Caribou** who will be sure to swirl out some fine IDM beats from his latest album 'Swim,' and **Lightspeed Champion** will also feature.

Electro-heads will be probably be drawn to Bugged Out's very own stage that will feature some fine glitches, pulses and warbles from acts like **Simian Mobile Disco**, **Fake Blood**, and **Chilly Gonzales**.

There are three other stages with notable acts including the lofi noise of **No Age**, the looping acoustic samples of **Atlas Sound**, and probably something a bit mental from **These New Puritains** who cite the smurfs as one of their influences.



French synth poppers Phoenix headline the main stage

### Wireless Festival

Hyde Park plays host to this three day festival on the 2nd-4th July, and boasts an eclectic mix of new and established acts. There is only one stage however, so some lineup scrutiny might be required, although there are beer gardens and chill out areas to compliment the music.

### Who:

Friday is a wholly poppy affair, headlined by **Pink** and other acts including the **Ting Tings**, **The Gossip** and **Plan B**.

Saturday is a traditionally more dance orientated day; this year it is headlined by **LCD Soundsystem** with **2manydj's**, **DJ Shadow**, **UNKLE** and **Missy Elliott** also featuring. **Snoop Dogg** is also listed as a special guest.

Sunday has the epic **Jay Z** along with **Lily Allen**, **Friendly Fires** and Guitar legend mophead **Slash**. There is a bit of variation with **Chase and Status**, **Chipmunk** and **Mr Hudson** so perhaps this is the most eclectic day.

### When & Where:

Hyde Park W1  
 2nd-4th July  
 £110 (3 day ticket)  
 More Info and Full Lineup



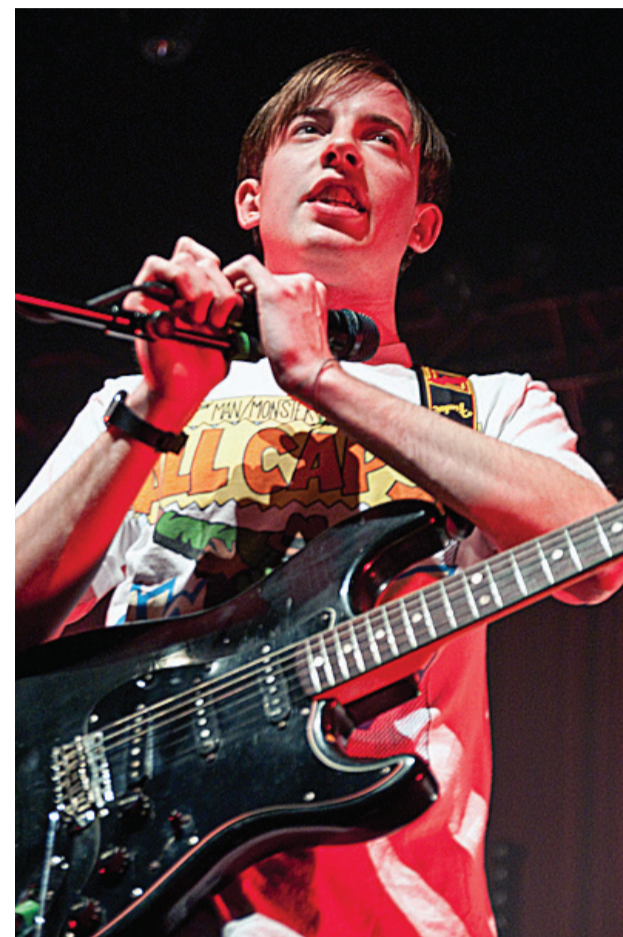
LCD Soundsystem are headlining

Previews by Christopher Walmsley

They're apparently releasing an acoustic album in July (eek) and promoting it with a series of gigs in churches. Until then they're busy selling out The Forum, but I won't be satisfied until they give out complementary curries at their shows.

(right) Lead singer Jack Steadman at The Forum

// Photo by Christopher Walmsley



### Bombay Bicycle Club

The principle of 'Survival of The Fittest' holds as true for indie music as it does for the natural world. While weaker indie-pop bands have crumbled beneath the weight of their own mediocrity, Bombay Bicycle Club have rightfully emerged from the NME indie hype-fest as a band with real talent and more than a few fantastic songs. Are they pioneering? No. Are they great to listen to? Definitely. - Kadhim Shubber

### Live Review: Frank Turner

★★★★★

Frank Turner surprises me. His recorded work is remarkably unremarkable, a kind of folk-rock, singer-songwriter mash-up that leaves a lot to be desired. Yet despite this, and the fact I did not know a single one of his songs prior to the show, Frank Turner quite simply blew me away.

Maybe it was the passion with which Turner performed – the

themes of his songs remind me of Oscar Wilde, focused on ideas of enjoying life to the fullest ('Yes I'm definitely going to hell, but I'll have all the best stories to tell'), and come from the heart. Maybe it was the crowd's response to his songs – the fans knew every word off by heart; the audience jumped, pumped their fists, and even moshed the evening away.

But, for me the most fascinating thing about 'the real Frank Turner' is how easy it is to relate to him. Whether it be Frank asking his good friend Dan to accompany him on stage while he sang a song written about the guy, or to tell us the story behind the song

'Long Live the Queen,' about a friend who died and told him (as the chorus goes) 'You'll live to dance another day, it's just now you have to dance for the two of us' we warm to Turner for his obvious love for his friends, and we sing along with his lyrics for their obvious love of life. Some artists are interested in turning themselves into stars. Turner on the other hand scoffs at this behaviour, and is all the more charming because of it. As his lyrics go 'there's no such thing as rock stars, there's just people who play music, and some of them are just like us, and some of them are dicks.'

- Mariam Zahedi



### Rufus Wainwright All Days Are Nights: Songs for Lulu

Close to 3 years after the release of his last album 'Release the stars,' Rufus Wainwright returns to his solo piano-playing roots with 'Songs for Lulu.' The album serves as a tribute to his late mother, folk singer Kate McGarrigle and the time alone with his piano

was considered a way of coping with his mother's imminent death. Although a biased super-fan of Rufus, this album is sublime. It screams of the melancholy drama of his recent French opera, however it manages to maintain its emotional and personal element with references to his partner Jorn and his sister Martha. This is unlike anything he has produced before and really showcases his lyrical talent as well as his piano playing ability. Favourite song on the album: The Dream. - Emily Beech

**Metric Stage**

**THE NOISETTES**

**PLAN B**

**TINIE TEMPAH**

**Quad Marquee**

**JO WHILEY**

**Dance Arena**

**SCRATCH PERVERTS**

**BREAKAGE**

**STAMINA MC**

**Plus**

**FUNFAIR & FIREWORKS**

**FESTIVAL-STYLE STAGE**

**AFTERPARTY FROM 4AM**

**For Diners**

**CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION**

**FOUR-COURSE MEAL**

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[imperialcollegeunion.org/ball](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/ball)



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# The most powerful film of the year

## Samson and Delilah

**Director** Warwick Thornton  
**Screenwriter** Warwick Thornton  
**Cast** Rowan McNamara, Marissa Gibson

**Ed Knock** Film Editor

Whilst the majority of cinema is typically for pure enjoyment, occasionally a film arrives which intends to provoke debate about current affairs. The 'kitchen sink' dramas made famous by Ken Loach and chums in the 60's come to mind and more recently, troubles in Africa have been highlighted by films such as *Hotel Rwanda* and *The Constant Gardener*. The atmosphere of *Samson and Delilah* is certainly unpleasant and is at times almost overpowered by the bittersweet relationship at the heart of the story.

This debut from Australian director Warwick Thornton portrays the miserable existence some Aborigines have to endure in the outback, set against a bizarre love story between two youths. Samson awakes every morning with his head inside a tin of glue; high off the fumes, he endures his mundane life by irritating his brothers and throwing rocks at kangaroos. Delilah, on the other hand, has been entrusted with the welfare of her grandmother and they spend their days painting traditional canvasses only to be exploited by the white shopkeeper who sells their work for massive profit. Delilah soon becomes the target for Samson's affec-

tions and though she initially reacts to this with utmost disgust, her real feelings are much more mutual. After they both endure brutality in their village, Samson steals a car and whisks Delilah away to Alice Springs where they tragically suffer worse treatment.

The strength of the film lies in the performances of its two young stars (Rowan McNamara and Marissa Gibson). With no previous acting experience, they manage to express all the necessary emotions without a big script. In fact the dialogue is so minimal that Samson only utters one word in the whole film – his name, which he barely manages to do anyway.

Thornton, who is already a celebrated cinematographer, decides to let the film's visuals and sound track speak in place of the sparse screenplay. You can almost smell the wretched heat of the desert which seems to burn a sense of hopelessness into its inhabitants' minds. The monotony of village life is reflected in the steady Ska beats of Samson's brothers' band, who spend sunrise to sunset playing the same melodies every day. In contrast, the dangerous world of the city is further embellished by ominous sounds whereas Samson can only exhibit his rebellious spirit by listening to rock music.

The series of hardships and (outrage) the pair encounter become ever more shocking and intentionally never make easy viewing. The only person who shows the protagonists any compassion is a bridge-dwelling tramp who shares his meagre food rations. Though an opportunity of hope is offered at the end, Warwick Thornton compels the audience to feel disgusted



and ashamed at what they are watching. The suffering of Aborigines has long been a controversial topic in Australian politics and Thornton, who is Aborigine himself, presents a rather negative picture of Aborigine life. He claims it is a film of questions and he doesn't present any answers.

The Biblical title is a reference to the

Aborigine custom of cutting their hair when in mourning: whether Thornton is mourning for his people is unclear. The apathetic white citizens of Alice Springs may seem a disgrace to cosy viewers in the UK but we would display the same behaviour in their situation.

The film isn't without its faults. It's hard to understand Delilah's devotion

to Samson and there's only so much misery an audience can endure. If your faith in human nature isn't ruined by the end then you must be a saint. But don't shy away from this film because of its difficult subject matter, it's challenging to watch and, once you've recovered, a thoroughly rewarding experience.

## A great slow-burning thriller

### The Ghost

**Director** Roman Polanski  
**Screenwriter** Robert Harris  
**Cast** Ewan McGregor, Pierce Brosnan, Kim Cattrall, Olivia Williams

**Ed Knock** Film Editor

Infamously finished whilst Roman Polanski was languishing under Swiss imposed house-arrest (perfect timing to break their tradition of neutrality!), *The Ghost* is the latest in the recent trend of political thrillers that prey on the current distrust of modern politics

and capitalism.

After his predecessor dies in mysterious circumstances, a ghostwriter (Ewan McGregor) is hired to complete the memoirs of ex-prime minister Adam Lang (Pierce Brosnan), who is under suspicion for committing war crimes during a 'War on Terror'. The ghostwriter (he is never named) soon finds himself drawn into a conspiracy which could have far-reaching consequences for those involved.

The parallels between Brosnan's character and Tony Blair are intentional with references made to Iraq, his close relationship with the USA and his showman style of politics. This could be used as a gimmick by a less-experienced director, but we are talk-

ing about Polanski here and he brings his trademark delicate pacing to construct an intricate web of conspiracies.

There are no Jason Bourne style action scenes or conveniently placed plot twists. Pierce Brosnan is perfect as the arrogant ex-PM and Olivia Williams is wonderful as his seemingly innocent wife. Ewan Mcgreggor is on form as the unfortunate protagonist, an average man who reluctantly unveils the aforementioned mysteries.

The bleak landscape of coastal North Germany (substituting for New England) helps create an alien environment of politics and the dire situation the protagonist finds himself in. *The Ghost* is a must watch for those bored of adrenalin fuelled action films.



## Exam Stress Relief



**Robin Hood**  
 Russell Crowe discards the tights for a serious take on the legend...with WWII beach landing craft?  
 Perfect for: history buffs



**Iron Man 2**  
 Robert Downey Junior dons the crimson super suit in a second helping of high-tec ass-kicking.  
 Perfect for: comic book geeks



**The A-Team**  
 Finally it has arrived. I don't know why we're excited, the original was before our time and frankly a bit shit.  
 Perfect for: your Dad

# An Interview with Warwick Thornton

Film Editor Ed Knock meets the new director who is causing ripples of excitement across the Film World

**W**arwick Thornton has sprung out of nowhere to become the new darling of the world of independent film. With a bag full of awards from his native Australia and a film short-listed for the Oscars, he looks set to become a prominent director of this century. *Samson and Delilah* has created debate in his homeland and highlighted problems that politicians probably want to pretend don't exist. He casually enters the room, where a small group of journalists have gathered. "Okay, how are we going to change the World guys?" He quips, running his hands through a shaggy mane of hair, "Did anyone bring a potato salad?". The room laughs nervously, everyone knows that the questions the film raises have no room for light hearted humour.

## I could have been a contender!

"Have you changed the World for the Aborigine community with your film?" Someone quickly replies. Warwick gazes contemplatively for a few seconds,

"Yeah I dunno, its a film full of questions not answers. It was on purpose to

**"Every screening has been really positive and people seem to write really beautiful things about [the film]"**

do that. I don't have answers, by creating questions someone might have an answer. Its a step forward." His heavy Aussie drawl carries an air of honesty.

"What's the response been from the community?"

"There's been a lot of shock, but everybody loves the film in that sense. It's a hard film, a dark film but people kinda go: if that's the way it is, it's fantastic to have that door opened, to see it and think about it." It's apparent that he feels a little uncomfortable becoming a new campaigner for the Aborigines.

"How surprised have you been by the international reaction?" Someone else inquires.

"Very, very surprised. We were very proud of the film when we finished it, actually having it screened, this is what we set out to do. Every screening has been really positive and people seem to write really beautiful things about it"

"Are planning on taking the film to the States?"

"A limited release, the last place to buy it was North America. I don't know if it sold because it got into the finals of the Oscars. We're in negotiations about that kinda stuff at the moment. It would be great to show them,



you know that's the beauty of World Cinema, some of the most beautiful films have really made me a better human being. Films from Outer Mongolia and London, you embrace them and you can use those films to become a better human being essentially." Warwick speaks inarticulately, he appears to be a true filmmaker - letting the film speak for him instead of words. It is obvious that there is no pretentious motivation behind *Samson and Delilah*.

"Were you sad not to make it into the final five [of the Oscar Best Foreign Film category]?"

"Oh totally. I have to be truthful, you make your first film and then you're up for up for contention for an Oscar and it's had such a beautiful run whether we got in or not. A lot of people have seen the film and liked it but that would have been the absolute icing on the cake wouldn't it?" We receive the obvious answer.

## A little more conversation?

With questions on the film's success exhausted, another person asks about films content itself. "There is not much dialogue between the characters. How did the story turn out, was that due to their performances?"

"Massive amount, you know what I mean. It's still a ninety page script, even though it didn't have much dialogue so every little nuance, every little look, every step is written into the actual script and so it was a lot more demanding on them in that respect. I couldn't use words like 'Im happy, I'm sad, I'm angry' like we do a lot in cinema to get narrative plots across. They actually had to act angry, sad, happy which was incredibly demanding on the two kids."

"Had they acted before?"

"No, first film they'd ever done"

"How did you go about working with them in terms of drawing out their performances?"

"You can teach. If their mind is open enough you can teach anybody to act, you know to find that character you need. The first step is to draw along your own personal experiences and emotions. That's the stuff you want to do on set when you're making the film. With Rowan; he actually is a cheeky, wiry little mad kid, so he kinda owns a bit of *Samson* it that respect. Marissa in real life is this absolute Mother Earth, nurturing type of being and that's what I was looking for when casting the film. All I had to do after that, was make them feel incredibly positive about who they are as Rowan and Marissa, not *Samson* and *Delilah*. So that when they did stand in front of the camera, they had the energy and respect for themselves and they could play any character." When Warwick talks about the children, you can almost see the pride shining from his face.

## Australia, it's not all about barbies on the beach.

I was now interested in what experiences the film had emerged from. "Was the film based on any of your personal experiences?" I asked.

"Yeh I grew up in that town, in Alice Springs and I left school when I was thirteen and I spent a lot of time at night on the streets. There is nothing in *Samson* and *Delilah* I haven't seen personally in the town. I made sure that I didn't write anything I hadn't seen in that sense, so that no one could tell me that this film isn't true.

"So is solvent abuse quite a big problem?" I press on.

"It was, its not that bad anymore.

We've changed from lead-based petrol to the one that if you try and sniff it, gives you a really bad headache. There's a darker side to that now too, people are bringing in lead-based petrol and selling them for about 10 dollars a litre to kids, like drug dealers in a sense.

When *Delilah* is beaten for her grandmothers death, is that something that goes on?

"Yeh that scene I'm kinda talking to my own mum about. There's parts of indigenous law and culture in Central Australia which I think maybe aren't relevant today. In precolonial times, younger kids were not given but connected to ailing older elders. Their job was to look after them because they get to that point where they can't hunt. The elder would transfer all the knowledge, songs and all the secret laws to that child. That's the traditional way and it still happens today as you can see when *Delilah* paints with her grandmother and learns the traditional songs. But if you didn't look after that elder person and she died you received a beating, that was the traditional way

**"When Warwick talks about the children, you can almost see the pride shining from his face."**

and still happens today. *Delilah* did look after her grandmother very well and she still got a beating and that's a tragedy and travesty in the film. Is this still right? Is this still current to who we are today?"

"How did you find Marissa and Rowan, did you go out looking for non-professional actors?"

Again, Warwick talks about his talent cast with a sense of endearment. "Yeh, I wrote the film knowing I would be looking in communities around Central Australia for these two kids. I needed back up, I needed two kids who had experienced the type of story that *Samson* and *Delilah* go through. They were both thirteen when we made the film and it's thirteen years of research and rehearsal for the part; they had a total understanding when reading the script of what was going on."

## An unpleasant date with the hairdresser

We ask after what the children are doing now. "They're both sixteen, they're teenagers - I dunno what the fuck they're doing." He explains in a deadpan manner. He elaborates further, Marissa is set on attending university and is learning Japanese, however Rowan is still getting into trouble, unsure what to do with his life. Warwick assures us though that they will be supported in anything they want to do.

"How did you persuade that poor little girl to make herself ugly?" Someone cheekily inquires.

"Right from the beginning I said Marissa, we're gonna have to cut your hair off and give you black eyes. She had incredibly beautiful hair but right from the beginning she was like "Okay, I don't mind, I'm going to be the star of this movie." Before the scene she asked do I really have to cut my hair off. We said yep, and we're going to cut it really bad and you're going to look terrible. She understood that you traditionally cut your hair off when you're grieving. We compromised and gave her a 'Posh Spice' hair cut but she understood the process of the journey for *Delilah* and that it needed to be done properly.

*Samson and Delilah* shares aesthetics and subjects similar to previous Australian films such as *Walkabout* and *The Proposition* and I was interested to hear where Warwick had taken his inspiration from.

"*Walkabout* is way before my time, I've never been much of a cinema goer in a sense ('in a sense' appears to be his catchphrase). I watched *Walkabout* when I was twenty five; I never watched it again so it's not like I know it back to front. I take inspiration from all over the shop, Terrence Malick for example.

The interview soon draws to a close. Along the way we had a small discussion about Australian politics, which I felt wasn't necessary for inclusion in the interview (as did Warwick). *Samson and Delilah* is a provocative film but it is a very personal one for Warwick, and I have learned that it wasn't a piece of exploitation cinema to put himself in the spotlight. He is a promising director with a bold vision and unique style. If *Samson and Delilah* was his warm-up act, I can't imagine how great the future films he will produce are going to be.

## FASHION

Fashion Editor Kawai Wong, Saskia Verhagen

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## Welcome Saskia and Charlotte!

Kawai Wong Fashion Editor

Hello and welcome! After a brief hiatus, we are back, charged with ammunition.

During the Easter Holiday, our new Fashion and Beauty Editor, Saskia Verhagen, and Charlotte Morris have discussed our way forward as a fashion team. In the future, there will be a regular beauty column, as well as exciting features that will no doubt be very engaging!

So, if you have any ideas or feedback for us, feel free to write to us at the email address above.

I also went to Bicester Village, the heaven for the high fashion cheap-skates during the holiday.

I went there on the opening day of the British Fashion Council's pop-up store. The shop is inconspicuous compared to the big bad signs of Dolce & Gabbana and Burberry alike. Blink and you'll miss it!

As I stepped into the shop, I could feel my credit card twitching in my purse. BFC has promised 50% reductions on almost all merchandise from Mark Fast, Erdem, Jean-Pierre Braganza and many more.

I had my eyes fixed on the Mark Fast skirt that I moaned about a few editorials back. An embroidered piece from Erdem was worth an investment too.

Mark Fast, Mark Fast... I squinted my

eyes as I walked past rails and rails of clothes. There was no Mark Fast! What a con!

Then a helpful shop assistant came to my rescue. It turned out that Mark Fast's garments have just arrived earlier that morning, and they remained in the back, unboxed.

I described my dream skirt. Miraculously, the man agreed to go to the back and do a quick ransack for me!

Although the skirt was non-existent, a dress variation was available for purchase. I gingerly took the dress in my arms, petting it. My imagination had perfected the dress in so many dimensions... I was looking for a silky and soft texture. The reality was more of a rough, strawy sensation. I was still electrified, nonetheless.

The size 0 phenomenon hit home in the fitting room. I can barely fit my thighs into the dress. The dress was so tiny that I wonder how many women in real life can manoeuvre into it with ease and grace?

The Erdem rail was disappointing too. But I was assured by the staff that the designers send in new stock every week, that I should keep coming back. Shame I live about 100 miles away.

As I left the shop disappointed, the credit card breathed a sigh of relief. It has survived another battle.

# Rid of the stress pimples

Kawai Wong

**N**o one likes facial indicators, especially when they are stress induced and flare in a raffish crimson colour plus the formidable pus.

Many assail these unsightly spots with an antediluvian regime – anti-blemish face wash, scrubs, benzoyl peroxide creams, toothpaste...

I have experienced the cherry blossom before and I know that having acne can feel like a debilitating disease. Fortunately, I have found a regime that works for me. So if you are a step short of applying sulphuric acid, read on.

It is common knowledge that acne is caused by blocked pores. This is caused by the a toxic cocktail of sebum and dead cells. The most common home treatment is to engage with a harsh cleansing soap, as well as abstaining from moisturisers.

But the myth is true: the more hydrated your skin is, the less your skin produces natural grease to prevent water loss.

Adopt a mild cleansing routine. Strangely enough, a mild water-based hand moisturiser works best.

Work a dollop of the moisturiser - plus a dash of water - on your face as you normally would with a face wash. The dirt is dissolved in the hydrophobic part of the moisturiser. Then, rinse until the skin feels fresh. Blot dry with a clean hand towel.

Using this method, the taut skin after a wash is replaced with a supple and comfortable feeling. Try Vaseline's Aloe Vera Intensive Care Body Lotion.

The skincare sequence is normally wash, tone and moisturise. If you have breakouts, skip toner altogether. As toners are not wiped away after application, the tiniest stimulant can result in angry eruptions. This is because toners usually contain alcohol – the primary stimulant in cosmetics and

skincare products.

Finally, moisturising is not to be skipped. This helps to manage the excess secretion of sebum. The epitome of a good moisturiser is one that leaves no 'sticky residue'.

Any greasy or plasticky trail that is left on your skin will clog pores. Garnier's Daily Regenerating Moisturiser is a soft water-based moisturiser that contains essential elements for your skin.

Its formula is simple and leaves your skin looking mattified and clear.

If you're willing to push the boat out, Chanel's Hydramax+ Active Serum gives you all the moisture you need for the day.

If you have access to an aloe vera plant, apply a thin layer of its jelly content as a face mask. Leave it on for 15 minutes.

Aloe vera has remarkable hydrating complexes that will leave your skin immediately hydrated and refreshed. Rinse off the excess residue with water and dry with hand towel.

VASELINE  
ALOE VERA  
BODY LOTION  
£2.45/200ML



Use this hand lotion as a facewash. The remarkable ingredients dissolve dirt and grease, leaving your face feeling clean and comfy.

GARNIER  
REGENERATING  
MOISTURISER  
£8.99/50ML



This light moisturiser doesn't leave any trail of residue on your face. The hydrating ingredients leave your face feeling mattified all day.

CHANEL  
HYDRAMAX  
ACTIVE  
SERUM  
£56/30ML



This intense moisturising serum has a few new patent on its ingredient list. The active moisturising complex will satisfy the driest of skin.

## Bust exam stress in style

Exams are here and stress is riding high. Here are **Saskia Verhagen's** ways to de-stress.

### Stay active



Even though time is scarce and many feel compelled to revise instead of sleep, the building up of excess stress can reduce your mental flexibility.

Rid of those stiff shoulder muscles by doing simple stretches at home. If possible, find 15-20 minutes a day to do a quick run, a few sit-ups etc.

Once you sweat it all out, you'll feel infinitely better. Refreshed and energised, you can go for miles longer!

Besides, the serotonin keeps your spirits up. After all, revision can be long and tedious.

### Snacking



Choose energy-rich foods – fresh or dried fruit is just as good as a chocolate hobnob (guilty) but much healthier.

Also, the ridiculous library thermostat plus excessive chocolate intake leads to inevitable spotty study-leave skin.

Head to Snog the Frozen Yoghurt shop near South Kensington station. The friendly milieu and the revitalising frozen yoghurt plus fresh fruits will give you an instant energy boost.

### Dressing



Comfort, comfort, comfort.

Luckily enough, comfort is one of the dominant themes this season. Thanks goes out to Alexander Wang, who has made jersey trousers and high school hoodies forgivable for this very summer.

For me, comfort means plenty of loose-fitting cotton jersey; lots of layers which can be removed or replaced as appropriate for the Saharan climes of the 5th floor or the late-night cold, blustery winds on your walk home.

### Time-out



A couple of hours of doing something you fancy isn't going to make or break your exam result.

Boost your energy by taking a short stroll, doing a few stretches or taking a 15 minutes power nap.

Elena de Cortes, masseuse and aromatherapist, offers discounts for Imperial students at her practice at the Imperial College Health Centre. A little massage does wonders! Refreshed and motivated, you are ready to start work with more energy than before.

### Hydration



All-important – coffee or Red Bull is fine for when you need that quick extra boost, but water is generally what you need to avoid revision-induced headaches and lethargy.

While we're on the topic, use caffeine wisely. The chemical can provide a surge of energy and concentration, but like any drugs it can also give you a comedown. So either continually use the stimulant to sustain that energy level or...

Drink plenty of water!



# Wine and dine under the Pear Tree

Pubs aren't the usual location for **Chris Sim** to have a sit-down meal, though *this* pub may have swayed his opinion

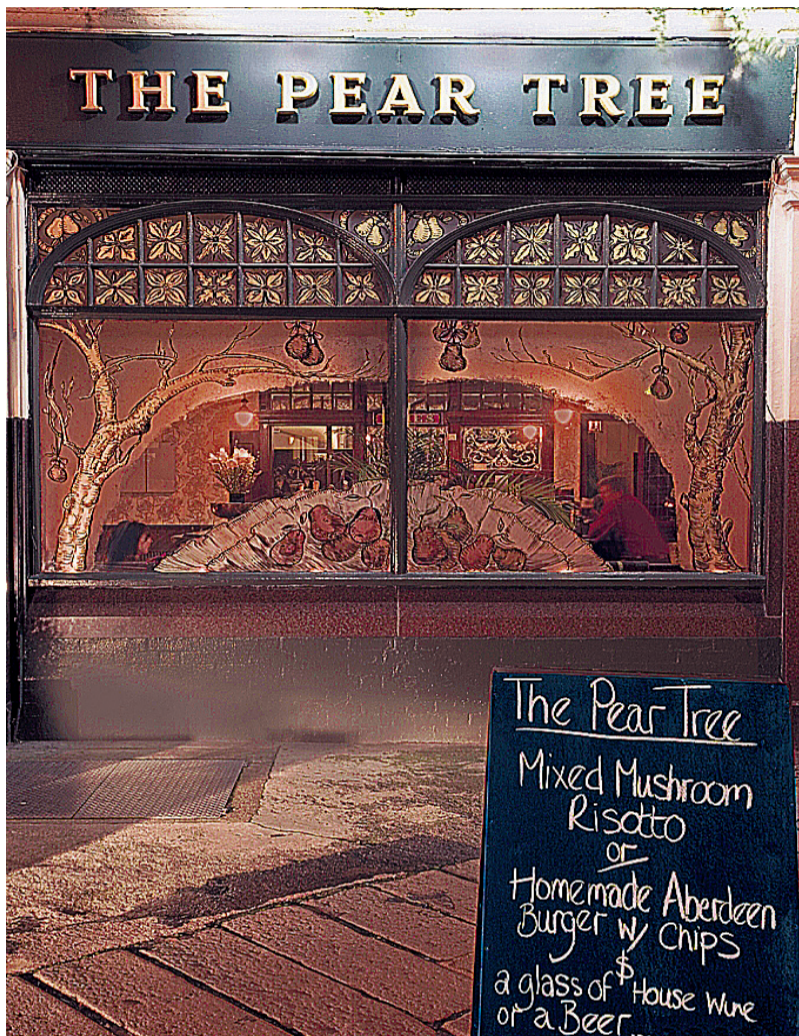
**P**ub dinners. I don't do them that often. Not that I don't like the food. Nor is it that I don't like the atmosphere. It just never occurs to me to deliberately go to a pub for a proper sit-down meal. Combining the two just isn't my usual cup of Earl Grey. Ok, once in a while when a big game is on I'll have some chips with a beer. And yes, I do love the places which do proper hand cut chips complete with skin and all. And once every blue moon I'll have a burger with those fried potato accompaniments. But with gastropubs around London receiving some well deserved praise I thought I'd break this old habit and a visit to a recently renovated pub by the name of The Pear Tree with some serious foodie intentions.

Traditional British pub décor and an absence of pretence were the first things that struck me as I entered, features which agreed well with me. Slightly disappointing though was that our table was situated in the main area of the pub and not the dining area, and whilst one could say this gives an added element of atmosphere to a meal – it meant our conversations had to be conducted at slightly higher volumes.

Pleasingly, the menu is changed regularly by the owners and the dishes on offer appealed not only to those desiring a heavy portion of red meat, but also to those who wish to go for the healthier option of fish or vegetarian dishes. The starters provided a prelude to what was to be a wholly satisfying meal. First

up was a white onion tart with goats' cheese and salad which was probably the pick of the first courses. It possessed a good balance of sweet caramelised tones from the onion, rich buttery notes from the pastry and an injection of saltiness from the cheese. The duck rillettes with salami, red onion marmalade and bread was satisfying but a stronger duck punch was needed to compete with the sweet marmalade. The mussels in a white wine sauce had the right flavour combinations, but the freshness of the shell dwellers was not quite up to standard.

The mains were also of a pleasantly satisfying standard. Their Aberdeen Angus beef burger met my expectations, being full of meaty tones and oozing gorgeous beefy juices, and was also of a size which could actually fit in my mouth without having to crush its environment of fresh bun, lettuce and tomato. Many of the accompanying chips were slightly over-fried; however those that were cooked to perfection possessed a harmonious equilibrium of fluffy centre and crunchy exterior. Also escorted with a side of chips was a sirloin steak with red wine sauce. The quality of the steak itself was of a pretty high standard and, whilst the red wine sauce had a level of richness, it was slightly too sweet. Probably the best main was the salmon fillet with crushed new potatoes, fennel and purple sprouting broccoli. No faults were in evidence here: well cooked potatoes, nicely seasoned vegetables and fresh, perfectly pan fried salmon, though it could have done with a touch more fennel to really



The Pear Tree's welcoming exterior is definitely matched by its cosy interior

bring everything together.

To finish off our meal, a couple of memorable desserts made their way to our table. The home-made banoffee pie had an excellent balance of sweet toffee and banana, held together by the dessert's delicious gooeyness. Even better than this, however, was the chocolate terrine. It was pretty diminutive, but both myself and my diners only needed a small helping to experience the full on, divinely rich chocolate-truffle-esque nature of this dish.

The portion sizes were agreeable for the price, around £5 for a starter, £9-10 for a main and £4 for desserts. We accompanied our meal with a refreshing bottle of Rosé, which, at £15 I thought was quite fair. Service was attentive by pub standards though the courses could have left the kitchen a tad quicker. So to conclude, I feel that the Pear Tree did help me to consolidate those two occasions which are normally separate in my own eyes: a satisfying meal within a pleasant pub setting.

Food: 8.0  
Value: 7.0  
Service: 7.0  
Ambience: 6.5  
**Overall: 7.25/10**

## You'd be surprised how interesting Canarian cuisine can be...

**Chris Sim** definitely did not regret bringing his tastebuds to these much-stigmatised Spanish islands...

**B**efore I left for the Canary Islands, or *Las Canarias* in Spanish, I must admit that I considered leaving my tastebuds at home. So what preconceptions led me to think of such radical action? I thought of Western European tourists choosing to be imprisoned in their hotels or bronzing on the jam-packed beaches. I thought of cultureless bars eroding the Spanish flair and traditions. I thought of classic Spanish cuisine being carelessly adapted to the tastes of other Europeans. This last point, I thought, was surely too unbearable for the sensory organs on my tongue.

Fortunately for my tastebuds, *easyJet* didn't charge extra for bringing them on the three-hour flight to these picturesque islands northwest of the African coast. So I decided to bring them along. And upon leaving the overcrowded tourist zones and delving into the eateries of local Canarians, we were pleasantly surprised by a number of their foodie gems. First to entertain my tongue-mounted companions were what I thought are possibly the most inter-



Papas arrugadas (wrinkly potatoes) with mojo picante (spicy, zingy sauce)

esting potatoes in the world. Known as *papas arrugadas*, or wrinkly potatoes, they are simply seed potatoes (smaller and much sweeter than new potatoes, probably the first type of potatoes brought to Europe from the Americas) slowly boiled, rubbed lightly with sea salt and casually drizzled on with two delightful sauces. The first is *mojo picante*, a slightly spicy sauce containing olive oil, spicy paprika, cumin and lemon juice. Lose the paprika and add some mild coriander, and you've got *mojo verde*. The former can really give a mild heaty kick, while the latter is a fantastic embodiment of fresh flavours. These really do put our everyday roast potatoes to shame. Supremely sweet and fluffy in the middle, salty on the exterior, and when combined with the *mojo* sauces; well, it'll do your 'mojo' a world of good. The next Canarian treat to dazzle my tongue-dwellers was a dessert, appropriately named as *bienmesabe*. It means 'it tastes good to me' and it really did live up to its billing. It presented itself in the form of an almond cream, consisting of Canarian almonds, sug-

ar syrup, cinnamon and egg yolks. Whilst being too rich to eat on its own, its sweetness balanced by the nutty and earthy tones are great when smothered on plain foods like crackers or toast.

And the fun didn't stop there for myself and my symbiotic travel buddies, for we were fortunate enough to visit a Canarian winery, where we were treated to a memorable gastronomic experience. Our meal had too many great dishes to mention, but my favourite was a large plate lined with sashimi-style octopus tentacles, thinly sliced and smothered with extra virgin olive oil, accompanied by the perfect amount of local (much cheaper than the Russian) caviar. The freshness of the octopus was incredible, and its sweet flavour of the sea even more so.

So, after all, I guess my tastebuds were pleased I brought them along. Yours too would also be more than satisfied, but it'll take just a wee bit of extra effort to go out, explore the local towns, villages and countryside and find the real flavours of *Las Canarias*.



## Better than Easter eggs

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

Welcome back strangers, no need to hide away. I know it's a difficult time of year for quite a lot of you, exams and all, so this week I've conjured up a brief 'I've been hiding under a rock revising for a month, what happened' guide for you. Think of it as a little light relief from the tedium of study.

Actually, quite a lot has happened in the weeks of college closure, a surprising amount really. We've had a barrage of Apple news, which seems to be pretty much normal these days, but we've also seen Dell drop a mother load of devices in one leak and Microsoft take its first foray into phone manufacture with the Kin.

The Kin itself is quite interesting because unlike Apple, Palm or RIM, Microsoft is an operating system seller, not a device orientated company. OK, the Kin isn't strictly part of Microsoft's

Windows Phone series, but it's still a phone that Microsoft's selling themselves that could compete directly with their licensee's phones. Google of course is doing the same thing with their Nexus One, but Google isn't selling the OS to its licensees as its open source. You've got to wonder what companies like HTC, Dell and Motorola think about operating system vendors selling their own hardware.

Palm, a company struggling against Android and Apple, was put up for sale during the Easter break. The Pre and Pixie, although decent phones in themselves, hadn't garnered the success needed to put the company back into good financial standing. Although the most likely suitor HTC ruled themselves out of a purchase, HP swooped in and bought Palm late on Wednesday night this week for \$1.2 billion. Let's hope that HP gets the company that arguably started the smartphone revolution back on the winning track.

## Microsoft Kin



Microsoft's Kin One (right) and Kin Two (left) for 'Generation Upload'

Microsoft, not to be left out of the party that was April, announced its first own-brand phones, the Kin One, a square slider and the Kin Two, a more traditional landscape slider. Microsoft's aiming the Kin brand as a separate device category from the recently announced Windows Phone 7, targeted at what Microsoft calls, 'Generation Upload', that's the youth of today apparently. Essentially, the Kin phones are smart-dumbphones, or should that be dumb-smartphones, either way, they've got smartphone like features running on a stripped out smartphone operating system that lacks critical features that define a true smartphone. There are no apps for the Kin; neither does the user have to worry about multitasking or device management. But what the Kin does provide is a streamlined way to get on the mobile web, life stream and connect with friends. The Kin is the product of the Danger purchase that Microsoft made a year or so ago and is the spiritual successor to the T-mobile SideKick.

Both Kin models feature social networking integration with direct pooling and access to Facebook and Twitter built-in. The phone limits automatic updates of your friend's statuses to every 15 minutes, which should allow the Kin to be sold with cheaper data plans. Limiting network access has also allowed Microsoft to give the Kin devices 'weekend battery-life'. Not as impressive as the standard cheap dumbphone week-long battery life, but certainly a lot better than the standard barely-a-day's usage you get out of the current generation of smartphones.

If either Kin pushes your buttons, look for them on Vodafone in the Autumn.

# Easter Highlights - The be

Welcome back all you holidaying Imperialites. I hope you had a refreshing break or as so many of you were revising, your revision went well. It's back to the daily grind from now until the end of the academic year with the summer term punctuated by exams and projects.

But enough of that, what did we miss I hear you cry! Well the month of April held a surprising amount of goings on in the consumer electronics space this year, including a couple of things from Apple, a few tidbits from Microsoft and an absolute deluge from Dell. So without pomp and circumstance, let's get on with it shall we? Roll the press!

## Apple iPad Launch



Apple's iPad, available end of May 2010 in the UK

Whilst you were out, Apple launched a little thing called the iPad. You might have seen our feature on Mr. Job's 'magical' device last term, which was released in its WiFi only form to avid fans across the US on April 3rd. Is it as amazing as all Apple fanboy's hoped and dreamed? Maybe.

The plethora of reviews have certainly been good, but unfortunately the international release of Apple's new market defining device has been pushed back to 'the end of May', with official pricing and availability due to be announced on May 10th. So for the mean time, all I can tell you is what you can read for yourselves in the gazillion reviews that every Tom, Dick and Harry has rushed to publish. It's good, but it doesn't do everything you've always wanted and we're not sure what you'll use it for. Apple put's this delay down to the iPad's unexpected success in the US, with over one million estimated to have been sold since launch.

Of course accessories for the slate device have been popping up left, right and centre from every manufacturer. Some better than others, they range from basic stands to DIY keyboard cases that turn the iPad into a sudo-laptop.

But who's the iPad really for? Well this week there's been a story kicking about the technology press of a woman who's been given back here passion for reading by the iPad, becoming arguably the oldest early adopter ever. The 99 year old woman who's poor eye sight has prevented her from reading books, uses the iPad's sizable and bright text to read again. The perfect computer for your mother then perhaps?

Oh and for those who are interested, Blendtec confirmed it, the iPad will blend, even if you have to cheat a little bit to get it in the blender.

## iPhone



iPhone OS4, the next evolution of Apple's mobile operating system

Whilst the great majority of you were hitting the books, Apple has been quite busy. A week after the iPad release the fruity company sent out invites to an iPhone OS4 event titled 'Get a sneaky peak into the future of iPhone OS'. Now of course, this wasn't really a surprise for those keeping up, but what did strike people in the know was that even though Apple's mobile operating system is now powering three separate devices, the iPhone, the iPod touch and the iPad, it's still called iPhone OS. Still, Apple did its adoring fans proud with a show and release of the developer version of the OS.

Apple changed a lot of things in the iPhone OS, most of them small or not user accessible, but here's what you need to know.

For all intents and purposes it's got 'multitasking'. OK, in truth it's not real multitasking, but on a device with a screen that small, who's going to want to run two full programs side-by-side, if just running the important threads of the program can do the job just fine? The dock has been modified to allow rapid app switching between those running in the background and it's also gotten all 3D on us, just like the Mac OS X dock you know and love. The springboard now has Folders too, so you can bundle apps of your choosing into spring-loaded folders on your home pages. If you've ever used Stacks on Mac OS X you'll know how Folders work. iPhone mail has been upgraded with multiple Exchange profile support and a unified Inbox, plus you can now have wallpapers on your home screen not just lock screen. I bet you've been longing for that ever since you saw the iPhone right? Mr. Jobs also unveiled iBooks for iPhone OS to bring it into line with the iPad, and like



# Best of what you missed over the break

## iPhone OS4



## iPhone OS X based operating system

the Amazon Kindle and iPhone app, it'll sync your reading position between your iPhone and your iPad. Game Center was another big unveil, which is aiming to bring you an Xbox Live-like experience with multiplayer matchmaking, achievements and all the goodies you've come to expect from modern online gaming. Now all they need to do is give the iPhone and iPod touch some more buttons so the control schemes of iPhone games don't suck.

Last but not least Apple took a swipe at Google and its mobile advertising division with the announcement of iAds. Essentially Apple is building an advertising platform directly into its mobile operating system and you're going to love it! OK, I might be exaggerating just a tad here, I'm as sceptical as you as to whether this is actually better for the user, but Apple showed off interactive ads that are unlike anything you've seen before. Let's just hope it doesn't turn the iPhone an ad-riddled mess like the internet has become.

Like previous iPhone OS updates, iPhone OS4 is going to be available as an upgrade for previous iPhone models. The kicker here though, is that original (2G) iPhone owners and iPod touch owners are going to be left out in the cold. iPhone 3G owners are going to get a lot of the newfangledness, but you're going to be missing out on multitasking, wallpapers and some other smaller things. Of course iPhone 3GS and iPod touch 3rd generation users are going to get the whole shebang, but it might cost you, we'll have to wait till closer to the 'summer' launch window to find out. iPad owners/fanciers, you'll get your taste of iPhone OS4 but you're going to have to sit tight till the Autumn. Oh and those living on the wild side will be pleased to know it's already been jailbroken.

## Leaked iPhone Prototype



Apple's iPhone prototype. Could this be the iPhone for you this summer?

Love it or hate it, the iPhone is a pretty big part of the modern smartphone market, and as such is currently the phone to beat. Apple is expected to release a brand new iPhone in the summer, but normally it's legendary culture of secrecy keeps leaks to an absolute minimum, leaving the technology press to rely on assumption and rumour. This month however Apple's vice-like grip slipped and out popped an iPhone prototype. Encased in a custom cover to make it look like an ordinary everyday iPhone 3GS, the iPhone prototype was dropped by an Apple engineer in a bar in California, where it was picked up and promptly sold to Gizmodo for a purported \$5000. When Gizmodo unwrapped the now remote-wiped and non-functional device, they found an iPhone without the curvaceous back of the current generation and a metal strip around it's edges. As you can see in the photo above, the front of the device resembles that of the previous generation, but the rest of the device makes a distinct departure from what's currently available from Apple.



Side-by-side: Grandad iPhone next to new and shiny.

Apart from its looks, Gizmodo discovered that the prototype device was packing a front facing camera, a larger camera lens on the back with an LED flash and a larger battery. The screen itself was marginally physically smaller, but was said to have a much higher pixel density, laying credence to the iPhone HD rumours. The volume rocker had also been replaced with two separate buttons, possibly indicating some sort of dual functionality, a dedicated photo button in the Camera app perhaps. Those of you hoping to slap your current SIM in the next generation iPhone will be sorely disappointed as it seems, just like the iPad, Apple has gone for a micro SIM slot. Don't fret however; all current major iPhone carriers have announced that they'll be supporting the new SIM standard.

Of course this 'find' didn't necessarily have to have been an actual Apple prototype, but its authenticity was confirmed when Apple themselves asked for the device back. Since then the saga of returning the iPhone and now just this week, the Police raid on the Gizmodo Editor Jason Chen's house over the purchase of 'stolen' goods, has raged. What next will unfold and whether we'll see this type of device come July is unknown, but I for one am itching to see the how the rest of this story is going to unfold. Head on over to Gizmodo for full coverage including a blow-by-blow account of how the phone ended up with Gizmodo.

## Dell's Device Deluge

Dell's been pretty busy behind the scenes over Easter and on April 21st, the mother of all leaks landed in the laps of the Engadget crew. In the leak there were details and photos of no less than five previously unknown devices and more detail on two as yet unreleased gadgets. The bounty detailed one Windows Phone 7 device, the Lightning, three Android phones, the Thunder, Flash and Smoke, plus the previously known Aero and a seven-inch Android based tablet called the Looking Glass, which will join the previously detailed Dell Streak Android tablet. Whilst each device has its own merit and target market, let's have a look at the two flagship devices Dell's aiming at your wallet.



Dell's top class entry into the Windows Phone 7 space: the Lightning

So what does the Dell Lightning have in store for us? Well as you can see above it's a pretty slick looking portrait QWERTY slider like that of the Palm Pre, with the required three button Windows Phone 7 control scheme up front. Packing a 4.1 inch WVGA OLED capacitive touch screen, the Lightning is powered by a 1GHz Snapdragon processor, the QSD8250 for those keeping count. Dell saw fit to give Windows Phone 7 512MB of RAM to play with and on the storage front 1GB of built-in flash plus an 8GB of MicroSD, plenty of space for your apps. Of course the Lightning also comes equipped with the usual array of toys including GPS, an accelerometer, a compass, an FM radio, a 5MP autofocus camera and full Flash support. Looking decidedly like a Windows Phone 7 launch device you can look forward to getting your grubby mitts on it in the fourth quarter of this year, with an LTE (read 4G) version scheduled for Q4 of 2011.

If Android is your thing, and let's be honest, Windows Phone 7 has potential but it's starting to look a little outdated even now, and it's not been released yet, then Dell's got lots for you.

The Thunder pictured left does away with the sliding keyboard that defines the Lightning, for a sleeker package. Like the Lightning however, the Thunder packs a 4.1 inch WVGA OLED screen, but the rest of the specifications are a little sketchy at this point. It'll probably be running a similar Snapdragon CPU and storage; however Dell has upped the camera to an 8MP shooter. With Android 2.1 Dell's gone all out on the customization with the device running Dell 'Stage' UI tying into Facebook and Twitter for social networking and using Swype for its onscreen keyboard. It certainly looks classy and has a similar feel to that of HTC's Sense UI.

Dell also claims that it'll have Flash and a Hulu app on the device at launch, not that that's much use to us over here in Blighty. Give us iPlayer, eh Dell?



Dell's Thunder lights-up Android



# Non, rien de rien; je ne regrette rien

If only that's true beyond lyrical idealism – Dylan Lowe embarks on a regret trip into the Saharan desert

**G**rasping the handle and gasping nervously, heroically retaining balance on the saddle as the beast took a tumble down a dune – that ceased to be a concern or a common struggle I felt obliged to be part of. The spot of bother, rather, came when I couldn't quite figure out *5 Down, Shakespearean tragedy (4,4)*.

There can only be so much enjoyment while cruising the desert on a camel before you resort to feigning pleasure, so many strokes and attempts to converse with the animal before realising it couldn't talk and probably wanted you off its back, so much photography before finding nothing other than desolation to capture. It was a mistake – anticipating the camel expedition like some glorified amusement park ride – though it wasn't mine alone: carpet burns, aching scrotums, motion sickness, they were all symptoms of what my fellow excursionists would agree as a case of bad investment.

Yet there we were, sand dominating the terrain and filling our boots, smog enshrouding the Saharan skies and blinding us from a stellar spectacle on the previous evening, I perching on a saddle perplexed over a crossword puzzle I was failing to solve.

So I gave in: "King Lear", said the solutions. I cursed myself for the foolhardiness.

Curious how, like guilt, regrets are the motivation that send people achieving extraordinary things and visiting extraordinary places, if only in a redemptive kind of way. I like travelling with regrets, though in a more innocent manner: finding myself failing to go to a place

I really wanted to visit, and sipping that bile of disappointment, propels me to devote some time and effort in returning to the country for what I have previously missed out. And one shard of regret, of disappointment, had taken me back to Morocco, once again a hitch-hike from London for the charity *Link Community Development*.

It had sprouted a year ago: I was perched on the customer's seat, in a room that never ceased to impart a resemblance to a hospital ward – even in memory – grappled by the figures the travel agent had jabbed into a calculator.

Anna, the *Morocco Hitch* partner as-of-2009, even gave a squeal at the sight of the price tag.

With many more agencies eager to pillage our wallets, which were pretty empty by that stage, the desert excursion didn't quite happen.

This time, though, nothing was going to stop me. Even if it meant leaving

**"Finding myself failing to go to a place I wanted to visit propels me to return to the country for what I have missed out"**

behind Tori, my new hitch partner, and venture into the Sahara among strangers.



We reached base camp after a two-hour ride. The camel stooped as though bowing after a laborious yet lousy performance, whose audience rose from their slumber and feigned a clap or two so as not to hurt the producers' feelings. The Berber nomads, our guides and hosts at the desert camp where we stayed overnight, produced a handshake and goodbye, as each of us descended from the mountainous mass of fabric that insulated the camel's hump, and fled gingerly from the final round of formalities.

That moment felt like an end to my three-day excursion into the Sahara; sure, the full circuit which began/ended in Marrakech didn't conclude until after a 13-hour drive through treacherous terrain – though the landscape did shape like a geological Elysium – in terms of my redemption trip the conclusion was drawn upon the sand the moment I dismounted.

Thus, deliverance. Unshackled, unbounded from a repaid debt. But was I going to get away this time humming *Non, je ne regrette rien* with a clear conscience?

Not exactly.

I couldn't have found a better refuge than under the shade of a grocery store, just off

the car park – secluded, yet enough hype for a small touristic town to distract myself from the soaring temperature and migraine.

And with most people from my tour gone astray and yet to return from the ksar of Aït Benhaddou, a pit stop en route to the Sahara, I wasn't exactly going anywhere.

And with every repetitive throb that pounded against my skull, I felt more and

**"I didn't want to contribute towards an already existent begging culture"**

more susceptible to the minute details of observations I was absorbing, and the sentiments they represented.

I reminisced idle Moroccans by the ksar, or fortified city, touting and hawking, and pondered on ways they could have better made use of their youth.

I remembered the *Lonely Planet* entry claiming that Moroccans regarded

Asians as the most lucrative of nationalities, and lamented that my skin colour wasn't exactly doing me any favours.

I scrutinised the money-grabbing camera posers in traditional clothing, the shopkeepers, tour bus drivers, waiters, tourists, school children; their attire, their mannerism, down to the way they saunter, meander, scuttle –

The girl approached me. I had seen her earlier, an individual inconspicuous among the uniform-clad, backpack-slung children chortling in childly glee. The dramatics that followed was unworldly, *unchildlike*: the smile vanished, shoulders slacked, eyes watered as she steered towards me just as her peers selected and pursued their marks across the park.

And before she could even reach me, she had already extended her empty palm. She may have muttered something pleadingly in French, but the gesture alone was lucid.

I rattled a ritual response.

*La. No.*

*Safi. Enough.*

There was little meaning those two meagre words of Arabic could have conveyed. They were the means to reject a plea and to rid of a nuisance – she did wince a little from the crudeness before



The breathtaking Dadè Gorge



The desert camp at a visually disappointing sunrise



dumping me for a more generous mark – but those weren't what I intended. What I intended, what I could only wish to have done, was to be more considerate.

I wished I had told her that I didn't mean to chastise. I wished I had enquired about her welfare, her studies, and encouraged her to work towards a better future. I wished I had explained how I didn't want to contribute, by doling out the spare change, towards an already existent begging culture, or her becoming a beggar. Above all, considering I'm virtually illiterate in Arabic and French, I wished I had possessed a better understanding of the languages within her grasp, in order to speak the then unspoken words.

But then, I didn't wish. I regretted.

The High Atlas had a way of unfolding its life story, one rock formation at a time, as though the mountain ranges were playthings of nature. The heaps of stone it constructed, and the landslides where it had trampled on like a sandcastle disfavoured. The technicolour outcrops as canvases upon which it had crayoned and painted. Riverbeds the trail of rubble it had left behind as it frolicked, layers of bedding blankets it had unfurled and crinkled. Tears it shed on the boulders, boring and eroding them into the peculiarity the locals have affectionately named 'The Hand of Fatima'. The Dadé valley and gorge gouged out of a boyish rage.

The van took another bend uneasily as it raced towards Marrakech against nightfall. My gaze remained apathetically fixed on what lied beyond the window.

I was reading the geology like a book. A children's book of unspeakable mischief.

It was then when I was hit by an unsettling feeling.

Ultimately, I had failed my purpose as a traveller.

I had failed to read the people.

I had betrayed my humanity when many more children swarmed us with pleas and open palms, as we stopped by

**Clockwise from top: the ksar of Aït Benhaddou; camel train across sand dunes; signs advertising for Berber carpet shops; the road to Tamddakhte; the mud-brick mellah, or Jewish quarters, now inhabited by Berber families**



the dilapidated Berber quarters of a small town. I sent them away with scorns, with enough phrases of the lingo to banish them back to the slums they belonged. I failed to understand them. Especially

**"...my ignorance of a place was simply replaced by my ignorance of the people"**

when, as I sneaked a glance before my entourage exited the mud brick ghetto, the beggars transformed back to their natural juvenile form, seemingly immune to our aloofness.

For all my fondness and fascination for the Moroccan people and culture, my experience with them during the excursion didn't exactly leave me singing praises. Somehow I felt mistreated by my driver, who would happily charge us for every piece of information that parted his lips; I felt disappointed by the camel tour guides, whose drum beats in a fleeting

soiree couldn't be more short of enthusiasm, whose dialogues couldn't lack more warmth and sincerity.

For we were investors of rehearsed theatrics and, not only that we didn't pay for it, we expressed no interest in taking the backstage tour.

If only my French was up to scratch, my Arabic sufficient to propel a conversation. If only the way I acted had been less detached, and more like that attitude that have me welcomed, time to time, to the hospitality that Moroccans are famed for, that I have received with gratitude.

If only I could cry 'No, I have no regrets' to the heavens and not be struck down by accusations of hypocrisy.

Sensually, it had been a fantastic journey: my appetite for natural beauty and action had been utterly quenched. It was by no means closure since, stepping out of the van into the hectic nightlife of Marrakech, I now bore the burden of a damaged conscience for my ignorance of the people that simply replaced my ignorance of a place. Thus, which might one day bring me back to Morocco once again if I must sprinkle some optimism onto the wound, was what I got out of the desert excursion – a regret.

Though let's not forget about that damned carpet burn that bugged me for many days to come.



## Eyjafjallajoek... say what?

Dylan Lowe Travel Editor

**B**onjour and welcome back to what is widely regarded as the most dreaded semester of the year. Best of luck to you all for the exams you must endure, past and future; just try not to die of caffeine overdose.

Depressing stuff aside, hope you've all had a wonderful Easter break. And may I extend my congratulations to those who successfully hitchhiked to Morocco/Prague – 36 of you from the London region and some 1500 across the UK – many of which I had the privilege to meet along the way. A massive thank you on behalf of *Link Community Development* for your fundraising efforts as well.

And speaking about the Easter holidays, can there be a bigger scandal in the tourism industry than that triggered by a little bit of geological activity?

It has been estimated that, with more than 100,000 flights grounded, over 10 million passengers worldwide were left stranded throughout the six-day airport closures.

Inconvenient, to say the least – what had set out as a leisurely break acidified for those who had to squander hours for a futile wait, had to seek alternative methods of transport (should have hitchhiked, people), had to spend extra cash during an extended, now bitter stay at their holiday destination.

For some, however, it wasn't merely exams that were missed and work left unattended.

Hundred of Britons are now reported to be caught up by the civil unrest that had stirred up in Bangkok. With 27 people killed so far and many more injured amid the anti-government protests, holidaymakers who obviously no longer took pleasure in staying, besieged the airport as they attempt to secure flights back home. Such was the desperation that travellers are prepared to employ deception to get prioritised over the rest

of those who are stranded, states *BBC News*.

'Rescue attempts' have been mounted to bring stranded Britons home, especially when many other services, including the Eurostar and ferry firms, are completely sold out.

My personal favourite was the short-lived rescue effort set up by the TV presenter and historian Dan Snow, who planned to travel across the English Channel with a fleet of speedboats. As well as running a ferry service throughout the day, his intentions included paying tribute to the 70th anniversary of the Dunkirk evacuation.

Three boats and 25 passengers later, the endeavour was prematurely shut down by French officials for no apparent reason.

BAA has estimated a £28m loss as a result of the volcanic ash, with the total cost to the airline companies and tour operators estimated to be between 1.5 to 2.5 billion euros by the European Commission.

The effects of the Eyjafjallajökull eruption are by no means a thing of the past: its blow to the aviation industry, described to be a 'logistical nightmare' by a contributing editor of *Airliner World*, will take much more to resolve than the lifting of the air space ban. The disruption of intricately-designed flight schedules, crew management, fixed operation costs, not to mention the tsunami of claims by estranged passengers over expenses and cancelled flights: a crippling effect to an already struggling industry.

And with airlines such as *Ryanair* expressing reluctance in paying passengers' hotel and food bills, and *British Airways* alleged to be preferring new passengers over those with existing yet delayed bookings – much to the outrage of the general public – their financial desperation was pretty transparent.

Which reminds me: I'm meant to book my flight ticket to New Zealand this afternoon. Heh, wish me luck.



Photograph of the week

**'Parc de Montjuïc'**  
by Robin Andrews, 4th Year MSci Geology w/ Year Abroad

A fiery sunset over Barcelona, seen from the top of Parc de Montjuïc, taken in April of this year.

Submit your photographs of the week to [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)



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## Death By Revision Or Chocolate?

Is it bad that I know all the computers in the Library by name?  
Second Year Medic

I ate so many easter eggs, it was bliss! Then I remembered I'm lactose intolerant and chundered everywah.  
First Year Engineer

This degree better be worth it. I can't remember what the sun looks like...it's green, right?  
Third Year Biochemist

## Drunken-Mate Photo Of The Week



Got a picture of your mate being an absolute waste of oxygen? Well, get your camera out and email your drunken mates to [catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

Picture the scene: It's the Easter Break, you're away with your mates, and you're all chillaxing with nothing to do. A bottle of wine is opened, the first of many. Suddenly, in a drunken haze, your feelings overcome you and you are filled with a burning passion. You turn to your friend and whisper, "Do you want to play snooker?"

Senders must have permission to use submitted photos and accept full responsibility for them

## Overheard At Imperial...

Is your life so dull you're eavesdropping on others? Post your listenings on the "Overheard at Imperial" facebook group

Some say a world without sin is ideal, but I disagree. After all, there's only so many problems which can be answered with cos and tan. – Anon.

I was at Kings last night...and there were girls! Girls everywhere! And pretty girls! – Imperial Lonely Hearts.

A: What is mumps?

B: It's when you get swelling in your balls.

A: Oh.

B: But not if your a girl. – Medics know their Anatomy!

So for it to pass to humans, these people would have to have been very intimately involved with the birds. – A Lecturer on Bird Flu.

A: So what are your plans for the Easter holidays?

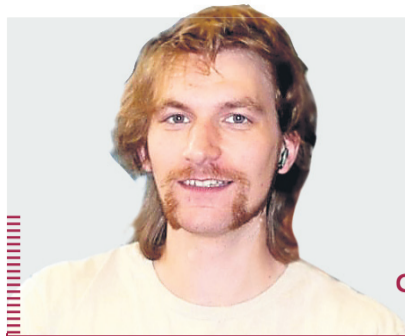
B: I'm probably going to go the Library.

A: Oh wow! Is it a weekend trip? Who are you going with? – A Medic and an Engineer.



# COFFEE BREAK

Coffee Break Editor Charlie Murdoch  
coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Good luck? F\*ck off?

Charlie Murdoch Coffee Break Editor

Before I go off into my weekly rant I have to state that the censorship still rages here at *felix*. Twats. Oh yeah, and hello, hope you had a good break. Now we're done with all the pleasantries, lets get down to business. For most of us this business will be sitting hunched over a book desperately trying to revise, or more often than not, learn the endless prose that your lectures continually interrupted your sleep with. Unless of course you happen to be in the library, then you'll probably be sweating like a paedophile in Mothercare. Can they really not cool that place down?

Back to the point. Once you've conducted this Captain Scott standard epic into the world of nanoconductors, people still feel the need to wish you good luck. This gets on my tits. Well, if I had any it would, and the likelihood of that happening is ever increasing. In a deep, heavily scientifically based conversation with a certain Mr. Philpott on the subject of oestrogen, he managed to use all his four years of Imperial College tuition to pronounce the fact that oestrogen "gives you women stuff, like

tits." Your parents will be proud.

I digress. The phrase 'good luck', whilst having the best intentions of the recipient in mind is basically bullshit. What does it even mean? Really have a think about it, because as you go off to your exam, luck isn't going to change the paper, luck isn't going to make you remember that vital equation, luck is going to do f\*ck all to be honest. This world we find ourselves in is not about luck. True they say 'you make your own luck', but that's made by hard work. They also say 'shit happens'. If come your next exam you find yourself forced to check the front cover of the paper to check you are in the right exam because it's going that badly, 'shit happens'. If you've done all the revision you can, then well, it wasn't meant to be; 'shit happens'. Don't get hung up on it. Have a pint, listen to Cat Stevens, whatever floats your boat.

'Good luck' is bollocks. It's become an instant reply to the word 'exam'. If you're just trying to be nice, just offer out jelly beans or a coffee. Everyone loves jelly beans. And if you've pissed about the whole year, well son, you are a prize tosser and... Good luck.

## FUCWIT League Table

<b>Teams:</b>	
Harry Potter Trio	251 Points
The Tough Brets	148 Points
The Cool Kids and Fergal	40 Points
<b>Individuals:</b>	
Matthew Colvin	193 Points
Sheryl	186 Points
Kelvin Wong	111 Points

The Felix University/ College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is new and improved, with an iPod nano for both the team and the individual with the most points at the end of the year.

5 points for the 1st correct answers for all puzzles on these pages, 4 points for 2nd, 3 points for 3rd, 2 points for 4th and 1 point for 5th.

Now then FUCWITs, answers to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk). Go!

## Etymology

Technical term meaning: 'word origin/ history'.

This new section proved itself to be very popular. Our inbox was overwhelmed with etymology requests. With a large number of readers coincidentally all suggesting I should research the word 'dictionary'. I felt the term was too obscure however and so will not be including it. However its definition makes it a perfect candidate name for the book of word meanings that, as I mentioned last week, we've been compiling in order to make us enough monies to escape the *felix* office.

[We didn't realise, when we decided to take on this *abominable* job (we love it really), just how hard it'd be to make monies by selling our newspaper at the competitive price of 0 penny.]

So we've added it to the list, where it joins 'The *felix* Book of Words and Their Associated Meanings Presented in Alphabetical Fashioning', 'The Big Book of the Wordier Words You May Not Know Yet', and 'Words (And What They Mean)'. At the moment it has the merit of being the most concise option.

### ABOMINABLE (adj.)

Describes a situation (or a catalyst thereof) that is as bad as having an armed explosive device in the stomach of a live male bovine. Originates in a village newspaper article documenting an occurrence of this very event in a local farmer's field, though there is no evidence of main media interest to corroborate this story. No one died. Except the bull and an old woman in a wheelchair who was going to die soon anyway so neither counts.

If you have a word whose origin you're interested in, send your request to us at [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk).

Quote of the Week

Thomas Edison: "Restlessness and discontent are the necessities of progress."

## Wordoku Solutions

Am	U	Th	Np	Cm	Ac	Pu	Bk	Pa
Cm	Bk	Ac	Pu	Am	Pa	Th	Np	U
Pu	Pa	Np	Th	U	Bk	Am	Ac	
Th	Ac	Pu	Am	Pa	Np	Bk	U	Cm
Pa	Cm	Bk	Ac	Th	U	Np	Pu	Am
Np	Am	U	Bk	Pu	Cm	Pa	Ac	Th
Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk
U	Pu	Cm	Pa	Bk	Am	Ac	Th	Np
Bk	Np	Am	Cm	Ac	Th	U	Pa	Pu

S	A	N	O	I	D	C	T	I
I	I	D	T	C	N	A	S	O
T	O	C	S	I	A	D	N	I
O	N	I	D	T	I	S	C	A
D	T	I	C	A	S	I	O	N
C	S	A	N	O	I	T	I	D
A	C	T	I	N	O	I	D	S
I	D	O	I	S	T	N	A	C
N	I	S	A	D	C	O	I	T

Intermediate Winner: Sheryl  
Evil Winner: Harry Potter Trio  
Last issue's Wordoku mistake: Multiple Intermediate solutions do to the highlighted accidental omission.

What?! No Wordokus this week? But there's ALWAYS a Wordoku? Well tough, I have exams for a few weeks so you get Arrow Maze instead.

## Arrow Maze 1,459

1	→	↓	↓	↓	↖	↓
↖	↖	→	→	↖	↓	38
26	→	↖	41	11	↖	↖
→	↖	→	↓	↖	24	↖
↖	↖	↑	↖	↓	↑	↑
4	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	←
↑	→	↖	43	↖	←	49

How to play: Fill all the squares with numbers to form a path from 1 to 49, such that the arrow under each number points to the square containing the number one greater (except for 49 obviously, which has no arrow, being the end of the path).

Hints: 26 is pointed to by three arrows but only one of them is pointing *only* at 26, so *this* square must be 25. The square immediately right of 4 is only pointing to one square so can temporarily be labelled 'A' and the square it's pointing to can be labelled 'A+1'. Now we no longer consider 'A+1' as a destination for other arrows.

## Wordpath 1,459

ORIGIN:  
**FELIX**  
DESTINATION:  
**PAPER**

### How to play:

Make a path from the origin word to the destination word by taking steps between words using one of the three following methods:

**Letter Substitution:** Substitute just **one** letter.

e.g. WORDS -> WARDS

**Anagram:** Rearrange the letters.

e.g. WORDS -> SWORD

**Wordslide:** Replace the current word with a new 5 letter word from any 6+ letter word that contains them both.

e.g. WORDS -> CROSS (via CROSSWORDS)

No consecutive steps may be made by the same method.

e.g. WORDS -> WARDS (by LS) -> WARES (by LS) would be **invalid**.

Points are awarded for the earliest SHORTEST valid path between the two words. Dubious words will be checked against the OED. Send your solutions to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk).

### Solution 1458

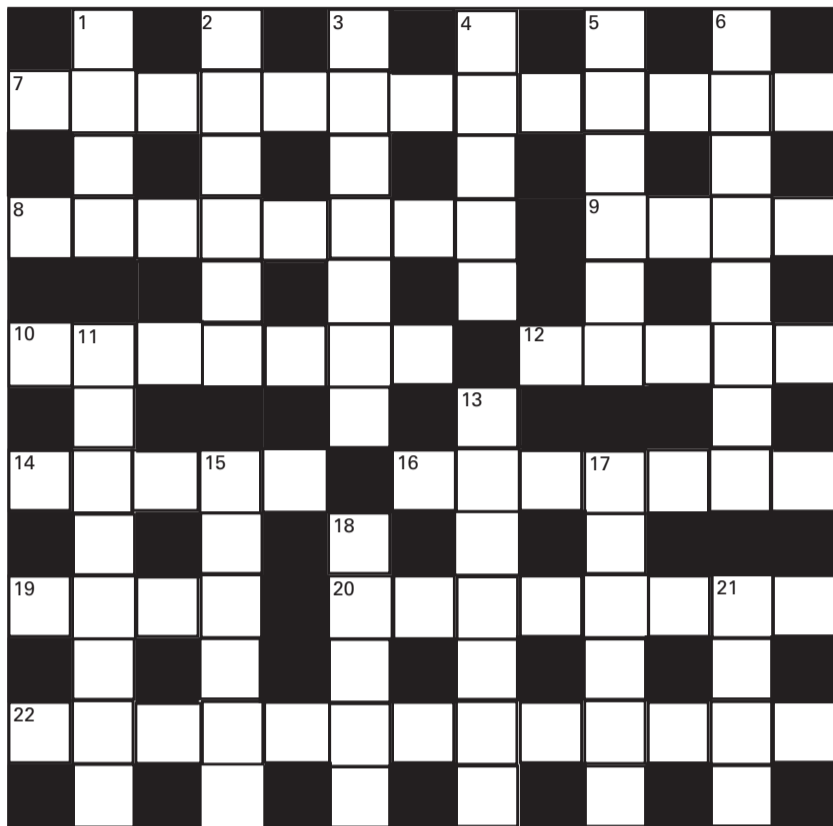
NULL  
ABLE via  
ANNULABLE  
ABLY (LS)  
VOID via  
AVOIDABLY

Winner of last issue was **Team Dirty Medics**. Well done, keep those answers coming in. We have a five letter puzzle this week.

### Scribble box



# A quickie (crossword) 1,459



## ACROSS

- 7 Viva recession! (anag.) (8,5)  
 8 "Fucking terrible!" / "Absolutely wank!" / "Completely shite!" (3-5)  
 9 'Bookish' type (4)  
 10 Weirdo (7)  
 12 "Everything on black!" (3,2)  
 14 Money/goods brought by bridge in marriage (5)  
 16 Tramp around unwillingly (7)  
 19 What Roger McGuinn was? (tweet!) (4)  
 20 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>C. built universities (8)  
 22 Physics of the very small (7,6)

## DOWN

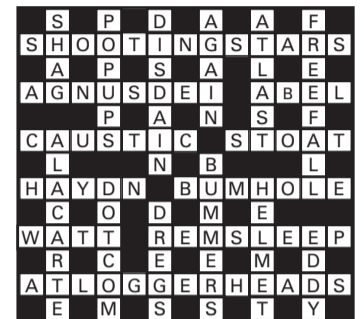
- 1 Mafia boss (4)  
 2 Baking soda (6)  
 3 Air-filled eggy pudding (7)  
 4 Wobbly-wobbly pudding (5)  
 5 Aromatic herb/plant/bulb/seed (6)  
 6 (Typically paranoid) robo-man (8)  
 11 Greek God (Bacchus in Ancient Rome) (8)  
 13 Scholarly (7)

- 15 Small buck-toothed mammals (6)  
 17 Serial (anag.) (6)  
 18 19<sup>th</sup>C. Austrian pioneering "motherlover" (5)  
 21 Bang on (like a fish?) (4)

Well done to last week's winner **Sheryl**. Make sure you get those answers in as soon as you pick the paper up. To be honest they needn't even be correct, it's unlikely that I'd notice. Well, back to revision.

Crossword by **Peter Logg**

## Solution 1458



## Scribble box

# Swallow-scopes: Horoscopes but it's your birthday...

... and you're a keen bird-watcher. What were you thinking of? Bloody perves, the lot of you. Read on, then....



## Aquarius

It's nearly midnight and you've basically wanked yourself into a coma. You're friends are still doing their finals and you

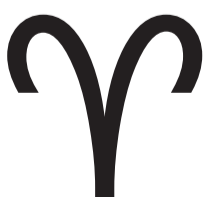
can't wait for them to finish. Turns out all your friends decided to celebrate without you. Well, give yourself another half hour and another two minutes of porn, and you'll be trapped in your dirty but boring cycle of comatosed wank.



## Pisces

Something is hurting down there, but you can't figure it out. It's been painful ever since you finished that

internship with UBS. You wake up one night to find a cucumber slowly excavating itself out your body. Them banker types are weird, ain't they? I WANNA BE THEM!



## Aries

You know it's a bad night when you've had to come out to your parents and in the same night they catch you dressing up

your blow-up sex doll in a kimono. I mean, Asian boys don't even wear kimonos, it's women's attire. You're a confused little boy, my son. Now GET THE FUCK OUT MY HOUSE.



## Taurus

You've just spent your entire Easter playing Angry Birds on your iPhone and you have finals in two days.

When you heard of the volcano postponing exams your heart lept like it did when you had that near fatal heart attack. It's exam day and all you've done is drawn bad sketches of exploding birds in response to a timed essay question.



## Gemini

Sadly your love life is up the shitter. You've woken up with your own jizz on your face. You've gotta see someone about that whole

sleep-auto-oral pleasure thing. But at least now the weather's picking up and you can try telling people its sun cream when you finally leave your dingy room, that is.



## Cancer

You wake up and you've got several cigars and a fat chick next to you. You check if she's naked. She's not. Phew. You check

if you're naked. You are. You roll over to find a small ambiguous farm animal in bed too. It's dressed in your clothes. At least it partially is. It looks kinda silly in your skinny jeans, it does.



## Leo

You've been poking around on the FOIL group on Facebook. The creator is all 'ironic' and stuff, but

then you realise he's just a sad little boy crying out for attention, and inordinate amounts of pussy. You can hear his cries from the other side of Marble Arch. You feel sympathy for him, but then all those FOILs are true, aren't they?



## Virgo

So.....it's a nice day isn't it? ..... Yeeeee..... my weekend was fine..... going on holiday soon.....hope

the weather's going to be better there.. Bloody Britain, eh? With their terrible weather..... layers, gotta wrap up in layers here in the UK..... Ohhh! This is my floor, BYE.



## Libra

LOOK! That is the last time I tell you. Your birthday is no excuse to go dogging for a night. Firstly, you don't have a f\*cking car, just

a shitty old Vespa. It's lights don't even work, how are you going to signal for some rumpy-pumpy? I just used the term 'rumpy-pumpy', didn't I? Fuck it, let's go dogging.



## Scorpio

Imperial Fitfinder? Isn't that just the most displaced social network utility, like...ever? It's basically a website where mentally-disabled

people try and believe their outlook on life isn't mentally-disabled. The evidence shows otherwise. *Busty brunette, Sci Fi Library, on the bean bags at 2AM. Gorgeous. You wear your name tag, it says "BARRY" on it. Weird name for a girl.....Oh.*



## Sagittarius

I heard all greasy bastards are Sagittarius, so here goes. It's getting warmer now, and yes, T-shirts are allowed. But, for the sake of

mankind, please have a wash, use some deodorant before you leave your squalid house. Put down the Gundam figurines, and pick up a can of Lynx. Give yourself a good spray - pretend it's Lv. 57 life elixir.



## Capricorn

You decide to go hitchhiking and you get picked up. He's a dirty lorry driver and anally rapes you. Turns out

he's got leprosy too and his penis snaps off inside you. Well done, at least you've got a 100% organic butt plug now. You sell the idea to Whole Foods and they fucking love it. £2.99. Pint?



# Hangman

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## An invitation to break Britain a little bit more

Hangman gets half-way to summing up its official party manifesto

Seeing as we have decided that all of our options for voting in the General Election will most likely end us up with a completely incapable fool in charge of the country, not to mention the fact that voting gives you cancer (see Daily Mail's list of things that give you cancer - it's been recently updated), Hangman has decided to run for election within the Kensington constituency. Unfortunately, although we applied to join in the with the televised Leaders' Debate, we were rejected, with various different media establishments citing the problem as the fact one of our leader's aides was ginger. He's apparently desiccate within seconds under the studio lighting. Fair do's, we said. We sacked him and still couldn't get TV airtime, so we thought we'd like to some of our best policies here:

Burqa-wearing has had a lot of bad press recently, what with people trying to get it banned in public places and civil service jobs etc... We find this type of discrimination appalling, and so should you. We intend to tackle this issue accordingly. I agree with Nick, when he says we need more policemen on the streets. Policemen under the Hangman government will take on the new role of 'Ugly Patrol'. Their job will be to enforce a strict 'Non-Ugly Policy', a law which will be passed as soon as possible. This will involve the compulsory darkened material covering those who's facial features are just plain offensive to the rest of the world. All people with a BMI of 25+ will also be fined for every calorie they eat and be required to wear large cardboard boxes instead of clothes. The boxes typically found next to households that have recently purchased a new fridge-freezer unit. We already have support from various members of the Tory party on this issue; David Cameron agrees with this policy, adding 'When I was on my gap yaaaah there were some terribly ugly people in Tanzaniaah.' It has also been reported he "chundered everywhere" in sight.

Another policy close to our hearts is the issue of immigration. Our immigration policy is perhaps not as strict as other parties', in the sense that we're not going to limit the number of people who are allowed to move to the UK to live and work. We're not going to impose testing for English language skills, or a points-based system to allow only skilled workers to enter the country. Instead, all immigrants will have to enter the country via the delightful city of Hull. Here they can spend some time with the pregnant chavs, catch a few STIs and possibly develop a heroin

(right) Hangman's Manifesto:

The red symbolises our commitment to socialist totalitarianism while the scribbles indicate our designer's lack of effort



addiction. Their media and TV exposure will be limited to watching Jeremy Kyle, reading The Sun newspaper, with the weekly treat of the Eastenders omnibus. They can learn from experience what the UK is really like, and after a month's trial period, be given the option to go back to their war-torn home.

When the Hangman Party comes to power (we will), we plan to scrap educational testing such as SATs, GCSEs and A-levels in favour of the new Wikipedia Proficiency Test. We, as a party, believe that a Wikipedia knowledge-based economy will put us top in the world for inaccuracy and hilarious jokes that moderators have missed.

We hope to reduce the national debt by re-instating the debt owed by 18 African countries. At the G8 summit, some idiot didn't check his crystal ball for future recessions and foolishly cancelled all Third World debt. Fucking billions of quids there. They owe us £22bn in total, but ample time will be allowed; we will give them until 23.59 May 7th 2010 to repay their debts. I know we said we weren't bothered, but we kind of need it back now.

We don't want to become a nation of ponytail mullet-wearing Greek people now, do we?

Vote Hangman, because life's shit and we want to make it shitter.

44

The number of times Nick Griffin has tried to grow facial hair 'like Charlie Chaplin' and told to shave it off again

75%

According to a YouC\*nt poll, 75% of voters like to see Gordon Brown's prolapsed anus fed to a hedgehog

53

The number of ordinary people that David Cameron has met during this election, which brings his lifetime total up to 56



## TWITTER

[SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87](#)

ffs. jus calld some old bitch a 'bigot', thort i gt away wiv it, but ossie rigged me up with a mic!

[Cameron\\_DA\\_Maneron!!!](#)

trololololol. nt gna win now are, we gor? but srsly, wer do thse east-europens cum frm?!1

[SexyOsama69](#)

JOKEZZZ! got u!!! ur both losing neway. told u democracy was a waste of tiem. wanna me to nuke nick clegg lol?

[Barack\\_attack\\_133thaxor](#)

every1 iz sayin' this clegg mofo is da new barack obama. hes not evn black!

[SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87](#)

fuck dis. new i shouldnt av told tony i wanted to be PM. dis is all Sue's fault.

## New research shows that 'Fuck Our Imperial Lives' is "whiniest facebook group ever"

**The David Tennant of Hangman: gone but better**

In a paper to be published in the Lancet next week, new research has shown that the amount of whining, bitching and moaning on the "Fuck Our Imperial Lives" (FOIL) Facebook group is 300 times the normal amount.

This startling discovery has given significant weight to critics of the group who have said that its members need to "get some fucking perspective."

Joe Schnitzel, the author of the paper, said, "We accounted for a variety of different factors, for example we normalised our results to account for exam time stress and depression. But the levels of whining were still well above normal."

Common gripes posted on the Facebook group include moaning about the number of exams coming up and one student even complained that they "Should've gone to Kingston."

"I don't want to pass judgement on individuals," Mr Schnitzel said, "but they sound like a bunch of pussies. Well, more than a bunch; more like 829 pussies. That's a lot of pussy. Mmm."

In response to the group, Imperial College's Health Centre is taking extra



Latest research shows that Goldsmiths isn't 'cool' - it's just that students there complain less

steps to ensure that Imperial students don't get too worried or upset during the exam period. The new measures are said to include: A weekly trip to East London, speed-dating events in the JCR and in extreme cases, encouraging students to "man up", quit their "jibber-jabber" and "pity the fools" who didn't get into university.

# Measuring your heart rate - the Suunto way

Ali Al Ramahi Energia Instructor

Did you know your heart rate can be used as an accurate way of measuring your exercise intensity and is an extremely useful tool in monitoring your progress to reach your training goals?

There are many types of heart rate monitoring devices available but here at Ethos we have the latest up to date technology, the Suunto Fitness Solution. The Suunto Fitness solution works by simply strapping a belt across your chest and as you enter the gym or studio and start exercising an electromagnetic signal is sent to the Suunto POD receiver and your heart rate will be displayed on the screen or projector.

Once you have got your heart rate monitor belt it can only be beneficial to you if you understand the heart rate readings you get when you are exercising and also knowing what the limits are. With the Suunto solution this is all done for you. The Suunto system calculates your Heart Rate Zones and also calculates your Training Effect.

Making sure you are exercising in the correct Heart Rate Zones will improve your progression at that particular intensity and enable you to achieve maximal results. It is also a good way of keeping you on track and maintaining motivation to keep up your aerobic exercise sessions. The different exercise zones help specify the best Heart Rate Zones for you to train in and therefore enhance your fitness and Training



Effect.

Zone 60 – 70% helps develop basic endurance and aerobic capacity. It can also help you lose weight by fat burning which is when your fat provides some of the total energy you need to keep going. This is most beneficial when exercising for a duration of 40 minutes plus. The longer you exercise at this intensity the more fat you will use up for energy. If the intensity of exercise is increased then the fat contri-

but ion will decrease.

Zone 70 – 80% will help develop your cardiovascular system. This is the body's ability to transport oxygen to the working muscles and transport carbon dioxide away from the working muscles. As you get fitter you will improve your aerobic capacity.

Zone 80 – 90% will help to develop your lactic acid system and find out your anaerobic threshold. During this zone the amount of fat being used as

energy is greatly reduced and the glycogen stored in your muscles is used. One of the waste products of burning glycogen is lactic acid which builds up in the working muscles.

Your anaerobic threshold is the point where your body cannot remove lactic acid from the working muscles quickly enough. There is only a certain amount of lactic acid, which the muscles can tolerate before fatigue and soreness sets in and the exercise must

be stopped. You can delay the onset of fatigue through correct training of the lactic acid system and you may be able to increase your tolerance to lactic acid build-up.

Zone 90 – 100% is only possible for short periods of time and can help to develop speed by training your fast twitch muscle fibres.

Only the very fit are able to train effectively within this zone. It is recommended you seek advice about the correct way to train in this zone due to the risks associated with high heart rates.

When you are complete your workout and you take your belt off, the system creates a summary of your workout including energy consumption and your Training effect results.

Making sure you are achieving the correct Training Effect will improve your progression and help you achieve your exercise goals. It will help keep you on track and maintain your motivation during exercise sessions. This is all done using the Suunto Fitness Solution so you no longer have to worry about whether you are doing enough in your training sessions and if your current exercise sessions have actually been making a difference to you. You should also now have an idea of what intensity you should be training at for certain results.

Next time you are in the Energia gym speak to one of the personal trainers and get yourself a belt for the special price of £20.

## Imperial cricketers begin their season with two promising performances

Andrew Payne Cricket

Imperial College Men's 2nd XI 147 All out  
University of Brighton 2nd XI 148 for two

Imperial lost by 8 wickets

Imperial College Men's 1st XI 280 All out  
University of Reading 2nd XI 268 All out

Imperial won by 12 runs

IC's 1st XI first game of the season was away against the University of Reading 2nd XI. The early morning showers had just about disappeared ready for an exciting game of cricket. Reading won the toss and elected to field.

Imperial's openers Matt Tarr (73) and James Musgrave (78) attacked the new ball to bring up a stylish and rapid century partnership in just 14 overs; a dream start. Both Tarr and Musgrave punished any poorly bowled balls with Tarr hitting three sixes; one of which landed outside the ground on a nearby road.

However, poor concentration was to lead to the downfall of both batsman as they spooned catches in the off side. A similar story was to follow for most of the Imperial batters.

After a couple of quick wickets and a slight dip in run rate, Ankit Patel (40) hung around producing a watchful innings, while short cameos at the other end brought Imperial up to a good total of 280. Imran Zahid (26) in particular dispatched several balls out of the park, including one monster six down the ground. From 256-5 in 44 overs IC felt that they could have done better but were happy with the score nonetheless.

Navin Surtani and Andrew Payne opened the bowling for Imperial and once again gave the team a great start to the innings. Surtani, in particular, was bowling a perfect line and length with a brilliant balance of seam and swing; any opening batsman's nightmare. In contrast Payne utilised a completely different style who, with his height was able to exploit some of the demons in the pitch; one delivery bounced off a length and shaved the batsman's head as it raced through to the keeper.

Pressure was building which ultimately caused the initial wickets, one each for Surtani (1-16) and Payne (1-47), courtesy of a well judged caught-and-bowled. Wonderboy Rehan Ali got the wicket of the day with a hidden bouncer that completely deceived the

Reading no. 4.

It looked like Imperial were on the home stretch at the drinks break with the score on 70-5 after 25 overs, but Reading had other ideas. Number 6 (Grindal) and 7 (Waterstone) were picking off the bad balls after the break, steadily accumulating runs while Imperial kept looking for the next wicket. Joe O'Gorman used the pitch to his advantage with some leg-spin, but the odd loose ball kept the runs ticking over. Eventually O'Gorman snuck one through and bowled Waterstone to get the 6th wicket.

Grindal kept going though, now starting to accelerate with several mammoth sixes and a punishing attitude to anything slightly off line or length, working his way to a century. Steady wickets at the other end kept the pressure on, but you could sense the game had become close with on-field tension increasing every over. Pressure on the fielders led to a couple of difficult chances going down and some misfields on the boundary.

Ehtasham Junaid bowled well from one end to keep it tight, but at the other end Patel kept leaking runs.

Umpires began questioning the over-rate and with Imperial were rushing through their overs, the score at 268-9 after 48 overs and Grindal was on strike: 13 runs required from 12 balls. The first ball of the 48th over was short; Grindal went for the pull, looking for the gap at the deep square leg

boundary, but instead he top edged it straight back to the bowler, handing Imperial a tense victory.

The players, although shocked at how close the game had become, showed fantastic sportsmanlike behaviour in commiserated Grindal (132) on his brilliant innings.

The team knew that the game should never have been allowed to get as close as it did and that improvements are required throughout the forthcoming season.

\*\*\*

After an unusually prompt meet by a scratched together 2nd XI, everyone set out for a 'home' game at Harlington. However, after deciding that the team was lacking a bit of communal spirit, captaincy debutant Pete Swallow decided to take the scenic route in and around Heathrow (not helped by being told to get the wrong bus).

Fortunately everyone arrived on time and a new team spirit had been formed by gently abusing the Captain.

Brighton won the toss and decided they would field first giving most of the team time to sit down and chill out. The makeshift opening pair of Sandeep Saha and new-boy Alex Tindale (40) started slowly and Sandeep was soon out.

The second new player Raj S and Alex then developed a good partner-

ship and runs started to flow until a horrendous mix-up led to Raj being a regular interval until Rohan Babla and Ahsen Khan (20) came in and, to the surprise of everyone, took the attack to the rather pathetic spinner put on to bowl with Rohan (33), who'd probably not hit a ball in any of the training sessions, hitting two rather impressive 6s that he will not forget (and won't let anyone who talks to him forget either). Imperial ended up on 147 all out.

Buoyed by a good finish to their innings, IC set out to field with confidence.

Pete decided to take responsibility and started off with a fast and hostile opening over, taking a wicket with the 3rd ball; guided to an expertly placed Alex in the slips. Rajiv Bhar, the other opening bowler, was unlucky to not get a wicket as he had several chances dropped, something that plagued the team and was ultimately responsible for the loss as Brighton managed to get the 148 required for the loss of only one more wicket.

Overall, the team performance was good within which there was a lot of enthusiasm and effort while many positives can be taken from the game as we look to improve over the forthcoming season.

Final congratulations to Alex Tindale for his man of the match performance for scoring 40 runs and taking 2 catches.

## felixSports League

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	felixSport Index
<b>1 Fencing Women's 1st</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1451</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>5.00</b>
1= Volleyball Men's 1st	10	10	0	0	20	1	19	5.00
<b>3 Volleyball Women's 1st</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4.00</b>
4 Netball Women's 2nd	11	9	1	1	356	217	139	3.91
<b>4= ICSM Badminton Men's 1st</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3.91</b>
6 Lacrosse Women's 1st	8	7	0	1	145	21	124	3.88
<b>6= Squash Men's 3rd</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3.88</b>
8 ICSM Netball Women's 2nd	12	9	2	1	517	344	173	3.75
<b>9 ICSM Rugby Men's 1st</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>3.60</b>
10 Table Tennis Men's 1st	12	10	0	2	143	60	83	3.50
<b>11 Rugby Men's 1st</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>3.40</b>
12 Squash Women's 1st	11	6	4	1	30	14	16	3.09
<b>13 Hockey Women's 1st</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2.69</b>
14 Badminton Men's 1st	12	8	1	3	57	39	18	2.50
<b>15 Lacrosse Men's 1st</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2.38</b>
16 Fencing Men's 1st	12	8	0	4	1499	1266	233	2.00
<b>16= ICSM Hockey Men's 1st</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2.00</b>
<b>18 Hockey Men's 2nd</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.40</b>
18= Squash Men's 1st	10	6	0	4	29	21	8	1.40
<b>20 Tennis Men's 1st</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1.25</b>
20= ICSM Netball Women's 1st	12	7	0	5	441	381	60	1.25
<b>22 Football Men's 1st</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.08</b>
23 Basketball Men's 1st	9	5	0	4	586	588	-2	1.00
<b>24 Squash Men's 4th</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.91</b>
25 Netball Women's 1st	13	7	0	6	524	482	42	0.85
<b>26 Football Men's 3rd</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>0.67</b>
27 ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	11	3	4	4	13	31	-18	0.64
<b>28 Badminton Men's 2nd</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.62</b>
29 Fencing Women's 2nd	10	5	0	5	1052	1235	-183	0.50
<b>29= Badminton Women's 1st</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.50</b>
31 Hockey Women's 2nd	11	4	2	5	22	31	-9	0.36
<b>32 ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>0.13</b>
33 Squash Men's 2nd	9	4	0	5	18	27	-9	0.00
<b>34 Tennis Men's 2nd</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>-0.25</b>
35 Football Men's 2nd	13	5	0	8	24	31	-7	-0.54
<b>36 ICSM Hockey Women's 1st</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>-0.60</b>
37 ICSM Netball 3rd	10	3	1	6	255	335	-80	-0.70
<b>38 Rugby Union Men's 2nd</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>-1.00</b>
38= Fencing Men's 3rd	12	4	0	8	1293	1423	-130	-1.00
<b>40 Tennis Women's 1st</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>-1.27</b>
40= Netball Women's 3rd	10	3	0	7	208	337	-129	-1.30
<b>42 Rugby Union Men's 4th</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>-134</b>	<b>-1.30</b>
43 ICSM Football Men's 1st	10	2	1	7	12	20	-8	-1.60
<b>44 Rugby Men's 3rd</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>-181</b>	<b>-1.69</b>
45 ICSM Rugby Men's 2nd	14	3	0	11	209	410	-201	-2.07
<b>46 Hockey Men's 1st</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>-2.33</b>
47 ICSM Football Men's 2nd	9	0	2	7	8	38	-30	-2.67
<b>48 ICSM Rugby Men's 3rd</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>-326</b>	<b>-2.71</b>
49 ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	10	0	2	8	11	39	-28	-2.80
<b>50 Football Women's 1st</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>-57</b>	<b>-3.40</b>
50= ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd	10	0	1	9	8	81	-73	-3.40

## felixSport presents to you the final league table of the year

As we enter into the summer term, the majority of the sports fixtures for this academic year have been played. Although many will argue cricket and athletics seasons are only just beginning, the number of results for these sports would not be as great as those sports which have competed over the previous two terms.

felixSport can reveal the final league table for the 2009-2010 season. Standing at the summit of the table are Fencing Women's 1s and Volleyball Men's 1s both of whom boast unblemished records and have won all of their matches. Our female fencing team improved on their 4th place finish in the table last year. Men's Volleyball team managed to outdo the performance of their female counterparts who finished a promising 6th last year and improved to a 3rd place finish this time around.



## Imperial secure two top twenty finishes at HORR

Christina Duffy Rowing

Imperial College have secured two pennants and two top twenty places in this year's Head of the River Race (HORR). Imperial I claimed the IM1 pennant (16th overall), Imperial IV won the novice pennant (103rd overall) and the elite lightweights came a close second in category (8th overall). An alumni reception was held at the club with several VIPs in attendance including the Imperial College London Rector Sir Keith O'Nions.

The Imperial Lightweight 8+ consisted of Ole Tietz, Adam Freeman-Pask, Oli Mahony, William Fletcher, Andrew Craig, Jamie Kirkwood, Benjamin Jack Rowe & Tommy Junior. The head race was the crew's second outing in that combination, and only the seventh time they had all been out in an 8+. Most of the preparation and focus consisted of taking the piss out of Jamie Kirkwood who won the Sculler's Head of the River in late November of last year. Freeman-Pask: "He got a lot of stick for being shit, but when he switched to bowside... and being in the three seat... this only got worse. Kirkwood to tower requesting a flyby. Negative Kirkwood, the pattern is full." The banter was relentless, complete with general retard elbow-licking impressions.

Freeman-Pask himself offered motivational soundbites to the crew instructing them to "Drop the bread in the toaster and wait for it to pop." As

for the race itself, cox Seb Pearce was the hero. Coming under Hammer-smith Bridge they approached another tideway crew and could overhear the coxbox: "150 years of rowing came down to this day." Pearce: "150 years of rubbish rowing, let's push off this driftwood." Earlier while marshalling another crew was having difficulty manoeuvring and the cox was yelling for more room from other crews. "She'll need a lot of room," murmured Pearce before mimicking the beeping sounds of a reversing truck.

The novice 8+ were delighted with their win and coach Ross Smitheman was close to tears at hearing of the result after weeks of tough basic training. The crew were Tom Pearson, Andy Gordon, Will Laughlin, Finlay McPhail, Sietse Braakman, Hal Bradbury, Luke Johnston & Tom Shaw. They were coxed by WEHRR IC1 cox Tom Fieldman. When asked about the differences in coxing women he replied: "I recall none of the girls weeded at the start, whereas with the men I think the tide was rising before our race, even though the river was going out to sea." The crew took the novice pennant 16 places (103rd) and three seconds (18:48.78) ahead of Oxford Brookes (18:52.91).

In the first boat were Simon Steele, Rory Sullivan, Jonny Rankin, Henry Goodier, Mark Mearing-Smith, Leo Carrington, Danny Bellion, Alex Gillies & cox Henry Fieldman they won the Intermediate 1 category in 18:06.6.

The crew set off in 12th hot on the heels of the Durham first 8+ determined to take them down, which they swiftly did. The club was hosting an alumni reception in the club room and after the race strokeman Steele was reflective when speaking to the press officer: "The stern three in that boat... all freshers." \*dramatic pause\* "That's pretty f-ing awesome. Give it two years and that's us right there." \*points to victorious Henley 2004 photo of Simon Hislop, George Whittaker, Hugh Mackenzie, Ed Johnson & Seb Pearce\*

Thanks to Imperial College London Rector Sir Keith O'Nions for attending the reception and conducting a rather wet boat naming ceremony. Two new ICBC Stämpflis were named; 'Martin Knight' after the College COO and 'Simon Archer' after Senior Lecturer and Chair of the Boathouse management.

A few weeks earlier the women's head of the river saw ICBC's Mel Wilson, Lenny Kennedy and Ro Bradbury become Head of the River in a composite 8+ (Gloucester/IC/Marlow/Reading Uni./Thames/UL) at WEHRR. They won by 20 seconds (18:10.67) over nearest rivals and hotly tipped Leander Club (18:30.39). The GB crew was stroked by triple Olympic silver medallist Katherine Grainger and have been training out of ICBC and coached by IC's Steve Trapmore in the run up to the Head. The Imperial club first 8+ came 15th overall (19:31.16) while the alumni composite came close-by in 18th (19.34.9).

## Is the English Premiership experiencing a decline?

David Wilson Sports Editor

Thursday night saw Fulham and Liverpool taking on Hamburg and Atletico Madrid respectively in the semi-finals of this year's UEFA Europa League. As felix goes to press on a Thursday evening I cannot write about the result, although it wouldn't be too optimistic to predict an all English final. Both teams are playing at home, while Fulham enter the game 0-0 on aggregate, Liverpool have the harder albeit achievable task of overturning a one nil deficit from the first leg in Madrid.

There is a strong chance that at least one of the English teams will be present in the May 12th final. An English club has not competed in the Europa League (formerly UEFA Cup) final since 2006 when Sevilla thrashed Middlesbrough, who now play in the Championship.

While Fulham's achievement is notable and should be recognised, Liverpool should not be contesting the Europa League. They are a team rich in history and last season finished second in the Premiership, this season their campaign has been hit by injuries and indifferent form from key players. They were dumped into the Europa League as a consequence of their limp performances in the group stage of this year's Champions League. Liverpool are not the only English team to disappoint in Europe this year. Arsenal, Chelsea and

Manchester United were all eliminated at the Quarter Final stage of the Champions League, destroying any dreams of another all English Final. The strong presence of English clubs in the later stages of the Champions league in recent years has disappeared; this will be the first year that an English club has not contested the final since 2004.

The reason, it would appear, is that other teams have caught up and have devised tactics and strategies to beat the English teams. Real Madrid spent over £200 million last summer, but even this sum of money cannot buy success; results only stem from a team performing together.

Barcelona are the only team who have prevented English dominance of Europe's premier competition in recent years with their tika-tak football. Even they were not worthy of a place in this year's final; knocked out by Jose Mourinho's Inter in Tuesday's semi final. The other place in the final is occupied by Bayern Munich, the team who ended Manchester United's run in the competition. Both Inter and Bayern are teams which are rebuilding and returning to prominence. Mourinho's star performer is Wesley Sneijder who was surplus to requirements at Real Madrid following the Galacticos II re-development scheme, while another Real reject, Arjen Robben sparks the Bayern team into life when he's not on the sidelines injured. European teams

seem to be a more attractive option to top players with supposed interest from English teams in both Robben and Sneijder ignored.

There is no doubt that the Premier League has its fair share of World Class players, but it seems that 'the best league in the World' has lost some of its allure. The poor weather is supposedly Franck Ribery's reason not to play in England. Could the reason be the high taxes which hit the astronomical wage bills earned by top footballers. Andrey Arshavin of Arsenal was left more than a little annoyed when he found out that Mr Brown takes away half of his reported £80,000 wage packet.

It's not just in Europe that England's top teams have struggled; the Premier League title race has been the closest it has been for a while. While one could argue this increases entertainment, it was still three familiar faces fighting it out for the title. Manchester United and Arsenal only remained in the title race due to Chelsea's ability to drop points. It is encouraging that the gulf between fourth place and 'the rest' now appears to be closing or are the top four just not as good anymore? Only time will tell what is to become of the English game. But for now, as the domestic season draws to a close for another year let's look forward to the World Cup which, if popular consensus counts for anything, we are sure to win. Could it be that we all expect a bit too much?



# BUCS win for Imperial's amazing marathon man

Second year Maths student **Alex Milne** ran a blistering 2:39:26 in the London Marathon to win the BUCS marathon Championships. **Indy Leclercq** finds out more

Last Sunday's London Marathon was the scene of a very impressive performance by Imperial second-year mathematician Alex Milne, who won the BUCS marathon championships. Finishing 160th overall in the race with a speedy time of 2:39:26, 20-year-old, Alex was the fastest BUCS-registered runner to complete the 26 miles.

*felixSport* caught up with him to find out more about his success, and what goes into running a marathon.

It turns out that last week's success stemmed from a tragic accident three years ago: "In 2007 a good friend of mine broke his neck on a trampoline and since then has been paralyzed from the neck down. I wanted to help

**"I was feeling really good...I had stuck to the pace I wanted and the noise from the crowds was incredible"**

Jack out and decided that running the marathon for him would be a great way to do so. I began training later that year with just a few runs here and there. I got a place in the 2008 London Marathon through the Spinal Injuries Association and managed to raise £4000 for them and £6000 for my friend Jack. The run was lots of fun and I was one of the youngest runners (18 was the minimum age). I finished in an OK 3 hours 30 minutes."

This initial performance encouraged Alex to take running more seriously and join a club. He gradually built up to the 2009 marathon, winning a place through the ballot and aiming for a sub-three-hour time. He finished in a "very disappointing" 3 hours 22 minutes.

This year's marathon, then, was a chance for improvement. "After running really badly in the London Marathon last year, I wanted to do it properly this time. This meant training harder and I have currently run every single day since 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009."

"I've run over a thousand miles since the beginning of 2010 and my highest mileage week (102) was 4 weeks before the marathon. The most important part of my training was the long run, which I gradually increased until running the furthest of 24 miles. The runs around Hyde Park with the Cross Country Club on Wednesday are the most fun as they are with a big group."

Such grueling training could only pay off: "I was feeling really good up until 18 miles. I had stuck to the pace I wanted and the noise from the crowds was incredible." But a marathon is never plain sailing, and Alex had to dig very deep into his physical and mental resources to keep going during the race: "My legs started to feel heavier and the proper pain started at mile 20. It got worse and worse, but I forced myself not to stop. By the 26<sup>th</sup> mile I was completely disorientated and felt on the verge of passing out. Luckily I made it over the finish line still standing and then collapsed!"

It was done, though. After a year's hard training, he had crossed the finish line – although realizing what he had done took a while to sink in as he recovered from his effort in the first aid tent. He is, however, delighted with the result: "I wanted to run under 2 hours 45 minutes, so I was very happy with 2:39:26."

Happy he should be, as that time meant he came 160th overall (out of over 36 000 participants) and first in the BUCS championships. This surprised even him, though: "I had actually forgotten that I entered the BUCS Marathon Championships, so it was only on the evening after the race that I looked up the times of the other guys and found out I had won! I also saw that one of the others who finished just behind me had been 4 minutes ahead at halfway. This made all the pain worth it."

Another taste of success, then, to cap off what has been a rewarding year, as



Alex also won the Herts Cross Country Championships and the London Colleges Cross Country League, and came second in the Berkhamsted half marathon.

However, when asked about running future marathons, he remains unsure. "That's a tough question. I have now qualified for a championship place so it's tempting. However, I might give it a rest for a few years to focus on 5km to half marathon. My next main goal is to run a half marathon in under 70 minutes, as that would be getting me closer to the elite times."

Finally, does he have any tips for those of us who want to try running a marathon for ourselves?

"I think everyone should run a marathon at least once in their lives. It is a unique challenge and if you want to

test yourself this is the way to do it. In terms of training, the most important thing is getting in some runs of at least 20 miles at a fairly easy pace. It may sound like lots, but it will go by quickly and you (but not your legs) will feel great afterwards. In the race, the one thing you should not do is go out too fast. It's easy to get excited and forget you still have a hell of a long way to go."

In any case, Alex showed a lot of grit in this year's run, and his words are something to ponder for the would-be marathoner. Maybe future years will bring more Imperial participants in the testing ordeal!

Alex would like to thank the Cross Country and Athletics Club for the great training sessions, and his girlfriend, Jessica Floyd, for supporting him all the way.

## London Marathon 2010 : the Lowdown

- Number of runners : 36,522
- t26-mile course starts in Blackheath, goes through east London and the city and finishes on the Mall
- Top prize : \$ 55, 000 (for the first-placed Men's and Women's runners (total prize money \$295,000)
- Course record : 2:05:10, set by 2009 winner Sammy Wanjiru
- The London marathon also comprises a wheelchair race along the same course
- 2010 winner : Kenyan Tsegaye Kebede in 2:05:19
- 1st-placed Briton Andrew Lemoncello came 8th