



# felix

The award-winning student newspaper of Imperial College

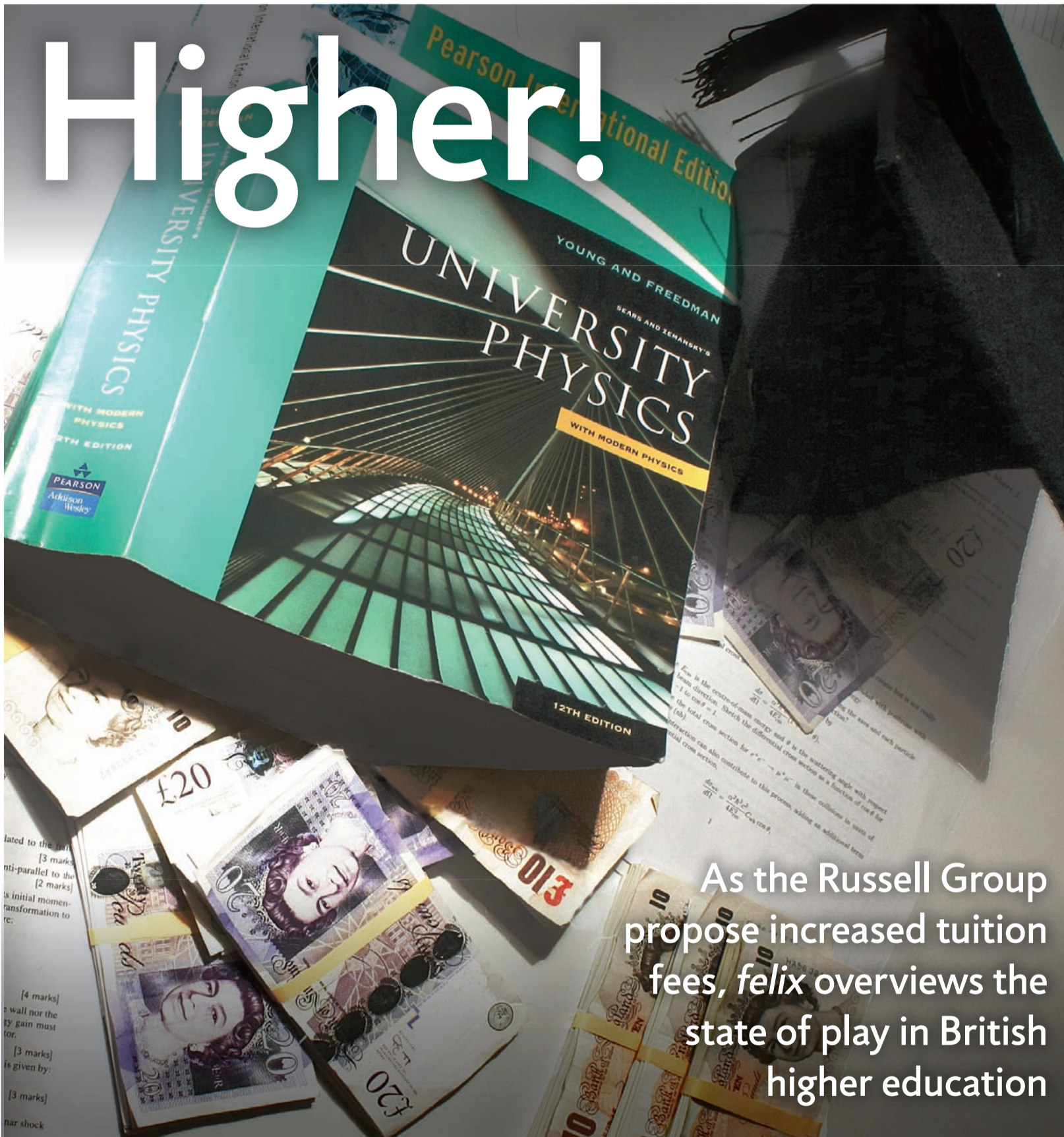
"Keep The Cat Free"

Issue 1,462

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21.05.10

# Higher!



As the Russell Group propose increased tuition fees, *felix* overviews the state of play in British higher education

# CULTURE FROM RUSSIA

Arts Special  
See page 24 - 27

## This week...

Deputy Pres. (Education) election commences



Elections Manifestos, Page 8

Peggy Sue goes all hush, hush at the Albert Hall



Music, Page 22

Casablanca: The poor man's playground



Travel, Page 30-31

Unbeaten all season: IC Volleyball featured



Sport, Page 39



# College goes green with CompPod

Rox Middleton

Imperial is at last getting greener. The aim is to reduce IC's carbon emissions by 20% of 2008/2009 levels by 2014, and I'm sure you will have noticed the launch of the StepChange campaign in April as a driver of this change. This week, two different initiatives got underway to help cut waste in food outlets on campus.

Reusable cups are now on sale in the Junior and Senior Common Rooms for just £2.50, which can be used when buying hot drinks at any of the College catering outlets. The cups must be clean when they are presented to Catering staff but as an incentive, customers will be given two stamps on their College loyalty card every time they reuse their cup. This scheme is the direct result of the consultation by the StepChange campaign last month when lots of people pointed to disposable take-away cups as a culprit of unnecessary waste.

Another project unveiled this week is an on-campus composter which will take one tonne of food waste from food outlets every week, including all of the hot food waste. The compost will then be used on college grounds. The CompPod which can be transported around to where it is needed, is the size of a portacabin and contains all the equipment necessary to treat

and convert food waste to a compost of a quality which satisfies the British Standards Institution. It has been developed using research from the College's Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, and cost Imperial £140,000 which, it is claimed, can be recovered in just two years.

The research was led by Professor Grimes who said it was "very satisfying to see our concept translate directly into a practical green solution here on our own campus". The CompPod will contribute to the aim of reducing rubbish sent to landfill by 40% during

**The CompPod will contribute to the aim of reducing rubbish sent to landfill by 40%**

2010 and will also save College money on Landfill and transportation charges. The Imperial College website does not detail, however, the extra electricity and water required to make the composter work.

These measures are just two of the multiple schemes being implemented to change Imperial for the better, but it's slow progress. Monitoring systems have also been put in place to measure energy expenditure and daylight sensors are being used to reduce unnecessary lighting which itself is provided by low-energy bulbs.



Bucket was always told to chew his food

## Reported chemical spill at Science Museum



The fire brigade was called to the Science Museum on Thursday

At midday on Thursday (20th May), the police and fire brigade were called to Exhibition Road to deal with a reported 'chemical spill' at the Science Museum.

The Museum was evacuated quickly resulting in hundreds of visitors embarking on Imperial College's campus.

For a short time, all cars were diverted away from Exhibition Road at the junction to Prince Consort Road. Pedestrian walkways remain

cordoned off surrounding the Science Museum.

Police officers told passing students that there was a substantial chemical spill in the basement of the Science Museum.

Firemen were seen to be putting on special HazMat suits to tackle the chemical-based accident.

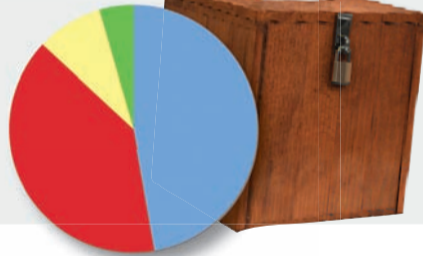
The Museum was closed until Friday after a reported three staff and firemen were affected with irritation of the eyes. -DW



Politics

**Voting around the world**

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Arts

**Russian Culture: The jewels of the Soviet crown**

See page 24-27



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14.05.10

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14.05.10

**PHOENIX**  
H. G. WELLS  
1904 ANNUAL

ARTS ANNUAL OF  
IMPERIAL COLLEGE

Your poetry, fiction, photography and artwork to phoenix@imperial.ac.uk  
LAST CHANCE THIS WEEK!

# Union to push for Library heat solutions

Union Council summon another rally for air-conditioning in the Central Library. Alice Rowlands reports

Over exams, the library on the South Kensington campus is notorious both for being absurdly busy and uncomfortably warm. Deputy President (Welfare), John James, noted the problem in his report to Monday's Union Council meeting. Previously, College has made an application to add air conditioning or 'solar shading' to the fourth and fifth floor of the library, as part of its recent redevelopment. Planning permission

**It was suggested that a competition should be opened to students to come up with innovative solutions to the problem.**

was declined by the local council, following objections from residents - a somewhat controversial decision given that one of the primary objectors was also on the council.

Imperial Union Council have opted to mandate John James to rally support to ask College to raise a new application or find a solution to the overheating that would not be opposed by local residents. It was suggested that a competition should be opened to students to come up with innovative solutions to the problem. If use could be made of the heat energy, generated by thou-

sands of students panicking into their books over exams, the energy saving could go a long way to improving the poor efficiency rating of College buildings.

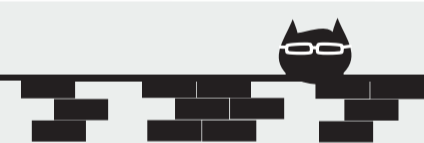
Monday's Council meeting also chose to back a paper submitted by President, Ashley Brown, which officially gives Imperial College Union's support to a Libel Reform Campaign calling for new legislation that will avoid individuals spending large sums of money defending themselves against libel lawsuits. A prominent case cited by the campaign is that of Simon Singh, an Imperial Alumnus who has spent two years fighting a libel suit brought against him by the British Chiropractic Association, after he criticised their claims. The outcome of the campaign may be of interest to a number of felix editors, who regularly run the risk of annoying someone considerably richer and more powerful than themselves. More information can be found on the campaign website: [www.libelreform.org](http://www.libelreform.org)

Council was informed that the Biology department will not count first year marks towards their final degree allocation, in a trial starting next year. A number of Engineering departments are considering doing the same. Student academic representatives have expressed concern that if students only aim to study enough to reach the 40% pass mark, the failure rate may increase and a lesser understanding of first year work will lead to students struggling in later years.



He's sweating. He's drenched. 'It's so hot in here' he cries. Oh wait, he's just about to launch an 'crucial' attack on WoW

## The world beyond College walls



South Korea

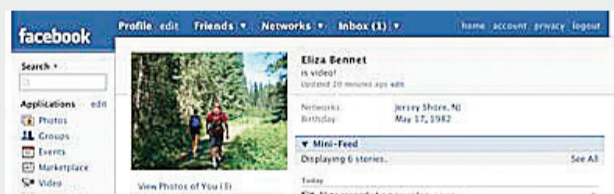


**R**elations between North and South Korea worsened this week.

The findings of an independent review of the March sinking of the South Korean warship, Cheonan, conducted by international experts were due to be released this week, and are likely to conclude that the ship was in fact sunk by North Korea. Leaked results from the report indicate that the sinking was caused by a North Korean torpedo: a torpedo propeller was found amongst the wreckage and explosives present matched those recently found on another North Korean torpedo. South Korean officials are likely to be pressured to respond resolutely strongly; the South's Sunshine policy is likely to be less politically popular following the events. The North Koreans have been relying on some experts' opinions that an unexploded mine could have detonated near the disputed maritime border. It is unclear whether the event will be raised to the U.N. Security Council and how members, especially China and the U.S., will react.



USA



**T**he backlash against Facebook continued this week. Pakistan blocked the site from the country after a popular group on the site held a competition for users to submit caricatures of Mohammed.

The group also encouraged caricatures of figures from other religions. Another backlash in the blogosphere, has been brewing because the site changed the privacy settings of profiles such that the "Work and Education" and "Likes and Interests" fields, profile picture are now forcibly public. In addition the site made moves to encourage website owners to integrate their sites deeper into the social network, raising massive alarm from privacy advocates. Facebook was rumoured to hold a company-wide meeting over last weekend during which CEO Mark Zuckerberg was supposed to be celebrating his birthday in Mexico.



Thailand



**T**hailand's red-shirt protest leaders surrendered to the military.

Fires burned throughout the city on Wednesday including at the stock exchange. The protesters support Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a military coup in 2006. Protests have been occurring ever since. In April 2009, the protesters caused the cancellation of the ASEAN summit in Pattaya and also stormed a government building. The protesters dispersed for one year, returning in April of this year to form a massive protest in Bangkok, later storming Parliament and other significant institutions. Tensions between the military and protesters intensified when an attempt to forcibly disperse the protesters ended in the killing of twenty-five protesters, the majority of whom were peaceful. The government ordered the protesters to disperse by the 17 May to avoid military action. By Wednesday evening, the leaders and other protesters had surrendered and will face terrorism charges.

By Tom Greany

# Russell Group publish submission

Alex Karapetian reports on students' anger at Russell Group proposals

There is change in the air. As the talk of coalitions and minority governments are whisked away with a passing breeze, students are starting to take a stand. Student activism has slowly faded since the noisy days of the 1960s, but the imminent changes in higher education may rekindle the long-gone traditions.

Last week saw students entering the Russell

Group's offices on Northumberland Avenue demanding to see what changes to student finances their universities had proposed. This came as The Russell Group were the last to submit their suggestions and perspectives on the current and future state of British higher education to a cross-party review set up by the Government.

The first port of call was to allow all relevant parties, from higher education think-

tanks to student unions, to lay down their own arguments for how the Government should proceed.

The Russell Group will inevitably hold a massive weighting in which way the Review swings. Early reports about their suggestions to increase tuition fees have been proven correct with the full publication of the Russell Group's submission this past Friday.

Read below for the full overview.

The Russell Group's submission to the Browne Review, which was released after receiving pressure from the Aldwych Group, has been met with anger regarding the proposed increase in tuition fees, following from the *felix* report last week. They have labelled the suggestions "regressive".

The Aldwych Group represent the student unions of Russell Group Universities, currently chaired by Emmanuel Akpan-Inwang, from LSE's Students' Union. The name derives from the group having been established at a meeting in LSE, located on the Aldwych.

Student leaders reacted angrily to some of the suggestions put forward by the Russell Group, namely lowering the threshold after which graduates begin paying back their debts, currently £15,000, and increasing the rate of interest in loans in a bid to reduce the growing deficit in Higher Education. The Russell Group of twenty research-based educational institutions including Imperial and Oxbridge warned of debts upwards of £1.1 billion by 2013, putting the sector "severely at risk".

If subsidised student loans were to be abolished, with interest rates going up, students will effectively be taking out loans with rates as high as those offered by banks today and won't be protected from national interest rate changes, potentially racking up huge amounts of debt.

The Russell Group, however, advises that this is a viable solution to encourage some up-front payments but to allow the government to support loans to cover significantly higher levels of tuition fees without increasing costs to the Treasury.

The Russell Group submission men-

**"An increase in graduate contributions is the fairest and only viable option for addressing the funding shortfall."**

tions that "An increase in graduate contributions is the fairest and only viable option for addressing the funding shortfall", setting out how tuition fees could rise to over £9,000 per year, a move which students have described as a "nightmare scenario". Both the Aldwych Group and the National Union of Students (NUS) have slammed proposals to lift the cap on tuition fees, the latter forecasting "mortgage-style debts" of more than £40,000 for graduates.

The submission, which is directed to the Browne review on student finance, led by former chief executive of BP Lord Browne, includes the Russell Group's recognition that the cap on fees could not be removed immediately. Its director-general, Wendy Piatt, said that "fees should increase incrementally" but would not give the value by which they would increase. The submission states that "graduates should be expected to contribute more in view of the substantial private benefits they secure through attending University, particularly from certain programmes".

Science, Technology and Medicine courses (STEM) are considered "stra-

tegically important", and it is proposed that "the level of public funding for a student should be a factor of the cost of providing the course, the private return and public return, so that no student is deterred from taking courses like STEM which are expensive to provide." The proposal to increase the teaching grant for STEM subjects is considered by Ashley Brown a "sensible suggestion", since Imperial is unable to subsidise lab-based teaching with the profits from cheaper classroom based subjects. He mentions this is a suggestion "which we have called for in the past".

The Russell Group proposed a means of differentiating costs similar to the Australian higher education system.

They advised that high cost subjects considered of strategic importance to the country should receive more in state funds and cost students less, but did not specify an amount. The Group justified the increases by explaining that "if graduates were asked to pay steeper fees, they would value their degrees more highly and be careful about and committed to the choices they made." The group denied that the move would deter students from poor and unprivileged backgrounds from applying to University.

The Group provided research figures to show that graduates earn the equivalent of about £160,000 more than non-graduates over their lifetimes, £3,000 more per year with greater job satisfaction if they were from a Russell Group



Front page of last week's *felix* featured the Aldwych Group's confrontation with Russell Group representatives

## Is the system Down Under a British solution?

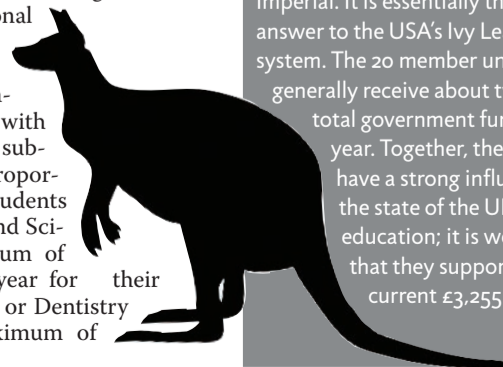
The Russell Group's Browne Review submission cites the Australian higher education system as an example the UK could possibly follow.

STEM (science, technology, engineering and medicine) subjects are traditionally high-cost degrees for universities to run. However, they generally recognised as degrees of national "strategic importance." During the 2010 General Election, Prime Minister David Cameron deemed science and engineering "absolutely critical" to underpinning an economic recovery.

The Australian higher education model allows all home students to be 'Commonwealth supported'. These students only pay part of the full cost of their degree, whilst the rest is publicly funded by the government. The balance between

how much the student is expected to pay and how much the government will fund is formulated by two factors: expected earnings following graduation, and national priority.

A banding system of degree importance to the country as a whole is set out, with the highest band of degree subjects receiving a greater proportion of public-funding. Students studying Maths, Statistics and Science hence have a maximum of AUS\$4,429 or £2,670 per year for their course. In comparison, Law or Dentistry undergraduates pay a maximum of AUS\$8,859 or £5,340 a year.



# THE STATE OF PLAY

*felix* overviews the challenges facing students in higher education as the Government looks to shake up the British university funding system



### The Russell Group

**RUSSELL BUILDING PROSPERITY GROUP**

A collaboration between the UK's 20 leading universities, including Imperial. It is essentially the UK's answer to the USA's Ivy League system. The 20 member universities generally receive about two-thirds of total government funding each year. Together, the universities have a strong influence on the state of the UK's higher education; it is well-reported that they support lifting the current £3,255 cap on fees.

**£3,290**

The current cap on tuition fees

**£22,000**

The current average graduate debts.

The system that funds university courses is due to be transformed in the coming years, and students are of course central to this. How much and the way students pay are topics of intense discussion across the country. Nerves are already shredding as universities are due to receive across-the-board public funding cuts of £600 million from as early as next year, leaving the onus of tuition funding on students themselves.

That is exactly what people are expecting to happen after a cross-party review on university funding is completed this Autumn. The review, led by ex-BP Chief Executive Lord Browne, will advise the Government on how to overhaul the current university funding systems.

University chiefs insist students must contribute more than ever before towards the cost of their degree. They argue it is necessary to not only keep British universities amongst some of the world's best, but also to pull the UK out of recession.

*felix* focuses in on the current state of play in higher education that are interest to current and future Imperial students.



University. "The taxpayer continues to foot the majority of the costs of undergraduate degrees and this is unfair" they mentioned.

"Higher fees are the only answer", the Group emphasised. Cambridge University has warned that current fees are too low for it to remain world-leading, which has led to a dependency on income from overseas students who pay more. Piatt added that "while the UK was cutting University budgets by more than £1 billion by 2013, China, South Korea and Singapore were increasing their public investment in Higher Education".

**"The taxpayer continues to foot the majority of the costs of undergraduate degrees and this is unfair."**

The submission argued that "the lack of a real rate of interest on student loans is a subsidy which imposes high costs on the government and which exceeds the requirements of ensuring fair access to higher education." The three ways in which Universities could reduce their annual deficits outlined by the report were to either reduce staff, recruit more overseas students or increase tuition fees. This is accompanied by the suggestion of allowing richer graduates the ability to pay back loans earlier and at a higher interest rate.

Sections of the submission outlined the need for increased graduate contributions to be additional to public funding, recognising that STEM subjects

are severely underfunded. Suggestions included bonds directly linked to graduate repayments and selling University annuities. The latter would result in smaller-risk premiums with more money for universities to invest. However, they would bear all the risk if graduate repayments were lower than expected and the cost of borrowing depends on institutions' current financial security, rendering this method unlikely to be feasible for all Universities.

Sally Hunt, General Secretary of the University and College Union, said "we desperately need to overhaul how universities are funded and move away from the idea that the current review of student funding is merely a question of how much student fees go up by." Arguably, the increase of tuition fees will restore the view of elitism which was once associated with universities and the students attending them.

Aaron Porter, the president-elect of the NUS has opposed removal of the cap on fees and has said that this would "expose students and their families to the huge risks and potential calamities of the market, abandoning them to sink or swim". The Browne review will report its findings in a few months.

Imperial College released a statement to *felix* on affirming their position of wanting to "attract the best students regardless of background and means" to "provide them with an academic experience of the highest international quality." They say "the current mechanism of funding plus tuition fee does not reflect the true cost of teaching science-based degrees to the high standard Imperial sets" and that "the College would wish to charge fees that reflect the quality of the education it provides". Commenting on the situation, College said that it has "not yet considered any particular option should the fee cap be lifted or removed."

## Students: We disagree with lifting cap on fees

Students of the Aldwych Group have issued a press release indicating that the Russell Group's proposals to lift the cap on tuition fees is widely opposed by their students. Emmanuel Akpan-Inwang, Chair of the Aldwych Group said:

"I am appalled to hear that the Russell Group has advised the Browne Review to raise tuition fees to a level high enough to create a true market in the sector. The Russell Group has failed miserably to put forward any case which suggests that a rise in fees would benefit access to or the quality of education. In fact, the Russell Group's suggestions jeopardise fair access to higher education."



**Aldwych Group Chair Emmanuel Akpan-Inwang** led a march to the Russell Group offices last week to protest against the confidentiality of the universities' suggestions to the Browne Review. Now made publically available, he has criticised the Russell Group further.

News of proposed commercial interest rates for loans to students raised fears of mortgage style debts. He continued to add:

"For the Russell Group to ask for the application of real interest rates to repayments is short-sighted and incredibly regressive. The Browne Review needs to ensure that there is a progressive restructuring of the system that is both beneficial for universities and students."



**£9,000**

A proposed tuition fee increase

**£60,000**

The possible average graduate's debts after Review

## What does Imperial College Union make of the Russell Group's submission?

Union President Ashley Brown has commented on IC Union's stance on the problem. He mentioned that the core principles in the report unsurprisingly outlined how Russell Group Universities need more money and how graduates could contribute more towards the cost of their education.

"The main issue," he commented, "arises with how the Russell Group propose to resolve the student loans problem."

The government currently provides loans at an interest rate of 0%, such that the loan does not cover the cost of providing the money; the Government loses money on every student it lends to. The proposed solution is to fix the loan at the current level, but to provide "top up" loans with higher rates of interest, either through the Student Loans Company, universities selling bonds or arranging for banks to provide loans. He continued to warn that all three schemes rely on graduates having sufficiently high salaries to pay back the



**Imperial College Union President Ashley Brown** took part in the Aldwych Group's protest last week. He has stated that the Russell Group's take on tuition fees and loans is not reflected by the Union

**"It is clearly undesirable for graduates to leave university with upwards of £60,000 of debt"**

loans with interest.

On behalf of the Union, he said that "IC Union's current policy on fees opposes any attempt to lift the cap, so we are at odds with them on that point. We do not currently have a policy on loan interest rates, other than being supportive of the current loan arrangements, but it is clearly undesirable for graduates to leave university with upwards of £60,000 of debt, most of it with a commercial rate of interest." He praised their recommendations to increase the teaching grant for "strategically important" subjects such as Science and Engineering, which would be paid for by reducing the grant on subjects such as Law. "The introduction of tuition fees (at £1,100) and then top-up fees (at £3,000) saw students become more like consumers, with corresponding higher demands. These demands will increase with fees, so it is vital that central government support is maintained, rather than making students pay the full costs. Higher Education provides benefits not just to graduates, but to the economy and society as a whole."



# Will university science suffer the most?

Joanna Cai looks at how STEM subjects may bear the brunt of imminent funding cuts

Impending cuts in public funding are likely to directly affect Imperial College as whole, not only in the Humanities Department and the Medical School, but in every subject area at Imperial. This follows the recent cuts made in the Imperial Humanities Department, which resulted in the loss of beginner-level language courses; lessons in Arabic, Italian, Japanese and Russian were also axed completely. The decision to make these cuts was made last year, with them coming into full effect at the start of the next academic year.

In December 2009, Alistair Darling announced in his pre-budget report that universities and higher education institutes would have to collectively make £600m in savings.

A recent survey in the *Financial Times*, which looked at around 40 UK higher education institutes, found that a reduction in staff was planned to take place in 16 departments for STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects. These staff cuts will be across the board, affecting both academic and support staff, and in some cases staff cuts have already taken place this year.

According to the Higher Education

Funding Council for England (HEFCE), 99 out of 131 academic institutions are currently facing a drop in funding from the government.

At a time of turbulent politics and national deficit, STEM subjects will inevitably be targeted because they require expensive facilities and equipment in teaching and research.

According to Richard Lambert, director general of CBI (Confederation of the British Industry), "science subjects are more expensive to teach than arts subjects, but they are of huge value to the economy". It is feared that making these funding cuts in a key potential workforce will hinder the British economy from its recovery from the recession, and will not help economic growth. STEM subjects have previously been targeted by the government for completely different reasons, and with opposite intentions.

In the 2004 Budget, the government published the consultation document "Science & Innovation: working towards a ten-year investment framework", supported by over 200 organisations including Imperial College, which set out to encourage the sciences towards economic growth and public services over 10 years, ending in 2014.

It seems that the unanticipated financial problems within the government over the past 12 months have meant that many aspects of scientific education needs to suffer funding cuts. Gail Cardew, from the Royal Institution of

**"STEM subjects require expensive facilities and equipment"**

Great Britain, an independent charity dedicated to connecting people within the world of science, claims: "By 2014 there will be more than 2m extra jobs which need STEM skills", but the current cuts facing STEM subjects will not be able to provide this future workforce.

However, action to downsize is not always a result of government cuts. King's College have plans to close its 172-year-old engineering faculty, and it cites competition as being the main reason: "There are great engineering schools elsewhere in London. The

department was wasting money." Despite this so-called money wasting, the King's UCU Executive Committee disagree with the decision to close the engineering department, concerned that King's College has made a "short-sighted decision that it will come to regret later".

We need not feel penalised for studying sciences and engineering at Imperial: it appears that regardless of subject area, a reduction of up to 25 per cent in long-term funding for universities is expected in the near future.

According to an Imperial College spokesperson, "Imperial is in a robust financial situation." Imperial have reduced all budgets by 5% for the current financial year and postponed the development of the new Exhibition Road building. Rector Sir Keith O'Nions was not terribly disappointed with the funding allocations announced in March 2010, as he believes that "universities with a critical mass of excellent interdisciplinary research groups can continue to make important contributions to the country's health, quality of life and economic competitiveness."



## Lib Dems concede fees pledge



As the new coalition government settles down after the post-election dealing and debating, one issue that still isn't clearly defined is that of higher education.

Many have criticised what is perceived to be a significant U-turn by the Liberal Democrats with the recent news that its MPs will be able to abstain from voting in the House of Commons on higher education should they disagree with what is proposed.

The Lib Dems have been forced to concede several of their high profile election campaign promises, including the gradual removal of tuition fees, earned citizenship for illegal migrants and the removal of the costly Trident nuclear defence programme.

Despite some victories with regards to political reform and a tentative step towards a possible change in the voting system, many Lib Dem voters, especially those who have voted for the first time this year, have been left feeling short-changed at their lack of pushing policies through the coalition, especially regarding higher education.

This is an added blow to students and academic groups following the recent controversy surrounding the

Russell Group's confidentiality in Lord Browne's review on higher education fees. Crucially, the Browne Review, as reported in last week's *felix*, is likely to heavily influence future policy on tuition fees.

Should Lord Browne recommend raising tuition fees, it is possible that the Lib Dems will provide no opposing votes against the Conservatives in favour of abstaining. Higher education policy could therefore be entirely influenced by the Conservative Party in the future.

It is well documented that the Conservatives hold lifting the cap on tuition fees in a favourable light.

Although the Lib Dem's proposed £2 billion extra per year for higher education was an unlikely proposal with mass cuts required in spending across government, the literal removal of the Lib Dems from providing any real opposition to their coalition partners have angered supporters.

With the coalition government still finding its feet and the conclusions from the Browne Review approaching, the issue of higher education is likely to prove contentious in both government and amongst the public as individual policies begin to come under intense scrutiny. - **Matt Colvin**

**ALEX**  
for  
Deputy President of Education

If elected, I promise to fight for:

- More spread out coursework deadlines.
- More constructive feedback on coursework.
- Access to past exam solutions.
- Student opinion on proposals made by the Union via our student media groups.
- Encourage tutor interactions.
- Restore strong postgraduate representation.
- Simplify mitigating circumstances procedures.

Hustings – 18:00 Thu 20 May Da Vinci's  
Voting – 00:00 Mon 24 -  
23:59 Thu 27 May  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/vote)



Imperial's arts magazine is  
rising from the ashes...

PHOENIX

H. G. WELLS

1904 ANNUAL

Phoenix, Imperial's historic arts magazine, returns in its original form as an annual this year. It was created in 1904 by Imperial alumnus and famous author, H.G. Wells .

Phoenix needs student contributions. If you're feeling the strains of science or just enjoy being creative, **send in your poetry, fiction, photography and artwork to [phoenix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:phoenix@imperial.ac.uk).**  
**LAST CHANCE FOR SUBMISSIONS THIS WEEK**

# SUMMER ELECTIONS 2010



If you thought elections were over, you were wrong. Last term you elected a new Sabbatical team, and at the beginning of this term you elected a new Government, sort of. The Summer Term traditionally elects positions of the Union that are also vital to its running. These include Council Chair, RAG (Raising and Giving) Chair, CAG (Community Action Group) Chair, Equal Opportunities Officer, and an Union Entertainments Committee.

This year's Summer Elections have been made that bit more exciting after the Deputy President (Education) elected in the Sabbatical Elections resigned early this term.

The candidate elected will take up the position on the 1st of July and spend a full year tending to the educational welfare of Imperial's students.

Both candidates for this position in the original election have ended up taking graduate positions at investment banks.

Student Trustee is the other position up for grabs from last term also. This is another chance to fill the four trustee posts available in the Union.

Voting opens 24 May at 00:01 and closes on the 27 May at 23:59. Votes will be counted and results will be announced 28 May. If nothing else, expect some more free sweets.

Summer  
Elections  
2010

## DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)



The DPE is responsible for coordinating and training the representation network, which includes all of the academic reps, and holding regular academic forums to gather student opinion about issues related to their course. They will sit on a number of college committees including those relating to both undergraduate and postgraduate education, e-portfolios, careers and the student experience. Their purpose for attending is to represent student views with the aim of making the academic experience at Imperial one of the best in the world.



### Alexander Dahinten

Hi guys! My name is Alex Dahinten and I'm a 3rd year Bioengineer. Most of you probably know me through RAG, which I've been fortunate to chair this year. I am also Secretary of the German Society and a keen tennis player.

Over the last three years at Imperial, I've enjoyed increasing amounts of responsibility, rising from ordinary member to president of RAG. As DPE, I can provide the Union with a healthy balance of experience and a fresh perspective. My aim is to address issues which are central to the student body as a whole. These include introducing a maximum number of coursework deadlines you can be assigned in one week and improving the coursework feedback system. Past exam solutions should also be available to all students, and not restricted to individual departments. Students should be allowed to have a say in shaping their academic experience, and therefore I plan on working closely with the student media outlets to maintain transparency and gather your inputs. I will also make it a priority to ensure that strong postgraduate representation is restored.

to ensure that strong postgraduate representation is restored.

So why vote for me?

I'm approachable, hardworking, honest and most importantly passionate about all positions I hold. As RAG chair I've managed to more than double our charitable donation from the last two years counted together, and raise its profile by introducing a vast number of events like LOST. I also sit on the central Union boards (Council and RWB) as the chair of a President's club.



### Christopher Darby

As a second year student, there are 2 major complaints I have with Imperial:

If one department is consistently getting better SOLE results and higher student satisfaction, why can't all the others?

I have 2 weeks to produce coursework, why does it take my department 6 months to get it back to me?

The College wants to change. They want to keep the excellent academic reputation we have and improve student experience too. We can help them make the right choices by using a strong representation network, people like you, your year reps, dep reps and all the way to the union President.

This past year, the focus has been clearly defining the representation network, something which was previously a bit of a mystery. Next year, I will work hard with the President, DPW and union staff, by training student reps and supporting them better so their voice is listened to by College.

It is imperative you pick the right candidate who can represent your views to college and be taken seriously. I'm not promising anything I can't deliver. For Imperial to be an excellent university we need consistency of grades, good feedback to students to show them how to improve, and we need departments to share best practice.

Please take 5 minutes to visit [www.chrisdarby.com](http://www.chrisdarby.com) to find out more information about my involvement this year and how I plan to push college in the right direction next year.



### Stefan Bauer

I have been much involved with many aspects of the Union in my 3 years at Imperial and gathered thorough understanding of how it works. Now I want to give something back and represent the students' voice with regards to academic matters over the next year and make this an even better place.

We all know that Imperial has an exceptional academic reputation and attracts the brightest minds from all over the world, but that doesn't mean everything is running at its best. The student voice needs to be heard and communication with the teaching staff improved for everyone to get the best out of their student experience.

For this to happen, I will aim to improve the effectiveness of SOLE and increase tutor student interaction beyond the pastoral care obligation. Feedback is the best way for everybody to speak up and productively influence teaching, yet participation is low and so is the outcome, which calls for improvement. Tutors are very important, but even more underestimated than SOLE. I am sure that both the teaching staff and the students, under- and postgraduates, will profit from immediate feedback.

I will seek to improve lecture notes and guidance throughout your course and beyond the commemoration ceremony. A degree from Imperial is a great achievement and deserves to have more value than it has at the moment, which is a message that needs to reach the companies you aim to be involved with. So vote for me!



# STUDENT TRUSTEE

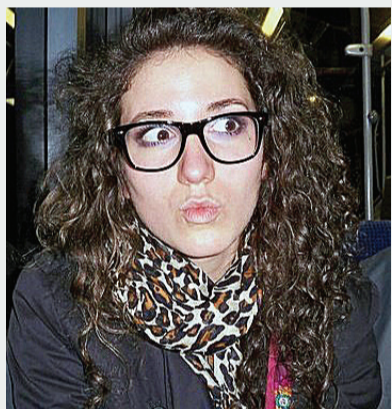


## Salman Waqar

**M**y name is Salman Waqar, I'm a fourth year medical student running for the position of student trustee. I've got lots of experience of working with the College and have been involved in many different clubs and societies in my years here.. occupying pretty much every position there is from Webmaster, Publicity, Treasurer and Vice President. Furthermore I have held a place on Union Council and presently hold the race campaigns portfolio on the RWB. Outside Imperial, I have been involved

with nationwide charity work, helped to train students in accessing and utilising their Students Unions, been an active member in organisations that represent Muslim students on a national and European platform and have also attended and helped out at two NUS Annual Conferences

# RAG CHAIR



## Naida Dzidal

**H**ello everyone! My name is Naida Dzidal and I'm currently a 3rd year Physicist. I also happen to be the only candidate for RAG Chair this year as well(not considering Weasley though). Some of you may know me through Tennis, Volleyball, I might have been your fellow resident at Southside or your Hall Senior. You may have met me as a member of the IC Union Court Committee (yes..Imperial has a jurisdictional system), at Political Philosophy

Society's many events or you might remember me as IC RAG's Vice Chair 2 years ago.

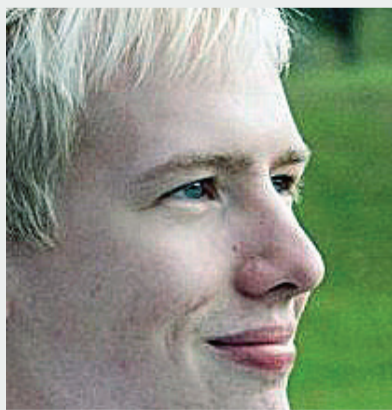
Having been so active in the past, this year I've decided to concentrate on the societies that've interested me the most (you'll still catch me letting out my frustration at IC Tennis sessions no matter what though). In my term as VP of RAG, I've learned how the society functions and am very much excited about demonstrating that RAG has room for improvement. That's why I would like for you to give me a chance

to show this as RAG Chair next year. Alex has done such a great job and I'll do my best to help IC RAG get closer to its standard of 8 years ago - when we raised just around 100k in a year!

Vote for me because I have the experience, I have the dedication, and most importantly I have the passion!

PS. I apologise I won't be able to make it to Hustings (I'm stuck in Germany, for an Erasmus year).

# EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICER



## Stuart Haylock

**H**ello, my name is Stuart Haylock, as Equal Opportunities Officer I want to promote equality, tackle discrimination and give the necessary help and support to the different communities at Imperial for their awareness activities, such as black history month, LGBT history month, national celebrations, and religious festivals.

I hope to promote the integration and collaboration of all the different Imperial college units and look forward to planning a campaign about the im-

portance of individuality, as well as a range of activities and events to promote diversity. I also want to start an equality column in Imperial's own Felix newspaper which will involve people with different social, racial and sexual background to give their opinions and will hopefully help to promote awareness and understanding.

As next year's welfare representative for IQ (Imperial College LGBT) and with the Equal Opportunities Officer position I will be able to provide complete and undivided support to union equality

and welfare, and I will maintain a full "zero tolerance" approach to any form of bigotry, prejudice or discrimination.

In short I believe that as Equal Opportunities Officer I will be able to provide development in the field of equality and will ensure fairness in all university life.

**VOTING OPENS** Voting opens 24 May 00:01 [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote)

# UNION ENTS COMMITTEE



## Alistair Owen

**W**ith the opening of Metric next year, it will be vital to ensure that the new venue doesn't suffer the disastrous reputation that dBs had.

**Promotion:** One of my priorities as a member of the ents committee will be to establish an effective promotion network for union events and to extend this network to clubs, societies and faculty unions who decide to host events.

**Drinks Deals:** Aside from slightly cheaper pints on a Wednesday, there is generally no creativity in

providing drinks promotions. Simple changes such as happy hours, cocktail jugs or cheaper shots will make a massive difference.

**Music:** For the new venue to be attractive to a broad demographic of Imperial students I aim to push for a wide variety of music to be played, including live acts.

Having worked at a variety of bars and clubs, including the union for 2 years, I have the experience to make Metric a success.



## Christopher Schlumberger-Socha

**I**'m Christopher Schlumberger-Socha and I am running for a position in the Entertainments Committee.

I'm very excited about the Phase 3 development plans ("<http://bit.ly/Phase3Blog>"), and can't wait for it to be finished so we can use our new space. Metric has the potential to become an amazing club venue, both for Union and society events! Working on the Entertainments Committee, we'll filter through society's requests and organise the calendar so that YOU

get the best club nights!

As well as an avid clubber, I've previously been a senior technician and floor manager at the QEII Performing Arts Centre. I've had to organise and manage external companies using our space, and I know the difference between a successful night, and a flop! I think I have the necessary skill to be in the committee and that I can bring a valuable contribution to it.

**VOTE** Christopher Schlumberger-Socha for Entertainments Committee Member!



## David Trevelyan

**C**lubs and societies hosting their own events in Metric is something that's both exciting and really important.

Clubs will never be short of enthusiasm or people-power, and I hope to be part of helping them maximise their potential. As part of the new entertainments committee, I would place enthusiasm and a positive attitude top priority. I'd like to create an events handbook with all the information and contacts that societies need. I'd also push for those clubs with excep-

tional proven records to be given a chance on a Friday or Wednesday evening. My progressive and open attitude mean I'd be great for the job. Having spent three years involved with putting on society events in dB's, I've also learnt what works and what doesn't. Most of all, I've learnt how many good ideas are out there in the student body.



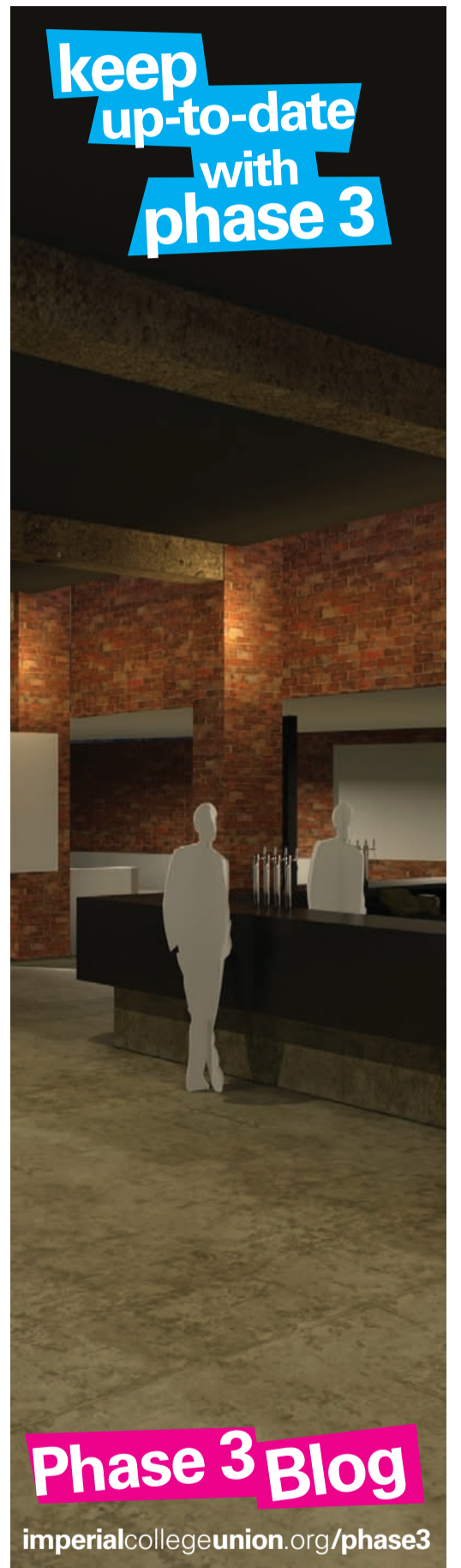
## Luke Foreman

**H**aving become sickened by the infectious spread of the simile "dark and empty, like a party at Imperial College", I'm applying for Ents Committee to make the dismal social life a thing of the past, and to ensure the Union is the envy of all other universities. Variety is definitely the spice of life so, in terms of society run nights, I'm going to be pretty open-minded. The more original the idea, the better, as long as I think people will be game.

Although Sports nights are on Wednesdays, I think sports teams should be encouraged to organise Tuesday and Saturday nights, but equally if Knitting Society want to throw a crazy "Vicars and Farmyard Animals" party, who's going to stop them? Not me.

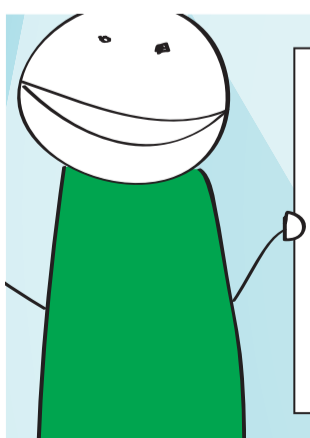
I can see a future where the Union is the new Ministry. King's students will beg to come party with us. And we will say no.

keep  
up-to-date  
with  
phase 3



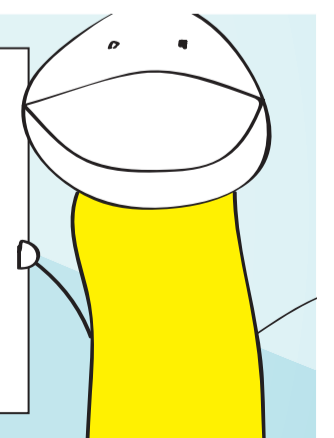
Phase 3 Blog

[imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3)



Vote online from 24-27 May

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



# COUNCIL CHAIR



## Jennifer Wilson

**M**y name is Jenny, and currently I am taking a sabbatical year to be Deputy President (Clubs & Societies). Next year, when doing a Masters in biochemistry, I would like to hold the position of Council chair. Over the past two years I've been a member of Council, reported to it and held others accountable which I think captures a lot of what it can do, but not all. I've also had a lot of experience at chairing meetings, including the Recreational Clubs Committee and the Clubs & Societies Board.

My aims for the role would be to better advertise when meetings are, what the outcomes were, and what that means to students. I would also like to let students know how they can get involved in student democracy to make the most of it, by helping them to raise issues there or in other Union committees.

# CAG CHAIR

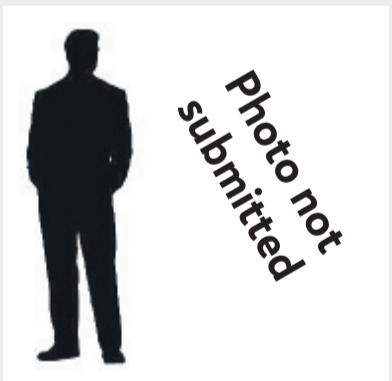


## Nicolas Massie

**H**ello! Many of you may not know what the CAG Chair actually does; so I'll give you a little heads up before asking you to vote for me. In the past few years, the CAG Chair, and the function of the Community Action Group has essentially been to run a soup kitchen in Lincoln's Inn Fields on Sundays, to provide a refugee centre with sustenance through FoodCycle (formerly Foodworks) by recycling unwanted raw ingredients and then just last year to oversee the formation of IC Buddies. Next year, we want to do

so much more. The Union has been working with CAG, essentially a volunteering-coordinating body, to figure out a way to facilitate volunteering within the community around Imperial College. Next year, if elected, I will make volunteering a more streamlined process. No more worrying about CRBs, insurance or whether someone else from Imperial is already doing this and that there and then. For club officers looking to organise some volunteering, this should make your lives much easier as we'll already have the answers you're looking for.

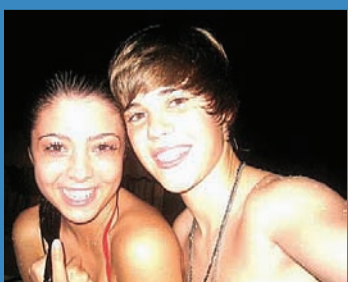
As treasurer of the group this year, I've seen the difficulties faced by the chair as well as the opportunities to make a difference. Give me the chance to realise those opportunities. Vote for Nicolas Massie.



## Weili Dong

NOT SUBMITTED

# RON (RE-OPEN NOMINATIONS) FOR ALL POSITIONS



**H**i doods, I'm Justin Bieber. You might have heard of my as that annoying twerp that is on every single billboard and television screen in the world. I sing annoying songs that other people write for me. More talented people that is. Well, I'm representing RON, Re-Open Nominations at this year's Summer Elections. ROFLZZZ! So if you think I'm cool and the other people are useless, vote for RON. Get it?

I mean, all the people on these pages are probably just as talentless as me. Once I lose my adorable baby-face looks, I've just a non-career in heroin and short-lived marriages lined up. It's true, my mommy says I have. These cretins on the other hand, don't. They lose this election, they have the prospect of another year at Im-

perial College. They are the type that strive on responsibility, and without it, they shrivel up like slugs and things. I learn about slugs in school. YAY! SLUGS R KOOL.

Ohmigod! I've just read their manifestos, and LOLLERS, they're useless. Maybe it's cos I haven't learnt to read yet, but I just pretend I can anyway.

Who needs a Deputy President of Education. We don't need no education. Didn't that really old band, The Who, sing that or something?

So, if you'd prefer a funtastic COOL 13 year old boy (like me) in the positions being contested in the Summer Elections, you've only got one thing to do:

OHMIGOOOOOOD, VOTE RON! VOTE BIEBER (AND HIS GF)!!!111!!



# Rhys Davies can cure all ailments, no drugs



**“My efforts have led to a revised pharmacology textbook, much lighter on the mind, let alone the back.”**



For a medic like myself, one of the more hellish ordeals you must face in your journey for the elusive stethoscope of power – and an F1 post – is pharmacology. So many drugs, so many side-effects, so many interactions, and they keep making more all the time! Trying to learn it all is like Sisyphus on ice-skates. But what really helps is finding patterns to link it all together.

For instance, Ibuprofen and Aspirin are both NSAIDs and they have N and I in them but Paracetamol doesn't, and it isn't an NSAID. But it does have a P... like Penicillin, which is an antibiotic... but it has an N and an I in it...loads actually. Doesn't that make it an NSAID? And Prednisolone has an N, and I but that's actually a steroid...and it has a P like Paracetamol which cures infection or...was it...where was I?

A lesson I learned in Monte Carlo was that, no matter how good your system,

the house always wins. As true for diuretics and anti-emetics as it is for Texas Hold'em. Even with the most comprehensive and complex system ever devised, it is impossible to learn all the drugs in the British National Formulary. Instead, what is needed is a good spring clean. There's a lot of clutter within the pages of pharmacology textbooks and if we could get rid of that, we might just be able to get somewhere.

To that end, I have been beavering away at the bogged-down field of pharmacology, chipping away at everything less than absolutely vital. My efforts have led to a revised pharmacology textbook, much lighter on the mind, let alone the back. After some fine-tuning with the dosages, it's finally ready for publication. Are you excited?

Firstly a drug for everyone who is unwell. After some disastrous research trials at Northwick Park for that promised panacea, Paracetamoxifrusendrone-

omycin, I have devised an alternative wonderdrug. For all those under the weather and in need of a good pick-up, I prescribe Chicken Soup (400g, to be taken orally, thrice daily at mealtimes). Its rejuvenative properties are well-documented in the medical literature (well, someone's literature), proven to revive the body and lift the soul. And at the very least, it's not going to make things worse.

Secondly, we need an analgesic, something to take away the pain. Like morphine and heroin, it needs to be incredibly potent and also amazingly addictive. This may sound like a bad idea but with compliance rates notoriously bad in the NHS, I thought it would be a nice change to have a drug people actually want to take. Thus, the analgesic to have to hand is Chocolate. I hardly need to expound the wondrous efficacy of chocolate's pain-relieving properties but the effects are two-fold. As well as

somatic pain, chocolate is an excellent remedy for emotional and psychological pain. It can be prescribed as an analgesic or an anti-depressant because of this, neatly taking out two birds with one stone. Lollipops may also be prescribed for analgesia in children under twelve.

Thirdly, we need a drug of last resort, the one we turn to when all other avenues have failed. The current problem, especially with antibiotics, is that the drug of last resort ten years ago is now useless due to rampant drug resistance. Therefore, we need something that won't lose its edge, or if it does, we can easily modify it for greater effectiveness. And so we have the greatest weapon in our pharmacological arsenal – Cake. This is reserved for only the most serious and severe of cases; terminal cancer, heart failure and athlete's foot. If faced with annoyingly refractory disease, we can modulate

therapy with a range of icings, fillings and flavours. We also have the one with hundreds and thousands on it.

In addition to these, I heartily recommend hot blackcurrant squash for seasonal and pandemic flu, as well as a nice cup of tea as prophylaxis for... anything.

And there you have the crux of the new pharmacology, simplified to optimise patient care and, more importantly, to preserve the sanity of future medical students. Pharmacology will still haunt the dreams of medics for years to come but at least now, they'll be dreaming of cake and chocolate, instead of Methotrexate and Infliximab. I was worried that some may be tempted to self-medicate, especially during the stressful exam periods, but remembered that Imperial students are wiser than that.

They'll just stick to alcohol, nicotine and caffeine as always.

# Charlotte Morris gives her organs to science



**“[In the UK] we have an opt-in system, which means that you have to register to become an organ donor...”**



Are you on the organ donor register? Do you even know what it is? Would you have any objection to people taking your organs after your death? Nobody can decide what you would have wanted once you're dead and gone, so you probably should think about it before it gets to that stage.

New York has been the most recent area of the world where the organ donor system has been questioned.

Last month, a New York assemblyman commenced his campaign for 'presumed consent' for organ donations after his daughter underwent a kidney transplant which saved her life. The UK has the same system as the US when it comes to organ donation; we have an opt-in system, which means that you have to register to become an organ donor and (usually) carry a donor card. The problem is that not enough people are 'opting-in' to the system, and it's not necessarily be-

cause they don't want anyone to have their organs once they're dead, it's just because they didn't know they had to. Despite the fact that around 90% of UK residents claim that they agree with the concept of organ donation, only 27% of the population are currently on the register. With over 10,000 people needing an organ transplant, and ever-growing waiting lists, there just aren't enough hearts, kidneys, livers, corneas etc. to go around.

Back in 2007, Sir Liam Donaldson,

the UK's Chief Medical Officer recommended that we changed to a system of presumed consent here in the UK, so that we could increase the number of organs available for donation, and so reduce waiting times for transplant list, and ultimately save lives. As usual, the government ignores the professionals.

The thing about donating organs after death is, it doesn't even hurt. I won't claim to be the most altruistic person in the world. God knows nobody is taking my blood or bone mar-

row while I'm alive, and the thought of having a blood sample taken makes me come over all light-headed. But once you've departed for whichever afterlife you fancy, you just don't need them any more. You might as well give them up to somebody who does.

This approach is not for everyone of course, to quote one of my friends "I've spent the last 21 years growing these organs to perfection, I'm not giving them to just anybody!!"

But why not? Selfish git.

# Chris Darby wants world-class education



“Free education is obviously the best model for ensuring that students are educated based on merit...”



I'd love to be able to have a free education, a system truly based on education for the most talented, not the richest. The UK has a history of cheap or free education, but this led to an underfunded Higher Education sector, and science and engineering departments across the UK closing. Since 2006, UK Universities have had access to funding from 'top-up' tuition fees. At Imperial, if you're a home student then you're paying the maximum of just over £3,225 a year. With living expenses, according to the registry, of £10,000 a year, this leaves a student studying a 4 year course with a debt of around £50,000. Even though much of this (about 60-70%) is debt with the universally hated Student Loans Company, it

still leaves around £15-£20,000 to be paid for by term-time jobs, parents or massive overdrafts and bank loans.

Universities like Imperial say that tuition fees introduced in 2006 have “helped universities to put their research, learning and teaching provision on a more sustainable footing” but have students seen a real difference? I am happy to carry the burden of student debt if I see a good return. There was definitely a power-shift for some institutions after 2006. More and more universities began reaching out to students, advertising places and trying to appear more open and enticing. The students are clients and the university is providing a service, something they began to acknowledge.

Clearly tuition fees aren't going away,

but the Russell Group (which Imperial is a part of) want them to go up even more. Possibly more intimidating than that, they want graduates to start paying back their student loans faster, and at a higher rate of interest. Whilst these changes won't affect you, I think the prospect of even more debt after graduation (up to £10,000 in tuition fees per year) would definitely make you think twice about how you could ever afford an Imperial degree. I believe there are many students who will be priced out of the market – there's no guarantee you'll leave university with a job which can pay your various student debts. But is it fair for anyone except the graduate to pay for their education?

Providing there is sufficient support for those without funds, extending

top-up fees could be a workable system. However, if Imperial did receive three times as much from students each year, we'd expect that to be reflected in their teaching provisions. No longer would we accept appalling coursework feedback, a stuffy overheated library or such a weak student voice in College's decisions.

It's up to the Browne Review and the government to work out a way to effectively fund Higher Education, and ensure access to education for all. A wide variety of evidence has been collected for the Browne Review and the group and they are now moving to the stage where they select proposals and judge them based on their 3 key criteria: “guaranteeing the world-class quality of our Higher Education sys-

tem; ensuring that talent, rather than ability to pay, is what determines participation; and ensuring that funding arrangements are sustainable for the long-term.”

Free education is obviously the best model for ensuring that students are educated based on merit, but is also impossible to implement economically. If everyone was paying 'full' fees, like international students, then we would instantly price a vast proportion of the students out of a degree at a Russell Group university. It's naive to blindly ignore the funding crisis, but at the same time, Imperial and the government need to be realistic. A British education should remain world-class and it must always be accessible to those who want it.

# Gilead Amit's quantum theory of humour



“One cannot tell where a joke is going and at the same time to know how amusing it will turn out to be.”



Humour, as those of you with an interest in these things will doubtless be aware, is the quintessential quantum phenomenon. Those of you without an interest in these things will probably have stopped reading by the end of this sentence which, to be perfectly honest, is more your loss than mine.

In any case, now that I am left with only the most discerning and attractive cross-section of my readership, we can return to the matter at hand. Which was, in case your hand had gone to sleep, the fundamentally quantum nature of humour. The uncertainty principles which underlie the modern quantum theory dictate that in ordinary laboratory settings it is impossible to obtain an accurate reading of where a joke is going and simultaneously to know how amusing it will turn out to be.

In more technical terms, the uncer-

tainty concerning a joke's final payoff, multiplied by the uncertainty in its ultimate destination, must always be greater than a finite number known as Prank's constant. And it is this physical principle which makes the objective evaluation of humour so damnably difficult.

The same phenomenon has also been observed in the non-scientific community, where there is an old saying to the effect that explaining a joke is much like dissecting a frog. Nobody enjoys it very much and the frog is still dead. And this is why I would ordinarily have no interest in responding to the Batrachian post-mortem that Tom Hills conducted last week on a piece I had written for election night.

My intention in writing on that fateful evening had been to amuse and entertain, and he, for whatever unfortunate congenital reason, assumed that I was serious. Given how certain he was about my intentions, the error bars on

the piece's humour were clearly going to be off the scale. What can you do.

Had this incident taken place two years ago, when I was still wet behind the ears and damp beneath the arms, I would have jumped at the chance for a war of words with Tom. But this year I would gladly have let it slide, had it not been for the fact that, owing to meticulous copy editing in my temporary absence as deputy editor, his response appeared on two separate pages of last week's paper.

The fact that my colleagues on the editorial team valued his criticisms so highly has led me to re-evaluate the quality of my own work. If others can take my writing so seriously, perhaps it is my own fault for not making the irony and lightness of touch sufficiently obvious. Peeling back the skin of the original amphibian, I can fully understand how the suggestion that 'George Osborne be dipped in gold and sold as a commemorative figurine' would be taken as incite-

ment to violence against one of the nation's most powerful figures.

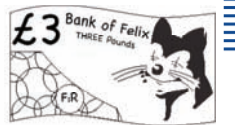
Likewise, my own unworthy self-mockery on the issue of my foreign birth was clearly too near the knuckle. When I apologised for having a 'tongue not yet suited to your mother', I could not have realised how profoundly offensive that remark would prove to be.

Perhaps it would be better if there was some form of linguistic tool specifically designed to distinguish an attempt at humour from ordinary speech. Clearly sarcasm, the paradox, irony and metaphor no longer serve their purpose. From now on I propose that all jokes be identified with the symbol (!). Not that the above was a joke, of course, I was merely road-testing the symbol (!). No – that wasn't a joke either (!). But that, on the other hand, being a third repetition, can legitimately be considered funny and hence an appropriate use of (!). Oh bother (!).

I must of course, also apologise to Tom and the legions of readers who I am sure also made eye contact with my avatar two weeks ago, for my unfair use of long words and complex metaphors. Such sesquipedalian tendencies and rhetorical excesses have no place in the modern opinion piece, which must above all things be bland, banal, bourgeois and, frankly, boring (!).

But, as was so rightly pointed out to me last week, it is only the most bigoted of individuals who criticise without offering a viable replacement. And yes, of course it is easy to knock the response I received last week. It is the easiest, simplest, most patently obvious remark imaginable to say that the piece was uninspiring and misdirected (!). But what would I have liked to see in its place? What alternative use of those column inches would I have preferred?

I'm sure I can leave that to your imagination (!).



# Germany will ban 'naked' short selling

Since shortly after the 2007 to 2008 financial crisis, EU politicians have been talking up a drastic tightening of financial regulations. On Wednesday Germany appeared to have taken one step further by banning short sales.

**T**he many students here considering future careers in finance have been given good cause over the last couple of years to worry about the future of the European financial industry. Bold assertions have been made, ranging from the introduction of Tobin taxes on financial transactions to complete bans on certain instruments. But for the most part, these have turned out to have been populist politicking as governments feared that destroying the industry through undue regulation could jeopardise the huge taxes extracted from them. For example, at their peak, taxes from the City accounted for fully one seventh of all British Government revenues. Last Wednesday, Germany went against this pattern of tough talk and relatively little action by announcing a ban on the practice of short-selling on financial markets.

Short-selling is the practice of making money from a fall in the price of underlying assets such as stocks and bonds, in return for losing money if their prices rise. This negative exposure may be gained, for example, by 'renting' an asset, selling it immediately, and then buying it back at the end of the rent period in order to return to the original owner.

The announcement was made by Chancellor Angela Merkel, in a speech to mark the opening of a parliamentary debate on Germany's contribution to a £700 billion bailout aimed at stabilising the value of the Euro. Merkel called for faster cuts to German government spending, more international focus on financial regulation, and for insolvent European states to be allowed to go bankrupt in future, rather than bailed

out as with Greece. Merkel will be making the case for these measures to other European governments in a meeting this Friday.

"The lack of rules and limits can make behaviour in financial markets driven purely by the profit motive destructive, and lead to an existential threat to financial stability in Europe and even the world...the market alone won't correct these mistakes," Merkel told German legislators, showing that the German government has not wavered in its commitment to private means for public ends. "All of this will stay in effect until another solution has been found at the European level," she continued.

**"Merkel called for faster cuts to spending, more international focus on regulation, and for insolvent European states to go bankrupt"**

But the biggest reactions were to the Chancellor's promise to ban German financial firms from engaging in short-selling. All major European stock exchanges were down on Wednesday on the news. The announcement was seen as a push back against recent electoral difficulties for Merkel's coa-

lition government, which has recently lost control of the Upper House of the country's parliament. Germany's recent pledge to bail out Greece, which is facing problems because its civil servants want raises that few German workers have seen in the last two years, has made matters considerably worse for the Germany's ruling Christian Democrat-Free Democrat coalition government.

The reaction from across Europe has been negative. Carsten Brzeski, economist for the ING Group, the Netherlands' biggest bank, argues that Merkel's move looks like "political desperation," sending "the totally wrong signals to European partners and also to the markets...it's mainly driven by the domestic political agenda." He worried that "Germany is simply not able to come up with a clear line... [Investors] start to think, 'I don't understand this anymore, I'm going to sell my Euros.'"

No other EU country has so far backed the plan, but the tone from officials so far has been diplomatic. "There is strong pressure to take action against speculative attacks," said the EU Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner. "Therefore, I can see the reasons for this decision... it's important that we now accelerate the regulatory reform of the financial markets."

This decision by Germany comes as many have been wondering whether London might lose its position as Europe's most important financial centre. Government policy is a major factor in location decisions for financial firms, and so there has been concern over plans to crack down on many profitable but risky banking practices.



The European Central Bank has been concerned about the solvency of so-called 'PIIGS' - debt-ridden, over-spending Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Greece and Spain



From left to right: French finance minister Christine Lagarde, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy. The three have worked closely in the past two years to introduce tougher global financial regulations.

Before the recent UK general elections, the Liberal Democrats were more vocal than the Conservatives about the need to increase banking regulations. But both parties, who between them have formed the UK's new

**"Historically, governments have never been as tough as their word on such a vital source of taxes"**

coalition government, agree on a "consumer-protection" agency, higher capital holding requirements, and tighter overall regulations, both domestically and internationally.

Before the recent UK general elections, the Liberal Democrats were more vocal than the Conservatives about the need to increase banking regulations. But both parties, who between them have

formed the UK's new coalition government, agree on a "consumer-protection" agency, higher capital holding requirements, and tighter overall regulations, both domestically and internationally.

In addition, the Tories are promising to give extra powers to the Bank of England to supervise financial companies, ensuring that they take on less risk. The Liberal Democrats meanwhile have gone substantially further and are calling for the break-up of banks into retail-only and investment-only operations, even the ones that are not owned by the Government that performed well during the crisis.

As *felix* wrote for the election issue, such increases in the level of regulation are still unlikely to cause significant movements of large financial firms to more welcoming regulatory environments. The latest move by Germany should cause concern. Even worse is that the British government talks as if it is buying into a similar philosophy. But historically governments have never been as tough as their word on such a vital source of taxes.

The actions of both the British and German governments currently suggest that this is still the case.

Featuring:

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The Imperial College science magazine



# Do Brits really want electoral reform?

Following the talk of changing the way we vote, Neil Dhir dissects the different systems used around the world

Only in Britain would it be possible to stage a general election where everyone lost. But alas this is the strange fortitude that now de-masks itself in front of the world; Britain's first coalition government since the Second World War, and boy are we in for a ride.

Labour introduced 111 tax rises since 1997, took a trillion pounds in additional taxation, and still left us with a Greek-level deficit: 12.6 per cent of GDP and rising. Of every four pounds Gordon Brown spent, one was borrowed. The national debt is rising by nearly £6,000 a second.

Clearly this is the time to be talking about electoral reform then.

Most of you will already be familiar with the strange constitutional spectacle that took place on Wednesday the 12th of May 2010. Mr. Brown resigned as PM, Mr. David Cameron became the new PM and Nick Clegg, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, was running around like a headless chicken trying to figure from which main party he could get the best electoral reform deal. Never mind the economic crisis facing the country, electoral reform must come first if you are a Liberal Democrat. In the Dutch Auctions of the past a few days, change in the voting system has been caricatured as a deal breaker.

By muddling the genuine arguments that can be made for reform, with cynical attempts to cobble together the self-serving electoral arrangements necessary to sustain the hegemony of particular politicians, there is a grave danger that the case for reform will be lost. A coalition was formed with no mandate whatsoever for far-ranging constitutional reform. But as events transpired: Mr. Clegg wanted PR but was given AV but under the FPTP system he got royally buggered. What on earth does that latter sentence mean you are probably thinking? Good thing you



Nick Clegg firmly took the Conservatives by the balls after they failed to gain an overall majority in the general election

picked up *felix*, for you are about to find out.

Whenever there is an election and a political party loses they blame the system. You will be familiar with this procedure as it is a juxtaposition of when your exam results arrive. This time the Liberal Democrats were border-lining on obsession when it came to the electoral system. With hindsight, one does understand Mr. Clegg's grievances. Not only did he get nearly every single student vote in the country he was also at the centre of "Cleggmania". What happened? Well, he actually lost seats compared to the last general election in 2005.

Mr. Clegg's solution to this little hiccup is to change the voting system to something known as 'PR' or Proportional Representation.

No electoral system is perfect. Some, however, are more perfect than others, and some are utter shite. Under the Proportional Representation system or 'PR', several members of parliament would be elected per constituency. Every political party presents a list of candidates and voters can select a list, that is they vote for a political party. Parties are assigned parliamentary seats proportionally to the number of votes they get. There are several pros and cons of

this system and at first sight it would seem that it is the most democratic. Every interest group would be represented in parliament, if that system had been used on Friday, the BNP would have 12 MPs today. There is also more choice for voters since, as said; every interest can be represented if enough people vote for it.

The current system is unrepresentative – it gives all the power to one party, however small its majority might be. For instance, only a quarter of those eligible voted for Labour at the last general election.

As it is, many MPs are elected to Parliament despite 75 per cent of

their constituency voting against them. Often solid, centrist policies will result and that is fine if you belong to continental Europe which has such traditions, as PR seldom results in one party holding an absolute majority, it requires governments to compromise and build consensus according to FairVote.org. PR can create stable government, but not necessarily strong government. Of grave importance is that any significant change to the electoral procedure would require a national referendum, particularly since the constitution of the United Kingdom is uncodified.

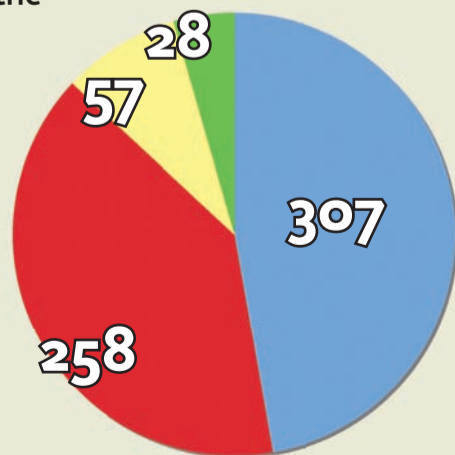
The coalition governments that PR tends to produce are often weak and indecisive. Italy, which has such a system, has had to dissolve its parliament seven times in the last 40 years and has had 60 different governments in the same time (and counting). When List PR is used, and particularly when seats are allocated in one single national district, as in Namibia or Israel, the system is criticized for destroying the link between voters and their representatives.

Where lists are closed, voters have no opportunity to determine the identity of the persons who will represent them and no identifiable representative for their town, district or village, nor can they easily reject an individual representative if they feel that he or she has performed poorly in office, or is not the kind of person they would want representing them.

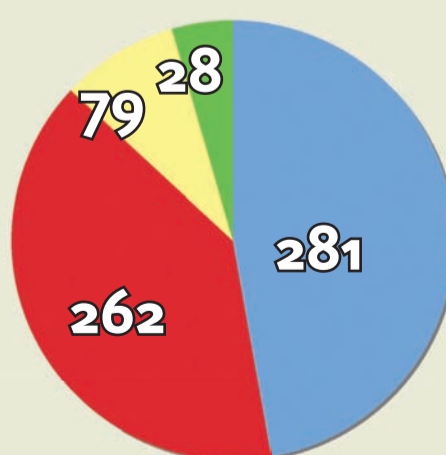
The system also encourages excessive entrenchment of power within party headquarters and in the hands of senior party leaderships. A candidate's position on the party list, and therefore his or her likelihood of success, is dependent on currying favour with party bosses, while their relationship with the electorate is of secondary importance. Only one in five people who went to the polls voted for the Liberal Democrats, yet the Liberal Democrats are now call-

## How many MPs would there be for each party if the system changes?

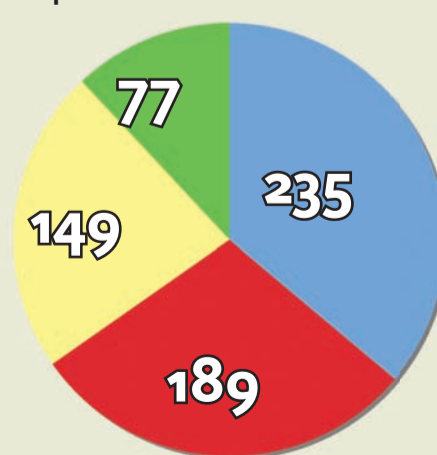
First Past the Post



Alternative Vote



Proportional Representation



Labour Conservatives Liberal Democrats Other



ing the tune in determining the shape of the government of the United Kingdom. Under PR, this situation is likely to be a permanent feature, and the inglorious backroom deals that have been done in the past few days, perpetual.

However, when Mr. Clegg went to Labour to ask them for PR they told him no. When Mr. Clegg went to the Conservatives they said almost the same thing but offered the Alternative Vote or 'AV' instead. Before we go through the intricacies of AV, it must be noted that an AV referendum motion would have to pass through Parliament, which is far from a sure thing since neither Labour nor the Tories really want it – it exists primarily to appease the Liberal Democrats. If it did, only then would it be subject to the people.

The AV is very much like the First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) system. Like FPTP, it is used to elect representatives for single-member constituencies, except that rather than simply marking one solitary 'X' on the ballot paper, the voter has the chance to rank the candidates on offer. In some AV elections, such as most Australian elections, electors are required to rank all candidates, explains the Electoral Reform Society (ERS). AV also differs from FPTP in the way votes are counted. Like FPTP, a candidate who has won an absolute majority of the votes (50 per cent plus one) is immediately elected.

However, if no candidate has an absolute majority, under AV the candidate with the lowest number of first preferences is 'eliminated' from the count, and his or her ballots are examined for their second preferences. Each ballot is then transferred to whichever remaining candidate has the highest preference in the order as marked on the ballot paper. This process is repeated until one candidate has an absolute majority, and is declared duly elected.

One advantage of transferring ballots is that it enables the votes of several aligned candidates to accumulate, so that diverse but related interests can be combined to

## “However AV is potentially less proportional than FPTP”

win representation. The Alternative Vote also enables supporters of candidates who have little hope of being elected to influence, via their second and later preferences, the election of a major candidate. For this reason, it is sometimes argued that AV is the best system for dealing with elections in deeply divided societies, as it can compel candidates to seek not only the votes of their own supporters but also the 'second preferences' of others.

All MPs would have the support of a majority of their constituents. It more accurately reflects public opinion of extremist parties, who are unlikely to gain many second-preference votes. It also eliminates the need for tactical voting. Electors can vote for their first-choice candidate without fear of wasting their vote and it encourages candidates to chase second- and third-preferences, which lessens the need for negative campaigning and rewards broad-church policies, says the ERS.

However, AV is potentially less proportional than FPTP. It turns politics into a game of second preferences. Politicians can discard voters' immediate concerns, and rely on picking up their second preferences. Far from allowing an increasingly consumerist electorate a wider spectrum of choice, AV mitigates against niche and

distinctive voter choice. It will leave a politics that is even more bland and generic. FPTP allows the largest coherent group to rule if it is large enough, even if it does not command a majority of voters.

Another way to put this same point is that FPTP tends to produce outcomes focused around what people want, not what they oppose. AV produces outcomes in which people vote against things, ordering their preferences such that what they dislike most comes last. But what is disliked is irrelevant – all that counts is whether enough of you agree on some specific thing you think is better. It does very little to improve the voice of traditionally under-represented groups in Parliament, strengthening the dominance of the 'central' viewpoint. There is no transfer of power from party authority to the voters. It is prone to a certain amount of 'Donkey voting', where voters rank candidates randomly, not knowing enough about all of them to make an informed decision.

In 1997, 2001, 2005 and sort-of 2010 the Tories lost. They lost a lot more in the previous three elections when they then naturally blamed the system. They, like Clegg, have a point here. The FPTP System is massively biased against the Tories. The only people it really works for currently is Labour and they crashed and burned anyway, as expected. Labour won the 2001 election with 412 MPs against 166 Conservative MPs, and a landslide majority of 165, but with a lead of only 9 points in the popular vote. John Major's Conservatives had a popular vote lead of not much less – 7.5 percentage points – but a paltry majority of 21 and 336 MPs compared to Labour's 271 when they won in 1992.

Under the current system for electing MPs to the House of Commons, there are 650 separate constituencies across the UK each electing one single Member of Parliament. In order to vote you simply put an 'X' next to the name of the candidate you support. The candidate who gets the most votes wins, regardless of whether he or she has more than 50% support. Once members have been individually elected, the party with the most seats in Parliament, again regardless of whether or not it has a majority across the country, normally becomes the next government.

Only one MP is elected in each constituency, so all the voters who did not vote for him or her are not represented. Their votes do not help elect anybody and so are wasted, they could have stayed at home and the result would not have been altered. In 2005 19 million voters cast ineffective votes – that is 70% of those who voted.

A high proportion of these voters are the same people every time, e.g. Conservative voters in County Durham or Labour voters in much of Surrey. Voters are represented unequally. Concentrated support for a party produces results.

The way the boundaries of constituencies are drawn can affect the results according to the Electoral Commission. Governments are often accused of gerrymandering, adjusting the boundaries of constituencies to influence the results. The FPTP is not a bad system but has been manhandled into electoral oblivion by opportunist politicians over the past decades. Over 60 countries, with almost half of the world's electors, employ FPTP, and only 0.5% of electors vote using the Alternative Vote (AV) and only 0.1% by the Single Transferable Vote (STV).

The Alternative Vote Plus (AV+) devised by the Jenkins Commission is not used in any country. FPTP tends to lead to a two-party system. The system tends to produce single party governments, which are strong enough to create legislation and

tackle the country's problems, without relying on the support of any other party. It provides a close link between the MP and their constituency. The system represents the views of the people, as the candidate with the greatest support wins through a fair process.

What is more, the current government is committed to cutting the number of MPs by 10% and redrawing boundaries so the system becomes fair again (assuming there is no gerrymandering, and that assumption should not be made). Moreover it allows voters to choose between people rather than just between parties. Voters can assess the performance of individual candidates rather than just having to accept a list of candidates presented by a party, as can happen under some List PR electoral systems, and more importantly gives a chance for popular independent or minor party candidates to be elected – like the Green Party's first MP selected for Brighton.

While it does form a strong majority government, the same is true for the opposition save for the majority; it gives rise to a coherent opposition in the legislature. In theory, the flip side of a strong single-party government is that the opposition is also given enough seats to perform a critical checking role and present itself as a realistic alternative to the government of the day. It advantages broadly based political parties.

Under the Bill of Rights 1688, the vote granted the electorate the power to lawfully sack those who tax them and make the laws. Proportional representation would make that impossible, and if you cannot sack those who tax you and make laws, you are not free.

The laws uphold the people's rights and

“...if you cannot sack those who tax you and make laws, you are not free.”

liberties and protect them against the otherwise potentially tyrannical power of the state (this has not really worked so well in the UK under New Labour one is afraid to say). This, allied to the Act of Habeas Corpus of 1679, effectively puts the citizen above the state. There has been no revolution since 1688 in England or the UK. No other state in the EU has a constitution pre-dating VE Day May 1945, and France has had more than 20 constitutions since 1789.

These are profound questions that do not lend themselves to a quick fix merely to oblige a minority party in return for its support in the Commons voting lobbies. Mr. Cameron was right to offer an all-party review; it needs to be wide-ranging, and certainly not rushed.

The Liberal Democrats wielded disproportionate negotiating power over what is now the first coalition government since 1945. It will most likely not last more than a year. Both sides have had to sacrifice a lot, and settle for something they do not believe in; head not heart, supposedly for the good of the country.

What now passes for a majority right-wing government is more left wing than the one in 1970s. Only time will tell if that grand homage to the nation was really true or just desperate opportunism from desperate politicians aching for a spell at power. The British voters supposedly wanted a different kind of politics, well, that is certainly what they got.



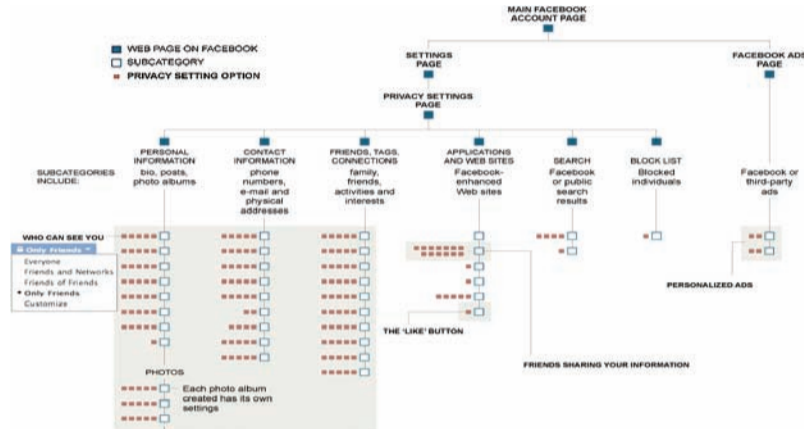
Voting reforms could revolutionise choosing No. 10's residents



# Privacy Paradigm Shift Leaves Facebookers Open

**Feroz Salam** investigates whether you can really trust Facebook

On May 12th, the New York Times published an infographic (right) that would have looked more at home in a science textbook - their breakdown of Facebook's privacy options. The final count reached 50 settings containing 170 options in total, ranging from those related to the public availability of your status updates to those about who gets to see what you "Like" and who doesn't. Facebook's privacy policy is currently longer than the United States constitution, and has grown a massive 480% in the last five years. Making sense of the tangle of options and jargon is practically impossible, and unfortunately it seems like Facebook might be banking on this to sell your information for a profit.



NYTs infographic showing the maze of Facebook's privacy options

app I use on Facebook? Not so much. It's a problem that Facebook has had to grapple with continuously as they have tried to monetise their service; trying to find the line, which crossed, leads to users no longer feeling comfortable using the site.

## Attitudes towards Privacy

Facebook's attitude towards finding this proverbial line has made the problem many times worse than it should be. Over half a year ago, Facebook made a change to its Terms of Service without making it clear to users. One of the new paragraphs added stated, in short, "your stuff is our stuff". Everything you published on the service was owned by Facebook, indefinitely. After an initial uproar, this was quickly withdrawn, but it typifies their angle towards privacy issues: change the rules first, then wait and see if anyone notices. A few months back, Facebook made another new, more subtle change: allowing an increasing amount of information to be indexed by search engines. Three years ago, it wasn't possible to Google someone's name and

find their Facebook page. Facebook pages were internal to those on Facebook. Three years on and the list of information from Facebook accessible to the wider internet is surprising: your name, photo, picture, gender, network information (and possibly even your wall posts) are available by default.

These changes to the service would be fine if Facebook clearly notified their users each time a change was made, or making the changes opt-in. Problem is time and time again they haven't, simply moving all users to the new, more open privacy settings by default. It's a stalker's paradise but a job seeker's nightmare. Even if you maintain a strict handle on your own settings, your privacy is also in the hands of people whom you are in photos with, and whose walls you write on. Safely maintaining that extended presence on the internet is practically impossible.

## Questions about Zuckerberg

The concerns about Facebook's attitude towards privacy are heightened by the apparent nature of founder



## Privacy. What's Privacy?

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

In a week of privacy being in the technology press spotlight, we've had several offenders. Facebook of course has taken centre-stage, but let's not forget about Google. Facebook might own your 'private information', but Google owns almost all of that and more. The difference is that Google owns up when it's done something shady, like this week with the revelation that its StreetView cars have been collecting terabytes of data from unsecured wifi routers on their travels. Apparently due to a programming error, the data collected has been deleted and Google said 'sorry'. As connected as we are, it's easy not to share too much, but don't be one of those people to get caught out. Think before you post it.

## Not enough?

Then why not check out the latest episode of the Wrap Sheet podcast talking internet privacy, the Dell Streak on O2 and hands on with the Nokia N8.

Available free on iTunes, Facebook or the blog

[www.thewrapsheet.co.uk](http://www.thewrapsheet.co.uk)



## Monetisation

When Facebook was in its infancy, a social network run only for college students at Harvard, the cost of maintaining a largely text and photograph based service would have been relatively low. At its current state as the primary social network for roughly 400 million people across the globe, serving huge amounts of video, flash-based games like Farmville and high resolution images, the cost of maintaining the site must be enormous, and that gives rise to the question of monetisation.

Websites like Google have an easy and obvious source of revenue with advertising based on searches. Facebook also looked to use revenue from searches, and they had a trump card, vast amounts of your personal information. Yet the problem with sharing personal data with third parties has always been, how much is too much. While I'm fine with Google picking keywords out of my emails to give me targeted adverts, would I be fine with my pictures being used to advertise an

## Can anyone be bothered?

Yet the one thing that has kept people on Facebook has been inertia. Once you have built up a friends list containing a network of hundreds of friends and family, no one is going to want to switch networks and rebuild that. Even more valuable are the pictures, videos and other content you might have saved on the website, a fact Zuckerberg is keenly aware of. Changes to Facebook have been ruthlessly bold, with features being introduced without any beta testing and seemingly without regard to user response. The same goes for the privacy policy; no one really cares until something bad happens to them, and by then it's too late. Even May 31st being launched as "Quit Facebook Day" hasn't raised anywhere near the amount of attention required to even make a statement to Facebook. If Zuckerberg is banking on apathy, it looks like a safe bet.

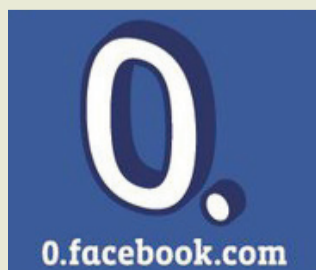
## Weekly Wrap-up: A quick guide to the best of the rest you might have missed

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

Sam, another week is done! Yeah, they're flying by now, and the news is pretty thick and fast, so here's a quick run-down to keep you up-to-date.

In a week filled with Facebook bashing, the company re-launched its stripped out 'lite' version, Facebook Zero. This time however it's aimed at the 'emerging markets', which apparently will include the UK, and can be accessed free of charge due to partnerships

with quite a few network carriers in countries like Indonesia and Bolivia that are already in place. The text only site is aiming to be the free sample that hooks you into the crack that is the Facebook ecosystem.



Everybody's favourite (or loathed) London Mayor, Boris Johnson, hit the tech news this week with an announcement that he wants London to be the world's biggest WiFi hotspot. Bojo plans to use lampposts and bus stops to blanket the city in WiFi, all in readiness for the 2012 Olympics. Many US cities have tried and failed to do the same, but fingers crossed Mayor Blondie can get it done.

Even if WiFi can't get the job done, we might have ubiquitous local networking thanks to LEDs and some Chinese

boffins. Of course things have moved on a bit since the days of IrDA (remember those days Grandpa?), with 2Mbps demonstrated using ceiling-mounted blue LEDs that serve as lighting at the same time. We're not talking Gigabit speeds here, but it would be a great way to serve all those connected appliances we've been promised, Internet fridges, toasters, microwaves and plant pots, all that 'future' tech.

Spotify has been busy this week too, introducing new price plans in an attempt to move its streaming service to

a more viable business model. By introducing a new free plan



called Spotify Open, new users can get 20 hours of streaming music a month supported by adverts. If that's not enough, you now have Spotify Unlimited which is £4.99 a month, providing unlimited ad-free

streaming to your computer only. If you want to go mobile, then you're going to have to fork over £9.99 a month for Spotify Premium. Current ad-supported users won't be affected by these changes, so fear not all you stingy-streamers.

Last but not least, DuPont the company best known for Lycra among other things, wants to print up a 50" OLED display for you in just two minutes. Using its latest tech, DuPont reckons it can compete on cost with LCDs and deliver 15-year lifespans in the near future. 50" OLED? I'll take one.

*"Who writes this crap?"*

Dan Wan, Editor-in-Chief

*"I'd rather be castrated  
with a rusty nail..."*

Ravi Pall, Comment Editor

*"Don't let Hangman near my  
children"*

Hangman

*"I'd rather listen to Barry  
Manilow than read Felix"*

Sasha Nicoletti, Copy Chief

*"I'm ashamed to be a part  
of such an embarrassment"*

Carlos Karingal, Layout Editor

**Help us out here.**

**We're begging you.**

**Send your articles in to:  
felix@imperial.ac.uk**



**Photograph of the Week**

**'A Snack to Remember'**

by **Theekshana Fernando, 2nd Year Medicine**

One must always look up and to the future, but never at the expense of where your walking. Of course this picture came with a price. Sharp, sudden and mildly alarming pain.

Think you've got something better? [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)



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## Dave New World Or Con-Dem-Nation?

I for one welcome our new Tory overlords.

Second Year Physicist

It's like Darth Vader and Harry Potter going on a date.

First Year Chemist

Oh well. It was nice having an NHS while it lasted.

## Gossip Boyo Returns!

Another week has gone by in the library and a few more observations have come to mind.

Is it not torture enough to spend all the hours the Good Lord sends in the library without having to inhale the sweet scent of urination and faeces? I speak of course about the debacle currently playing itself out on the fourth floor. What started out as a small relatively insignificant scent has recently enveloped the majority of the fourth floor, leaving many a student aghast and gagging at the prospect of experiencing the nasal equivalent of rape. Which brings me to my second bug bear.

Now I appreciate that exam time is stressful and usual habits of hygiene may go out of the window slightly. I mean maybe foregoing the daily ritual of washing your hair every day to leave it smelling of Amazonian rainforests as you orgasm in the shower. This does not excuse anyone from reeking distinctly as if they had bathed (read: soaked) in the odorous fourth floor gentleman's toilet. Not cool.

Finally I come to a small passion of mine. People's dress senses, or rather a lack of it. Now I appreciate that this is a matter of personal taste but I'm the one writing this column so my voice will rule. Two things I have noticed which don't quite cut the mustard.

1. Denim ¾ length jeans with a light fade rather reminiscent of George Michael in the bad old days together with a botched pair of hybrid fusion workwear/suede/smart/casual shoes. Any item of clothing that says hybrid tries to be a jack of all trades, when it results in being a master of f\*ck all.

2. Someone with their NHS lanyard tied around their waist. Don't be a douche.

Anyway that's relieved some exam stress. I feel like a natural woman, ahem. Time to unload on the toilets. I will continue to be on the lookout for more interesting takes on library fashion and etiquette. You have been warned: Photos will be taken!

With best wishes,

Gossip Boyo

## Drunken-mate photo of the week

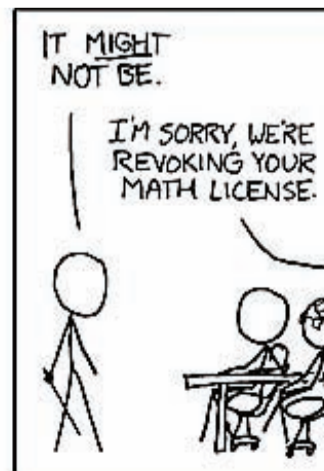
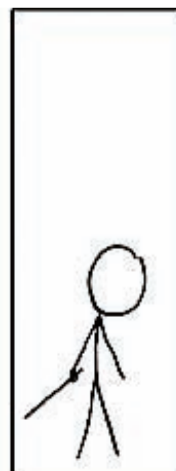
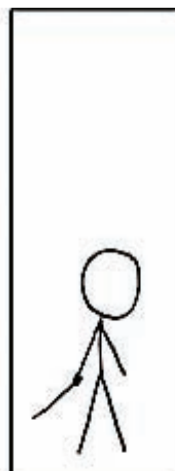
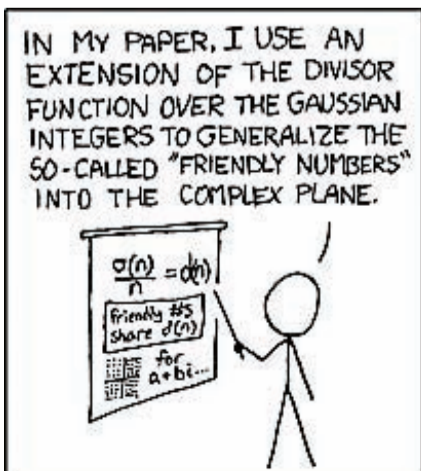


Got a picture of your mate being an absolute waste of oxygen? Well, get your camera out and email your drunken-mate photos to [catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

The feats of endurance that the human body is capable of are amazing. For

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

xkcd.com





## MUSIC

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## Rihanna's Reign @ the O2 Arena

**Mariam Zahedi** isn't revising. Instead she went to the O2 Arena to see Pop's other crazy-fashioned diva, with all elaborate sets and aerial acrobatic displays money can buy.



**R**ight now, the music industry really is all about the girls. Whether you love them or loathe them, there's no doubt that the likes of Lady Gaga, Rihanna, Cheryl Cole [Ed note: Cheryl Cole?] and co. are taking over.

RiRi has come a long way since she first exploded onto the scene with Pona Replay in 2005. Only 17 at the time, the song showcased none of her powerful vocal skills, the video was hor-

rendously lacking in style and fashion, and, most importantly, you didn't get a sense of who Rihanna is. Make no mistake – this girl is not your typical pop princess, she's wild, she's dark, she's rebellious, and she does whatever the hell she wants to and doesn't give a toss about what you think about it.

It may come as a surprise to those who have seen her live performances on youtube, but not only can Rihanna sing in tune, her voice is also

compelling and powerful. Starting her set with the haunting Russian Roulette, the song showcased not only her vocal talents, but her love of fashion too, with a black dress covered in red flashing LED lights. The set was comprised of all the big hits from her last two albums, as well as some of the lesser-known songs from her latest.

Memorable moments included her performance of 'Hard' on top of a neon pink army tank, the mini-

rave she and her dancers had inside a neon cube for 'Please Don't Stop the Music', and the emotional ballads 'Take a Bow' and 'Rehab' where one look at her face clearly showed exactly who she was singing these songs about.

Her costume changes ranged from Lady Gaga-esque leotards to big statement shoulders, asymmetrical body suits to gem studded FMBs, and her on-stage dancing and general behavior was at all times enthral-

ling – she was clearly having fun and the crowd was having fun with her. This is one girl who definitely deserves all the attention she's getting.

- **Mariam Zahedi**

Rihanna  
O2 Arena  
11th May  
★★★★★

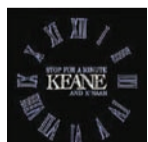
### Don't know what to listen to while revising? Read this week's reviews...

THE DEAD WEATHER  
SEA OF COWARDS  
EMI  
ALBUM



Jack White takes more of a backseat than ever before, bringing Alison Mosshart to the helm of this spooky yet sultry blues outfit. The album kicks off with "Blue Blood Blues"; with bass stomping all over it and Fertita's guitar shrieking in discordant yelps. WTF 'shake your hips like battleships' means I'm not quite qualified to say, all I know is, it moves my bones. "Hustle and Cuss" sees them slip into a more chilled groove akin to 70s soul band Funkadelic, which contrasts with the twisting snake-like "The Difference Between Us" driven by Fertita's Hammond organ and Lawrence's bassline. It's notable that this album is a more collaborative effort than their first album, with White restricted to the odd burst of showmanship, like his distinctive guitar solo on "Gasoline". Whilst several tracks feel unrefined and in need of trimming, the overall result is impressive, and serious kudos to them for finishing on a jaunty graveyard theme. - **Tom Jennings**

KEANE/K'NAAN  
STOP FOR A  
MINUTE  
UNIVERSAL  
SINGLE



I thought I hated this song and then it got stuck in my head and now it is growing on me. Completely unlike anything they have done before, it still has the distinctive piano riffs but with the added hip-hop vibe. It is definitely more accessible than their previous efforts and is very radio-friendly... AND my burlesque teachers are in the video! Ha.

- **Emily Beech**

## Ronnie James Dio

The 16th of May was a very black sabbath indeed.

**B**lack Sabbath ring any bells? Rainbow? Well if they don't they should, and if they do, then so should Ronnie James Dio, the heavy metal legend who fronted Rainbow and later Black Sabbath post Ozzy Osbourne's foolish decision to leave. He died at the age of 67 last Sunday from stomach cancer, and will go down in history for his contribution to rock, popularizing the "devil's horns" gesture, that has kept rock n' rollers moshing and mere popstars shaking in their spaceboots.

I can't explain how much of a loss this is to the music world. Dio, was the metal behind Rainbow, leaving the band in 1973 because, well... they weren't rock enough for him. He joined Black Sabbath in 1979 having been suggested by Sharon Osbourne (daughter of the Black Sabbath manager), and replaced Ozzy. He gave the group a new energy and force which led them to success and

a new attitude. He had a different style to Ozzy, and would make the vocal part his own, singing across the riffs rather than along with them like Ozzy.

Dio later broke away from Black Sabbath and formed a band called 'Dio' with Sabbath drummer. Releasing ten albums with his self-titled band and Ronnie James Dio being the only constant member throughout, he moved on to form his current band, 'Heaven and Hell', in 2006, with Tony Iommi, Geezer Butler and Vinny Appice.

He was at the heart of the international metal family, with the well known "devil's horns" a trademark, which he claims was to ward off evil spirits, unfortunately the 'evil spirits' got to him before his time was up. His wife announced his death stating; "Today my heart is broken, Ronnie passed away at 7.45am 16th May. Many, many friends and family were able to say their private goodbyes before he peacefully passed away. Ronnie knew how much he was loved by all."



Having a name meaning 'God' in Italian and a cameo appearance in Tenacious D's film, "The Pick of Destiny", it was clear that he knew what his purpose was on this Earth and now, although he may be gone, his role in the world of rock was epic, as was he. - **Luke Turner**

# It's all hush, hush in the Elgar Room of the Royal Albert Hall

Tom Greany hears the Rural Albert Advantage, Anna Calvi and Peggy Sue. Beauty in sound, delivered through accordions and a Survivor cover... Really?

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending Hush at the Royal Albert Hall. Hush is a series of concerts every few months featuring indie rock bands hosted in the Elgar Room, formally a Victorian restaurant that was recently transformed into a performance space and bar with capacity for 250 persons. It is a surprisingly fun and intimate venue in which to experience a concert; be sure to try the hot dog. Jazz events are also hosted in this room every few weeks.

The first act was a Canadian band, the Rural Albert Advantage. Some of the Postal Service-like synth sounds and rhythms present on their critically acclaimed album, "Hometowns" were absent from this performance. In their place was perhaps something more

powerful, an energetic performance centred around frontman Paul Banwatt's acoustic guitar that conveyed a genuine yearning for simplicity and wilderness, fitting for a band based in Toronto but named for a western prairie province, that left this author yearning for the simplicity and down-home comfort of the New World. Of note was vocalist Amy Cole's percussion and the Banwatt's delivery of a cover of "Eye of the Tiger", which can be found on the band's most recent single.

Singer songwriter Anna Calvi, sort of a female, highly attractive version of Nick Cave, gave an excellent performance successfully melding her gorgeous electric guitar, mysterious vocals, backup guitar and percussion from Mally Harpaz and drumming by Daniel Maiden-Wood. Musicol-

ogy expert and chemical engineer Tomi Herceg was quoted as saying that Calvi "needs to open her eyes more while performing." Particularly intriguing was Calvi's performance of "Love Won't Be Leaving", another performance of which can be found on YouTube.

Headlining act Peggy Sue turned out to be slightly disappointing only in that I had been expecting a Buddy Holly and the Crickets tribute band. When I learned that I was not in for an hour of the sounds before rock started "goin' downhill", according to John Milner, the amount of time the band took to setup led some audience members, including myself, to believe that we were in fact about to experience a surprise appearance by the Bob Dylan who, apparently like Peggy Sue, takes a long time to set up. What instead



I see an accordion... and a violin... and a double bass... So where are all these electronic instruments everyone keeps raving about?

resulted was an hour minus setup time of thoughtful and contemplative rock that on second thought was broodish and whiny. This shift in my humble opinion did not occur perhaps until the band whipped out its accordion, a show of force that to me represented the band's attempt to appease or awe the hipsters in the audience. The accordion in fact seemed to ruin what could have been a perfectly fine song.

The band recently crossed 1.5 million plays on MySpace, so perhaps the accordion is working. I should caveat my displeasure in the band was not because they are poor musicians; they are excellent. Instead, I was lost in its melancholy. Perhaps as a result, Peggy Sue could appeal to many mechanical engineers and other unsatisfied Imperial students and staff.

-Tom Greany

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## Self-confessed Russophile

Rosie Milton Arts Editor

Finally, after months of issues gone by, discussing our loves and interests in Russian culture, my co-editor Caz Knight and I decided to do a special on culture from Russia: today and yesterday.

Expect no Red Squares or matryoshka dolls here! Only thorough reviews of some of the highlights in literature, art, film and theatre to have come out of both the USSR, as was, and Russia today.

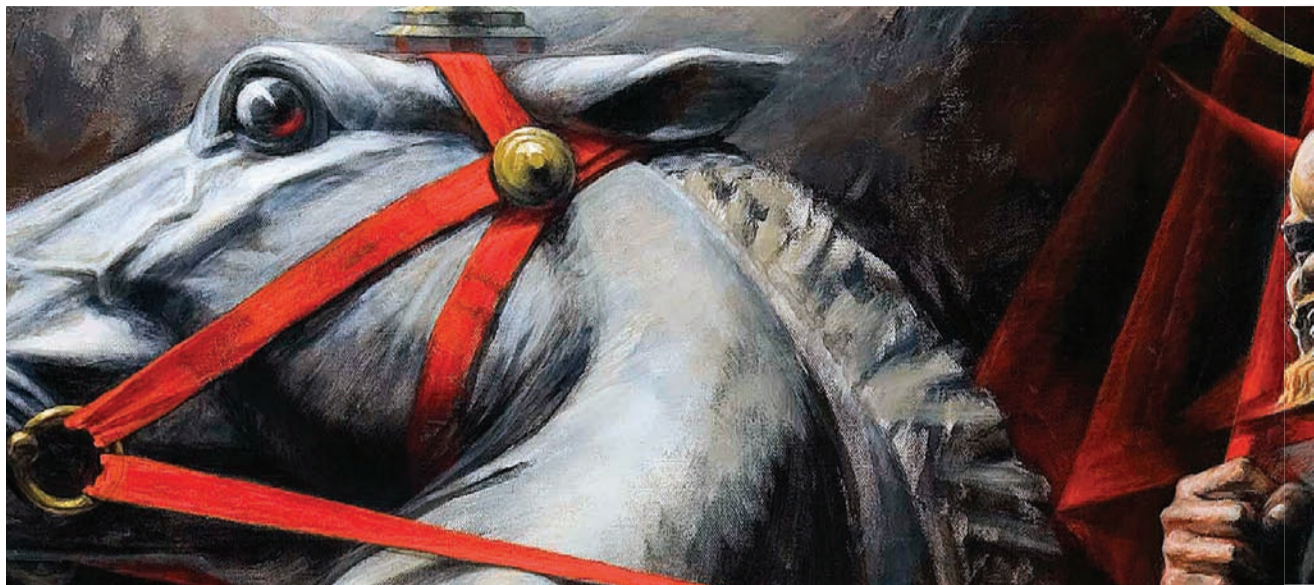
Showing currently at the Haunch of Venison gallery in Mayfair is a survey show of Non-Conformist art from the 1980s which is of great interest to myself and anyone else who appreciates dissident art (think along the lines of graffiti bandit Banksy). These artists

were frustrated with the strict and heavy proscriptions of Socialist Realism and so sought to mock it as a form of liberation. The central banner of these two pages features a cutting from a work by two such dissident artists: Komar and Melamid, whose work is close to Socialist Realism in style and content, but certainly not in meaning.

Further criticism of the parent state comes through in the charming comedy 'Irony of Fate' - a fairytale film aired in Russia every New Year's Eve.

Finally, a more emotional account of the events of the 1917 revolutions is recreated in Bulgakov's *The White Guard*.

We hope you enjoy our special! пока!



# FELIX ARTS SPECIAL:

THIS WEEK, ARTS EDITORS ROSIE MILTON & CAZ KNIGHT  
REPORT ON RUSSIAN CULTURE PAST AND PRESENT

## Mikhail Bulgakov: friendship is stronger than politics

Rosie Milton reviews Andrew Upton's sublime reinterpretation of a big revolutionary thinker play: *The White Guard*

The revolutions in Russia of 1917 were meant to be understood as a 'George and the dragon' scenario: the Bolsheviks charging in and saving the victimised proletariat from the clawed clutches of the bourgeoisie. Of course it was never that black and white; not every member of the proletariat suffered. There were the кулак ('tight-fisted') - a group of affluent peasants, wealthy farmers, but who were therefore somewhat unfairly grouped alongside the bourgeoisie as class enemies of the people, according to Marxism-Leninism. Due to the nature of the ideology constructed throughout the Soviet period, the revolution has always been portrayed as a successful, celebratory event (until much later in the 20th century). However, there were those of the bourgeoisie - including many of the intelligentsia - whose lives changed overnight and they themselves became victims of their circumstance. Mikhail Bulgakov who wrote *The White Guard* was of the latter world and wanted to portray, without too much sensationalism, the sensitivity of a period where friends and family were dying by futile scuffles in the street and honour seemed to be a lost cause.

What struck me in Andrew Upton's interpretation of this play was how well the actors played 'Russians': at times a little irrational, often fearful, but intensely passionate - beyond class or rank. The main protagonists of the play are the well-to-do Turbins, living in Kiev, the Ukraine. The brothers Alexei (Daniel Flynn) and Nikolai Turbin (Richard Henders) are officers of the White Guard and live with their sister Elena (Justine Mitchell) who,



Elena easily succumbs to the charms of her military man, Leonid Shervinsky

being the only female presence in the entire play, seems very lonely at times and has to contend with the pressures of the constant bantering and excitement of a group of young soldiers who pass through her door each day - all of whom proclaim their love for her at some point during the proceedings! As a character she remains strong and also passionate, however, taking a lover - the very debonair Leonid Shervinsky (played by Conleth Hill) and eventually throwing her cowardly husband (Kevin Doyle) out of her house.

The sets are absolutely realistic - near to cross-sections of actual rooms. The main set is the living room of the Turbins, which is lit softly by lamps and houses a table around which much vodka drinking and harmonious song rises to lift everyone's spirits, including the audience's. There are a few other sets that 'move' into position - the entire stage moved back at one point so that another could take its place. The affluence of the National Theatre can be experienced to a satisfying degree with this particular production.

Returning to the tone of the play, as you can imagine it is one of sympathy, born out of the first-hand experiences of Bulgakov who is said to have based the Turbin family of the play on his own. Through the play, we realise not only should we sympathise with the soldiers of the White Guard, but for the victims of the reds, as well as those under the German occupation in Kiev and those at the hands of the independent opportunists also. For the people just trying to cope with living through each day, knowing where your allegiance lay was not only vital to your survival, but also near impossible. At many points in the play we see

confusion or a changing of allegiance as quickly as is necessary. The soldiers become disillusioned as to who they are defending until they realise it is only themselves they can protect.

What is interesting about *The White Guard* is its history in the Soviet Union. The play was a favourite of Stalin's and ran for many years. This might seem a little unusual, considering how it portrays the two sides of red and white in a reversal of victimisation. However, if Stalin was to take some pleasure in the story, it was probably in its domestic scenes: those tender moments between friends and lovers - the White Guard literally showing its pale, vulnerable underbelly. This twisted view in Stalin's mind appropriated the strength and triumph of the red revolution and after heavy censoring, the play was allowed to run publicly as a work of propaganda in the optimistic oeuvre of Bolshevik art.

The protagonists of *The White Guard* are not completely without fault: there are those who express moments of violence and seek to blame anyone through their vodka-fuelled haze of rage - even a hapless woman who is just trying to hold her family together through this time of madness. If I was in her place I would not know how to find the strength - where would hope lie when your leader had been executed and there were enemies crowding in on every side, whose intentions you did not understand? If you want to be moved and amazed at how people can manage to smile and share a joke even in the grimmest of times, this is the play for you. It is both touching and frustrating, but ultimately rewarding.

*The White Guard* is showing at the NT





# COUNTRY IN FOCUS

## Boogie bones or dandies? Caz Knight reviews the spectacular musical 'Stilyagi'

The Soviet Union in the Fifties was a drab, suppressive, colourless place. Stalin had died in 1953 but had left in his wake an empire that was still living under the uniformity he had imposed on people's thoughts, self-expression and appearance. Here in the "West" in modern times we are still left with that grey image of what communist life was like in that time, and little is done to change this conception. So it is with some surprise that one beholds Valeriy Todorovskiy's 2008 film *Stilyagi* – the glossy, shiny portrayal of this uniform and characterless Soviet Moscow. Except it isn't quite colourless: far from it.

It is 1955 and bands of pretty, young *Stilyagi* (literally 'style hunter', translated

as Dandy) are shocking and enraging the conformists with their luridly coloured snappy suits and ties, tight trousers, Grease-lightnin' hair styles and American sex drives. They care less for communist values and more for jazz, swing, rock 'n roll, boogie-woogie and cavorting in dance halls.

*Stilyagi* does not, as most musicals do, open with a song or any music. Instead, what one sees is the steel-uniformed Komsomol (Communist Union of Youth) sneaking up on an illegal rave, bursting in and breaking it apart, cutting off clothing, stockings and braids as they do so. During the chase, the wide-eyed Mels comes face to face with the beautiful Polina, a.k.a. Polly, who invites the young Bolshevik to 'Broadway' the following day. Mels

turns up, has his named abbreviated to Mel and so begins his lifestyle as a style hunter, engaging in dark alley dealings to procure garish suits, illegally made vinyls printed on X-rays ("Bones") and saxophones: just as deadly in that context as a 'cold steel' gun.

*Stilyagi* is beautiful to behold from start to finish, looking every bit as pleasing as any equivalent Hollywood version would. The *Stilyagi* themselves are gorgeous, sporting some truly wonderful costumes and bringing a hefty dose of fun and gay abandon into their dreary and stifling historical setting. The songs – words, choreography and score – are excellent, with the lyrics a lot more abstract and thought provoking than the musicals we are used to back in democracy ("Bounded



Nothing can hold these kids down, but how long will the colour and happiness last, here in the 1950's Soviet state?



### Back in the USSR

Caz Knight Arts Editor

Politics... it seems to make the world go round. Sadly. Although, this decade's first General Election created quite a furore, as what is usually a dreary and tiresome set of events turned into something which was followed avidly. Facebook certainly did its bit to get the youngest voters enthused. What a pity that many had to be turned away owing to over capacity at the polling booths: not an ideal situation for a democratic society to find itself in. This is a very different reality to what the Russian people lived with for the best part of a millen-

nium. First came the Church, then the Tsars and next the Bolsheviks: Russians have not had an easy time getting their voices heard or receiving fair treatment despite Communism's utopian promises. But out of strife comes great art and we hope to give you a small taste of what Russia has to offer. Rosie and I have covered all bases: literature, art, theatre and film. Get a taste for some of the great Russian novels before taking the plunge into one of them and see how the oil and gas money has revamped its film industry to give us the spectacular *Stilyagi*. пользоваться! (Enjoy!)



The sensual poster for 'Stilyagi'



'Bones': a record burnt onto an x-ray

by one chain/ Connected with one aim"). Viewers averse to them will be spared any over-ecstatic dance routines, which can often break the flow of the story and make the whole proceedings seem a bit farcical.

In addition to some wonderfully fun cinema, one is treated to an interesting insight into the day to day life in that time from the large, bourgeois flats that were converted into squalid, communal housing for fifty, the risk of being sent to a labour camp for 3-5 years for profiteering from the sale of Western music, to the reality of the Communist classless society when one sees the flat owned by *Stilyagi* front-man Fred's diplomat parents. No small detail is spared in the presenting this snapshot of Red reality, including Mels name: an acronym of Communism's founding fathers Marx, Engels, Lenin and Uncle Joe Stalin.

*Stilyagi* brings together many elements of similar other musicals based upon the youth of around that time. The obvious comparison is with *Grease* with its hand-jive dance moves and cinched in waists, but in *Stilyagi* we see elements of our favourite T-birds Kin-

icki, Putzy and Danny Zucko in Fred, the chubby Bob and Mel. Another musical with which it shares clear links is *Hair* (recently arrived in London from Broadway) – young people with a desire to be different and have control while battling against what the government is trying to enforce. In *Hair* it was the threat of being sent to 'Nam. Here it is Fred who faces his own 'Nam and moral dilemma: ditch the hair, the clothes, go to America and return as a Soviet diplomat or stay in Moscow as a Dandy. Like Claude in *Hair*, he chooses 'Nam.

Although Khrushchev's "thaw" on U.S.S.R. isolation from 1957 meant foreigners were thence allowed through the Iron Curtain and the ban on jazz was lifted, meaning the youth had no cause to enjoy western culture in such a rebellious and clandestine manner, the *Stilygi* movement was pivotal in paving the way for subsequent generations of 'beatniks' (punks, Goths, rastas) to exist more legitimately in Russia.

If you are intrigued by what else modern Russian cinema has to offer, check out vampire flick *Night Watch* or Soviet War drama the 9th Company.

## OUR FROM RUSSIA FEATURE CONTINUES HERE...

# Caz Knight reviews a selection of classics of Russian literature from 1866-1967

From Pasternak to Solzhenitsyn, the rich treasures of the Russian literary mind are ripe for picking in this selection of reviews.

### Dr Zhivago by Boris Pasternak (1957)

Set during the 1917 Bolshevik uprising, the collapse of the Russian provisional government and the Russian civil war that followed (Reds vs. Whites), here is a slowly unfolding tale about the idealistic doctor and poet,



Yuri Zhivago, as he journeys thousands of miles back and forth across Russia first with his family, then with the Red Army and next in search of his love, Lara.

Entranced by life's beauty and convinced of the importance of individuals over societal welfare, the sensitive soul contrasts with the hardship and horror he undergoes throughout the novel as he suffers the death of his mother as a boy, the long journey across Russia with his wife and child to flee the

tumult in Moscow in 1917 and life on the front line with the red army intertwined with bouts of calm and simple pastoral life. Yet even in peace Yuri finds himself torn between the two women with whom he is in love: his wife Tonya and Lara.

This slow moving, beautiful epic has one feeling as if one is moving along with the changing seasons as the story protracts over many years. Dr Zhivago must be savoured patiently for one to appreciate its beauty, unpredictable twists and turns and recurring theme of hope and resilience despite the misfortune suffered by many of its characters. Inside we are also treated to Pasternak's talent as a poet through Yuri's evocative poems at points in the novel. There is no doubt that Pasternak's Great will be classed among the ranks of War and Peace and others in years to come.

David Lean's 3-hour 1965 film version is the only version to watch (apart from the novel, of course), starring Omar Sharif as Zhivago and Julie Christie as the beautiful Lara.

Pasternak's is another story of author vs. powers-that-be: the original manuscript was rejected on account of its anti-Soviet viewpoint. As a result the first edition was published in both Italy and Russian and only appeared in print in Russia in 1988.

### Cancer Ward by Alexander Solzhenitsyn (1967)

Banned within one year of its publication in Russia, Cancer Ward is Solzhenitsyn's semi-autobiographical account of life in a cancer ward in 1955 Uzbekistan. The ward is filled with labour camp (gulag) veterans, civil servants and students alike: the tumours afflicting them symbolic of the moral burden carried by those who were instrumental in bringing millions suspected of posing a threat to Stalinism to their deaths in his Great Purge of



1937-8.

Solzhenitsyn's underlying contempt for Soviet state control is obvious. Cancer Ward is also a commentary on the state of Russia and its people. Rather like the animals in the zoo that protagonist and ex-con Kostoglotov (literally, "bone-chewer") visits upon his release, the Russia people are no longer fit to live outside captivity.

Slow moving and deliberate, one is right there throughout the novel with the patients, having their radiation treatment, going through the agony of injections, feeling the thaw of frost as spring emerges and gasping under the baking sun as Kostoglotov is set free from the ward, only to find the outside world gaudy and overwhelming. (Solzhenitsyn also harshly criticised what he saw as the ugliness and spiritual vapidness of the dominant pop culture of the modern West).

Despite the feeling of malaise that is presented so vividly throughout the novel, there is also a strong sense of courage, endurance and hope that survives – highlighted by Kostoglotov falling in love with medical student Zoya and the doctor Vera Gangart.

Solzhenitsyn's own experiences are mirrored by the bone-chewer's: he, too, was sent to a labour camp under Article 58 for writing derogatory comments about Stalin in a letter to a friend. After serving eight years in the camp he was sent to internal exile in Uzbekistan where he was diagnosed with cancer and spent time in hospital.

After his time in exile, the winner of the 1970 Nobel Prize in Literature took up religious and philosophical positions and it is here that his life bears an interesting resemblance to Fyodor Dostoevsky's own experiences, who similarly came back after his exile in Siberia having found his faith.

### One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Solzhenitsyn (1962)

Like Cancer Ward, this other Solzhenitsyn gem was written in the Sixties but set in 1955 in the decrepit and despicable environment of the Soviet labour camp - the infamous gulag. Drawing on his own experiences in a Kazakh gulag as a miner, brick-

layer, and foundry foreman, Solzhenitsyn has us feeling as if we have also served years in such brutal captivity. This book has all the power of a tome packed into 100 pages. It is impossible not to freeze to death while reading about the stealth the prisoners in Stalin's gulags had to develop to survive arctic working conditions in meager clothing and on rations of gruel and black bread: secretly sown into their mattresses should they come by any extra scraps. The novel tracks one day in said Ivan's life from sunrise to bedtime in the '104th' and has us marveling at a human being's capacity to weather such brutal circumstances for years upon years. One of the few books of his that was not banned... but his indictment of the Soviet institution that was the gulag led to his eventual deportation from the U.S.S.R. to the U.S.A. in 1974.

### Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky (1866)

Crime & Punishment (C & P) is probably as famous as W & P by Leo Tolstoy but is only half the size and had this reviewer practically inhaling it, finishing it in under a week it was so gripping.

The novel is the psychological, blow by blow account of a murder: the run up to it, the 'execution' of it and the aftermath in which protagonist Raskalnikov has to deal with the ensuing hellish flurry of emotions while trying to sort out family issues and be Knight in shining armour to the meek prostitute Sonya.

The novel was initially published in twelve monthly installments in The Russian Messenger in 1866 and was apparently the literary sensation of that year according to "fine-writer" Nickolay Strakhov.

The stream of consciousness style of writing is well ahead of its time (a precursor to Gonzo journalism adopted over a hundred years later by the likes of Jack Kerouac and mentalist journalist Hunter S. Thompson) and takes us



The author Fyodor Dostoevsky

in minute detail through all Raskalnikov's moral dilemmas and anguish.

Throughout, Raskalnikov battles between a feeling of heightened sense of self importance (comparing himself to Napoleon) and one of self disgust, reflected by his squalid surroundings and unkempt appearance.

One is pulled through his jittering, quivering madness and through the underbelly of St Petersburg: Crime and Punishment is depressing, intense and malignantly riveting.

Dostoevsky wrote this at the beginning of his "mature" period following Siberian exile, narrowly escaping a death sentence, for being part of a liberal intellectual group (Tsar Nicholas feared any group that could threaten his autocracy).

His Siberia exile has parallels with Raskalnikov's own final exile in Siberia for his crime.

Film adaptations range from ones made in the Twenties and Thirties to Soviet, manga, modern day Finnish and the rather half hearted sounding US version Crime & Punishment in Suburbia.



Yuri holds his faithful wife and childhood friend Tonya tenderly in his arms



Ilya Repin's 'They Did Not Expect Him' captures the mood of War and Peace

# 'Glasnost: Soviet Non-Conformist Art'

Rosie Milton visits Mayfair to see a group of works far removed from the difficult times of 1980's Soviet Russia



Two visitors look on at Faibisovich's snapshots of desperate times in Russia, where even small luxuries were infrequent

The Haunch of Venison gallery is an impressive space for works in the nature of Non-Conformist art of 1980's Soviet Russia. One can be in two minds about their suitability in such a space: is the meaning drowned out by the high ceilings and palace-like halls, or is the art finally saluted as its true intention serves: to mimic and make example of the Socialist Realism that was close to ridiculous in its pomp and superficiality?

Glasnost: Soviet Non-Conformist Art from the 1980s features an array of familiar symbols and messages: red stars, sickles and politicians. However, this is not official imagery and there is a wicked slant to every piece of work. Names of dissident realist artists such as Komar and Melamid feature, as well as works by conceptualists Ilya Kabakov and Erik Bulatov. Works range from sculpture to photographs and the most gratifying: photo-realist paintings, which demonstrate a heightened sense of awareness of the power of painting to move and persuade the viewer.

A series of paintings by Semyon Faibisovich under the titles 'In The Line for Vodka' and 'The Line for Vodka II' highlight the banality and frustration in Soviet life, in order just to gain a little native pleasure.

Art of this period was produced mainly under the radar and this tension and secrecy is missing in a survey such as this. We are fortunate to be able to witness such a large grouping of



Sergei Borisov, 'Defile' of 1987

paintings here.

What is liberating about non-conformist art is how it manages to maintain or reinterpret the wit and genius, perhaps, of artistic freedom, especially under conditions of such a prescribed format for making art as the Socialist Realist style was.

## A fairytale romance in Leningrad (or St. Petersburg?)

Here in the west we have our holiday season television watching traditions: Christmas, New Year, Easter and Bank Holiday weekends even – most of us find ourselves watching an old favourite on the box with our family at one of these times in the year. I am going to share with you a Russian holiday-favourite, broadcast every New Year's Eve since its release on December 31, 1975. The film is *Ирония судьбы, или С лёгким паром!* ('Ironiya sudbi, ili S lyogkim parom!'), which translates to 'The Irony of Fate, or Lightly Steamed!'. The storyline is charming yet at the same time loosely critical of the Soviet system. By this, I mean the Soviet-style architecture of the Brezhnev period (mid-1970's), where street names and tower blocks were equally generic (and frustratingly banal).

The key to the plot is that in both Moscow and Leningrad (as was), exist not only a 3rd Builders' street, but identical housing blocks, with identical flats right down to the wallpaper and keys that fit both locks! A comment upon poor production standards perhaps? Of course, yet this charming film turns it to the hero's advantage. As a result of this situation, our protagonist Zhenya, enjoying a drink (or two, or three) at a local Moscow bathhouse

with friends manages to board a plane and ends up in what he thinks is his apartment in a totally alien city. The offending intruder causes havoc in the New Year's Eve plans of 3rd Builder's Street, Leningrad's Nadya Shevelyova (played by the mesmerising Polish actress Barbara Brylska) who is hoping to entertain her exceedingly suspicious beau Ippolit that evening. However, the winning charms of the charismatic Andrei Myagkov, who plays Zhenya,

captures your attention for the duration of this two-part spectacle and leaves you hoping that he will not be thrown out into the cold too quickly!

Cyclical displays of machismo between Ippolit and Zhenya are punctuated by lilting lullabies and chirpy folk ditties performed by the two main characters on their guitars, by way of festive holiday entertainment.

In 2007 director Timur Bekmambetov, who some of you might recognise

from the Russian Daywatch, Nightwatch vampire films and even more of you might know from the Angelina Jolie blockbuster *Wanted*, directed a remake of *Irony of Fate* with twist. The lead character is Kostya Lukashin, played by Konstantin Khabenskiy – a favourite of Bekmambetov, for he is in all the aforementioned films. Kostya is Zhenya's son who apparently has a drinking intolerance.

As you might guess the same plot

as the first film unfolds but two more, senior characters are drafted in – the original Zhenya and Nadya (truly!) Although this updated version is not as winning as the first, Bekmambetov has certainly achieved something brilliant by bringing back the original two actors and involving them in the story. It is as if the film has taken on a life of its own – not just as a production with paid actors, but a true Russian fairytale! - RM



The original Nadya and Zhenya from the 1975 film in a more sombre moment



The protagonists of the 2007 remake. Will their parents be reunited at last?

Summer  
**Elections**  
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2010 SATURDAY.19.JUNE

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5

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2

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Nanos**



3

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# The beginning of an unjust friendship

Dylan Lowe investigates the ongoing class struggle that eludes behind Casablanca's precocious façade

**B**eguiled were we by the crowd enclosing the Hassan II Mosque Foundation building, military personnel glamorous in chevrons and berets, placard portraits of King Mohammed VI hoisted like Roman insignias of a disorderly legion. A schoolteacher led a deafening chant that ruptured through an already-existing cacophony of excitement. The green pentagrams in its red milieu flustered and aroused patriotic spirits from every corner.

What was missing though, there and then, was the King himself.

No better a parade could I have witnessed than this extravagant display of Moroccan attire's changing face. Even when discounting the guidebook-bound, camera-clad tourists – whom frankly weren't difficult to distinguish from the locals – the technicolor array of fashion predilections could easily put Joseph's biblical counterpart to shame.

The traditional *djellaba*, the loose-fitted robe with a baggy hood that enshrouded mostly Moroccans of the older generation.

Ivory white trainers donned by juvenile dirt-kickers, purchased from the ever-persuasive street hawkers.

Designer sunglasses, *Polo* shirts, two-pieces suits and ties, all conquests of shopping sprees at the Western retail-crazed high streets.

Yet the threads of fabric that intertwine to provide clothing had also imparted a metaphor that represented more than mere vogue, as I would observe from dusty alleyways and tarmac highways: though unanimous in their affection for their watchful monarch, the garments spoke of difference, of a Casablanca class struggle.

Contrary to public belief, the 1942 classic *Casablanca* was filmed in a Hollywood basement. Despite the presence of a



Rick's Café against the walls of Casablanca's medina, the production team during the movie's making never stepped foot in the eponymous city itself.

Neither a devoted fan, nor oblivious of the city's lack of actual involvement in Casablanca, a pilgrimage simply couldn't be the reason for my having visited the city twice.

It may have had an illustrious history of conflict, disturbance, diplomacy – the Allied leaders met here in 1943 to discuss the possibility of an Axis unconditional surrender – it still lacked the charisma to arouse my inner history-fiend.

It couldn't have been its architectural charm, or culinary delight, both deserv-

edly eclipsed by its touristic neighbours.

What brought me to Casablanca – and make the decision to return – was

**The threads of fabric had imparted a metaphor that represented more than mere vogue**

the attributes of the individuals.

My chance meeting at Tangier train

station with Suzanne, an Australian on a gap year who had landed a job at a French call centre, had me ended up at her boyfriend Abdellah's flat. When I came back for a second serving of Morocco it was Tori, my travel companion, who had befriended Soufiane in Buenos Aires and arranged for us to crash at her Moroccan friend's place.

As Abdellah and Soufiane amused their guests, their social status and attitude alluded the dual personality, the dissociative identity, the syndrome as suffered by their hometown.

Even the bricks laid down by this hybrid society told of a city's progress – or its struggle towards it – riddled with divi-

sions, contradictions and, quite evidently, hypocrisy. Wandering through Casablanca, it was the disorientation of ideologies and politics that made my brows clench in confusion, rather than disorientation of orientation itself.

In fact, while navigating through dense concrete jungles and labyrinthine kasbahs may leave me frustrated, the sheer periodic and functional contrast of edifices that occurred so regularly and unnaturally made pinpointing oneself on the map simple.

Upon exiting the walls that cradled the Old Medina, and all those who loiter in its gritty alleys, the sky-scraping giants would materialise in an eye-blinking moment from beyond those medieval

**It was the disorientation of ideologies and politics that made my brows clench, rather than disorientation of orientation itself**

walls, not dwarfed and rendered passé and incongruous. Chains of Occidental influence flanked the streets shared with fume-churning traffic, and MacDonald's billboards advertising 'tagine burgers'.

Luxury apartment blocks rose from the seaside development site; cranes and workers ferried precious building material in desperation against the howling breeze and imminent deadlines. Directly opposite, separated only by a hectic high-



The national flag of Morocco



A section of the Old Medina's wall



Clockwise from top: Ave des Forces Armées Royales; everyday life at a seafood restaurant, the Old Medina; an urban slum by the seafront of Casablanca; Hassan II Mosque, the third-largest mosque in the world



way, a different manifestation of desperation: eroding tin plates and timber infrastructures outlined one of Casablanca's most impoverished slums.

Along the seafront stood Hassan II Mosque, boasted to be third-largest in the world and pinnacle of Morocco's dedication to Islam. Challenging its splendour was a strip of green situated on the mosque's very doorsteps, laden with complex if-not-reckless mosaics of shattered glass, its architects defiant drunks in their acts of sacrilege.

This was, by no means, a lifestyle equally shared among Casablangans.

Come nightfall, and Abdellah and Suzanne retreated to their lounge for their night-time entertainment. A hearty stew

## Luxury apartment blocks rose from the seaside development site... directly opposite, one of Casablanca's most impoverished slums

was prepared from meat bought from the local butcher, a traditional white-tiled affair, a visit for them a rarity reserved for special occasions and entertaining guests given their mediocre salary. As we lazed on couches, the local football match was produced by their television, which was the size of a shoebox and intermitted with signal disruption, and a spill would be lit and paused around – smoking cannabis remains more socially acceptable than the consumption of alcohol in Morocco, as well as being the more economical option, despite its alleged illegal status.

Soufiane's stereotypes were blabbing out his House music, each a mix he had produced himself – he could afford the time and cost of musical equipment. Bottles of spirits littered across the table, swiftly emptied in preparation for an intoxicated night out at a club. His friends gradually filed into the apartment and, equipped with a good degree of English, joined in the banter.

Later I would find out that, unanimously, they have all received university education in France or Spain. Soufiane himself spoke Moroccan Arabic, French, Spanish and English fluently, as opposed to Suzanne having to act as interpreter for Abdellah, who was unschooled in English.

When the booze supplies ran low we relocated to the club Soufiane and his mates were habitués of. The entrance fee deprived us each of 200 dhs – the equivalent, I recalled, of Abdellah's and Suzanne's daily income. A last glance, albeit a drunken one, before entry exposed the ranks of extravagant cars – not since entering Morocco have I seen exhibitions of vehicles that were not internally and externally tattered.

Once inside, their garments, mannerisms, attitude confirmed what I had anticipated of the club's patrons: this is where Casablanca's upper class come to play. Not merely a playground of leisure, but practice of liberalism, sexuality, unbound by social limitations and religious obligations.

For a society where drinking is frowned upon, intimate male-female interaction illicit, this venue – and no doubt similar venues across the city – was riotous with rebellious spirits.

But surely, scrutinising especially with a Western mindset, this was progress?

Behind all the extravagance, all the knowledge, all the flashy rides, all the liberal *lifestyle*, only the rich may claim possession to so-called progress. This liberalism was to be purchased, most often only available to those who were fortunate enough to pop out of the right

wombs.

Whilst a minute proportion of Casablangans could afford to aspire to pay

## Proletariats could only aspire to survive another day in unemployment and poverty

rises, designer-brand desirables, nocturnal outings of fervent alcoholism and erotica, a disproportionate mass of slum-

dogs and proletariats could only aspire to survive another day in unemployment and poverty.

Some, stricken by idleness and desperation, resorted to extremism and the promises to wealth it asserts to provide. The terrorist attacks in 2003, a series of explosions in Casablanca that claimed 45 lives, were conducted by bombers recruited from a slum on the city's outskirts.

The breakneck drive through neglected roads, sparsely illuminated by streetlamps, offered little remedy to my alcohol-induced nausea. Soufiane's friend sped past yet another red light – his fifth, I counted. Though I do ponder now, in hindsight, what the purpose of his driving fast was. Was it recklessness? Was it bra-

vado? Was it an eagerness to flaunt? Was it an act of imitation? Or, the presumption that discomfited me the most, was it a declaration of wealth and status?

Tori and I waited in the vehicle as Soufiane went to grab us a bite. Emerging from the shadows, the rugged man approached and pleaded for charity. Prompted, we bolted the doors and sealed the windows. The barrier stands, solid as that we had barricaded ourselves behind. The barrier which partitioned the poor from ever grasping the riches Casablanca's high-risers and modern façade represented.

Or rather, while the champions of elitism *karamu* and *fiesta* behind closed doors, have they segregated themselves from those authentically Casablangan?



# COFFEE BREAK

Coffee Break Editor Charlie Murdoch

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Rant? Not mine today

Charlie Murdoch Coffee Break Editor

Well, it is revision time. That is all I've had to do this week. As a result, my column is now complete. However, as it's revision time I've spent a lot of time engaging in degree-worthy amounts of procrastination. This is genuine post I found about a couple who met on a date website.

"To the woman that crapped in my car... (NE Portland). We met on Craigslist so I am hoping that this post finds you. I know that it could quite possibly be the most humiliating first date that you have ever been on, but I am willing to look past that. I thought we had chemistry sitting at McMenamins sharing that basket of Cajun Tots while drinking the Terminator Stout. I really felt like there was a connection there. I found you to be intelligent and witty and looked forward to further conversation with you.

At some point in life, everyone has gambled on a fart and lost. It just happened to be on a first date in the passenger seat of my car. Please don't feel bad. The package I sent you with Pepto

the next day and the note that said 'First dates are always a crap shoot. Call me' was meant to be funny, not offensive.

I have gambled on a fart and lost on multiple occasions. The first time I did it was very memorable. It happened when I was five and sitting on my uncle's lap. I am lactose intolerant, but love cheese. I probably win 95% of the time, but I don't think anyone wins 100% of the time. That's why they call it 'gambling'. I'm the last person to judge you for crapping your pants. In fact, I am impressed by your boldness. The timing on the other hand, could have been a tad bit better... like when you're not sitting on a heated leather seat...

What I am trying to say is that if you want to go out again, I would be more than happy to take you someplace where we can get a meal that is high in fibre and less taxing on the digestive tract.

I await your call, Tad  
P.S. - If you shat yourself on purpose to end the evening early...Touché..."

[Ed - Having lady problems, Charlie? A dating website? Really?]

## FUCWIT League Table

### Teams:

Harry Potter Trio	251 Points
The Tough Brets	215 Points
The Cool Kids and Fergal	40 Points

### Individuals:

Matthew Colvin	231 Points
Sheryl	215 Points
Kelvin Wong	125 Points
GLT	129 Points
Louise Parchson	78 Points
Flavia Tang	44 Points
Absolute Cunt	33 Points
Bethan Matthews	33 Points
Dr Science!	30 Points
Jeff Wu	28 Points
Team Dirty Medics	26 Points
The Three Kings	25 Points
Sophie Lambrakis	17 Points
Herens Thibaut	12 Points
Giramondo	10 Points
Mark Mearing-Smith	10 Points
Zoe Dobell	10 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.

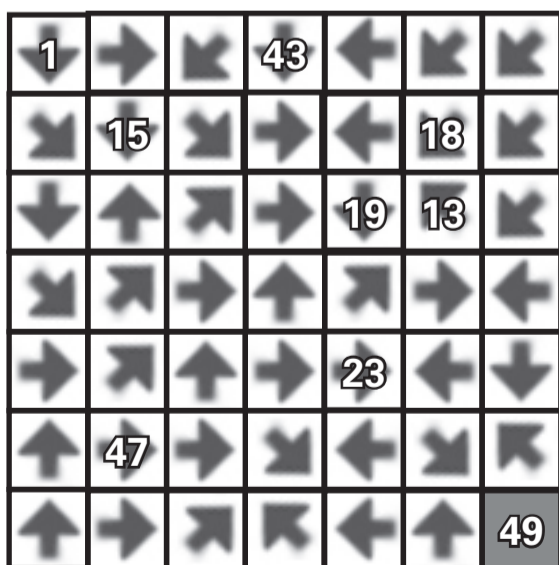
Now then FUCWITs, answers to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk). Go!

New  
**Fuller**  
Individual  
List  
**YES!!!**

Music Quote  
of the Week

Hugo De Groot: "Ignorance of certain subjects is a great part of wisdom."

## Arrow Maze 1,462



### 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.

### Solution 1461

1	24	20	25	7	21	22
27	47	33	14	5	6	43
9	12	13	37	32	16	34
23	11	42	2	39	15	43
29	45	10	26	33	40	44
30	46	19	35	4	3	23
31	17	18	36	8	41	49

Well done to GLT who seem to have entered many of the puzzles this week... and won. So well done to you. Obviously a wee bit bored during revision, I suggest you spend more time on learning your shit and less time pissing about here.

As always we can put a guest puzzle in, so if you fancy your name in print drop us an email at [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk) [Include a puzzle with your email or we won't bother with the ink.]

## Wordpath 1,462

### ORIGIN:

EXAM

### DESTINATION:

FAIL

### 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 -> WARD

**Anagram:** Rearrange the letters.

e.g. WARD -> DRAW

**Wordslide:** Replace the current word with a new 4 letter word from any 5+ letter word that contains them both.

e.g. DRAW -> WING (via DRAWING)

No consecutive steps may be made by the same method.

e.g. WORD -> WARD (by LS) -> WARE (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 1461

PUNCH  
HUNCH (LS)  
BACKS via  
*hunchbacks*  
BANKS (LS)  
MOUNT via  
*mountebanks*  
COUNT (LS)  
EIGHT via  
*counterweight*  
FIGHT (LS)

Well done to last week's winner **Team Dirty Medics**. Unfortunately using 'CHING' would not be valid.

### Scribble box



# Nonolink 1,462

2	2	3	1	3	2
2	3	2	2	3	2
2	2	2	3	2	2
2	2	2	3	3	3
2	2	0	2	3	3
3	2	2	2	2	3
2	2	2	0	2	3

5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
1	2	2	1	2	1	3	1	4	1	5
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2								
1	1									
3	1	2								
1	3									
2	2	3								
1	1	1	1							
1	1	3								
1	1									
1	1									
5	1									

Winner: **GLT** - both puzzles. Some people have been complaining about this combination puzzle, apparently they liked Slitherlink but don't know how to do the Nonograms! Nonograms are easier than Slitherlinks and we include a very helpful 'How to Play' section below...

**How to play:**

The numbers at the side represent the size and order of blocks in each column and row. There must be at least one space between each block.

Then insert the numbers from the box in the top left corner into the unshaded cells and proceed as for a normal 'Slitherlink':

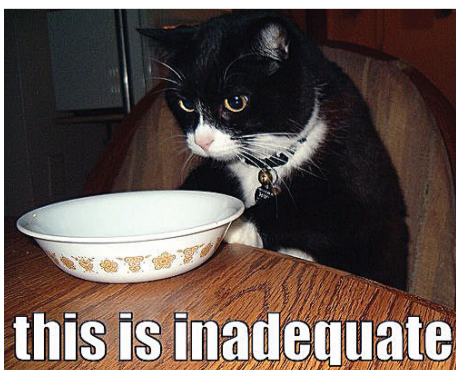
All numbered cells must be surrounded by the corresponding number of edges. The solution consists of one continuous line. Any cells without a number can have any number of edges.

See last issue's solution (right) for more help. Send your solutions to us at [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

**Solution 1461**

# Best of lol catz

If you ever happen across a particularly lol-lorish cat, please send it in! Make sure that it's high resolution please.



# Bridges 1,462

**How to play:**  
Connect all the 'islands' together by bridges running in direct lines, North, West, East and South only, with no more than two bridges connecting any two distinct islands. Every island must have a total number of bridges from it equal to the number on the island and bridges must not cross islands, one another or lead to nowhere!

Last week's winner was **GLT** well done.

**Scribble box**

**Solution 1461**

# Procrastination Puzzles 1,462

Exams and revision melting your brain? Know you should be doing work but just can't bring yourself to get started? Perhaps you got stuck on a past paper question and realised you 'just needed a short break'. We understand, here are some puzzles that shouldn't make your brain hurt.

**WORDOKU!**  
Do we really need to explain? It's like sudoku but with letters.

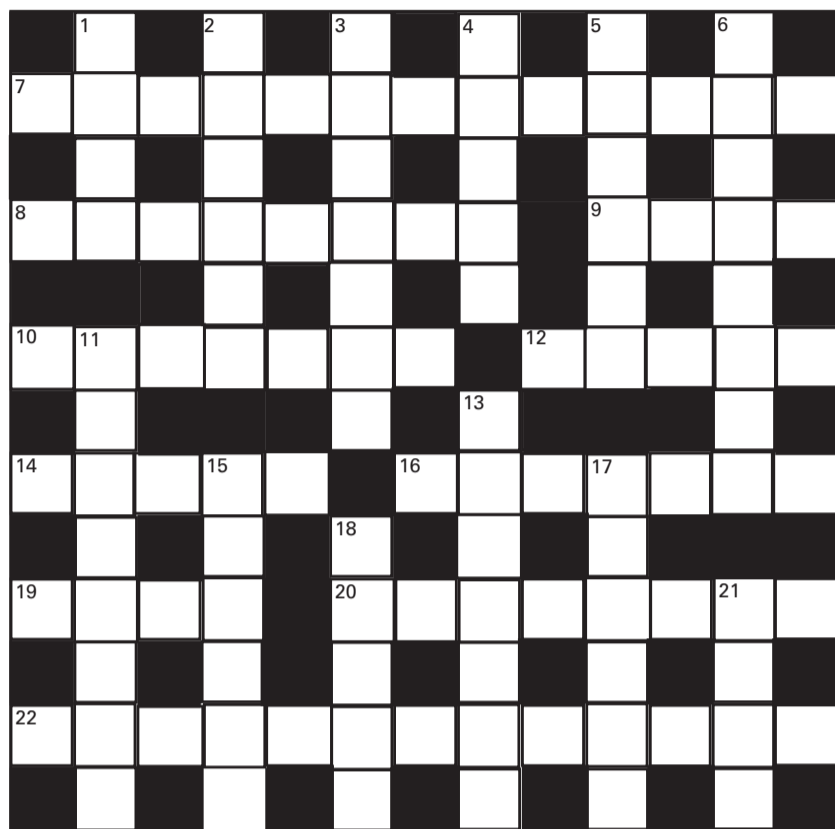
**Doodle this box into a picture of a farm animal!**

**Start a stopwatch, complete the maze, stop the stopwatch.**

If you hit a wall you must start over, but the clock keeps ticking...

**Draw a loop around each dot. Draw a loop around each of those! When loops are about to touch, draw a loop around both! How many distinct loops can you fit?**

# A quickie (crossword) 1,462



## ACROSS

- 7 Puffing on one's own 'skin-flute' - Foetal tuna oil (anag.) (4-9)  
 8 Unfortunate female affliction - Locate me (anag.) (8)  
 9 Swish W1 hotel (4)  
 10 Smartarse fish (7)  
 12 Polymer used for coatings (5)  
 14 Else; otherwise (2,3)  
 16 Classic frozen treat (4-3)  
 19 Tiny crap insect (4)  
 20 The cornhusk state (8)  
 22 Ian Brady or Myra Hindley (5,8)

## DOWN

- 1 Brass instrument (4)  
 2 Revise (4,2)  
 3 Shepherds, cottage or mince? (4,3)  
 4 Sound of censored expletive (5)  
 5 Blend - Rabblrouse (4,2)  
 6 Safe for humans (chemically) (3-5)  
 11 Intermittent (3,3,2)  
 13 Sour British fruitstalk (7)  
 15 Semi-aquatic mammal(6)  
 17 Meteor site(6)

- 18 Flushing of the bumhole (5)  
 21 Boat part - Lurch (4)

Winner last week was. Ah shit I can't remember. Maybe GLT? Basically I've changed computers here and this current machine doesn't have excel so I can't access my league table. I could walk over the other side of the office and change computer, but quite frankly I can't be arsed. Suck it up, those who entered did get some points.

Crossword by Peter Logg

## Solution 1461



## Scribble box

# Honour-scopes: Horoscopes scoops up the awards

We've worked bloody hard all year and for what? A red carpet and small golden naked men? Score!



## Aquarius

"OMG! This is liek such a surprise," you cry with joy, "First of all, I'd like to thank the Academy, and my mum whose always

been there for me and Jay-sus. Loves me some Jay-sus! And I'd also like to thank..." As you witter on, Kanye West leaps on stage and steals the award of you. And then Chris Brown beats you up.



## Pisces

To forget about exams, you head to Brighton for some fun in sun. But when you get there, it's raining. Feeling lonely, you

take a stroll along the beach. Suddenly, you see a proper fit girl, out in the sea. A mermaid! She winks at you. You follow her and have hot fishy sex in the kelp. At first it's great but then you drown. Not so great.



## Aries

You're at the gym. Not working out but checking out the totty on the running machines. You slip a crafty hand down your shorts. In

your pervy exuberance, you overdo it and pass out. It's dark when you wake up. You don't know where you are but you're chained to a radiator. A burly man in a spandex one-piece called Hans begins to stroke you. Apparently, you're his wife now.



## Taurus

Aw, man, you love curry! But nothing's hot enough. After polishing off your ninth vindaloo, you decide to your own.

You pour some tabasco, jalapeno peppers and Icelandic lava in the blender and turn it on. The concoction is delicious! You wake up the next morning and spend half an hour on the toilet. You shit out your large intestine ON FIRE!



## Gemini

In an ungodly experiment in Blakett, you succeed in summoning yourself from a parallel universe. You rush forward to greet

your other self. Unfortunately, they mistake this for a threat and rip out your heart in self-defence. Turns out their universe has a gym. Finally, as they begin to spoon your bloodied corpse you wonder if this is gay or masturbation? It's gay.



## Cancer

There's something on your face and it's got you worried. It wasn't there before. Oh god, it's not cancer, is it? Quickly, you

take a kitchen knife to it and chop it off. As it lands on the floor, you realise it was your nose. Weak from embarrassment and blood loss, you stumble out into Exhibition Road and get run over by a taxi for Gordon Brown.



## Leo

You're writing the horoscopes in the felix office when something lands on your neck. It's a drop of Reggae Reggae sauce. The

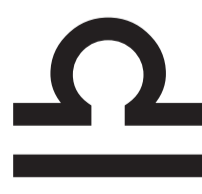
sports editor behind you is demolishing a whole chicken. As he licks his fingers, finished, he sniffs the air and smells your spicy goodness. You find it hard to type with him slobbering all over your neck. The nibbling is quite nice though...



## Virgo

You're making a fry-up and you've run out of oil. Sainsbury's want £1.04 for more. £1.04! That's extortion!

Frustrated, you decide to make your own. You don't have any vegetables, sunflowers or olives but you are surrounded by Imperial students. You wring the Library dry, squeezing out every last drop. You end up making Extra Virgin.



## Libra

You're taking the District line home after college when it breaks down. You huff with annoyance - you're missing *Hollyoaks*. The

other passengers have more pressing concerns. What will they eat? Your hands are dry and you rub some cream in them. It smells like caramel. The train is moving again in five minutes but they're already chewing on your kidneys.



## Scorpio

It's past midnight. You've been here for hours and horoscopes still aren't done. The cleaner comes in. You strike up conversation, hoping to discov-

er a hidden philosopher or poet. He starts touching himself. You say nothing. He starts touching you. Taking this as a new form of avant-garde poetry, you allow to continue. In the morning, he has taken your eyes and you have hepatitis. Cat-hepatitis.



## Sagittarius

Revision has completely screwed your sleep-wake cycle. Day and night mean nothing to you and you can't read your watch through the tears

and blood. You've taken to measuring time by the growth of your beard. It's down to your nipples now and small birds are nesting in it. That might mean it's Tuesday. Then you remember that you're a girl. Ugh! Girls hate beards!



## Capricorn

It's a Friday night and you're at the Union. You meet a hot, smart, funny and, most importantly, single girl. You start talking to her

and really hit it off. She suggests going back to her's for some "coffee"...and then sex. You can't believe your luck and pinch yourself to wake up. It doesn't work. You pinch her instead to double-check. She throws her pint in your face and walks off. Pint?

# Hangman

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS

It's sort of like the news, but without the news. Crap, that's the title

I've decided that the news is too boring. Volcanos, Bangkok fights, murdered children - boring. Fret not, for I have found a solution to our banal current affairs. You simply look at the picture from a news website of your choice and make the story yourself! This is pretty much what the News of the World does anyway. All these pictures are taken from various newspapers on Wednesday 19th of May.



### UPSIDE-DOWN READING FOUND TO BE THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF DEPRESSION IN THE UK

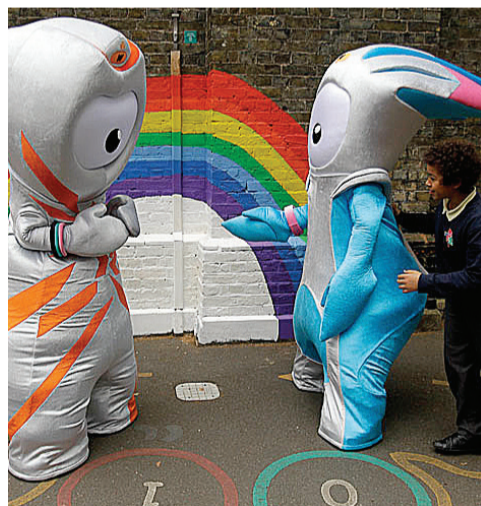


### CHERYL COLE MEETS CHERYL COLE AT MADAME TUSSAUDS

Cheryl Cole grinned next to her uncanny double at London's famous museum of celebrity waxworks, Madame Tussauds. "Way aye it's propa' mint, like, it looks just like me an' all" said our Cherry as her tiny brain tried to reassure herself that she was the real one. A restraining order has been put on ex-hubby scumbag, Ashley, who is not allowed within a mile's radius of the museum. "We're just worried that he [Ashley] would try to fellate the waxwork" says Ben, the manager.

### ORANGE MASCOT HAS HISTORY OF CHILD ABUSE

They've only been with us for a day and one of them is already causing controversy. The recently launched mascots, Orangey and Bluey, for the 2012 Olympic Games were meant to be inspirations for children, but instead turned out to be investigations for the police. It was at a promotional photoshoot at Rainbow Primary School in Hackney where the scandal unravelled. A playground of silly poses and giggles soon became a scene of sickening screams and cries of terror as Orangey reportedly lunged out at an unsuspecting ethnic child with horrific sexual intentions. Luckily Bluey was quick to intervene and explained to his paedophile brother that molesting children is not very polite. Designers of the mascots were deeply embarrassed by the situation, but insisted they had not originally intended Orangey to be a paedophile. "We understand now that it probably wasn't such a good idea, but we thought it would give the character some depth", said lead designer, Phillip Morris.



### MIRACLE MAN SURVIVES FALL FROM CHAIR



## TWATTER



**Cameron\_DA\_Maneron!!!**  
Hey guys it's 'Everybody Draw Mohammad Day.' I've uploaded mine to facebook. He's wearin Jeggings



**SexyOsama69**  
OMG Cammy that's so islamophobic and sacriligious LOL :P mines got a six-pack and a moustache. And a sword



**Barack\_attack\_l33thaxor**  
Osie you've just drawn a moustache on Russel Crowe. He ain't even remotely arabby



**SexyOsama69**  
STFU Osie, dis is my mohammad and I'll draw him hows I want. And Arabby is not a word...I think



**Prophet\_indaHOUSE\_893245348391**  
This is a disgusting attack on a peaceful religion. I refuse to read Twatter anymore

THIS WEEK:  
"IS RAPE REALLY A CRIME?"  
BY HANGEMAN

THE SHIPPING FORECAST  
ICRADIO.COM THURSDAYS 5-6PM



# IC String Ensemble's first ever Tour

Ken Harvey describes the weekend away to Canterbury: inventive pieces, late nights, and a successful tour

On Friday the 19th of March, the first ever ICSE Weekend Away for over two years commenced. As soon as the rehearsal was over, fourteen of the most intrepid members of the String Ensemble started frantically packing a minibus and John Sandall's car with instruments, music stands and luggage. In the capable hands of our driver (and also the leader of the ensemble) Jon Silver, we reached the YHA hostel in Canterbury at about 11.30. We whiled away the rest of the evening with a quiet game of Cranium, which had many amusing moments, as well as several quite disturbing ones.

Breakfast was at 8.00 in the morning, and we saw various different interpretations of that particular instruction as ICSE members wandered into the

**'The Video Games piece ... a collection of classic video games ranging from Tetris to Zelda, arranged for strings.'**

dining room anytime up to two minutes before we had to leave. The "early" start was a sign of things to come, as it would be a pretty intense weekend. We immediately jumped back on the minibus and set off towards our concert venue - Abbeyfield Connors House residential home, where we were welcomed by the manager of the tour, Nicola Jee, and a fat, dozy rabbit.

We quickly settled into our rehearsal room, and began the first of three intense rehearsals. Our repertoire was the music we were planning to perform that term: Mendelssohn's String

Symphony no. 8, Stravinsky's extremely challenging Concerto in D, Barber's powerful Adagio for Strings and Stop Playing Homework and do your Video Games by some guy on the internet. This was our first look at the video games piece, which was a collection of classic (and mostly Nintendo) video games ranging from Tetris to Zelda, arranged for strings. It was a pleasant change from the more conventional repertoire, and for those of us who know and love those games, was a great blast from the past. Although having only been with the ensemble for a term and a half, our new conductor Scott Wilson already knew how to get the most out of the group, and it was a productive, if slightly sleepy, rehearsal. Naturally there were tea breaks to keep us all happy.

Just after lunch we had our first chance to explore the city properly. We were a short walk from the cathedral, which is where the more cultured among us made our way to. Armed with a guide of the cathedral, we made a vague attempt to follow the route marked on the plan, but sadly were unable to explore the whole place when several areas were suddenly and inexplicably roped off. What we did manage to see ranged from the spectacularly massive stained glass windows to the huge collection of crucifixes and chalices, which were both breathtaking and at the same time rather eerie. To complete our afternoon of culture, we headed off in the general direction of the castle, under the guidance of Ingolf's map reading skills. As far as I gather, the rest of the ensemble spent their free time in a teashop, leisurely making their way through tea and cakes.

Eventually it was time to make our way back to the residential home to resume our rehearsal. On the way back Sam took about two hundred pictures of a river, and a few of a bus narrowly making it through the city wall gate. Focusing on the Stravinsky - easily the hardest of the pieces - made it a tough rehearsal, but ICSE people are

made of stern stuff, and we made great progress that afternoon. When we got back to the hostel, many of us were seriously ready for some food... and soon we had it: massive amounts of pasta, cooked by Toby and the ladies of the ICSE committee. There was enough for at least five helpings each.

The next important thing was to find a suitable establishment to spend the evening at. After spending quite some time wandering around looking for the best pub in Canterbury, we finally settled down to sampling some of the more interesting looking local ales, and generally recovering from what had been a long and strenuous day. The traditional sectional shots were held at various stages throughout the evening, starting with the classic "cello shots", and later on moving on to some of John's more dubious drinking ideas. All too soon it was time to leave, but a couple of cellists managed to get themselves locked inside the pub, due

to being in the toilets while it was closing. We stumbled our way back to the hostel, some of us looking forward to the morning less than others.

Sure enough, breakfast was an interesting time for some members of the ensemble, although everyone was fully recovered in time for the early morning rehearsal, where finishing touches were put to the pieces, to prepare for the concert that would follow in the afternoon. As soon as it was over, we immediately moved off to another pub, this time for lunch. The return to the residential home was quite a rush, since we had waited a while for food at the pub, but we quickly set up stands in another one of the rooms, and changed into our typically sombre concert dress.

The concert was casual, but well-received, although I'm not sure if many of the elderly residents fully appreciated the video games piece. We played one movement of the Stravinsky, the

video games piece, and two movements of the Mendelssohn, which went down very well. It was a solid performance, and it was particularly satisfying to see the results of the intensive rehearsals paying off so soon. As soon as it was over, we packed everything into the minibus again, and set off towards London.

This was our first of what will hopefully be many tours with our new conductor, and everyone involved had a great time. After the success of our last few tours in the UK, we hope to expand our horizons by touring on the continent this summer.

If you'd like to take a bit of time out to listen to some light music, come and see our Summer Concert in Holy Trinity Church (next to the Union) on Friday 18th June - we'll be playing music by Purcell, Parry, Mozart and Bach and following it up with a barn dance to end the evening in style. Hope to see you there!



## Finance Society take it to the next level in the Big Apple

In keeping with ICFS's efforts to continually broaden and improve its events, the society took a great leap from the usual format of a talk in SAF followed by free condiments, to a 5 day trip to see one of the world's largest financial centres. Highlights included tours of J.P. Morgan and Bloomberg headquarters, tickets to an NBA game, a tour of Wall Street as well as a free licence to roam and discover the numerous attractions New York has to offer.

Furthermore, to gather a true insight into the strenuous life style of your average banker, a "strictly educational" night was spent living the highlife in one of the Marriot's penthouse suits, overlooking the Manhattan skyline. I

could go on and on but I don't think I could sum up the trip nearly as well as some of the finance societies members fortunate enough to go; Henry McGowan "was so sad to leave I couldn't help myself from crying on the flight home". Vedish Bhatoolaul "experienced the proverbial 'craning of the neck' to capture the tips of skyscrapers and the sense of wonder and humility while standing at their feet". And finally the society's President Bradley Jones surmised the experience: "this trip was a real reminder that we are improving and expanding every year - I can't think of a better way to have celebrated a year of such hard work by each and everyone in the ICFS team. I look forward to the year ahead!"



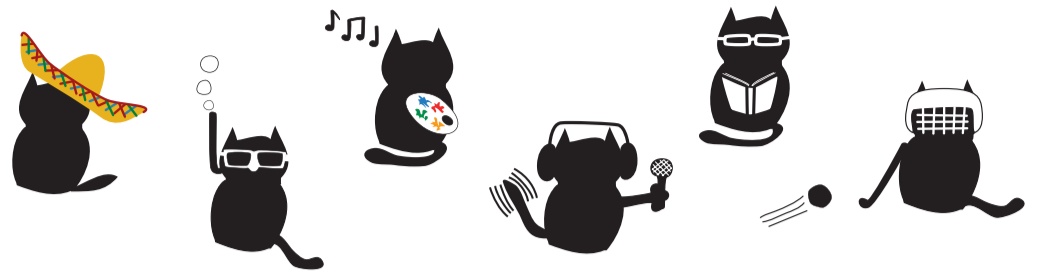
IC Finance in New York, where they toured Wall Street and hopefully learnt how not to do finance

# What's on...

## Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editor – Ziggi Szafranski

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



### Tues 25th May

**Anti TNF Therapy: the foundation of anti cytokine medicine**  
 – 17:00 to 18:00  
 – Anthony de Rothschild LT, 2nd Floor, St Mary's Campus  
 – The last in the 2010 Almroth Wright Lectures is presented by Professor Marc Fieldmann on 'Anti TNF Therapy: the foundation of anti cytokine medicine'

### Weds 26th May

**DramSoc Summer Workshop**  
 – 2 - 4pm in Activity Space 2  
 – Free to everyone this term  
 – Say goodbye to the drab world for two beautiful thespian hours. Comedy, Impro, games and scripts. Everyone welcome, even if you've never set foot on greasepaint!

### To Do....

- 1) Actually get down to some revision...
- 2) Send in your events!! This page only works if you actually send me things! Email your events to:  
**whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk**  
 (Club name & event, time, place, price, pics...) **by end of Tues 25th May**
- 3) Did I mention to send in your events?! Pretty please?

We know it's exam season, but **SOMEONE MUST BE DOING SOMETHING!**  
**Want more people at your event? ADVERTISE IT HERE!**

### Anything else?....

Well the Banner has obviously had less than the desired effect...perhaps the angle was too much? Let's try it again!  
 Anyway there's still a couple of things on this week to take your mind off exams, and if none of these events take your fancy, Hyde Park is lovely for sunbathing... aaah :)

### Thurs 27th May

**Handicraft and Krispy Kreme Sale!**  
 – 12 - 2pm, Ground Floor, Sherfield  
 – SIFE invite you to come and help them raise funds for earthquake victims  
 – Various things will be on sale, with all proceeds going to charity, so why not come and see if anything take your fancy?

### Sat 29th May

**ULSO Summer Concert**  
 – 7:30pm start  
 – St. Stephen's Church, Gloucester Road  
 – As part of St. Stephen's Summer music bonanza, ULSO will be performing a wide variety of music, from Gershwin to Sibelius, taking in Rachmaninov on the way!  
 – For more info [www.ulso.co.uk](http://www.ulso.co.uk)

# Imperial Racing Green gear up for July trip to Silverstone

Omar Mustufvi Imperial Racing Green

Imperial Racing Green (IRG) - our very own home grown, cleaner and greener racing team- have been hard at work all year, producing some of their most innovative designs to date, setting out to impress at this year's Formula Student competition at Silverstone in July. IRG will be entering the design segment of the competition with their latest car, the IRG04. The IRG04 will succeed the IRG03 which entered the tournament last year, setting the standard high by bringing home the award for Best/Most Innovative Design at the event.

Many of the technical details of the car are being kept under covers until the competition day to prevent rival teams from undertaking excessive 'idea transfers', but a few early CAD images have been leaked recently showing an impressive new chassis design. The car has been developed with an emphasis on efficiency, achieved through the implementation of technologies such as regenerative braking. This technology enables the energy usually lost during braking to be harnessed in super-



We know what you're thinking. We hope the car looks in better nick by the time that July comes around too

capacitors which can then be used as a power boost when overtaking; a feature not dissimilar to the KERS system used in F1 cars.

IRG was started in 2006 being the first project of its kind at a British university to involve undergraduates in fuel cell research, and has since rapidly grown, now involving over 100 students across all the engineering departments at the university. The students work on IRG projects as part of coursework within their department in teams of around five, working on areas ranging from suspension design to fuel cell cooling. IRG is also student run, with a management team formed from 3rd and 4th year students.

Already developing their fifth car, IRG have a wealth of experience under their belt and hope to further branch out into different industries to help create innovative solutions to battling climate change. An example of this is the current development of a fuel cell powered automotive vehicle to compete with the G-Wiz around the inner streets of metropolitan London.

If you would like more information on Racing Green or how you can be involved you can visit:

[www.imperialracinggreen.co.uk](http://www.imperialracinggreen.co.uk)

## Promotion for the RSM ladies

Kirsty Poore RSM Hockey

RSM Ladies 1s	6
UCL Ladies 3s	2

We had been waiting for this game for a long time. It had been rearranged 3 times due to UCL's inability to field a side, we technically could have taken a walkover, but as they were the only other unbeaten team in the league we wanted to beat them fair and square. It was to be a day of mixed emotions for Sammy and Mel who's last game in black and gold could see the RSM ladies get promoted for the first time since records began.

The big day did not start well; two of our players dropped out so we were down to 10 men. A frantic two hours followed with many phone calls to our friends at IC, but being the last week of term and very short notice, nobody could step in. The next logical step was to look for sporty folk from within the RSM. After a call to the netball captain we ended up with McNugget getting out of bed to join us.

We arrived on time to the pleasant surprise of the opposition only have 10 players! Our plan to go out hard and get early goals worked! The first ten minutes saw goals from Sanghee, Teddy and Laura - our force shocked them to the core and whilst we were basking in this unbelievable start the UCL girls were starting to turn on each other and letting their anger show. The next 25 minutes seemed to fly by and before we knew it half time arrived with a relaxed team talk. The main message was keep



Look how happy they are! Especially the one on the left. Is that an octopus?

up the good work, and that we did.

UCL came back much stronger in the second half and although we scored again they also snuck in an early goal. The pressure continued and the game was beginning to even out; they were a new team, but still an angry bunch! They argued with each other, us, and even the umpires.

More RSM goals followed as we rose above the torrent of abuse, or at least some of us did - not Angry Claire though, who got involved in the fun and games! The Korean twins were also seen to be muttering rapidly under their breaths but we can't understand them at the best of times, and amidst the flying sticks we had no chance.

The game ended 6-2 with our other goals going to Laura, Teddy and Alex. Special mentions must go to: Matt and Paddy for umpiring; McNugget who played a storming game and won

Man of the Match; Laura who scored a cracking short corner to take Champagne Moment; and Bungey who sat on the post all match and missed a grand total of 7 open goals - obviously Dick of the Day and proud wearer of the luminous hood.

So, the RSM ladies were promoted and off we went to the pub, the real celebrations were put on hold until the AGM! Olivia was elected next year's captain, taking over from Kirsty. Good luck to her and the team in the new league.

Saturday saw us once again conquer President's Day - RSM mixed won all of their games, winning the overall trophy of the day and the inter college cup as RCS and C & G were pummelled throughout the day. Congratulations to the Chaps who beat both the 22s and Links, making it the semis finals before RSM knocked them out.

## Imperial hurlers victorious

Finian McCann Hurling

Last Sunday, Imperial College's hurlers recorded their first victory since their inception last year. After plenty of drama in Beit Quad trying to get our gear and with Chris Farrell arriving 45 minutes late with the bus, we eventually made our way to St. Kiernan's ground in Mill Hill to face Cambridge University.

Taking advantage of a break in the inclement weather, the match got underway an hour and a half late. The first few cagey minutes of play saw neither team score, until Cambridge broke the deadlock. However, determined half-back sweeping by Neil Clancy and Mark Jennings and stalwart full-back Ciarán McGreevy settled affairs in defence and soon the ball made its way forward to Seán Dunne who elegantly slotted the sliothar over the bar to score Imperial's first point. Cambridge's midfield duo were moving well and had soon knocked over another two points and run in a goal past Farrell after some well put-together play.

Eventually a loose ball landed to midfielder Finian McCann whose skyward shot went straight over the Cambridge keeper's head for a goal. Imperial continued to press, with Eddie Fitzpatrick and Padhraic Comerford working hard to move the ball into Dunne and John McDonnell, whose pressure was rewarded with a goal for Dunne. Cambridge managed to sneak in another goal and point before half time however, Stevie Gallagher pulled one back for IC, leaving the half-time score 10 points to 8.

Imperial took to the field in the second half determined to turn the game

around. Cambridge were first off the mark again, converting a free from short range. Imperial's fortunes soon changed as a point attempt from Clancy fell short and went over the keeper's head for another goal. Cambridge swiftly worked their way back up the pitch to get another point, but Imperial responded with McCann converting a free from fifty yards, leaving the teams level on 12 points each. Imperial continued to pile on the pressure and after a goalmouth scramble in front of the Cambridge net, the ball spilled out and McCann drilled it below the bar for another goal, followed by Clancy adding a further point.

Imperial's dominant defence had blunted the Cambridge attack with Eddie Fitz, pulling off some amazing reflex saves. Centre-back Neil Clancy pushed forward again to calmly send the ball over the bar from long range. McCann converted another two points following a thwarted Cambridge attack and after collecting a poor Cambridge clearance following intense pressure by Chris Farrell and McDonnell. When a wayward shot from Sean Dunne was deflected into the Cambridge net by one of their defenders, it was clear that Imperial were pushing to victory.

One final push from Cambridge saw them convert a point, but Mike White, Clancy and McGreevy made sure it was their final score. McCann added another point before McDonnell rounded off the scoring for the day with a clever flick from close range past the Cambridge keeper, leaving the final score Imperial 25, Cambridge 13. The match was well-contested, neither side let heads drop in spite of the scoreline, and it was a great achievement for the IC lads as many had only picked up a hurl for the first time last October.

# felixSport talks to the table topping Volleyball team

Following last week's interview with Women's Fencing, we catch up with Marc Schäpertöns, Volleyball Captain

Following last week's interview with Clare Harding, captain of the Women's fencing team, *felixSport* turns its attention to Men's Volleyball who topped the *felixSport* league table along with the Women fencers.

Both fencing and volleyball do not command a high level of publicity over in the UK, indeed when most people think of volleyball it's often the beach version with the scantily clad women and not the indoor sport. Each volleyball team has six players with the teams separated by a net, one team begins the rally by serving to the opposing team, points are scored by grounding the ball on the opponent's side of the net within the court area. The team that wins the point then serves for the next point. A set is won when one team is the first to reach 25 points (by two clear points) matches are played on a best of 5 set basis, with the fifth set if necessary being played to 15 points.

The men's volleyball team won all ten of their matches played during this season. *felixSport* caught up with the captain of this year's successful Volleyball team, Marc to discuss the achievements of this season. "The first team squad this year was made up of 12 players; Edoardo Barengo, Marios Chartosias, Domenico Corapi, Christoph Datler, Gonzalo De Gisbert, Benoit Disch, Harry Fredheim, Alessandro Galli, Ergument Karakoç, Nikolaos Nikolaou, Platon Vogiatzoglou and myself. Harry Fredheim, Alessandro Galli, Nikolaos Nikolaou were new additions to the squad this year and played key roles in our BUCS success."

Despite performing so well during the course of the season it was not plain sailing for the Imperial Volleyball team which was certainly apparent when Oxford University travelled to



The volleyball team came joint 1st in the *felixSports* league.

play them in a championship qualification match: "We had expected to beat the Oxford team as we had a stronger squad, all of whom were at our disposal. When Oxford arrived however, I had forgotten to organise independent referees to officiate the match as is required in our conference. I was able to organise referees at short notice with the game set to start an hour later than planned. We offered the Oxford teams several options prior to this in an attempt to let the match proceed. Our efforts were in vain as the Oxford team left Ethos 45 minutes after the scheduled start claiming the default win."

Such actions by the Oxford team not

only appeared to be unsportsmanlike but when they reached the finals in Sheffield they succumbed to university second string teams and ranked a dismal 7th out of 8, losing all three of their group stage matches with the Marc confident that the Imperial team would have fared much better in the finals.

Their final game of the season was played this week against the Flaming Six Aces. The season finale was victorious, ending with a 3 - 1 win.

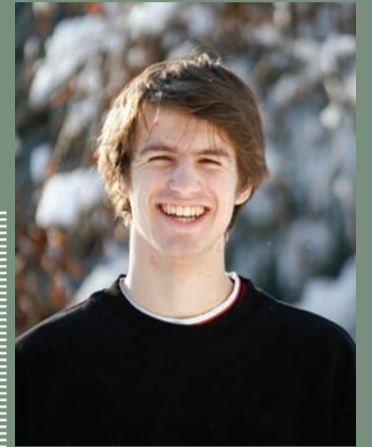
The second set was closely contested ending 32:30 in Imperial's favour, but admitted the following set did not go according to plan.

"We then let ourselves down and lost the third set to come back with some nitty-gritty blocking by Harry Fredheim and Kees De Hoogh in set 4," said Schäpertöns.

The win means they have gained promotion for next season to Division 1. They finish the season unbeaten on court, but accidentally missed one fixture due to a combination of forgetfulness and clerical errors.

Looking forward to next season, there is little cause for concern: "The only player that will be leaving us from our starting line-up will be Platon Vogiatzoglou, our opposite attacker. We aim to build on the success that we

## Meet the Captain: Men's Volleyball 1sts



**Name:** Marc Schäpertöns.  
**Age:** 20.  
**Subject:** Second Year Chemical Engineering.  
**Height:** 1.85m  
**Length of Time Playing:** 10 years.

have enjoyed in BUCS this season and qualify for the final 8s next year."

The feat of our Volleyball players should not be understated; with the resources available to them as well as the workload which dogs all Imperial students, the team are competing against Leeds Metropolitan University, Bath and Loughborough, all of which are recognised as being very sport focused. The prospects of the Volleyball team look good for next season due to the core of the team remaining.

"The Volleyball Club would like to take the opportunity to thank Ashly Black and coach Ercrement Karakoç," said their Captain.

# Gaelic football report from the BUGAA championships

## Finian McCann Gaelic Football

In keeping with the traditions of the GAA and Ireland, this report is a bit late! On a dreary Friday evening in February, Imperial's Gaelic footballers made their way to Birmingham for the club's second appearance at the British Universities championships. After a good night's sleep, we made the trip out to Coventry where finding the pitch proved easier than initially imagined, as the British University GAA representative's eye-brows were easier to spot than Toby Davis' ginger mop. Our first game was against Aston University, who shocked everyone including themselves by scoring an extremely questionable first goal after only a minute of play. However, a goal in quick response from Man of the Tournament Sean Dunne soon put things right and a sideline score from Eddie Fitzpatrick nudged Imperial in front. The second half saw Imperial domi-

nate, with Padhraig Comerford in his debut year and Phil Jakeman patrolling the wings. After the final whistle Imperial had won 9 points to 5.

Imperial's second game against Stirling had a cagey start, eventually Vinny McGaughan linked up with former St. Malachy's teammate Frankie O'Neill to drill the ball into the back of the net. Stirling however, fought back, leaving the half-time score Imperial 1-0, Stirling 0-2. In a tough, physical game, the second half was even closer than the first and after a quick score from our token Safa Paddy Heugh, the heroic work of Chris Farrell and Neil Clancy in defence ensured we were still ahead. With Stirling continuously threatening, the game was not truly put to bed until Finian McCann gathered a loose ball on the halfway line, rounded three men and duly dispatched the ball from thirty yards. Imperial ran out comfortable winners.

Eventual finalists Sunderland were next up, and showed themselves to be an impressive outfit. Two well-taken frees



Short sleeves, short shorts, rolled down socks. It's 1970s football, with gloves

from Jimmy Haugh and some Trojan defence work from Mark Jennings, Ed O'Hare and Vinny McGaughan keeping us in contention. Imperial's fitness eventually let them down and Sunderland managed to convert a broken ball in midfield into a shock goal, and another well-taken chance killed off the game for Imperial.

Our final game against Cambridge was inconsequential but we were determined to go out fighting. After two stunning goals from Meathman Sean Dunne, combined with energetic off-the-ball movement from balding Stephen Gallagher, Imperial were 8 points to 7 ahead with 4 minutes to play. Newbies Alan Webb and Harry Evans had a baptism of fire, with Webb unlucky to give away a penalty. Jimmy Haugh pulled off a wonderful save to keep Imperial in front, but the next Cambridge attack saw them finally score a winning goal, leaving Andy Lavery's late point as a mere consolation as Cambridge went on to win 10 points to 9.

It was a disappointing end to a day that started so well; until next year!



## 1st XI's unbeaten run ends

1st XI slump to losses against Brunel and Surrey while adverse weather ends play for the 2nd XI against Royal Holloway

### Sid Kohliw Cricket

Imperial College Men's 1st XI 141 all out  
University of Surrey 1st XI 143 for 4  
Imperial lost by 6 wickets

### Andy Payne Cricket

Imperial College Men's 2nd XI 191 all out  
University of Sussex 2nd XI 40 for 1  
No Result

After their first loss of the season against Brunel, the 1st team were ready to win against Surrey and give themselves the best chance of promotion at the end of the season. After a long walk from the station, the Surrey home ground was reached. Winning the toss, Imperial chose to bat first on a slow wicket.

Anirudh Sompalli held on to his first over curse when, after smacking the first ball for four, he sent the second ball straight back to the bowler who held onto a sharp catch to provide the first blow.

In came Majid Ali with all guns blazing, playing brilliant drives and generally taking the game to Surrey despite losing Matt Tarr soon after. Skipper Ankit Patel came in, looking to play a textbook captain's innings and see the team through to the end. After a good partnership with the skipper, Ali fell trying to clear the boundary at long on, and an extra couple of wickets fell in a hurry. Ahsaan Ismail and Patel recovered their balance and had a good partnership as they held off an energised Surrey team. Eventually, both fell trying to up the run rate after playing themselves in, Ankit top-scoring with 43.

From there the team tried to make most of the last 10 overs but kept losing wickets regularly as they ended up setting a target of 142 at the end of



their innings.

Even though they didn't have a vast total to defend, the Imperial bowlers came in with good confidence since they had seen from their own innings that scoring runs on this slow wicket was not easy. Navin Surtani and Singh started their spells well and both got a wicket as IC put the Surrey team under pressure. Later on, both Ismail and Sompalli bowled top spells, also gaining a wicket apiece as the Surrey team was reduced to four down. Unfortunately, the quick bowlers somewhat struggled to find rhythm on a slow wicket where, bizarrely, they had to lower their pace to get the most out of the pitch. The Surrey batsmen were accustomed to batting on their home ground and were able to chase down the rest of the runs without losing any more wickets.

After winning three games in a row, the Firsts have now lost the last two games of the BUCS tournament and promotion seems unlikely. However, they still have the ULU league to look forward to, starting this week.

\*\*\*\*

After a long but generally uneventful journey to Harlington, IC set about a quick warm-up and survey of the skies which gave uncertain results as to the possibility of a complete game. None-the-less, Imperial decided to bat first on a bouncy but green track.

Openers Ben Bell and Rohan Babla got Imperial off to a flyer, taking three fours off the first eight balls. However, this was a false sense of security: Babla and Bell were bowled in consecutive overs by well-disguised yorkers before

Anirudh Sompalli edged behind for a golden duck. Once again, it was left to Andy Payne to steady the ship (and deal with some terrible sledging) with Vinno Balakumarasingham also falling cheaply. With some typically crunching blows and ill-advised heaves, good partnerships with Bernard Pereira and Adam Hugill were formed before Payne lost concentration and ran himself out for 45, attempting a second run that simply wasn't there. Hugill (34) and Ahsaan Ismail (30) continued to attack the Holloway bowlers with well-placed pulls and drives before both falling in short succession as IC were all out for 191.

Patchy bits of rain had punctuated Imperial's innings, but Royal Holloway began their reply with everyone in high hopes of getting in (at least) the necessary 20 overs to constitute a result.

Ismail had the right-handed opener in serious trouble right from the first ball before Payne did everything but find the outside edge of the left-hander. The cat and mouse games continued for the first 10 overs, with the batsmen scoring well, until Payne managed to induce an edge to the keeper from a well-directed bouncer.

Unfortunately, after a couple of threatening overs from captain Pete Swallow, the rain started to get heavier and the umpires called the players off. Half an hour later it was still raining, and both teams had to admit defeat to the weather with the game an agonising six overs from completion.

A dedicated performance from Imperial bodes well for the remaining ULU games, and they have a good chance of a high finish if the weather stays fair.